

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

We received good precipitation over the weekend. Fall leafy greens and some greenhouse vegetables are going well. Cover crops and grains are doing well with recent rains. Farmers' Markets and other Ag direct marketers are gearing up for the holiday season (Christmas trees, greenery, farm produced value-added products, meats and cheeses, etc.).

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

The weather is definitely creating some problems for producers trying to finish picking corn. Small showers continue to keep the fields damp enough to prevent harvest. Cattle prices are still of a main concern for farmers.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)

Producers are stripping burley and seeding winter wheat. All livestock producers should be finished with fall hay now. Soybean yields are low.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain has slowed down the harvest of crops. Some tobacco producers have shipped some of the last flue cured tobacco they had curing. Producers are working on equipment, winterizing some and minor repairs on other equipment. Some stockpiled fescue is looking good as well and some producers are getting ready to start grazing some in November.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rainfall has hampered soybean harvest and wheat seeding. Most areas received 0.5-1 inch of rain this week. Soybean growers are also dealing with green stem soybeans that are making combining conditions tough.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Rain showers fell over most of the area this week and slowed down fall harvest. The moisture will benefit small grain and cover-crop germination. Peanut harvest is almost complete and soybean and cotton harvest are in full gear.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Dampness prevented farmers from harvesting soybeans this week. Farmers instead turned their efforts to planting wheat. Good soil conditions helped get wheat off to a good start so far.



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: November 1, 2009

Number: 34

Released: November 2, 2009

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 1, 2009

Rainfall across the Commonwealth was welcomed this week, despite the delay it caused for farmers harvesting crops or planting small grains. Combined with recent warm temperatures, the precipitation has stimulated small grains and cover crops, and replenished soil moisture. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.0. The rainfall has been beneficial to pastures and hayfields as well, and in some areas producers are preparing for fall grazing. As farmers wait for fields to dry in order to resume fieldwork, some of their activities have included soil sampling, lime applications, planning for spring planting, working on land prep, equipment maintenance and winterizing, and planting small grains where fields are accessible.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 1, 2009	1	4	86	9
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



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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	10	34	44	8
Livestock	1	5	18	60	16
Soybeans	0	5	18	48	29
Barley	0	3	16	73	8
Cotton	0	6	12	52	30
Oats	0	1	57	38	4

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	83	79	88	92
Soybeans Harvested	36	28	32	39
Winter Wheat Seeded	53	38	46	48
Winter Wheat Emerged	32	18	15	18
Barley Seeded	89	87	94	90
Peanuts Combined	93	76	82	84
Cotton Bolls Opening	100	98	100	100
Cotton Harvested	55	40	58	59
Apples Winter Harvested	83	75	89	86
Oats for Grain Seeded	85	80	88	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 1, 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 31	Mar 1 to Oct. 31 Normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	64	47	72	40	56	3	3838	3835	2.24	5.50	-1.73	32.08	-4.79
Norfolk	69	58	80	54	63	5	4602	4309	0.28	10.98	3.46	47.89	8.32
Richmond	66	51	77	43	59	4	4431	4170	2.44	6.15	-1.44	30.65	-7.18
Roanoke	65	49	74	39	57	4	4070	NA	1.81	6.09	-0.91	38.38	1.83
Wash/Dulles	64	50	72	38	57	6	4000	NA	1.64	7.52	0.36	38.95	3.55

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

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

We received 1.6" of rain locally in the past week and over 4" for the month of October.

WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Day and night temperatures continue to be above normal. The weekly rainfall was 1.39"

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Heavy rain in the middle of the week was very welcomed, even though it has delayed corn and soybean harvesting. Wheat planting has also been delayed for several days. Above normal temperatures coupled with the recent rain continues to encourage late fall grass growth in pastures. Late hay harvesting continues with the majority being processed wet as haylage and/or balage. On-farm stored feed supplies appear at this time to be more than adequate for the upcoming winter months.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William Seay)

Much needed rainfall fell this week to replenish groundwater reserves.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

All harvesting activities have been suspended due to extensive rainfall. We have received about 4.5 inches of rain in the last week. Soybean harvest is about 50-60% complete. Yields are generally better than average at 35-40 bushels/acre. Planted small grains and cover crops are growing well and benefiting from the recent rains. Pastures and hayfields are looking good going into winter.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

More rain this week continues our feast or famine scenario. The combines have mostly been idle, but some no till planting has been done in the last week. Small grains are emerging, and with moderate temperature and adequate moisture, I must say they look very good. With another two inches of rain over the weekend the combines will sit for a few more days further delaying soybean harvest.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Rain and wet conditions have slowed fall harvesting activities. The soybean crop has suffered some damage and losses due to the wet conditions delaying harvest.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Wet weather has kept combines out of the field much of the week. We have excellent soil moisture, although dry weather is needed in order to harvest the soybean crop and plant wheat and barley. Farmers are still cleaning up tomato fields and planting cover crops. Butterbeans are not yet harvested but about ready to be harvested once the weather clears up. Some farmers are taking fall soil samples, nematode samples and field mapping for next year.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions have slowed harvest and improved pastures and hayfields.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rain during the week slowed harvest and small grains planting. Soil moisture is good and early planted grains look very good. Land prep continues as does some late corn harvest. Small grain planting is still getting started for many. Soybean yields are very good. Soil sampling and lime applications continue. Folks are making plans for spring planting and some seed purchases have taken place. Private applicator recertification sessions are being planned for November and December.