



# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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**FARMERS STILL HAVE TIME TO BE COUNTED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE FORMS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED**



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## WEATHER & CROPS



**Month: January 2008**

**Number: 1**

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### WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 2008

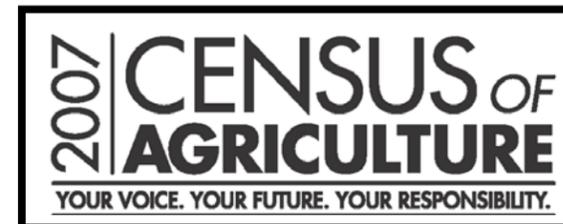
January was a relatively dry month across the Commonwealth with a few spotty showers. Topsoil moisture was adequate, but producers have concerns about low subsoil moisture. Small grains looked good. Grain farmers were top-dressing winter grain crops and scouting for aphids and other small grain pests. Hay was still in short supply with elevated prices. Other activities this month included repairing fences and equipment, attending educational programs, tax preparations and making planting decisions for 2008.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
January, 2008	4	35	61	0

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
January, 2008	15	45	40	0

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	21	24	44	11	0
Livestock	4	11	31	50	4
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	1	8	43	44	4

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES		
Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	25	15
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	9	6
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	33	15



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**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 3, 2008**

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Jan.	Since Dec. 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	48	25	55	19	37	2	0.92	4.76	-2.24	2.11	-1.65
Norfolk	52	34	68	29	43	3	0.76	5.62	-1.58	2.12	-2.03
Richmond	53	32	61	26	42	5	2.67	6.77	-0.06	3.53	-0.22
Roanoke	51	31	57	22	41	5	0.93	4.65	-1.63	1.89	-1.54
Wash/Dulles	45	27	50	20	36	4	1.60	5.68	-0.63	2.71	-0.51

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

**EASTERN**

**MIDDLESEX (Moore)**

We are still considerably behind in rainfall. We ended 2007 at about 10 inches below normal and have not had appreciable rainfall in 2008. Once the temperatures start going up and trees begin to make foliage, the problem will be severe if we don't get more rain. Soil sampling, lime spreading, topdressing of grain, making planting decisions and purchases are the activities of the farm. Many producers are attending educational programs to get ready for the upcoming crop year. Input costs are up sharply, but fortunately, so are commodity prices.

**WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)**

Overall it was a fairly dry month in January. The year ended with a 10 plus inch deficit for rainfall at the Research Station in Warsaw. Small grains overall look good. Some milder temperatures have helped some later plantings to catch up. Farmers are soil sampling and getting fertilizers and lime lined up and applied. There are some field preparations for spring planting where needed. Producers are also attending educational meetings.

**WESTERN**

**HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Several weeks of extreme cold weather and snow have been hard on feed supplies. Other activities include producers attending educational programs, tax preparations, and machinery and building repairs.

**ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)**

Feeding is in full swing with feed supplies very short. Producers continue to look at by-product feeds as well as trying to import reasonably priced hay from other states. Transportation costs at times are equal to or more than the cost of the hay. Continued moisture events are needed to replenish soil moisture. Rockbridge county ended 2007 with an 8-14" rainfall deficit depending on the location in the county. January 2008 was 1-2" less than normal.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

The rains are helping but we could still use more. The small grains are doing fairly well. Some of the warmer weather has helped encourage growth on the cool season grass. Producers are attending winter meetings and getting equipment in order for spring.

**SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Recent showers have improved topsoil moisture, but we are still behind on total rainfall. Producers are attending winter meetings, repairing equipment and fences, and planning crop strategies for the upcoming year.

**CENTRAL**

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Rainfall has been short about 2 inches a month, until today (2/1) when we have received about 1&1/2 inches from the current storm. If we do not receive regular rainfall going into spring we will probably be back in drought conditions very soon. Grain farmers are top-dressing winter grain crops and scouting for aphids and other small grain pests. Livestock farmers are feeding cattle, horses, and other livestock and searching for hay supplies which are scarce and expensive.

**NELSON (Michael Lachance)**

January was relatively warm and dry with an average temperature of 36.5 degrees and total precipitation of 0.67 inches.

**SOUTHERN**

**PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)**

Spotty showers over the past month have helped to regain topsoil moisture, but have done little for subsoil moisture. Weather patterns and temperatures have been unpredictable and not representative for this time of the year. Pastures still appear poor from the damage received during the drought period this summer. Cattle producers continue to buy hay and supplemental feed, driving up input costs. Many who did not cull earlier, are now considering culling or even total herd liquidation.