

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**WESTERN**

**ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)**

Temperatures continue to be unseasonable. Temperature highs on 4 out of 6 days were well above average, while a temperature for one of 6 days was well below average.

**CENTRAL**

**AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

The weather conditions have been good for farmers. The topsoil is drying, but mostly due to the windy conditions, not from heat or lack of moisture below the surface.

**APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

Fields are drying very fast and are very dusty. Hay field fertilization continues, corn is being planted and one producer has started planting soybeans. Farmers have already started talking about the need for rain.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Farmers are planting corn, and getting fields ready for full season soybean planting. Small grains are looking good, but are about three weeks later in maturity than a three year average for this time of year. Bio-solids are being applied to selected crop fields. Small grain crops are still being side-dressed. Vegetable farmers are laying raised beds under plastic and getting ready to transplant tomatoes, peppers

**CENTRAL (continued)**

and other summer crops. Onions, cabbage and other cole crops have already been set out.

**FLUVANNA (John Thompson)**

Coming out of winter the greening of the grass is exciting! However proper management of pastures, and continued feeding appears necessary to allow pastures time to recover from a very difficult winter. Over grazing at this point will severely hamper forage stands for the entire year, and in some places this appears to be happening.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Conditions are improving. A week without rain and significant breezes brought drying conditions across the area. Significant drying took place this week. Corn planters were rolling everywhere and good progress has been made. Small grains and grasses continue to show a delay in significant growth. I have not seen any hay being mown yet and usually the early guys are out by now. I just began grazing my cows as grass is barely 10 inches high.

**HENRICO (Kilby D Majette)**

Several fields throughout the county had areas where the small grain crop was waterlogged during the winter and killed the crop.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Ending: April 18, 2010**

**Number: 6**

**Released: April 19, 2010**

**WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 18, 2010**

Warm weather and clear days throughout the week prompted a flurry of field work. There were 7 days suitable for fieldwork. Farmers were harvesting rye for silage, spreading poultry litter on crops, pumping out manure pits and spraying down winter cover crops. Topsoil continued to dry mostly due to windy conditions. Corn continued to be planted and field preparation for soybeans is underway. Small grains are looking good although they are about three weeks later in the maturity stage. Vegetable farmers are preparing to transplant tomatoes, peppers and other summer crops. Disease pressure on many crops has been low to this point; however, a few cereal leaf beetles have been reported in the wheat crop.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 4, 2010	0	2	74	24
April 11, 2010	0	2	78	20
April 18, 2010	1	20	75	4



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	5	27	57	10
Livestock	1	5	31	55	8
Hay, Other	0	1	32	55	12
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	25	50	24
Winter Wheat	1	5	35	54	5
Barley	1	8	27	60	4
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	2	85	13
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	82	10	8
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	0	100	0
Apples, All	0	0	48	42	10
Peaches	0	0	27	63	10
Grapes	0	0	5	65	30
Oats	0	0	33	67	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	35	16	14	27
Winter Wheat Headed	2	0	2	3
Cotton Planted	4	0	0	3
Potatoes, Summer Planted	85	65	89	93
Oats for Grain Seeded	15	0	NA	NA

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 18, 2010**

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. 10	Mar. 1 to Apr. 10 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	40	85	34	56	2	339	204	0.00	7.11	1.38	14.19	1.86
Norfolk	72	47	87	38	60	4	351	224	0.02	6.25	0.25	14.27	0.94
Richmond	75	46	88	38	61	5	396	246	0.02	6.73	0.83	13.15	0.75
Roanoke	73	46	84	39	59	4	340	NA	0.00	4.63	-1.15	11.31	-0.85
Wash/Dulles	71	44	85	38	58	6	336	NA	0.16	3.86	-1.50	10.41	-0.78

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.  
1/ Total Growing Degree Days available thru Apr. 10, 2010.

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

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**EASTERN**

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Farmers continued to make excellent progress in getting the corn crop planted. Farmers also scouted small grains for insects and disease. Disease pressure has been low to this point. A few cereal leaf beetles have been reported in the wheat crop, but the pressure remains relatively low.

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Barley heading, corn planting, and land prep for beans and corn are underway. There is some field scouting for small grains pest and fungicide applications are going on barley. Corn planting continues and folks have had a pretty good week getting that done. Some fields need a "shower" to aid in planting. Producers are still prepping fields for plantings. Some of the low lying fields will need some tillage and leveling before planting. Some corn is up. Tomato and pepper planting may begin next week. Land prep for vegetable planting continues.

**NORTHERN**

**ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)**

Warm weather and clear days prompted a flurry of field work. A significant number of farmers harvested rye for silage, spread poultry litter on crop, pumped out manure pits and sprayed down winter cover crops. Weather over the weekend was seasonally cooler with light frosts on two consecutive nights.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**CARROLL (Webb Flowers)**

Spring appears to have arrived, hoping that we won't have another hard freeze!

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Unseasonably warm weather, low humidity and March-like wind are pushing spring pastures into a mid-summer slump. Coupled with the hard winter for cattle, cows are slow to put on flesh so far this spring.

**SOUTHWESTERN (continued)  
MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

This week started off with warm dry temperatures, but by week's end everything went back to normal, w/ scattered frost Sunday night/Monday morning. All crops are now progressing well, with tree fruit a bit ahead of schedule. Pastures and hayfields are in great shape. There was quite a bit of winter damage (weather and wildlife) to ornamentals and some fruit crops. Hopefully dry spell will not last too long or early vegetable crops will suffer. Farmers' Markets and CSAs are doing well now.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Cooler, moderate temperatures gave way to sunshine last week and everything has exploded with growth. Wildflowers and trees that normally have a few weeks between blooms have all started blooming at one time. Strawberries are within 2 weeks of picking with extremely heavy fruiting with some concern about the size of the fruit.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Growers have a good start planting corn. They are also tilling land for peanuts and to repair ruts from last fall's harvest. Some barley has started to head out already.

**SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)**

Warm days and some very cold nights. Most fields are tillable. Farmers are busy with fertilization, tillage and some corn planting. Pollen levels have decreased. Pastures are greening.

**SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Drying weather has producers getting caught up on field work. Most of the corn planted with cotton, peanuts, and soybeans next.

**SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)**

Great spring weather as the planting season is underway. Corn planting continued, burn-down herbicide applications continue for cotton and soybeans along with fumigation of peanut land. Cotton and soybean planting will get underway next week. Some moisture will be good now!