

# Virginia Cooperative Extension

A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University



School of Agriculture  
Virginia State University

**Southampton Extension**  
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July 21, 2010

Mr. Michael Johnson  
County Administrator – Southampton County  
P.O. Box 400  
Courtland, VA 23837

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The drought conditions of the past few months necessitate the call for a disaster declaration. The corn crop is devastated in all but the best ground with about a 70% loss countywide. This equates to \$3,348,000 at current market rates. Virginia averages 3.69 inches of rain in June, this year the Southampton area received less than 0.3 of an inch and temperatures exceeding 90 degrees during the critical time of grain fill (R2-blister and R3=milk stages).

While corn is at the point that losses are quantifiable and irrecoverable, other crops have or are in jeopardy. Pastureland is in such a poor condition that farmers are culling livestock due to inability to feed. Pasture losses on 8,546 acres are estimated at 60% or \$354,800.

Additionally, peanuts and soybeans and even cotton are very delayed which will likely affect yields significantly without significant rain in the coming weeks.

I ask your consideration of approaching the Southampton Board of Supervisors in regard to the timeliness of submitting a resolution declaring the Southampton County a drought disaster area to the Governor of the Commonwealth.

If I can be of further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,

Neil Clark  
Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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July 27, 2010

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell:

At a regular meeting of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors held last evening, the attached resolution was adopted requesting that Southampton County be declared a primary disaster area due to drought conditions and excessive heat that have created significant damage to livestock and crop production.

Should you or your staff have any questions or if I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Johnson  
County Administrator

cc: The Hon. Todd Haymore, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

attachment



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**RESOLUTION 0710-07**

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At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County, Virginia, held in the Southampton County Office Center, Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia on Monday, July 26, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

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**PRESENT**

The Honorable Dallas O. Jones, Chairman  
The Honorable Walter L. Young, Jr., Vice Chairman  
The Honorable Walter D. Brown, III  
The Honorable Carl J. Faison  
The Honorable Anita T. Felts  
The Honorable Ronald M. West  
The Honorable Moses Wyche

**IN RE: Request for Disaster Designation and Federal Assistance for Southampton County**

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Motion by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_:

**WHEREAS**, Southampton County has experienced moderate drought conditions and excessive heat over the past 45 days, with well-below-average rainfall and temperatures exceeding 105 degrees; and

**WHEREAS**, the drought and excessively hot weather in Southampton County caused significant damage to crops produced by farmers in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southampton County Review Committee, made up of representatives from the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and numerous local producers has reported that Southampton County has been adversely impacted by the drought and excessive heat with estimated losses in farm income of more than \$3.7 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the yield from 11,000 acres of corn produced in Southampton County has been reduced by seventy percent (70%) or more; and

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Resolution 0807-13

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**WHEREAS**, pastures and forages are at a substantial loss in yields, forcing cattle and other livestock producers to cull their livestock and feed their winter hay supply during summer months; and

**WHEREAS**, continued limited rainfall and excessive heat will serve to exacerbate the problem, limiting the yields on peanuts, soybeans and cotton; and

**WHEREAS**, Southampton County farmers need federal assistance in responding to their losses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Southampton County Board of Supervisors on this 26th day of July, 2010, that the Board hereby instructs the County Administrator to submit to the Governor of Virginia the Board's request for assistance in obtaining federal disaster designation for Southampton County and federal assistance for Southampton County farmers who have experienced crop or livestock damages/losses because of the ongoing drought and excessive heat.

Seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_.

Voting on the Item:        YES -

   NO -

A COPY TESTE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael W. Johnson, Clerk  
Southampton County Board of Supervisors