



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: August 25, 2013

Number: 25

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 25, 2013

The week started off with seasonable temperatures and isolated rain showers, but by midweek temperatures dropped below normal. Overall, the Old Dominion was about 3 degrees below normal with rain fall between 0.5 to 2.5 inches. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.1. Hay producers were looking for a harvest window, which has been difficult to find due the excessive wet summer. The vegetable crop conditions were diverse; some growers experienced a good crop, while others reported a poor vegetable crop due to excessive rain and disease pressure. The corn for grain harvest had commenced with 2% of the crop harvested. Despite the extra cost of drying the corn down, growers hoped to get a better price with the early corn. Other farming activities for the week included harvesting tobacco, spraying fungicides on soybeans, scouting for insects, and making plans for the small grain crops.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 25, 2013	0	9	74	17
August 18, 2013	1	13	70	16
August 11, 2013	0	10	69	21
August 4, 2013	0	11	73	16
July 28, 2013	0	12	65	23
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 25, 2013	0	8	80	12
August 18, 2013	0	10	71	19
August 11, 2013	1	9	69	21
August 4, 2013	0	9	71	20
July 28, 2013	1	10	73	16

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	2	17	60	21
Livestock	0	2	10	62	26
Hay, Other	2	11	24	47	16
Hay, Alfalfa	0	5	23	49	23
Corn	0	3	9	50	38
Soybeans	1	2	13	62	22
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	0	7	21	49	23
Tobacco, Burley	1	7	30	56	6
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured	0	3	18	67	12
Peanuts	0	4	4	66	26
Cotton	3	3	5	71	18
Apples, All	0	0	6	94	0
Grapes	0	7	15	77	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	86	75	92	88
Corn Dent	60	46	72	69
Corn Mature	17	10	36	38
Corn Grain Harvested	2	n/a	4	4
Corn Silage Harvested	29	18	64	54
Soybeans Blooming	87	78	93	92
Soybeans Setting Pods	63	50	59	68
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	40	28	29	32
Tobacco, Burley	10	5	10	13
Tobacco, Dark Fired Cured	39	17	27	43
Cotton Bolls Opening	10	2	15	13
Apples, Summer Harvested	80	70	66	72
Apples, Fall Harvested	16	n/a	49	15
Peaches Harvested	86	79	79	78

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Aug. 24	Mar. 1 to Aug. 24 Norm	Last Week	Since June. 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	81	62	89	55	71	-3	2920	2836	1.10	12.77	1.95	33.21	4.34
Norfolk	82	69	89	68	75	-2	3304	3121	1.07	15.63	2.93	33.04	1.88
Richmond	82	67	92	62	74	-2	3273	3073	2.47	17.86	6.34	36.74	7.59
Roanoke	81	64	87	58	72	-2	2966	na	0.71	21.19	10.70	41.73	13.15
Wash/Dulles	82	62	89	59	72	-2	2901	na	0.57	13.63	3.23	27.62	0.28

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 25, 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.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Many of the double crop soybeans are in bloom and some setting pods, increasing the overall county percentage. Most of the corn to be harvested for silage is complete, but not all. No corn grain harvest has started to date. Hay crop is very good.

AMHERST (John Benner)

Weeds have been very problematic during the growing season, particularly for orchards and pastures. Insects have also been a prevalent problem for orchards.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

The increase in soybeans blooming and setting pods represent the double crop soybeans in bloom and setting pods.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Another week of cool and wet weather. This is now officially the coolest and wettest summer that I have observed in my nearly 65 years, and another two inches of rain this week. A lot of hay has been well washed. Many producers are talking about harvesting corn but most corn is still very green. Early beans look tremendous. Double crop beans off to such a late start are now for the most part hiding the wheat stubble and beginning to look good. All this rain has eliminated the summer slump in cool season grasses. Grass is growing almost visibly. If stockmen don't have grass this year, the excuse of the weather is void and stocking rates and management must be examined.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall amounts for the week were quite variable, but topsoil moisture remains adequate for the entire area. Some producers started harvesting corn, taking advantage of premiums being offered for early harvest. Producers also continued scouting soybeans for insects and disease. Frogeye leaf spot has been the most prevalent pest, and many acres have been treated. Insect pressure has been relatively low. Producers were also making plans for planting cover crops and small grains.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest will get underway next week and yields will be very respectable. Moisture is pretty high as folks will try to harvest some corn and dry it down for early market. Corn is drying pretty fast in the field. About 1-1.5 inches of rain fell across the area at week's end. Soybeans are loving the season. This was not the year to plant the seeds at high populations. Ample moisture and good growing conditions may give more vines than seed, especially at high populations. All in all, pretty good looking crop. Folks are scouting for insects and disease and talking appropriate action in most cases. Some folks are throwing everything at the crop in hopes for a few extra bushels. Market is pretty volatile right now as it tries to determine just what kind of crop we have in the US. Veggies look good, sweet potatoes will be harvested in the next few weeks. Pumpkins and other cucurbits have had a rough summer with all the rain, etc. Haymaking

slowly continues as producers try to find a harvest window to work within. Quality and quantity have

been pretty good for those that have been fortunate enough to get the crop harvested.

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REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

This week started with seasonal temperatures and ended cooler than normal thunderstorms marking the transition midweek. Based on near term weather forecasts, the Rockbridge area appeared to enter a clear weather window for hay making late on Friday and many farmers have mowed hay lying in the field at week's end. Row crops continue to progress nicely despite being later than normal.

SOUTHWEST

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Weather is still not cooperating for hay making as it has rained almost every day somewhere in the county. Vegetables are showing stress and disease from too much rain, and livestock are not gaining as well as should be expected.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Wettest summer I can remember Multiple rains per week. Many are heavy rains that has caused repeated flooding which hasn't happened in 10 years.

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Corn harvest began this week with yields between 160-200 bu. Dry corn reported. Double cropped soybeans are showing improved vegetative growth, improving potential yield overall. Very light worm pressure thus far in soybean fields. Some fungicide sprays in soybeans being applied as farmers are reaching for maximum yields this season.