



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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



WEATHER & CROPS



Month: March 2011

Number: 3

Released: March 28, 2011

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MARCH 2011

Warmer weather engulfed the state during the latter days of March. Small grains and pastures responded well to the burst of warmth. In some areas significant rainfall assisted with the progress of small grains and pastures. Most producers got nitrogen on small grains in a timely fashion which also aided in the jump in growth. Growers are top-dressing wheat and barley crops, spreading lime and potash for spring crops, and making preparations for spring planting. Tobacco greenhouse seeding was completed.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 2011	6	11	76	7
February 2011	18	38	42	2
January 2011	2	22	71	5

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 2011	10	27	60	3
February 2011	17	40	43	0
January 2011	7	27	65	1

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	7	12	47	32	2
Livestock	2	11	28	50	9
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	1	4	31	56	8

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES		
Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	15	N/A
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	5	N/A
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	24	N/A

IN THIS REPORT:

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

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service



Virginia Tech

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

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 2011

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 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	63	40	79	27	51	3	0.21	2.38	-0.79	5.79	-4.02
Norfolk	58	45	76	38	51	1	0.39	1.96	-1.41	7.84	-2.89
Richmond	61	42	77	33	52	3	0.71	3.87	0.45	8.43	-1.48
Roanoke	63	42	79	33	52	3	0.20	3.72	0.55	6.74	-2.75
Wash/Dulles	56	37	73	27	46	1	0.49	4.79	1.86	8.87	0.09

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

For the last few weeks we have had rainfall weekly. No pasture to graze at this time because it is still dormant. Weather has been in low 30's and high 90's some days.

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

Warmer weather through late March has brought on small grains and greened up pastures. Moisture has been much more consistent and ground water levels have risen nicely. There has been some field work with manure applications and dragging pastures being the most common.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Jason Carter)

Significant rainfall in the last 2 weeks has greatly improved small grain and pasture situations. Cattle and sheep numbers continue to shrink however as high prices encourage breeding animal sell-off in light of low hay supplies for many producers. Small grains have grown considerably with recent moisture, however little new grazing activity is being seen on small grain fields.

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Precipitation for month-to-date = 4.22" (slightly above average)
Warming trends have advanced tree bloom.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Soil moisture has increased over the past month - however behind for the season. Grazing period does not begin until April 1.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions are much improved, as March has brought over 4 inches of rain to the area, so far, with more in the forecast. Small grain crops are looking good. Farmers are top-dressing wheat and barley crops.

HANOVER (Jim Tate Hanover) - Caroline SWCD

March has finally brought us significant rain. In my western Hanover home we have had a bit over four inches with more predicted this coming weekend. The eastern end of the county has had more rain which is the norm. Most producers got nitrogen on small grains in a timely fashion and small grains has taken a jump this last couple of weeks. Small grains looked pretty weak until last week. Good rain and warm sunny conditions. Not quite warm enough for pastures to be flourishing but they are beginning to show some green. Those few good grazing managers have begun to rotate and take advantage of early growth. I have not seen anyone jump the gun and start planting corn yet but there may be some out there that I have not seen. Still forecasting a low of thirty this weekend.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers were busy in March applying nitrogen to small grains, spreading lime and potash for spring crops, and making preparations for spring planting.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Most small grains look good. Early or timely planted small grains looks very good. Second shot of N going on most fields now. Things are beginning to bud and green up some. Folks are anticipating planting corn. Some will start next week if dry enough. Ground moisture is good right now. Scouting wheat and barley and doing tissue samples are activities of the week. Some burn down of potential corn fields taking place. Producers are busy getting planting equipment ready and watching the market.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Unseasonably warm weather and much needed rain came during the latter part of the month. Pastures, hay and small grains are greening fast. Some of our earliest forest and shrub species are 2-3 weeks ahead of normal bud break which is concerning with 7 weeks of significant frost potential left. Most spring-calving beef operations are well into calving season.

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Spring growth ahead of normal giving small grains and pasture above average ratings for development and rate of growth.

SOUTHERN

PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

Moisture levels are decent at this time. March is signing off with a light measurable snow early in the week. Bring on Spring!

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The thunderstorms have caused some issues with downed trees, tree limbs, and some minor wind damage. Grass is beginning to green up. Small grains are growing well at this point. Fall calves are coming along nicely. A few folks are looking for a bit more hay to get them through until grass is ready. Tobacco greenhouses are planted. Producers are getting land ready to plant tobacco and soybeans. Soil samples are being sent in regularly now as well.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Warm temperatures and rainfall has certainly helped the small grain crops. The past two weeks have encouraged much new growth. Producers are applying the Growth Stage 30 or last nitrogen fertilizer for the season. There is no noticeable disease or insect pressure at this time. Producers are also preparing to plant corn with fertilizer and burn down herbicide applications taking place. Pasture and hay fields have also greened up considerably in the last couple of weeks with animals getting a little fresh grass.

SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Pastures are just beginning to green. Wheat is marginal and was very much in need of recent rains. Nitrogen is being applied to wheat. Farmers are busy with field preparation, burn-down, applying potash, and 24D and preparing for peanut planting. Expect corn planting to begin early to mid April.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Small grain crops are growing well, with land prep beginning for corn and cotton planting. Producers are hoping that higher commodity prices will lead to a profitable year.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

Spring showers moved through the area with a half inch of rainfall providing some relief. Hopefully more is on the way as growers get busy with field work.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Mild temperatures and good soil moisture conditions are enabling farmers to complete winter ditch bank mowing and making lime and fertilizer applications for spring plantings the past two weeks. Winter wheat has received nitrogen applications and growing nicely. No wheat pest or disease problems reported. Farmers are making ready for planting of early season vegetable crops.



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

Address Service Requested