



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Month: January 2013**

**Number: 1**

**Released: January 28, 2013**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 2013

January throughout the Commonwealth began with very dry conditions and relatively mild temperatures. By the middle of the month, cold temperatures and various storm systems moved through the state bringing a significant amount of rain and snow to much of Virginia. This precipitation has helped in many areas to replenish soil moisture levels that were previously depleted, but some regions are still in need of more. Overall, small grains are in good shape, although excess moisture is keeping some from making timely herbicide and fertilizer treatments. Through the mid-month, many producers were able to continue to graze their livestock, although most are on feed now. For the time being, forage supplies remain adequate. Producers continue to make planting and supplies decisions, take soil samples, attend conferences, and market their grain.

### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	8	22	62	8
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	0	3	22	63	12

### FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	11	22
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	6	13
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	14	40

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 27, 2013**

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	39	19	57	12	29	-5	0.08	7.66	1.73	5.01	2.29
Norfolk	42	28	62	23	35	-5	0.10	6.93	0.91	2.45	-0.57
Richmond	40	21	61	14	31	-5	0.12	7.19	1.30	4.36	1.59
Roanoke	39	23	56	17	31	-5	0.11	7.04	1.75	4.46	2.03
Wash/Dulles	35	19	58	9	27	-5	0.08	4.04	-1.41	1.17	-1.17

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

**CENTRAL**

**CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

With greater than 3.5 inches of rain last week and the snowfall this week, it appears surface water levels are at normal levels.

**CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

January has started the year with an abundance of moisture, much needed to bring the water table up to its normal level. It rained nearly the entire week of January 14th, and then topped off with a few inches of snow the 17th. Temperatures have been all over the map, from 15 degrees below normal to 25 degrees above normal; and quite a few days of normal. It has been good to see the moisture.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

It has been an unusual month. We went from Miami to Minnesota over a brief time span in terms of temperature. Early month we were flirting with the seventies for temperatures, then it turned cold and we have had two snow events and single digit temperatures. We have had some precipitation including two snow events but not of much accumulation significance. As I type we are experiencing freezing rain, which is predicted to be brief and mainly clog up the commuter travel. The precipitation has helped the winter crops and has restored some moisture to the soil.

**ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)**

We have experienced dry conditions early in the month, followed by wet conditions in the second half of the month. A lot of farms were still grazing livestock until the mid part of the month and most are on feed now.

**EASTERN**

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Snow and freezing rain are coming into area this weekend. Ground moisture is very good. Producers are making planting and supplies decisions, soil sampling, liming, attending conferences, and selling grain. Small grains look good. Most have applied some sort of weed/grass herbicides and a first application of N will begin in the next two weeks.

**KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)**

With the greater than 3.5 inches of rain last week and the snowfall this week, the surface water is now at a normal level.

**SOUTHERN**

**FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

Franklin County received almost 6 inches of rainfall within the last 2 weeks. Ground moisture is good, but we needed rain over several weeks instead of just 3 days. Beef cattle grazing are looking a little thin, producers may need to increase hay amounts. I have seen several pastures where over grazing occurred during the summer and fall months and with all the rainfall, soil has washed away.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Early January continued this winter's trend of unseasonably mild and dry conditions. The middle of the month brought at least 5" of rain over a 4 day period followed by 8-15" of snow to the county. Additional precipitation through the end of the month is helping to erase some of the moisture deficits. Late January also saw a return of colder temperatures.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

Weather has been a challenge this month. Hay is being fed regularly. Flooding posed problems in fields, and creeks were out of banks for several days and some areas are still quite wet and soaked. Water stood in some small grain fields as well and we are keeping an eye on it to see if the plants come out of potential drowning situations.

#### **SOUTHAMPTON (Chris Drake)**

Excess moisture is keeping producers off wheat land to make timely herbicide and fertilizer treatments.

#### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

January provided varied weather with extremes of moisture and temperature. Due to snow and rains the last part of the month all field work is on hold – 98% of our crops are out and the rest are waiting for the ground to freeze.

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