

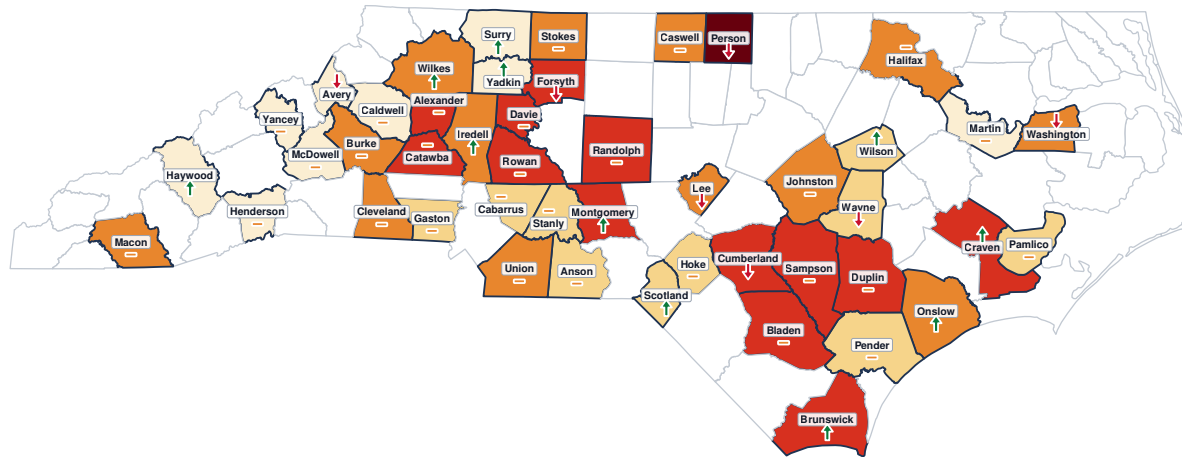
DROUGHT IMPACT (COUNTY REPORTED)

- 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

- Rainfall this week was highly variable and mostly spotty, providing short-term relief in places but not widespread recharge of soil moisture.
- Pastures and hay crops are widely stressed; many producers are feeding purchased hay and reporting shortages.
- Corn is broadly drought-damaged with many fields severely stressed or tasseled prematurely, suggesting reduced yields in affected areas.
- Ponds, streams, and irrigation supplies remain low across multiple counties, limiting irrigation options for growers.

TOP STATEWIDE CONCERNS

- Low streams and ponds
- Hay and forage shortages
- Reduced corn yields
- Limited irrigation water
- Spotty rains and runoff losses
- High hay/feed costs

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

WEST / MOUNTAINS & FOOTHILLS

Alexander, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Macon, McDowell, Wilkes, Yancey

- Many mountain and foothill counties report severe to extreme drought with low groundwater, creeks, and streams.
- Showers have been spotty; some areas received heavy thunderstorms that produced runoff and limited infiltration.
- Pastures and forages are stressed and producers are feeding hay in several locations.

PIEDMONT / SANDHILLS

Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Cumberland, Davie, Forsyth, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Person, Randolph, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Yadkin

- Large areas of the Piedmont are in extreme to exceptional drought, with several counties reporting continuing drought impacts.
- Pastures and hay stands are under lasting pressure, leading to hay purchases and higher hay prices.
- Row crops show drought stress: corn tasseled prematurely or is stunted, soybean planting delayed in some areas, and irrigation supplies are becoming low.

NORTH & CENTRAL COASTAL PLAIN

Craven, Halifax, Johnston, Martin, Pamlico, Washington, Wayne, Wilson

- Coastal plain counties in the north/central region report severe to extreme drought with low soil moisture, streams, and ponds.
- Scattered rains have provided some relief but have not fully reversed deficits or restored water resources.

SOUTHEAST COASTAL PLAIN

Bladen, Brunswick, Duplin, Onslow, Pender, Sampson

- Extreme drought is widespread in the southeast coastal plain with very low streams and water bodies and visible crop scorch and stunting.
- Corn and forage crops are particularly impacted; recent heavy rains have helped in places but early-season damage and low hay production persist.

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

Bladen

Very dry and hot; streams and water bodies are very low; yields affected, perennials being lost to scorch; corn yield not looking good; boll abortion in cotton; wilt and leaf curl widespread.

Macon

Some areas remain dry and miss daily storms, while others near 10" in July face heavy runoff from rapid storms; the north is driest, southeastern rainfall exists but Cullasaja watershed stream levels stay low.

Surry

Some parts received weekend thunderstorms (7-18/19) with chances of more rain (7-20 to 7-24); conditions improving in Surry County and northern Yadkin, but middle/southern Yadkin still in drought for most crops.

Cleveland

Although some rain fell early last week, row crops, especially corn, remain under extreme drought pressure and will not recover from drought impacts.

Person

Drought continues; some parts of county are getting some rains

Wayne

Major concerns are corn; everything else is doing ok. Could use some rain.

Henderson

Recent rains were scattered but provided moisture; warm temps and storms maintained conditions without substantially raising water levels.

Rowan

Soybean planting delayed for most growers; pastures struggle, most cattle producers feeding hay purchased from elsewhere; hay prices are high.

Yadkin

Some parts received weekend thunderstorms with more chances next week; crop conditions improving in some areas, but water table is depleted, with drought in middle/southern Yadkin County.

Johnston

In the past 2 weeks, drought moved from 15 to 7 inches below normal for 2026, after starting 2025 2–3 inches below normal.

Sampson

Early-season drought has severely impacted corn and other early-planted crops, but recent heavy rains are alleviating extreme drought and could help later-planted crops if rains continue.