

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Rain has pretty well ended any activities for this week.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

Significant rainfall all week prevented most crop work. More corn needs to be planted and some hay is ready to cut.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The rain kept producers in very little and/or out of the fields this week. Crops that are in are growing well at this point. Some minor flooding happened this week, but we are monitoring it. Gardens in some instances have gone in a little later than planned. Fall calving producers are making plans to market their calves this summer and fall.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Overcast skies and scattered rain hampered field work this week. Most areas are too wet but farmers will resume after 1-2 days of sunshine, which returned Thursday afternoon. Some soybeans were planted this week, but most farmers are cautious, waiting for rain to pass before planting. The wheat crop has improved with the much needed rain.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Rainfall varied from 2 inches to 6 inches and stopped all field work. Strawberries are entering the peak production period and few customers were picking because of rain and wet fields. Some fruit has reached an over ripe stage and growers are having to harvest and toss this fruit. Hopefully newspaper articles and TV promotional activities along with sunshine will bring customers to the fields over Mother's Day weekend.



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**WEATHER
 &
 CROPS**



Week Ending: May 10, 2009

Number: 9

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 10, 2009

Persistent rain showers put a halt to field activities throughout most of the Commonwealth this week. Although the excess precipitation has been beneficial to hay fields and pastureland, producers have been reluctant to resume crop planting and hay harvesting due to continued wet conditions in the fields. Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.0. Currently, the hay crop is looking good and is ready to be harvested. The only thing holding back producers from getting started is some warm, dry weather. For the corn crop that has already been planted, stands are looking extremely good, and only a few areas of low lying fields will need to be replanted. Land preparation and some initial planting for soybeans and vegetables occurred this week, although most producers are waiting for the rain to pass.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 10, 2009	0	0	64	36
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	3	21	60	16
Livestock	1	4	23	61	11
Hay, Other	0	2	26	55	17
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	22	61	15
Winter Wheat	1	4	19	56	20
Barley	0	2	16	67	15
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	1	92	7
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	46	54	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	25	45	30
Apples, All	0	0	50	41	9
Peaches	0	1	49	47	3
Grapes	0	2	8	90	0
Oats	0	0	17	83	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	65	61	69	74
Corn Emerged	45	27	48	50
Soybeans Planted	10	5	9	11
Winter Wheat Headed	63	33	92	43
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	25	25	29	36
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	1	0	5	5
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	1	0	5	11
Peanuts Planted	22	0	15	25
Cotton Planted	40	24	36	59

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 10, 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 9	Mar. 1 to May 9 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	55	83	50	63	3	580	532	2.88	9.00	0.59	13.27	-1.80
Norfolk	80	62	89	58	71	8	684	565	2.43	10.00	1.53	13.08	-2.67
Richmond	75	59	89	55	67	5	664	615	3.03	9.95	1.66	12.18	-2.67
Roanoke	72	56	84	52	64	3	627	NA	2.88	9.55	0.95	13.50	-1.50
Wash/Dulles	69	55	86	51	62	3	511	NA	2.91	9.53	1.72	12.55	-1.09

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

CLARKE (Jake Grove)

Wet weather all week held up planting and hay mowing.

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

We received more rain, which was welcomed by the grazers, but not so much by the row crop guys.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Timely rains are bringing a flush of pasture growth for livestock. The hay crop is ready to be harvested; however, most producers are reluctant to start hay cutting due to the current weather pattern. Livestock conditions are good due to an abundance of pasture forage.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Farmers are getting ready to start cutting hay as soon as the weather permits. Many individuals were worried that the hay was heading out on the short side, but it looks like yields should be good with the recent rainfall. Corn stands look extremely good and the early planted soybeans are starting to emerge. Dark tobacco producers are just beginning to start planting. Everyone will be busy when the sun shines.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Pastures and hayfields are looking very good. As soon as we get a good break in the rains, widespread hay making will begin. Some first crop hay has already been made. Small grains have developed tremendously over the past week. Producers have found significant amounts of powdery mildew in barley and wheat and many acres have been treated with fungicides between rains. Lodging has also been a problem. Farmers have begun planting full-season soybeans. Vegetable farmers are harvesting a good crop of strawberries and planting summer crops, such as squash, tomatoes, melons, eggplant and okra.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Although the rainfall is helping to improve the hay and pasture situation, the timing of the rain is preventing wheat and rye harvest. Recent heavy rains have damaged the rye crop, laying it down at a very mature stage.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Not much hay has been cut as of yet, though the hay is fully headed.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

The hay crop is very good, but hay cutting is starting behind schedule which will effect quality. Warm, dry conditions this weekend helped the corn crop. There will need to be some replanting in low areas of fields, but not as much replanting as last year.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Rainfall this past week has kept most farmers out of the fields. Windy weather and rain delayed the application of pesticides and fertilizer. We have had excellent growing conditions for that which is already planted. Much needed rainfall has helped replenish soil moisture and sets the basis for continued good growing conditions. Fieldwork will pick up once fields dry out and skies clear.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Conditions are wet. We have had in excess of 4 inches of rain in most parts of area this week. Most corn is up and looks good. Some fields are up and have not had herbicide treatments. Low lying fields are still too wet to plant. Wheat looks good and is almost in full head and flowering. Recent rains will stimulate disease pressure. Scouting for wheat diseases and insects should continue. Land prep for soybean planting is halted for now. If we could get a couple of days of sunshine and wind, things could get back to normal in a hurry. Vegetable planting is off to a slow start as well. Some tomatoes, sweet corn, cantaloupes and peppers have been planted. Land prep continues for vegetable planting too. Haymaking is slow. There is a lot of good hay standing in the field that will need immediate attention once it dries.