



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 2013

The month of December was wet with extreme ups and downs in the temperature. Some areas experienced near record highs, only to be followed with freezing temperatures and snow. The wet weather made pastures muddy; slightly less feed was obtained from pastures when compared to last year. Overall, the majority of livestock were in good condition. There has been limited fieldwork due to the wet weather; however, some progress was made on ditch maintenance, mowing field borders, and machinery repairs. In preparation for a fall calf crop, artificial insemination was underway. Other farming activities for the month included taking soil samples, tax planning, pricing inputs for 2014, attending pesticide recertification workshops, purchasing equipment, and hunting deer.

### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	3	20	62	15
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	0	4	29	60	7

### FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	33	33
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	18
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	41	48

### IN THIS REPORT:

Weather Summary Table pg 2

Reporter Comments by County pg 2

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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Virginia Tech

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Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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	52	28	69	14	40	4	1.39	4.65	1.82	44.53	1.72
Norfolk	56	35	81	27	46	4	1.11	3.96	1.38	44.85	-0.45
Richmond	55	32	76	21	44	5	1.27	4.76	2.08	52.37	8.73
Roanoke	51	28	68	15	40	3	1.22	3.48	0.94	52.20	10.11
Wash/Dulles	51	30	71	19	41	7	1.31	4.31	1.59	44.08	2.50

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 29, 2013

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

### NORTHERN

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Weather has been back and forth in temperature range. We had snowfall the week of the 16th. Winter is here.

#### SHENANDOAH

There is still a substantial amount of corn standing in Shenandoah County (I have not traveled through the other Northern Valley Counties lately). It is likely at least 1,000 acres.

### WESTERN

#### HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Cooler than normal temps with snow and ice cover on the ground for half the month.

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

In the Rockbridge region, temperatures were a little below normal and precipitation above normal for the month of December. Many livestock operations grazed stockpiled forage well into December thanks to excellent growing conditions for pastures September through November. Wet conditions limited some outdoor and field work on farms but in general, farms in the Rockbridge Area are in good shape at the beginning of winter with cover crops in good condition and adequate to abundant supplies of stored forage.

### CENTRAL

#### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Temperatures have been very low, average, and record high Dec 25. Ground is soggy from freezing and thawing, along with the 4.0 to 5.5 inches of rainfall in the month of December. A few acres of soybeans remain to be harvested that got caught in the December rainy pattern.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

December was a wet month, resulting in limited field work. Producers spent the month taking soil samples, tax planning, pricing inputs for 2014 and attending pesticide recertification workshops and other meetings.

### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

We have had ample rains for the past 1-2 months. Soil water is plentiful. Small grains look pretty good, but believe that grass and weeds will be a problem soon. Producers should be scouting now and considering the need for additional nitrogen and monitoring pests. Purchases for seed and supplies for 2014 is the main event on farms right now.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Continued wet conditions and warmer than usual weather have had some affect on pastures but that gain has been blunted by increased disease pressure. Some reports of botulism, from wet hays mostly, have surfaced in surrounding areas so forage testing has been kept in recent days.

### SOUTHERN

#### LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Weather's been back and forth from warm to cold. It's been relatively wet, making a mess of feeding grain and hay in pastures. Lots of hay being fed. Cows look good although there is very little grass. Small grains appear to be doing well across the county.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The up and down temperatures have been hard on the livestock. There have been some runny noses seen around the area. Breeding AI for fall calving is pretty much complete and bulls will be turned in soon. Overall small grains look decent right now and hopefully the weather will stabilize in order to insure a good rest of the growing season. Deer season is also in full swing so many folks are taking part right now.

#### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers have completed harvest and are currently busy doing off-season field work, ditch maintenance, field border mowing, soil testing, machinery repairs, farm auction, equipment purchases, and seed orders for 2014. Fields are in good condition from harvest traffic and water tables near normal.