



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE



WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 17, 2014

The Old Dominion experienced diverse rain showers this week. Most areas experienced 0.5 to 1.5 inches of rain, with some areas receiving as much as 5 inches of rain. Temperatures were 1 to 5 degrees cooler than normal for this time of year. Overall, the average temperature ranged between the upper 60s to mid 70s. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.8. The recent rains contributed to favorable conditions for Virginia's row crops; however, pastures and hayfields have not recovered as expected. In some places, livestock producers were feeding hay stocks to cattle to compensation for the lack of feed not available in pastures. Farmers applied fungicide to soybeans this week; overall, the majority of the soybean crop was in fair to good condition. In general, insect pressure on the soybean crop was less than expected for this time of year. Producers began the corn silage harvest this week, and plan to continue in earnest next week if the weather is favorable. Other farming activities for the week included harvesting hops, harvesting tobacco, attending field day meetings, and making plans for small grains and cover crops.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|-----------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| August 17, 2014 | 3 | 24 | 67 | 6 |
| August 10, 2014 | 5 | 24 | 64 | 7 |
| August 3, 2014 | 6 | 24 | 65 | 5 |
| July 27, 2014 | 8 | 25 | 62 | 5 |

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|-----------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| August 17, 2014 | 4 | 26 | 68 | 2 |
| August 10, 2014 | 5 | 26 | 67 | 2 |
| August 3, 2014 | 4 | 29 | 66 | 1 |
| July 27, 2014 | 6 | 33 | 60 | 1 |

IN THIS REPORT:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Crop Condition Percent | pg 2 |
| Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons | pg 2 |
| Weather Summary Table | pg 3 |
| Reporter Comments by County | pg 3,4 |

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| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Corn | 1 | 9 | 22 | 55 | 13 |
| Soybeans | 0 | 3 | 22 | 62 | 13 |
| Tobacco, Flue-Cured | 3 | 4 | 33 | 33 | 27 |
| Tobacco, Fire-Cured | 1 | 3 | 32 | 54 | 10 |
| Tobacco, Burley | 1 | 1 | 27 | 62 | 9 |
| Cotton | 0 | 0 | 1 | 95 | 4 |
| Peanuts | 0 | 0 | 2 | 80 | 18 |
| Livestock | 1 | 4 | 21 | 58 | 16 |
| Pasture and Range | 4 | 15 | 34 | 41 | 6 |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 0 | 7 | 31 | 51 | 11 |
| Hay, Other | 3 | 15 | 36 | 41 | 5 |
| Apples, All | 0 | 1 | 38 | 54 | 7 |
| Grapes, All | 0 | 10 | 33 | 46 | 11 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Cotton Setting Bolls | 95 | 84 | 97 | 89 |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Peanuts Pegging | 96 | 91 | 95 | 90 |
| Corn Dough | 80 | 75 | 74 | 83 |
| Corn Dented | 50 | 37 | 44 | 56 |
| Corn Mature | 7 | 1 | 9 | 18 |
| Corn for Silage Harvested | 12 | 3 | 17 | 37 |
| Soybeans Blooming | 71 | 55 | 77 | 81 |
| Soybeans Setting Pods | 42 | 29 | 48 | 49 |
| Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested | 21 | 19 | 28 | 26 |
| Fire-Cured Tobacco Cut | 3 | 2 | 17 | 22 |
| Potatoes Summer Harvested | 99 | 90 | 100 | 100 |
| All Apples Harvested | 29 | 27 | n/a | n/a |
| Peaches Harvested | 67 | 51 | 78 | 73 |

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING August 17, 2014

| 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 16 | Mar. 1 to Aug16 Norm | Last Week | Since June 1 | June 1 dep. from normal * | Jan. 1 to date | Jan. 1 dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 79 | 60 | 82 | 52 | 69 | -5 | 2736 | 2647 | 0.98 | 11.64 | 1.70 | 32.66 | 4.75 |
| Norfolk | 84 | 70 | 86 | 67 | 77 | -1 | 3085 | 2909 | 0.83 | 12.17 | 0.69 | 31.80 | 1.80 |
| Richmond | 85 | 65 | 87 | 60 | 75 | -2 | 3122 | 2873 | 0.55 | 8.83 | -1.68 | 24.87 | -3.39 |
| Roanoke | 77 | 62 | 84 | 55 | 70 | -5 | 2762 | n/a | 1.41 | 10.42 | 0.87 | 26.01 | -1.66 |
| Wash/Dulles | 81 | 59 | 84 | 53 | 70 | -5 | 2519 | n/a | 1.25 | 8.11 | -1.32 | 32.45 | 6.07 |

* 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)

Most area was getting very dry until rain on Monday and Tuesday. A few farmers are feeding hay because pasture had areas with less rain fall.

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

3-4" of slow RAIN early in the week helped conditions, however, still hot and dry overall.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Some rain showers and unseasonably cool temperatures have not been enough to maintain soil moisture levels which have declined markedly over the past two weeks. Row crops are in satisfactory condition, but pasture and hay meadows have declined.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan Poore)

An unusual mild week for this time in August. Comfortable temperatures and a few scattered, but light showers. Most crops are looking good at this point, with the exception of hay. Hay seems to not have the rebound this year for some reason. Alfalfa and pastures appear to be faring better than average for this time of year.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

The major feature of last week's weather was the great variability of rainfall in one rain event. The town of Ashland had a downpour of five inches in a pretty brief time and flooding all over the town. In the same event Rockville and Vontay had two to three inches over a little longer time frame; while in northwestern Hanover county a simple rain brought 8/10 of an inch to my Beaverdam home, and the reports from the eastern part of the county were less than 2/10. Temperatures have been well below normal and on some days, even the humidity was less than our normally oppressive levels.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Hops harvest underway. Summer apples and peaches are being harvested. Rainfall has been sufficient for good crop growth as well.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Soil moisture is still lacking in some areas. Farmers were busy attending field days, getting ready for corn harvest, and treating soybeans with fungicides. Insect pressure so far has been light in the soybean crop.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

More rain fell this week. Corn crop is finished. Soybeans are loving this weather. Good moisture, temps in 80's, and ample sunlight. Corn crop still on track for average to above average crop. Soybeans on track for something pretty special. No signs of many worms, but some reports of a few acres sprayed, but fields not at threshold. Green cloverworm seems to be abundant. Haymaking trying to make a start. Veggies good. Field days abundant. Plans being made for small grain and cover crop planting.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Recent rains have improved crop and pasture conditions.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin county saw a lot of rain last week ranges different throughout the county; some areas received 3 inches other areas received 5 inches. Before rain started, farmers started chopping corn silage. Some were back at it again once the rain stopped. After the rain this week, farmers will be out in full force chopping. Much needed rain is helping grass in pastures that were not over grazed during hot dry weather.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

The rain has been fairly consistent. No major complaints. Things are coming along nicely. Corn looks good this year. Both full season and double crop beans are coming along. Most flue-cured tobacco fields have been pulled once, some disease. Cattle look fat and slick for the most part. Life is good.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

The rain last week slowed some crop work. Tobacco is being harvested and cured. Some cured tobacco has been baled and ready for delivery and some has been taken to stations.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Frequent showers and mild temperatures in the 80's are prompting some disease problems. We have Southern Corn Rust showing up on much of our corn this past week. Almost all of our corn is at 50% dent or higher, so not likely to impact yields of a very good corn crop we currently have in the field. Full season soybeans have a lot of growth and very little disease or worm problems yet. Farmers are inventorying old pesticides for VDACS collection day, September 9.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Widely scattered showers fell over certain areas earlier this week and some areas are in need for some moisture. Growers continue to scout soybean and cotton for insect pests. Most cotton has received an insecticide spray application. It is time for corn-earworm infestations in soybean and a few growers have found a few small worms.