



# Crop Progress and Condition

**USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office**  
Herman Ellison, State Statistician  
P. O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
(804) 771-2493  
**Homepage:** <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

**In Cooperation with:**  
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA  
Virginia Tech  
Virginia State University  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Released: May 9, 2016

Issue: 09-16

**Agricultural News:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.3. Weather conditions were rainy and this has limited fieldwork and some crop planting and progress. The excess moisture continues to increase disease pressure in fruits and small grains. Farming activities for the week included applying fungicide applications and checking crops for diseases and insects.

## SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 05/08/16

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	4	10	62	24
Subsoil	1	18	72	9

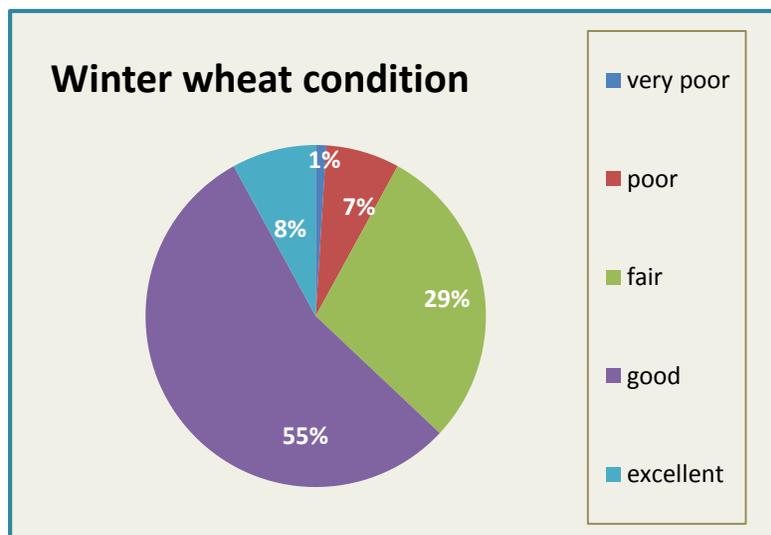
- Represents zero.

## CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 05/08/16

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	3	17	70	10	-
Grapes	1	40	41	18	-
Peaches	10	23	62	5	-
Barley	3	9	40	45	3
Hay, Alfalfa	5	11	33	47	4
Hay, Other	6	20	30	41	3
Oats	1	4	42	47	6
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	13	87	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	1	8	41	50
Winter wheat	1	7	29	55	8
Pasture	7	22	30	35	6
Livestock	2	9	33	46	10

-Represents zero.

## WINTER WHEAT for week ending 05/08/16

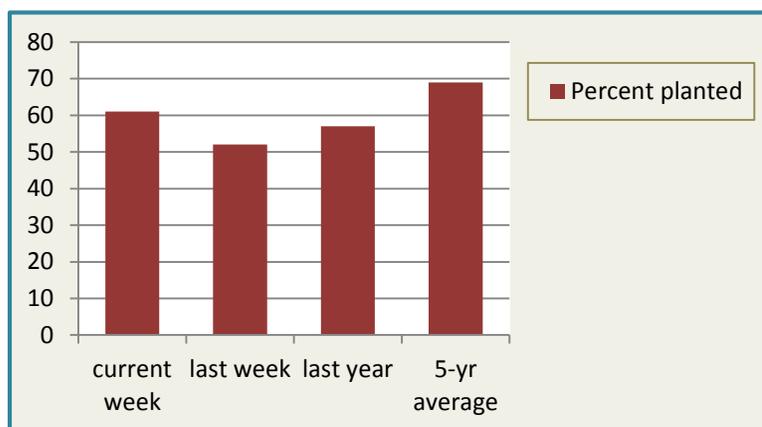


**CROP PROGRESS for week ending 05/08/16**

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	61	52	57	69
Corn emerged	40	27	29	43
Cotton planted	22	11	20	26
Peanuts planted	10	5	16	15
Potatoes, Summer planted	95	85	-	-
Soybeans planted	6	3	9	9
Tobacco, Flue-cured transplanted	17	5	19	26
Tobacco, Greenhouse seeded	95	92	-	-
Winter wheat headed	77	45	35	62

- Represents data not available.

**CORN PLANTED for week ending 05/08/16**



**Weather Summary-** For the week ending May 08, 2016

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 7	Mar. 1 to May 7 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	70	51	82	43	61	1	625	515	4.26	9.73	1.56	17.02	2.22
Norfolk	69	56	86	51	63	0	661	546	1.63	7.87	-0.41	18.74	3.26
Richmond	68	54	85	48	61	-1	648	597	5.02	8.21	0.17	15.86	1.31
Roanoke	72	52	84	48	62	1	702	NA	1.95	5.33	-2.99	13.56	-1.17
Wash/Dulles	64	52	80	49	58	0	552	NA	3.40	6.73	-0.83	14.98	1.61

\* 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**

**ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)**

Eleven straight days of measurable rainfall. Field work has been limited. Small grain damage from April 10 freeze is apparent in several fields.

**WESTERN**

**ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)**

Badly needed rain showers throughout the week brought field work to a halt, but did much to restore soil moisture levels. Rainfall totals for the week in Rockbridge ranged from close to 3 inches on the southern county line to as little as 1/2 inch in the mountainous northwest corner of the county.

## CENTRAL

### **AMELIA (Laura Siegle)**

Conditions have been extremely wet this week. We had a few hours of sun on a couple of days, but most of our fields are fairly saturated at this point. We have had a tough year on pasture, but the rain is helping significantly.

### **AMHERST (Alyssa Elliott)**

Rain tapered off Thursday.

### **CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

This area of Virginia is reporting very cloudy and damp weather, not with significant storms or rainfall, but with a very damp and wet atmosphere. Expecting large disease/insect potential in winter wheat crop. Also majority of corn will be late getting planted due to wet weather conditions.

## EASTERN

### **KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)**

This area of Virginia is reporting very cloudy and damp weather, not with significant storms or rainfall, but with a very damp and wet atmosphere. Expecting large disease/insect potential in winter wheat crop. Also majority of corn will be late getting planted due to wet weather conditions.

### **GLOUCESTER/MATHEWS/MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

3-5 inches or more of rain fell across the area this week pushing the total rainfall for 2016 to a surplus. Not much field activity at all this week. Much of the corn has emerged and looks okay with some fields looking yellow and white due to cool, wet weather. Some activity in wheat fields with fungicide applications to deter head scab. Still seeing some signs of early season cold damage in wheat. This coming week weather looks to be warmer with some mixed showers along the way. Many producers are anxious to begin prepping for soybean planting. A lot is planned to happen in the next 3-4 weeks with soybeans, corn, wheat, vegetables and hay.

Vegetable planting should get underway when things dry out some. More haymaking to come.

### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Wet conditions limited field work during the week. Saturated soils and standing water on some fields will probably result in some corn stand loss in some fields. The threat for fusarium head blight in wheat increased due to the weather conditions and some producers applied fungicides between rain events.

### **NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)**

All of the rain within the past two weeks has created a disease issues in all crops. A lot of stripe rust has been seen in wheat, and barley is seeing disease as well. The most recent Potato Disease Advisory recommended a fungicide application for the potatoes. Green bean planting has been delayed due to the continued rain as well. We are looking forward to warmer and dryer conditions of the next week.

## SOUTHWESTERN

### **BUCHANAN/DICKENSON (Brad Mullins)**

Rained several days on and off.

### **FLOYD (Jon Vest)**

Experienced scattered thunderstorms and 3/8" hail during the week.

### **TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)**

Getting some rain. Forages are behind, but catching up slowly.

## SOUTHERN

### **LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

After a dry month, we welcomed our first significant rains of the growing season. They were much needed. The first cutting hay has been greatly affected by the dry spell and consequently is of poor quality and volume. Most livestock producers have been feeding the little hay that was left over from the winter as the grass just could not keep up. Livestock condition is reflecting the dry spell and many of the poorer animals have lost condition. We had very poor stores of hay after such a wet winter season as a lot of unprotected hay was lost to rot. We needed this rain badly. Western Lunenburg received upwards of 5 inches and eastern around 2.5. More will be needed to keep the subsoil adequately moist after a few warm and windy days. Tobacco has been going in the ground for the last few weeks and seems to be doing fine. Wheat is heading out and only a few areas seem to have been damaged by the frost, which we were concerned about as less wheat was planted this year for grain. Some of the corn has been in the ground three weeks and these rains have really brought it up. Tree and bush fruit saw significant damage from the last cold spells several weeks back that dipped into the mid-20s. Many peach and blueberry blossoms were killed.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)**

Over 2 inches of rain this week, overcast plus cool temperatures has slowed corn emergence. Seeing some cold damage to wheat flag leaf and bent heads from earlier cold temperatures. Also seeing some disease set into wheat crop. Strawberry farms hampered by bad weather as crop nears full picking season.

### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Rain last week helped perk up some crops, but producers were only able to get into some fields during very short windows of time.

### **PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Much needed rainfall across the county with 2-3 inches in most locations. Some corn planting and spraying was accomplished at the beginning of the week. By the weekend some field work had resumed with spraying herbicides and cutting hay.

### **SURRY (Mr. Glenn Slade)**

Recent rains and cool weather have delayed cotton, peanut, and soybean planting. With better conditions we should get back in the fields this week (5/8/16). Corn is up and growing with good stands.

### **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)**

Not much progress to report this week. Rainy conditions made field work all but stand still. Strawberry season is off to a rough start with few pickers coming out during the rainy days.