



USDA, NASS, West Virginia Field Office

Alissa Cowell-Mytar, State Statistician
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, E
Charleston, WV 25305
(304) 357-5123

Homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv>

Released: January 2, 2024

In Cooperation with:

U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA
USDA Farm Service Agency
WV Cooperative Extension Service
WV Department of Agriculture

Issue: 39-23

Agricultural News: Weather conditions during the month of December have been a mix of cold and warm temperatures with rain and snow. Farming activities for the month included preparing for cold weather and planning for the next growing season.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 12/31/23

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	14	14	55	17
Subsoil	17	20	57	6
Hay & Roughage	3	10	79	8
Feed grain	-	7	89	4

-Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 12/31/23

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Winter Wheat	-	14	45	40	1
Cattle & Calves	1	4	21	59	15
Sheep & Lambs	-	1	24	66	9

- Represents zero.

**December Summary of Weather and Agricultural Conditions
November 27 - December 31, 2023**

For the week ending December 3rd, West Virginia began the week clear and very cold behind a strong cold front that had passed over the previous week. Monday morning lows were in the 20s and low 30s, and snow showers began before sunrise in the north central and mountain counties. Flurries over most of the State continued through Monday. Tuesday began cold as well with morning snow showers in the mountains and northern counties. Wednesday was very cold as more arctic air pushed in from the north. Wednesday began cold, but temperatures were able to rebound into the 40s for many sites. Temperatures continued to climb on Thursday. On Friday, a southern stream low-pressure system brought rain showers, isolated thunderstorms, and more warm air. An area of instability remained over the State for the weekend, producing isolated showers and warm temperatures. **For the week ending December 10th,** Monday began warm as lows were in the mid-30s with abundant mid-level clouds. The clouds quickly dissipated in the afternoon making way for plenty of sun. Rain showers in the lowlands and snow in the mountains began early on Tuesday as a front approached and continued through Wednesday evening. The highest elevations in West Virginia received 4 to 6 inches of snow. Thursday through Saturday, the State was under high pressure with increasing temperatures each day. By Saturday, temperatures were reaching the 70s. Another strong cold front crossed over the region beginning Saturday evening, bringing rain showers and thunderstorms ahead of the front and snow along the mountains after. Sunday was much cooler with lingering precipitation. **For the week ending December 17th,** West Virginia began the week cold and dry from the cold front that pushed through the region. As high pressure built in after the front, temperatures climbed to the 40s during the afternoon, but dropped into the teens and 20s at night. For the first half of the week, temperatures were around five degrees below average with little precipitation. Under the high-pressure, temperatures began to rise somewhat and by the beginning of the weekend most stations' highs were in the mid to upper 50s with lows in the 20s. The weekend continued to warm as warm air from the south filtered in. Temperatures ranged from the mid-60s during the day, to the 30s and 40s overnight. The next cold front reached West Virginia overnight Saturday into Sunday, bringing plenty of precipitation to the State. At the end of the week, most average temperatures ended at or just above normal. Precipitation was generally below average, except for the Eastern Panhandle. **For the week ending December 24th,** the first statewide snow event began early Monday afternoon as cold air moved in from the northwest and the rain changed over to snow. Passing snow showers, some with heavier snow squalls, continued through the evening. Most locations in the lowlands received less than one inch, while the highest points received up to 10 inches of snow. Temperatures remained just above freezing during the day, and dropped into the 20s at night. Tuesday began mostly cloudy and cold with a few lingering snow showers. The clouds and snow showers dissipated during the afternoon. Temperatures first thing Wednesday morning were from the single digits to the mid-20s as high pressure took hold. Mostly sunny to partly cloudy skies lasted through the day. Thursday was mostly sunny and cool under high pressure. An upper-level disturbance crossed overhead Friday. As the week ended, weather conditions were mostly warmer than usual and dry. **For the week ending December 31st,** West Virginia began warm in the final week of 2023. Most stations reported highs in the 50s and 60s on Monday. Precipitation moved into the region as a strong low-pressure system moved up the East Coast. Tuesday continued to be warm and wet as the system slowly moved by. Wednesday was cooler, but still wet. Cold air arrived on Thursday; light snow showers occurred. Friday was cooler, with more bands of snow showers moving in from the Great Lakes region. The weekend reported near normal temperatures with continuing light snow showers. Overall, the week was warm with above average precipitation for most places.

Week ending 12/3: Pineville and Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 66 degrees. Elkins and Moorefield had the lowest recorded temperature of 10 degrees. The state average temperature was 39 degrees. Marlinton had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.17 inches. Belington had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.16 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.48 inches.

Week ending 12/10: Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 70 degrees. Terra Alta had the lowest recorded temperature of 24 degrees. The state average temperature was 42 degrees. Williamson had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.69 inches. Wheeling had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.23 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.96 inches.

Week ending 12/17: Huntington and Ripley had the highest recorded temperature of 65 degrees. Moorefield and White Sulphur Springs had the lowest recorded temperature of 15 degrees. The state average temperature was 37 degrees. Martinsburg had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.55 inches. Charleston had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.08 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.36 inches.

Week ending 12/24: Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 69 degrees. Elkins had the lowest recorded temperature of 9 degrees. The state average temperature was 37 degrees. Pineville had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.26 inches. Moorefield had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.01 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.11 inches.

Week ending 12/31: Clarksburg had the highest recorded temperature of 66 degrees. Beckley and Marlinton had the lowest recorded temperature of 26 degrees. The state average temperature was 42 degrees. Creston had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.62 inches. Belington had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.51 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.94 inches.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending 12/31/23

Station	Temperature				Precipitation				
	High	Low	Average	Weekly Departure	Week's Total	Norm	Since April 1st 2023	Same Week Last Year	Season Normal
--NORTHWEST									
WHEELING	63	32	44	12	0.82	0.77	25.22	32.79	31.75
PARKERSBURG	65	27	43	9	1.40	0.73	32.08	33.14	32.22
CRESTON	65	31	45		1.62		27.49	30.72	
--NORTHCENTRAL									
MORGANTOWN	65	31	45	11	0.98	0.66	26.64	35.38	33.32
CLARKSBURG	66	31	44	11	0.91	0.70	29.89	36.00	34.54
BELINGTON	63	29	42		0.51		32.28	39.60	
WESTON	65	29	42		1.03		36.76	41.61	
--SOUTHWEST									
WILLIAMSON	62	28	44		0.70		30.61	38.21	
HUNTINGTON	63	31	45	9	0.85	0.74	23.64	31.84	34.23
CHARLESTON	63	27	43	7	0.54	0.80	24.27	36.44	36.83
RIPLEY	63	31	45		1.59		26.40	37.24	
--CENTRAL									
TERRA ALTA	62	30	39		1.05		32.75	37.60	
ELKINS	60	30	42	10	0.79	0.73	33.08	45.03	36.35
MARLINTON	52	26	38		0.95		27.26	40.74	
--SOUTHERN									
BECKLEY	54	26	39	5	0.54	0.69	32.50	38.11	33.03
PINEVILLE	62	30	45		0.60		26.28	39.84	
BLUEFIELD	54	28	39	6	1.51	0.62	32.84	42.11	31.25
WHITE SUL SP	56	30	41		0.66		25.38	40.35	
BLUESTONE DAM	54	27	40		1.39		24.64	33.53	
--NORTHEASTERN									
MARTINSBURG	60	35	45	11	0.59	0.57	23.94	32.28	30.60
KEYSER	56	33	42		0.89		25.01	27.29	
MOOREFIELD	57	27	40		0.68		21.70	29.69	
State Average Temperature	42								
State Average Precipitation	0.94								

Source: Weather comments and data - Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service, Charleston, WV.

INTERNET ACCESS: ALL National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports are now available free of charge on the Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and select: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>.