



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.8. Virginia experienced varied precipitation from rain to snow, and below normal temperatures in March. Cooler than normal temperatures and a few snow events have slowed grass growth and delayed spring crops. Farming activities for the month included preparing equipment for planting, applying lime, fertilizer, and manure, and topdressing small grains.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 03/25/18

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	3	67	30
Subsoil	-	12	78	10
Hay & Roughage	3	25	69	3

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 03/25/18

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	-	8	21	64	7
Winter Wheat	-	4	16	71	9
Pasture	8	17	39	32	4
Livestock	1	6	28	58	7

- Represents zero.

Forage Percent Obtained from Pastures	This Month	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%
Feed Obtained from Pastures	9	-	-

- Represents data not available.

Weather Summary- For the week ending March 25, 2018

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, 2018 to date	Jan. 1, 2018 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	49	30	62	22	40	-7	1.54	2.98	0.03	11.64	2.10
Norfolk	50	38	58	36	44	-6	1.66	3.80	0.66	9.04	-1.35
Richmond	52	34	64	31	43	-6	1.09	2.31	-0.85	8.16	-1.55
Roanoke	50	33	63	26	42	-6	1.88	3.16	0.24	10.48	1.21
Wash/Dulles	48	29	60	25	38	-6	1.27	1.51	-1.18	8.00	-0.51

* 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)

Weather has been cooler than normal. Two snowfalls provided some moisture, but the monthly total was below average. Some manure has been spread and some small grains were topdressed.

FAUQUIER (Timothy Mize)

Pasture growth has begun, some producers have started rotations. Hay supplies are above average for this time of year. Moisture levels are almost back to normal.

WESTERN**ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)**

As of March 26, Rockbridge received 2.28 inches of precipitation in March as measured at Lexington, about .6 of which fell as snow. Rockbridge had about 4 inches of snow fall March 12 & 13 that mostly melted as it fell, and 4 inches of snow March 21. With rain expected later in the week, Rockbridge should be right at or slightly below normal precipitation for March. Cooler than normal temperatures have delayed spring crops. Hay supplies are generally adequate.

SOUTHWESTERN**SMYTH (Andy Overbay)**

Cooler, snowy weather has slowed grass growth, but fields are greening quickly none the less. Above average moisture has helped, yet many farmers have been able to apply lime and fertilizer in between rainy spells.

SOUTHEASTERN**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Snow and rain has caused some standing water and mud concerns. Some small grains are showing yellowing leaf tips, as folks are scouting. Tobacco greenhouses are planted.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Temperatures remain very cold for March and fields remain wet from recent rains. Most wheat acres have received nitrogen. Strawberry farmers are protecting early season berries mainly with row covers. As weather breaks into spring and covers are removed, overhead irrigation for freeze protection is likely.

ISLE OF WIGHT, SOUTHAMPTON, SUFFOLK CITY (Livy Preisser)

The weather has been pretty chilly here. Most farmers are gearing up equipment to plant and waiting for it to warm up a little bit.