

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

Eastern Continued

good corn harvest. Soybean harvest is beginning and yields are very good to excellent. Cover crop planting is in full swing. Some cover crops have been seeded earlier by airplane. Producers are making decisions about next planting season and doing farm clean up at this time. Winter meetings and private pesticide recertification sessions are being planned. Sweet potato, squash and pumpkin harvest is over. We received scattered frost in the area this week.

SOUTHEASTERN

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Corn and peanut harvest is coming to an end. Soybean and cotton harvest is in full swing along with small grain planting. Yields are good in all crops. Cover crops are being planted now for the winter.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Soybean harvest proceeded rapidly this week with dry weather and sunny skies.



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 25, 2009

Number: 33

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 25, 2009

A week of dry weather permitted continued advancement for the harvest of corn, soybeans, and peanuts. Producers also made headway with the planting of small grains and cover crops. In addition, the harvest of fall fruits and vegetables progressed, with sweet potatoes, squash and pumpkins all nearing completion. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.1. Throughout the state, yield reports for corn and soybeans continue to be favorable, although rain showers in some areas have slowed the harvest of corn. For most, rain received over the weekend helped to improve moisture levels although pasture growth has slowed and supplemental feeding continues.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 25, 2009	2	17	76	5
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



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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	11	38	38	9
Livestock	1	3	21	54	21
Soybeans	0	5	17	49	29
Peanuts	0	0	5	72	23
Cotton	0	5	14	52	29
Apples, All	0	1	23	76	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	79	71	82	87
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	95	80	81	92
Soybeans Harvested	28	11	17	27
Winter Wheat Seeded	38	23	27	31
Winter Wheat Emerged	18	7	11	8
Barley Seeded	87	67	89	79
Peanuts Dug	96	73	78	86
Peanuts Combined	76	48	54	68
Cotton Bolls Opening	98	90	100	100
Cotton Harvested	40	25	35	45
Apples Winter Harvested	75	70	77	71
Oats for Grain Seeded	80	50	83	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 25, 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 24	Mar 1 to Oct. 24 Normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	70	40	79	30	55	0	3784	3798	0.55	3.25	-3.38	29.84	-6.55
Norfolk	70	49	83	38	60	0	4506	4256	0.25	10.69	3.93	47.60	8.59
Richmond	71	46	82	35	59	2	4362	4122	0.35	3.69	-3.14	28.19	-8.90
Roanoke	70	42	82	32	56	1	4009	NA	0.05	4.27	-2.00	36.57	0.72
Wash/Dulles	69	43	77	33	56	2	3937	NA	1.79	5.88	-0.51	37.31	2.77

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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WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Temperatures are above average for this time of year. Precipitation for the week was 0.05 inches.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William Seay)

Recent rains have helped the moisture shortage, but additional rains are needed to improve ground water supply. Pasture growth is diminishing. Some livestock producers are supplementing hay while cattle continue to glean the pastures.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Farmers continue with soybean and corn harvest. Wheat and barley planting continues at a rapid pace. Normal repair of combines and maintenance continue. Farmers are preparing dark tobacco for market and the rains have helped farmers remove the tobacco from barns.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are harvesting soybeans and planting winter grain crops and cover crops. Vegetable farmers are harvesting the last of their pumpkins and cleaning up beds and field areas dedicated to summer crops. Fall greens and winter squash are still coming in.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

We received much needed rain again on Friday and Saturday, which totaled one half inch at my western Hanover home. I observed the subsoil was dry and hard even though we had nice rain a few days prior. We are still low in moisture. Rain has come somewhat late to assist in pasture and stockpiling of fescue.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Most work occurring is in fall vegetables, pumpkins, apples and winter preparations. Most grain and cover crops are in the ground. A little bit of haying is still being done.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Freezing weather has put a sudden stop to the fall colors, and harvests are winding down. Showers have continued to hamper corn harvest.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

We had the first frost of the year on October 20. It was a light and not killing frost. This was however, very early for this time of the year. Full season soybeans are ready to harvest and will be harvested as soon as the moisture drops. Yields so far are good to above average. A few tomato fields still need to be cleaned up. Butterbeans are about ready and harvest should start anytime. Most wheat and barley are being planted no-till. Farmers are inquiring about pesticide recertification and some are planning for late fall and winter meetings.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers continued to harvest soybeans and plant small grains and cover crops as weather allowed.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are finishing up corn harvest, harvesting soybeans and planting small grains and cover crops.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Field prep for small grain planting continues, as does small grain planting. Lime spreading and soil sampling have continued. Corn harvest is drawing to a close. It has been a