



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Month Ending: January 2008
CWP WA-CW0207

Crop Progress and Condition for the Month of January 2008 Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather for the month of January was dry, windy, and cool. The lows were mostly in the 30s with a few highs in the 40s. This was typical for this area and time of year.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The counties were busy trying to recover from the devastating December storm. Many farms in the Boistfort area of Lewis County fear they will not get a crop at all this year because of debris and silt deposited on their farms. Pacific County farmers tried to repair wind damaged barns and outbuildings and clean up debris from fallen trees. Grays Harbor County was trying to recover from both wind and flood damage. Many animals were lost to flooding in all three counties. January was colder and wetter than normal. Producers were still in recovery mode.

Mason: Cold temperatures and abnormally high snowfall kept the ground mostly frozen. Some areas experienced heavy frost which was rare for Mason County. Livestock producers have been diligently checking their watering facilities for freezing to ensure animals have a constant source of drinking water. Although winter has been rough this year, crop and greenhouse producers were already getting ready for spring as seed orders were filled and transplants were ordered.

Mason (2nd Report): There was 8.95 inches of precipitation in January with a series of fronts moving through with cold and windy weather overall. All in all, it has been a cold miserable winter.

Pacific: Cold wet conditions limited field activities for producers. An exception was the continued harvest and processing of oysters and clams from Willapa Bay by shellfish growers. Market conditions remained strong, and harvest levels were high for both oysters and clams. Agricultural producers continued cleanup from last month's storm, and equipment maintenance activities continued. Small fruit growers continued pruning operations. Pasture conditions remained poor with wet conditions.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather has been normal for this time of year. There were some high winds periodically with seasonal rains. There was not much snow in the lowlands, but some clear cold (down to 18 F) weather was received the fourth week in January--which was needed for cabbage seed growers. Small hail was received, but no crop damage was reported. There were no reports concerning crop or livestock damage or loss for January.

Snohomish/North King: During January, temperatures were cold (in the 20s and 30s), with occasional snow and rain received throughout the month. There were only a few sunny and relatively warm days. Pruning and caning was underway but little other fieldwork.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather for the month of January included rain, snow, wind, and cooler temperatures. The lows were mostly in the 30s and some 20s. The highs were in the low to mid-40s.

Thurston: This winter has been icy, cold, and wet, except for a brief four-day period last week which was extremely cold but clear.

Whatcom: Average temperatures and precipitation were below normal. Raspberries were being pruned and tied. Manure was applied to farmland in approved areas. No crop damage was reported in our county.

Central

Benton (2nd Report): There has been record snowfall in the mountains and locally.

Douglas/Chelan: All winter wheat acreage was snow covered. The ground does not appear to be frozen underneath, so the moisture from the spring thaw should go into the ground and not runoff. The weather has been too cold for fruit growers to prune. Some producers were concerned about possible tree damage due to cold temperatures. There was a potential for tree trunks to split if there was not high enough snow cover in the orchards on days with sunshine. Livestock were on full feed. Some cattle were beginning to calve.

Franklin: January was a fairly normal winter month with the exception of the snow and ice storm during the latter part of the month. The ice storm affected the south Columbia Basin and all of Franklin County causing adverse travel and transportation issues. Upwards of eight inches of snow blanketed the county during January. A good slow thaw of both the bottom 1/4 to 1/2 inch ice layer and top snow layer has been occurring the last four days. No reports of adverse conditions to fall seeded and/or perennial crops and/or any adverse affects to livestock have been received.

Grant: Most of the county was covered with two to ten inches of snow.

Kittitas: With the snow pack in the mountains and the heavy snowfall in the upper areas of the county, the Kittitas Valley was in good shape for precipitation. There was a period of 0-10 degree temperatures for about ten days during the month.

Okanogan: Calving season was underway. There has been little snow over the last week. Temperatures were tolerable with plenty of sunshine, which made calving a little easier and hay usage a little lighter.

Yakima: Total precipitation throughout crop producing areas of the Yakima Valley amounted to between 0.5 to 1.0 inches with nearly 1.5 inches in the eastern side of Yakima County and the Tri-Cities region. Low temperatures during the third week of January reached 8-10 degrees with temperatures dropping below 5 degrees in the upper Yakima Valley. There were pruning activities in apples, pears, stone fruits, and grapes.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 13 degrees below normal to nine degrees above normal, with 0.81 inch of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.



Eastern

Asotin: Heavy, wet snow blanketed much of the higher elevations for the past several weeks. The lower elevations of the county were in need of additional rainfall.

Asotin/Garfield: January began with typical weather conditions of rain and snow. Then well below normal temperatures came for a week, followed by heavy snow in many areas. The storms continued for the past 10 days, bringing snow and very windy conditions which made travel difficult. Cattle producers have had difficulty feeding their livestock. Some producer's herds began calving. Saving calves in the snowy, cold, windy conditions was challenging, and some death loss was reported. Moisture conditions improved in all areas except the lower elevations in Asotin County, where precipitation was below normal.

Ferry: Early calving was in full progress. The county missed most of the last three heavy snows as they all passed south and east of the county.

Garfield: Snow was mostly received after the first week of the month. The county has been snowbound since the 1st of February. Crops seemed to be okay. Hopefully, moisture will enter the ground and not cause runoff erosion.

Lincoln: Considerably more snowfall was received in January compared to recent years. Although this accumulation and some drifting conditions made feeding livestock and traveling more difficult, the snow provided a winter cover to fall and perennial crops. Producers were hopeful that when it melts the majority of the precipitation will soak into the ground and significant runoff will be avoided.

Pend Oreille: The temperature high for January was 34 degrees and the low was 16 degrees, with 60 inches of snow and about four feet of compact snow still on the ground. The snow seemed to be wetter than normal. Livestock were being fed grain and hay. Several barns in the area collapsed due to the snow load on them. Some livestock in barns had to be rescued.

Stevens: January featured heavy snowfall and cold temperatures.

Walla Walla: Mid-January brought very cold temperatures with very little cover on crops. The following week, six to 10 inches of snow was received throughout most the county. Some higher elevations received significantly more snow.

Whatcom: Average temperatures and precipitation were below normal. Raspberries were being pruned and tied. Manure was applied to farmland in approved areas. No crop damage was reported in the county.

Whitman: Precipitation levels were probably in the normal range, but a far higher percentage of snow fell in January. Snowfall for most areas on the Palouse was probably higher than has been experienced in 10-20 years, maybe even as far back as 1968-1969. Blowing and drifting snow caused lots of travel problems including school and road closures. However, the winter wheat crop was safely protected by a heavy blanket of snow, which should help provide needed subsoil moisture.

Weather Statistics

From: January 1 2008
To: January 31, 2008

| STATION | AIR TEMPERATURE | | | | PRECIPITATION TOTAL | HDD DFN DAYS | HDD TOT | Days of | | Days of 28 COLD | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|------|--------------------------|----|
| | HI | LO | AVG | DFN | | | | DFN | COLD | | |
| WEST | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bellingham Intl | 53 | 19 | 37 | -2 | 2.29 | -2.42 | 21 | 867 | +16 | 17 | 9 |
| Everett | 50 | 25 | 38 | -2 | 3.21 | -1.28 | 22 | 831 | +27 | 8 | 4 |
| Hoquiam | 52 | 26 | 42 | -1 | 9.02 | -0.70 | 22 | 714 | +9 | 9 | 4 |
| Kelso | 54 | 19 | 38 | -2 | 3.33 | -3.38 | 17 | 835 | +27 | 14 | 8 |
| Olympia | 52 | 14 | 36 | -3 | 5.82 | -2.19 | 21 | 882 | +45 | 16 | 9 |
| Seattle-Tacoma | 53 | 25 | 39 | -2 | 4.06 | -1.32 | 19 | 806 | +34 | 8 | 5 |
| Shelton | 51 | 15 | 36 | -4 | 8.18 | -2.21 | 19 | 884 | +97 | 19 | 9 |
| Tacoma WA AP | 55 | 15 | 37 | -3 | 3.95 | -1.84 | 20 | 864 | +69 | 15 | 10 |
| Vancouver WA | 56 | 18 | 39 | +1 | 5.71 | -0.34 | 20 | 812 | -23 | 12 | 6 |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 44 | 0 | 25 | -2 | 1.01 | -0.24 | 7 | 1244 | +26 | 30 | 28 |
| Omak AP | 40 | -10 | 18 | -5 | 0.29 | -1.16 | 4 | 1449 | +127 | 30 | 29 |
| Stampede Pass | 38 | 6 | 23 | -2 | M | M | M | 1285 | +12 | 31 | 29 |
| Wenatchee | 44 | 4 | 23 | -5 | 0.90 | -0.23 | 8 | 1306 | +130 | 31 | 30 |
| Yakima AP | 44 | 5 | 27 | -3 | 0.95 | -0.26 | 9 | 1170 | +74 | 31 | 26 |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 44 | -4 | 24 | -2 | 2.92 | +0.54 | 18 | 1272 | +24 | 30 | 25 |
| Deer Park | 41 | -9 | 22 | -4 | 3.55 | +1.65 | 20 | 1309 | +84 | 30 | 26 |
| Republic | 43 | -6 | 22 | -1 | 2.06 | +0.61 | 18 | 1332 | +2 | 30 | 27 |
| Spokane AP | 43 | -1 | 25 | -3 | 3.19 | +1.21 | 17 | 1237 | +59 | 28 | 25 |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 42 | -5 | 20 | -7 | 0.57 | -0.23 | 10 | 1373 | +198 | 31 | 31 |
| Moses Lake | 42 | -4 | 21 | -7 | 0.84 | +0.04 | 9 | 1352 | +177 | 30 | 29 |
| Quincy | 41 | -6 | 22 | -6 | 0.89 | +0.05 | 9 | 1321 | +140 | 31 | 30 |
| Ritzville | 42 | 2 | 25 | -4 | 1.92 | +0.75 | 14 | 1246 | +85 | 30 | 28 |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 51 | 2 | 27 | -6 | 0.56 | -0.22 | 5 | 1159 | +173 | 29 | 26 |
| Pasco | 58 | 3 | 31 | -3 | 1.67 | +0.64 | 12 | 1060 | +70 | 27 | 18 |
| Pullman | 46 | -1 | 27 | -2 | 2.48 | -0.25 | 14 | 1155 | +27 | 26 | 22 |
| Walla Walla Rgn | 60 | 8 | 33 | -1 | 2.12 | -0.17 | 14 | 970 | +11 | 22 | 13 |
| Whitman Mission | 59 | 4 | 32 | -2 | 1.56 | -0.03 | 12 | 1020 | +33 | 26 | 22 |
| IDAHO | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lewiston ID | 57 | 11 | 34 | +1 | 0.67 | -0.61 | 8 | 955 | -18 | 19 | 13 |

Summary based on Preliminary NWS data.
 DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
 HDD = Heating Degree Days (Base 65).

National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

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