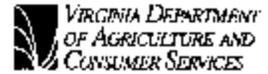




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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: January 2003

Number: 1

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CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

Virginia experienced very cold weather during the month of January. Most counties reported some rain and snow during the month, but said that January was drier for the most part. However, many counties saw some precipitation during the last week of the month. There are still some crops that have been left standing in the field due to the precipitation and frozen ground. Most producers have had to abandon their remaining corn, cotton, and soybeans. Yields are poor for what they were able to harvest. There were many acres of small grains seeded late and even some acres that were not seeded at all. Because of the cold weather and late planting, growth of the small grains is running behind schedule. The cold weather has also taken its toll on pasture and winter grazing crops. For that reason, producers are feeding livestock full time. Hay supplies are getting tight as many farmers are trying to locate hay for the rest of the winter. Many farmers are looking into alternative feeding practices. The livestock seem to be in good to fair condition for the time being. Most counties continue to report full ponds and running springs, keeping hopes high for adequate irrigation in the spring. Other farm activities included feeding livestock, looking for hay, repairing equipment and fences, attending meetings, finishing up crop insurance claims, ordering seed and supplies for the upcoming season, watching the futures market, taking soil samples when the weather permits, and getting ready for spring calving.

WEATHER

Temperatures for the month of January were cold. Below freezing temperatures were characteristic for most of the month. Many of the counties were covered in snow for a week during the middle of the month. Except for some rain during the last week, January was fairly dry.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	11	22	38	26	3
Livestock	0	5	35	55	5
Small Grain & Winter Grazing	7	20	41	28	4