



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

WEATHER & CROPS



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CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

Virginia crops and livestock have not endured the harsh winter weather typically associated with the month of January. Warm temperatures have allowed for a boost in small grain growth. Plentiful rains have created muddy conditions thus hindering outside work. Livestock producers are feeding livestock with harvested hay and supplementing when necessary. Producers are beginning to order supplies and prepare for spring fertilizer applications. Other farm activities this month included orchard and vineyard pruning, some calving and lambing, and maple syrup season preparations. Producers are concerning themselves with bookkeeping and tax preparations, as well as attending winter meetings. The warm weather has allowed for needed maintenance to be done on fences, barns, and equipment.

WEATHER

The Commonwealth experienced mild weather throughout the month of January. Snow was limited during the month which allowed for more grazing than a typical January. Unseasonably warm weather has affected the growth of winter small grains in some areas, and caused sickness concerns for some livestock producers. Warmer weather has advanced fruit bud development, posing a potential threat for fruit crop losses due to later frosts. Rain has been plentiful and ground moisture adequate. However, the rain and warmth have created muddy conditions for feeding.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	20	22	41	15	2
Livestock	2	5	28	62	3
Small Grain & Winter Grazing Crops	2	7	36	44	11

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT - WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	This Month	Last Month	Last Year	5 Year
Beef Cattle Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	12	19	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	6	8	NA	NA
Sheep Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	18	21	NA	NA