

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

 NORTH CAROLINA
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For the assessment period ending **July 21, 2026**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

After last week's heat, showers and storms returned with locally heavy rainfall totals, which helped reduce Extreme (D3) and Exceptional (D4) Drought coverage.

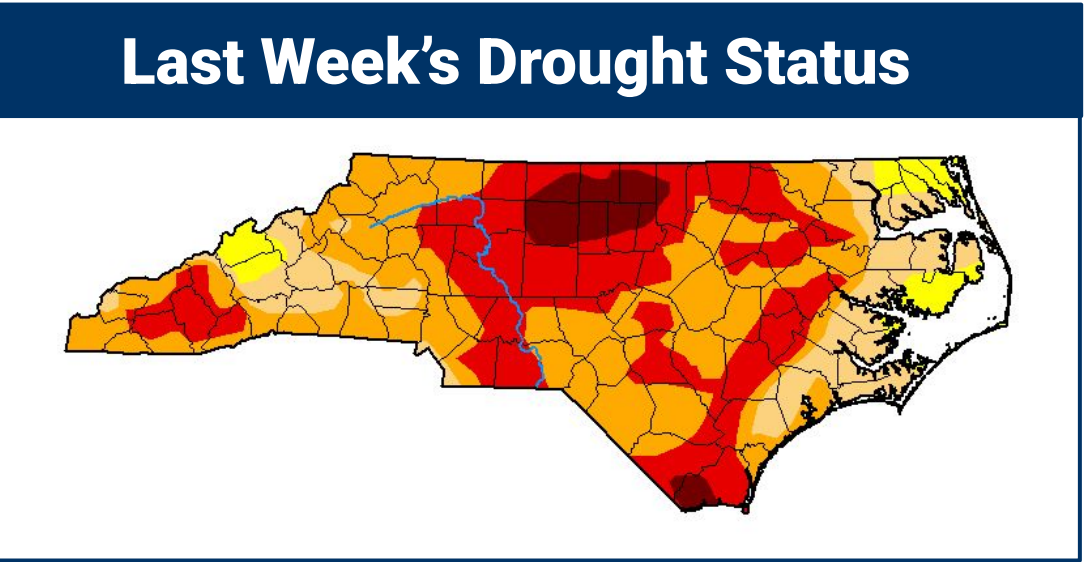
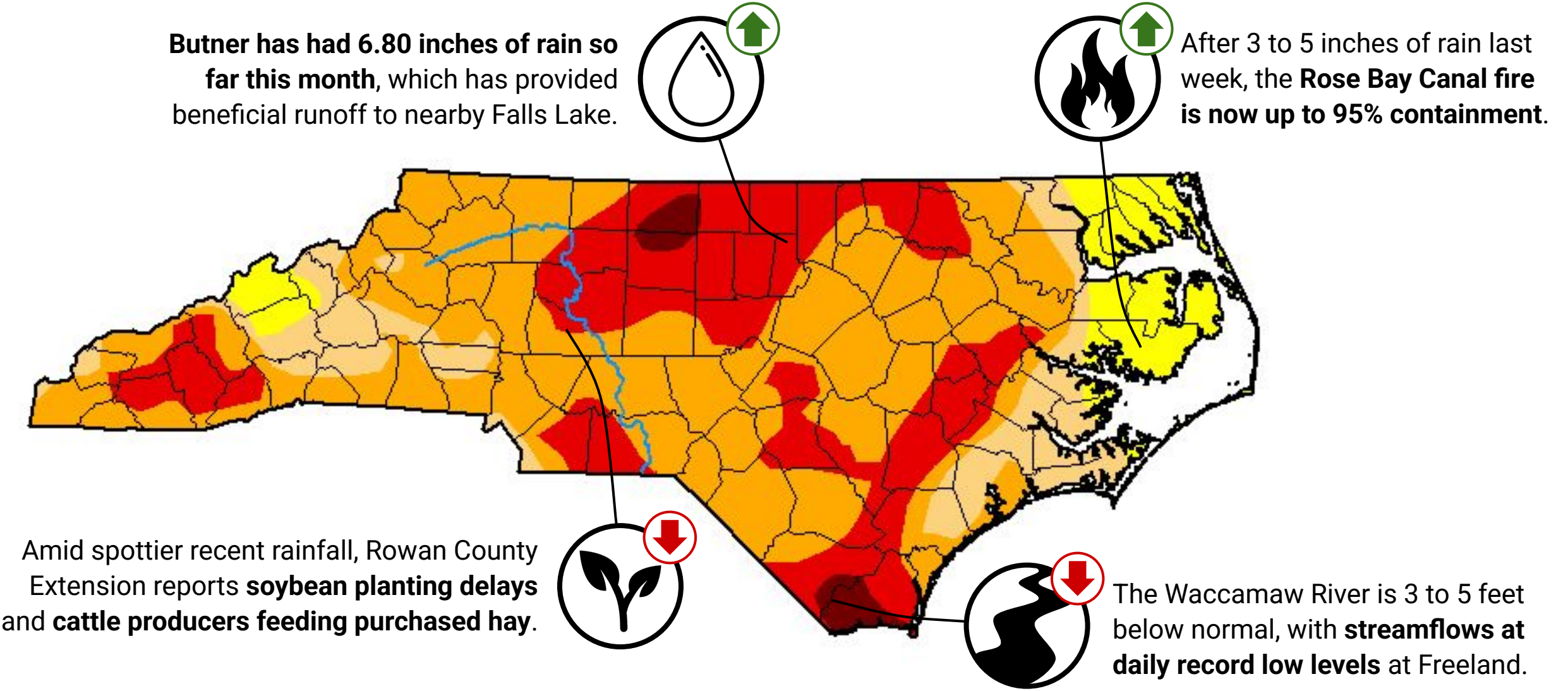
This Week's Summary

It took a few weeks for multiple rounds of rain to have an impact, but much of the northern Piedmont is finally out of D4. In that region, soil moisture, streamflow, and lake levels have begun to recover, and they're no longer on a record dry start to the year. That doesn't mean the drought is over, but it has helped plants perk up again and extended water supplies for a few more weeks.

Next Week's Outlook

A stalled front across the Carolinas will bring at-times heavy rainfall through Saturday, with additional totals of 2 inches or more likely across central and eastern NC.

For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	8.76%	+3.63%
D1: Moderate Drought	12.00%	-3.52%
D2: Severe Drought	50.50%	+9.85%
D3: Extreme Drought	26.75%	-6.63%
D4: Exceptional Drought	1.97%	-3.35%