



National Agricultural
Statistics Service

NASS

Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service
P. O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Month: January 2004

Number: 1

Released: February 2, 2004

CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

January started off cold and dry and ended cold and wet. The cold temperatures hampered pasture growth and the ice hindered grazing. Farmers were forced to feed more than the normal rations of hay, silage, and grain to their livestock. Hay supplies were adequate but quality was below average. The small grain crops were stunted due to late planting, inadequate topsoil moisture, and cold temperatures. Farmers hope that the snow cover will help recuperate the small grains. Virginia's fruit orchard were doing well. The snow has insulated the trees from the harmful cold temperatures. Orchard workers have spent their time on rodent control and catching up on delayed pruning. While some farmers were unable to apply lime due to wet fields, others were able to apply lime on frozen fields. Other farming activities included farmers attending producer meetings, preparing taxes, fixing fences, maintaining farm equipment, ordering seeds and fertilizer, and trapping muskrats and beavers.

WEATHER

January was a cold month for Virginia. The colder parts of Virginia experienced wind chill and nighttime temperatures in the teens. Most of Virginia was covered in a snow storm that came at the end of January. The western parts of Virginia experience up to 8 inches of snow, while the other regions experienced up to 4 inches of rain.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	5	18	34	36	7
Livestock	1	4	32	55	8
Small Grain & Winter Grazing Crops	5	16	38	34	7