



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

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Fieldwork and Calving Started Crop and Livestock Producers Busy

Cold temperatures across the state continued slowing pasture growth. Winter wheat remained dormant and in good condition. High moisture levels had dryland wheat producers looking optimistic. Spring wheat planting began in Whitman County and fieldwork for early potatoes and green peas was underway. Christmas tree plantings were delayed by wet conditions and orchardists were busy pruning. Skagit County reported hybrid cabbage seed crop damage due to freezing temperatures. Calving began and colder than normal temperatures caused some problems for cattle producers in the southeastern part of the state. Hay was also reported to be in short supply for that area.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Ag producers spent most of the month on inside chores, including machinery repairs due to unseasonably cold temperatures and copious rainfall. Christmas tree growers were basal pruning Douglas fir. Plant development appeared to be delayed due to the cold weather.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: February precipitation was near normal, and temperatures were a bit cooler than normal. Snow the final week of the month was somewhat unusual.

Pierce/King: Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year. Producers were unable to get to their fields to plant crops. There was no report of loss of livestock due to weather conditions.

Jefferson/Clallam: The weather has not been warm enough and there has been too much moisture in fields to begin fieldwork.

San Juan: Weather was colder than normal and too wet for fieldwork. Grass was growing slow and was behind normal.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: The weather for the month of February brought rain, snow, low temperatures and mild weather patterns. Growers were beginning to report losses to crops.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: Hybrid cabbage seed crops were affected by weather conditions from the December and January freezing temperatures and excess moisture. Growers began to report crop losses.

Snohomish/N. King: The weather was seasonal early in the month, but very warm and wet by mid-month. February wrapped up with colder weather and heavy snow in many areas. There was standing water in many lowland fields most of the month. Pruning fruit trees continued.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The weather has been wet, and temperatures have been cooler. Some fieldwork was getting done.

Thurston: Unseasonably cold weather, snow and rain continued to limit most agricultural activities. Christmas tree growers complained that the wet conditions delayed planting. The temperatures have been so cold that pastures were showing almost no growth. Turfgrass growers were unable to do any agricultural work due to the extremely wet fields.

Thurston (2nd Report): Livestock were being fed haylage and dry hay. Livestock feeding was expected to continue until May 1.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Temperatures were normal during the month of February. Precipitation in the form of rain and snow was received. High amounts of snow fell in the upper elevations of the county—over 12” in a five day period at Waterville in Douglas County. Fruit producers continued to prune their orchards. Some of the winter wheat was exposed to the cold weather because the snow cover had blown off in January. Possible damage is not known at this time.

Franklin: The weather was near normal to slightly warmer than usual for the month of February. Precipitation was a little above average and appeared helpful to dryland wheat. Circle ground was being worked up all over the southern portion of the county—mostly for early potatoes.

Grant: Some reports of radish and carrot seed winterkill were received in the county office. Limited fieldwork began in the southern portion of the county in preparation for planting green peas. Moisture conditions improved over the past week. Rain and snow accumulations of around 6” were received on February 24. Some dryland farming areas reported the best moisture conditions in memory.

Okanogan/Ferry: Orchardists were in the process of pruning. The county received above normal precipitation during February. Temperatures were slightly warmer than normal. Cattlemen were in the middle of calving.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 10 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with 0.85 of an inch of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter moisture has been good and the winter wheat crop remained in pretty good condition. Spring work will be starting within the next couple of weeks, if weather patterns continue.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather stayed cold during the month of February. Moisture was good in most areas. Normally, farmers in the lower elevations would be starting to work in the fields in late February, but this year no fieldwork had been started by the 1st of March. There was some runoff due to rain on frozen ground during the past month. Erosion damage appeared to be at a minimal. It appears that the winter wheat has survived the winter, but warmer weather is needed to know for certain. Some livestock producers have had problems with calving due to the colder than normal temperatures.

Columbia: The weather has been wet and cold most of the month with continuous freezing and thawing. Wheat was pretty small, about 3-5 leaf stage and showing considerable cold weather leaf burning. Cattle

ranchers continued to feed hay when available. Hay was in very short supply following the loss of pasture from last August and September. Much of the winter feed was utilized last fall and early winter.

Lincoln: Winter moisture has been good and the winter wheat crop remained in pretty good condition. Spring work will be starting in the next couple of weeks in the southwest corner of the state, if weather patterns continue.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The month of February was normal for the most part. The weather brought rain, snow, and freezing temperatures—all of which was normal. Sheet and rill erosion occurred due to the rain on frozen ground. Wheat for the most part was still dormant, but some warm weather would get it growing quickly. The cattle have had a pretty good winter. Calving began and feed stock was still very tight.

Stevens: Wet, heavy snow was received daily for the past week. The snow melted during the day with the warmer temperatures. Calving was underway. Producers were mostly just waiting for spring.

Stevens (2nd Report): Snow continued to fall through the end of February. Local hay supplies have been exhausted for a few months. Cattle producers were heavily involved in calving.

Walla Walla: A small amount of fieldwork began in the Walla Walla Valley. Weather conditions remain unpredictable. Good moisture was received during the month of February. Frost was mostly out of the ground at this point.

Whitman: The county had 115-120 percent of normal moisture. The winter wheat was growing and greening up in the last few days.

Whitman (2nd Report): Average winter weather was experienced during the month of February. Precipitation totals were close to average for the month. Operations were already preparing for spring work. Snowfall was close to normal for the month.

Monthly Weather Statistics February 2007

STATION -----	AIR				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	TEMPERATURE				TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN							
WEST											
Bellingham	56	24	42	+2	3.25	-0.39	22	628	-40	5	4
Everett	60	27	43	+2	1.97	-1.26	21	602	-42	4	1
Hoquiam	58	30	47	+3	8.68	+0.44	25	506	-74	3	0
Kelso	59	21	43	+2	4.59	-0.35	19	596	-37	4	3
Olympia	62	18	43	+3	5.49	-0.28	24	620	-49	4	4
Seattle Tacoma	58	28	44	+0	3.38	-0.61	24	590	-13	4	1
Shelton	59	21	42	-1	6.28	-1.77	24	638	+4	7	3
Tacoma WA AP	63	21	43	+0	3.68	-0.78	22	621	-6	6	4
Vancouver WA	60	20	43	+2	3.90	-0.63	21	600	-52	4	3
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	58	14	37	+5	0.99	+0.10	11	785	-119	16	8
Omak AP	52	8	34	+5	1.28	-0.12	9	872	-126	20	8
Stampede Pass	53	18	33	+7	10.20	+1.01	23	890	-175	23	13
Wenatchee	54	14	36	+2	1.20	+0.44	10	810	-57	18	8
Yakima AP	61	9	36	+0	0.88	+0.14	7	799	-2	22	14
NORTHEAST											
Colville	52	10	34	+4	1.98	+0.12	14	864	-94	21	11
Deer Park	53	4	33	+3	2.15	+0.48	16	879	-67	23	10
Republic	53	0	33	+5	1.67	+0.45	8	880	-138	18	10
Spokane AP	56	9	34	+2	1.82	+0.33	14	849	-40	19	7
EAST CENTRAL											
Ephrata	58	10	36	+2	1.09	+0.39	13	811	-49	12	9
Moses Lake	59	9	36	+2	0.75	+0.05	8	804	-56	14	9
Quincy	55	12	36	+2	1.14	+0.45	9	811	-49	16	9
Ritzville	59	15	34	+0	1.20	+0.11	12	864	-3	25	13
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	63	10	38	-2	0.34	-0.26	3	745	+21	14	8
Pasco	68	12	40	+1	0.88	+0.18	9	699	-22	12	6
Pullman	57	21	37	+4	1.76	-0.39	14	782	-86	16	7
Walla Walla	69	18	40	-1	1.54	-0.30	15	702	-2	9	3
Whitman Mission	72	14	38	-1	1.65	+0.44	13	740	+2	19	8
IDAHO											
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE											
Coeur D'Alene	55	3	34	-2	1.00	-1.48	14	863	+15	15	10
Lewiston ID	64	21	40	+2	1.11	+0.22	11	681	-46	10	3

Summary based on NWS data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>
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