



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork during the week were 5.5. Farming activities for the month of December included planning for the new year and feeding hay; supplies are running tight. Weather conditions are warmer and dry. The average temperatures during the month of December were in the high 30s to 40s. Highs ranged from 65 degrees to 78 degrees, and the lows ranged from 16 degrees to 26 degrees. Monthly precipitation amounts ranged from 2.08 inches to 3.27 inches.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 12/29/19

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	1	2	91	6
Subsoil	1	4	89	6
Hay & Roughage	34	25	41	-

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 12/29/19

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	-	1	34	62	3
Winter Wheat	-	1	26	69	4
Pasture	15	33	31	21	-
Livestock	1	5	21	55	18

- 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 December 29, 2019

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, 2019 to date	Jan. 1, 2019 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	62	32	71	25	47	11	0.00	2.20	-0.62	39.46	-3.43
Norfolk	56	40	63	30	48	6	0.00	2.00	-0.59	46.26	0.91
Richmond	58	33	67	25	45	6	0.00	3.00	0.33	43.94	0.44
Roanoke	60	35	68	29	47	10	0.00	2.67	0.13	43.10	0.85
Wash/Dulles	55	26	65	19	41	7	0.00	2.34	-0.38	40.19	-1.24

* 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.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)

December weather and crop conditions were very close to long-run averages. Total December precipitation for Rockbridge was around 2.75 inches compared to a long run average of around 3.25 inches. Cold temperatures mid-month were off-set by above normal temperatures around Christmas. Hay supplies for many stockman are tight, a lingering effect of dry weather late August through mid- October.

SOUTHWESTERN

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Warmer weather the week of Christmas has helped dwindling hay supplies by lower energy needs; however, hay supplies continue to run very tight. Those seeking hay, especially higher quality specialty hay, are having a difficult time filling that need.

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Farmers have finished harvest of grain crops for 2019 with mostly above average yields.

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Hay supplies are getting low with little to no hay made later in the season, quality is also low. Small grains are coming along, some soybeans still need to be combined. Deer hunting season is almost over, several black bears have been hunted as well this season.