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Agricultural News: Weather conditions during the month of January have been a mix of cold and warm temperatures with rain and snow. Fields are muddy. Farming activities for the month included preparing for the next growing season and monitoring livestock.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 01/28/24

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	2	3	37	58
Subsoil	2	4	45	49
Hay & Roughage	9	15	66	10
Feed grain	11	15	64	10

-Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 01/28/24

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Winter Wheat	4	5	24	57	10
Cattle & Calves	2	4	22	65	7
Sheep & Lambs	-	4	39	51	6

- Represents zero.

**January Summary of Weather and Agricultural Conditions
January 1 - 28**

In West Virginia, the new year began with near normal temperatures and bands of light precipitation drifting across the Mountain State. **For the week ending January 7th**, high pressure took hold on Tuesday, clearing the sky, but keeping temperatures around average. Wednesday warmed some as the winds shifted from the south, ahead of another weak disturbance approaching from the southwest. Temperatures cooled off again on Thursday with light upslope snow showers developing along the mountains. Highs during the day maxed out in the 30s for most locations, with lows in the teens. More precipitation developed on Friday, as a mid-level disturbance crossed overhead. Cold rain showers fell in the lowlands and snow/sleet fell in the higher elevations. A strong low-pressure system passed just to the south and east of West Virginia over the weekend. Plenty of precipitation fell during the day. Most fell as rain in the lowlands, and snow over the mountains. Sunday was unsettled with a mix of rain, snow, drizzle, and freezing drizzle. The week ended with mixed climatology results across the State. **For the week ending January 14th**, West Virginia started the week wet. The beginning of the precipitation began Monday afternoon as low pressure moved from the southeast bringing lots of moisture with it. The low pressure continued to strengthen overnight into Tuesday. Strong winds and heavy precipitation downed trees and caused flooding on small creeks and low-lying areas. Heavy snow was reported early in the eastern mountains. The heavy precipitation continued into the evening, before moving off to the north as the system moved out. Wednesday was mostly cloudy and cool with gusty winds and lingering snow/rain showers. High pressure took hold on Thursday, bringing with it clear skies and warmer temperatures. Friday began dry, but a strong system over the Great Lakes region brought in rain during the afternoon and evening. As the low pressure moved north and east of the State, cold air quickly funneled in, turning most of the precipitation over to snow. Moisture continued to flow into the region and temperatures continued to drop to well below normal. By Saturday morning, snow was falling across the whole state. Snow showers and below normal temperatures continued through the weekend. **For the week ending January 21st**, Monday began very cold and snowy as a strong low-pressure system worked its way northeastward over the Great Lakes area. As the low strengthened, it brought in moisture from the south and arctic air from the northwest, producing snow showers through the day. West Virginia did not reach the freezing mark at all on Monday, and most stations were 8 to 16 degrees below normal. Tuesday remained very cold with continuing snow showers. High pressure took over on Wednesday, clearing out the clouds and snow and dropping temperatures even further. The coldest locations dropped to below zero in the morning. Thursday began mostly cloudy and cold. Snow showers from the next low-pressure system began in the evening and continued through the night. Friday brought more snow showers and arctic temperatures across the state. Saturday and Sunday both reported well below normal temperatures and light snow showers lingered through the weekend. **For the week ending January 28th**, arctic high pressure began to move out of the area on Monday and was replaced by southerly airflow, along with warmer temperatures and moisture; all stations' temperatures were five to ten degrees below normal. Tuesday's temperatures climbed to near normal under mostly sunny conditions. With warmer temperatures, the snow across the State began to quickly melt. Rain, heavy at times, moved into the region early Wednesday. Along with the rain, temperatures warmed to well above average, melting most of the snow that was still on the ground. Some minor flooding was reported in the mountains. The unseasonable temperatures and the rain continued through Thursday. Friday was partly cloudy and very warm with a few isolated showers. High temperatures reached the 60s in most locations, and 70s in the warmest. Another low-pressure system to the north brought unsettled weather on

Saturday. Precipitation, heavy at times, began in the afternoon and continued through the night. Sunday was cooler, with rain showers. An incredible shift occurred from the beginning of the week to the end. On Monday, temperatures were almost ten degrees below normal. By Friday, temperatures were nearly 20 degrees above normal. At the end of the week, West Virginia was 9 to 16 degrees warmer than average, and all stations exceeded average precipitation.

Week ending 1/7: Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 49 degrees. Beckley and Terra Alta had the lowest recorded temperature of 12 degrees. The state average temperature was 32 degrees. Keyser had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.52 inches. Wheeling had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.13 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.82 inches.

Week ending 1/14: Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 59 degrees. Elkins had the lowest recorded temperature of 5 degrees. The state average temperature was 35 degrees. Bluefield had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 2.42 inches. Williamson had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.91 inches. The state average precipitation was 1.59 inches.

Week ending 1/21: Moorefield, Bluestone Dam, and Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 39 degrees. Elkins had the lowest recorded temperature of -7 degrees. The state average temperature was 18 degrees. Beckley had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.89 inches. Wheeling had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.09 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.49 inches.

Week ending 1/28: Martinsburg had the highest recorded temperature of 74 degrees. Elkins had the lowest recorded temperature of -6 degrees. The state average temperature was 44 degrees. Parkersburg had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 2.57 inches. Bluefield had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.89 inches. The state average precipitation was 1.68 inches.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending 01/28/24

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	12	45	16	2.27	0.81	29.26	35.78	35.36
PARKERSBURG	64	4	45	13	2.57	0.82	36.94	37.63	35.60
CRESTON	64	10	45		1.94		31.48	33.42	
--NORTHCENTRAL									
MORGANTOWN	66	6	46	14	2.06	0.80	31.41	39.05	36.54
CLARKSBURG	65	3	45	15	1.47	0.88	33.82	38.95	37.94
BELINGTON	65	2	44		1.73		36.61	42.59	
WESTON	65	3	42		1.67		41.82	45.27	
--SOUTHWEST									
WILLIAMSON	69	11	46		0.97		33.70	41.72	
HUNTINGTON	65	8	47	12	1.88	0.80	28.61	34.94	37.42
CHARLESTON	65	6	44	9	1.33	0.94	28.00	39.88	40.40
RIPLEY	64	8	45		2.03		30.84	40.54	
--CENTRAL									
TERRA ALTA	63	4	43		2.27		38.83	40.46	
ELKINS	65	-6	44	13	1.28	0.87	36.76	47.92	39.82
MARLINTON	61	13	44		1.49		32.31	42.47	
--SOUTHERN									
BECKLEY	63	10	45	13	1.35	0.81	36.96	40.44	36.25
PINEVILLE	67	9	44		1.94		31.00	42.88	
BLUEFIELD	63	9	45	13	0.89	0.79	38.06	45.24	34.39
WHITE SUL SP	66	0	42		1.72		30.43	42.57	
BLUESTONE DAM	64	12	46		1.25		28.76	35.61	
--NORTHEASTERN									
MARTINSBURG	74	2	41	9	1.69	0.69	29.28	33.71	33.27
KEYSER	67	3	40		1.32		30.14	28.64	
MOOREFIELD	71	6	41		1.93		26.39	30.65	
State Average Temperature	44								
State Average Precipitation	1.68								

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

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