

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall during the week helped to restore topsoil moisture. Farmers were busy side dressing corn with nitrogen, finishing up full season soybean planting, and applying post emergence herbicide applications to corn. The barley crop is turning fast, and some fields will probably be harvested next week.

MIDDLESEX (Moore)

Rain during the beginning of the week was very helpful. Early soybeans and corn appreciated it. Wheat may have gained some test weight from the rain, but it was too late to really help barley. Previous to this week we saw wheat dying in spots in the field from lack of moisture in the root zone. Winter and early spring rains kept wheat root growth to a minimum and when the dry times hit, wheat had a hard time coping. Barley looks good and continues to dry down. Some fields may be ready for harvest by end of next week. Full season soybean planting continues and emergence has been exceptional. Folks have begun side dressing corn and will continue for several weeks now. Early season corn problems have been minimal and the crop looks good so far. Vegetables look good with planting continuing with sweet corn, cantaloupes, peppers, and squash.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Rain has helped replenish soil moisture, but damp, foggy mornings have also increased disease occurrences on many crops. Most summer vegetable plantings almost completed (except for those grown successively). Fruit crops doing well.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Sporadic rain off and on all week. Hay crop looks to be short and thin. The recent weather has kept many from cutting. Strawberries are not holding up well to this weather, with botrytis becoming more prevalent.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

There was rain and cold temperatures in sections of the county most days.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain helped everything greatly this week. Tobacco looks so much better and is growing well. Hay cutting yields were disappointing, but curing weather was good. Cattle are still trying to come out of a winter with not enough energy; some are showing improvement.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

This past week brought additional rains to the county. There were about 1-1.5 inches received since last Monday. The last few acres of peanuts were planted after fields dried some. Soybean planting was at full speed by weekend. The first cutting of hay is mostly out of the field now. Growers are beginning to side dress nitrogen to corn and make last weed control applications. Barley is drying down and harvest will likely start early next week.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

More rains early this week have continued to slow planting. Cotton and peanut planting has resumed this past weekend. There was some side dressing of corn. Soils are very moist to wet in some areas. We need several consecutive dry days to get back to full planting. Pastures look good and wheat is a couple weeks to harvest.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Much needed rain fell over the area with 2.5-4 inches total. I hope it was not too late on the wheat crop. Side dress nitrogen application is about to get started on corn. Peanut planting is about finish.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Last week gave us approximately 5 inches of rain. Farmers have resumed planting remaining acres of corn and beginning full-season soybean planting. Good soil moisture conditions will germinate crops quickly now. Corn crop is off to a good start. Strawberry fruit are beginning to wane now. Vegetables are growing well and hay cutting has improved recently.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

An average of 4 inches of rain fell early in the week ending dry field conditions. Crops responded well and soybean planting has resumed. Peak harvest for strawberries has passed; few green berries and very few blossoms remain in most fields, signaling a slow end to the harvest.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: May 23, 2010

Number: 11

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 2010

Widespread rain and scattered thunderstorms decreased the level of dryness across the state restoring topsoil moisture. Early corn and soybeans welcomed the much needed rains. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.0. During the few days of dryness, farmers were busy side dressing corn, applying herbicides and cutting hay at a great rate. There are some indications that farmers are expecting lower hay yields due to the inconsistent weather patterns. In some areas, vegetables look good with planting continuing with sweet corn, cantaloupes, peppers and squash, while some vegetables were damaged due to near frost level temperatures during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 25, 2010	3	18	75	4
May 2, 2010	2	37	60	1
May 9, 2010	13	44	41	2
May 16, 2010	5	41	50	4
May 24, 2010	1	18	75	6



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	8	38	49	5
Livestock	1	4	29	54	12
Hay, Other	1	12	40	42	5
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	33	52	13
Corn	0	0	25	62	13
Winter Wheat	1	5	33	58	3
Barley	1	4	36	55	4
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	21	53	26
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	56	37	7
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	25	75	0
Apples, All	5	3	63	16	13
Peaches	0	0	35	45	20
Grapes	0	2	11	50	37
Oats	0	6	43	51	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	92	86	85	90
Corn Emerged	76	70	70	73
Soybeans Planted	31	26	24	27
Soybeans Emerged	16	13	11	9
Winter Wheat Headed	97	94	96	57
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	88	74	84	88
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	28	21	30	27
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	64	35	62	61
Peanuts Planted	63	40	60	72
Cotton Planted	87	70	82	88

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 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 22	Mar. 1 to May 22 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	54	79	50	63	0	884	736	2.23	11.27	1.12	18.35	1.52
Norfolk	73	59	79	56	66	-1	996	790	2.64	11.17	1.11	19.19	1.91
Richmond	75	56	85	53	66	0	1046	836	1.01	9.51	-0.50	15.93	-0.66
Roanoke	71	55	79	50	63	-1	920	NA	2.12	7.73	-2.71	14.41	-2.34
Wash/Dulles	72	53	86	47	62	0	881	NA	1.64	7.06	-2.48	13.61	-1.85

* 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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CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Most of the area in Amelia received rainfall (some less than others, ranging from .30 to 2.25 inches) throughout the week. Corn is definitely looking better after this rain. It was not a good week for hay harvest and curing.

AMHERST (William Seay)

The off and on rain showers are certainly helping the moisture situation. Hay harvest yield was short for those able to harvest early. Cloudiness and rain showers are delaying hay harvest as the quality declines. Pastures have benefited from the rains and livestock are doing well.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Field activities were delayed due to the rain last week. As soon as soil conditions become favorable, there will be much activity planting dark and burley tobacco. There is still a lot of hay to cut.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Pastures and hayfields are receiving some much needed moisture, but could still use more rain. Vegetable farmers are harvesting an excellent crop of strawberries, and putting out summer vegetables (tomatoes, squash, and peppers). Corn planting is nearly done. Grain farmers are planting full season soybeans and preparing to harvest barley and plant double crop soybeans after barley.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Scattered showers fell throughout the week, which was much needed in many areas. Spring planted crops are looking better from the moisture. This was not a good week for hay harvest or curing.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Much needed rainfall is helping reduce dry conditions. So far hay yields appear to be 50% of last years, and I expect quality to be less as well.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Scattered showers and some widespread rain brought some relief to the dry conditions. As always some got inches of rain and some got tenths of inches but all relief was welcome. At my western Hanover county home we had less than 7/10 total from three days of showers. The eastern end of the county got at least twice that amount.

CENTRAL (continued)

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Much needed rains are falling.

POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Recent rains have brought much needed moisture and producers have resumed planting. Hay harvest is well underway as producers try harvesting hay between rains.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Farmers report that hay yields are lower this year compared to the average year.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

Most of the county received 1 - 2" rain Sunday night through Tuesday.

NORTHERN

CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

There are signs of damage appearing in some of the fruit trees from mid month frost. Damp days have hampered hay production leading to rained on and improperly cured hay being made.

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

We had a freeze/frost on fruit crops and vegetables. Apples may be deformed and quality and quantity may be affected. There may have been a sufficient amount of Peaches lost due to the frost. Producers will be keeping me posted as to the damage. Tomatoes were also affected by the frost. The vegetables that were covered made out okay but the other vegetables that were not covered doing this event suffered.

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

Local fruit producers are reporting greater damage than earlier estimated due to frosts in early May. The cool and damp weather slowed crop emergence and hampered planting. We are starting to see some signs of produce disease related to recent weather, particularly in strawberries. The first cutting of hay has also been delayed. On the other hand, pastures have "re-greened" up nicely in response to recent moisture.