

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Land prep for corn continues. Corn planting has begun, but is slow due to showers and cool temperatures. Weekend forecasts of more rain have producers concerned about getting corn planted in a timely fashion and not totally on the heels of soybean planting. As corn planting continues to be delayed, it increases anxiety that numerous jobs may happen all at once. Wheat fields look good and have really grown with recent N applications and rain. Barley will head soon. Field scouting continues, as well as, land prep for vegetables, liming and some hay planting.

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Producers have been spraying corn herbicides, planting corn, working on corn planters, and listening for gobblers.

NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Corn planting began in earnest late this week, though soil temperatures are marginal at best. Producers have mostly finished with the last application of nitrogen fertilizer to small grains and have shifted to pre-plant burn down for corn, as well as, broadcast fertilizer applications.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Some fields are being readied for spring planting. High winds dried out some of the wet areas this past week. Small grains are looking pretty good at this point. Pastures and hay fields are greening up. Some folks have been spraying their tender fruit crops on the colder nights to protect them from frost damage.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Just a few acres of corn have been planted this week due to wet soils. Farmers are making fertilizer applications as fields permit truck traffic. Strawberry farmers had to use frost protection from overhead irrigation one morning this week.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Early field corn and sweet corn planting has started. Strawberry growers are frost protecting blossoms and applying fungicides.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
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<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: April 12, 2009

Number: 5

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 12, 2009

Corn planting continued to make progress this week, although planting was stalled in some areas where cool, wet weather delayed fieldwork. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.6. Cooler temperatures have also taken a toll on local strawberry crops and led many farmers to utilize irrigation and fungicides to protect the crop from frost damage. Throughout much of the state, small grains continue to develop on schedule, and wheat fields have benefitted from recent precipitation and Nitrogen applications. Other farm activities include field scouting of small grains, preparing for vegetable planting and transplanting, and spray down or harvesting of ryegrass fields.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 12, 2009	0	10	80	10
April 5, 2009	1	7	79	13



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	2	8	41	43	6
Livestock	3	6	28	55	8
Hay, Other	1	5	38	51	5
Hay, Alfalfa	1	4	38	51	6
Winter Wheat	1	5	28	53	13
Barley	0	1	25	63	11
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	15	75	10
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	65	35	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	50	35	15
Apples, All	0	0	66	34	0
Peaches	0	8	61	31	0
Grapes	0	0	20	80	0
Oats	0	0	13	86	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	11	2	11	18
Tobacco, Plantbeds Seeded	100	95	95	96
Potatoes, Summer Planted	80	NA	98	67

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 12, 2009													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 11	Mar. 1 to Apr. 11 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	64	37	77	32	50	-3	233	212	.45	4.25	-.80	8.52	-3.15
Norfolk	66	45	81	38	56	2	259	232	.72	6.04	.65	9.12	-3.54
Richmond	66	40	81	34	53	-1	264	255	.27	5.26	-.05	7.49	-4.39
Roanoke	62	40	77	35	51	-2	252	NA	.30	5.12	.00	9.07	-2.41
Wash/Dulles	63	38	74	31	51	1	189	NA	.80	3.95	-.75	6.97	-3.59

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. * Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)
Cooler weather stalled pasture growth last week. While pastures have greened up nicely, grass growth has been slow with most livestock operations continuing to feed hay. Last week saw some light field work of poultry litter and dairy manure applications in addition to the spray down of some rye cover crop. The cooler weather also brought several light frosts with little to no damage reported to fruit crops. To date, there has been no rye harvested in the boot stage for silage.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)
Several farmers began harvesting rye for silage this week or spray down cover crops for corn planting. Rain was light and scattered this week, with most days suitable for field work.

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)
Rain has slowed land preparation for tobacco. Winter wheat is looking good. We have been getting good green-up and growth in pastures and hay lands.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)
Moisture conditions are adequate, but more rain would be beneficial. Small grains are beginning to put on some growth but wheat and barley for the most part are not developed enough to be forming a grain head outside the boot. A hard frost last Thursday morning (4-9-09) damaged strawberries in the area. Grain farmers are planting corn; vegetable farmers are forming covered beds and getting ready to transplant warm season vegetables. Broccoli, lettuce, peas, onions, and kale are already in the ground.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)
Last week was somewhat dry allowing fertilization opportunities for hay and winter grain crops.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)
Another week of rainy overcast days are pushing farmers further behind in preparing land. Cool, wet weather is beginning to cause disease problems in early planted garden items such as peas and onions. Tobacco greenhouses look good, and are on track for this time of year.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)
Potato planting is finished; none is up yet. Corn planting is just getting started. Wet weather has delayed field work. Plastic has been laid for tomatoes. Farmers are applying fertilizer and no-till herbicides. It has been a normal spring so far.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)
Corn planting was in full swing for many farmers during the week. Cool temperatures will delay emergence of early planted corn. Producers applied burn down and pre-emergence herbicides and fertilizer to corn. Producers also finished up topdressing small grains with the second spring nitrogen application and scouted small grains for disease and insects.