



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

# WEATHER & CROPS



## 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

**YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

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



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P. O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Address Service Requested

**Month: February 2008**

**Number: 2**

**Released: March 3, 2008**

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

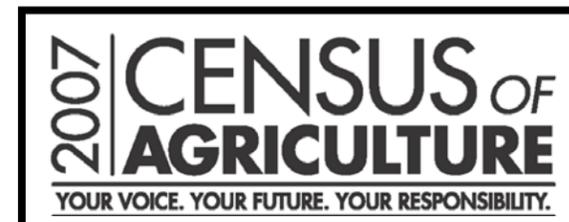
February was a relatively dry month across the Commonwealth with higher than normal temperatures. Topsoil moisture was adequate throughout the month. Small grains looked good; farmers have been applying nitrogen and herbicides. Hay was still in short supply with elevated prices. Maple Syrup production was in full swing with average sweetness and volume. Lambing and calving started with no major problems. Winter feed supplies remain tight for producers, who had to start feeding earlier than normal in the fall. Greenhouse production for vegetables has started. Other activities this month included attending educational meetings, reviewing crop insurance policies, seeding tobacco greenhouses and repairing equipment.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
February, 2008	10	24	66	0

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
February, 2008	15	42	43	0

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	23	27	34	16	0
Livestock	6	15	28	47	4
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	3	9	30	44	14

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES		
Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	15
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	6
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	23	15



**IN THIS REPORT:**

Weather Summary Table	pg 2
Reporter Comments by County	pg 2
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 2, 2008

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Feb.	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	47	25	55	15	36	-5	0.16	0.00	0.00	3.23	-3.49
Norfolk	51	34	62	26	42	-3	0.02	0.00	0.00	4.25	-3.20
Richmond	51	30	60	21	40	-3	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.37	-2.25
Roanoke	47	29	56	22	38	-4	0.13	0.00	0.00	2.82	-3.58
Wash/Dulles	44	25	48	17	35	-3	0.16	0.00	0.00	3.95	-1.94

\* 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

##### ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Wheat crop is growing slowly due to cold temperatures. Farmers are worrying about high fertilizer and other input prices. Some fertilizer prices have tripled in two years. Fuel costs are up as well as rent. Cost of inputs will definitely affect what is planted this spring unless factors change. Need more rain; groundwater has not received enough to be recharged yet.

##### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers spent the month attending educational meetings, applying nitrogen and herbicides to small grains, preparing for tax season, reviewing crop insurance policies, and soil sampling and applying lime and fertilizer for spring crops. The primary concern now is escalating input costs, which seem to be increasing almost daily. Managing commodity price risk is also a concern with the unprecedented volatility in grain and soybean prices at the Chicago Board of Trade.

##### KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Conditions are drier than normal. Pastures are still trying to recover from last season's lack of rainfall.

##### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Some fertilizer and lime applications are being made ahead of planting corn. Farmers are scouting small grains for weeds and insects. Many producers have already made the first spring nitrogen application. They also are doing some deep tillage and getting input cost figures together to begin the spring season. Commodity prices are pretty wild, but input costs are keeping pace as they rise steadily.

##### WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

Small grains look good overall. Mild temperatures have helped growth and most fields have tillered and filled in adequately. Farmers have been treating wheat and barley for weeds and doing nitrogen topdressing in February. There has been some field preparations for spring planting and spreading of lime where needed. Soil moisture is a concern. We ended up around 10 inches short of normal rainfall for 2007 and have done little this winter to catch up. Subsoil moisture is very short going into spring. Crops could be stressed very quickly if we don't get timely rains. Greenhouse work for vegetable production has started. Farmers attended crop production and management meetings across the region. Cattle feed is running low in some cases.

#### WESTERN

##### BATH (Rodney Leech)

Wind in the early part of the month caused power outages, knocked down trees and tore off a roof on at least one machine shed. Hay stocks are extremely tight going into the last 45 days of feeding. Most activities center on feeding and calving.

##### HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Weekly light snow has kept moisture on the ground and has caused muddy conditions when the ground is not frozen. Maple production is in full production with average sweetness and volume. The largest producer has lost his processing center to a fire last week along with equipment and approximately 700 finished gallons of this year's harvest. Lambing and calving are in full swing with no major problems at this time. Winter feed supplies are tight for the remaining two months.

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

#### CENTRAL

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions are border line. A lack of moisture for a week or two could put us into a drought condition very easily. Small grains are maintaining at a fair to good rate; they need more rain, and are not growing as well as could be expected. No unusual disease or insect problems have been reported.

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Spring calves are hitting the ground. Livestock is currently being maintained on purchased feed supplies.

##### MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

The entire region is still in need of much more precipitation.

#### SOUTHERN

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

Tobacco greenhouse seeding is nearing the end this week. Small grains continue to look poor. Pastures are still in bad shape and producers are planning for pasture renovation. Temperatures in late February have been higher than normal. Spurts of rain throughout the month have done little to recover from the summer's drought.

#### SOUTHEASTERN

##### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Lack of rain is still an issue. Many producers are getting ready or are seeding greenhouses. Hay supplies are very short. Grasses are slowly coming along. Farmers are still working on equipment getting ready for spring. Some farmers are working up the ground for spring planting.

##### VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Six inches of rain this month has replenished soil moisture and has helped the winter wheat crop. The strawberry crop is well advanced due to the warm winter. Growers are frost protecting blossoms with row covers and overhead irrigation.