



National Agricultural Statistics Service
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WEATHER & CROPS



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CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

Once again varying amounts of rain and snow have fell across the Commonwealth of Virginia during the month of March. For the second consecutive month, mixed precipitation brought muddy conditions to the state. These conditions are beginning to put some farmers behind schedule. Farmers are behind on land application of fertilizer, manure, and poultry litter. Some areas have crops that are beginning to green, but they are behind schedule and in need of nitrogen. Poor hay quality has caused some farmers to supplement more grain to beef cattle than usual. It was reported that some areas are able to begin preparing fields for crop planting, while other areas have to wait until the fields dry. Farm activities included calving, feeding, pruning peach orchards, attending production meetings, subsoiling fields, bookkeeping, and building and repairing fences.

WEATHER

March was filled with plenty of moisture and varying temperatures. The moisture, which came in the form of rain and snow, added to the already saturated land from showers that were received in February. The extra precipitation did not help farmers at all by putting them behind schedule when it came to field work. As far as temperatures, it was reported most of the month of March was cooler than normal.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	7	22	43	23	5
Livestock	1	5	30	56	8
Small Grain & Winter Grazing Crops	3	10	39	42	6

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT - WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	This Month	Last Month	Last Year	5 Year Average
Beef Cattle Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	16	14	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	13	4	NA	NA
Sheep Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	31	30	NA	NA