



National Agricultural
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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: January 2005

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CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

Warmer than normal temperatures at the end of December and the start of January allowed livestock to graze on pastures longer than normal. However, cold snaps at the end of the month lead to increased supplemental feedings. Feeding the livestock was made difficult by muddy conditions that persisted with melting snow and thawing ground. The cold wet weather has affected Virginia's small grains as they slowed in development and showed signs of nitrogen deficiency. Most farming activities were limited due to the cold weather. Despite this, farmers kept occupied attending meetings and conferences, purchasing seed and chemicals, cutting firewood, sampling soils, and grading roads.

WEATHER

Most of the Commonwealth was warmer than normal for January with random cold snaps during the last two weeks of the month. The cold snaps were accompanied with a wintery mix, consisting of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. Temperatures ranged from the single digits to 40+ degrees. The ground froze and thawed throughout the month, causing muddy conditions.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	8	14	38	34	6
Livestock	0	1	21	67	11
Small Grain & Winter Grazing Crops	1	9	36	45	9

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT - WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	This Month	Last Month	Last Year	5 Year Average
Beef Cattle Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	26	51	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	12	13	NA	NA
Sheep Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	37	48	NA	NA