



NATIONAL
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STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 15, 2013

Number: 28

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

Overall, it was a dry week for the Commonwealth with only occasional light rain showers. Temperatures were about 4 to 5 degrees warmer than normal with the daytime highs around 91 to 94 degrees. As the week progressed, nighttime lows dropped in the 40s and 50s. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. Farmers took advantage of the dry weather to make good progress on the corn harvest. The corn harvest was ahead of the 5-year average, but behind last year's progress. Concerns were growing over the double crop soybeans due to the lack of water. Other farming activities for the week included harvesting tobacco, spraying soybeans, and preparing to plant small grains.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 15, 2013	3	27	68	2
September 8, 2013	0	17	78	5
September 1, 2013	1	7	79	13
August 25, 2013	0	9	74	17
August 18, 2013	1	13	70	16

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 15, 2013	2	20	74	4
September 8, 2013	0	13	84	3
September 1, 2013	0	9	79	12
August 25, 2013	0	8	80	12
August 18, 2013	0	10	71	19

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	6	22	57	11
Livestock	0	2	12	56	30
Hay, Other	4	9	25	52	10
Hay, Alfalfa	4	7	22	52	15
Corn	1	4	10	51	34
Soybeans	1	2	19	59	19
Tobacco, Burley	1	4	22	61	12
Peanuts	0	5	20	72	3
Cotton	0	2	3	75	20
Apples, All	0	1	4	94	1
Grapes	2	4	9	85	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	99	94	100	100
Corn Dent	92	82	91	91
Corn Mature	75	53	79	75
Corn Grain Harvested	37	18	47	33
Corn Silage Harvested	72	63	74	64
Soybeans Setting Pods	94	85	94	83
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	9	4	9	16
Barley Seeded	10	n/a	0	n/a
Winter Wheat Seeded	2	0	0	4
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	72	56	51	52
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	49	36	52	50
Tobacco, Dark Fired Cured Harvested	94	79	84	78
Cotton Bolls Opening	39	35	55	50
Apples, Fall Harvested	34	24	69	33
Apples, Winter harvested	14	10	33	n/a
Peaches Harvested	96	94	94	99
Peanuts Dug	2	0	0	21

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep. 14	Mar. 1 to Sep. 14 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	86	61	92	50	74	5	3394	3278	0	.02	-1.98	33.74	2.50
Norfolk	85	68	92	58	77	3	3843	3621	.01	.36	-1.53	33.62	-.68
Richmond	87	66	93	55	77	5	3807	3539	.48	.54	-1.26	39.45	7.64
Roanoke	85	62	91	49	73	3	3460	na	0	0	-9.99	42.31	11.20
Wash/Dulles	86	63	94	46	74	4	3397	na	.06	.28	-1.58	28.13	-1.79

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. 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.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Frederick has started to get dry. We received some showers Thursday and Friday. Apples are being harvested and are looking good. The Peach crop was good this year.

fall has been peculiarly dry. It is drier now at my house than it has been all year. Full season beans look good. Double crop beans still quite variable; some fields look good, and others have not yet covered the small grain stubble. Reports continue of bug pressures on the beans -multiple bugs and quite variable. Have not seen any small grain going in yet except a couple of the operations planting behind silage. One dairy has cover crop and small grain up and growing

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

No rain in the past 10 days - topsoil is dry and ground hard. These conditions are making it possible for corn harvest to begin. No rain in forecast for this week. Temperatures last week were hot up until the weekend, then very cool.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Last week was hot and dry - cooled off very nicely for the weekend.

HANOVER (JIM TATE)

Corn Harvest is in full swing. We have had a stretch of dry weather and getting into fields is not inhibited. Seeing a lot of smiles from producers. Yields seem to be as good as hoped for. I would say harvest is about half done. When these guys get started they roll. We did have a shower late in the week. At my house we had 3/10 of an inch but it varied a lot. The eastern end of the county got more but with the sandy soil it did not cause any significant delays. In fact the rain was needed. After the wettest summer I can ever remember, the

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Hot and dry conditions took a toll on the soybean crop as much of the crop is in the critical seed filling stage. Parts of the county received good rainfall on Thursday night, but the area covered was limited. Corn harvest continued to progress well, and producers were also chopping stalks following harvest and getting ready for small grain planting.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rain fell on Thursday night and Friday morning across some parts of the area. It was much needed for double crop soybeans as hot and dry conditions had begun to affect yield possibilities. Some areas did not get rain and there is none in the immediate forecast. Producers are still scouting soybeans for pests, harvesting corn and making plans for small grain planting. Haymaking is good presently. Veggies have about finished up. Some squash, peppers, watermelons, and sweet potatoes continue to be harvested. Pumpkins are turning orange. Poor pollination and early wet conditions may affect the crop somewhat. Cooler weather is in store for the next few days. Corn harvest should continue in full swing for next week. Cantaloupes, squash and watermelons left to harvest.