

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

What a difference 10 days can make in a crop! Soybeans have really taken a beating this week with no rain and high temperatures. Many fields are showing that water stress with upturned leaves during the afternoon. Some full season Group 4 soybeans have already shed many leaves with the water stress and advancing maturity. Peanuts have taken a real hit this week, as well. Cotton has dropped leaves and shed some late fruit due to the water stress. Soybean growers are starting to spray for corn earworms with about 500 acres being treated in the Carson area of the county this week. Corn earworms have been found across the county but are mostly below treatment threshold at this time.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Scattered showers fell over most of the county this week. Corn earworm populations have increase in peanuts, cotton and soybeans. Insect treatments are being made and growers continue to scout their crops. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is going into full swing and curing is going well.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

The area has been getting frequent showers, so things are in good shape right now.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Heavy down pours late in week brought 2 - 3 inches of rain. Strawberry growers need dry weather this week to fumigate fields and lay plastic in order to meet required fumigant plant-back dates for planting strawberries beginning the last week of September. Farmers are scouting soybeans.



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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: August 23, 2009

Number: 24

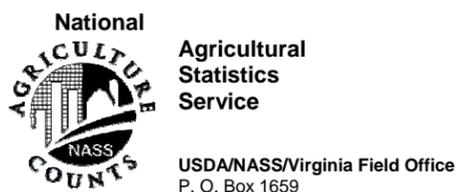
Released: August 24, 2009

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 23, 2009

Much of the State's field crops and hayfields are showing significant improvement, as widespread rain showers moved throughout the Commonwealth late in the week. In the more southern regions of the state, showers have been spotty to non-existent, prompting moisture stress in areas with high temperatures and no rain. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.1. Some producers are finishing up corn silage for harvest and preparing for corn harvest for grain. Although there have been some reports of corn earworm infestations, the statewide impact remains low and producers have continued with scouting and treatment, when necessary. Vegetable farmers remain diligent with field activities, as tomato and pepper harvest continue in earnest and preparations for next years strawberry crop are underway. The fall vegetable crops are in good shape for now, and some are nearing maturity.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 23, 2009	4	15	73	8
August 16, 2009	3	23	69	5
August 9, 2009	2	17	74	7
August 2, 2009	3	15	69	13
July 26, 2009	2	25	67	6



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	5	25	56	13
Livestock	1	2	18	61	18
Hay, Other	1	6	34	49	10
Hay, Alfalfa	1	3	20	55	21
Corn	4	7	24	48	17
Soybeans	0	4	24	53	19
Flue Cured Tobacco	10	15	44	27	4
Burley Tobacco	0	2	7	69	22
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	1	8	84	7
Peanuts	0	0	6	85	9
Cotton	0	2	18	68	12
Apples, All	0	1	22	74	3
Grapes	0	2	9	88	1
Oats	0	5	20	70	5

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	84	80	83	86
Corn Dent	62	46	68	62
Corn Mature	31	3	33	28
Corn Silage Harvested	48	18	35	35
Soybeans Blooming	90	87	89	92
Soybeans Setting Pods	71	64	68	75
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	44	34	28	33
Burley Tobacco Harvested	7	4	9	10
Dark fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	40	23	37	29
Cotton Setting Bolls	99	90	99	100
Cotton Bolls Opening	19	15	10	32
Summer Apples Harvested	75	70	60	85
Peaches Harvested	80	75	72	85

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 23, 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 August 22	Mar 1 to August 22 normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	67	91	64	78	4	2841	2789	0.61	8.63	-2.02	26.04	-2.57
Norfolk	90	73	93	68	82	5	3298	3069	3.41	20.26	7.84	35.67	4.66
Richmond	93	71	96	66	82	6	3260	3024	1.74	11.42	0.23	24.17	-4.95
Roanoke	87	68	91	65	78	3	2994	NA	3.39	14.71	4.43	32.20	3.96
Wash/Dulles	92	69	98	65	81	6	2928	NA	3.28	12.48	2.26	32.29	5.39

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

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Extensive widespread rains over the weekend have greatly improved soil moisture. Most of the county received over three inches of rain. Soybeans, hayfields and pasture have all shown marked improvement in the past 24 hours. Farmers are finishing up silage harvest and preparing to harvest corn for grain. Vegetable farmers experienced some "blow-outs" from excess water in raised beds. Vegetable farmers are harvesting late summer tomatoes and peppers, laying plastic and cultivating growing tips for next years strawberry crop. Pumpkins and fall vegetable crops are nearing maturity.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Recent rainfall was much needed, as multiple weeks without it had begun to take a toll on corn and pastures. With continued moisture, fall stockpiling of fescue will be much more successful, and corn will flourish for the remainder of the summer.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Heavy rains during the end of the reporting period have alleviated the moisture concerns in soybeans and helped with worm problems that were emerging. The potential for an excellent soybean crop still exists and growers are optimistic. Another one or two good rains will make a good crop. Corn is finished as it is too late for rains to help. There are some good fields where rains occurred and some poor yielding fields where the storms missed. Tomato picking is continuing. Fall lima and snap beans and tomato crops are in good shape. Farmers are planning for fall barley and wheat crops. Some farmers are taking a short vacation.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall during the week will help soybeans, pastures, and hay crops. Farmers spent the week scouting soybeans for insects. Relatively light infestations of corn earworms have been reported, and some fields have been treated. Corn for grain harvest has started with yields ranging from just below average to very good.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Another week of showers continues to boost soybean potential. Corn is about made with exception of some late planted, full maturity corn. Producers are attending field days, making fall planting decisions, scouting soybeans and getting ready to harvest corn. Vegetable harvest continues. Quality is good but ample rains have affected some fields. Corn ear worm scouting continues. Some reports of worms but nothing major. Moth numbers have increased over the last week. Corn harvest should get underway in the area next week for some.

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Producers have been picking corn, spraying soybeans, bush hogging around fields, and getting unused pesticides ready for collection and disposal.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

The weather has moderated some, and allowed for normal farming activities to continue. Some additional late blight has been observed in commercial tomatoes, but there still is an abundance of vegetables. Tobacco harvest should start in the next week or two, depending on the weather.

SOUTHERN

PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

We are still experiencing some moderate to severe drought in portions of the county, while other parts are getting timely showers contributing to rather ideal conditions.

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)

Spotty showers throughout the county hold hope for the fall forage crops and soybeans, although producers are wondering how much fall forage they are going to have since it doesn't look very good right now. Corn silage harvest is still in full swing. Flue cured producers continue to harvest. Most sold last week and grades and yields were lower than hoped for. Burley harvest is picking up and should be completed in the next 10-14 days.