

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Scattered showers fell over much of the area. Crops look very good at this point of the season. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is in full swing, along with fungicide applications in peanuts, herbicide applications in soybeans and some insecticides treatments in cotton. Growers are scouting soybean for insect infestations as moth counts pick up in our blacklight traps for corn earworm.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Frequent rain (2-3 inches) has fallen this week, slowing field work. Corn earworm moth flight has begun out of corn fields. Farmers are scouting soybean fields for CEW now. Summer produce is abundant now at farmers markets.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: August 16, 2009

Number: 23

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 16, 2009

Routine field operations continued this week, as vegetable producers continued the harvest of summer crops and grain producers scouted and treated soybean fields for pests and prepared for the upcoming corn harvest. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.8. Some areas of the State received a beneficial rain, while others are experiencing the effects of low moisture levels on both crops and pastures. Cattle producers have had plentiful forage for grazing, and many have been able to harvest a second cutting of hay. For some cattle producers, the fluctuating market has made sale decisions difficult, and many are weighing the risks of selling or waiting until the prices stabilize. The harvest of corn silage, burley tobacco, and dark tobacco picked up this week and are progressing on schedule.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 16, 2009	3	23	69	5
August 9, 2009	2	17	74	7
August 2, 2009	3	15	69	13
July 26, 2009	2	25	67	6
July 19, 2009	5	38	55	2



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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	7	22	58	12
Livestock	1	1	11	69	18
Hay, Other	1	7	27	54	11
Hay, Alfalfa	0	3	24	58	15
Corn	4	7	23	49	17
Soybeans	1	7	22	52	18
Flue Cured Tobacco	15	16	42	24	3
Burley Tobacco	0	1	4	73	22
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	0	13	85	2
Peanuts	0	0	6	87	7
Cotton	0	0	16	79	5
Apples, All	0	0	14	83	3
Grapes	0	1	10	78	11
Oats	0	0	10	80	10

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	95	91	99	98
Corn Dough	80	75	79	80
Corn Dent	46	32	55	50
Corn Mature	3	0	19	16
Corn Silage Harvested	18	11	24	21
Soybeans Blooming	87	71	71	84
Soybeans Setting Pods	64	38	40	61
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	34	27	24	25
Burley Tobacco Harvested	4	0	4	5
Dark fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	23	4	27	22
Peanuts Pegged	94	89	100	98
Cotton Setting Bolls	90	76	95	98
Cotton Bolls Opening	15	6	7	23
Summer Potatoes Harvested	99	90	100	94
Summer Apples Harvested	70	47	42	68
Peaches Harvested	75	64	68	75

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 16, 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 August 15	Mar 1 to August 15 normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	66	94	64	77	3	2657	2622	0.49	8.02	-1.88	25.43	-2.51
Norfolk	86	73	94	71	80	2	3089	2882	3.00	16.85	5.47	32.26	2.39
Richmond	91	72	98	69	82	5	3058	2847	1.63	9.68	-0.61	22.43	-5.60
Roanoke	88	68	92	64	78	3	2806	NA	0.26	11.32	1.89	28.81	1.38
Wash/Dulles	92	70	101	66	81	6	2734	NA	0.02	9.20	-0.18	29.01	2.88

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°)); 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.

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NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

The county has record forage supply for both hay and pasture, and record quality on pasture for the beginning of August.

FAUQUIER (Timothy Mize)

Stockpiling of fescue for fall and winter grazing has begun. Lower nitrogen prices may be the reason we are seeing an increase over last year. The corn crop continues to look strong and chopping will begin within the next couple weeks. Early beans have done well, while late beans are struggling. Most producers have had plenty of forage for grazing and many were able to take a second hay cutting.

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Corn silage harvest and dark tobacco harvest are well under way.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture levels are becoming critical for soybeans, pastures and hayfields. Corn is pretty much past any problems from moisture stress with late-planted corn probably taking a 10-15% hit in yield due to dry conditions which started in early July. The early planted corn crop looks very good. Silage yields have also been good with over half of the crop harvested. Grain farmers are getting ready to harvest corn and are scouting soybeans for insects. No major problems have been reported. Vegetable farmers continue to harvest summer crops, and are scouting pumpkins and fall crops for insects and diseases.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Corn is drying down. The harvest of early corn should start in a couple of weeks. The soybean crop is in good shape with good pod set taking place. Farmers are scouting soybeans for worms. Tomato picking continues. Lima beans are up and looking good. Fall tomato growth is good and daily scouting of the crop for pests continues.

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Producers have been bush hogging around fields, working on combines, spraying soybeans for insects and diseases, and getting back from vacation.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

As temperatures begin to soar higher, the little amount of rain we have received is having little effect on the crops. Pasture is short and we have seen some supplemental feeding in parts of the county. High hopes for fall yields are quickly diminishing. Burley and dark tobacco harvest are beginning. Tobacco producers are unloading their first and second pullings from the barns. Tobacco has colored well. Yields are down slightly. Corn silage cutting is in full progress.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

We received about 1" of rain early in the week, and temperatures have been in the mid to upper 80s, so all crops are advancing well. Disease issues and control measures are on the minds of vegetable and fruit growers as they go through their harvests. A second cutting of hayfields is beginning.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Late blight was found in the county on tomatoes this past week. Producers had hoped hot weather would slow disease spread, however high humidity has kept it active and spreading rapidly. The corn crop looks good; however some wind damage was reported in the Rye Cove area. Cattle producers are weighing the risk of selling cattle with fluctuating prices, or feeding longer until prices stabilize. Sheep producers are preparing for private-treaty sale hosted by the hair sheep association.