



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 2011

December has been a mild month for producers across the Commonwealth, with warmer than usual temperatures and above average precipitation. The weather has been beneficial to small grain crops, which are in excellent condition. Some fields have been top dressed with Nitrogen and treated for weeds and aphids. In a few areas throughout the state, farmers are harvesting the last of the soybeans that were previously inaccessible, while others may have to wait until the ground is frozen. For those who graze their cattle, pastures are holding out well; however, most cattlemen have been feeding hay for awhile.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	4	23	56	17
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	0	2	17	70	11

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES		
Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	37	12
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	15	3
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	52	17

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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 JANUARY 1, 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	51	29	59	24	40	4	0.71	4.61	1.39	38.96	-4.32
Norfolk	58	36	65	28	47	5	0.45	1.56	-1.49	51.10	5.48
Richmond	56	32	64	25	44	6	0.41	2.03	-1.09	47.52	3.52
Roanoke	52	33	59	29	42	5	0.38	4.21	1.35	45.05	2.55
Wash/Dulles	49	30	59	22	39	6	0.71	4.46	1.39	46.20	4.20

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

December in Rockbridge County was marked by above average precipitation and milder than normal temperatures. For those livestock producers that stockpiled fescue, grazeable forage is still in abundance. Most cattlemen are feeding hay however. Winter crops are in excellent condition.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

All fall harvest, as far as I know, is complete. The small grains and cover crops are planted and doing well. Temperatures for December have been milder in 2011 than the past two years. There have been a few mornings with temps in the mid 30's, but not a cold blast - yet. It has rained once a week - every week -for the past 4 weeks. Usually over a 12 to 24 hour time period, then the system moves on out with clearing skies. The topsoil is very sloppy and especially for those with cattle and around the feed lots. Forecast for the last day of December and first day of January are expected to be mild - no weather to fall. Enjoy while you can, I hear there are changes on the way for next week - Brrrrgh....

Happy New Year to all - may our farmers be as blessed in 2012 as they were in 2011.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Small grain crops look excellent due to the warmer weather and plentiful rain. Some aphid problems are being noticed and wet soil is limiting spraying for these and weeds.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Farmers are getting in the last of the soybeans that were in more inaccessible areas. Some areas may have to wait until the ground is frozen. Crop and vegetable farmers are ordering seed, fertilizer and chemicals for next season. Some soil testing has begun.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Fall harvest is complete - small grains and cover crops are planted. The county has had a consecutive weekly rain every week for the past 4 weeks. Rain amounts have varied from .25 to 1.0 inch. Temperatures have been milder for December 2011 than the past two years. A few mornings of low 30's. Forecast for Dec 31 and Jan 1 - is expected to be mild. Changes in weather temperatures are forecast for next week - but no falling weather.

Happy New Year to all - I hope the farmers have a blessed 2012 year!

Central continued.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Wet ground conditions continue. The winter crops that got planted look good due to unseasonably warm conditions. Temperatures have consistently been higher than average throughout the month. Grazers who manage their pasturage are doing well. Traditional management livestock owners have been feeding forages for a while.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Producers were busy during the month with soil sampling, making input purchases for 2012, tax planning, and attending pesticide recertification workshops and seed dealer meetings. Some small grain fields were top dressed with nitrogen and treated for weeds and aphids. Mild weather was good for pastures and small grain growth, but continued rainfall stressed some small grains on heavier soil types.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

It has been a wet and warm fall and early winter. Small grain looks good. Some folks have already made small nitrogen application with insecticide. Folks are busy making seed and fertilizer orders. The grain market is making some moves, but it could just be some end of year fluctuations. Producers and agribusinesses are taking soil samples.

SOUTHEASTERN

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Producers are winterizing equipment and completing soil samples. Many are making a trip to the FSA Office to apply for the Disaster Assistance.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Weather has been good and most of our crops are in and growers are busy planning for 2012 and deer hunting. 2011 was a good year.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Winter wheat has progressed nicely with a warmer than usual December. Acreage is looking good with some field work being done on spraying for winter weeds. Farmers are getting those ditch banks mowed and preparing farm equipment for spring. Moving grain from on-farm storage to elevators is a seasonal task underway at present.



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