



National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: February 2003

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CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

Virginia experienced very wet and cold weather during the month of February. Due to the wet conditions, field work and farm activities were hampered with some counties reporting little to no field work done. Because of the cold and wet weather and late planting, growth of the small grains was running behind schedule. Several counties reported some flooding during the month. The snow and ice took its toll on pasture and winter grazing crops. For that reason, producers were feeding livestock full time. Feed supplies were very short causing farmers to search outside of this region and to use alternative feeding practices. Livestock body conditions are lower than normal. Several counties reported building damage due to heavy snow and ice. Some reported livestock losses from the collapsing buildings and severe weather conditions. Most counties continue to report full ponds and running springs, keeping hopes high for adequate irrigation in the spring. Other farm activities included spring calving, preparing to seed tobacco greenhouses, repairing machinery and buildings, attending meetings, feeding livestock, preparing taxes, attending auctions, meeting with creditors, purchasing seed, sampling soil, applying nutrients, and making plans for the upcoming growing season.

WEATHER

Temperatures for the month of February ranged from cold to freezing. Snow, ice, and rain were characteristic for the month. Almost all of Virginia experienced many forms of precipitation during each week of the month.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	7	31	41	20	1
Livestock	1	10	33	51	5
Small Grain & Winter Grazing	14	28	36	20	2