



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
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SERVICE

# WEATHER & CROPS



USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2010

Snow storms throughout the month plagued the state causing soggy field conditions. Wet field conditions have limited farmer's access to their fields this month. Herbicide applications have been delayed and growers are behind on pulling soil samples for the season. Crops in well-drained areas look good. Winter weather conditions have created significant damage to pastures where cattle have been fed. Cattle and sheep producers are having more difficulty in feeding, and getting the animals to maintain weight due to the cold, snow and mud. Cattle are consuming more feed than normal and producers are wondering if they will have enough hay.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
February 2010	0	0	41	59
January 2010	0	0	35	65

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
February 2010	0	0	48	52
January 2010	0	0	53	47

### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	7	46	42	4
Pastures	13	21	52	13	1
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	6	23	44	22	5

### FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	6	8
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	1	3
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	4	6

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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 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	44	30	57	26	37	-2	0.16	13.91	4.26	7.09	0.65
Norfolk	50	33	58	27	41	-2	0.53	15.55	5.46	7.98	0.92
Richmond	49	33	60	28	41	0	0.25	14.47	5.02	6.31	0.00
Roanoke	43	31	58	28	37	-4	0.10	14.89	5.87	6.67	0.56
Wash/Dulles	43	30	50	23	37	0	0.10	9.60	0.88	4.36	-1.30

\* 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.

**NORTHERN**
**CLARKE (Jacob Grove)**

Large amounts of snow cover has affected grazing practices, Hay needs have dramatically escalated due to cold snowy weather conditions. There has only been a limited number of livestock mortality, but most herds have been set back significantly.

**CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)**

Snow cover is protecting small grains and any remaining stockpiled pasture growth from the weather. Remaining stockpile is of above average quality as new late season growth carried over well under the snow and for the most part has not been utilized.

**WESTERN**
**HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Snow cover over the entire month of February. No grazing opportunities and hay supplies are dwindling rapidly. Maple syrup production is a month behind due to the weather.

**EASTERN**
**MIDDLESEX (David Moore )**

Things are soggy. Producers are making some decisions about fertilizing small grains. Small grains have not grown well for the last 2 months. Many fields have not had any fertilizer applied to them at this point. In the next 2 weeks producers will decide whether to make one nitrogen application and be done with the wheat or burn it down and go with full season soybeans. Barley that was planted timely still looks pretty good. All small grains need sunshine and some warmer temperatures. Most small grains have very little root systems due to the wet and cold conditions. In about a month some growers will be planting corn. A lot of things need to happen on the farm in the next month. Down time due to the weather has given producers more time to tweak their equipment, make planting decisions and develop a marketing plan. Some folks are running low on hay due to the cold and snowy winter.

**CENTRAL**
**AMHERST (William Seay)**

Producers are looking forward to spring and relief from the cold temperatures and snow covered fields. Livestock have consumed more feed than normal and produces are wondering if they will have enough hay to get them through.

**APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

Many cattle producers thought they would have a surplus of hay coming out of this winter. The snow covered conditions and the amount of feeding will leave little carry-over hay for next year. Small grain producers are concerned about getting herbicide and fertilizer on their crop. Tobacco producers have not been able to plow their fields for the upcoming season.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir )**

Many fields are flooded as the snow melt continues; small grain crops in flooded areas are yellow, stunted and sickly. Crops in well-drained areas look good. Livestock have to deal with very muddy, soggy field conditions, and resultant stress. Farmers are attending meetings, doing taxes, and pricing seed and supplies for the spring growing season. Fertilization of small grains will resume as field conditions permit.

**HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Two months of record rain followed by two months of record snows have caused small grains to be relatively unseen for most of February. Hay stocks have taken a hit. Venturing off of a hardened surface even in a tractor is an invitation for an adventure in getting stuck. Three days of high winds brought some drying but the ground is still sopping wet.

**NELSON (Michael LaChance)**

Snow cover remains but is 75% melted off open land. Fruit trees and vineyards are being pruned and growers are attending production meetings.

**ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)**

Wet conditions this winter has created significant damage to pastures where cattle have been wintered and fed.

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**SOUTHWESTERN**
**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

More than 50% of pastures and cropland are still snow covered to some extent. Small grains needing nitrogen will have to wait longer due to wet and muddy conditions. Fruit trees are ready to break dormancy and early varieties are already in silver tip stage. Expect lots of rodent damage to fruit and nursery field stock due to long-lasting snow cover.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Winter weather conditions have led to extremely muddy conditions on the farms. Cattle and sheep producers are having more difficulty in feeding, and getting animals to maintain weight due to the cold, snow and mud. Strawberry producers are continuing to keep berries covered and are applying overhead frost protection during cold nights. Other than the necessities, most farming activity is at a stand-still.

**SOUTHERN**
**FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)**

Continued snowfall in February led to moisture surpluses, livestock feeding issues, and continued disease and mortality issues in livestock. Pastures are showing higher than normal damage in livestock feeding areas. Hay supplies are declining faster than usual as a direct result of weather conditions during February.

**SOUTHEASTERN**
**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

The snow has been hard on some animals, they have been fed hay but not enough energy is in it and many animals have lost weight that will take a while to get back on. Several acres of small grains were never planted due to weather conditions and the crops that were are doing reasonably well. The wind over the weekend helped dry things out a little bit.

**PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Wet fields and winter weather have kept most farmers out of the fields this month. Wheat producers have not been able to apply herbicides and top-dress fertilizer as normal. This is a concern due to weed size and waiting periods between fertilizer application and herbicide applications. Growers are even behind on pulling soil samples for this season.

**SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)**

It has been a cold wet winter and small grains has struggled. Growers are attending production programs, taking soil samples, feeding livestock and making plans for the 2010 growing season.