

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Soybean harvest made little progress again this week. Last Sunday and Monday were the only harvest days. Farmers without on-farm drying equipment are taking discounts on high moisture soybeans. Any potential for additional wheat planting is gone with the additional 2-5 inches of rain received this week. Late seeding wheat and barley will be questionable as to plant stands and productivity. Timely seeded wheat and barley are also showing nitrogen deficiency - the problem is we cannot get on the fields to apply any fertilizer.

**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

Rain has kept harvesting going slowly. Deer hunting is going full swing. The ground is slowly drying up but with rain coming next week that is subject to change. Fall calving cows are pretty much finished calving. Some producers are getting next year's heifers ready to breed.

**SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Rains continue to hamper harvest, with only two good harvest days a week. Cotton and soybean yields and quality are holding up very well in spite of rain and late harvest.

**SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Rain and more rain have stopped cotton and soybean harvest and planting of small grains. Some growers have finished but there is plenty of crops in the field. Another week of good dry weather is needed.

**WESTERN**

**ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)**

Weekly precipitation totaled 1.77 inches.

**ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)**

Rain and snow have delayed harvest completion. Unharvested soybeans and corn continue to be tested by the weather. Final cover crop planting has also been delayed. Feeding has quickly jumped to 100% as 2-3 inches of snow have blanketed Rockbridge County. However, it's a nice way to continue to put moisture in the ground.

**NORTHERN**

**CLARKE (Jacob Grove)**

Cold weather, snow and excess rain have delayed harvest and made muddy conditions for livestock.

**PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)**

We received 1.4 inches of rain from 11/29 to 12/5, plus 3-5 inches of snow on 12/6.

**ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)**

Wet conditions persisted through the week's end. The weekend brought 3-7 inches of snow in the county and colder weather. The ground remains snow covered, with sizeable acreage of grain unharvested.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Ending: December 6, 2009**

**Number: 39**

**Released: December 7, 2009**

**WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 6, 2009**

The unrelenting weather continued to keep farmers from making significant progress on the harvest of soybeans and cotton and the planting of small grains this week. Across the Commonwealth, cold temperatures, excess rainfall and even snowfall in some areas prevented fieldwork from advancing. Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.8. Although soybean yield reports continue to be excellent, much of the crop still remains in the field and many producers will not be able to harvest until the ground freezes solid. The probability of additional wheat planting at this point has diminished, as the recommended planting dates have passed, and late planting may lead to uncertain results. Furthermore, the snowy weather has forced many cattle producers to begin supplemental feeding, despite the extended growing period seen in pastures this past fall.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
December 6, 2009	0	1	58	41
November 29, 2009	0	2	64	34
November 22, 2009	0	3	58	39
November 15, 2009	0	2	38	60
November 8, 2009	1	6	87	6



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	5	12	33	44	6
Livestock	1	3	19	60	17
Winter Wheat	3	8	35	45	9
Barley	1	3	26	56	14
Oats	0	0	34	62	4

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	94	92	100	100
Soybeans Harvested	71	67	87	92
Winter Wheat Seeded	82	81	91	95
Winter Wheat Emerged	70	67	80	80
Cotton Harvested	90	85	94	97

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING December 6, 2009											
City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec. 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	55	31	70	26	43	1	1.93	1.76	1.25	42.02	1.62
Norfolk	63	44	71	37	54	6	1.93	1.51	1.07	58.60	15.52
Richmond	61	36	72	30	49	4	3.18	2.78	2.31	43.03	1.66
Roanoke	55	38	71	32	46	3	1.89	1.80	1.30	47.62	7.61
Wash/Dulles	57	34	68	30	46	5	1.41	1.15	0.64	43.81	4.70

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**EASTERN**

**ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)**

Rain, rain, rain! When will it give these farmers a break? It rains for two days and then you get one or two sunny days. Farmers harvest beans one afternoon for 4 or 5 hours and then it rains again. It is raining again at this writing. We need clear, dry weather for many days and windy conditions so this soybean crop can be harvested and the farmers can pay their bills. Rent has been paid and taxes paid on borrowed money by many. Beans are still holding up in the field but for how much longer is the question and wheat sits in bags, still to be planted and it is past the recommended planting date. An excellent soybean crop, one of the best in years but much of it still sits in the fields. Many farmers also had their pesticide license renewed this past week by attending pesticide recertification classes conducted by Extension.

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Another wet week continued to delay soybean harvest. Wet field conditions are a major concern as some soybean producers will probably have to wait for freezing soil conditions to harvest part of the crop. Some small grain fields are showing nitrogen deficiency and stress (drowned out areas and poor emergence) from the excessive rainfall.

**KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)**

Farmers are scrambling to get the last of their beans harvested and their cover crops and wheat planted. Soil moisture is very good to surplus in most areas.

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

It is still wet and calling for more "weather" this weekend. Some soybeans were harvested this week, but not many. We still need a week of drying weather before much gets done. Folks in the lower-lying areas will have to wait for a while before things dry out. Unfortunately, fields will be rutted to get this crop out. Producers are making machinery repair, booking seed and doing book work.

**CENTRAL**

**APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

"Wet, Wet, Wet" basically sums up our conditions. Farmers practicing no-till are really seeing the benefit of being able to get back in the fields quickly. Farmers are attending Extension meetings for pesticide recertification and dealer meetings.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Soybean harvest is still not complete. Some areas may be unharvested until the grounds freezes. Yields have been excellent. Farmers are also pricing supplies for next season and attending winter pesticide and production meetings.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Rain, rain, go away. The apparent fall seasonal pattern of this year continues. Rain, rain and more rain. Storms sweep across the south and up the Atlantic seaboard in regular waves now and 2 and 3 inch rain events are now commonplace. We entered the fall with a significant rain year to date deficit and are now in a surplus for the year. Many beans will not be harvested until hard freeze as the ground is just sappy wet. Significant small grain went unplanted due to wet ground and unharvested beans. We even had the season's first snow on 12/5/09 as a cold front moved in while yet another rain storm was moving thru. We had about 2 inches in western Hanover and the first significant freeze of the year.