



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. Weather conditions were mostly favorable for farmers this week for making hay, planting crops and side-dressing corn. High temperatures were in the 80s to 90s, and lows were in the 40s to 50s. Precipitation was scattered and up from the previous week, but drier conditions continue.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 05/24/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	4	22	69	5
Subsoil	2	17	78	3

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 05/24/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	7	7	21	63	2
Grapes	3	2	9	86	-
Peaches	13	8	22	57	-
Barley	-	2	26	59	13
Corn	-	1	16	72	11
Oats	2	5	49	41	3
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	30	70	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	4	14	67	15
Tobacco, Plantbeds	-	8	16	69	7
Hay, Alfalfa	-	4	27	62	7
Hay, Other	-	5	27	62	6
Winter Wheat	-	1	19	65	15
Pasture	1	9	35	48	7
Livestock	1	6	27	55	11

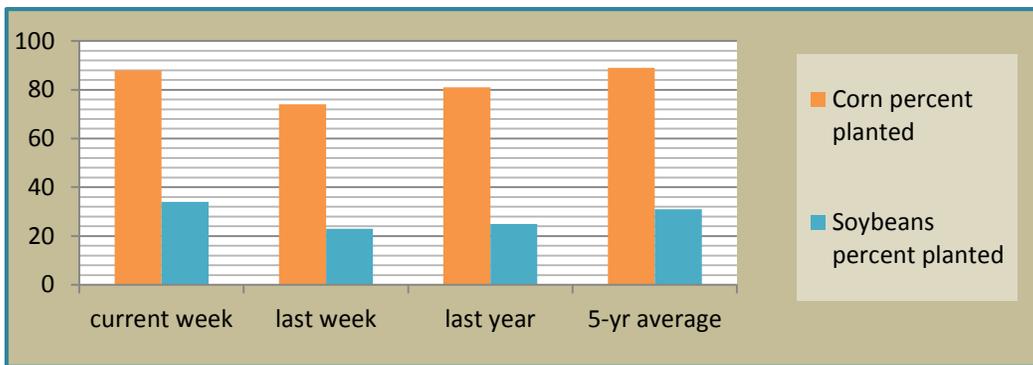
-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 05/24/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	88	74	81	89
Corn emerged	68	50	64	75
Cotton planted	84	55	82	89
Peanuts planted	74	52	63	71
Soybeans planted	34	23	25	31
Soybeans emerged	18	7	-	-
Tobacco, Burley transplanted	43	22	46	36
Tobacco, Fire-cured transplanted	38	23	62	63
Tobacco, Flue-cured transplanted	81	65	84	85
Winter Wheat headed	85	70	89	96

- Represents data not available.

CORN and SOYBEANS PLANTED for week ending 05/24/15



Weather Summary- For the week ending May 24, 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 May 23	Mar. 1 to May 23 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	78	55	86	44	66	2	816	755	0.12	8.90	-1.44	13.28	-3.74
Norfolk	78	63	89	55	71	4	902	810	0.60	8.56	-1.63	14.74	-2.80
Richmond	80	60	91	52	70	4	991	856	1.32	10.72	0.61	17.99	1.34
Roanoke	80	58	88	48	69	4	847	NA	0.27	10.40	-0.21	14.31	-2.52
Wash/Dulles	77	56	89	42	66	3	755	NA	0.26	7.39	-2.33	12.42	-3.10

* 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.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Matt Booher)

Topsoil is starting to dry out quickly with the sun and low humidity of the last week. Will impact regrowth on grass hay and pasture fields.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Clear mild weather conditions allowed corn planting to be completed and virtually all soybeans to be planted in the Rockbridge area. A great deal of first cutting hay has been made successfully despite some showers Thursday night that compromised some hay that was down.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

This week's recent rainfalls have tremendously helped corn and young soybeans, and have secured a good wheat crop.

HENRICO (Karen Carter)

All crops are on a normal trending track to date. The county had a significant precipitation event (2" +/- rain) during this reporting period.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Vineyards are approaching flowering. Apples and peaches are at or just above 1 inch diameter. Hay is being cut around the country.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

An area wide rainfall on Thursday was beneficial to wheat, corn and emerging soybeans. Farmers spent the week side-dressing corn with nitrogen and applying post emergence herbicides to the crop. Hay harvest also continued.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Much needed rain fell this week. Corn is mostly all planted and up, with exception of some last minute wet spot planting. Soybean planting has begun. Corn crop looks good, some yellowing and stunting due to cool temps and slow root development. Warm weather and side-dress should take care of this. Haymaking is in full swing. Quality and quantity is good. Vegetable planting just beginning. Plants slow to begin growth due to weather. Some post emerge herbicide applications in corn underway.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

On Thursday, May 22nd, we received a much needed 1.5 inches of rain. Potatoes in Northampton County are in full bloom and all snap beans are putting on true leaves. Full season soybean planting has begun as well as sorghum planting. The warm temperatures and rain this week is really going to ramp the growing season.

SOUTHWESTERN**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

No appreciable amount of rain this week. Continued dry conditions have resulted in short pasture and some farmers selling cattle to reduce grazing pressure. Strawberry harvest will be shorter in duration, but yields are above average.

SOUTHEASTERN**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Spotty showers early in the week were needed and slowed planting in some areas of the county. A day with a long shower across the county late in the week was very much needed. Soybeans and corn is looking good. Strawberries had a short season this year and finished up this weekend. Hay is being baled and cut; spring cutting has been steady since May 2. Local farmers markets are opening and business is picking up.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Rain this week interrupted field work for several days. A limited amount of corn replanting is being done. Many farmers are waiting until rain subsides before replanting corn or committing soybean seed to the ground. Most corn acres have recouped from a slow start and will likely rebound. Rain has been a mixed blessing for wheat which has good yield potential.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rainfall on Thursday brought much needed moisture to the area. Some wheat was showing drought stress early in the week and soil moisture was marginal for soybean germination on sandier soils. Soybean planting progressed the week as well as hay harvest before the rains.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Another good week to continue planting, side-dressing corn with nitrogen and scouting small grain. It has gotten dry in a lot of areas already and we could use some showers. The crop is off to a good start.