

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

We have experienced another dry week with much needed rainfall at the end. Hay and winter grains are looking very good. The fruit set on fruit trees are looking good. Vegetable producers are seeing a good harvest of early leafy greens and other cool-weather crops. Summer crops in greenhouses are coming along well for mid-to-late May plantings.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Rain has slowed vegetable farmers down a bit; however, what is in the ground now looks extremely good for this early in the season. Strawberries are bearing heavily, and selling quickly. Cattle and sheep producers are anxiously watching grass grow, as barren pastures are beginning to replenish. Market prices still have cattle farmers concerned, and hoping for either a break in input costs or an increase in sale prices.

SOUTHEASTERN

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

Small grain diseases became visible this week. Over 2000 acres of wheat were sprayed for powdery mildew and some tan spot and a few fields had high enough numbers of Cereal Leaf Beetles/eggs/larva to spray.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn planting is almost complete. Cotton, peanuts, and soybeans are all going in at the same time.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

It is getting a little dry but planting continues. Burndown applications of herbicides are continuing for soybeans and peanut planting will begin shortly. Strawberry picking is in full gear.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Weather was favorable this week for planting. A lot of corn was planted, but we will still have 30% left to be planted in May.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: May 3, 2009

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 3, 2009

Field activities continued full force this week as producers took advantage of several days of dry weather early in the week. Significant progress was made with corn planting and the transplanting of flue-cured tobacco to the field, as well as, planting activities for both cotton and soybeans. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.9. Rain accumulation later in the week assisted growth in pastures and hayfields, and livestock conditions are showing improvement. In some areas, the first cutting of hay is complete, and reports so far are positive. While there have been some reports of powdery mildew in wheat, producers are continuing to scout fields and treat affected acres with fungicides.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 3, 2009	1	11	75	13
April 26, 2009	0	6	86	8
April 19, 2009	0	6	84	10
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	1	3	25	59	12
Livestock	1	4	22	62	11
Hay, Other	0	1	35	56	8
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	25	62	12
Winter Wheat	1	3	20	58	18
Barley	0	1	19	71	9
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	0	88	12
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	56	44	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	30	50	20
Apples, All	0	0	65	35	0
Peaches	0	4	59	37	0
Grapes	0	1	10	88	1
Oats	0	1	1	97	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	61	29	58	62
Corn Emerged	27	4	30	32
Soybeans Planted	5	0	5	5
Winter Wheat Headed	33	7	72	25
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	25	1	21	18
Cotton Planted	24	0	14	35

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 3, 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 May 2	Mar. 1 to May 2 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	79	56	91	50	67	9	486	439	0.02	6.12	-1.43	10.39	-3.84
Norfolk	80	60	90	52	70	9	536	467	0.01	7.58	-0.07	10.66	-4.35
Richmond	81	59	91	52	70	10	545	512	0.10	6.92	-0.60	9.15	-4.92
Roanoke	80	58	89	51	69	10	528	NA	0.00	6.67	-0.99	10.62	-3.35
Wash/Dulles	78	57	92	50	68	11	425	NA	0.41	6.64	-0.34	9.66	-3.22

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

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Producers made significant progress in planting corn last week and early this week. I estimate that planters running long hours were able to double our planted acreage in one week. Pasture and hay outlook is moderate with shortages in rainfall and fertility. The first cutting is expected to be below average.

FAUQUIER (Timothy Mize)

Plentiful rains have helped hay and pastures but delayed some corn plantings. Cattle and sheep have come through the winter in good condition and are now grazing lush growth. Fruit trees have so far escaped any frost damage.

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

Clear weather early in the week caused a flurry of field work including small grain harvest for silage, manure application and some corn planting. By midweek cooler weather and rainfall put a halt to field work.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Hot, windy conditions earlier in the week were drying out top soil moisture, but cloudy conditions and rain has improved the moisture situation. Livestock condition is good and the hay crop is coming along nicely.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Pastures and hayfields are looking good. Moisture conditions have improved greatly for now. Some first cuttings of hay have been harvested. Corn planting is well over half done. Farmers are getting ready to start planting soybeans. Vegetable farmers are planting tomatoes and harvesting strawberries.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Rain accumulation today and the rest of the week is much needed to keep spring pasture and hay crops on the right track. The timing is difficult for some corn planting and wheat harvesting.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

It has been an excellent week for field work. Corn is 95 percent no-till and that which is up is looking good. The potato crop is up and looking good. Tomatoes are planted, staked and looking good. Snapbeans are planted but not yet up. Soybean planting is just starting. Farmers are applying chemicals, fertilizers and scouting the wheat crop. The wheat crop is improving and yield potential is good to excellent. So far, this has been a good spring for planting.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers spent the week planting corn, applying burndown and pre-emergence herbicides to corn and scouting wheat for insects and disease. Some powdery mildew and other diseases have been reported in wheat and barley, and some acreage has been treated with fungicides. Cereal leaf beetle pressure has been very, very low. Five days of very warm temperatures and good soil moisture aided corn emergence. Barley is fully headed and flowered, and wheat should be fully headed by the end of the upcoming week. Farmers will begin cutting hay when the weather breaks, and yields should be good.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn planting is wide open and many will finish this week. Some of the lower lying fields are still waiting to be planted. Scouting of wheat and applications of fungicides and insecticides continues. Soybean land prep begins. Some haymaking is done already and so far looks good.