



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News: The month of February was a mix of weather conditions. Snow and rain brought very muddy conditions, limiting field work; tornados and thunderstorms moved through the State causing some damage to buildings and farms. Farming activities for the month included feeding hay, cleaning up after the storms, applying fertilizer to wheat, where possible, and tobacco seeding in greenhouses.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 02/28/16

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	-	2	33	60	5
Oats	-	-	49	51	-
Winter wheat	-	3	38	55	4
Pasture	16	25	29	27	3
Livestock	1	9	30	54	6

-Represents zero.

Forage Percent Obtained from Pastures	This Month	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%
Feed Obtained from Pastures	14	6	-

- Represents data not available.

Weather Summary- For the week ending February 28, 2016

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	50	35	60	24	42	3	1.02	12.00	2.33	7.04	0.59
Norfolk	59	42	72	33	50	7	0.95	14.21	4.14	10.84	3.76
Richmond	55	37	69	22	46	5	1.88	13.59	4.16	7.65	1.33
Roanoke	50	38	65	30	44	3	1.65	12.78	3.78	8.23	2.09
Wash/Dulles	50	35	58	24	42	5	0.88	11.62	2.89	7.86	2.21

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. 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 remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)
It has been very very wet.

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

Air temperatures have been on a roller coaster ride throughout February. Rainfall was above average for the month. February 16th was the first time streams were running muddy due to rainfall after 5 inches of snow. Muddy soil conditions have been challenging for livestock producers.

WESTERN**ROANOKE (Barbara Leach)**

Much rain and snow this month. Grass is not very green yet and field conditions are so wet as to not be good for pasturing. Much submerged.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

February conditions were seasonally normal. Some challenges contending with muddy fields but moisture was needed to build subsoil moisture for the upcoming growing season.

CENTRAL**AMELIA (Laura Siegle)**

Our wheat crop looks good thus far, although the barley is a step behind. However, wet weather has been detrimental to everyone. Chores and field work have been stymied by mud. The recent tornados and thunderstorms did not heavily impact our area (limited structural damage and fence line damage), but we did experience flooding in some low-lying and oversaturated areas and we are expecting more rain next week which will only make things more challenging.

AMHERST (Alyssa Elliott)

Rain, snow, and lots of mud. Difficult pasture conditions.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Due to a very overabundance of winter precipitation, most of the small grains are still attempting to tiller, but because of the precipitation, producers have not been successful in applying nitrogen to many of their small grain fields. Therefore, small grain is showing signs of weak stands and in some cases, chlorosis.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Fields are wet in some areas and this is preventing the application of nitrogen to wheat and barley.

EASTERN**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Wet field conditions continued to delay field work during the month. Producers continued to make plans for 2016. A category F3 tornado passed through central Essex County on the evening of February 23rd, causing extensive damage to many structures, while destroying many others. Debris in farm fields was the primary impact on agriculture with approximately 150 acres affected. Timber losses were substantial.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Field work on hold for now until things dry up. This weekend should be a "go" for some to put nitrogen on small grains. Lots of field work ahead in the next 3-4 weeks. Soil sampling, N applications, fertilizer and lime applications, field prep and burndown are some of the things that need to get done in that time frame. Excessive wind and heavy rains came through the area this week and caused considerable damage on some farms. Thank goodness, no one was injured.

LANCASTER (Trent Jones)

Lancaster and Northumberland Counties experienced heavy wind and rains on February 24th. A category F1 tornado was confirmed to have touched down in the Morratico area of Lancaster County.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

It has been an abnormally warm and wet winter. Fertilizer applications on wheat have begun in fields that are not too wet. Potato planting will begin within the next couple of weeks.

SOUTHWESTERN**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Prolonged cold weather and snows have increased feeding for sheep and cattle, causing concerns over hay shortages. Strawberries look good for weather and time of year.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Snow and rain have left many fields overloaded with water and as usual mud is the largest obstacle to overcome for many livestock producers.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Conditions have been extremely wet and temperatures have varied from mild to cold.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

This past month and week has been very wet. Some acreages of small grains were not able to be planted. Pastures and hay fields are very wet and some have small to large areas of standing water. Most livestock is being supplemented with hay and feed. Some tobacco greenhouses have been seeded.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Farm activities have been limited this month with cold and wet conditions. Field activities like applying lime will be delayed for some time adding to the spring rush. A very limited amount of wheat was fertilized this month which is going to affect split applications of nitrogen. Cattle producers continue to battle mud while feeding.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Cold, wet weather has taken up much of our winter feed. Hoping for an early spring.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Spring like weather is upon us as another year is about to start. Rainfall has been plentiful.