



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: The warm and dry temperatures that began in February continued throughout the month of March. The entire State experienced higher than normal temperatures with some areas in the northern half of the State reaching temperatures up to 10 degrees above normal. Most of the State received limited rainfall during March with precipitation mostly ranging from 0 to 4 inches below normal. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.1 inches in Baldwin County to 7.5 inches in Mobile County. Drought conditions worsened slightly during the first half of March before returning to previous levels. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 69 percent of the State was experiencing at least moderate drought conditions at the end of the month. Wheat was in good condition overall across the State. Corn planting got underway Statewide; however, dry soils were slowing or delaying planting in several areas. Some early-planted corn had already emerged where moisture was adequate. Field preparation for row crops was ongoing, with burndown continuing and fertilizer and lime being applied. Pastures were greening up in many northern counties but remain dry and slow growing in central and southern regions. Winter grass stands were poor in some areas due to late planting and insufficient rainfall. Supplemental livestock feeding was still needed in several counties. Livestock conditions were generally good, though hay shortages persist in drought-affected areas, especially where the 2025 drought reduced hay supplies.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: This report is for the week ending March 29, 2026. By week's end, 13 percent of Arizona's cotton had been planted, up 4 percentage points from the State's 5-year average. Reports from southeastern counties have stated that the irrigation season has begun and that pumps have been surging due to the lack of water. Some cotton farmers are considering planting dryland cotton. Sixty-four percent of the State's barley had headed, of which 7 percent had matured, up 11 and 1 percentage points, respectively, from the State's 5-year average. Arizona's barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 5 percent of the crop rated fair. Similarly, 53 percent of the State's Durum wheat had headed, of which 5 percent had matured, up 10 and 1 percentage points, respectively, from the State's 5-year average. Arizona's Durum wheat was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 3 percent of the crop rated fair. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on approximately 58 percent of the crop's acreage throughout the State. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with 17 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Thirty-three percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 47 percent was rated poor, 10 percent was rated fair, 9 percent was rated good, and 1 percent was rated excellent. Reports from eastern counties have reiterated that grazing conditions continue to deteriorate as a result of prolonged drought. However, some warm-season perennial forages have become vegetative which has provided some relief to livestock producers. Additionally, some Greenlee County ranchers have reported that bulls have tested positive for bovine trichomoniasis. Topsoil moisture levels continue to fall as much of the State has been affected by drought. Twenty-four percent of the State is rated very short, 28 percent is rated short, and 48 percent is rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Excluding south-central areas, measurable precipitation was lacking across much of the State. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Quinlan Mountains received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 1.75 inches while other areas of Pima, Santa Cruz, Maricopa, and Pinal Counties received anywhere from trace amounts to 1.50 inches of total precipitation. The seasonal mean temperature and total precipitation outlooks for April, May, and June were issued by the National Weather Service on March 19. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of the State, with northern and eastern regions having a higher probability of experiencing warmer temperatures than the remainder of the State. The seasonal total precipitation outlook now shows that there are equal chances of experiencing above or below normal precipitation for the entirety of the State excluding far northern areas where the probability of experiencing below average precipitation continues. Arizona's seasonal drought outlook was also updated on March 19. The outlook now shows that conditions are expected to persist throughout all areas of the State that were affected by moderate drought (D1) or higher on March 17. Excluding far

western regions, drought development is expected across all remaining areas of the State. Current Statewide streamflow conditions were rated from much below normal to normal. Streamflow conditions are suffering the most in the San Pedro, Santa Cruz, Upper Salt, Verde, Lower Gila, and Little Colorado River Basins. As of March 24, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the report dated February 24. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) bounded 48 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 34 percent, and severe drought (D2) encompassed 14 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona remained free of extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought. Over the past week, temperatures were above normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 12 to 15 degrees above normal and ranged from the upper 60's in Southern Apache County to well over 100 degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 4 to 20 degrees above normal and ranged from 25 to 50 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

ARKANSAS: For the week ending March 29, 2026, topsoil moisture supplies were 17% very short, 43% short, 38% adequate, and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 15% very short, 45% short, 37% adequate, and 3% surplus. There were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Producers were reporting dry conditions Statewide. Burn bans were in place for 55 out of 75 counties. Some corn and rice had been planted. Ponds were still at historical lows. Most of the State was in severe to exceptional drought.

CALIFORNIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 90% adequate and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% short, 90% adequate and 5% surplus. Pasture and range condition 5% fair, 60% good, and 35% excellent. Winter wheat condition 5% fair, 25% good, and 70% excellent. As of March 30th, snowpack content ranged from 1.5 in the Northern Sierra, 5.6 in the Central Sierra, and 7.8 in the Southern Sierra. California experienced a record shattering heatwave during March with temperatures 20 to 30 degrees above seasonal averages. Warm weather during March was ideal for baling hay. Wheat and oat harvest began towards the end of the month. Alfalfa was cut and sent to dairies. Oats were cut, wind rowed and dried. Growers began to prepare fields for corn and cotton planting. Corn was planted in some fields. Spring ground work was well underway due to the dry weather conditions. Some aerial pesticide applications were ongoing on forage crops. Farmers began prepping fields for the upcoming tomato season. Broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, and celery were harvested. Carrot harvest in the Imperial Valley was just beginning. The garlic crop was growing well. In Tulare County, onions, kale, cauliflower, cabbage and garlic were harvested and available at farmers' markets. Growers sprayed their orchards with fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides. Almond bloom was complete, and bee colonies were removed from orchards. Almonds began to develop. Walnut and pistachio orchards began to bloom and leaf out. Cherries, nectarines, peaches and many other stone fruit trees were in various stages of bloom throughout the month. Some peach trees were removed in Sutter County. Bees were staged throughout the orchards for pollination. Growers completed all dormant season pruning and shifted their irrigation scheduling as temperatures rose. Quince, persimmon and pomegranate trees began to develop foliage. Grapevine leaves, canes, and flowers were in various stages of development depending on variety and location. Bee colonies were placed in some citrus groves for pollination. Navel orange, Blood orange, Star Ruby grapefruit, tangelo, mandarin, and lemon harvests continued. Netting was placed in mandarin groves to prevent pollination in seedless varieties. Olive tree buds began to swell. Blueberry fields were in full bloom with bees pollinating and berries forming. Above normal temperatures caused heat related issues in strawberry fields. Sheep were grazing on various alfalfa fields throughout the month.

COLORADO: This report for Colorado is for the week ending March 29, 2026. Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Topsoil moisture 61% very short, 35% short, 4% adequate. Subsoil moisture 55% very short, 38% short, 7% adequate. Barley planted 12%, 4% 2025, 8% avg. Sugarbeets planted 7%, 1% avg. Winter wheat pastured 4%, 3% 2025, 8% avg; jointed 8%, 3% 2025, 2% avg; condition 18% very poor, 32% poor, 36% fair, 11% good, 3% excellent. Potatoes Outside SLV planted 6%. Cows calved 65%, 51% 2025, 60% avg. Ewes lambed 66%, 54% 2021, 51% avg. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 2% poor, 30% fair, 53% good, 13% excellent. Cattle death loss 1% heavy, 3% avg, 96% light. Sheep death loss 1% heavy, 14% avg, 85% light. Pasture and range condition 25% very poor, 29% poor, 33% fair, 11% good, 2% excellent. Feed and concentrate supplies 5% very short, 20% short, 64% adequate, 11% surplus. Record heat and windy conditions persisted across the State last week. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on March 26, 2026, 59 percent of the State was in severe to exceptional drought, up from 8 percent last year. Extreme and exceptional drought worsened compared to the prior week, blanketing northwestern counties. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data, some north central counties received up to 0.50 inches of isolated moisture. The rest of the State received little to no measurable precipitation. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, most of the State experienced temperatures well above average last week. Western counties were 15 or more degrees above normal. Eastern

counties were 9 to 15 degrees above normal. As of March 30, 2026, snowpack in Colorado was 24 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 9 and 11 percent, respectively. In Adams and Arapahoe Counties, reports noted winter wheat was adversely affected due to insect pressure, freeze damage, and drought. Reports from Weld County mentioned irrigation water supplies were an immediate concern due to low snowpack and below average precipitation. Winter wheat condition in the county declined due to below average precipitation and a severe windstorm that caused damage and resulted in several areas blowing out. In Mesa County, extremely low snowpack, no precipitation, and hot conditions accelerated concerns for irrigation water supplies. Producers are preparing for shortages. In the San Luis Valley, calving and lambing were progressing well due to mild weather. No precipitation was received. Higher incidences of dust pneumonia in calves were noted amid dry and dusty conditions. Farmers began spring fieldwork ahead of normal, and irrigation activities began a week early. Producers are preparing for a short irrigation season due to low snowpack and water supplies.

DELAWARE: Early March brought cool temperatures ranging from 37-50°F, accompanied by several days of snow and rain. While moisture has been adequate, the lingering cold has raised some concern for orchard tree crops, which are approaching more sensitive growth stages. Winter wheat stands at 2.5 to 3 inches, showing steady early-season growth despite the cool conditions. Across the State, farmers have begun spreading manure and applying fertilizer as they prepare fields for spring planting.

FLORIDA: Drought conditions continued to worsen across the State. According to the drought monitor, the entire State was in at least moderate drought conditions with 73 percent experiencing extreme drought conditions and 10 percent experiencing exceptional drought. Rainfall ranged from 0.5 in Pinellas County to 6.7 inches in Miami-Dade County. Rainfall for most of the panhandle was 1 to 4 inches below average for the month while most of the peninsula ranged from 2 inches below average to 2 inches above average. Temperatures for most of the State were between 3 to 5 degrees above average. Winter wheat and small grains were reported to be in good to fair condition but need timely rain. Corn planting was underway across multiple counties but was slowed or halted in some dryland fields due to lack of moisture. Peanut planting began in southern Levy County. Rice planting in Palm Beach County was about halfway completed, with planting expected to end early due to low market prices. Sugarcane harvest continued with negative impacts from the heavy freeze in early February becoming evident. Despite drought, many vegetable crops were progressing well. Strawberry and squash harvests were ongoing. Watermelon fields in several counties suffered significant frost damage, requiring some replanting and causing delays. Winter grazing was damaged by early-February freezes but partially recovered thanks to warm temperatures throughout late February and March. Pastures and cool-season forages were generally fair due to the dry conditions across the State. Many producers began feeding hay due to forage shortages. Cattle were generally in good to fair condition.

GEORGIA: March temperatures were above historical averages for the entire State especially in the northern half of the State. Despite the warmup, there was a notable frost mid-month. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.4 inches in Brantley County to 5.1 inches in Coweta County. Just for the month of March, most counties were 2 to 5 inches below normal rainfall totals. The lack of moisture was reflected in the most recent U.S. Drought monitor, where 8% of the State was in exceptional drought in addition to 35% in extreme drought conditions. As some producers wrapped up final field preparation and planting season kicked off for others, the dry conditions were a major concern. The warm temperatures pushed corn planting forward with producers noting irrigation being run earlier than usual due to dry fields. Cotton and peanut planting were a few weeks out, but burndown with herbicides and final field preparations were underway. Some early soybean acres were planted. Blueberries and peaches were both impacted by the mid-month freeze resulting in damage to the crops that had already fully bloomed particularly in the northern and middle parts of the State. Vegetable producers fought through the dry conditions to get vegetables transplanted, particularly watermelons, while onion producers were eager to ramp up harvest. Small grains continued to suffer from lack of rainfall, slowing and reducing growth. Warm temperatures promoted pasture green up and growth, but dry conditions limited that possibility for most of the State. As a result of slow and little pasture growth, supplemental hay was fed to cattle. Despite the pasture conditions, cattle remained in mostly good condition. Pond and aquifer levels were noted to be very low especially in the southern counties of the State which was a concern to producers.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: The average temperatures for March were above normal for the State. Snowpack levels were low, and much of Idaho was dry except for some rain in the northern part of the State that filled the topsoil profile in higher-elevation fields.

In the northern counties, winter wheat and winter annual weeds were more advanced than normal, supported by recent heavy rainfall that replenished topsoil but also caused some flooding and erosion. Many producers had finished top-dressing nitrogen fertilizer on fall-planted wheat crops. Southwestern Idaho also experienced warm, dry weather and the lowest snowpack in the State, which allowed fieldwork, calving, and lambing to progress ahead of schedule. In south-central Idaho, most spring cereals were planted and beets and potatoes were in. Stripe rust was identified across multiple southern counties, suggesting favorable conditions for disease spread. In eastern Idaho, warm temperatures led to early greening of pastures and completion of calving, though low soil moisture and dry rangeland created significant concern about water availability for the upcoming growing season.

ILLINOIS: For the week ending March 29, 2026. Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 29% short, 63% adequate, and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 22% very short, 38% short, 39% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 30% fair, 59% good, and 8% excellent.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture for the month of March was 11% very short, 21% short, 55% adequate, 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 15% very short, 30% short, 52% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 2% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 56% good, 11% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 46.9 degrees, 6.2 degrees above normal for the month of March. Statewide average precipitation was 5.89 inches, 2.80 inches above normal. Sporadic storms provided above-average precipitation levels in many parts of the State. Storm damage, including tornados, was reported to have damaged some agricultural operations, temporarily halting fieldwork. Winter wheat was reported to be green and in good condition as many farmers applied fertilizers to the crop. Livestock were faring well, with muddy conditions in pastures. Other activities included manure and fertilizer applications and tillage operations.

IOWA: Warm temperatures were experienced across the State in March. The average Statewide temperature was 40.3 degrees Fahrenheit through March 29th, 4.3 degrees above normal. On March 21st, many areas of the State saw high temperatures in the 90s, setting records for the earliest 90-degree temperature. Statewide precipitation was 2.0 inches, 0.2 inches above normal. A mid-month blizzard affected much of the State and high winds were an issue periodically throughout the month. Areas were still reporting dry conditions. Activities included fertilizer and manure applications as well as preparing machinery for upcoming planting. Spring tillage was beginning where conditions allowed, with scattered reports of small grains being planted. Overall, livestock conditions have been normal, despite the large temperature fluctuations and previously mentioned blizzard. Lambing and calving were in full swing.

KANSAS: For the week ending March 29, 2026, topsoil moisture supplies rated 23% very short, 42% short, 33% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 18% very short, 41% short, 39% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 7% very poor, 15% poor, 38% fair, 35% good, 5% excellent. Winter wheat jointed 23%. Corn planted 2%.

KENTUCKY: For the month of March, hay supplies 2% very short, 17% short, 76% adequate, 5% surplus. Livestock condition 1% poor, 22% fair, 69% good, 8% excellent. Condition of winter wheat 1% very poor, 1% poor, 26% fair, 66% good, 6% excellent. With the exception of a few late freezes, March has been relatively mild and dry. The freezes have impacted some fruit trees and winter wheat. The predominantly mild weather has promoted pasture growth and eased the strain on hay stocks, which remain mostly adequate. Due to the lack of rain in some areas, farm ponds have been observed as shallow for this point in the season. Farmers are in the process of field preparation for the planting season.

LOUISIANA: For the week ending March 29, 2026, topsoil moisture supplies were 15% very short, 43% short, 42% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 12% very short, 46% short, 41% adequate, and 1% surplus. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture levels continued to decline across the State. Dry conditions were slowing summer pastures. Crawfish production remained ongoing, with mixed results, some producers were experiencing below average yields.

MARYLAND: This month, farmers across the State have been actively spreading manure, with commercial fertilizer applications also underway as preparations for spring planting ramp up. Despite the cool early-season weather and moderate drought conditions, cover crops throughout much of the State have begun to green, signaling the transition toward spring growth.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 9% short, 84% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 32% short, 61% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter wheat conditions are 2% poor, 29% fair, 68% good, 1% excellent. Precipitation for the

month averaged 4.05 inches throughout the State, 2.24 inches above normal. Temperature for the month averaged 32.5 degrees, 1.8 degrees above normal. In the middle of the month, the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula experienced a major snowstorm making field work nearly impossible. Most crops in the mid- Lower Peninsula were still dormant while wheat in the south began coming out of dormancy and top dressing of fertilizer began. Maple syrup production continued in State. Light fieldwork in the South began where the ground was unfrozen. Other activities for the month included purchasing seed and chemicals, tending livestock, and prepping machinery for planting activities.

MINNESOTA: March weather was generally typical for the season, with warm days interspersed with cold ones. Much of the State saw heavy snowfall in mid-March, which melted rapidly, followed by a very dry final two weeks of the month. Limited planting of small grains was reported, although most counties had not yet begun fieldwork. Some reporters noted cases of pneumonia in cattle, resulting in some calf losses, attributed to the significant temperature fluctuations. Overall, livestock conditions remained stable, with no major concerns reported.

MISSISSIPPI: For the week ending March 29, 2026, topsoil moisture supplies were 5% very short, 32% short, 53% adequate, and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 4% very short, 32% short, 56% adequate, and 8% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.8 days. Overall, the State was experiencing drought conditions, burn bans remained in several counties. Corn and soybeans were being planted ahead of schedule in a few areas. Cool season forages have not performed well this year.

MISSOURI: For the week ending March 29, 2026. Topsoil moisture 15% very short, 37% short, 48% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 18% very short, 40% short, 42% adequate, and 0% surplus. Corn planted 4%. Soybeans planted 1%. Rice planted 1%. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 9% poor, 37% fair, 49% good, and 4% excellent.

MONTANA: This report for Montana is for the entire month of March 2026. Topsoil moisture 38% very short, 45% short, 17% adequate. Subsoil moisture 37% very short, 45% short, 18% adequate. Winter wheat breaking dormancy 14%. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 2% poor, 66% fair, 27% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat - wind damage 39% none, 45% light, 7% moderate, 9% severe. Winter wheat - freeze damage 80% none, 17% light, 2% moderate, 1% severe. Winter wheat - protectiveness of snow cover 100% very poor. Pasture and range condition 37% very poor, 33% poor, 27% fair, 3% good. Livestock grazing accessibility 86% open, 13% difficult, 1% closed. Cows calved 25%. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 93%. Ewes lambled 20%. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 92%. March precipitation was above average to well below average depending on location, with much of the above average moisture spread across western and central counties. Average temperatures ran from normal to more than 12 degrees above normal. Survey comments supported the noted weather information, although most indicated a very dry winter season. Producer concerns centered around the lack of spring runoff relative to filling natural water sources for livestock and irrigation. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published for March 24, roughly 8 percent of the State was drought free, compared with nearly 41 percent March 25, 2025. Other drought categorizations included abnormally dry (D0) at nearly 26 percent; moderate drought (D1) at just over 48 percent, severe drought (D2) at 14 percent, and extreme drought (D3) at just shy of 4 percent.

NEBRASKA: For the week ending March 29, 2026, topsoil moisture supplies rated 60% very short, 33% short, 7% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 49% very short, 41% short, 10% adequate, and 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 13% very poor, 38% poor, 40% fair, 9% good, and 0% excellent.

NEVADA: Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil moisture 30% very short, 35% short, 25% adequate, and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 25% short, 65% adequate, and 5% surplus. Pasture and range condition 5% very poor, 70% fair, 15% good, and 10% excellent. As of March 24, 14% of the State was not in a drought, 40% of the State was abnormally dry, 40% was in Moderate Drought, while 6% was in Severe Drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Nevada experienced a record shattering heatwave during March with temperatures 15 to 25 degrees above seasonal averages and new State monthly high temperatures were established. Alfalfa was still dormant. Annual weeds started to germinate. Water orders began at local Irrigation Districts.

NEW ENGLAND: New England has slowly been transitioning over to spring. Temperatures have been up and down, with snow still in other parts of New England. With warmer temperatures certain areas have flooded. Soil conditions are still on the wet/colder side as farmers are waiting for the snow to melt. In Maine, reporters described weather conditions that affected farms and livestock with the cold conditions causing increase in equipment breakdowns, animal illness, and higher feed consumption. Despite the weather conditions, Vermont maple producers have had good conditions for a

successful maple harvest. Farmers are still anticipating spring and warmer temperatures, hoping for a successful 2026 crop year to help mitigate these difficulties.

NEW JERSEY: March saw variable temperatures and moderate, yet below average rainfall. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 84.12% of the State remains in ‘abnormally dry’ conditions. Some agricultural activities were delayed by rain and muddy conditions, but reports regarding overwinter crops appear positive. Greenhouses continue to operate with seedlings ready to plant as weather conditions allow.

NEW MEXICO: This report for New Mexico is for the entire month of March 2026. Topsoil moisture 76% very short, 24% short. Subsoil moisture 60% very short, 40% short. Chile peppers planted 5%. Winter wheat condition 10% very poor, 29% poor, 40% fair, 10% good, 11% excellent. Alfalfa hay condition 90% good, 10% excellent. Cows calved 40%. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 55%. Cattle condition 3% very poor, 2% poor, 6% fair, 34% good, 55% excellent. Ewes lambled 25%. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 79%. Sheep and lambs condition 17% very poor, 14% poor, 39% fair, 30% good. Hay and roughage supplies 31% short, 69% adequate. Stock water supplies 18% very short, 37% short, 45% adequate. Pasture and range condition 44% very poor, 20% poor, 14% fair, 18% good, 4% excellent. For the month of March, much of the State received no meaningful rainfall. Isolated areas in the southwest corner of the State received over 0.25 inches of rainfall for the month, however. Temperatures remained warm for the month of March, with most of the State experiencing average temperatures 6 degrees hotter than normal. Survey comments noted March was windy and that spring is arriving to the State earlier than usual. The concern of increased fire risk due to the lack of precipitation remains. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published for March 26, all of New Mexico is now categorized as experiencing drought conditions. On February 24, 2026, 3 percent of the State was drought free. Other drought categorizations included: abnormally dry (D0) at 7 percent; moderate drought (D1) at 41 percent; severe drought (D2) at 47 percent; and extreme drought (D3) at 5 percent.

NEW YORK: The month of March had warm temperatures at the outset of the month in some areas, allowing for field operations such as manure spreading and pruning to ramp up. Maple producers were generally pleased to get over the warmth and late starts and begin sap flows. Overall, early snow melts and rains were reported throughout, helping avoid prolonged dry spells and drought. The variability, however, did cause higher reported losses and impacts to honeybee operations and fruit producers.

NORTH CAROLINA: For the month ending March 29, 2026, subsoil moisture 14% very short, 40% short, 42% adequate and 4% surplus. Topsoil moisture 14% very short, 49% short, 33% adequate and 4% surplus. Barley condition 11% fair and 89% good. Oats condition 4% poor, 53% fair, 39% good and 4% excellent. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 18% poor, 46% fair and 35% good. Winter wheat conditions 3% poor, 27% fair, 59% good and 11% excellent. Throughout March, surface moisture is workable, but the rivers, streams and farm canals confirm that we need a wet spring before we enter the heat of summer. Wheat endured a rather harsh winter. If moisture stays low, it usually creates smaller grain that is hard to yield. Drought conditions are progressing.

NORTH DAKOTA: For the week ending March 29, 2026, topsoil moisture supplies rated 1% very short, 11% short, 77% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 2% very short, 11% short, 78% adequate, 9% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 1% poor, 42% fair, 52% good, 4% excellent. Cattle and calves conditions, 0% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 77% good, 8% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss, 1% heavy, 68% average, 31% light. Calving progress, 38% complete. Sheep and lamb conditions, 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 77% good, 6% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss, 6% heavy, 78% average, 16% light. Lambing progress, 63% complete. Shearing progress, 75% complete. Hay and roughage supplies, 0% very short, 6% short, 86% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies, 1% very short, 6% short, 85% adequate, 8% surplus.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture for the month was 1% very short, 12% short, 70% adequate, 17% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 14% very short, 17% short, 56% adequate, 13% surplus. Winter wheat conditions were 1% very poor, 2% poor, 35% fair, 52% good, 10% excellent. The Statewide average temperature was 45.3 degrees, 5.9 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 5.29 inches Statewide, 3.04 inches above normal for March. Rainstorms throughout the month have slowed fieldwork, with some areas experiencing flooding and barn damage due to high winds. Overwinter crops were greening up, and top dressing of fertilizer continued between rain events. Other activities for the month included purchasing seeds and chemicals, tending livestock, and applying manure.

OKLAHOMA: For the month of March, rainfall totals averaged 1.30 inches throughout the State, with the East Central district recording the highest precipitation at 2.73 inches and the Southwest district recording the lowest precipitation at 0.08 inches. According to the March 24th US Drought Monitor Report, 100 percent of the State was in the abnormally dry to exceptional drought category, up 23 points from the previous year. Additionally, 94 percent of the State was in the moderate drought to exceptional drought category, up 46 points from the previous year. Statewide temperatures averaged in the upper 50's to low 60's, with the lowest recording of 8 degrees at Goodwell on Monday, March 16th, and the highest recording of 106 degrees at Beaver on Thursday, March 26th. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated very short to short.

OREGON: In Western Oregon, crops were developing as expected, with some areas experiencing slightly earlier growth. Grass seed fields were undergoing weed management, and filbert trees had not yet leafed out. Pollination weather was mixed, with periods of warmth followed by near-freezing nights. Forage grass performed well, and although there was precipitation, it remained below normal for the year. Warm conditions had brought cool-season pasture grasses out of dormancy early, prompting producers to turn livestock out onto drier pastures ahead of schedule. In North Central Oregon, the weather was mild and windy, and improved conditions allowed producers to spray their fields. Wheat was in good condition and further along than at the same time last year, and cattle were moved to spring pastures. The winter wheat crop was healthy, spring wheat was planted, and stripe rust appeared on several winter wheat varieties. In Malheur County, reservoir storage was good, but snowpack was very low. Onion planting progressed quickly, peas were planted, and sugarbeet planting began. In Lake County, precipitation remained low.

PENNSYLVANIA: For the month of March, the State experienced warmer temperatures during the day with some temperatures going below freezing at night. There were frequent rains throughout the month as well. The day temperatures varied on average from 46 degrees Fahrenheit to 81 degrees. In some places, the warmer weather has allowed fieldwork to take place, including manure spreading, planning burndown applications, and prepping planting equipment for oats, corn and soybeans. In other locations, the frequent rains made fieldwork challenging. Small grains and cover crops have resumed growth.

SOUTH CAROLINA: March temperatures were erratic but ended up being between 4 to 8 degrees warmer than usual for the State. Total rainfall during the month ranged from trace amounts in Charleston County to 5.1 inches in Anderson County. Rainfall levels for the month were roughly 2 to 3 inches below normal for most of the State. According to the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor, 16 percent of the State had extreme drought conditions and 43 percent had severe drought conditions. The worse drought conditions were in the Upstate and southern portion of the Lowcountry. Many corn producers began to plant their crops into dry soil conditions. Burndown herbicide applications for cotton and peanut acres were ongoing as planting was planned to ramp up in the coming weeks. Row crop producers noted the need for rain to help corn emerge to a decent stand and allow for cotton, peanuts and soybeans to be planted without delay. Dry and cold conditions over the winter months resulted in short, stalled, or lagging wheat and small grains. Freezing weather mid-month damaged peaches that were already bloomed, particularly those in the Upstate. Despite pastures wanting to green up with favorable warm weather, drought conditions limited growth and led cattle producers to continue to feed supplemental hay.

SOUTH DAKOTA: For the week ending March 29, 2026, topsoil moisture supplies rated 27% very short, 33% short, 38% adequate, and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 27% very short, 29% short, 42% adequate, and 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 9% very poor, 8% poor, 52% fair, 30% good, and 1% excellent.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil moisture 29% very short, 35% short, 35% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 16% very short, 48% short, 35% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 9% poor, 42% fair, 35% good, 11% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 6% very poor, 12% poor, 39% fair, 37% good, 6% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies are 6% very short, 20% short, 63% adequate, 11% surplus. Tennessee experienced dry to very dry conditions in March and some counties really need precipitation. Higher than normal temperatures created optimal conditions for early planting of crops in parts of the State. Whereas wheat crops were hurt in some counties due to winter storm Fern most winter wheat are in fair to good condition. Greenhouse tomatoes are growing well without health issues. Pastures and hayfields are dry but mostly in fair to good condition. Farmers continue to keep up with field preparations for the 2026 crops, including spraying fields, applying fertilizer and a few have started planting crops already.

TEXAS: During the week ending on March 29, 2026, most of the State experienced dry and windy days. Precipitation ranged from trace amounts to upwards of 0.5 inches, with the Edwards Plateau District receiving the most rain. Small grains were at the headed stage. Winter wheat conditions were mostly from fair to poor. Producers planted corn, sorghum, and rice, with all three crops reaching the emerged stage in some locations. Cotton planting began or on hold depending on soil moisture. Producers were harvesting leafy greens, citrus and cool season vegetables while onion harvest was nearly complete. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Pasture and range conditions were rated poor to very poor.

UTAH: This report for Utah is for the entire month of March 2026. Topsoil moisture 26% very short, 50% short, 24% adequate. Subsoil moisture 19% very short, 58% short, 23% adequate. Pasture and range condition 18% poor, 56% fair, 26% good. Winter wheat condition 4% fair, 93% good, 3% excellent. Barley planted 1%. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 42% short, 49% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies 6% very short, 36% short, 46% adequate, 12% surplus. Cattle and calves condition 32% fair, 62% good, 6% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 36% fair, 57% good, 7% excellent. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 67%. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 67%. Cows calved 20%. Ewes lambled-farm flock 11%. Ewes lambled-range flock 8%. Sheep shorn-farm flock 4%. Sheep shorn-range flock 3%. Warm temperatures along with limited precipitation occurred throughout the State for the month of March. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published for March 24, 2026, roughly 0 percent of the State was drought free, compared with nearly 2 percent March 25, 2025. Other drought categorizations included, abnormally dry (D0) at nearly 2 percent; moderate drought (D1) at just over 29 percent; severe drought (D2) at 62 percent; and extreme drought (D3) at just over 7 percent. Snowpack in Utah, according to Natural Resources Conservation Service as of March 30, 2026, was 21 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. Beaver County reports very dry conditions with some farmers not able to irrigate this year. Summit County reports temperatures in the 80's last week with farmers having started field work and spring planting.

VIRGINIA: For the week ending March 29, 2026, topsoil moisture is 5% very short, 32% short, 60% adequate and 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture is 11% very short, 30% short, 57% adequate and 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 8% poor, 40% fair, 49% good, 1% excellent. Barley condition 30% poor, 37% fair, 25% good, 8% excellent. Livestock condition 4% poor, 33% fair, 55% good, 8% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 3% very poor, 23% poor, 46% fair, 27% good, 1% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 7% very short, 36% short, 54% adequate, 3% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 23%. Virginia saw a wide range of precipitation in March, from near-normal levels to areas that were drastically below normal. Temperatures, however, were above normal Statewide. Persistent drought conditions continued to worry producers, particularly due to the increased risk of fires. The hot, dry weather has also taken a toll on livestock. Pastures, though still dry, have begun to green up and show new growth. Hay and roughage supplies remain mostly adequate to short. Overall, pastures are in fair condition, and farmers reported a modest increase in the amount of feed livestock were able to obtain from grazing. Some livestock are still receiving supplemental hay and other feed.

WASHINGTON: In Washington, the snowpack was low and winter was warmer than usual. In Whatcom County, heavy rainfall caused standing water in berry fields, leaving conditions too wet for fieldwork, although most raspberry pruning and tying had been completed. Pasture growth had continued through winter due to the warmth, but producers were concerned it might slow as soils dried quickly. Shellfish farmers were concerned about El Niño, as it warmed the tidal waters and caused dangerous microbes to bloom and affect their crops, especially in the Puget Sound estuaries, due to lower salinity than the Pacific Ocean. In Skagit County, crops were in good condition following a mild winter. In Eastern Washington, winter wheat was in good shape, spring fieldwork had begun, spring cereal seeding was underway, and growers were applying winter wheat herbicides.

WEST VIRGINIA: For the week ending March 29, Topsoil moisture 22% short, 71% adequate, and 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 25% short, 68% adequate, and 4% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 27% short, 66% adequate, and 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 6% very short, 14% short, 78% adequate, and 2% surplus. Pasture condition 2% very poor, 12% poor, 53% fair, 29% good, and 4% excellent. Winter wheat condition 9% poor, 56% fair, and 35% good. Cattle and calves condition 3% very poor, 4% poor, 30% fair, 60% good, and 3% excellent. Percent calved 56%. Sheep and lambs condition 3% very poor, 6% poor, 22% fair, 64% good, and 5% excellent. Percent lambled 53%. Weather conditions for the month have been wet with some periods of snow as cold fronts moved in and out bringing a mix of cold then warm temperatures and windy conditions. There are abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions in

the State. Farming activities for the month included monitoring fluctuating weather conditions, planning for the new season, and calving and lambing.

WISCONSIN: Producers were encouraged by above-average temperatures and needed precipitation. Wisconsin March temperatures through the 29th averaged 32.9 degrees, 2.8 degrees above normal, and precipitation averaged 2.70 inches, 1.04 inches above normal. Respondents commented on the mid-month blizzard with some areas receiving over 2 feet of snow. Reported livestock losses were minimal. March saw maple syrup season in full force. Manure spreading has begun, though many fields are still too muddy.

WYOMING: This report for Wyoming is for the entire month of March 2026. Topsoil moisture 55% very short, 30% short, 15% adequate. Subsoil moisture 60% very short, 28% short, 12% adequate. Barley planted 25%. Winter wheat condition 17% very poor, 35% poor, 46% fair, 2% good. Cows calved 23%. Cattle and calves death loss 65% light, 35% average. Ewes lambled 21%. Sheep shorn 42%. Sheep and lambs death loss 65% light, 35% average. Livestock condition 1% poor, 24% fair, 68% good, 7% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 5% very short, 27% short, 62% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies 19% very short, 32% short, 47% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture and range condition 17% very poor, 36% poor, 35% fair, 12% good. March precipitation varied from average to well below average, depending on location, while average temperatures ran from about normal to more than 12 degrees above normal. Survey comments noted extreme dryness across several counties. Wildfires were reported in Weston County, although most were easily contained. Producer concerns remained centered around diminished snowpack across most mountain ranges in the State, and the result that will have on irrigation water supplies. Producers in some areas were already hauling water to their livestock. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published for March 24, roughly 3 percent of the State was drought free, compared with about 14 percent drought free on March 25, 2025. Other drought categorizations included abnormally dry (D0) at just over 15 percent; moderate drought (D1) at just over 29 percent; severe drought (D2) at nearly 48 percent; and extreme drought (D3) at just over 4 percent.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates included in this report are based on survey data collected in December, January, February, and March. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from approximately 4,000 respondents whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these respondents subjectively estimate the progress of crops through various stages of development, as well as the progress of producer activities. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop and soil moisture conditions. Any weather data mentioned in this report is provided by outside sources such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Agricultural Weather Information Service (AWIS).

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Information Contacts

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Noemi Guindin – Crop Progress and Condition, Kiwifruit	(202) 720-7324
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Deonne Holiday – Almonds, Carrots, Coffee, Cranberries, Garlic, Onions Proso Millet, Rye, Tobacco.....	(202) 720-4288
Bret Holliman – Apricots, Barley, Chickpeas, Nectarines, Peaches, Snap Beans, Tomatoes	(202) 720-7235
James Johanson – Dry Edible Beans, Lettuce, Macadamias, Wheat	(202) 720-8068
Greg Lemmons – Beets, Corn, Flaxseed, Pears, Rice, Sweet Corn	(202) 720-9526
Krishna Rizal – Artichokes, Celery, Grapefruit, Lemons, Mandarins and Tangerines, Mint, Mushrooms, Olives, Oranges, Pistachios	(202) 720-5412
Chris Singh – Apples, Cucumbers, Hazelnuts, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Squash, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Sweet Potatoes.....	(202) 720-4285
Becky Sommer – Cabbage, Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum, Walnuts, Strawberries.....	(202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Blueberries, Canola, Mustard Seed, Rapeseed, Safflower, Spinach, Sunflower	(202) 720-7369
Antonio Torres – Cantaloupes, Dry Edible Peas, Grapes, Green Peas, Honeydews, Lentils, Oats, Sweet Cherries, Tart Cherries, Watermelons.....	(202) 720-2157
Chris Wallace – Avocados, Bell Peppers, Chile Peppers, Dates, Floriculture, Hops, Papayas, Pecans	(202) 720-4215

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