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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 13, 2009

Number: 27

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

Heavy rains brought field operations to a standstill across the Commonwealth this week. The wet conditions have slowed the dry down of the grain corn crop and subsequently delayed harvest. Other areas, however, still remain dry. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.2. For many, the additional precipitation has improved moisture conditions and the soybean crop is looking very good. Vegetable farmers are finishing up summer vegetable harvest and making plans for the upcoming harvest of greens, winter squash, sweet potatoes, and pumpkins. Tobacco harvest continues as well. Grain farmers continue soybean scouting and are making decisions for small grain plantings.

| Week Ending | TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|---------|
| | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| September 13, 2009 | 10 | 27 | 59 | 4 |
| 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 |



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| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Pasture | 2 | 9 | 32 | 47 | 10 |
| Livestock | 1 | 3 | 14 | 60 | 22 |
| Hay, Other | 2 | 9 | 29 | 50 | 10 |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 2 | 5 | 14 | 55 | 24 |
| Corn | 5 | 9 | 22 | 44 | 20 |
| Soybeans | 0 | 4 | 15 | 53 | 28 |
| Burley Tobacco | 0 | 1 | 9 | 71 | 19 |
| Peanuts | 0 | 0 | 12 | 76 | 12 |
| Cotton | 0 | 3 | 23 | 64 | 10 |
| Apples, All | 0 | 0 | 31 | 68 | 1 |
| Grapes | 0 | 3 | 16 | 70 | 11 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Dough | 100 | 94 | 99 | 100 |
| Corn Dent | 93 | 77 | 91 | 91 |
| Corn Mature | 73 | 54 | 75 | 73 |
| Corn Harvested for Grain | 8 | 6 | 15 | 19 |
| Corn Silage Harvested | 61 | 56 | 63 | 71 |
| Soybeans Setting Pods | 97 | 87 | 95 | 96 |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves | 11 | 7 | 14 | 17 |
| Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested | 66 | 58 | 36 | 55 |
| Burley Tobacco Harvested | 40 | 30 | 35 | 47 |
| Dark fire-cured Tobacco Harvested | 90 | 73 | 86 | 53 |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 40 | 33 | 51 | 73 |
| Summer Apples Harvested | 99 | 93 | 97 | 99 |
| Apples Fall Harvested | 19 | 17 | 19 | 41 |
| Peaches Harvested | 97 | 92 | 99 | 100 |

| VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 13, 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. 12 | Mar 1 to Sept. 12 normal | Last Week | Since Sept. 1 | Sept. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 79 | 56 | 81 | 50 | 68 | -2 | 3264 | 3241 | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.99 | 26.60 | -4.33 |
| Norfolk | 75 | 65 | 79 | 61 | 70 | -5 | 3805 | 3577 | 6.26 | 6.29 | 4.63 | 43.20 | 9.45 |
| Richmond | 79 | 62 | 86 | 57 | 70 | -3 | 3746 | 3500 | 0.83 | 0.83 | -0.70 | 25.33 | -6.33 |
| Roanoke | 79 | 62 | 83 | 56 | 71 | 1 | 3449 | NA | 0.44 | 0.52 | -1.00 | 32.82 | 1.86 |
| Wash/Dulles | 76 | 63 | 84 | 59 | 70 | 0 | 3388 | NA | 0.38 | 0.38 | -1.20 | 31.81 | 2.09 |

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

AMHERST (William Seay)

Dry conditions are taking a toll on fall pasture growth. The corn silage crop is turning out well but drying down fast.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are starting the corn harvest. Vegetable farmers are cleaning up summer vegetable harvest. Some are planting strawberries for the spring season. Greens, winter squash and pumpkins are nearing harvest time. Soybean producers are scouting for insects and disease.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Heavy rains brought fieldwork to a halt, except for tomato picking. Some areas received 5 inches or more. Rains have delayed corn harvest but will help make an excellent soybean crop and help in preparing fields for barley and wheat.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Recent rains have improved moisture conditions. Grain farmers are getting ready to harvest corn and scouting soybeans for pests.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Intermittent showers and heavy rains at the beginning of the week slowed corn harvest. Yields are still good to very good. Corn is slowly drying down. Many farmers will begin next week. Soybeans look great. Rains this week have strengthened the opportunity for double crop yields. Vegetable harvest is winding down. Pumpkin, squash and sweet potatoes harvesting continues. Producers are soil sampling, prepping fields for small grain, making planting decisions, and scouting for problems in soybeans and fields that will go to small grain. Haymaking continues.

NOTHERN

PAGE (Bill Whittle)

It remains very dry in the county.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cooler days and nights are beginning to make it feel more like fall. Spotty showers have kept areas moist, but sub-soil moisture is fading quickly. Sub-soiling has shown many areas with dry, packed subsoil that fractures and pulls to the top of the ground. The sheep sale went well, with average price of ewes around \$200.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts/ Jamie Stowe)

Some producers are starting on the fall hay cutting, but it looks like yields will be lower than expected. Flue cured tobacco producers continue to harvest. The majority of the burley and dark fire crop has been cut. Dairymen are finishing up corn silage cutting.

SOUTHEASTERN

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Dry conditions continue and crops are doing well. Corn harvest continued with good yields being reported. Cotton, soybeans and the peanut crop are in good shape as harvest time draws near.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Wet conditions prevailed during the week. The 6.5 inches of rain on Labor Day was followed by a mid-week, all day rain event of less than one inch. Wet fields prevented all field work for the week; corn harvest is 2 weeks behind schedule. Strawberry growers are late with fumigation which will significantly delay planting. Fruit growers attended a Blueberry Production Workshop.