



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Crop Progress and Condition for the Month of January 2009 Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The temperatures were in the 40s for a high and 30s for a low. No unusual weather events reported for either county.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: On or about January 6, 2009 temperatures warmed, and melted mountain and lowland snows that had accumulated from December 2008 storms. Additional heavy rains inundated the three counties for several days ending on or about January 11, 2009. Rivers reached record or near-record levels in most areas. The upper portions of the Chehalis River Basin did not reach the levels seen in the December 2007 flood; however, other tributaries such as the Newaukum River received considerably more water volume and subsequent damage. Unprecedented mudslide activity in Eastern Lewis County caused considerable damage to structures, fences, pastures, and livestock. A fish farm lost its water supply and consequently lost a large number of fish. Standing water in the Lower Chehalis River damaged fall seeded pastures. In Pacific County, the Willapa River flooded farm land. There were reports of lost feed due to the flood waters.

Island/San Juan/ Skagit: Area producers reported crop losses on fall-seeded hybrid seed crops, winter wheat and caneberries. Losses were attributed to freezing temperatures, ice and snow; followed by heavy rains and flooding.

Pacific: Cold and wet winter weather caused flooding in many areas and limited field work by producers. Cranberry growers continued pruning operations and bog maintenance activities. Livestock remained on winter feed and shellfish growers continued oyster and clam harvest operations.

Pierce/South King: It has been a wet winter; first a lot of snow in December and then flooding in January. The later part of January was for the most part fairly nice. The fields were dry and crop conditions remained normal for the time of the year. No unusual situations were reported. There were no reports of any crop damage.

Skagit: January of 2009 came in like a lion, beginning with Snow storms followed by flooding in the Samish basin. Many farmers are still trying to clean up from these two events and many crops such as wheat, cabbage seed, strawberries, raspberries and blueberries were lost. Next years Raspberry crop was pruned and tied up. The Blueberry crop was also being pruned. Next years flower bulb crop was in the ground and growing. The 2009 tulip crop was beginning to poke up. Next year's cabbage seed crop was fighting with drainage to keep the crop alive. Next years wheat crop was in the ground and growing.

Snohomish/King: The temperatures were on the cold side with 30s for a high and the last week in the low 40s. We had snow and flood damage to deal with in January. The water has not receding as yet in some areas. There were livestock losses, structural loss and a lot of debris in the fields. A lot of fields will need re-seeding.

Whatcom: During the period of January 5-10, the area received substantial rainfall that resulted in major flooding of the Nooksack and Sumas Rivers and connecting tributaries in the area. The flooding was exacerbated by a combination of melting snow with a heavy layer of permafrost. Damage was wide spread from permanent pasture to berry growers and CREP producers. The main difference with this year's flooding on the Nooksack River and other recent year's flooding, was the flood waters did not recede quickly and remained at flood stage for two days. Surrounding tributaries that drained into the Nooksack did not to flow properly or serve as the drainage outlets they usually provide. The County had not received this kind of flood damage since 1990 and prior to that 1975.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Much of the snow cover had melted or blown off. Temperatures continued to be cold. The unprotected winter wheat crop may have suffered damage. Snow cover was absent around fruit trees, which could also suffer damage due to the cold weather. High winds were experienced. Fruit growers continued to prune.

Franklin: Temperatures were moderate, coming out of December's much below normal cold temperatures. Precipitation had also come back in line more with the norm for the month and period from December's higher than normal snowfall plus rain (snowfall above normal and rain a little below average). Current topsoil conditions were better than expected coming out of 2008. However, drought conditions in November and December, wind days in late December and January began to reduce available soil moisture. There was some damage to immature wheat plants seeded late because of the drought or seeded early that did not root well from the drought showed signs of turning black for what appears to be total kill. Wheat planted in places where moisture collected and held better seem to be surviving. Time will tell how strong the overall dryland fall seedings were. No other crop damage was reported.

Kittitas: There was very little precipitation and the Kittitas Valley was definitely hurting for moisture. There were no heavy freezes to date due to milder temperatures. Kittitas County was declared a disaster county due to flooding during the first part of the month and emergency money was requested to help where needed.

Klickitat: January began with about 4-6 inches of snow which melted off within about a week. The area received about 2 inches again the last week of January. Producers found the moisture was only about 3-4 feet down and then they hit dry dirt. Temperature ranged from below zero to the 50s all within the last month. So far, producers reported crops seem to be surviving. They may have to go back and replant areas due to freeze out. They were hoping for more rain or slow melting snow before spring planting to help with sub moisture levels.

Klickitat (2nd Report): If January's emotions were measured in weather patterns, it was a very moody month. Early January began sunny and windy with two days of thawing followed by two days of freezing which diminished the snow cover with a slow progression of freeze and thaw. Soils warmed by the plus 40 daytime highs, recharged moisture levels without significant run-off or ponding. This polite weather pattern came to a

sudden end with what locals called a fifty-fifty day on January 7. The mean temperature in the Goldendale-Centerville valley was 50 degrees and the peak gust that day recorded at the RAWS station near the Goldendale Airport was 56 mph. A warm wet air mass out of the West rushed in and stripped off snow and ice in a few hours causing unimproved roads to turn to mud, creeks to rise and low fields to flood. This sudden and significant thaw allowed gardeners to dig over wintered root crops including carrots, turnips and beets. The rows of which were soon locked back up into frozen soil as the central Klickitat County area entered the next of January's mood phases. The ice box phase lasted twelve long days and in a wide elevation band across the county, consisted of continuous freezing fog from January 15-26. Where the fog cloud was thickest at over 1800 feet, the build up of hoarfrost weighed heavily on lines and branches. Barbed wire fences were particularly beautiful with long, jagged ice crystals extending along the length of the wires. For twelve days, the mean temperature hung in the 20s with a variance of less than 4 degrees, day and night. A light snow on Jan 24 marked the start of a shift in the weather before the temperature bottom fell out and the low suddenly dropped nearly to zero degrees in the main Goldendale and Centerville Valley. It was clear and very cold on January 26 and 27, then just as suddenly on the 28th the daytime high rose to low 40s and remained there through the end of the month. Hay supplies were adequate for livestock feeders during January though cattle and sheep were hunkered down in the barn lots or fields during the excessively cold periods. Livestock began to mosey about more during the significantly warmer days at the very end of this moody month.

Okanogan: The snow pack shrank due to a few days of above freezing temperatures. There were a few days of temperature below zero degrees. There was little snow received since the first week of January. Warmer days will lessen the energy requirement for the cattle. Orchards were still sleeping.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 14 degrees below normal to 22 degrees above normal, with .97 of an inch of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Minimal nighttime temperatures were experienced throughout the crop-producing areas of the County during the first week of January as temperature fell to between 0 and 15 degrees. On January 5-6, widespread precipitation dropped between a trace to 1/4 inch snow in the area.

Yakima (2nd Report) continued: Daytime temperatures surged to mid 50s to 60s during the second week of January leading to flooding limited to the upper Yakima Valley. Temperatures remained around freezing for the rest of the month. Some orchard pruning and tree training was completed during the warm spell in the middle of the month.

Eastern

Adams: January was much drier than normal. Conditions featured a quick melt-off of what snow was present in the second week, followed by two weeks of cold, foggy weather.

Adams (2nd Report): Conditions remained very dry as winter progressed. Moisture was lost in areas because of frozen soil conditions. Winter wheat conditions remained in fair to poor as dry fall conditions limited emergence or prevented seeding. Winter damage, although limited, was reported.

Asotin/Garfield: Snow received in early January was followed by two plus weeks of fog. Moisture accumulation was below normal.

Benton: Weather remained cold and dry, with some additional snow received in the eastern portions of the county. It did not appear there was damage to winter planted wheat, but time will tell. Some producers had not completed their winter plantings due to ground freeze up.

Ferry: Crops were still snow covered. Cattlemen started to spring calve. The upper basin areas were far below normal snow pack.

Garfield: There was possible cold damage to wheat during the single digit temperature week with out snow. The ground remained frozen after a partial thaw Tuesday.

Lincoln: Moisture received in January was limited. After dismal December moisture totals the area remained in a severe drought. The frost levels were going down in the bare ground that had no snow cover, so if moisture comes it will run off. Winter wheat damage was still unknown.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Snowfall received in the county decreased from the previous month. Some of the drier areas had little snow left on the ground, and more precipitation was needed in these soil profiles for growing crops in the spring, as well as providing protection to them from winter winds. Freezing fog during the month caused ice to form on power lines,

causing prolonged outages for some farmsteads.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Although most of the county was in snow cover, moisture conditions remained limited. Winter wheat remained mostly in adequate condition. Above average precipitation will be required to significantly improve the winter wheat crop.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: After all the snow in December there was very little snow in January. The month of January was below normal snowfall and significantly below normal rainfall. The northern part of Spokane County down to about Valleyford was all under cover. South of that line was partly undercover and the rest uncovered. The effect of snow cover or lack of snow cover on winter wheat was unknown. Temperatures were above freezing only a few days since mid December so it is unknown what the wheat looks like. Cattlemen were calving and the icy conditions made it difficult for them to get around.

Stevens: Snowfall subsided during the first part of January. The snow that fell on the tin roofs of barns and other outbuildings did not slide off this year as usual. Several roofs on farm structures that did not have accumulated snow removed collapsed from the weight of the load. Spruce tree nursery growers reported that the heavy snowfall had misshapen their trees and that a tremendous labor expense will be involved in pruning and staking the trees back into shape. The local cattle industry was in dismal shape with high feed costs and low cattle prices.

Whitman: January started off with warm and very wet conditions. Temperatures were as high as 50 degrees. While the month ended slightly above normal in precipitation, the later half of the month was very quiet. A very light snow was received that put a shallow snow cover over crops. However, warming towards the end of the month was melting much of the snow with the exception of snow banks and drifts, especially the drifts on north hillsides. Generally speaking, winter wheat seemed to be doing well. However, there were some concerns about winter kill, snow mold or damage to winter wheat from the long period of snow cover, particularly on north hillsides.

Crop Weather Statistics January 1 – 31, 2009

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF	DAYS OF
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS			32 COLD	28 COLD
WEST	--	--	--	--	-----	-----	--	---	---	--	--
Bellingham Intl	50	18	37	-2	5.66	+0.95	13	871	+20	19	13
Hoquiam	57	26	41	-2	10.36	+0.64	16	742	+37	12	1
Kelso	55	25	39	+0	7.85	+1.14	14	804	-4	16	9
Olympia	52	18	39	+1	8.65	+0.64	13	815	-22	14	6
Seattle-Tacoma	52	25	39	-2	5.46	+0.08	13	792	+20	14	1
Shelton	51	19	37	-3	11.11	+0.72	15	851	+64	18	10
Tacoma WA AP	53	18	38	-2	6.40	+0.61	10	812	+17	15	7
Vancouver WA	57	23	40	+3	5.00	-1.05	15	765	-70	16	6
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	61	-3	32	+7	0.82	-0.43	6	1015	-203	23	22
Omak AP	48	-9	24	+2	0.69	-0.76	6	1266	-56	30	27
Stamper Pass	48	12	33	+9	6.28	-7.41	10	1000	-273	26	17
Wenatchee AP	52	5	26	-2	0.75	-0.38	7	1186	+10	29	28
Yakima AP	58	3	31	+2	0.97	-0.24	4	1057	-39	29	24
NORTHEAST											
Colville	47	-8	25	+1	1.27	-1.11	7	1218	-30	30	25
Deer Park	42	-20	23	-3	1.81	-0.09	7	1290	+65	30	24
Republic	44	-9	25	+4	1.28	-0.17	8	1225	-105	30	26
Spokane AP	43	-8	26	-1	1.18	-0.80	7	1197	+19	27	24
EAST CENTRAL											
Ephrata	50	-4	25	-3	0.49	-0.31	5	1241	+66	30	29
Moses Lake	53	-6	26	-1	0.62	-0.18	5	1188	+13	30	30
Quincy	50	2	26	-1	0.54	-0.30	4	1196	+15	30	29
Ritzville	49	2	28	+1	1.39	+0.22	6	1143	-18	29	27
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	60	7	31	-3	1.05	+0.27	6	1038	+52	27	20
Pasco	63	14	34	+2	1.18	+0.15	5	955	-35	26	14
Pullman	50	-13	29	+1	2.79	+0.06	11	1101	-27	25	19
Walla Walla Rgn	60	5	35	+1	2.27	-0.02	9	932	-27	20	12
Whitman Mission	62	2	34	+1	2.27	+0.68	13	965	-22	26	18
IDAHO											
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE											
Lewiston ID	56	10	35	+2	1.46	+0.18	10	929	-44	19	10

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