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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: May 31, 2009

Number: 12

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 31, 2009

Continued dry weather in Central and Eastern Virginia allowed producers to maintain fieldwork this week, with focus on hay harvesting and soybean planting. For those in the south, the week was marked with moderate to heavy rainfall, which delayed most activities and kept farmers out of the field. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.7. Grain producers are gearing up for barley and wheat harvest, as well as, field preparation for soybean planting. Vegetable farmers utilized the good weather to continue with the planting of summer vegetables. For the southern portion of the state, the extended rainfall has started to take its toll. The heavy precipitation has caused some lodging in winter grains and hayfields, along with, delayed the planting of crops due to flooding in low lying areas. Tobacco cultivation in this area has also been slowed due to wet conditions.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 31, 2009	0	5	74	21
May 24, 2009	1	10	80	9
May 17, 2009	0	1	74	25
May 10, 2009	0	0	64	36
May 3, 2009	1	11	75	13



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	2	15	63	19
Livestock	2	3	16	60	19
Hay, Other	0	3	28	58	11
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	20	64	15
Corn	0	2	24	58	16
Winter Wheat	1	4	21	61	13
Barley	0	2	19	66	13
Flue Cured Tobacco	0	0	31	50	19
Burley Tobacco	0	0	3	76	21
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	0	5	94	1
Peanuts	0	0	5	83	12
Cotton	0	2	26	64	8
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	10	50	40
Apples, All	0	0	36	64	0
Peaches	0	2	42	56	0
Grapes	0	1	23	73	3
Oats	0	0	20	80	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	91	86	94	97
Corn Emerged	81	71	81	86
Soybeans Planted	36	25	32	42
Soybeans Emerged	21	12	19	27
Winter Wheat Headed	100	97	100	59
Winter Wheat Harvested	2	0	2	2
Barley Harvested	13	1	10	10
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	98	88	92	97
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	78	33	59	58
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	85	67	58	81
Peanuts Planted	86	61	92	93
Cotton Planted	97	85	99	98

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 31, 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 30	Mar. 1 to May 30 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	80	61	82	51	70	4	917	874	0.41	12.93	1.69	17.20	-0.71
Norfolk	81	67	88	65	74	5	1059	941	0.50	12.38	1.33	15.46	-2.72
Richmond	85	65	87	62	75	7	1057	985	0.36	10.49	-0.55	12.72	-4.70
Roanoke	78	62	80	55	70	4	967	NA	2.16	13.22	1.73	17.17	-0.71
Wash/Dulles	79	60	85	54	70	5	863	NA	5.67	16.71	6.00	19.73	3.16

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.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture conditions are very good. An excellent cutting of hay was completed over the past week. Pastures and hayfields are looking very good. Grain producers are getting ready to harvest barley and wheat and plant double crop soybeans. Vegetable farmers are continuing with sequential plantings of summer vegetables like squash and tomatoes.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

We have had good growing weather. Soybean planting is now starting at full speed as there have been good planting conditions. Many fields had excellent burndown for no-till. Corn crop vigor is excellent. Wheat crop yields should be pretty good. Tomatoes are looking good and potatoes are at full bloom. Farmers are scouting all crops that are up for insects, disease and for post emergence weed control, if needed.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

This week's activities included Nitrogen application to corn, field preparation for soybeans, soybean planting, haymaking and vegetable planting.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

It was another week with locally heavy rainfall. Some lodging has occurred in winter grains and hayfields that have not been harvested yet. Rains have kept producers out of fields so harvesting of grains, planting of corn and the 1st cutting of hay have been delayed. Ornamental crops are seeing increased disease problems.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

The weather has dried enough for hay harvest, which has taken the priority of most farmers this week.

SOUTHERN

PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

Weather conditions have been severely wet. Flooding in low lying areas has caused many problems in the field. No fields were sufficient for work this week and will probably trail on into mid week next week. Surplus in moisture and a lack in sunlight this week are causing some crops to start looking bad. Pastures are good to fair, but too much moisture has caused some severe trampling problems when the cows are moving within pastures and standing in loafing areas in the field.

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

Tobacco cultivation is being slowed by recent rains. Soybean and corn planting continues. Producers are having a difficult time harvesting hay due to rainy, wet conditions. Quality is deteriorating very quickly.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

We could use some rain in the area. Showers have been spotty. Crops are coming in looking pretty good. Producers are getting hay cut and put up. Some spraying was accomplished this past week. Spring pastures are still ok, but could use some rain.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Certain parts of the county is too wet while other portions have not received much rainfall. Hopefully it will spread around to everyone. Soybean planting continues, as well as, applications of herbicides on soybeans and cotton along with insecticides. Topdressing of Nitrogen and weed control on corn is in full gear. Wheat has started to dry down now and we expect an average crop for 2009.