

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)

Cooler days and nights this week have been nice. Many producers are very busy pulling flue cured tobacco, along with curing, baling and delivering to buying stations. There are meetings beginning for growers, including Beef Quality Assurance, Tobacco Curing with Alternative Energy Sources, and others. Silage is being chopped and late hay is being cut as well. Many producers are getting ready for the State Fair as well.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Corn harvest has started in earnest since September has arrived. Corn yields seem to be average with moisture levels in the low 20's percentage. Corn earworm numbers have not reached high levels in soybeans. The few fields sprayed about 2 weeks ago were the only ones that have reached economic threshold. Tobacco harvest continues at a good pace with good quality leaf coming out of the barns. Vegetable harvest has slowed down along with a drop in consumer demand at farm stands. Fall harvested vegetables should be available in a couple of weeks.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Dry conditions continue. Corn harvest got in full swing and yields are good in certain areas. Growers continue to scout late planted soybeans for worm infestation. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is in full swing.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers are harvesting corn and spraying a few remaining acres of soybeans for pests. Worm pests in soybeans have been below normal this year. Cooler temperatures moved into the area last weekend and we have had frequent showers providing adequate ground moisture for soybeans, which is showing good potential at this point.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

We are continuing to get showers and everything is looking good; however, we need sunshine at this point.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Heavy rains continued, especially over the weekend. Five inches of rain this week brings the 5 week total to 15 inches of rain. More rain is forecast for coming week. Fields are very wet; ditches and streams are overflowing with limited flooding in many low lying fields. High humidity and rain has slowed field drying of corn. Only a few acres of land have been fumigated and plastic laid for strawberries. Wet conditions will delay fumigation, resulting in late strawberry planting to meet required fumigation-planting requirements.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 6, 2009

Number: 26

Released: September 8, 2009

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

Although the week could be characterized by overall moderate temperatures and dry conditions, a few areas continued to receive scattered showers. The cooler weather was welcomed by field workers, who tended fields to make headway on tobacco and corn harvest. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. Initial corn yield reports appear varied, largely dependent upon location, soil type and the timing of rainfall throughout the season. In some areas, high humidity and rainfall have delayed corn dry-down. Scouting continues in soybean fields, and in general, corn earworm counts have remained low and fields have required minimal treatment. Tobacco harvest is well underway and many producers are busy pulling, curing and baling their crop. Anticipation for a good, quality crop remains high.

| Week Ending | TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|---------|
| | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| September 6, 2009 | 5 | 34 | 57 | 4 |
| August 30, 2009 | 3 | 21 | 71 | 5 |
| August 23, 2009 | 4 | 15 | 73 | 8 |
| August 16, 2009 | 3 | 23 | 69 | 5 |
| August 9, 2009 | 2 | 17 | 74 | 7 |



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| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Pasture | 1 | 11 | 31 | 51 | 6 |
| Livestock | 1 | 2 | 19 | 57 | 21 |
| Hay, Other | 1 | 11 | 24 | 56 | 8 |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 1 | 4 | 23 | 52 | 20 |
| Corn | 3 | 9 | 25 | 50 | 13 |
| Soybeans | 0 | 6 | 21 | 55 | 18 |
| Burley Tobacco | 0 | 4 | 9 | 72 | 15 |
| Peanuts | 0 | 0 | 14 | 77 | 9 |
| Cotton | 0 | 2 | 22 | 68 | 8 |
| Apples, All | 0 | 0 | 20 | 76 | 4 |
| Grapes | 0 | 1 | 9 | 82 | 8 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Dough | 94 | 87 | 94 | 97 |
| Corn Dent | 77 | 66 | 85 | 85 |
| Corn Mature | 54 | 45 | 60 | 60 |
| Corn Harvested for Grain | 6 | 1 | 9 | 10 |
| Corn Silage Harvested | 56 | 53 | 54 | 62 |
| Soybeans Blooming | 100 | 93 | 96 | 99 |
| Soybeans Setting Pods | 87 | 79 | 84 | 90 |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested | 58 | 47 | 32 | 47 |
| Burley Tobacco Harvested | 30 | 13 | 25 | 31 |
| Dark fire-cured Tobacco Harvested | 73 | 62 | 61 | 45 |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 33 | 28 | 29 | 59 |
| Summer Apples Harvested | 93 | 78 | 89 | 98 |
| Apples Fall Harvested | 17 | 9 | 16 | 33 |
| Peaches Harvested | 92 | 86 | 91 | 98 |

| VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 6, 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 Sept. 5 | Mar 1 to Sept. 5 normal | Last Week | Since Sept. 1 | Sept. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 79 | 55 | 87 | 51 | 67 | -5 | 3139 | 3101 | 0.05 | 0.00 | NA | 26.59 | -3.62 |
| Norfolk | 78 | 68 | 84 | 65 | 73 | -3 | 3661 | 3415 | 0.36 | 0.03 | -0.72 | 36.94 | 3.96 |
| Richmond | 81 | 61 | 88 | 56 | 71 | -3 | 3602 | 3351 | 0.01 | 0.00 | NA | 24.50 | -6.12 |
| Roanoke | 80 | 58 | 86 | 51 | 69 | -3 | 3303 | NA | 0.08 | 0.08 | -0.53 | 32.38 | 2.40 |
| Wash/Dulles | 81 | 57 | 87 | 53 | 69 | -3 | 3250 | NA | 0.00 | 0.00 | NA | 31.43 | 2.60 |

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

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Pastures, hayfields and soybeans have exhibited symptoms of the lack of rainfall last week. Early planted soybeans yellowed rapidly last week and will be dropping leaves this week. The cooler weather last week was very favorable for workers harvesting dark and burley tobacco.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

We are in another dry period, but rainfall has generally been adequate to insure a good crop of early soybeans, and the corn crop looks excellent. Late-planted beans still need some good moisture. Pastures and hayfields are in good shape. Many farmers have gotten three good cuttings of hay this year. Grain farmers are preparing to harvest corn and scouting soybeans for insects and diseases. Some soybean aphids have been found in the area at treatable levels. So far corn earworm pressure has been low.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Dry conditions have returned with a vengeance. Some rain is falling in our region, and we are seeing cool temperatures as well. In order to prepare pastures for fall and winter forage, much more rainfall is needed. The second cutting of hay has been sparse as well.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

We are experiencing another week of moderate temperatures and dry conditions.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

There has been some damage to soybeans from corn earworm in fields that were not sprayed in time. Soybean yield outlook is very good. Corn has been slow to dry down and the harvest of early corn should start soon. Some fields will be very good as related to yield and some will be average or less depending on if they got rainfall at the right time. Farmers are planning for wheat and barley plantings.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Corn farmers are preparing to harvest corn. Soil moisture conditions are slightly improved over the last few weeks.

(Eastern continued)

Pasture, hay and soybeans are looking better. Corn yields will be average to below average.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest is getting started and should be in full force next week. Yields are good to excellent. Quality is also good. Soybeans look good and still need a few showers to fill the double crop beans out. Most insecticide applications are done for corn earworms. Some late planted fields may still need to be scouted. Producers are still scouting fields, harvesting corn, making fall planting and cover crop decisions and doing some farm cleanup and spruce up. Equipment repair continues. Vegetable harvest is winding down; pumpkin and sweet potato harvest is still about 2 weeks away.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Many producers continued or began harvesting corn during the week. Depending on summer rains and soil types, yields are varying quite a bit across the area, but for the most part are good. Producers continued scouting soybean fields for pests. In general, corn earworm numbers have been relatively low, but some fields have reached threshold and have been treated. Soybean aphids are showing up in some fields.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

It was another relatively dry week. Corn is doing well, with early plantings nearing harvest. Vegetable and fruit growers are still battling disease pressures. Rain is needed for the fall crops and forest/nursery crops.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Tobacco harvest has started with most fields showing good yield potential. Silage corn has done well this year, overall. We will be testing silage yields in a couple of weeks. Vegetables are beginning to wind down, with prices received as good as or better than last year. Potato digging will start this weekend. Sheep producers are getting ready for the private treaty sale next weekend. Cattle producers are still hoping for better prices.