



National Agricultural
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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: December 2004

Number: 41

Released: January 3, 2005

CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

Virginia's crops and livestock reacted to the variable weather patterns during the month of December. At the beginning of the month, counties that were isolated from cold snaps were still experiencing grass growth. This led to most of Virginia's livestock obtaining more than normal forage from pastures for this time of year. However, some areas experienced severe cold snaps that led to an earlier than normal supplemental feeding of livestock. In the warmer regions of the state, late planted winter grains have done better than expected. The warmer than normal temperatures gave small grains a better establishment. Rain showers were common throughout the month, which delayed the completion of the soybean harvest. However, only a few fields remain unharvested. Other farming activities included repairing facilities and machinery, attending winter meetings, sampling soils, and buying supplies for 2005.

WEATHER

Variable weather patterns occurred during the month of December. A heavy snow storm dropped several inches of snow in isolated regions of eastern Virginia. Occasional cold snaps, lasting for several days, plunged some counties below 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Nevertheless, some areas experienced a few days of warmer than normal temperatures. Scattered rain showers were prevalent throughout the month, varying from normal to heavy precipitation in most counties.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	3	13	39	37	8
Livestock	0	1	23	63	13
Small Grain & Winter Grazing Crops	1	8	33	48	10

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT - WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	This	Last	Last Year	5 Year
Beef Cattle Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	51	81	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	13	18	NA	NA
Sheep Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	48	80	NA	NA