



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News: The month of December has been mild, with a mix of colder, winter weather. Rain and muddy conditions could be a concern for calving and lambing later. Farming activities for the month included preparing for winter weather and machine maintenance. Fruit comments from the month include the following: this is pruning season for all deciduous tree fruits in this region except peaches. Peach pruning should begin in late February.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 01/01/17

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	1	8	73	18
Subsoil	1	15	73	11
Hay & Roughage	1	4	94	1
Feed grain	-	1	98	1

-Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 01/01/17

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Winter Wheat	-	14	48	30	8
Cattle & Calves	-	1	11	85	3
Sheep & Lambs	-	1	15	82	2

- Represents zero.

December Summary of Weather and Agricultural Conditions November 28, 2016 - January 1, 2017

During the month of December, West Virginia had several weather systems moving through, bringing a mix of temperatures and varied precipitation forms that included rain, snow and sleet. For the week ending **December 4th**, temperatures were unseasonably warm, particularly for the first three days of the reporting period. Later in the week, a much colder air mass entrenched itself across the State with temperatures falling to or below average. Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 72 degrees. Martinsburg and Moorefield had the lowest recorded temperature of 23 degrees. The state average temperature was 42 degrees. An unsettled weather pattern persisted through roughly the first half of the week bringing daily rain to most areas, and later in the week snow, in the higher elevations. Williamson had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 3.37 inches. Parkersburg had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.65 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 1.74 inches.

For the week ending **December 11th**, daily temperatures started near seasonal averages statewide, but a powerful blast of arctic air during the last half of the week ensured below average weekly temperatures and significantly colder than normal daily temperatures. Williamson and Charleston had the highest recorded temperature of 57 degrees. Marlinton had the lowest recorded temperature of 11 degrees. The state average temperature was 33 degrees. Unsettled weather continued during the week with at least some precipitation each day. Rain was mostly reported for roughly the first half of the week, but once an arctic air mass moved in, several sites reported some form of frozen precipitation. All reporting sites experienced higher than average weekly precipitation. Terra Alta had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.83 inches. Moorefield had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.36 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 1.22 inches.

For the week ending **December 18th**, although there were quite extreme temperature swings during the week, the State ended up below average for the week. All stations ranged from just below normal, to five degrees below average at Parkersburg. A large push of cold air near the end of the workweek dropped day time high temperatures into the teens and 20s, and low temperatures into the single digits and below zero in colder locations. Soon after the cold air arrived, warm air moved over the State ahead of yet another cold front. During this warming, high temperatures reached the 60s and 70s. Temperatures then dropped back to below average. Huntington had the highest recorded temperature of 72 degrees. Terra Alta had the lowest recorded temperature of -2 degrees. The state average temperature was 32 degrees. With the passing of strong frontal systems during the week, West Virginia received a greater amount of precipitation. Nearly all stations met or exceeded average for the week and received over an inch of precipitation. The Eastern Panhandle was the driest part of the State. Parkersburg had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 2.31 inches. Martinsburg had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.17 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 1.42 inches.

The week ending **December 25th** began with far below average high temperatures in the 20s to 30s across the State. Temperatures steadily rose through the week with building high pressure. On Christmas Day, strengthening southerly flow pushed temperatures into the 50s to near 60s across lower elevations and the South (cooler highs in the 40s were experienced further northward and in the mountains). All stations reported above average temperatures for the week as a whole. Huntington had the highest recorded temperature of 62 degrees. Beckley had the lowest recorded temperature of 12 degrees. The state average temperature was 36 degrees. Precipitation was scattered, and amounts varied across the State. Southern and Central counties had closer to average rainfall amounts, but were still generally below average. Williamson had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.36 inches. Wheeling had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.05 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 0.45 of an inch.

The week ending **January 1st** began with temperatures well above average across the State. Several systems sweeping through brought temperatures down thereafter, with the coldest air making it into the area by Saturday. Huntington had the highest recorded temperature of 74 degrees. White Sulphur Springs had the lowest recorded temperature of 10 degrees. The state average temperature was 39 degrees. With multiple storm systems moving through, numerous sites saw precipitation almost daily. The majority of this precipitation fell as rain; colder air later in the week, however, brought a transition to snow and snow showers, especially in the mountains. The deepest snow accumulations were observed across the high terrain in Pocahontas County, with around 8 inches of snow reported at Snowshoe. Most of West Virginia remained above average for season normal precipitation with the exception of the Panhandles, which remained slightly below average. Williamson had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 2.14 inches. Moorefield had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.19 of an inch. The state average precipitation was 1.09 inches.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending 01/01/17

Station	Temperature				Precipitation					
	High	Low	Average	Weekly Departure	Week's Total	Norm	Since April 1st 2016	Same Week Last Year	Season Normal	
--NORTHWEST										
WHEELING	65	26	38		0.37		30.72	22.58		
PARKERSBURG	69	26	40	7	0.73	0.65	28.39	23.13	31.90	
CRESTON	69	21	38		0.91		32.57	40.63		
--NORTHCENTRAL										
MORGANTOWN	68	28	41		0.87		37.23	22.90		
CLARKSBURG	67	25	40	8	1.06	0.75	40.08	28.44	35.20	
BELINGTON	69	20	40		1.18		40.47	26.09		
WESTON	69	21	39		1.62		45.51	29.94		
--SOUTHWEST										
WILLIAMSON	70	29	43		2.14		45.63	45.59		
HUNTINGTON	74	28	43	8	0.73	0.71	36.33	31.67	32.75	
CHARLESTON	73	25	41	6	1.64	0.69	38.80	39.36	34.04	
RIPLEY	69	21	38		0.94		33.95	29.22		
--CENTRAL										
TERRA ALTA	61	21	34		1.34		43.04	40.04		
ELKINS	53	19	35	5	2.01	0.68	42.15	38.59	35.62	
MARLINTON	54	11	34		0.99		39.50	37.46		
--SOUTHERN										
BECKLEY	59	14	40	8	1.40	0.66	40.74	36.73	32.08	
PINEVILLE	61	18	38		1.29		35.07	38.49		
BLUEFIELD	59	18	39	4	0.95	0.62	34.66	36.59	30.56	
WHITE SUL SP	55	10	35		1.02		37.34	29.61		
BLUESTONE DAM	57	21	38		1.11		32.62	31.28		
--NORTHEASTERN										
MARTINSBURG	63	24	41	9	0.47	0.50	25.52	28.17	30.53	
KEYSER	61	18	38		0.93		29.65	31.34		
MOOREFIELD	67	22	42		0.19		23.09	24.09		
State Average Temperature	39									
State Average Precipitation	1.09									

Sources:
 Weather comments and data - Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service, Charleston, WV.
 Fruit comments - Stephen S. Miller, Ph.D. Research Horticulturist.