



# Crop Progress and Condition

**USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office**  
Herman Ellison, State Statistician  
P. O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
(804) 771-2493  
**Homepage:** <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

**In Cooperation with:**  
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA  
Virginia Tech  
Virginia State University  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Released: March 25, 2019

Issue: 03-19

**Agricultural News:** The month of March has been mostly wet with constant rain and some flooding. Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.9 for the week ending Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Weather conditions have kept some fields muddy and fieldwork has been delayed. Pastures are beginning to green up. Farming activities for the month included preparing fields and equipment. There are reports of cattle and sheep deaths.

## SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 03/24/19

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	1	53	46
Subsoil	-	-	55	45
Hay & Roughage	4	26	67	3

- Represents zero.

## CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 03/24/19

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	2	9	45	42	2
Winter Wheat	1	8	41	45	5
Pasture	10	32	38	19	1
Livestock	2	9	39	44	6

- Represents zero.

Forage Percent Obtained from Pastures	This Month	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%
Feed Obtained from Pastures	11	-	-

- Represents data not available.

## Weather Summary- For the week ending March 24, 2019

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, 2019 to date	Jan. 1, 2019 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	55	31	59	24	43	-4	1.89	3.48	0.66	11.13	1.70
Norfolk	56	42	65	36	49	0	0.61	1.96	-1.05	10.46	0.21
Richmond	57	34	61	26	45	-3	1.62	3.57	0.52	11.18	1.63
Roanoke	56	35	59	26	45	-3	0.09	1.72	-1.09	10.24	1.10
Wash/Dulles	51	31	55	23	41	-3	2.74	4.52	1.94	11.98	3.61

\* 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

#### LOUDOUN (Jim Hilleary)

Producers that were able to react quickly between rain events have been able to get equipment out for field preparation. Pastures are beginning to green up; however, many - if not most pastures have some portion with standing water. Hay from larger markets is still available; the quality varies.

## WESTERN

### **ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)**

Pastures are starting to green up, but most livestock are still reliant on a daily ration of supplemental feed. Persistently wet conditions all winter have resulted in significant damage to pastures and feeding areas. Dry conditions Monday - Wednesday allowed some pasture re-seeding and manure applications to take place, but 1/2 inch of rain Thursday thwarted further progress on field work.

## CENTRAL

### **AMELIA (Laura Siegle)**

We continue to experience wet soils from a few heavy rainfalls. Some wind this week may help, but weather will still delay or interfere with farm activity. Pastures are near green up and spring flush, but still seem to be lagging.

## EASTERN

### **CHARLES CITY (Scott Reiter)**

Some fieldwork was accomplished this week as soils started drying. Nitrogen applications to wheat were made prior to the Thursday rains. Lime and fertilizer spreading got a start as well. Limited tillage was performed to start preparing peanut fields.

## SOUTHWESTERN

### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Wet weather has hampered many farming activities until recently. Beef cattle and sheep death losses are higher than normal, mostly due to Clostridium. Strawberries showing early signs of gray mold, needing more warm and dry weather.

## SOUTHEASTERN

### **GREENSVILLE (Sara Rutherford)**

The pattern of abundant rain continues well into March; the Meherrin River reached record levels earlier this month. Pasture and cattle continue to suffer from wet, saturated conditions.

### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)**

Farmers busy with herbicide burn-down applications, and readying equipment for the field.

### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Rain has been constant; minor to moderate flooding this week along with a flood warning for Friday and Saturday. Several roads have been closed due to flood damage. Pregnancy checks of fall bred cows have not been as good as in years past. Small grains that were planted are coming along. Dry days have seen fertilizer being spread. Tobacco greenhouses are seeded and coming along as well.

### **PRINCE GEORGE/SURRY/SUSSEX (Scott Reiter)**

Some fieldwork was accomplished this week as soils started drying. Nitrogen applications to wheat were made prior to the Thursday rains. Lime and fertilizer spreading got a start as well. Limited tillage was performed to start preparing peanut fields.

### **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)**

Finally some drying weather for progress. The majority of the wheat in the last week has been brought up to date with fertility and protectants. Strawberry progress is strong with the majority of acres having open blooms to protect from this point forward.