

## 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)

Cool, dry and windy temperatures by the weekend. Everything needs rain. Some pastures are starting to show signs of fatigue already. We received scattered frost Sunday night. Vegetable growers are still waiting to plant sensitive crops. Lots of winter injury is showing up on ornamental crops.

#### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

A cold snap this morning resulted in scattered frost in higher elevations. Strawberry picking is in full swing, with good yields. Sheep prices are remaining high, while cattle remain steady.

#### TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

It is still a little early to plant and avoid frost. Corn ground is prepared for planting.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The rain just teased us last week and we are in serious need of some now. It has been excellent weather to cure the first cutting of hay. 4-Hers are getting ready for the upcoming livestock show. Corn is germinating nicely, as is soybeans. Wheat and barley are looking very good. Burn downs and no tillage are going well.

#### DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

It is dry, dry, dry. Irrigation has started for tobacco, blueberries and some corn and alfalfa fields and we had some light frost this morning. Farmers report some frost on the ground in low areas of the fields.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

A hot and windy week has taken its toll on soil moisture. Grass and some corn are showing signs of moisture stress. Several producers have stopped planting soybeans due to hard ground and no moisture in the top 1-2 inches. A lot of hay went on the ground this week as rain chances diminished. The first hay cutting will be 50-70% of normal for most growers. The wheat crop cannot catch a break this year - fall rains and drowing, a really cold winter, late fertilizer applications, cereal leaf beetles and powdery mildew, and now 30 days without significant rainfall.

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

We have had spotty thunderstorms in the county, but soil moisture is lagging behind. Some planting is delayed until moisture levels are better. Pastures are improving.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Due to dry soils, most cotton, peanut, and soybean planting is on hold until we get some rain. Corn stands look good, but later planted corn needs rain to complete emergence. Growers are worried about another dry year as showers seem to bypass the area.



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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: May 9, 2010**

**Number: 9**

**Released: May 10, 2010**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 9, 2010

Dry conditions allowed producers to continue making headway on the planting of corn and cotton this week and many took advantage of the dry weather to put up hay. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.6. Across the Commonwealth, the lack of rain has begun to take its toll and most of the crops could benefit from some moisture. In some areas, the recently planted corn needs additional rain for emergence and many producers are delaying soybean planting due to dry soil conditions. Pastures are starting to show signs of fatigue and hay yields are lower than expected. Strawberry producers have continued harvesting berries and the crop looks good. With the recent warm temperatures, U-Pick farms are showing an increased supply of berries.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 11, 2010	0	2	78	20
April 18, 2010	1	20	75	4
April 25, 2010	3	18	75	4
May 2, 2010	2	37	60	1
May 9, 2010	13	44	41	2



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### IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	11	40	44	4
Livestock	0	4	28	59	9
Hay, Other	1	12	41	42	4
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	32	57	10
Corn	0	0	21	67	12
Winter Wheat	1	7	32	55	5
Barley	1	3	35	59	2
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	1	21	58	20
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	75	18	7
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	12	88	0
Apples, All	0	0	80	18	2
Peaches	0	0	29	63	8
Grapes	0	1	11	78	10
Oats	0	6	36	58	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	82	67	64	72
Corn Emerged	65	26	42	48
Soybeans Planted	18	8	9	10
Winter Wheat Headed	70	36	59	38
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	57	34	25	28
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	13	6	1	2
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	17	5	1	5
Peanuts Planted	15	5	19	21
Cotton Planted	45	17	38	50
Oats for Grain Seeded	72	52	N/A	N/A

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 9, 2010**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 8	Mar. 1 to May 8 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	82	55	87	48	69	9	705	519	0.06	8.12	-0.16	15.20	0.30
Norfolk	86	66	93	59	76	13	780	550	0.00	7.02	-1.33	15.04	-0.62
Richmond	87	62	92	53	75	13	830	600	0.00	7.79	-0.41	14.21	-0.59
Roanoke	83	57	88	50	70	9	731	NA	0.07	5.22	-3.33	11.90	-2.97
Wash/Dulles	82	57	88	48	70	12	701	NA	0.56	5.21	-2.45	11.76	-1.75

\* 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**

**CLARKE (Jacob Grove)**

Recent cold weather has put early planted corn at risk of frost damage. Weather conditions have favored making quality dry hay.

**FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)**

Apples and peaches will take longer to show any improvement.

**WESTERN**

**ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)**

Precipitation = 0." Temperatures continue to vacillate between unseasonably low and unseasonably high within a 7-day period.

**ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)**

One of the driest Aprils on record has set a poor tone for the rest of the growing season. Alfalfa hay yields are off approximately 20%, grass hay will be set back 50-65%, and small grain for forage has been at a 30-50% reduction. Corn is slow to get out of the ground due to cold dry weather. Herbicide pre-emergence success is also being challenged by dry weather. Pastures are in the condition we generally witness in mid July and August.

**CENTRAL**

**AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

It has been a good planting week; however, a shower of rain would be beneficial now for recently planted corn. The talk is that many producers are waiting for a little rain before planting soybeans. Corn that has emerged is looking very good. Hay and pastures appear to be in good quantity and quality.

**AMHERST (William Seay)**

Dry moisture conditions are reducing hay crop yields and heading out sooner.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Hay producers have been cutting their first cutting. Some fields

**Central continued.**

look very good and others are thin due to standing water and other environmental factors over the winter. Generally, the first cutting looks good. Conditions are very dry. Some farmers have stopped planting corn and are putting off soybeans planting until there is more soil moisture, hopefully this week. Strawberry producers are harvesting berries. The crop looks very good. Vegetable producers are getting ready to plant tomatoes and other summer crops.

**CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

It has been a good week for planting. A shower of rain would be beneficial now for the corn planted.

**FLUVANNA (John Thompson)**

Winds, low humidity and no rainfall have caused our region to become very parched. Hay yields are lower than expected and down from last year. Pastures that were looking promising earlier in the year have slowed down considerably. Without intensive forage management, the grazing situation for the summer looks bleaker by the day.

**EASTERN**

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Drying winds and very warm temperatures continued to deplete topsoil moisture levels. Producers continued to scout small grain fields for insects and diseases. Pest pressure has been relatively low in wheat. Full-season soybean planting progressed well, but some producers have decided to wait for rain to continue or begin planting. Producers were also busy making hay.

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Dry conditions prevail. It has been windy. Corn, soybean and cotton planting has slowed or stopped due to dry conditions. Small grains look clean from diseases, but could use some rain to complete grain fill. It has been good hay making weather. Corn stands are good, but in need of showers. Sidedressing Nitrogen applications have begun. Veggie planting continues.