

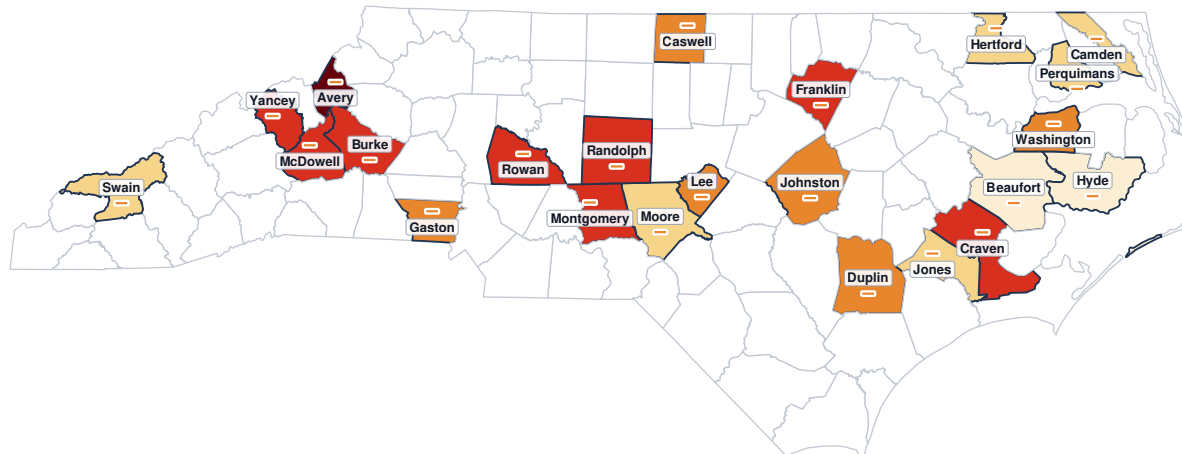
## DROUGHT IMPACT (COUNTY REPORTED)

- Exceptional Drought
- Extreme Drought
- Severe Drought
- Moderate Drought
- Abnormally Dry
- No mapped response

## COMMENT SIGNAL

- Worsening / crop stress intensifying
- Some relief / conditions improving
- Uneven rainfall / mixed conditions
- Persistent drought / little change

## COUNTY-REPORTED DROUGHT IMPACT



## STATEWIDE TRENDS

- Subsoil moisture is low to nonexistent across many reporting counties, increasing drought stress on non-irrigated crops.
- Hay and pastures statewide show severe stress, with reports of significant bulk losses and more producers feeding hay.
- Irrigation ponds and private wells are running low or failing in parts of the Piedmont, raising local water supply concerns.
- Planting of grain and soybean acres has been delayed or suspended in several counties due to hard, dry soils.

## TOP STATEWIDE CONCERNS

- Pasture and hay losses
- Delayed or suspended planting
- Low subsoil moisture
- Declining ponds and wells
- Seedling and ornamental losses
- Reduced stream and spring flows

## REGIONAL SUMMARIES

## WEST / MOUNTAINS &amp; FOOTHILLS

Avery, Burke, Gaston, McDowell, Swain, Yancey

- Extreme to exceptional drought reported in multiple mountain counties, with very dry soils to depth.
- Pastures and hay fields are severely affected, with reported bulk losses and slowed grass growth.
- Irrigated vegetable acres largely unaffected in some areas, while Christmas tree seedlings and ornamentals are struggling.

## PIEDMONT / SANDHILLS

Caswell, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Rowan

- Widespread extreme to severe drought forcing delayed or suspended planting of grains and soybeans in several counties.
- Pastures and hay are stressed, causing increased feeding needs and lower hay yields.
- Irrigation ponds and private wells are below average or failing in parts, though irrigated produce looks good where water is available.

## NORTH &amp; CENTRAL COASTAL PLAIN

Beaufort, Camden, Craven, Franklin, Hertford, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Perquimans, Washington

- Extreme to severe drought in several coastal plain counties with very limited subsoil moisture.
- Hay, grasslands and pastures are being hit hard and planting of soybeans and grains has been delayed or put on hold.
- Some coastal counties are only abnormally dry so far and irrigated crops are not yet showing stress.

## SOUTHEAST COASTAL PLAIN

Duplin

- Severe drought is reducing hay production and may eliminate first cuttings for some producers.
- Newly planted crops are less stressed than established pastures and forages.

## COUNTY COMMENT HIGHLIGHTS (selected notes from impact and additional comments)

## Avery

Pastures are down 60% in bulk, with many newly planted Fraser's and ornamentals suffering; losses of 35% or greater expected.

## Beaufort

We have received enough rain to get crops started, but we will need this pattern to change as crops grow and water demand increases.

## Burke

Very dry, greatly affecting hay yields and grazing conditions.

## Caswell

Most grain producers have stopped planting due to drought, tobacco growers must irrigate before and after planting, pastures suffer, and hay and planting are low.

## Craven

Planting and other management delayed or altered due to continued lack of rainfall; soil subsoil moisture is nonexistent, so crops rely on rainfall to maintain growth.

## Franklin

Drought has severely impacted hay and grasslands, and soybean planting has been put on hold due to conditions being too dry.

## Hertford

Limited soil moisture now as warm temps forecast this week, with potential rainfall in our area from the end of the week through next.

## Lee

Very dry in Lee County despite Monday rain; pastures are dry, but irrigated produce looks good.

## Montgomery

Farmers report delayed or suspended planting; irrigation ponds 3-4 ft below average, some private wells dry, wells slow, streams intermittent and low, with western side drier.