



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.5. Hay and roughage supplies were 16 percent very short, 30 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Farming activities during the week included planting corn, preparing fields for soybeans, tobacco, and cotton, and harvesting rye forage. Cooler temperatures and wet conditions continue to slow some crop progress and field activities. Overall, high temperatures were in the 70s to 80s and lows were in the 30s to 40s. Precipitation amounts were up from the previous week.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/26/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	3	70	27
Subsoil	-	4	81	15

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 04/26/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	16	16	48	16	4
Grapes	3	2	11	84	-
Peaches	30	17	38	15	-
Barley	1	4	34	54	7
Oats	2	5	48	43	2
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	30	70	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	4	16	72	8
Tobacco, Plantbeds	-	8	17	69	6
Hay, Alfalfa	-	2	29	61	8
Hay, Other	-	2	25	65	8
Winter Wheat	1	2	23	65	9
Pasture	1	9	31	51	8
Livestock	1	6	31	52	10

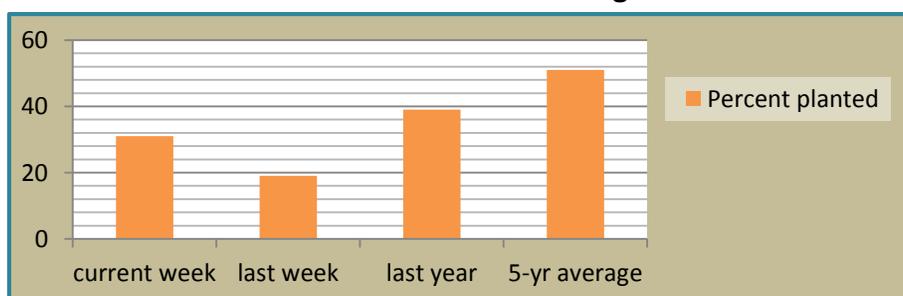
-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/26/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	31	19	39	51
Corn emerged	6	-	10	18
Potatoes, Summer planted	95	90	92	98
Winter wheat headed	5	-	12	30

- Represents data not available.

CORN PLANTED for week ending 04/26/15



Weather Summary- For the week ending April 26, 2015

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 To April 25	Mar. 1 to April 25 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	66	44	78	34	55	-1	393	373	1.25	7.08	0.47	11.46	-1.86
Norfolk	68	52	80	45	60	1	435	396	2.27	7.03	0.14	13.21	-0.99
Richmond	69	48	80	37	59	1	490	434	2.46	8.86	2.15	16.13	2.91
Roanoke	65	46	76	41	55	-2	396	NA	2.33	8.80	2.04	12.71	-0.39
Wash/Dulles	64	43	78	35	53	-1	310	NA	1.33	6.32	0.19	11.35	-0.59

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. 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 remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

This week's weather is cold with lows in the 30s and 40's.

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

Rye forage harvesting started. A few fields sprayed for corn.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A. Stanley)

Cool temperatures with rain at the start and end of the week limited field activities. Cool wet conditions through April have most field operations and planting activities running behind normal schedule at this point in the spring.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Pastures, hayfields and small grains are doing exceptionally well due to many spring rains and slightly cooler than normal temperatures.

HENRICO (Karen Carter)

One very cold night this week, but no apparent frost damage.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

As soils dried out, corn planting proceeded at a good rate. Cool and wet conditions have delayed emergence, and a few growers have reported that they will need to do some replanting in areas where water stood after heavy rainfall events. Field preparation for full season soybean planting continued. Vegetable producers continued harvesting asparagus and other spring crops.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

Due to significant rain events at the beginning and end of the week, corn planting was halted except for 3 days. Cooler than average temperatures have caused the emergence and/or growth of potatoes to be delayed.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Temperatures have been below normal.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

All in all, things are a tad behind. The late wet and cold winter conditions have really put a damper on things. Land is bedded most everywhere. Everyone is gearing up for planting. This week should be productive as long as temperatures stay up and rain stays at bay. Pastures look great. The grass is coming on well but not too strong. It has not jumped ahead of the animals too far yet. Hay is slow coming/being cut. Very little is on the ground. Looking forward to tobacco plants in the ground! Greenhouses look good overall. Some chlorine issues this year, but all in all things should be off to a good start.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

The weather was warm and cool this week. There has been small grains burned down for no till planting. Tobacco land is being prepared.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Farmers are still planting corn in a late corn planting season. Rain and cool temperatures has pushed back our corn planting season about a week this year. Wheat crop is looking good with no major pest problems reported.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Fieldwork was very limited this week due to over 1 inch of rain across the county. Corn planting is having a tough start with wet soils and cold days. Burndown herbicides for soybeans and some fertilizer was applied late in the week. Wheat growth looks good and barley is heading.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent rains have slowed planting progress and field preparation. Cool damp weather has small grain maturity, and other crop planting slightly behind schedule.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Cool damp weather conditions have slowed field work, especially corn, tobacco and cotton planting. Lime and fertilizer applications and herbicide burn-down application for soybean planting continue. The same cool weather pattern will continue into next week.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Cooler than normal conditions have kept the strawberry ripening process at bay. A few farms have started to pick some of the Sweet Charlie variety, but most farms are a week or more away from being able to open.