



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
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SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: January 2010

Number: 1

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2010

January has been a challenging month for producers, as above normal precipitation has made field activities difficult. Across the state, topsoil moisture was rated at 35% adequate and 65% surplus and subsoil moisture rated at 53% adequate and 47% surplus. Livestock grazing and feeding has been difficult due to the continued rain, snow and mud and stored feed supplies are being utilized at a higher than normal rate, although quantities remain adequate for the time being. For some grain producers, the frozen soil allowed the completion of corn and soybean harvest, even though soil preparation for spring crops has yet to be done. Small grain development is behind due to lack of nitrogen and weak wheat stands are prevalent due to excess water in fields. When soil conditions improve, fertilizer applications will be essential. Throughout the Commonwealth, a lot of field work will be needed before spring planting activities can begin.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
January 2010	0	0	35	65

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
January 2010	0	0	53	47

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	4	26	61	9
Pastures	3	17	55	24	1
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	2	15	40	35	8

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	15	12
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	4	5
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	10	14

IN THIS REPORT:

Weather Summary Table	pg 2
Reporter Comments by County	pg 2
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3



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Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 31, 2010

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	46	27	62	15	36	1	3.21	11.61	5.24	4.79	1.64
Norfolk	51	34	67	23	43	3	1.55	10.60	4.06	3.03	-0.49
Richmond	49	31	65	18	40	4	1.45	11.60	5.30	3.44	0.26
Roanoke	43	29	57	16	36	0	2.82	12.84	7.11	4.62	1.76
Wash/Dulles	44	28	65	17	36	4	.84	7.20	1.40	1.96	-0.76

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. 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 comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

The frozen soil in mid-December allowed grain producers to finish corn and soybean harvest. Little soil preparation for spring crops has been done. Tobacco producers are starting to get concerned about getting their fields plowed in time for freezing and thawing. Cattle farmers comment that they have fed a substantial amount of hay related to the long-term snow covered fields following the December snow event. They also comment about the loss of hay stored outside this season due to the wetness throughout the year. There seems to be a renewed interest in storing hay under shelter for the upcoming season.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Farmers are attending winter meetings, pricing seed and fertilizer for the coming growing season, and reconditioning and storing harvest equipment. Roads and fences are also being mended and maintained.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

We received record snow fall at end of December, with 18 inches at my home in Western Hanover County. We experienced a period of cold weather, then back to above normal temps and more than enough rainfall. My gauge is inverted for the winter but the rain has resumed the pattern of frequent and copious thunderstorms in mid-January. Slogging thru the mud has become tedious and the ground is absolutely rotten soft. A foot of new snow is predicted for tonight and tomorrow. Hopefully the ground will freeze before it falls, as cold temperatures are called for as well.

EASTERN

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

It is still wet. January has had above normal rainfall. Small grains are not too bad. Stands are sparse and growth is slow due to weather and some late planting. About 15% of small grains were not planted. That is about the same for cover crops too. Barley looks good and has tillered well. Early planted wheat also looks good, but most needs some dry weather. Folks are still finishing some patches of soybeans. They are making plans for spring planting and doing some soil sampling.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

It has been a colder than normal January, with snow cover for most of the month that has limited most livestock grazing.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

This has been an extremely challenging month. We have witnessed it all, as feeding chores have become extremely difficult with snow, rain, and mud. It's tough on people, machinery, and livestock. Stored feed supplies continue to be utilized at a higher rate than usual for this time of year. Supplies appear to be adequate at this time.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Small grain development was slowed by lack of nitrogen leached in the fall by frequent, heavy rains. Temperatures would not allow the uptake of nitrogen, and field conditions were too wet. Weak wheat stands were caused by excess water in fields. A lot of field work is needed before planting, such as lime applications and removing ruts created by fall soybean harvest in wet fields. Good news, the recharge of the water table is complete now.

SOUTHERN

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

Small grains are behind in growth and need fertilizer when the soil conditions improve.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

January continued to be a hard month on cattle, machinery and people. December snows covered most areas with brutal cold temperatures early in the month. Cold rains flooded creeks and turned snow covered pastures into mud wallows. Hay stocks are being used at a rapid pace. The month ended with another 6-8 inches of snow.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

January had everything from long-lasting snow cover, extremely low temperatures, heavy rain and lots of mud, making it very difficult to keep livestock watered and fed. This weather also allowed winter weeds to get a foothold in fall planted forage, cover and grain crops. I estimate there will be fruit and landscape tree losses due to snow cover and subsequent rodent damage.