



## ABOUT CROP WEATHER



As each new crop season begins, reliable information is needed at the county level to monitor crop and livestock conditions. The need for this information is especially critical in light of the challenges facing our farmers.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Cooperative Extension Service have a memorandum of understanding providing for assistance from the county extension agents on the NASS *Crop-Weather Survey*. Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees across the state also provide assistance in compiling data for our survey. Information provided by Extension and FSA personnel concerning the agricultural conditions in individual counties is essential for the preparation of a state and national weather & crop summary. Furthermore, weekly reports provide a valuable service to West Virginia agriculture by providing timely reports on agricultural conditions across the state. The weekly report is the most widely read release of NASS.

The Weekly Crop & Livestock Report begins the first week of April and usually ends the last week of November. A sample questionnaire can be found at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv>.

Weekly crop weather data may be submitted by fax or through the internet. The National Agricultural Statistics Service has an internet site to collect reports. This website is accessible at the URL address <http://cpcswb.nass.usda.gov>. Plans are to have the survey available on the internet every Thursday by 8:00 a.m. To account for any changes that may occur over the weekend due to the weather, we would prefer that Extension and FSA personnel complete the report on Monday morning no later than 9:30 a.m. However, if reports are submitted before Monday, **care should be taken to ensure that conditions and progress reflects the week ending the upcoming Sunday.** Reporters will be notified via email on Tuesday confirming receipt of their report, with our thanks.

Questionnaires may also be faxed to us at 558-0297 on Monday morning prior to 9:30 am.

## COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE



When completing the questionnaire:

- Do not use √ check marks. The questionnaire is designed for entering percents in supplies, conditions and progress.

**SUPPLIES and CONDITIONS** - the percent must add to 100%.

- This does not mean always enter 100%.
- For example on Cattle condition:
  - 10 percent may be excellent
  - 70 percent good
  - 20 percent in fair condition.

**PROGRESS** - the percentage in each stage should normally increase each week.

- For example, if corn planted progress is 20% complete as of May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Next week corn planted progress should not be less than 20%.

If progress was over-estimated the previous week and the progress declined, note the corrections in comments. Keeping a copy of the previous week's questionnaire is a useful tool to assist in completing the current week's questionnaire.

**CROP PROGRESS STAGES** are not supposed to add to 100 percent.

- For example, corn planted may be:
  - 50 percent planted
  - 5 percent emerged

In this example, 50 percent of the expected acreage for corn has been planted and of the acreage planted *and to be* planted, 5 percent has emerged. Each stage will eventually reach 100 percent.

**QUESTIONNAIRES** are to be completed for the week ending Sunday. Calls will be made to reporters that have not responded by Monday morning.



## ACCESS THE CROP WEATHER INTERNET WEBSITE

Logging in and using the Crop Weather Internet website is simple. Just follow the easy step-by-step instructions below:

- Access the internet
- Open browser window
  - Key: <http://cpcswb.nass.usda.gov>
  - Save as a bookmark for future use
- The following four boxes should appear:
  - State – key or arrow to WV
  - User – key your user ID
  - Password – key your password
  - Survey – key **CPCS-Crop Weather**
- User ID and password are “case sensitive”
  - Caps & small letters are **important!**
- The next screen will then pop up:
  - Choose the SURVEY button
- If this screen does not appear:
  - Call 1-800-535-7088 & speak with the Crop Weather Statistician.
- The following screen will be the survey:
  - Fill in the applicable boxes
  - Leave boxes blank that do not apply to individual counties.
  - **Please**~Enter some comments in the comment section because they are an important part of our reporting.
  - Include your name with any comments
- Click SUBMIT
- If errors appear (i.e. percent not totaling 100)
  - Go back and make the necessary corrections
- After corrections are made:
  - Select SUBMIT again

## DEFINITIONS FOR CROP WEATHER

Listed below are crop weather terms and definitions.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Weather & field conditions allow producers to work in the field most of the day

**Topsoil Moisture** (Topsoil is top 4-6 inches.)

**Very Short** Moisture is significantly less than what is required for normal plant development. Growth has been stopped or nearly so and plants are showing visible signs of moisture loss stress. Under these conditions, plants will quickly suffer irreparable damage.

**Short** Soil dry. Seed germination and/or normal crop growth and development would be curtailed.

**Adequate** Soil moist. Seed germination and/or crop growth and development would be normal or unhindered.

**Surplus** Soil wet. Fields may be muddy and will generally be unable to absorb additional moisture. Young developing crops may be yellowing from excess moisture.

### Hay & Other Roughage Supplies:

**Very Short** Feeders do not have the supplies that are needed to last the remainder of the feeding season & will not be able to obtain those supplies.

**Short** Feeders probably do not have the supplies that are needed for the remainder of the feeding season & will have trouble obtaining those supplies from either growers or hay dealers.

**Adequate** Feeders have enough hay to last the remainder of the feeding season, or will have no problem obtaining the supplies needed

**Surplus** Feeders have more than enough hay on hand to last the remainder of the feeding season, or dealers and growers will have problems disposing of all the excess hay they have on hand.

## Range & Pasture Condition:

<b>Very Poor</b>	Pastures provide very little or no feed considering the time of year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.
<b>Poor</b>	Pastures are providing only marginal feed for the current time of year. Some supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.
<b>Fair</b>	Pastures are providing generally adequate feed but is still less than normal for the time of year.
<b>Good</b>	Pastures are providing adequate feed supplies for the current time of year.
<b>Excellent</b>	Pastures are supplying feed in excess of what is normally expected at the current time of year.

## Corn Phenological Stages:

<b>Silking</b>	The emergence of silk like strands from the end of ears. Occurs approximately 10 days after the tassel first begins to emerge from the sheath or 2-4 days after the tassel is emerged.
<b>Dough</b>	Normally half of the kernels are showing dent with some thick or dough-like substance in all kernels.
<b>Dent</b>	Occurs when all kernels are fully dented and the ear is firm and solid. There is no milk present in most kernels.
<b>Mature</b>	Plant is considered safe from frost. Corn is about ready to harvest with shucks opening and there is no green foliage present.
<b>Harvested</b>	For grain only.

## Soybean Phenological Stages:

<b>Blooming</b>	A plant should be considered as blooming as soon as one bloom appears.
<b>Setting Pods</b>	Pods are developing on the lower nodes with some blooming still occurring on the upper nodes.
<b>Dropping Leaves</b>	Leaves near the bottom of the plant are yellow and dropping, while leaves at the very top may still be green. Leaves are 30-50 percent yellow.
<b>Harvested</b>	Report for harvested for grain only.

## Oat & Wheat Phenological Stages:

<b>Emerged</b>	As soon as the plants are visible.
<b>Headed</b>	The head is present, visible, & fully emerged.
<b>Harvested</b>	Report for harvested for grain only.

## General Crop Condition:

<b>Very Poor</b>	Extreme degree of loss to yield potential, complete or near crop failure.
<b>Poor</b>	Heavy degree of loss of yield potential which can be caused by excess soil moisture, drought, disease, etc.
<b>Fair</b>	Less than normal crop condition. Yield loss is a possibility but the extent is unknown.
<b>Good</b>	Yield prospects are normal or above. Moisture levels are adequate with only light disease and insect damage.
<b>Excellent</b>	Yield prospects are above normal and crops are experiencing little or not stress.

## Livestock Condition:

<b>Very Poor</b>	Livestock deaths reported due to weather, feed/water shortages and/or disease.
<b>Poor</b>	Livestock stressed and health in question due to disease, birthing conditions or inadequate feed/water supplies. Livestock deaths reported.
<b>Fair</b>	Livestock health could result in weight loss or death due to disease, birthing conditions or inadequate feed/water supplies.
<b>Good</b>	Livestock healthy with normal expectations for growth. No significant disease problems to report, feed/water supplies adequate to support normal growth, birthing conditions favorable for healthy newborn animals.
<b>Excellent</b>	Livestock health promotes above normal expectations for growth or weight gain. No disease problems reported, abundant feed/water available, birthing conditions are not a factor in newborn animal health.

## Crop Planting & Harvest Progress:

Percents should indicate the progress of field activities or crop development. If, for example, half of the total current year corn acreage expected is planted, a value of 50 percent should be used. If weather conditions alter plans such that intentions are prevented or harvest is abandoned, a 100 percent should be used when planting or harvest stops. Progress percents should relate to acres. An acre should be considered to be in or beyond a phenological stage when 50 percent or more of the plants in that acre are in or beyond that stage. Generally, consider a given field to be in a particular stage when 50 percent or more of the plants have reached or gone beyond that stage. Crop progress percents should progress weekly until 100 percent is reached of the acreage intended to be planted or harvested in the specific county.

## OUR STAFF

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# A QUICK GUIDE TO REPORTING CROP-WEATHER



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