

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Tobacco is being topped and sucker control is being applied. Some fields are being irrigated as well. Some fall calves are being worked for the upcoming VQA sales. Some producers are spraying crops and gardens as well. The light rains helped cool the temperature some, but did little to nothing for watering crops this week.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Dry conditions have prevailed across most of the county this week. Most areas received 0.5 inch or less of rainfall late last week, however some areas only received 1 inch or less over the last 4 weeks. Corn is at the critical ear filling stage with pollination being complete. Peanuts, cotton, and tobacco continue to show good growth. Soybeans look good with the double crop soybeans mostly emerged now. The deep sandy areas and red clay hills are starting to show drought stress during the afternoon. Hay producers are taking a nice second cutting of hay, which is welcome after a few years of not making a decent summer hay crop.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Field conditions are dry again. Corn yield will be reduced greatly if there is no rainfall while other crops are holding their own. Some corn and flue-cured tobacco is being irrigated now. Land plaster is being applied to peanuts and nitrogen to cotton. The wheat crop was average in the county with yields averaging around 68 bushels per acre.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Weather has been exceptionally favorable this past week with moderate temperatures and adequate soil moisture from recent rains. Farmers are finishing planting double cropped soybeans this week. Wheat yields were about 10-bushels less than last year but still remains in the average yield range. Corn shows promise of a good crop thus far. Vegetable stands and farm markets are doing good business now with adequate local produce. Hay producers are taking advantage of dry skies this week with cutting and baling activity.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Disease and insect control are the biggest concerns for vegetable and fruit producers right now. Pasture and hayfields are looking good for mid-summer.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Crops are looking well. Adequate rain showers have seemed to occur when needed.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: July 12, 2009

Number: 18

Released: July 13, 2009

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 12, 2009

Another week of dry weather gave ample opportunity for producers to complete small grain harvest, as well as, the planting of double-crop soybeans. Small grain yield reports across the State are varied, although most remain from average to slightly below average. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. As dry weather persists, most crops across the Commonwealth are starting to show the signs of moisture stress. While a few areas received a light rainfall, moisture levels did little to help in crop development. The corn crop remains in moderate condition, although rainfall is needed as it enters the critical ear filling stage. Tobacco farmers are starting to irrigate in some areas and applying topdressing and sucker control, where needed. Additional activities this week included herbicide application to soybeans, continued hay harvest and scouting for weeds and pests.

| Week Ending | TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|---------|
| | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| July 12, 2009 | 3 | 34 | 60 | 3 |
| July 5, 2009 | 1 | 23 | 68 | 8 |
| June 28, 2009 | 0 | 12 | 81 | 7 |
| June 21, 2009 | 0 | 1 | 62 | 37 |
| June 14, 2009 | 0 | 1 | 67 | 32 |



National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P. O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Address Service Requested

IN THIS REPORT:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Crop Condition Percent | pg 2 |
| Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons | pg 2 |
| Weather Summary Table | pg 3 |
| Reporter Comments by County | pg 3,4 |

| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Pasture | 1 | 8 | 20 | 59 | 12 |
| Livestock | 1 | 3 | 13 | 58 | 25 |
| Hay, Other | 0 | 7 | 28 | 53 | 12 |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 0 | 1 | 22 | 56 | 21 |
| Corn | 2 | 4 | 23 | 44 | 27 |
| Soybeans | 1 | 5 | 21 | 61 | 12 |
| Flue Cured Tobacco | 0 | 0 | 12 | 56 | 32 |
| Burley Tobacco | 0 | 0 | 6 | 81 | 13 |
| Dark Fire-cured Tobacco | 0 | 0 | 27 | 68 | 5 |
| Peanuts | 0 | 0 | 12 | 76 | 12 |
| Cotton | 0 | 2 | 32 | 58 | 8 |
| Potatoes, Summer | 0 | 0 | 24 | 47 | 29 |
| Apples, All | 0 | 0 | 11 | 89 | 0 |
| Peaches | 0 | 1 | 43 | 54 | 2 |
| Grapes | 0 | 0 | 2 | 90 | 8 |
| Oats | 0 | 0 | 36 | 64 | 0 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Silked | 58 | 31 | 52 | 54 |
| Corn Dough | 7 | 2 | 10 | 11 |
| Soybeans Planted | 98 | 90 | 94 | 96 |
| Soybeans Emerged | 93 | 80 | 83 | 86 |
| Soybeans Blooming | 6 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Winter Wheat Harvested | 98 | 87 | 95 | 92 |
| Peanuts Pegged | 55 | 30 | 63 | 45 |
| Cotton Squaring | 65 | 39 | 66 | 76 |
| Cotton Setting Bolls | 14 | 0 | 7 | 20 |
| Summer Potatoes Harvested | 25 | 20 | 39 | 24 |
| Summer Apples Harvested | 18 | 10 | 9 | 12 |
| Peaches Harvested | 15 | 0 | 4 | 8 |

| VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 12, 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| City | Temperature | | | | | | Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/ | | Precipitation | | | | |
| | Avg. max. | Avg. min. | High max. | Low min. | Avg. | Avg. dep. from normal * | Mar 1 to July 11 | Mar 1 to July 11 normal | Last Week | Since June 1 | June 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 80 | 61 | 86 | 57 | 71 | -4 | 1819 | 1768 | 0.66 | 4.77 | -0.58 | 22.18 | -1.16 |
| Norfolk | 80 | 64 | 86 | 60 | 72 | -7 | 2110 | 1935 | 0.24 | 6.05 | 0.60 | 21.46 | -2.38 |
| Richmond | 84 | 64 | 89 | 62 | 74 | -4 | 2094 | 1937 | 0.46 | 5.15 | 0.11 | 17.90 | -4.75 |
| Roanoke | 80 | 64 | 86 | 59 | 72 | -4 | 1936 | NA | 1.04 | 5.58 | 0.51 | 23.07 | 0.00 |
| Wash/Dulles | 82 | 62 | 89 | 58 | 72 | -3 | 1815 | NA | 0.02 | 6.74 | 1.40 | 26.55 | 4.43 |

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. * Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Corn is starting to show signs of moisture stress and stands of double-crop soybeans are sparse in places due to lack of moisture. Farmers are bush hogging pastures and some hayfields are at an increased level compared to previous years. Most farmers have taken their second cutting of hay. Tobacco farmers are starting to irrigate and begin topping and sucker control. Most of the tobacco has been side-dressed and laid-by.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Small grain harvest is completed and yields are average. Wheat yields were in the 50-60 bushel range and barley around 75-80 bushel per acre. The corn crop is looking very good and has had good moisture for growth and pollination. Pastures and hayfields are in good condition. Some second cutting hay has been made, but most of the second crop will be harvested in the next week or two if weather permits. Soybean planting has been completed and most beans have emerged and are looking good. Vegetable farmers are harvesting corn, tomatoes, and other summer vegetables. Pumpkins and winter squash for the fall season have been planted.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Squash, potatoes, green beans, and blueberries are in the farm market.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Potato harvesting is in full swing and yield are average to fairly good. Wheat harvest is about over and yields are average to below average, which disappointed the farmers. Soybean and corn crops are good, but rain is badly needed. Harvests of cherry tomatoes are under way. Farmers are spraying herbicides on no-till soybeans and preparing the ground for fall crops.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

It is getting dry and corn needs rain now. The brief showers over weekend perked things up for awhile, but will return to wilting once sun shines again. Ground moisture is still OK, but crops need continued moisture to make grain. Soybeans are looking good and most have emerged. Activities include herbicide applications to soybeans, scouting for weeds and pests, and vegetable harvest. Cantaloupes, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and sweet corn are all coming in. The corn earworm survey will begin next week. This information will help determine the severity of corn earworms in the growing soybean crop and the need for treatment.

RICHMOND (Kelly J. Liddington)

A severe storm hit on 7/12 with high winds, heavy rains and some quarter sized hail. Most of the crops seem to have faired alright, although beans are torn up a bit and so are vegetable crops. Fallen trees seem to be the biggest problem.