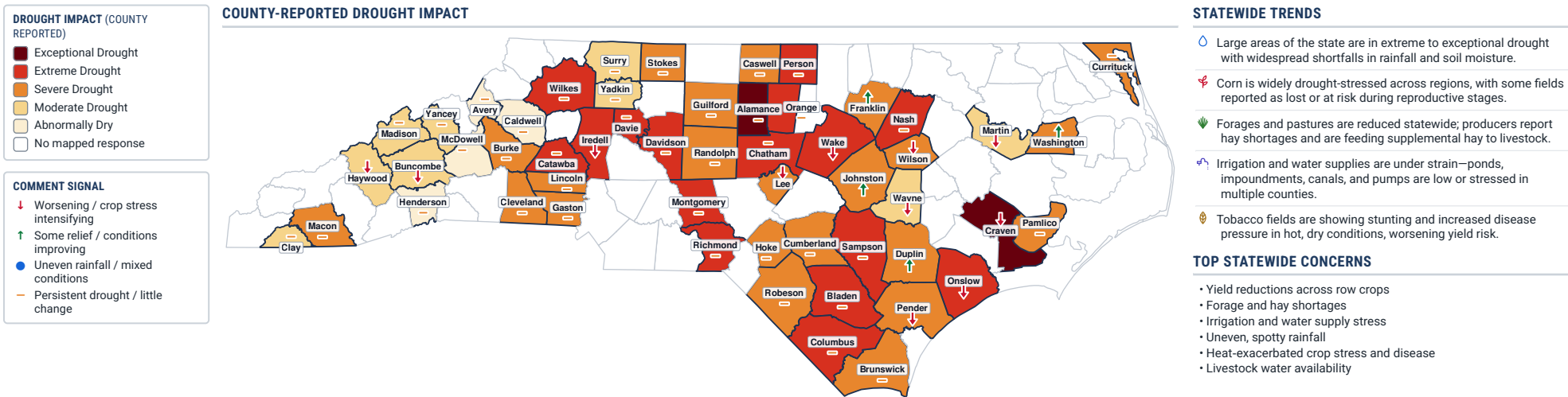




REGIONAL SUMMARIES

WEST / MOUNTAINS & Foothills Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Wilkes, Yancey Many mountain and foothill counties report severe to extreme drought with forages and pastures heavily impacted and livestock producers feeding hay. Rain has been spotty: isolated thunderstorms supplied 1–2 inches in some areas while other locations remain dry. Producers are increasing irrigation where available but crop stress (corn, soybeans, vegetables) is widely reported.	PIEDMONT / SANDHILLS Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Cumberland, Davidson, Davie, Guilford, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Stokes, Surry, Wake, Yadkin Several counties are in extreme or exceptional drought; planting delays, stunted grain and tobacco, and reduced yield potential are common. Pastures and hayfields are low; producers are supplementing with hay and relying on irrigation as water sources show stress. Localized intense storms delivered limited relief (some areas saw ~1–2 inches or 1–1.3 inches), but coverage was uneven and heat is worsening plant stress.	NORTH & CENTRAL COASTAL PLAIN Craven, Currituck, Franklin, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Pamlico, Washington, Wayne, Wilson Coastal plain counties include exceptional and extreme drought classifications with crops under severe stress. Irrigation and water supplies are strained—canals, lakes, impoundments, and ponds reported low levels or stressed pumps. Some localized heavy rains helped pockets (up to ~3 inches in places), but coverage is inconsistent and many fields need more rainfall to finish the season.	SOUTHEAST COASTAL PLAIN Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, Sampson Several southeast counties report extreme drought with visible crop symptoms: wilting, leaf curl, scorch, and yield-reducing impacts. Water restrictions and supply concerns reported; spotty pop-up storms provided uneven relief while heavier soils held up better. Topsoil moisture from recent rains has depleted quickly and subsoil remains low in many areas.
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COUNTY COMMENT HIGHLIGHTS (selected notes from impact and additional comments)

Alamance Crop planting was delayed and some fields had to be replanted to obtain a good stand, leaving crops smaller than normal; pastures, hayfields, and cropland show stress and reduced quality.	Caswell We are in extreme drought with stressed water for irrigation; grain crops are stunted and tasseling, tobacco stunted with premature tops.	Catawba Reduced hay and forage production; farmers feeding hay to livestock; field crops drought stressed.	Chatham Little to no rainfall this week, with 0.00–0.05 inches; pasture recovery limited and some livestock producers continuing hay supplementation due to reduced forage.
Cleveland Corn and soybeans need rain; lack of rain is causing produce growers to get less yield.	Henderson Over the last week there have been scattered showers, but drought conditions are worsening, and all crops are under heat and drought stress.	Montgomery Extreme drought with heat; afternoon storms brought 2-3 events of 1-2 inches, providing some relief.	Pamlico Early corn and soybeans need rain; irrigation is used but soil moisture sensors aren't monitored, impoundments are flooded, and water management drives yield.
Robeson Crop stress remains across much of the county with intense heat and limited rainfall; subsoil moisture is low, topsoil moisture from last week's rain depleted, southeast area received rain yesterday, corn looks decent in spots but stressed this week at reproductive stages, too soon to know severity.	Sampson Corn is suffering as it completes reproductive stages; tobacco, soybean, sweet potatoes, and peanuts look poor due to dry conditions, with some pop-up rains and heavier soils faring better.	Wake Despite some prior rainfall, no significant rain in weeks; extreme heat increases drought stress, with sandier soils and tobacco showing wilting disease pressure and higher severity.	Yadkin Lingering drought effects remain throughout most of Yadkin County, while Surry County shows mostly normal conditions after a holiday weekend rain.