



**USDA, NASS, West Virginia Field Office**

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**Agricultural News:** Weather during the month of December was wet with rain and snow, along with a mix of warm and very cold temperatures. Freezing temperatures caused some calf losses. Farming activities for the month included checking on livestock and planning for the next growing season.

**SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 1/1/23**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	4	78	18
Subsoil	-	7	80	13
Hay & Roughage	-	8	88	4
Feed grain	-	5	95	-

-Represents zero.

**CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 1/1/23**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Winter Wheat	-	-	47	51	2
Cattle & Calves	-	3	38	52	7
Sheep & Lambs	-	1	35	60	4

- Represents zero.

**December Summary of Weather and Agricultural Conditions  
November 28, 2022 - January 1, 2023**

The week ending December 4<sup>th</sup>, began as a weak disturbance departed and was slowly replaced by high pressure from the west. The shifting air masses led to light showers, especially in the mountains, and differences in temperature across West Virginia. A quick moving cold front swept across West Virginia overnight Tuesday into Wednesday producing rain showers and gusty winds. The front exited to the east by Wednesday afternoon with clear skies becoming predominant and cold air funneling in from the north. Temperatures dropped throughout the day on Wednesday. Below normal temperatures, but with a warming trend, and clear conditions dominated the West Virginia weather until the next cold front arrived early Saturday. Precipitation amounts were below average for most of the State. For the week ending December 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday began cold and clear under high pressure. Temperatures started in the teens and 20s and warmed into the 40s and 50s by the afternoon. Clouds and rain began overnight into Tuesday as instability approached Appalachia. The upper-level weather pattern for the middle of the week created unsettled weather. This southern stream brought in warm, humid air producing from one quarter to over one inch rainfall on Tuesday and Wednesday as well as temperatures well above normal. By Thursday morning, most stations were over 10 degrees above normal. Low level moisture produced drizzle, fog, and stratus clouds through Friday afternoon and the temperatures were near normal. Saturday began cloudy with drizzle and cleared for the afternoon. Another weak wave of instability moved through later Saturday night, producing some more light rain. Sunday was mostly cloudy with light rain showers in the north of the State. At the end of this week, most locations were 5 to 10 degrees above normal with mixed precipitation averages. For the week ending December 18<sup>th</sup>, the week began cool and dry with the clouds gradually clearing through early Wednesday morning. Temperatures on Monday and Tuesday generally ranged in the 30s and 40s during the day and went down into the 20s and 30s at night. Clouds began to move in early Wednesday ahead of an approaching warm front. Light to moderate rain overspread West Virginia from the southwest through the day as the warm front crossed. Temperatures remained in the 40s for most locations, but the highest elevations saw some snow. The low pressure affecting the region began moving off to the northeast on Thursday, and drug a cold front along with it producing more rain showers through the day. Temperatures dropped overnight into Friday as the weather cleared out behind the front. Friday and Saturday were both cold with light snow showers drifting over the State. Temperatures remained cold on Sunday with occasional light snow showers. Overall, West Virginia was somewhat cool and dry. For the week ending December 25<sup>th</sup>, a bitter cold air mass swept into the Mid-Ohio Valley and central Appalachians early Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup> bringing a dramatic temperature drop of near 40 degrees in just a few hours followed by a period of strong winds and frigid wind chills. The deep freeze lasted into the Christmas weekend with wind chills ranging from 10 to 25 below in the lower elevations, and down to 50 below in the mountains. For the week ending January 1<sup>st</sup>, West Virginia ended 2022 with well above normal temperatures statewide. The State began cool as the arctic air moved off to the northeast. Several stations early in the week dropped down into the single digits. Near mid-week, a strong warm front brought in rain and near record-breaking temperatures from the south. During this time several stations reached the 70s and with high moisture, low temperatures remained well above normal as well. Overall, most of the week was dry and most stations reported just below average precipitation for the period. At the end of the week, most stations were 4 to 10 degrees warmer than usual.

**Week ending 12/4:** Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 69 degrees. Moorefield had the lowest recorded temperature of 14 degrees. The state average temperature was 39 degrees. Marlinton had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.27 inches. Moorefield had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.30 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.66 inches. Abnormally dry conditions exist in some Western counties.

**Week ending 12/11:** Charleston and Clarksburg had the highest recorded temperature of 67 degrees. Moorefield had the lowest recorded temperature of 14 degrees. The state average temperature was 45 degrees. Pineville had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 2.11 inches. Martinsburg had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.14 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.83 inches. Abnormally dry conditions exist.

**Week ending 12/18:** Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 56 degrees. Beckley had the lowest recorded temperature of 12 degrees. The state average temperature was 35 degrees. Martinsburg had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.92 inches. Charleston had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.28 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.76 inches. Abnormally dry conditions exist.

**Week ending 12/25:** Williamson had the highest recorded temperature of 55 degrees. Bluefield and Bluestone Dam had the lowest recorded temperature of -7 degrees. The state average temperature was 21 degrees. Martinsburg had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 1.68 inches. Wheeling had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.13 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.58 inches. Abnormally dry conditions exist in a small portion of Wayne County.

**Week ending 01/01/23:** Moorefield had the highest recorded temperature of 75 degrees. Terra Alta had the lowest recorded temperature of 3 degrees. The state average temperature was 39 degrees. Clarksburg had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.72 inches. Creston had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.04 inches. The state average precipitation was 0.31 inches. Abnormally dry conditions exist in a small portion of Wayne County.

**Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending 1/1/23**

Station	Temperature				Precipitation					
	High	Low	Weekly Average	Weekly Departure	Week's Total	Week's Norm	Since April 1st 2022	Same Week Last Year	Season Normal	
<b>--NORTHWEST</b>										
WHEELING	67	11	42	11	0.08	0.77	32.79	33.72	32.50	
PARKERSBURG	70	10	40	6	0.23	0.72	33.14	34.35	33.03	
CRESTON	70	16	41		0.04		30.72	29.18		
<b>--NORTHCENTRAL</b>										
MORGANTOWN	69	14	43	9	0.26	0.66	35.38	40.27	34.14	
CLARKSBURG	70	15	43	10	0.72	0.70	36.00	30.09	35.38	
BELINGTON	67	4	38		0.54		39.60	34.59		
WESTON	69	8	40		0.42		41.61	37.83		
<b>--SOUTHWEST</b>										
WILLIAMSON	73	12	43		0.15		38.21	35.76		
HUNTINGTON	69	14	42	6	0.13	0.73	31.84	41.74	35.07	
CHARLESTON	71	10	40	4	0.16	0.79	36.44	34.27	37.67	
RIPLEY	70	16	41		0.23		37.24	32.41		
<b>--CENTRAL</b>										
TERRA ALTA	60	3	36		0.65		37.60	41.77		
ELKINS	67	6	38	6	0.53	0.73	45.03	32.11	37.23	
MARLINTON	58	9	33		0.37		40.74	28.76		
<b>--SOUTHERN</b>										
BECKLEY	62	6	36	2	0.40	0.69	38.11	34.71	33.87	
PINEVILLE	62	10	37		0.43		39.84	30.78		
BLUEFIELD	59	6	37	4	0.33	0.63	42.11	30.81	32.05	
WHITE SUL SP	63	9	35		0.35		40.35	31.05		
BLUESTONE DAM	63	11	41		0.31		33.53	25.40		
<b>--NORTHEASTERN</b>										
MARTINSBURG	66	10	39	5	0.33	0.57	32.28	31.52	31.35	
KEYSER	62	14	36		0.18		27.29	26.23		
MOOREFIELD	75	13	42		0.06		29.69	27.13		
State Average Temperature	39									
State Average Precipitation	0.31									

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/>.