



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

WEATHER & CROPS



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CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

February was more like winter for the Commonwealth of Virginia than the previous month. Most areas experienced dry conditions in spite of the occasional snow and ice. Small grain and cover crops are doing well, but could use more moisture. Dry conditions have allowed farmers to do some field work such as top-dressing and applying herbicides. The lack of rain has also contributed to lower pasture reserves, and increased feeding rates for livestock. Due to extreme changes in temperatures from one day to the next, some producers have experienced cases of pneumonia in cattle, thus raising concerns about the health of Virginia's livestock. However, fall calves are doing well and spring calving is almost finished. Other farm activities for the month included fixing fences, attending winter meetings, and soil sampling.

WEATHER

Virginia experienced a cold and dry February. Most areas experienced some snow and ice this month, but did not get the needed moisture for fields. Temperatures ranged from one extreme to another from day to day, with snow and ice one day to unseasonably warm temperatures the next. While colder temperatures and lack of moisture have affected livestock feeding and health, the warm periods have improved small grain stands. The warmer days have allowed farmers to prepare their fields for spring activity.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Pastures | 18 | 28 | 40 | 13 | 1 |
| Livestock | 2 | 7 | 32 | 56 | 3 |
| Small Grain & Winter Grazing Crops | 2 | 9 | 42 | 38 | 9 |

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT - WITH COMPARISONS

| Crop | This Month | Last Month | Last Year | 5 Year |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|--------|
| Beef Cattle Forage, % Obtained from Pastures | 10 | 12 | NA | NA |
| Milk Cow Forage, % Obtained from Pastures | 5 | 6 | NA | NA |
| Sheep Forage, % Obtained from Pastures | 15 | 18 | NA | NA |