



National Agricultural
Statistics Service

NASS

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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: March 2004

Number: 3

Released: March 29, 2004

CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

March began unusually warm and ended with several cold snaps. Virginia's cattleman scrambled to find good quality hay. The feeder calf market is active with an excellent price recovery but body conditions reflect poor feed quality. Farmers are optimistic about this growing season. All eyes are on the soybean market. High grain prices have been encouraging for farmers. Small grains have been slow to develop over the winter. In some areas, barley and winter wheat have just emerged. Virginia's maple syrup production is underway. Stocks are tight and there is some concern for meeting the Maple Festival demand. Spring calving and lambing has progressed this month. Other farming activities included farmers preparing cabbage and tobacco transplants, preparing taxes, and scheduling late vacations.

WEATHER

The month of March started warm and dry and ended cool and wet. Occasional rain brought fieldwork to a halt, but only temporarily. The central region of Virginia was drier than normal. Occasional rain storms helped relieve some arid conditions. Showers were heavy, but infrequent and scattered. This has left much of Virginia, especially the central region, craving water. However, some regions of Virginia have experienced adequate precipitation for the month, with some areas exceeding 4 inches of rainfall.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	5	17	40	32	6
Livestock	1	7	37	49	6
Small Grain & Winter Grazing Crops	3	11	41	37	8