

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Heavy rains over the last three days have replenished soil moisture. It was getting to be very dry. Many areas have gotten 2 inches or more of rain and it is still raining. If it clears up and we get some good weather, it will make for ideal wheat and barley planting conditions. Soybean harvest just started but farmers will be very busy after the rain stops and it dries out. Most soybean fields will be ready for harvest. Almost the entire corn crop was harvested before rains started. Yields were average to above average. Tomato farmers are cleaning up stakes and plastic. Rains will make it a little easier once things dry out. Wheat and barley planting should pick up significantly also.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Prior to mid and late week rains, farmers continued to harvest corn and soybeans. Corn harvest is almost complete. Early bean yields have been very good. Farmers also continued to plant barley and started planting wheat.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Pastures and hayfields are looking better as moisture conditions have improved. Late-season soybeans have improved. Farmers are just getting into soybean harvest.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Barley planting continues. Corn harvest is winding down. Soybean harvest has begun and yields are very good. Corn harvest is also good to very good. Field prep for small grain planting continues. Vegetable harvest is about over. Cool temperatures increase the risk of scattered frost. Rain near the end of week will help with soybean leaf drop and with small grain planting.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Cooler weather this week has slowed corn harvest. Many producers were working steady earlier this week prior to the rain to get grain corn harvested. Producers have been working up tobacco fields to get small grains planted. Cole crops are coming in nicely so far this fall.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Five days of rainy weather has slowed field work (10/14-18). The rain was much needed to aid small grain germination and soften the ground for peanut digging. With fair weather predicted this week, harvest will once again be in full swing.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Rainfall has set in and slowed down the fall harvest season. Soybean, peanut, cotton harvest and cover crop planting are underway.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Rain Thursday and Friday halted all field activities. Farmers were catching up on repairs. Most corn is harvested with very good yields in most cases. Soybean harvest has just started. Freshly planted strawberries are benefiting from rain last week. Very cool temperatures occurred last weekend. Farmers are hoping to get started on planting wheat, with less acres being planted this year than last.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: October 18, 2009

Number: 32

Released: October 19, 2009

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18, 2009

Although rain showers late in the week delayed fall harvesting activities, producers throughout the Commonwealth welcomed the much needed precipitation. Prior to the rain, many producers worked rapidly to complete their harvest of corn and start harvesting early planted soybeans. Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.7. Rainfall received at week's end was extremely helpful in replenishing soil moisture and was beneficial to pastures, field crops, and small grain germination. Once the weather clears, harvest will start up in full swing, as well as, wheat and barley planting. Some areas of the state reported their first frost of the season, as temperatures have been cooler than normal for this time of the year.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 18, 2009	2	11	80	7
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



USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P. O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Address Service Requested

IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3, 4



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	10	36	41	9
Livestock	2	3	21	57	17
Soybeans	0	4	17	52	27
Peanuts	0	0	5	72	23
Cotton	0	2	17	70	11
Apples, All	0	0	16	84	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	71	53	76	77
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	80	72	74	86
Soybeans Harvested	11	7	13	18
Winter Wheat Seeded	23	20	21	22
Winter Wheat Emerged	7	4	8	5
Barley Seeded	67	51	74	65
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	94	89	75	93
Peanuts Dug	73	50	59	71
Peanuts Combined	48	25	38	54
Cotton Bolls Opening	90	85	97	99
Cotton Harvested	25	15	23	33
Apples Fall Harvested	92	85	82	88
Apples Winter Harvested	70	47	48	49
Oats for Grain Seeded	50	37	71	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18, 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 17	Mar 1 to Oct. 17 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	57	43	75	41	50	-7	3712	3734	0.49	2.70	-3.16	29.29	-5.99
Norfolk	63	52	75	45	57	-5	4421	4179	2.30	10.44	4.41	47.35	9.17
Richmond	59	45	78	42	52	-8	4280	4048	0.83	3.34	-2.73	27.84	-8.31
Roanoke	58	46	73	41	52	-6	3936	NA	0.95	4.22	-1.40	36.52	1.41
Wash/Dulles	55	42	73	39	49	-7	3866	NA	2.22	4.09	-1.59	35.52	1.70

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.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

We received our killing frost this week. This should speed up dry down and harvest on our late planted corn and beans. We also received some much needed moisture over the weekend.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Andy Allen)

We received our first hard frost on October 19.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Cool rainy days have slowed down fall harvest. However, rain is very welcomed at this point. Some late hay is being harvested as wet bales. Feed supplies appear to be adequate for the winter at this point. Cattle continue to find their way to market. Prices continue to decline from August and September but not at an unusual rate for historic October prices. Many are anticipating a rebound in November once the big runs on the market are over. Hope abounds for continued grass growth into late fall for grazing and a later than normal frost would be welcomed.

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Much needed rainfall was received during the past week. Fall hay harvest continues at a slow pace. Early season soybean harvest is almost complete. Remaining soybeans in the field are double-crop behind wheat. Farmers have started preparing dark tobacco for market. Maintenance and repair work on equipment continues during the wet soil conditions. We had our first frost event last night, October 18.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions are much improved. Farmers are planting cover crops and winter grain crops. Corn harvest is mostly over and soybean harvest is well under way. Corn yields were better than average and soybean yields have also been good in early full-season beans. Pumpkin harvest has been good and vegetable farmers are cruising into the Halloween season with good supplies of other fall vegetables as well.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

(This report was prepared on Friday, 10/16/09.) We finally received some rain. It began raining Wednesday night and by Thursday evening I had 7/10 in my home gauge and it continued light rain thru Friday morning. The rainfall has been very slow and light and runoff has been minimal with excellent opportunity to soak in, so this is a very beneficial rain and we had needed it for some time. I am hopeful that we will have at least an inch before it stops. The forecast calls for rain to taper off this evening or early Saturday morning. Temps are seasonally abnormal with highs in the upper 40s where 60's are normal. No frost yet but tree leaves are beginning to change color and some leaf drop from trees.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Cooler than normal temperatures last week, coupled with clouds and rain, kept producers from doing much field work. Freezing temps Sunday night ended the regular growing season. Apples are winding down. Cider and apple butter making, plus pumpkin harvests and festivals are in full swing. Most grain and cover crops are seeded. Fall vegetable crops are progressing well.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

It has been wet, dreary, and rainy all week. A few days were clear enough to do some minor work on the farm. Corn silage has been harvested; acreage left over is drying down for picking.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)

Tobacco harvest is winding down, land preparation and small grains seeding has begun. Fall hay cutting is over with and the recent rains have really helped the pastures recover. Cattle producers are wondering what to do with the continually dropping cattle prices.