

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**BLAND (Jim Atwell)**

Heavy rains in excess of 2-3 inches prevailed over most of the region this weekend. Much of the second cuttings of hay have been impossible to make. Corn silage harvesting is behind schedule with fields too wet to get into.

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

The area received around 3" of needed rain on Saturday. Some hay and corn is still yet to be harvested, with cover crop and grain crops following. Vegetable and fruit crops are winding down. Pumpkins are looking good this year.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Corn harvest made good progress early in the week. Several growers are finished corn and remarked they very seldom finish in September. Yields are better than expected for the most part, but are considered average. Full season soybeans are turning yellow at a good pace. Some Group 4 soybeans have lost 95% of their leaves and will be harvested within the next two weeks. Peanut and cotton producers are anticipating harvest but are still 10-14 days away from starting. Small grain growers are pondering how much wheat or barley to plant. Grain prices are not that attractive even with the decrease in fertilizer prices. There is still a little hay left to bring in. Late hay curing is very tough with the damp mornings and cloudy days.

**SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Rain showers moved through our area giving us relief from dry field conditions and provided some help to the peanuts and late planted soybeans. Corn harvest is moving along at the halfway point with good yields being reported. Soybeans harvest on early maturing varieties is underway, as is the planting of cover crops and shredding on corn stalks. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is over the halfway point and quality is good.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

More than 2-inches of rain fell this week causing corn harvest to come to a halt on Thursday. Corn yields are very good this year, better than earlier expected. There is good potential for soybean yields as well.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Ending: September 27, 2009**

**Number: 29**

**Released: September 28, 2009**

**WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 27, 2009**

Widespread rainfall over the weekend provided much needed relief to crops and pastures across the Commonwealth. Even though corn harvest was halted due to rain showers in some areas, the timely precipitation has already helped to improve peanuts, late planted soybeans, and fall pastures. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.9. Sunny weather early in the week allowed corn harvest to continue in earnest, and yield reports continue to be average to above average, and better than originally expected. Grain farmers are preparing for the upcoming harvest of soybeans, peanuts and cotton, and initial plantings of barley, rye and wheat have already occurred. Beef producers are making arrangements for upcoming fall graded sales, and some calves are already working their way into the market.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 27, 2009	3	9	81	7
September 20, 2009	15	33	51	1
September 13, 2009	10	27	59	4
September 6, 2009	5	34	57	4
August 30, 2009	3	21	71	5



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	2	9	34	45	10
Livestock	0	2	16	61	21
Hay, Other	3	5	38	46	8
Hay, Alfalfa	4	3	14	60	19
Corn	2	6	20	51	21
Soybeans	0	4	16	54	26
Peanuts	0	0	13	76	11
Cotton	0	3	23	63	11
Apples, All	0	1	21	76	2
Grapes	0	1	9	83	7

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	100	96	99	99
Corn Mature	90	78	90	91
Corn Harvested for Grain	33	18	39	41
Corn Harvested for Silage	84	72	83	90
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	36	24	33	43
Soybeans Harvested	1	0	0	2
Winter Wheat Seeded	8	7	8	7
Barley Seeded	19	12	24	25
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	80	75	56	77
Burley Tobacco Harvested	80	71	67	84
Peanuts Dug	9	0	5	19
Cotton Bolls Opening	61	47	86	91
Cotton Harvested	2	0	3	5
Apples Fall Harvested	56	37	45	63
Apples Winter Harvested	20	0	26	20
Oats for Grain Seeded	7	0	16	3

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 27, 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. 26	Mar 1 to Sept. 26 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	75	60	90	56	68	3	3518	3488	2.06	2.16	-1.11	28.75	-4.29
Norfolk	79	68	87	63	73	2	4119	3876	1.03	7.32	3.76	44.23	8.57
Richmond	80	62	90	53	71	3	4040	3769	1.33	2.16	-1.21	26.66	-7.08
Roanoke	74	63	87	58	69	3	3729	NA	2.62	3.15	-0.16	35.45	2.63
Wash/Dulles	79	61	89	50	70	5	3661	NA	1.20	1.76	-1.56	33.19	1.59

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

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#### WESTERN

##### ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

We received 2.59" rainfall for the 7-day period. Night temperatures continue to be higher than average.

##### ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Pasture growth at this point has been very minimal. Rains over the weekend were a welcomed sight. If frost will hold off, we should see forage growth jump started to allow for some late fall grazing. Calves are beginning to find their way into various market channels. Corn silage harvest should be completed this week. Barley and rye planting has begun on fall harvested land.

#### CENTRAL

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Excellent, widespread rains over the weekend have improved moisture conditions tremendously. Pastures and soybeans have already improved over the last 24 hours. Previous dry conditions have made it possible for over 50% of the corn crop to be harvested. Soybeans are dropping leaves. Grain farmers continue to harvest corn. Beef producers are getting cattle ready for fall graded sales. Vegetable farmers are harvesting pumpkins and sweet potatoes and cleaning up tomato and other summer crop beds.

##### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Saturday night we finally had a good widespread soaking rain. I do not yet know amounts for the eastern end of the county, but in the western end I measured 1.5 inches at my house. This rain should do good things for fall pasture and grass stockpiling. Many producers had been waiting for moisture before planting any small grains.

#### EASTERN

##### ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Much corn was picked this week due to dry weather. Initial yields are average to slightly above average. Moisture levels are still somewhat high, so picked corn will have higher deductions as related to price than desired. The soybean crop is rapidly maturing. A field here and there has dropped almost all its leaves. Later planted beans are just starting to turn color. We have had good planting conditions for fall wheat and barley. Some tomatoes are still being harvested. The snap bean crop looks good. Insect problems are dropping off due to cooler nights and rainy weather late last week.

##### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

It was another good week for corn harvest, and producers have made significant progress. Local elevators have done a good job of handling a good corn crop. The increase in on-farm storage has helped significantly. A few acres of full season soybeans will be ready for harvest in about 1 week. Farmers are also making plans for cover crop planting and small grain planting.

##### KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions have improved. Farmers are harvesting corn and scouting soybeans for insects and diseases.

##### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest continues with above average yields. Field preparation for small grain planting continues. Producers are making purchases of seed lime and fertilizer. Cover crop planting will begin next week. Some corn fields have had seed flown on them already. Vegetables are winding down. Some late tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes and squash still need to be harvested. Ground moisture is getting short, but late week rains will help with that, and give late planted soybeans a needed boost.