



Crop Progress and Condition

USDA, NASS, West Virginia Field Office
Charmaine Wilson, State Statistician
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, E
Charleston, WV 25305
(304) 357-5123 or 1-800-535-7088
Homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv>

In Cooperation with:
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA
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Agricultural News: The month of March was a mix of colder and warmer temperatures with snow and rain. Some producers are short on hay and pastures are muddy. Farming activities for the month included calving and lambing; cow and calf deaths have been reported.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 03/24/19

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	1	80	19
Subsoil	-	2	80	18
Hay & Roughage	16	36	44	4
Feed grain	1	3	93	3

-Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 03/24/19

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Winter Wheat	1	16	47	36	-
Pasture	12	31	29	27	1
Cattle & Calves	2	14	35	44	5
Sheep & Lambs	1	6	53	35	5

- Represents zero.

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS for week ending 03/24/19

Crop/Livestock Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Calved	66	-	58	63
Lambled	70	-	63	69

- Represents data not available.

March Summary of Weather and Agricultural Conditions February 25 - March 24

Weather for the month of March was a mix of temperatures and weather conditions. For the week ending **March 3rd**, most areas across the State ended the week one to four degrees below normal. The only exception was Elkins which was one degree above average. Although the week ended near normal, West Virginia experienced both spring-like temperatures in the upper 60s near the beginning of the week, and winter-like temperatures in the teens and 20s near the end. Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 69 degrees. Wheeling had the lowest recorded temperature of 17 degrees. The state average temperature was 36 degrees. Precipitation amounts varied; the Northern half of the State received less precipitation than the Southern half. The difference in precipitation amounts was due to a frontal system that tracked over the Southern half of the State late in the workweek. Marlinton had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.87 inches. Wheeling had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.17 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 1.04 inches.

West Virginia recorded far below average temperatures the week ending **March 10th**. The cooler than normal temperatures were a result of extremely cold temperatures across the State at the beginning of the week. It was not until the second half of the week that temperatures returned to normal, and near the end of the week until any above normal temperatures were reported. Most stations were around 8 to 10 degrees below average. Pineville and Moorefield had the highest recorded temperature of 70 degrees. Wheeling had the lowest recorded temperature of 6 degrees. The state average temperature was 30 degrees. The State was somewhat on the dry side, all stations, with the exception of Huntington, were below normal. The only notable precipitation fell as a warm front crossed West Virginia late in the week. Huntington had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.17 inches. Belington had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.38 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 0.65 of an inch.

West Virginia temperatures tended to be above normal across the region for the week ending **March 17th**. The week started and ended near average, however a very warm period during the week pulled averages up. This period saw temperatures reach into the 60's to near 80 across the State, including the mountains. Morgantown and Clarksburg had the highest recorded temperature of 80 degrees. Terra Alta had the lowest recorded temperature of 19 degrees. The state average temperature was 44 degrees. Precipitation was well below normal with a few locations remaining dry altogether through the period. A strong and windy, but ultimately dry system impacted the area later in the week with a broken line of rain showers and storms. A weak system with snow and rain impacted the area at the end of the week. Terra Alta had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.54 of an inch. Belington, Beckley, Martinsburg, Keyser, and Moorefield had the lowest with zero recorded precipitation. The state average precipitation was 0.10 of an inch.

Below average temperatures were recorded across West Virginia the week ending **March 24th**, all stations ranged from 2 to 8 degrees below normal. For the majority of the week, high temperatures averaged in the 40s and 50s, with lows in the teens and 20s. It was not until the last day of the week that spring-like temperatures arrived, with high temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Williamson and Pineville had the highest recorded temperature of 72 degrees. Beckley had the lowest recorded temperature of 16 degrees. The state average temperature was 39 degrees. Most of the State received below average precipitation during the week. Only light precipitation fell from two systems that passed over the area, and there were multiple days with zero precipitation. The only exception was Martinsburg, which was effected by a strong storm that moved up the East Coast, but missed the majority of the State. Martinsburg had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 2.10 inches. Creston had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.03 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 0.29 of an inch.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending 03/24/19

Station	Temperature				Precipitation					
	High	Low	Weekly Average	Weekly Departure	Week's Total	Week's Norm	Since April 1st 2018	Same Week Last Year	Season Normal	
--NORTHWEST										
WHEELING	59	24	38	-4	0.05	0.77	54.32	47.67	37.22	
PARKERSBURG	64	22	40	-5	0.30	0.86	53.84	51.29	40.53	
CRESTON	67	19	39		0.03		58.69	44.31		
--NORTHCENTRAL										
MORGANTOWN	58	25	39	-5	0.28	0.85	52.94	48.62	40.96	
CLARKSBURG	61	24	40	-3	0.10	0.95	53.00	52.16	45.05	
BELINGTON	62	21	38		0.18		62.90	51.91		
WESTON	64	21	39		0.22		70.49	56.54		
--SOUTHWEST										
WILLIAMSON	72	24	43		0.22		52.56	58.27		
HUNTINGTON	69	25	43	-5	0.05	0.90	56.81	47.69	41.95	
CHARLESTON	69	20	40	-8	0.23	0.89	59.86	49.80	43.41	
RIPLEY	67	19	39		0.08		57.21	45.47		
--CENTRAL										
TERRA ALTA	53	19	34		0.14		74.75	61.68		
ELKINS	65	19	39	-2	0.36	0.90	65.19	46.94	45.25	
MARLINTON	64	17	36		0.25		59.87	47.79		
--SOUTHERN										
BECKLEY	68	16	36	-8	0.25	0.82	55.48	48.47	40.58	
PINEVILLE	72	21	41		0.13		54.64	54.39		
BLUEFIELD	70	18	39	-8	0.12	0.81	55.57	51.51	39.04	
WHITE SUL SP	68	17	37		0.09		57.89	39.39		
BLUESTONE DAM	70	24	40		0.05		52.66	41.81		
--NORTHEASTERN										
MARTINSBURG	63	23	40	-5	2.10	0.85	67.34	39.45	38.06	
KEYSER	61	20	38		0.53		64.32	42.76		
MOOREFIELD	62	20	39		0.57		47.99	35.50		
State Average Temperature	39									
State Average Precipitation	0.29									

Source:
Weather comments and data - Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service, Charleston, WV.

INTERNET ACCESS: ALL National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports are now available free of charge on the Internet.
For access, connect to the Internet and select: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>.