



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 26, 2010

Number: 29

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

While much of the state is still coping with unseasonably warm temperatures and drought conditions, a few areas saw a little relief by way of a rain system late in the week. Days suitable for field work were 6.6. Grain producers are continuing to harvest corn, and the first soybean harvest has begun, with lower than average yields being reported. In many areas, soybeans are starting to drop leaves and continued dry weather has further reduced yield potential. Cotton and tobacco harvest are progressing, as well. Most livestock producers are feeding hay and some are being forced to purchase hay from out-of-state sources due to short pasture and hay growth. Many farmers are waiting for forecasted rainfall before continuing field work and the planting of cover crops and small grains.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 29, 2010	24	36	39	1
September 5, 2010	31	42	27	0
September 12, 2010	38	43	19	0
September 19, 2010	59	31	10	0
September 26, 2010	56	34	10	0

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	37	33	24	6	0
Livestock	2	12	34	43	9
Hay, Other	28	31	32	9	0
Hay, Alfalfa	14	19	37	27	3
Soybeans	20	28	43	9	0
Peanuts	37	37	18	8	0
Cotton	21	32	36	11	0
Apples, All	0	10	73	12	5
Grapes	0	0	39	52	9

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	100	95	99	99
Corn Mature	91	81	88	90
Corn Harvested for Grain	79	64	31	37
Corn Silage Harvested	94	91	82	88
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	63	36	34	39
Soybeans Harvested	6	0	1	2
Winter Wheat Seeded	11	9	8	6
Barley Seeded	20	17	18	24
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	62	55	79	72
Burley Tobacco Harvested	86	69	79	81
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Harvested	90	87	99	98
Peanuts Dug	11	0	8	13
Peanuts Combined	4	0	0	5
Cotton Bolls Opening	71	60	59	85
Cotton Harvested	12	4	2	3
Fall Apples Harvested	45	31	53	59
Winter Apples Harvested	35	26	17	20
Oats for Grain Seeded	25	20	6	4

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep 25	Mar. 1 to Sep 25 Normal	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	59	92	53	73	7	3882	3472	0.55	0.59	-2.51	32.86	0.00
Norfolk	86	66	96	60	76	5	4487	3856	0.00	0.47	-2.88	33.30	-2.12
Richmond	91	63	97	54	77	9	4424	3751	0.00	0.23	-3.05	22.95	-10.31
Roanoke	90	61	94	55	76	10	4100	NA	0.78	1.30	-1.95	30.65	-1.95
Wash/Dulles	89	58	97	46	74	8	3995	NA	0.00	0.56	-2.55	27.06	-4.40

* 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

FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)

All days were suitable for work due to unseasonable warm temperatures and no rain.

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Frederick is still in a D3 drought. There has been no rainfall. Pastures are not producing and hay is short. Producers have been feeding in some cases since the end of June. Water may become an issue.

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

Prince William County has had insufficient rainfall and excessive heat, causing extensive crop and pasture losses. The Prince William Food and Agriculture Council made up of the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Virginia Cooperative Extension has reported that approximately 26,600 acres of farm land has been adversely affected within the County at an estimated loss of \$2,605,200. Crops affected are corn, mixed forage, soybeans, and pasture. All crops are experiencing at least a 30% reduction in yield. We are asking the Prince William Board of County Supervisors authorize the County Executive to file with the Governor of Virginia a request that the County of Prince William be designated as a drought disaster area.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Tom Stanley)

A weather system at the very end of the week brought much needed rain to the entire county. This is the first measurable precipitation in over 6 weeks for many parts of the county. Most livestock producers are feeding hay and very little hay has been made in the past month. Corn for grain harvest has begun although a higher percentage of the corn crop than usual was chopped for silage.

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Weekly precipitation was 1.26". Daytime temperatures continue to be unseasonably warm. Rain coming late in the week is helping the dry conditions.

WESTERN (*continued*)

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

A low pressure system brought much needed rain to Rockbridge at the very end of the week. This was the first measurable precipitation in over 6 weeks. Most livestock producers are feeding hay. Hay production in September was negligible. Corn for grain combining is underway.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

It was another hot and dry week.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Although not reflected in this report, much needed rain is falling today. Most second cutting hay is finished.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Vegetable farmers are harvesting pumpkins and winter squash. Fall greens are nearing harvest. Corn harvest is pretty much done. Soybean harvest has begun with yields looking significantly lower than average. Soil moisture has been very limited. Grain producers have slowed winter grain planting until we get some much needed moisture.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Cattle farmers have been feeding for months, and are now having to buy hay from Pennsylvania and the Midwest to prepare for winter. The second cutting of hay here has yielded 25% or less of the needed harvest. Most corn has been chopped for silage. Beans are short, and are now starting to drop leaves. It is raining today, which brings hope of some pasture regrowth and fall stockpiling.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Hay is being baled. Stink bugs are a major concern to area orchards.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Hot and dry weather continued to prevail for much of the week. Soybean harvest has begun with yields generally low. Some good yields were reported in areas that received timely rains in August. Farmers are very hopeful that the forecasted rain event materializes so they can begin small grain planting.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest continues. Later planted corn yielded better than most. Soybean harvest begins and yields are in 25-35 range so far. Quality is average to below average with medium seed size. Size is expected to decrease as harvest continues. Fields are dry and most field work is on hold until rains come. Cover crop planting is also on hold. Veggie harvest is winding down and folks are planting some fall crops, but rain is definitely needed.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cooler temperatures and showers are contributing to good pasture growth for fall.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The rain has helped green up the grass but has not changed the deficient very much at this point. However, we are looking forward to more rain this week. It is very welcome none the less. Crop harvesting is going on full force as far as tobacco is concerned. Soybeans are dropping leaves. Fall calving is starting up as well.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Cotton harvest is in progress. Rains have missed us again this week. We are looking forward to forecasted rain this upcoming week.

SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Rain finally came into our area. Cotton, tobacco, and early maturing soybean harvest is underway. Peanut digging is underway in the county and more will get started now that rainfall is happening, along with planting of cover-crop and small grains.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Soybeans took another yield loss this week with very dry soil conditions causing poor pod fill and plants to begin to fail with diseases wilting already weak plants. Soybean loopers have eased off some of their voracious feeding. Good soybean yield potential has been reduced in past two weeks by dry soil conditions. Corn harvest was better than expected here. Strawberry farmers have laid their plastic and awaiting planting plugs or bare roots next week and week after that.



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