



NATIONAL
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STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2013

February was a cold month, with snow fall heaviest in the Blue Ridge Mountains and surrounding counties. Virginia's central and eastern counties also received some snow, but the majority of precipitation was rain. Overall, the season's total precipitation is above normal for most areas across the state for this time of year. The Commonwealth experience a few warm days with temperatures in the upper 50s to low 60s. However, the majority of the days were cooler with freezing or near freezing temperatures recorded for the nighttime lows. The majority of livestock is in good condition. Livestock producers continue to supplement feed as needed. Other farming activities for the month included pruning orchards and vineyards, machine maintenance, taking soil samples, applying lime, preparing taxes, and finished up plans for spring plantings.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	7	34	54	5
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	0	2	25	65	8

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	14
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	7	9
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	19

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 24, 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	47	27	54	17	37	-1	0.22	9.65	0.38	7.00	0.97
Norfolk	47	33	62	27	40	-2	0.82	10.85	1.25	6.37	-0.26
Richmond	44	28	51	17	36	-4	0.36	10.03	1.08	7.20	1.35
Roanoke	48	28	55	19	38	-2	0.12	10.63	2.06	8.05	2.35
Wash/Dulles	39	26	45	18	33	-2	0.10	7.38	-0.91	4.51	-0.73

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Temperatures have been in the low teens and some days in the low 60's high 50's.

RAPPAHANNOCK

Activities include orchard and vineyard pruning.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Maple syrup production about average so far. Lambing and calving began in earnest this month. Hay and feed supplies remain above average. Farm tax preparation, participating in educational programs, machinery maintenance, lambing, calving and feeding are main activities throughout February.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Moisture and temperature conditions are good for January and February.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Rainfall has been very welcomed. I hope that moist conditions will continue through the spring/early summer to provide strong pastures and hay crops for 2013. Stockpiled pastures have carried animals well this winter, but hay stocks are seeing a lot of pressure now as we run out of available grazing.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

February has continued the January trend of frequent rainy days but not many really rainy days. Precipitation has run a little ahead of normal which is a reverse of the trend through last year. Hopefully ground water reserves are being rebuilt some although chronic wet spots are still not chronically wet. Temps are all over the map. Lows in the teens to high yesterday in the sixties.

Daffodils are showing and in some places showing buds. Grass is beginning to show a greenish tint where it is short. Some small grain seeds dropped in mid-January sprouted last week and are now over an inch high. There is hope for spring and a more normal year. I predict that while we have had a mild winter we will have a late damaging freeze or premature blooming followed by a damaging freeze.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Less snow and rain than normal for the month of February.

EASTERN

Middlesex (David Moore)

We have plenty of moisture in the soil and subsoil about 90% adequate and 10% excess. Wheat crop rated as 40% excellent, 40% good and 20% fair. About 10% of cattle needs come from grazing pasture or small grains. Folks are making plans for spring planting. Buying seeds and supplies, some plowing and deep tillage in some fields where dry enough. Equipment repair, soil sampling and liming are the activities of the week. Also producers are attending educational meetings and farm shows. Producers are also making nitrogen and herbicide applications to wheat. In about a month, some corn planting will take place.

KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)

At this point everything looks normal.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

The month of February was another wet month for Franklin County. Franklin County saw several inches of rain fall and some places snow. Farmers are getting ready to start working the fields again. Some are talking March 15 they will start.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Approximately 10 inches of rain received in January, putting us already over 6.5 inches normal rainfall for the year. Mud has made feeding more difficult, but animals seem to be gaining well with warmer temperatures than normal. Strawberries look extremely good for this time of year, with multiple strong crowns beginning to show.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The snow has helped provide moisture into the soil. Small grains are looking good, but there has been some yellowing and tip damage on some. Hay is being feed to livestock. Fall calving cows have been or are being pregnancy checked. Winter conferences have been and continue to be going full swing.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Winter rains and snows have replenished soil moisture.

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