

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

No rain this week, tobacco producers have begun putting in irrigation pipe and are getting ready to begin irrigation. Some producers are planting double crop soybeans as soon as they finish with small grain harvest. Overall, corn is looking very good with most over 5 feet tall at this point. It could, however, use some rain very soon.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

We averaged 1/2 inch of much needed rain on Sunday (7/5). Crops were beginning to slow down due to lack of moisture, but we did get the wheat in and double-crop planting is almost complete.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

A small amount of rain fell Sunday averaging about 1/2 inch. Recently planted soybeans will respond well to this moisture. Early planted corn is in good shape as it pollinated at the beginning of the dry spell. Later planted corn is pollinating now and needs more rain.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: July 5, 2009

Number: 17

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 5, 2009

Wheat and barley harvest neared completion this week, as producers made the most of continued clear, dry weather. Several producers are planting their double cropped soybeans as soon as small grain harvest is complete. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.9. Both hayfields and pastureland remain in overall good condition, and farmers are finishing either their first or second cuttings, depending on the extent of setback from previous rainfall. Tobacco producers have started making insecticide applications to treat hornworm outbreaks, and in some areas, are preparing for irrigation activities. Both soybeans and corn are coming along well, with adequate topsoil moisture aiding in soybean germination, although some crops are nearing a critical stage for moisture. Near week's end, scattered rainfall across some areas of State benefitted early planted row crops, but more rain is needed to assist in overall crop development.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 5, 2009	1	23	68	8
June 28, 2009	0	12	81	7
June 21, 2009	0	1	62	37
June 14, 2009	0	1	67	32
June 7, 2009	0	0	63	37



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	2	22	58	17
Livestock	1	3	17	64	15
Hay, Other	1	8	24	51	16
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	23	57	18
Corn	2	4	19	50	25
Soybeans	0	1	17	69	13
Flue Cured Tobacco	0	4	23	69	4
Burley Tobacco	0	0	1	84	15
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	6	30	64	0
Peanuts	0	0	12	76	12
Cotton	0	2	29	56	13
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	10	68	22
Apples, All	0	1	22	75	2
Peaches	0	3	31	64	2
Grapes	0	0	16	84	0
Oats	0	1	39	60	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	31	18	31	35
Corn Dough	2	0	1	2
Soybeans Planted	90	83	85	88
Soybeans Emerged	80	71	73	76
Soybeans Blooming	3	0	0	3
Winter Wheat Harvested	87	66	84	77
Barley Harvested	96	85	99	97
Peanuts Pegged	30	16	42	31
Cotton Squaring	39	25	49	58
Summer Potatoes Harvested	20	5	34	18
Summer Apples Harvested	10	0	4	3

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 5, 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 July 4	Mar 1 to July 4 normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	83	57	86	53	70	-4	1672	1601	0.40	4.10	-0.26	21.51	-0.89
Norfolk	87	70	93	67	78	0	1951	1751	0.00	5.81	1.48	21.22	-1.59
Richmond	88	64	92	61	76	-1	1926	1760	0.37	4.69	0.65	17.45	-4.36
Roanoke	84	62	87	57	73	-2	1780	NA	0.00	4.54	0.38	22.03	-0.22
Wash/Dulles	83	62	87	58	73	-1	1662	NA	0.11	6.72	2.18	26.52	5.14

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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CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Recent rains have improved growing conditions as high temperatures and drying winds were beginning to take a toll on the moisture situation.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are finishing up wheat harvest and soybean planting is completed. Corn is looking excellent. Most of the crop is forming ears and moisture conditions continue to be good. Hayfields and pastures are excellent. Many farmers baled a second crop of hay over the past week. Vegetable farmers are harvesting sweet corn, and planting Halloween pumpkin transplants. Tomato and eggplant planting is done, as is direct seeding of pumpkins and winter squash.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

The first cutting of hay making is nearing completion, after much delay by rains.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Much needed rain is starting to fall as of this report. Wheat yields are average or less than average due to disease problems. Fairly good topsoil moisture in many fields has made for good soybean germination. Beans will be up in about 3 or 4 days. Potato harvest should start in force in the coming week; the same for tomatoes. The tomato crop looks good. There has been a great deal of spraying for weeds in no-till soybeans. Farmers are optimistic, although disappointed in wheat yields and continued high fertilizer and seed prices. High yields are needed to break even.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Wheat harvest and double crop soybean planting continues. Some places are reaching critical need for rain. Early field corn needs rain now for pollination. Early beans look good. Sweet corn harvest began, with some tomatoes and cantaloupes harvested as well.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

The first hay harvest is almost complete with good yields in most areas. Corn is coming along well. Tree fruit disease issues are becoming more problematic. Vegetable crops are doing well.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Scattered showers and cooler temperatures are keeping pastures and hay fields lush and growing. Vegetable crops are still doing well, with peppers beginning to go down from phytophthora root rot. Commercial potatoes are doing well, however garden potatoes are showing severe signs of blight. Tobacco horn worms were found in large numbers last week, and farmers have been advised to make insecticide applications.

NORTHERN

RAPPAHANNOCK (Kenner Love)

Peach harvest is beginning.