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# WEATHER & CROPS



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## CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

Virginia experienced large amounts of rainfall and much cooler temperatures during the month of December. Many counties reported extreme moisture in the form of rain and snow, making field conditions very muddy. During the first week of December, most of Virginia was hit by a snow and ice storm, prompting the start of winter feeding on several farms. Some of the crops were left standing in the fields as the precipitation hindered and even stopped harvesting activities. Several farmers are still waiting to harvest the rest of their crops if they can get in their fields. Some producers have abandoned their corn, cotton, and soybeans. Small grain acreage is down due to the inability of farmers to plant in the wet fields. However, the small grains that were seeded before December appear to be doing well. The colder weather has slowed their development. Pasture and winter grazing crop conditions are not bad, but the saturated soils coupled with snow cover has increased the amount of stored feed fed to livestock. However, livestock are still in good shape. Hay supplies are getting tight early this season as many farmers are trying to locate hay for the rest of the winter. Most counties are reporting full ponds and running springs due to the rainfall keeping hopes high for adequate irrigation in the spring. Other farm activities included feeding livestock, looking for hay, repairing equipment, applying fertilizer to small grains, applying lime, sampling soils, attending winter meetings, getting and renewing certifications, preparing for the farm bill sign up, working on records, and deer hunting.

## WEATHER

Temperatures for the month of December were cooler than normal. A snow and ice storm came through Virginia during the first week in December dumping anywhere from 3-6 inches of snow. Rainfall was plentiful during the month making up for the drought conditions the state was facing.

### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	4	18	42	31	5
Livestock	0	3	21	68	8
Small Grain & Winter Grazing	1	11	30	45	13

