



NATIONAL  
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SERVICE

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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: October 28, 2012**

**Number: 34**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 28, 2012

The weather remained exceptionally favorable this week, as many Virginia producers worked hard to complete fieldwork ahead of Hurricane Sandy. The above average temperatures and dry conditions gave time for soybean and peanut harvest to advance before bad weather set in. Days suitable for field work were 5.8. With the anticipation of heavy rainfall brought in from the hurricane, many producers worked quickly to complete peanut harvest, along with the remaining tobacco and corn, and soybeans in low lying areas. Yields for peanuts appear to be very good and soybean yields have been above average as well. Late in the week, preparations for Hurricane Sandy were underway, with producers keeping a watchful eye on the crops that still remain in their fields.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending        | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|--------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| October 28, 2012   | 2          | 30    | 62       | 6       |
| October 21, 2012   | 2          | 24    | 73       | 1       |
| October 14, 2012   | 1          | 21    | 74       | 4       |
| October 7, 2012    | 1          | 14    | 74       | 11      |
| September 30, 2012 | 2          | 23    | 74       | 1       |

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending        | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|--------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| October 28, 2012   | 3          | 32    | 60       | 5       |
| October 21, 2012   | 2          | 25    | 71       | 2       |
| October 14, 2012   | 2          | 25    | 70       | 3       |
| October 7, 2012    | 2          | 24    | 72       | 2       |
| September 30, 2012 | 3          | 27    | 69       | 1       |

### 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 |

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

| <b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b> |                  |             |             |             |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Crop</b>                   | <b>Very Poor</b> | <b>Poor</b> | <b>Fair</b> | <b>Good</b> | <b>Excellent</b> |
| Pasture                       | 1                | 10          | 29          | 56          | 4                |
| Livestock                     | 0                | 4           | 24          | 63          | 9                |
| Soybeans                      | 1                | 4           | 27          | 54          | 14               |
| Barley                        | 0                | 0           | 18          | 74          | 8                |
| Peanuts                       | 0                | 0           | 11          | 72          | 17               |
| Cotton                        | 0                | 0           | 5           | 64          | 31               |

| <b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS</b> |                  |                  |                  |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Crop</b>                                     | <b>This Week</b> | <b>Last Week</b> | <b>Last Year</b> | <b>5 Year Avg.</b> |
| Corn Harvested                                  | 95               | 93               | 88               | 90                 |
| Corn Silage Harvested                           | 99               | 98               | 100              | NA                 |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves                        | 94               | 93               | 90               | 94                 |
| Soybeans Harvested                              | 36               | 21               | 25               | 32                 |
| Winter Wheat Seeded                             | 48               | 32               | 49               | 41                 |
| Winter Wheat Emerged                            | 20               | 12               | 20               | 17                 |
| Barley Seeded                                   | 89               | 85               | 85               | 88                 |
| Tobacco, Flue Harvested                         | 95               | 94               | 94               | 95                 |
| Peanuts Dug                                     | 84               | 75               | 79               | 89                 |
| Peanuts Combined                                | 54               | 45               | 53               | 69                 |
| Cotton Harvested                                | 45               | 26               | 59               | 61                 |
| Apples, Fall Harvested                          | 99               | 99               | 95               | 96                 |
| Apples, Winter Harvested                        | 90               | 87               | 79               | 81                 |
| Oats Seeded                                     | 70               | 64               | 81               | 67                 |

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 28, 2012**

| 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. 27 normal                  | Mar. 1 to Oct. 27 normal | Last Week     | Since Sep. 1 | Sep. 1 dep. from normal * | Jan. 1 to date | Jan. 1 dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg   | 74          | 46        | 83        | 35       | 60   | 6                       | 4180                                      | 3827                     | 0.03          | 3.56         | -3.28                     | 26.10          | -10.14                    |
| Norfolk     | 71          | 54        | 80        | 46       | 63   | 4                       | 4903                                      | 4292                     | 0.16          | 4.01         | -3.02                     | 36.69          | -2.76                     |
| Richmond    | 75          | 52        | 84        | 41       | 63   | 7                       | 4734                                      | 4155                     | 0.09          | 5.39         | -1.70                     | 30.77          | -6.30                     |
| Roanoke     | 75          | 49        | 83        | 39       | 62   | 8                       | 4391                                      | NA                       | 0.01          | 4.81         | -1.77                     | 29.63          | -6.50                     |
| Wash/Dulles | 72          | 50        | 81        | 36       | 61   | 9                       | 4273                                      | NA                       | 0.00          | 5.95         | -0.81                     | 26.00          | -9.13                     |

\* 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

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Temperatures have been in the high 70's and low 40's in the evenings. We still could use more rain.

### CENTRAL

#### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

It was a dry and warm week before preparations of Hurricane Sandy, which is to arrive Monday - Tuesday. Hopefully we will only see rain from this.

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

A dry and warm week ahead of preparations for the arrival of Hurricane Sandy on Monday and Tuesday.

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

The weather pattern of the last few weeks continued this past week. Basically nice weather, but dry with no measurable precipitation this past week. Cover crops and small grain are looking pretty good however. As I type, Hurricane Sandy has been buffeting the coast for over twenty four hours. At my western Hanover home it started to sprinkle rain at about 11:30 pm on Sunday night. At 6:00 am on Monday morning, I had 2/10 of an inch in my rain gauge.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Soybean harvest was the primary activity this week as farmers worked to harvest the crop prior to the arrival of Sandy. Good progress was made in harvesting the crop, and for the most part, yields have been good to very good. We will have to wait Sandy's passing to assess losses to the soybean crop and other effects on agriculture. On a positive note, the rainfall from the storm should replenish topsoil and subsoil moisture levels.

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Our area is readying for a possible hurricane. Most corn is harvested; soybean harvest is proceeding well and yields are very good to excellent. Wheat and cover crop seeding is ahead of normal and some crops are emerged.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

The weather is cooperating with farmers right now allowing for soybean harvest to be underway quite well and wheat seeding has also started without any issues. Recently planted strawberries are also agreeing with the recent weather and sweet potato harvest is complete for many growers with the rest finishing up this week.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Pastures have benefitted from cool nights and warmer than average daytime temperatures, which is providing the needed forage reserves heading into November. Most all other fall harvest operations have wound down for the winter.

### SOUTHERN

#### FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

This week is going to be a wet, cold week. Rain and wind will have the possibility of destroying soybeans still standing along with corn still standing. Be safe this week!

#### LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Hay is finishing up. There are a few fields of tobacco left but the majority of producers have finished and are focusing on their soybeans. We have some pretty fields of beans ready for harvest. Some producers have begun harvesting, but everyone is waiting on Sandy to see what happens this week. Sorghum is still standing. Cattle look good but are starting to get fuzzy for the winter. We could use some rain, but hopefully we won't get hammered this week.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Great weather gave time to get some last cutting hay in along with harvesting tobacco, soybeans, corn, and planting small grains. Late in the week, preparations for Hurricane Sandy are underway. Cotton, tobacco, corn and soybeans along with grain sorghum will be watched during the weekend and early next week.

## **REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

### **(Southeastern continued)**

#### **PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

This week provided excellent conditions for harvest to make substantial progress. Peanut harvest was completed in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy bringing heavy rainfall. Peanut yields appear to be very good. Soybean harvest made progress too with growers focusing on low lying fields. Yields have been above average mostly in the 40-50 bushel range. Wheat seeding also moved forward with some caution due to the threat of heavy rains.

#### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Fields are excellent for fall tillage or seeding winter wheat. Soybean harvest is well underway this week. Strawberry plants are setting roots now. Fall produce is coming in now.

#### **VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D Flanagan III)**

With one good day of the tropical storm Sandy under our belt, the worry is when will farmers be able to return to the fields? Up to this point soybean harvest and wheat seeding were going very well.