



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News: The month of December was warm and rainy, making field conditions muddy. The mild temperatures helped with pasture growth, so some producers haven't had to feed hay as usual, or as much. Farmers continue taking soil samples and are making plans for spring. High temperatures for the month were in the 70s to low 80s, and lows were mostly in the 20s. Monthly precipitation amounts ranged from three inches to almost six inches.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 01/03/16

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	-	1	15	71	13
Oats	-	-	27	73	-
Winter wheat	-	3	21	62	14
Pasture	3	19	28	43	7
Livestock	-	7	21	66	6

-Represents zero.

Forage Percent Obtained from Pastures	This Month	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%
Feed Obtained from Pastures	35	39	-

- Represents data not available.

Weather Summary- For the week ending January 3, 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	57	38	73	26	48	13	0.78	4.96	1.72	0.00	NA
Norfolk	66	51	79	35	58	19	1.27	3.38	0.34	0.00	NA
Richmond	58	43	75	28	51	15	0.49	5.94	2.82	0.00	NA
Roanoke	59	41	76	32	50	15	0.64	4.46	1.59	0.00	NA
Wash/Dulles	54	39	69	26	47	14	0.81	3.78	0.71	0.00	NA

* 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

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

Unusually mild December. Record high temperatures were set on 4 different days. Grasses still green and showing some growth.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

December was unusually warm and wet. Muddy conditions hampered field activities such as hay feeding. However, thanks to the mild temperatures, some livestock producers had available pasture through December that otherwise would normally be feeding hay.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

We have had significant rainfall in recent days and some short-term flooding in low areas in some of our small grain fields. We have experienced some new pasture growth in recent weeks, thanks to some stretches of warm weather.

AMHERST (Alyssa Elliott)

Unseasonably warm month. Temperatures averaged high 50s with days in the mid-70s. Rain for nearly 10 days straight led to soggy conditions.

BUCKINGHAM (Jennifer Ligon)

Excessive rain has occurred in the past week.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Milder than normal temperatures for December and adequate amount of rain.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

The unusually warm December has resulted in wheat development that is more advanced than normal for this time of year, but the crop looks good. Many farmers took advantage of weather early in the month to make herbicide applications for weeds and insecticide applications for aphids, and apply low rates of nitrogen to stimulate further tiller development. Activities for the month included attending seed meetings and pesticide recertification workshops and soil sampling.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Small grains are looking OK for now. Cooler temps will stall them out some. Small grains could use a small amount of nitrogen now to encourage tiller growth. Producers are making plans for seed, fertilizer, soil sampling and liming. Rounds of educational meetings will begin soon and continue into February.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

Because of the unseasonably warm weather lately, the winter wheat has grown more than average. Recent temperatures within the past week have returned the wheat to the dormant status.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Weather conditions have been much warmer than normal.

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

December was unseasonably mild, and combined with significant moisture, stockpiled pastures have maintained some limited growth. Most livestock operators have started hay and silage feeding.

SMYTH (Andy Overby)

Warm and wet conditions have prolonged the grazing season, but mud is also an issue on most farms. Small grains look excellent but there is some worry with fields that were planted early growing to the point that lodging will be an issue in the spring. Time will tell.

SOUTHEASTERN

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Building up moisture for the 2016 crop from recent rains. Growers are trying to figure out what to plant in 2016.