NC STATE EXTENSION

North Carolina Weekly Crop Survey — October 25, 2026

Drought Impact Analysis From Extension Agents Across the State

34 RESPONSES | **35** COUNTIES MAPPED

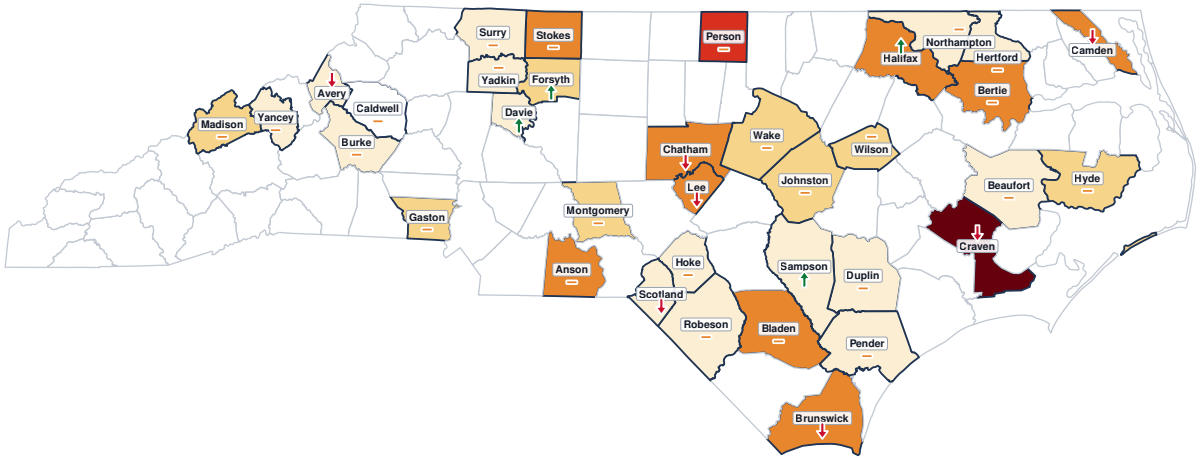
DROUGHT IMPACT (COUNTY REPORTED)

- 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

- Many counties reported little to no recent rainfall and several observers noted forecasts with no expected precipitation.
- Forage and pasture conditions are strained statewide, with multiple reports of low hay supplies and limited stockpiled forage.
- Corn and soybean areas across the Piedmont and coastal plains are experiencing drought stress, with some counties reporting yield and health impacts.
- Tobacco-producing counties reported reduced yields and low leaf supply in areas affected by drought.

TOP STATEWIDE CONCERNS

- Low soil moisture
- Hay shortages
- Low stream and pond levels
- Crop yield and health loss
- Delayed wheat/small-grain planting
- Saltwater intrusion in coastal fields

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

WEST / MOUNTAINS & FOOTHILLS

Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Gaston, Madison, Yancey

- Mixed conditions: Burke reports no real impacts while Gaston and Madison are in moderate drought.
- Yancey and other areas are abnormally dry with lower surface stream levels but public water systems and wells remain in good shape.
- Dry conditions are reducing stockpiled forages and are likely to increase winter hay needs.

PIEDMONT / SANDHILLS

Anson, Chatham, Davie, Forsyth, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Person, Scotland, Stokes, Surry, Wake, Yadkin

- Widespread drought in the Piedmont with several counties in severe or extreme drought (Anson, Chatham, Lee, Stokes, Person).
- Pastures and forages are stressed, with reports of low hay supplies and impacts to pasture health.
- Many counties report little to no recent rainfall and drought-related crop yield or health impacts, including tobacco and corn areas.

NORTH & CENTRAL COASTAL PLAIN

Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Craven, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Johnston, Northampton, Wilson

- Craven is in exceptional drought and multiple counties are in severe drought (Bertie, Camden, Halifax), with very low subsoil and surface water levels.
- Low water tables and pond levels are preventing wheat/small-grain planting in some areas and limiting irrigation availability.
- Hyde reports saltwater intrusion into fields and exposed drainage infrastructure issues due to the lack of rainfall.

SOUTHEAST COASTAL PLAIN

Bladen, Brunswick, Duplin, Pender, Robeson, Sampson

- Brunswick reports severe drought while surrounding coastal plain counties are generally abnormally dry.
- Most counties continued a dry-weather trend this week, though Pender received some rain from a tropical storm.
- Topsoil moisture is variable across the region, sufficient in some areas and dry in others.

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

Bertie
The drought has only worsened since my last report

Burke
No real drought impacts at this time

Craven
Lack of any soil moisture preventing wheat planting. Subsoil water level, rivers, ponds very, very low

Davie
There are no drought impacts at this time.

Hyde
Saltwater has been pushed up into fields during the nor'easter, due to the lack of rainfall fields will sustain saltwater intrusion damage. The drier weather has revealed drainage infrastructure issues (leaking tidegates and saltwater entry points) that have previously been masked by high tides paired with rainfall.

Johnston
After a week of light to moderate wind and no rain, the soils have started to dry down, and the water tables have lowered. Ponds, creeks, and local swamps are lower than normal. After a week of light to moderate wind and no rain, the soils have started to dry down, and the water tables have lowered. Ponds, creeks, and local swamps are lower than normal.

Person
dry conditions continue and are worsening northern half of county continues in extreme drought; conditions are worsening with no recent rainfall; whole county is experiencing some level of drought

Robeson
We are still in a rainfall deficit but declining temperatures are helping. Topsoil moisture is sufficient in areas and dry in others.

Scotland
abnormally dry conditions. small grain planting is delayed

Wake
We are still technically in drought conditions however, impacts on crops are not as apparent. Soybean harvest will be occurring through the next few weeks, cooler weather will benefit but impacts to yield due to drought will have mostly occurred (and is variable). Strawberries have been planted but most are irrigated.

Yancey
We continue to be very dry in Yancey County. Surface stream levels are down from what is normal this time of year, but city water systems, wells, and springs are still in good shape. With lower temperatures and having experienced a killing frost, most cold susceptible crops (vegetables) that are in production now are produced in hi-tunnels. Dry conditions seem to be greatly limiting stock-piled forages. This will increase hay needs for winter feeding since the stockpile production seems to be limited due to persistent dry conditions and little rainfall. This will most likely further exhaust an already low supply of hay, which was the result of drought conditions which persisted in the spring and summer months.

Map reflects county-reported drought classifications from the October 25, 2026 survey. Comment signal summarizes the tone of county narrative responses. Counties without a clearly mapped report remain unshaded. Full map: https://ncdisaster.ces.ncsu.edu/drought-map/