

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**EASTERN**

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore )**

Corn crop is about done. Maybe 25-30% of a crop. Soybeans still holding on. Need rain immediately to help them. Pastures are crunchy and folks are feeding some hay. Irrigated veggies look good. Some parts of county have had scattered showers and are not as desperate.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

Scattered showers this past week helped in some areas, but came down too hard and/or did not last long enough. Improvement showing in corn and vegetable crops. Hayfields and pastures still struggling. Hopefully this week's forecast will hold true and most of the area will receive showers off and on for significant precipitation totals.

**SOUTHERN**

**HALIFAX (Wayne R. Yarbrough, Jr.)**

Halifax County has recently been affected by excessive heat and drought conditions. Information obtained from the National Weather Service located in Blacksburg, Virginia for the closest station (Danville, Virginia) indicated the following:

Month June/2010  
 Normal Precipitation 3.50  
 Recorded Precipitation 2.20  
 Precipitation Departure From Normal -(1.30)  
 Average High Temperature 86.2  
 Recorded Average High Temperature 90.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

There was a bit of rain this past week and it helped quite a bit. It has been a good year for some insects. Producers are still irrigating crops.

**SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)**

There has been no significant rain in the county over the past week. Some areas have received approximately .5 inch and other areas have seen none. Heat along with lack of rain is taking a toll on all crops. Corn is at about a 75% loss. Early soybeans are drying in the field with an estimated loss of about 25% and about 60% loss on double crop beans. Cotton is flowering on top and is only 12" tall. Peanuts have small growth and no pegging. For cotton and peanuts there will not be much potential without rains. Watermelons have no growth in the fruit and of what is there not enough to pick. All crops are reporting excessive deer damage due to the wildlife seeking feed with moisture content. Pastures are dry and lacking in grasses. Ranchers are supplementing with cut hay and watering livestock. Many natural water sources are dry or drying up. Some ranchers are selling off livestock due to lack of feed and feeding costs.

**SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Hot, dry weather is now taking a toll on cotton and peanuts. Some late planted soybeans are not germinating or dying soon after germination. Corn is being chopped for silage by growers with cattle.

**SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Scattered showers fell over most of our area a few days ago giving some relief. Soybean, cotton and peanut are holding their own. Farming activities are limited due to dry hot weather.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Crops fell further behind this week with no rain and rising temperatures once again. Farmers are deciding whether to risk replanting at this late date or save further seed costs with little rain in the forecast next week.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Ending: July 18, 2010**

**Number: 19**

**Released: July 19, 2010**

**WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 18, 2010**

Recent rains have not provided sufficient relief from the hot and dry conditions across the Commonwealth. Moisture levels remain short to very short which is delaying the progress of many crops. Day suitable for fieldwork were 6.2. Corn and pastures have dried up and hardened in many areas. Farmers are taking water to their livestock in some parts of the state. Some second crop soybeans are failing to germinate, and peanuts and cotton are starting to show early signs of moisture stress. Watermelons are not developing and some producers are expecting yields to be lower if immediate rain is not received.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 20, 2010	6	36	56	2
June 27, 2010	29	46	25	0
July 4, 2010	47	36	17	0
July 11, 2010	55	35	10	0
July 18, 2010	52	35	13	0



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**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	31	37	24	8	0
Livestock	3	10	33	48	6
Hay, Other	28	29	33	10	0
Hay, Alfalfa	9	18	38	35	0
Corn	38	31	20	11	0
Soybeans	19	36	35	10	0
Tobacco, Flue-cured	37	31	17	13	2
Tobacco, Burley	10	15	25	45	5
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	17	33	44	5	1
Peanuts	0	2	40	58	0
Cotton	1	1	48	50	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	50	50	0	0
Apples, All	5	8	72	13	2
Peaches	6	15	38	38	3
Grapes	0	0	30	56	14

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	82	67	75	70
Corn Dough	24	6	26	22
Soybeans Emerged	92	82	98	94
Soybeans Blooming	14	5	15	16
Peanuts Pegged	42	41	69	66
Cotton Squaring	75	62	71	83
Cotton Setting Bolls	49	42	34	34
Summer Potatoes Harvested	60	40	51	37
Summer Apples Harvested	14	10	22	15
Peaches Harvested	36	33	25	20

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 18, 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 July 17	Mar. 1 to July 17 Normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	90	66	94	64	78	3	2240	1915	0.64	3.97	-2.23	23.69	-0.48
Norfolk	92	76	97	73	84	5	2550	2098	0.30	4.49	-1.92	24.13	-0.74
Richmond	94	72	98	69	83	5	2559	2095	0.58	1.42	-4.49	18.21	-5.43
Roanoke	87	67	92	62	77	1	2352	NA	1.14	5.72	-0.11	23.06	-0.71
Wash/Dulles	89	69	96	64	79	3	2280	NA	1.48	3.38	-2.65	20.00	-2.98

\* 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)

Rains have given aid to hot and dry conditions; but all crops have been damaged.

##### FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)

Unbearable heat and rain set us up for possible problems with plant material. Two plus inches of rain have fallen in our area

##### FREDERICK (Jeanette smith)

We received rainfall last week, but drought conditions are still affecting the crops.

##### ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

The county received several county wide rain events in the last week that have provided some much needed moisture. Pastures are slow to green up while row crops have responded well with compensatory growth particularly in beans. Corn looks better but still pretty short compared to average.

#### CENTRAL

##### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Rain was not county wide but the rain we received was beneficial to soybeans, tobacco, hay and pasture.

##### APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Much needed rainfall came late in the week from thunderstorms. Dark and burley tobacco benefited greatly and is quickly coming into "top". Late planted soybean stands are spotty and the early corn crop is poor. Cattle farmers are feeding hay.

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions have not improved overall, despite scattered showers. Corn condition continues to deteriorate. Soybeans are "hanging in there", but are putting on little growth. Some beans on high sandy land are dying in the fields. Even irrigated beans are suffering. Hay and pasture are in short supply. Pastures have "browned out", as have hayfields.

#### CENTRAL (continued)

##### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

While the rain on July 16 was needed and beneficial, the heat remains a factor to crops, livestock and all plant vegetation. The rain will certainly help the soybeans, hay and pasture, the corn is too far along.

##### CUMBERLAND (David Smith)

This has been the worst yield on corn I've ever seen. Many fields with no measurable yield. Double crop soybeans in many places never came up. Full season beans may survive but need rain to make seed or they will be a total disaster.

##### FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Recent moisture has relieved some of the drought pressure, but for many it appears the damage may have been done. Without continued rainfall the second cutting of hay will yield much lower than average. Many vegetable growers who could not irrigate are suffering as well.

##### HANOVER (JIM TATE)

The conditions have been hot and dry. Crops are in terrible shape.

##### SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Hot dry conditions remain in Spotsylvania County. A few storms have provided scattered rain. There has been no general relief from the excessive heat and drought conditions. The leaves on corn plants are drying prematurely and soybean growth has slowed down. The County Board of Supervisors has requested the Governor declare the county a drought disaster area due to excessive heat and drought.