

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Earlier in the week, field work was slowed by wet soils. As the week progressed producers were able to get into fields and get them worked up. Small grains are not growing as well as in other seasons, but are in general looking ok, but are short in stature. Spring calving is underway for a few folks in our area.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Producers are finishing fertilizing wheat for the season. Most wheat has reached Growth Stage 30 but the yield potential varies widely from field to field. Some tillage was attempted late in the week to prepare peanut fields and to level ruts left by combines last fall. A little corn was planted late in the week as temperatures climbed and got folks excited about field work again. Cattle are starting to find a little grass to graze again as growth picked up considerably this week.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Warmer weather and drying conditions brought out the corn planters, with fertilizer and lime being applied, field ruts leveled and peanut land plowed. Pasture is also coming out with livestock requiring less stored hay.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

The spring is off to a good start. Field work has been held up due to heavy rain at the start of the week. Lime and fertilizer applications continue along with nitrogen top-dressing of small grain. Preparation of peanut land is about to get underway along with burn down herbicide applications to cotton and soybean fields. Corn planting will begin shortly.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Fields received 2.5 inches of rain this week which delayed beginning of corn planting. Some field ditching continues due to setbacks this wet winter. Burn down of weeds in fields going into no-till continues with much warmer temperatures this week.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

Continuation of high temperatures and good weather, we expect corn planting to get underway this week



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: April 4, 2010

Number: 4

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 2009

Warmer and dryer weather conditions were appreciated across the state. There has been a lot of field activity, and with soil moisture being reported at 98% adequate or surplus, pastures and hayfields are showing significant improvement with new growth. Days suitable for fieldwork were reported at 5.0. Producers in some areas began planting corn late in the week where the fields were dry enough, and preparations such as fertilizer application and burn down were taking place in anticipation of planting when field conditions become conducive.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 4, 2010	0	2	74	24



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	8	28	54	9
Livestock	3	9	46	37	5
Hay, Other	1	3	21	50	25
Hay, Alfalfa	1	3	18	54	24
Winter Wheat	1	5	37	52	5
Barley	2	4	34	56	4
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	0	47	53
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	58	21	21
Apples, All	0	0	44	23	33
Peaches	0	0	18	57	25
Grapes	0	0	0	79	21
Oats	0	0	19	81	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	3	NA	2	7
Tobacco Greenhouse Seeded	88	NA	83	89
Tobacco Plantbeds Seeded	100	NA	81	83

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 2010

City	Temperature					Precipitation					
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	43	87	35	57	7	1.64	5.23	1.05	12.31	1.52
Norfolk	69	47	77	40	58	6	3.03	6.03	1.60	14.05	2.35
Richmond	73	46	82	33	60	8	2.24	6.19	1.74	12.60	1.65
Roanoke	71	45	88	37	58	7	1.05	3.93	-0.25	10.61	0.11
Wash/Dulles	69	45	80	39	57	10	1.24	3.36	-0.50	9.91	0.20

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

Above average temperatures have pushed small grains ahead and pastures have responded well.

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Tobacco farmers continue to plow fields for the upcoming season. There is a lot of field activity as the soil is drying under the warmer than normal and windy conditions. Fertilization of hay fields continues.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture conditions are good; some areas are still too wet to work. Small grain crops are beginning to respond to warmer temperatures and fertilizer applications where farmers have been able to get on fields. Pastures and hayfields are looking good. Producers are still top-dressing small grain crops and are planting corn in better drained fields.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Finally a little drying weather has allowed us to begin to crawl out of the swamp. Temps in the 80's with a little breeze have helped a great bit. Lots of small grains did not get planted. Pastures are beginning to green up and stockmen are glad to have some relief from hay feeding and fighting the mud. Have not yet seen any corn planted. Usually some of the brave have corn up by now.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Fertilizer being spread on grasslands. Peaches in bloom, apples remain in the bud.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

During the latter part of the week, farmers worked on applying the second nitrogen application to wheat. Some sulfur and manganese deficiencies in small grains have been reported. Some small grain fields look very good, while others have suffered significant stand loss due to very wet conditions during the winter. A few wheat fields have been abandoned. Several producers planted corn late in the week and planting should get going at full speed this week. Pasture and hayfields are greening up nicely, and growth should be rapid next week with warm temperatures and good soil moisture.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

There was great weather during the week. Folks will be heavily into corn planting next week. They are busy with last minute preparedness. Wheat and barley look good as producers are making second applications of N now. Many fields are still too wet to get on. A little corn has been planted just to adjust planters, etc. Soil sampling, lime applications and fertilizer applications for corn continue. Hay fields look good and are ready to grow. Some bio-solids applications continue.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

After many wet weeks, we had a dry and very warm week which helped dry out many fields allowing fertilization and planting preparations. Winter grains are beginning to bounce back. Fruit crops looking good, though peaches and strawberries could be a bit early should a late spring frost/freeze hit us. Farmers are still assessing damage to fruit and landscape plantings from winter effects.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Warm weather has been a welcomed addition on the farms. Most farmers are scrambling to catch up on plowing and fertilization of pastures and small grain cover crops before the next rain.