



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: February 2012

Number: 2

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2012

It has been a mild winter thus far across the Commonwealth, with moderate precipitation and temperatures throughout the month. Even though there has only been one significant snow storm so far this year, soil moisture levels remain adequate, and some areas are saturated, preventing fieldwork. In those areas with drier soil, producers have been busy with soil sampling and lime application, as well as, topdressing small grains with nitrogen and herbicides. With this assistance, and the warmer weather, small grains are beginning to grow and are in good condition. Livestock producers are repairing fences and feeding hay and several are making plans to market fall born calves.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Month | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| February 2012 | 0 | 1 | 91 | 8 |
| January 2012 | 0 | 2 | 82 | 16 |

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Month | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| February 2012 | 0 | 3 | 91 | 6 |
| January 2012 | 0 | 4 | 83 | 13 |

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Livestock | 0 | 2 | 26 | 60 | 12 |
| Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops | 0 | 1 | 21 | 67 | 11 |

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

| Crop | This Month | Last Year |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures | 14 | 6 |
| Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures | 9 | 2 |
| Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures | 19 | 12 |

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Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service



Virginia Tech

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Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 2012

| 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 | 58 | 30 | 79 | 20 | 44 | 5 | 1.52 | 8.92 | -0.56 | 4.31 | -1.93 |
| Norfolk | 63 | 42 | 82 | 28 | 52 | 9 | 0.85 | 5.64 | -4.25 | 4.08 | -2.72 |
| Richmond | 60 | 35 | 81 | 23 | 47 | 6 | 1.29 | 6.02 | -3.24 | 3.99 | -2.14 |
| Roanoke | 58 | 33 | 74 | 23 | 45 | 5 | 1.10 | 7.61 | -1.13 | 3.42 | -2.47 |
| Wash/Dulles | 53 | 33 | 66 | 22 | 43 | 7 | 0.20 | 7.20 | -1.27 | 2.74 | -2.74 |

* 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)

A mild winter has led to a surplus of poorer quality hay.

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

It has been a very mild winter, short on snowfall.

ROCKINGHAM (Matthew Yancey)

We have received roughly one inch of rainfall and 4" of snowfall as of February 24, 2012 for the month of February. It has been abnormally warm, with an average of 39 deg. F and a high of 66 deg. F.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Maple production is about a week early and running average on production.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Mild and moderately wet weather characterized February weather for Rockbridge. Four to eight inches of snow fell on February 19th, the only significant snowfall of the winter so-far.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

February was mostly an 'above average' month as far as temperatures. There were a few days with frosty mornings, but the days would warm up quickly. February 19th was the first snowfall of the winter. The county received an average of 2.5 inches, more in some areas, less in others. It was sunny and in the mid 40's the next day, melting much of the snow. Then it became very warm with windy conditions. The ground is quite moist even after the blustery winds left. Crop conditions for small grain appear in good condition.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Farmers are soil testing and applying lime, as needed. Many small grain fields have been top-dressed with fertilizer as per soil tests. Farmers are scouting wheat and barley for insects and diseases. Many fields have been ripped and deep tilled in preparation for corn planting this spring. Livestock producers are repairing fences and feeding hay.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

February was 'above average' as far as temperatures are concerned. The first snowfall of the winter was February 19th, with an average of 2.0 - 2.5 inches of snowfall. The next day was sunny and in the mid 40's melting much of the snow, leaving a soggy ground. Then the next few days was in the 70's, ending with very windy conditions. The small grain crops are in good condition.

(Central continued)

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

We have experiences continued mild and wet conditions. We did have a 5 inch snowfall during the month and this was the first meaningful snow. Moisture however has been abundant and with above normal day time temperatures mud is the order of the month. The ground is saturated and sticky. Late winter applications of nitrogen on small grain have been delayed due to wet conditions and few days of frozen ground. Mosquitoes, flies and ticks are already active. Frogs are active. It is the mildest winter in my memory.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Relatively warm and dry weather during the month allowed producers to do significant field work during the month, including soil sampling and applications of lime and potash, topdressing small grains with nitrogen and herbicides, and subsoiling. Other activities included attending educational meetings, equipment maintenance, tax planning, and input pricing and purchasing.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Warm weather is pushing wheat along. The first shot of N split has gone on in some cases. Producers are making planting decisions and lime spreading and soil sampling continue. Fertilizing hay and pasture begins. There are meetings to attend and folks are slowly selling stored grain.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Many soil samples have been taken this year. Folks are in the greenhouses putting in tobacco. Land is getting prepared for spring planting. Small grains are looking good. Several producers are making plans to market fall born calves.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Producers are working to get equipment ready and finish cleanup of field debris from the hurricane last September. Wheat is doing very well with the warmer weather and rains.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

The mild winter weather helped promote growth of late planted small grains and pasture. Producers are preparing equipment, taxes, budgets, and attending winter meetings.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Small grain is beginning to grow now with warmer weather and topdressing. Growers are busy with lime and fertilizer applications and planning for the upcoming growing season.



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