



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: November 17, 2013**

**Number: 35**

**Released: November 18, 2013**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2013

Overall, it was a colder than normal week for Virginia for this time year. Most nighttime lows ranged between low 20s and low 30s. By the weekend temperatures increased and rain fell; rain was light with most areas receiving less than ½ of an inch. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.9. The dry weather contributed to good progress to be made on harvesting crops and planting small grains. Dryness in seed moisture had producers concerned with soybeans cracking during harvest. As the season winds down, growers kept busy recertifying their pesticide permits, making input purchase plans for 2014, and hunting deer. Other farming activities for the week include last minute hay making, sampling soil, and attending producer conferences.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending       | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|-------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| November 18, 2013 | 2          | 29    | 68       | 1       |
| November 10, 2013 | 1          | 25    | 73       | 1       |
| November 3, 2013  | 1          | 17    | 81       | 1       |
| October 27, 2013  | 1          | 11    | 86       | 2       |
| October 20, 2013  | 0          | 7     | 89       | 4       |

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending       | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|-------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| November 18, 2013 | 3          | 23    | 70       | 4       |
| November 10, 2013 | 0          | 17    | 79       | 4       |
| November 3, 2013  | 1          | 14    | 78       | 7       |
| October 27, 2013  | 2          | 9     | 87       | 2       |
| October 20, 2013  | 0          | 11    | 84       | 5       |

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

| <b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b> |                  |             |             |             |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Crop</b>                   | <b>Very Poor</b> | <b>Poor</b> | <b>Fair</b> | <b>Good</b> | <b>Excellent</b> |
| Pasture                       | 2                | 7           | 37          | 47          | 7                |
| Livestock                     | 1                | 2           | 17          | 66          | 14               |
| Hay, Other                    | 3                | 6           | 44          | 41          | 6                |
| Hay, Alfalfa                  | 1                | 4           | 44          | 49          | 2                |
| Winter Wheat                  | 1                | 2           | 14          | 68          | 15               |
| Barley                        | 0                | 0           | 38          | 58          | 4                |
| Cotton                        | 0                | 3           | 19          | 63          | 15               |

| <b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS</b> |                  |                  |                  |                    |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Crop</b>                                     | <b>This Week</b> | <b>Last Week</b> | <b>Last Year</b> | <b>5 Year Avg.</b> |
| Corn Grain Harvested                            | 97               | 95               | 100              | 100                |
| Soybean Harvested                               | 73               | 58               | 71               | 64                 |
| Winter Wheat Seeded                             | 78               | 68               | 83               | 79                 |
| Winter Wheat Emerged                            | 50               | 36               | 63               | 57                 |
| Barley Seeded                                   | 95               | 93               | 100              | 99                 |
| Cotton Harvested                                | 71               | 53               | 87               | 82                 |
| Apples, Winter harvested                        | 97               | 90               | 100              | 97                 |
| Peanuts Combined                                | 96               | 93               | 100              | 98                 |
| Beef Cattle Forage, % Obtained from Pastures    | 59               | 70               | na               | na                 |
| Milk Cow Forage, % Obtained from Pastures       | 21               | 25               | na               | na                 |
| Sheep Forage, % Obtained from Pastures          | 69               | 83               | na               | na                 |

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 17, 2013**

| City        | Temperature |           |           |          |      |                         | Growing degree days (modified base50) |                       | Precipitation |               |                            |                |                           |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
|             | Avg. max.   | Avg. min. | High max. | Low min. | Avg. | Avg. dep. from normal * | Mar. 1 to Nov. 16                     | Mar. 1 to Nov.16 Norm | Last Week     | Since Sept. 1 | Sept. 1 dep. from normal * | Jan. 1 to date | Jan. 1 dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg   | 57          | 29        | 67        | 21       | 43   | -5                      | 4027                                  | 3932                  | 0.31          | 3.14          | -5.83                      | 36.86          | -1.53                     |
| Norfolk     | 58          | 39        | 69        | 30       | 49   | -4                      | 4690                                  | 4433                  | 0.02          | 6.04          | -3.11                      | 39.29          | -2.06                     |
| Richmond    | 59          | 34        | 71        | 25       | 47   | -3                      | 4606                                  | 4292                  | 0.29          | 6.00          | -3.23                      | 44.91          | 5.52                      |
| Roanoke     | 57          | 32        | 65        | 26       | 45   | -4                      | 4104                                  | na                    | 0.41          | 4.11          | -4.63                      | 46.42          | 8.38                      |
| Wash/Dulles | 56          | 30        | 63        | 21       | 43   | -4                      | 4019                                  | na                    | 0.21          | 9.54          | 0.63                       | 37.40          | 0.38                      |

\* 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)**

Harvest is continuing for corn and soybeans. Cold weather is settling in. Temperature in the low 30's at night and daytime in the 50's and 60's. Still a little dry.

**WESTERN**

**BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)**

This fall has been very dry, we finally got some rain the end of last week. Hopefully it will be enough to get cover crops established.

**ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)**

A hard freeze Thursday morning with temperatures in the upper teens was followed by warmer air and badly needed rain Friday night and Sunday night in the Rockbridge area. Overall crop and forage conditions remain good.

**CENTRAL**

**AMHERST (John Benner)**

Stockpiled Tall Fescue growth has slowed down and could be considered to be inactive. Cattle have begun grazing stockpiled pastures. Utilization for stockpiled fescue is under 40% due to most producers unable to strip graze due to time constraints.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Over the weekend in two rain events we had a much needed 3/4 inch of rain at my western Hanover home. I think it rained across the county but have not spoken to anyone yet this morning to assess amounts in other areas.

**EASTERN**

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Dry and windy weather allowed producers to make excellent progress harvesting the soybean crop. Very low seed moisture levels resulted in increased seed cracking during harvest, which is a concern for seed producers. Producers also continued taking soil samples and pricing inputs for 2014.

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Combines rolled this past week as many days were good for harvest. Moisture levels for soybean seed dropped from about 13% to less than 10%. Producers were concerned about dry soybeans and cracking. Yields are holding on. Double crop soybeans in 30 and 40's for most part, but as we get further into harvest, the later planted soybeans will yield less. Maybe even in the low 20 to teens. Wheat planting is about over with exception of a few stragglers. For wheat to have a fighting chance for decent yields and quality, it should already be planted. Wheat planting should be completed by November 5 if at all possible. Planting after this date only gives hope for about 60 bushel yield potential and at current prices, 60 bushel wheat cannot pay its way. Folks are busy harvesting soybeans, planting cover crops and making planting decisions for 2014. Seed dealers are beginning to push hard to get producers to commit for next year. Some last minute haymaking too.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Great fall harvesting weather as growers move quickly with cotton, soybean harvest and small grain planting. Yields on cotton are in the range of 1.5 to over two bales and soybean are in the 30-50 bushel range. Growers are also attending pesticide recertification programs.