



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 16, 2012

Number: 28

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

Temperatures in the Commonwealth dropped this week. The average low was mid-to-upper 50s, with the exception of Southeastern region, where the average low was in the upper 60s. It was dry week, with most areas experiencing little to no rainfall. Days suitable for field work were 6.6. The weather contributed to a favorable hay crop and some growers were able to get a third cutting. The corn harvest is well underway, with good progress made due to the dry conditions this week. Growers began planting cover crops over the harvested fields. Other farming activities for the week included harvesting tobacco, spraying burn down herbicides, harvesting peppers and tomatoes, and taking soil samples.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 17, 2012	4	28	64	4
September 10, 2012	2	18	73	7
September 2, 2012	2	23	66	9
August 26, 2012	3	27	64	6
August 19, 2012	8	33	55	4

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 17, 2012	6	32	60	2
September 10, 2012	4	26	63	7
September 2, 2012	5	28	61	6
August 26, 2012	5	35	55	5
August 19, 2012	9	36	54	1

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

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Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	3	13	30	50	4
Livestock	1	5	22	53	19
Hay, Other	6	20	28	40	6
Hay, Alfalfa	2	11	24	52	11
Corn	13	23	22	33	9
Soybeans	1	5	25	52	17
Tobacco, Burley	2	20	33	34	11
Peanuts	0	0	12	67	21
Cotton	0	0	13	69	18
Apples, All	7	1	32	48	12
Grapes	0	1	14	84	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	99	95	99	100
Corn Dent	92	85	87	93
Corn Mature	82	62	75	78
Corn Harvested	51	25	40	31
Corn Silage Harvested	74	71	81	76
Soybeans Setting Pods	96	79	97	98
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	10	6	18	19
Tobacco, Flue Harvested	51	49	52	57
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	54	39	61	52
Tobacco, Dark Fire Harvested	85	79	91	NA
Cotton Bolls Opening	59	30	51	58
Apples, Summer Harvested	99	78	100	100
Apples, Fall Harvested	69	68	24	28
Apples, Winter Harvested	35	20	0	7
Peaches Harvested	95	88	98	99
Oats for Grain Harvested	83	79	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

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 Sep. 15	Mar. 1 to Sep. 15 normal	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	64	94	58	75	1	3661	3313	0.00	1.14	-0.69	23.68	-7.89
Norfolk	86	72	92	69	79	2	4227	3662	0.07	0.69	-1.40	33.37	-1.03
Richmond	87	69	95	64	75	2	4103	3575	0.00	3.01	1.07	28.38	-3.87
Roanoke	85	65	95	59	75	0	3851	NA	0.00	1.24	-0.69	26.06	-5.33
Wash/Dulles	87	67	95	60	77	3	3754	NA	0.00	0.60	-1.33	20.65	-9.71

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. 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.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Temperatures have been between 70 - 80 degrees during the day and in the 50's at night.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Moderate temperatures and dry conditions permitted a late summer cutting of hay, with mostly second cutting grass but some third cutting, as well as, some winter cover crop planting. Corn silage harvest is nearly complete with fair yields. Pasture and hay fields are in excellent shape.

CENTRAL

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It was a beautiful fall week. Corn harvest is in full swing; yields are very variable and while very low are running a bit above expectations as there is some corn still to be harvested. Cover crops are being planted as well as small grains. Not much rain in the last week and the ground is still somewhat dry. Pastures are growing nicely with recent rains and lower temperatures. Stockpiled fescue where possible is nearly knee deep and walking thru it looking for new calves pulls on the legs and will make you breathe hard. Soybeans still look good and have a chance to be the best crop in several years. A cover crop project in our SWCD caused producers to order over 95,000 lbs of multispecies cover crops to be planted this fall. Some of it has already been planted. More to go in the ground this week.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

The week was dry, which allowed farmers to make good progress on harvesting the corn crop. Many producers have finished. In addition to corn harvest, producers were busy shredding corn stalks and planting cover crops. Other activities included pulling soil samples, spraying burn-down herbicides, and pricing inputs in preparation for planting barley and wheat.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Temperatures are moderating and grass growth has exploded. What appeared to be a questionable hay crop for fall has turned into a better than average yield for most. Vegetable harvest is still strong, with plenty of pepper and tomatoes; downy blight has been an issue on young cucumbers and summer squash. Tobacco harvest is under way, with better than average quality.

(Southwestern continued)

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County is going to be wet again this week, the weather forecast is predicting. Farmers might have to hold off this week chopping silage if the rain starts. I saw a fourth cutting of alfalfa hay last week, not much there but they at least got four cuttings. Grass hay fields after the rain are looking better; farmers will hopefully get another round before winter.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Things are about the same as last week. More empty tobacco fields but the guys are still steady working. Corn is starting to be harvested. Beans are working hard on pods. Need to scout for kudzu bug. All in all things are alright.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

A final hay cutting is underway or even complete for some producers. Soybeans are slowly beginning the process to start dropping leaves. Some flue cured tobacco fields are completely harvested and have been bush hogged.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

As soils dry out, field work is progressing. Corn harvest is well underway with yields up to 240 bushels per acre on irrigated and 180 on non-irrigated land. If rain holds off, some peanuts will probably be dug this week with high yields anticipated.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We had a good week for corn harvest. Low humidity helped most farmers with curing hay, but some lingering rain clouds held a few folks back from cutting last week. It has been a light season for most pests. The soybean crop looks promising. Strawberry fumigation got some good dry weather last week and most farms are waiting now for transplants later this month.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

It is hard to believe, but we are now dry enough that a good rain would be appreciated by all. Corn harvest has been going really well and if no rain comes this week the bulk of the corn will be in the bins by middle to end of next week. Strawberry planting should begin this weekend and go through the first week of Oct.

