

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe)

Producers are finishing up the fall hay cutting. The quantity has been more than expected, but the quality is not as good as we were hoping for in most cases. Producers are gearing up for wheat planting.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Last week's weather and daylight hours started soybeans to drop leaves. A little rain over the weekend did not do much to deter much outside activity. Fall calving is going strong at this time. A few folks are still cutting hay. Many producers have already disked tobacco fields that are harvested.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Peanut harvest is in full swing with yields being reported as very good. Corn harvest is coming to an end and stalks are being shredded along with some cover-crop being planted. Soybean harvest of early group four maturing soybeans continues with good yields being reported. Cotton defoliation is underway as cotton harvest is about to start.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Ending: October 11, 2009

Number: 31

Released: October 13, 2009

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 11, 2009

Clear, dry weather this week allowed for the continued harvest of row crops, as well as, apples, hay, and fall vegetables. However, the lack of moisture has suspended small grain plantings in many areas, as farmers are waiting for additional rainfall to improve dry soil conditions. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. Pasture conditions have also suffered from the lack of rain, and producers are supplementing with hay, which has been readily available due to an abundant crop this year. Peanut harvest is in full swing, with very good yields being reported. Some post harvest activities have been taking place, such as the shredding of corn stalks, planting of cover crops on various fields, and the disking of tobacco fields where harvest is complete.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 11, 2009	4	30	65	1
October 4, 2009	1	14	83	2
September 27, 2009	3	9	81	7
September 20, 2009	15	33	51	1
September 13, 2009	10	27	59	4



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	16	36	37	7
Livestock	1	2	17	62	18
Corn	3	8	23	50	16
Soybeans	0	6	16	51	27
Peanuts	0	0	5	72	23
Cotton	0	6	12	54	28
Apples, All	0	2	24	74	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Mature	100	94	99	100
Corn Harvested for Grain	53	45	64	68
Corn Harvested for Silage	95	90	93	98
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	72	53	59	75
Soybeans Harvested	7	3	4	10
Winter Wheat Seeded	20	12	18	16
Winter Wheat Emerged	4	0	3	3
Barley Seeded	51	28	56	50
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	89	82	65	88
Burley Tobacco Harvested	99	90	92	97
Peanuts Dug	50	19	44	55
Peanuts Combined	25	9	31	41
Cotton Bolls Opening	85	80	93	97
Cotton Harvested	15	7	18	25
Apples Fall Harvested	85	65	73	83
Apples Winter Harvested	47	37	41	36
Oats for Grain Seeded	37	27	50	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 11, 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 Oct 10	Mar 1 to Oct. 10 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	47	83	39	60	0	3683	3653	0.04	2.21	-2.92	28.80	-5.89
Norfolk	77	58	85	55	68	3	4365	4084	0.37	8.14	2.89	45.05	7.51
Richmond	77	51	86	42	64	2	4246	3959	0.05	2.51	-2.71	27.01	-8.52
Roanoke	73	52	85	48	62	2	3904	NA	0.13	3.27	-1.68	35.57	1.37
Wash/Dulles	74	49	87	44	61	2	3841	NA	0.04	1.87	-3.05	33.30	0.00

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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NORTHERN

FAUQUIER (Timothy Mize)

Lack of rain this fall has limited pasture response to fertilizer for stockpiling. The hay crop was abundant this year, and hay is readily available. Corn for grain harvest has been above last year. The apple harvest is underway with an above average production season.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William Seay)

Pasture conditions have gone down hill fast due to lack of rain. Some producers are supplementing pastures with hay. Many streams are running below normal for this time of year.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Farmers are hoping for rainfall. We had a few cloudy, damp days last week but no significant or measurable rainfall. Small grains being seeded are germinating, but many farmers are complaining about the hard soils and difficulty disking. Harvest of soybeans and corn is well under way and late hay cutting continues.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Farmers are finishing up corn harvest and switching over to soybeans. Winter grain crops and cover crops are being planted in areas with enough moisture, but many farmers are waiting for more rain to continue planting. In many areas soil conditions are very dry. Vegetable farmers are harvesting pumpkins, fall greens, and winter squash.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It was dry again this week. We are still seeing serious moisture deficit and lots of small streams have gone dry due to lack of rainfall. We still have grass, but growth is reduced from normal fall amounts. Fescue stockpiling is not doing very well due to lack of moisture. Many producers are holding off on small grain planting and hoping for moisture. Lots of small landowners are refurbishing pastures.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

It has been very dry in Spotsylvania County.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Rain is needed as it is getting very dry in our area. Hopefully we will have some in next two days if predictions hold up. Corn harvest should be over in about a week and soybean harvest is picking up. Initial yields are average or above. Tomato harvest is over. Farmers are cleaning up fields for plastic and preparing fields for cover crops. A few fields have already been planted. Snapbean and lima beans look good. Farmers are getting letters about the need for pesticide license renewal by the end of the year. Some farmers are attending meetings but most are very busy in the fields.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are almost done with corn harvest, and are scouting and getting ready to harvest soybeans. Soil conditions are very dry. Small grain planting has been suspended for lack of moisture, in many areas.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

It has been getting a little dry and dusty. The soil still has good moisture for planting. Barley planting is in full swing. Some wheat will be planted next week. Corn harvest is still going well and corn is finally drying down. Some soybeans are being harvested and yields are excellent. Farmers are also taking soil samples and making lime applications.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Fall weather was evident this weekend, with sharply brisk and windy days. Sorghum cane is starting to be harvested and is producing a good amount of syrup. Corn harvest has turned out to be good, with some grain yields over 200 bushels per acre and silage in the 20-25 T/A ranges.