



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2014

February was another cold and snowy month for the Old Dominion. Nighttime lows were in the teens, with some areas much colder; parts of the Commonwealth approached record-breaking lows. Due to the abnormally long span of cold weather, most of Virginia was covered with snow during the month. However, there were occasional days of warm weather accompanied with rain. Livestock producers heavily supplemented feed for the month, and there was some concern of feed shortages. The majority of small grains were in good to fair condition. Some topdressing was done as the weather permitted, but there were applications that were delayed or missed due to the weather. Other farming activities for the month included pruning orchards and vineyards, maintaining farm equipment, and plowing snow.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	4	34	59	3
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	2	6	24	61	7

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES		
Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	13	12
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	5	7
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	8	12

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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 MARCH 2, 2014

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Mar 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	49	22	69	15	36	-4	0	0	na	7.08	0.34
Norfolk	48	31	70	24	39	-5	0	0	na	6.33	-1.03
Richmond	51	26	71	18	38	-4	0	0	na	6.31	-0.33
Roanoke	47	25	68	18	36	-5	0	0	na	7.39	0.97
Wash/Dulles	40	19	57	10	30	-7	0.11	0	na	6.51	0.60

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

NORTHERN

RAPPAHANNOCK

Pruning fruit tree and grapevines

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers are soon to be applying nitrogen and herbicide applications to winter wheat as temperatures rise and fields dry out. Majority of wheat has sufficient tillers and growth. Cold weather and snow has been difficult for livestock during February. Many vegetable farmers are planning their summer plantings and marketing now. Strawberry farmers are soon to be tissue testing for late winter/early spring fertilization.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Snow cover and very cold conditions added to livestock feeding needs. Hay supplies rapidly disappearing.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Extremely cold temperatures - for a longer period of time than normal. Instead of periods of cold weather, it has been all winter, with a break now and then. Between the snow and rain, topdressing of small grain has been difficult and some have not had that dose of topdressing.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

A very cold month with a break now and then. Topdressing small grain crop has been difficult. Winter keeps on going with a warm day now and then.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

January was a brutal month for us: low temps near record lows, below zero several times, multiple snows, and multiple rains. Early February was a continuation; fields and pastures are all quagmires. I lost a stand of winter oats to freezing temperatures. Lots of pooling in crop fields with resultant losses too early to tell. Too wet to top dress small grains for the most part. Ended the month with a warm spell which did dry things up over the weekend of 2/22, but forecast is for more cold and snow and wintry mix in the final week of the month.

SOUTHEASTERN

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Field activities have been limited again this month. Some fertilizer and herbicides have been applied to small grains about mid month. Warmer temperatures over the last 10 days have made a noticeable difference in wheat growth.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Fields remain very wet from recent snow and heavy rain. Growers are trying to get out to apply nitrogen and herbicides to small grain. Others are trying to apply lime and fertilizers as they prepare for another growing season.