



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: February 2007

Number: 2

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2007

The Commonwealth experienced unseasonably cold temperatures, with little precipitation. Soil moisture has been adequate throughout the month. Most areas experienced dry conditions in spite of the occasional snow and rainfall. Small grains are reported to be in very good condition. Some yellowing of wheat and barley has been observed. Hay supplies are beginning to run short for many producers who had to start feeding earlier in the fall. Lambing and calving started with larger than normal losses due to the weather. Other farm activities this month included plowing snow, seeding tobacco greenhouses, preparing for spring planting and attending meetings.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
December, 2006	0	10	77	13
January, 2007	0	10	83	7
February, 2007	0	2	69	29

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
December, 2006	0	5	84	11
January, 2007	0	8	87	5
February, 2007	0	6	77	17

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	5	21	41	31	2
Livestock	1	5	23	60	11
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	2	4	32	53	9

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Month
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	15
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	3	6
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	15

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

County Specific Comments-Crop Weather

PAGE COUNTY (William Whittle):

Orchard and vineyard pruning continues.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Snow and ice cover most of February, with temperatures below normal made for a very long month. Hay supplies dwindled rapidly during this time. Lambing and "Spring" calving started with larger than normal losses due to the harsh weather conditions. Maple syrup producers are late in getting trees tapped and behind on production for this season. Main activities included plowing snow, chopping ice, thawing out waters, feeding and caring for livestock and working on farm books and tax forms.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Winter grain and cover crops are in very good condition. Some yellowing of wheat and barley has been observed after relatively severe temperatures in early and mid-February. Soil moisture is very good heading into the month of March. Hayfields re-seeded last fall are looking very good. Some farmers are taking advantage of good soil moisture to do some late-winter pasture renovation. Most grain farmers are top-dressing wheat and barley, scouting for aphids and cereal leaf beetles and getting their machinery ready for the spring planting season.

SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):

Strawberry crop is looking well early on, with good growth and early blooms showing. Cattle and calves have wintered hard, with short hay supplies and high grain costs. Sheep are lambing with little difficulty.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

Colder than normal temperatures in the month of February has caused producers to increase feed to livestock. Supplies are sufficient. Producer's activities consist mainly of maintenance in preparation of the upcoming spring planting, and feeding livestock. Some producers have lost more calves than normal due to the cold conditions this past month.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

Small grains are coming along. The tall fescue that was stockpiled has since gone back after the heavy frosts and cooler weather. Folks are working on equipment. Some are seeding tobacco greenhouses and getting fields ready to fumigate for planting.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence, Jr.):

Most nitrogen applications to small grains have been completed. The crop is at its normal stage of development this time of year. Farmers are making plans for planting with more emphasis on grain acreage this year.



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