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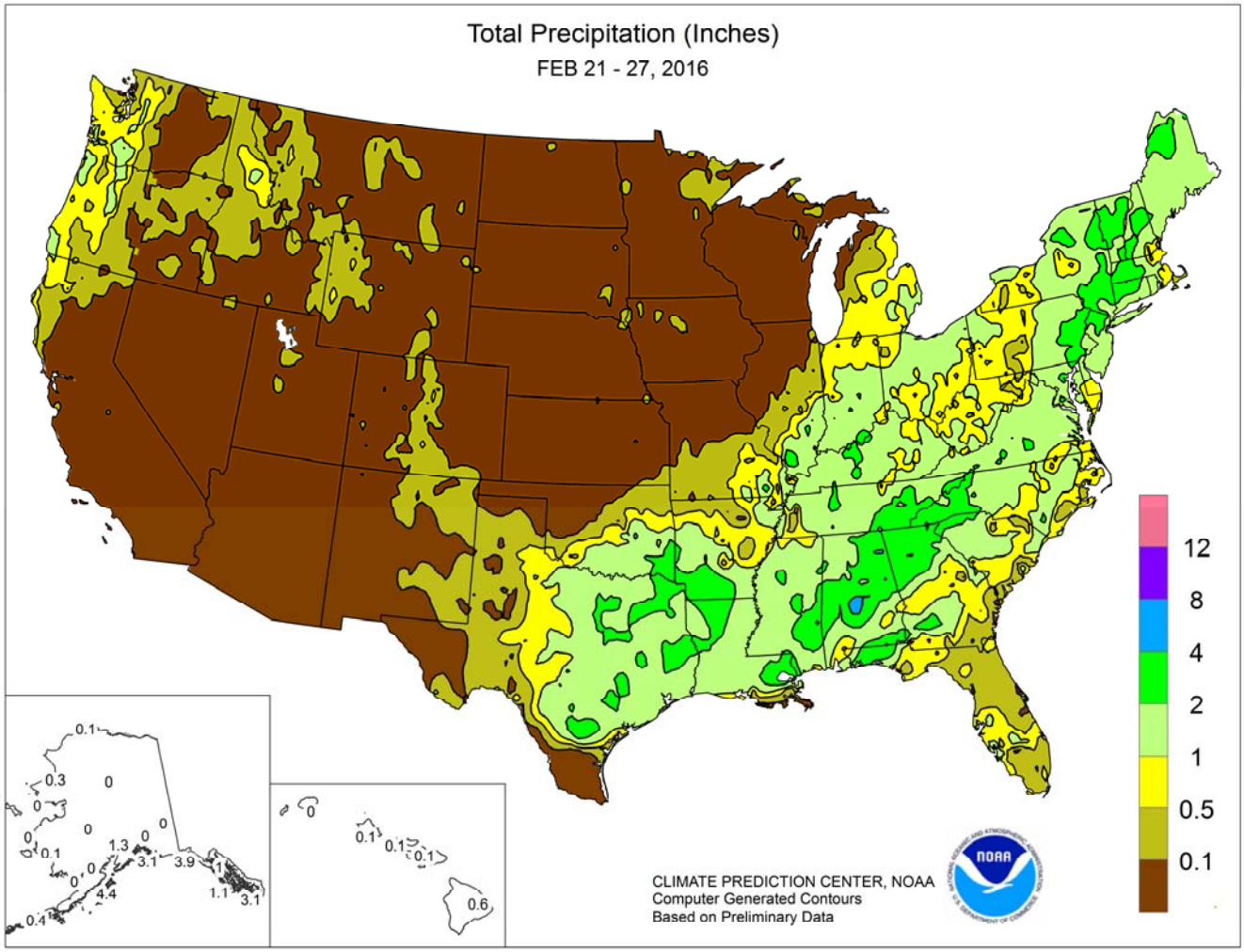
WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board



HIGHLIGHTS

February 21 – 27, 2016

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Spring-like warmth dominated the U.S., especially late in the period. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 10°F above normal across portions of the **northern Plains** and **upper Midwest**. On February 27, temperatures soared to monthly record levels at several locations in **Minnesota** and the **Dakotas**. Meanwhile, **California's** disappointingly dry February continued, with light precipitation limited to the state's northwestern corner. However, the warm, dry conditions favored spring fieldwork and crop growth in **California** and the **Desert**

(Continued on page 3)

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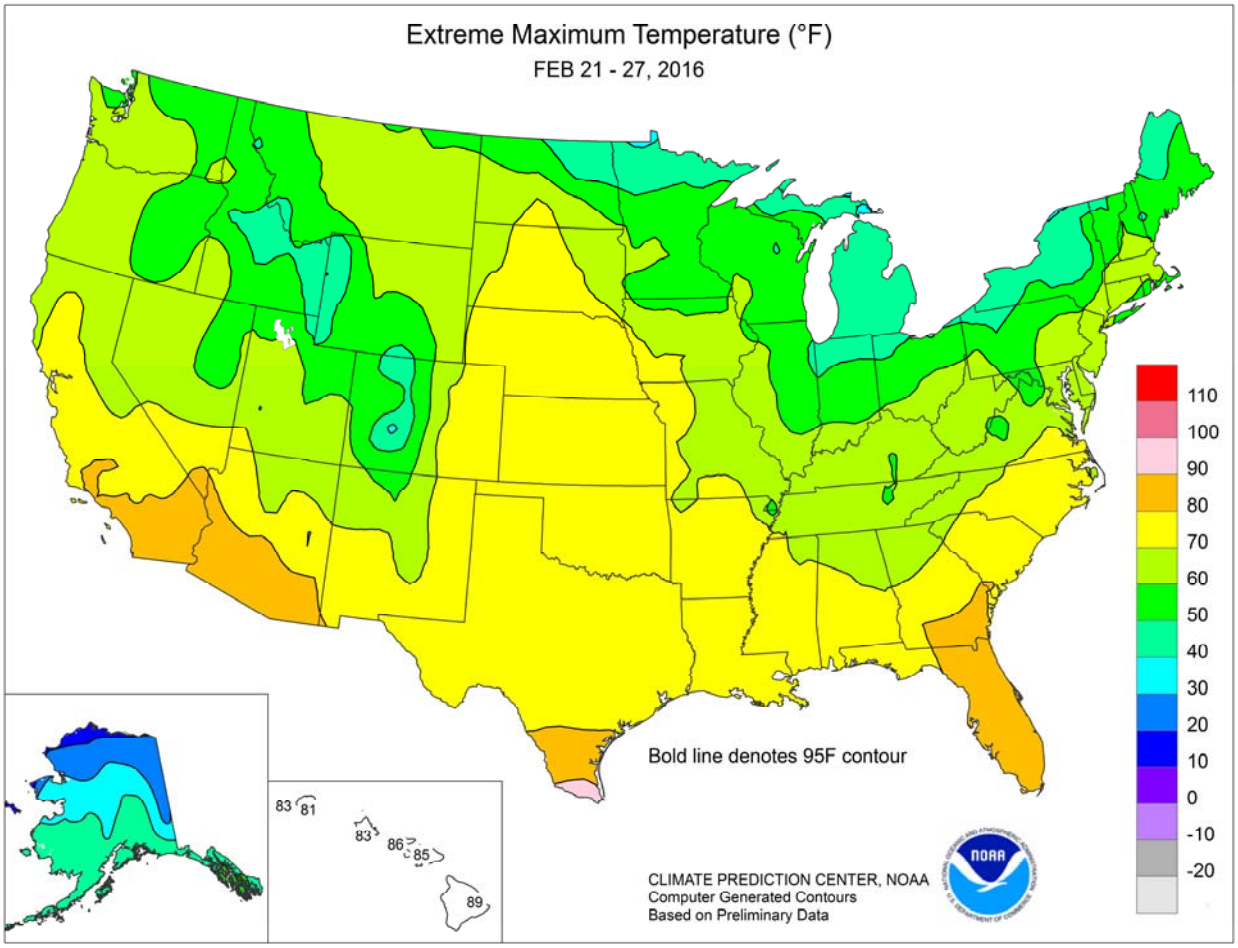
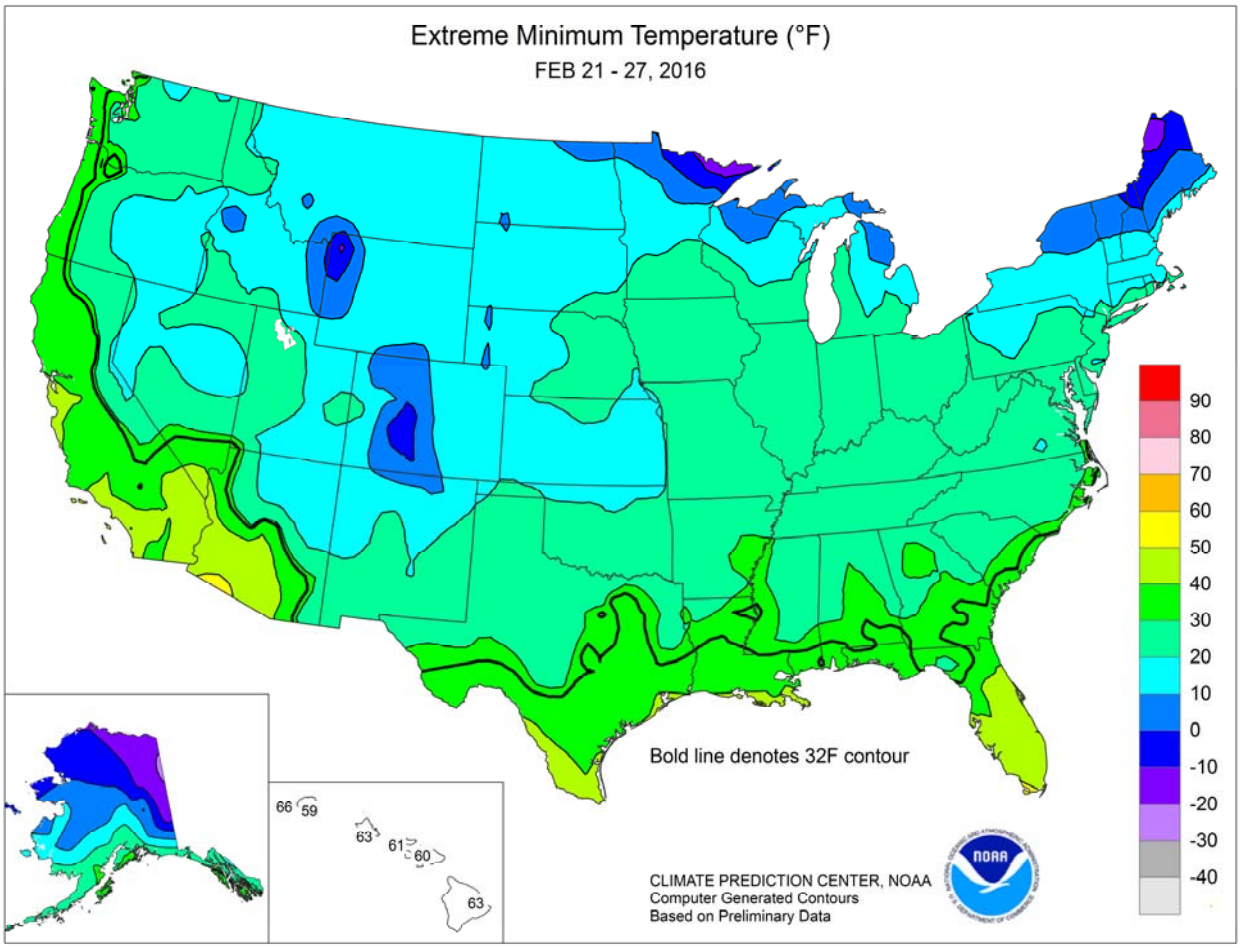
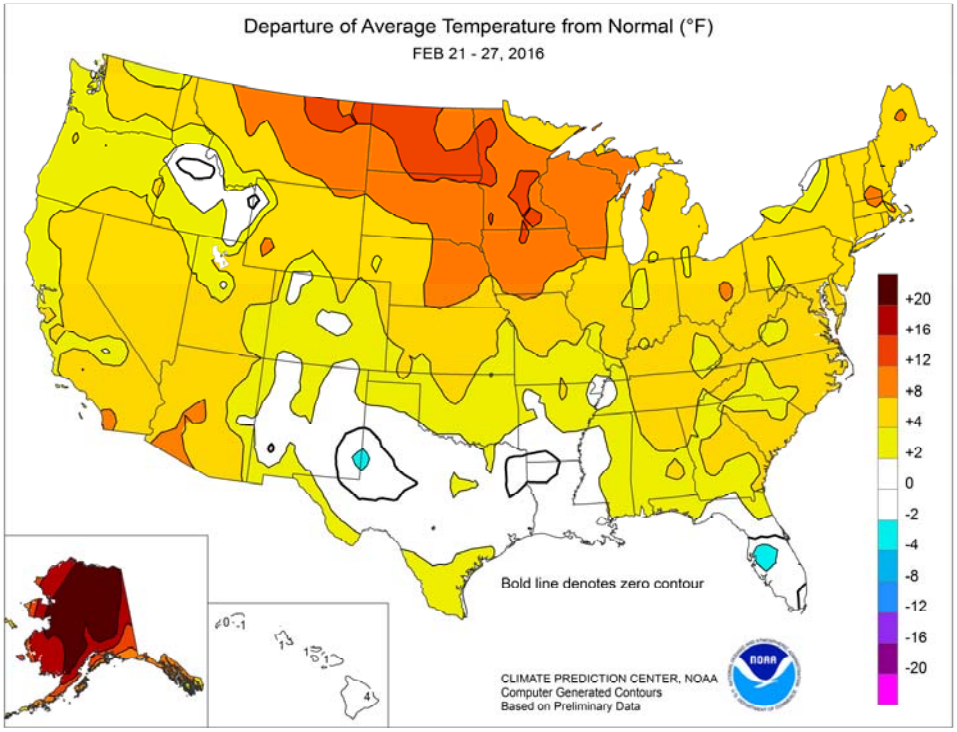

Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
FEB 21 - 27, 2016
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
Bold line denotes 95F contour
83
81
83
86
85
89
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data
NOAA


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
FEB 21 - 27, 2016
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
Bold line denotes 32F contour
66
59
63
61
60
63
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data
NOAA

(Continued from front cover)

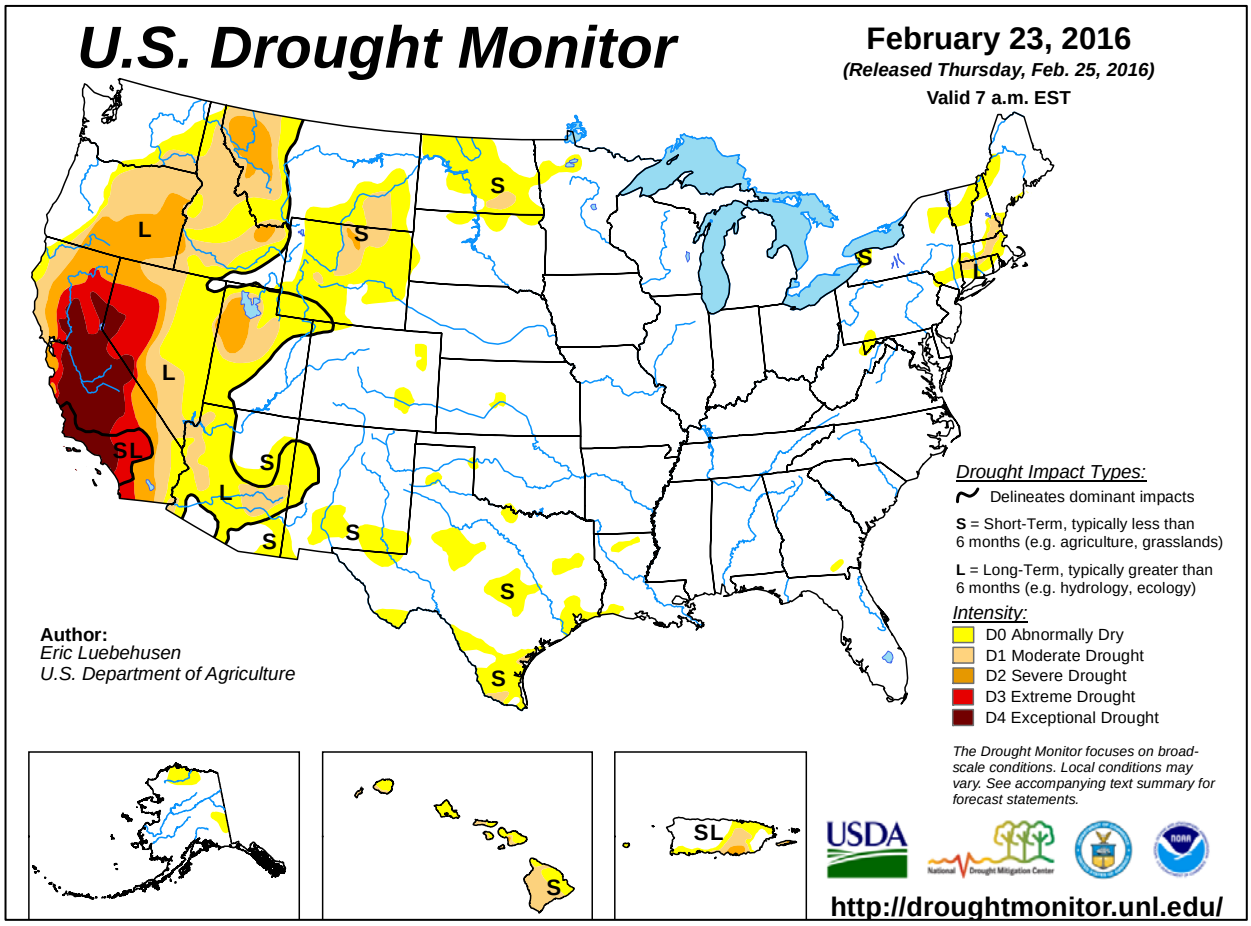
Southwest. Elsewhere in the **West**, generally light precipitation fell from the **Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies**, but snow blanketed the **southern Rockies**. The storm responsible for early-week snow in the **southern Rockies** later produced wind-driven snow in the **lower Midwest** and heavy rain (2 inches or more in many locations) across the **South** and **East**. On February 23-24, locally severe thunderstorms and isolated tornadoes swept through the **Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States**. Farther north, snow fell on February 24-25 from the **middle Mississippi Valley into Lower Michigan**, causing travel disruptions. Across the remainder of the country, mild, mostly dry weather covered the **northern and central Plains** and the **upper Midwest**, while precipitation dented a 2-month dry spell and benefited pastures and winter grains across the **southern Plains**.

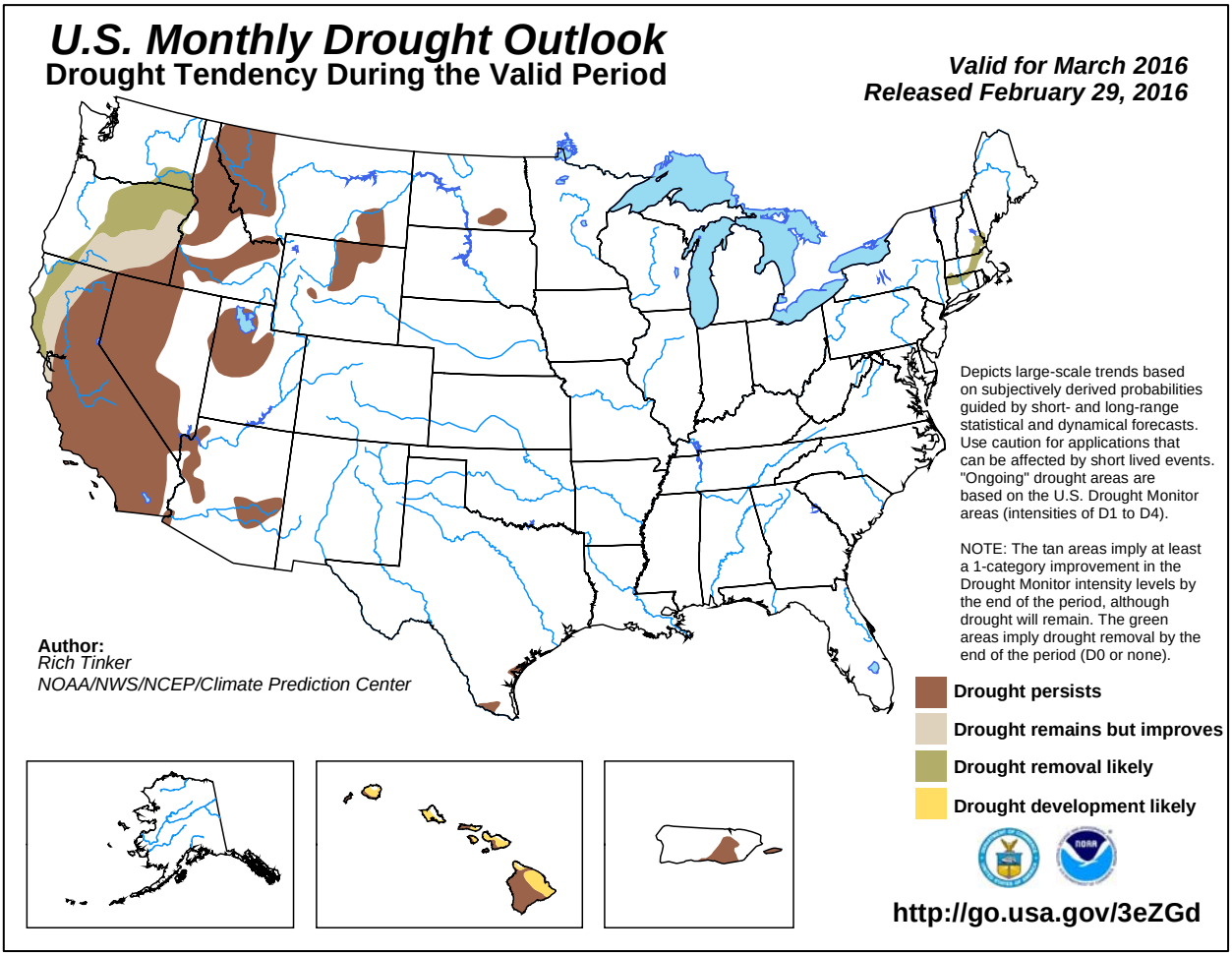


Early- to mid-week precipitation was mainly limited to the **South** and **East**, where daily-record rainfall totals for February 22 included 2.53 inches in **El Dorado, AR**; 1.96 inches in **Montgomery, AL**; and 1.86 inches in **Charlotte, NC**. The following day, beneficial precipitation in **Texas** led to record-setting totals for February 23 in locations such as **Victoria** (1.61 inches), **Wichita Falls** (1.00 inch), and **Amarillo** (0.39 inch, including 3.2 inches of snow). Farther east, a significant, late-winter tornado outbreak stretched from the **central Gulf Coast into the middle and southern Atlantic States**. On February 23, three tornado-related fatalities were reported—two in **St. James Parish, LA**, and one in **Lamar County, MS**. On February 24 in **Virginia**, tornadoes claimed four lives—three in **Sussex County** and one in **Appomattox County**. Elsewhere in the **East**, daily-record precipitation totals for February 24 reached 2.77 inches in **Allentown, PA**; 2.61 inches in **Baltimore, MD**; and 2.22 inches in **Poughkeepsie, NY**. Meanwhile in **Michigan**, record-setting snowfall totals for February 24 included 7.3 inches in **Grand Rapids** and 7.0 inches in **Lansing**. Adding snow from the following day, February 24-25 totals reached 11.2 inches in **Grand Rapids** and 10.4 inches in **Lansing**. Significant snow accumulations were noted as far south as **northwestern and west-central Arkansas**, where some 6- to 9-inch totals were reported in the highest elevations. High winds accompanied both the rain and snow. On February 24, peak gusts were clocked to 62 mph in **Gary, IN**, and 58 mph in **Bridgeport, CT**. Early on the 25th, a gust to 83 mph was reported at the **Blue Hill Observatory** near **Milton, MA**.

The week opened with warmth in the **Southwest** that soon spread eastward. In **Arizona**, daily-record highs for February 21 climbed to 86°F in **Phoenix** and 82°F in **Tucson**. Two days later, record-setting highs for February 23 in **southern Texas** reached 93°F in **Harlingen** and 92°F in **Brownsville**. At mid-week, warmth briefly surged northward along the **Atlantic Seaboard**. **Bridgeport, CT**, notched a daily-record high of 60°F on February 24. Record-setting highs for February 25 reached 63°F in **Concord, NH**, and 54°F in **Houlton, ME**. Toward week's end, cool air settled into the **East**, while warmth rapidly expanded across the **western and central U.S.** By February 25, **Northwestern** daily-record highs rose to 72°F in **Roseburg, OR**, and 70°F in **Quillayute, WA**. At the height of the late-February warm spell, monthly record highs were broken on February 27 in locations such as **Kennebec, SD** (76°F; previously, 75°F on February 21, 2000); **Bismarck, ND** (73°F; previously, 69°F on February 29, 1932); and **St. Cloud, MN** (59°F; previously, 58°F on February 27, 1932). With a high of 73°F on the 27th, **Sioux City, IA**, experienced its warmest February day since 1896.

Warmth extended to **Alaska**, where temperatures averaged more than 20°F above normal in many communities across the interior. On February 21, **Juneau** posted a daily-record high of 50°F—its highest reading since October 21. Meanwhile, **Annette Island** completed its second consecutive month without measurable snowfall, but reported a February precipitation total of 15.54 inches (213 percent of normal). **Ketchikan's** monthly precipitation climbed to 24.88 inches, marking its wettest February since 1954. Both **Annette Island** (1.76 inches) and **Ketchikan** (5.96 inches) netted daily-record totals for February 25. On the mainland, **Bettles** collected a trio of daily-record highs (36, 35, and 32°F) from February 25-27. Other daily-record highs included 48°F (on February 25) in **King Salmon**; 46°F (on February 25) in **Anchorage**; and 43°F (on February 27) in **McGrath**. Farther south, warmth in **Hawaii** led to a few daily-record highs. On the **Big Island**, for example, **Hilo** logged consecutive daily-record highs (86 and 89°F, respectively) on February 26-27. At **Hawaii's** major airport observation sites, December-February precipitation ranged from 0.70 inch (9 percent of normal) in **Honolulu, Oahu**, to 18.67 inches (61 percent) in **Hilo**. After removing a relatively wet December, **Hilo's** January-February rainfall total was just 4.57 inches (24 percent of normal).


U.S. Drought Monitor
February 23, 2016
(Released Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016)
Valid 7 a.m. EST
Author:
Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
USDA
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/


U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for March 2016
Released February 29, 2016
Author:
Rich Tinker
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).
Drought persists
Drought remains but improves
Drought removal likely
Drought development likely
http://go.usa.gov/3eZGd

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 27, 2016

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	62	46	70	31	54	5	3.20	2.13	1.75	21.27	153	10.74	114	92	59	0	1	4	2
	HUNTSVILLE	59	43	64	30	51	5	1.79	0.48	0.75	20.63	131	9.95	98	82	61	0	2	4	1
	MOBILE	68	47	75	34	57	2	0.50	-0.83	0.30	21.83	144	9.45	90	94	57	0	0	2	0
	MONTGOMERY	68	48	76	32	58	6	2.58	1.15	1.96	24.81	164	10.68	105	83	50	0	1	3	1
AK	ANCHORAGE	43	31	46	29	37	17	0.16	-0.03	0.16	0.76	32	0.53	40	78	66	0	6	1	0
	BARROW	7	-3	14	-11	2	18	0.09	0.07	0.07	2.31	679	2.27	1032	93	83	0	7	3	0
	FAIRBANKS	36	8	42	-1	22	23	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.08	5	0.01	1	87	73	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	45	35	50	23	40	10	0.99	0.01	0.43	11.74	84	9.32	108	93	78	0	1	5	0
	KODIAK	42	36	44	32	39	9	4.43	3.14	1.57	34.97	163	22.69	165	93	84	0	1	7	4
	NOME	28	16	37	1	22	16	0.04	-0.11	0.03	1.79	68	1.01	63	81	74	0	7	2	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	57	22	64	18	40	7	0.00	-0.67	0.00	4.87	76	3.84	84	75	17	0	7	0	0
	PHOENIX	83	55	88	52	69	10	0.00	-0.21	0.00	1.59	66	1.38	93	31	16	0	0	0	0
	PRESCOTT	68	31	74	25	50	9	0.00	-0.49	0.00	1.78	39	1.48	45	61	11	0	3	0	0
	TUCSON	80	46	87	43	63	7	0.00	-0.22	0.00	2.20	78	1.73	97	32	14	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	60	37	76	26	49	3	1.76	1.05	1.73	12.96	160	2.15	46	80	36	0	3	2	1
	LITTLE ROCK	59	40	75	29	50	3	1.65	0.80	1.43	14.07	123	5.69	85	86	41	0	2	3	1
CA	BAKERSFIELD	74	45	82	40	59	4	0.00	-0.31	0.00	2.71	89	2.13	93	77	57	0	0	0	0
	FRESNO	72	46	77	43	59	6	0.00	-0.52	0.00	7.72	141	4.75	115	88	67	0	0	0	0
	LOS ANGELES	74	54	83	51	64	6	0.00	-0.75	0.00	4.75	61	3.67	62	71	47	0	0	0	0
	REDDING	69	43	76	37	56	6	0.07	-1.24	0.07	21.80	132	13.59	115	74	52	0	0	1	0
	SACRAMENTO	69	42	74	37	56	4	0.00	-0.82	0.00	8.01	83	6.26	86	92	43	0	0	0	0
	SAN DIEGO	75	55	81	52	65	6	0.00	-0.50	0.00	4.14	75	3.26	77	65	49	0	0	0	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	67	50	70	45	58	5	0.00	-0.93	0.00	9.87	88	6.50	78	92	65	0	0	0	0
	STOCKTON	71	41	75	37	56	4	0.00	-0.58	0.00	7.85	114	5.39	107	93	69	0	0	0	0
CO	ALAMOSA	48	12	58	-1	30	4	0.25	0.19	0.25	1.23	173	0.98	258	84	41	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	52	24	71	20	38	5	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.79	190	1.54	296	64	20	0	7	0	0
	DENVER INTL	53	25	72	17	39	6	0.00	-0.10	0.00	1.69	252	0.98	272	64	21	0	7	0	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	53	27	59	23	40	3	0.01	-0.12	0.01	2.07	137	1.38	139	80	42	0	7	1	0
	PUEBLO	58	21	78	16	40	4	0.00	-0.07	0.00	1.25	140	0.85	170	61	28	0	7	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	49	33	61	23	41	8	1.53	0.81	1.20	12.03	121	7.09	109	75	59	0	2	4	1
	HARTFORD	49	27	63	20	38	7	2.14	1.42	1.44	10.96	107	6.71	101	80	48	0	5	3	2
DC	WASHINGTON	52	38	65	27	45	5	1.71	1.02	1.10	11.34	130	6.50	115	79	52	0	2	3	2
DE	WILMINGTON	52	33	62	24	43	7	1.66	0.93	1.38	11.89	126	6.68	111	83	51	0	2	2	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	73	52	83	42	62	1	0.58	-0.12	0.57	11.28	134	10.71	189	93	43	0	0	2	1
	JACKSONVILLE	72	47	83	32	60	3	0.89	0.13	0.75	8.21	88	7.65	114	92	40	0	1	2	1
	KEY WEST	74	65	80	59	69	-2	0.66	0.33	0.50	11.66	201	7.08	194	87	67	0	0	3	1
	MIAMI	77	62	86	50	70	0	0.71	0.21	0.41	20.24	337	10.42	272	80	51	0	0	3	0
	ORLANDO	74	52	82	43	63	-1	0.52	-0.10	0.46	8.07	117	7.35	160	87	46	0	0	3	0
	PENSACOLA	66	53	73	43	60	4	0.00	-1.20	0.00	12.27	89	3.94	40	78	51	0	0	0	0
	TALLAHASSEE	70	45	78	30	58	2	0.63	-0.59	0.63	13.48	98	8.71	90	87	44	0	1	1	1
	TAMPA	72	55	80	43	63	-1	0.99	0.30	0.83	9.22	131	8.73	184	83	48	0	0	2	1
	WEST PALM BEACH	76	59	84	46	67	-1	1.17	0.62	0.67	19.89	212	12.55	201	80	56	0	0	2	2
GA	ATHENS	61	43	70	30	52	4	2.18	1.07	1.24	20.54	164	8.17	92	90	63	0	1	4	2
	ATLANTA	60	45	67	35	52	3	3.69	2.51	1.62	25.04	189	12.53	132	80	63	0	0	4	3
	AUGUSTA	67	44	77	27	55	5	1.02	0.00	0.81	12.34	107	5.42	65	91	52	0	1	3	1
	COLUMBUS	65	46	76	30	56	4	0.94	-0.23	0.49	24.80	185	7.43	83	86	45	0	1	3	0
	MACON	66	45	76	29	56	5	0.55	-0.58	0.52	18.35	138	5.73	61	87	45	0	1	2	1
	SAVANNAH	71	48	84	32	60	6	0.11	-0.55	0.10	9.76	102	6.41	95	80	44	0	1	2	0
HI	HILO	84	67	89	63	76	5	0.60	-1.68	0.39	18.77	66	4.68	26	85	75	0	0	3	0
	HONOLULU	81	66	83	63	74	1	0.08	-0.49	0.08	0.63	8	0.36	7	78	69	0	0	1	0
	KAHULUI	83	64	85	60	74	2	0.09	-0.41	0.08	2.34	26	1.59	26	87	75	0	0	2	0
	LIHUE	78	63	81	59	71	-1	0.02	-0.75	0.01	2.60	21	1.18	15	84	74	0	0	2	0
ID	BOISE	55	32	65	24	43	4	0.17	-0.11	0.17	3.21	84	1.50	61	73	49	0	5	1	0
	LEWISTON	55	33	64	27	44	4	0.17	-0.05	0.17	3.16	103	1.57	78	78	65	0	4	1	0
	POCATELLO	48	24	59	19	36	4	0.00	-0.26	0.00	2.53	81	1.29	63	88	63	0	7	0	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	41	28	54	24	35	5	0.15	-0.25	0.15	6.86	121	1.99	61	83	61	0	7	1	0
	MOLINE	47	29	63	23	38	8	0.00	-0.40	0.00	5.51	107	1.32	45	78	57	0	5	0	0
	PEORIA	46	28	60	23	37	6	0.00	-0.46	0.00	7.70	143	1.39	46	82	48	0	6	0	0
	ROCKFORD	42	29	57	27	36	9	0.00	-0.33	0.00	6.10	131	1.45	56	79	60	0	6	0	0
	SPRINGFIELD	48	31	62	26	39	6	0.16	-0.36	0.16	8.53	148	1.97	61	85	49	0	4	1	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	51	34	65	26	42	4	1.84	1.02	1.01	11.27	121	6.07	105	85	68	0	2	4	2
	FORT WAYNE	42	27	50	24	35	5	0.87	0.38	0.81	7.00	106	2.85	74	88	59	0	7	2	1
	INDIANAPOLIS	46	30	56	24	38	4	1.70	1.07	1.67	9.21	119	3.62	77	83	51	0	5	2	1
	SOUTH BEND	40	26	47	20	33	3	0.40	-0.09	0.28	7.14	99	3.02	74	86	64	0	7	2	0
IA	BURLINGTON	47	29	63	25	38	7	0.00	-0.44	0.00	5.89	124	1.38	52	90	55	0	6	0	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	45	29	64	26	37	9	0.00	-0.28	0.00	4.71	134	0.64	31	94	58	0	6	0	0
	DES MOINES	47	31	71	30	39	9	0.00	-0.30	0.00	7.24	211	1.80	86	79	57	0	6	0	0
	DUBUQUE	42	28	58	26	35	9	0.00	-0.37	0.00	5.01	118	0.82	32	82	67	0	6	0	0
	SIOUX CITY	47	28	73	22	38	10	0.14	-0.05	0.10	4.46	259	1.60	151	87	68	0	5	2	0
	WATERLOO	44	29	64	27	37	11	0.00	-0.28	0.00	7.51	261	1.59	90	85	67	0	6	0	0
KS	CONCORDIA	56	28	77	23	42	7	0.00	-0.26	0.00	4.19	203	1.55	129	78	50	0	6	0	0
	DODGE CITY	58	25	76	19	42	4	0.00	-0.20	0.00	3.02	158	0.59	52	68	21	0	7	0	0
	GOODLAND	56	23	77	16	39	5	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.81	70	0.65	86	68	29	0	7	0	0
	TOPEKA	56	28	75	20	42	6	0.02	-0.33	0.01	4.00	119	1.29	66	84	46	0	5	2	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 27, 2016

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	59	29	75	19	44	5	0.00	-0.34	0.00	2.96	99	0.74	45	69	37	0	5	0	0
KY	JACKSON	51	36	62	30	43	3	1.44	0.47	0.67	14.12	126	9.48	136	89	60	0	4	5	1
	LEXINGTON	53	33	64	26	43	5	1.55	0.66	0.70	13.41	129	6.20	98	85	63	0	2	4	2
	LOUISVILLE	54	36	63	29	45	5	2.53	1.66	1.23	12.28	123	5.70	91	83	55	0	1	3	3
	PADUCAH	52	34	66	25	43	3	1.54	0.55	0.93	12.88	111	5.46	76	86	54	0	2	3	2
LA	BATON ROUGE	68	47	77	34	57	2	1.11	-0.05	0.70	15.64	95	9.31	83	90	44	0	0	2	1
	LAKE CHARLES	69	47	74	37	58	2	0.91	0.22	0.91	8.41	63	5.17	59	93	46	0	0	1	1
	NEW ORLEANS	69	51	77	41	60	3	2.05	0.80	1.61	14.59	90	8.13	73	79	55	0	0	3	1
	SHREVEPORT	64	43	72	31	53	0	1.00	-0.01	0.71	7.92	60	5.03	58	89	49	0	1	3	1
ME	CARIBOU	32	14	50	-3	23	8	1.85	1.36	1.13	10.07	124	5.19	105	84	60	0	5	3	2
	PORTLAND	41	23	53	13	32	5	1.33	0.57	0.86	12.90	114	7.56	107	78	53	0	6	2	1
MD	BALTIMORE	51	35	62	24	43	6	3.28	2.49	2.61	14.92	155	9.07	145	81	63	0	2	4	2
MA	BOSTON	48	31	62	21	40	7	1.40	0.60	0.81	11.31	105	7.03	99	73	49	0	4	3	2
	WORCESTER	45	25	61	15	35	7	2.29	1.53	1.57	11.94	111	7.29	104	81	48	0	6	3	2
MI	ALPENA	36	18	53	9	27	6	0.22	-0.12	0.21	7.54	156	3.75	125	87	54	0	7	2	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	40	27	47	23	34	7	0.66	0.30	0.54	7.85	127	4.52	130	82	53	0	7	2	1
	HOUGHTON LAKE	35	21	46	10	28	6	0.16	-0.14	0.12	6.47	144	2.90	105	88	57	0	7	3	0
	LANSING	38	25	45	18	32	6	0.90	0.57	0.67	5.81	113	3.09	105	81	59	0	7	2	1
	MUSKEGON	40	29	46	27	35	8	0.09	-0.27	0.05	9.00	142	4.10	111	73	55	0	6	2	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	38	26	50	23	32	9	0.00	-0.34	0.00	7.87	106	2.78	59	79	52	0	7	0	0
MN	DULUTH	34	18	52	9	26	9	0.20	0.02	0.10	5.51	196	1.81	97	85	68	0	7	4	0
	INT'L FALLS	32	8	46	-9	20	6	0.23	0.09	0.21	2.31	108	1.24	87	88	60	0	7	3	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	41	29	58	24	35	12	0.04	-0.15	0.04	3.93	144	1.61	93	76	64	0	5	1	0
	ROCHESTER	37	28	52	24	33	12	0.01	-0.17	0.01	4.49	171	1.28	80	85	72	0	7	1	0
	ST. CLOUD	39	25	59	19	32	13	0.01	-0.12	0.01	1.95	99	0.93	73	87	59	0	7	1	0
MS	JACKSON	63	44	73	30	53	2	1.76	0.68	0.83	17.47	114	11.60	116	88	56	0	2	3	2
	MERIDIAN	64	44	73	29	54	2	2.36	0.99	1.28	13.59	83	7.51	68	92	61	0	2	3	2
	TUPELO	61	41	69	29	51	4	1.04	-0.22	0.58	14.52	93	7.16	76	88	61	0	2	4	1
MO	COLUMBIA	50	32	68	27	41	5	0.01	-0.58	0.01	8.69	140	1.65	44	81	47	0	4	1	0
	KANSAS CITY	53	29	73	20	41	5	0.00	-0.38	0.00	4.40	112	1.16	51	85	42	0	7	0	0
	SAINT LOUIS	50	34	67	28	42	4	0.31	-0.31	0.31	13.34	189	1.60	38	75	59	0	2	1	0
	SPRINGFIELD	53	31	70	20	42	3	0.27	-0.33	0.20	12.75	173	1.32	31	77	56	0	5	3	0
MT	BILLINGS	54	28	68	20	41	9	0.00	-0.14	0.00	1.10	56	0.53	41	56	22	0	6	0	0
	BUTTE	43	14	51	7	29	5	0.00	-0.12	0.00	1.10	77	0.43	48	83	34	0	7	0	0
	CUT BANK	50	21	63	11	35	9	0.03	-0.03	0.03	0.70	75	0.48	80	80	27	0	6	1	0
	GLASGOW	48	24	61	20	36	14	0.00	-0.06	0.00	1.34	144	0.63	113	76	58	0	7	0	0
	GREAT FALLS	51	21	65	11	36	8	0.00	-0.13	0.00	1.72	97	0.65	59	73	22	0	7	0	0
	HAVRE	51	20	67	12	35	10	0.02	-0.07	0.02	0.83	67	0.41	56	85	51	0	6	1	0
	MISSOULA	48	24	55	20	36	5	0.06	-0.13	0.06	2.46	85	1.08	62	80	62	0	6	1	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	55	29	76	24	42	11	0.01	-0.20	0.01	6.44	374	4.56	430	75	49	0	5	1	0
	LINCOLN	53	27	77	22	40	9	0.01	-0.20	0.01	5.89	290	1.47	126	82	58	0	6	1	0
	NORFOLK	50	27	75	21	38	9	0.10	-0.12	0.08	3.59	196	1.32	112	84	60	0	5	2	0
	NORTH PLATTE	55	19	77	15	37	5	0.00	-0.15	0.00	1.42	120	1.14	146	83	25	0	7	0	0
	OMAHA	50	30	75	23	40	9	0.01	-0.22	0.01	6.94	295	1.68	117	87	65	0	5	1	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	54	20	73	13	37	5	0.00	-0.15	0.00	1.44	91	0.73	72	75	34	0	7	0	0
	VALENTINE	51	22	76	17	36	7	0.00	-0.14	0.00	1.70	170	0.66	99	78	53	0	7	0	0
NV	ELY	50	21	57	15	36	4	0.00	-0.19	0.00	4.41	238	3.03	224	82	54	0	7	0	0
	LAS VEGAS	73	49	81	43	61	7	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.56	35	0.55	46	32	18	0	0	0	0
	RENO	65	33	71	28	49	9	0.00	-0.25	0.00	2.87	99	2.12	105	65	38	0	4	0	0
	WINNEMUCCA	57	26	66	21	42	4	0.00	-0.14	0.00	3.94	181	2.11	154	72	44	0	6	0	0
NH	CONCORD	43	22	63	14	33	8	1.68	1.11	1.20	10.55	129	5.77	111	76	44	0	6	2	1
NJ	NEWARK	52	33	64	24	42	7	1.29	0.56	0.91	12.29	119	7.89	116	73	51	0	2	4	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	60	32	70	25	46	3	0.02	-0.09	0.02	1.40	104	0.42	49	60	23	0	5	1	0
NY	ALBANY	43	24	58	17	34	7	2.50	1.96	2.19	8.94	124	5.27	117	79	50	0	7	3	1
	BINGHAMTON	39	22	50	15	31	5	1.24	0.63	0.79	9.29	117	5.68	115	87	69	0	7	3	1
	BUFFALO	37	23	42	17	30	3	1.10	0.52	0.94	8.00	86	5.10	93	83	60	0	7	3	1
	ROCHESTER	37	22	43	16	30	3	0.96	0.46	0.86	7.73	111	5.00	118	79	66	0	6	2	1
	SYRACUSE	37	21	42	14	29	3	1.56	1.05	1.27	11.51	149	6.68	146	92	64	0	7	4	1
NC	ASHEVILLE	54	36	66	28	45	4	2.17	1.21	1.00	17.74	160	8.98	117	82	60	0	3	4	3
	CHARLOTTE	60	40	72	24	50	3	2.79	1.88	2.00	15.48	147	6.78	92	83	49	0	2	3	2
	GREENSBORO	56	38	71	26	47	4	1.52	0.74	0.70	12.79	134	6.14	95	84	57	0	2	4	2
	HATTERAS	61	48	71	33	55	7	1.28	0.34	1.05	15.96	112	11.00	114	85	60	0	0	3	1
	RALEIGH	58	39	73	24	48	3	1.56	0.69	0.89	12.48	121	6.41	88	86	59	0	2	4	1
	WILMINGTON	65	46	76	30	55	5	0.67	-0.23	0.56	17.56	149	12.06	151	83	49	0	1	3	1
ND	BISMARCK	50	24	73	20	37	16	0.03	-0.09	0.02	1.52	115	0.61	69	76	54	0	7	2	0
	DICKINSON	46	20	66	10	33	9	0.01	-0.06	0.01	0.70	64	0.42	56	90	38	0	7	1	0
	FARGO	38	24	55	19	31	14	0.00	-0.15	0.00	1.51	83	0.86	68	86	66	0	6	0	0
	GRAND FORKS	35	21	45	15	28	12	0.01	-0.13	0.01	1.78	101	0.73	60	86	65	0	7	1	0
	JAMESTOWN	40	22	61	16	31	12	0.05	-0.06	0.03	0.63	42	0.19	18	90	59	0	7	3	0
	WILLISTON	46	22	60	14	34	14	0.01	-0.08	0.01	1.64	115	1.09	127	84	67	0	7	1	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	45	28	53	22	37	7	1.54	0.95	1.37	8.14	107	4.44	97	83	60	0	6	3	1
	CINCINNATI	50	33	61	27	42	6	2.63	1.91	1.57	12.35	141	6.26	114	85	61	0	4	4	2
	CLEVELAND	41	28	49	23	35	5	1.32	0.77	1.20	7.48	97	4.52	98	85	62	0	7	3	1
	COLUMBUS	48	30	59	24	39	5	1.37	0.83	1.25	9.23	123	4.35	95	75	56	0	5	2	1
	DAYTON	47	28	56	25	37	4	1.71	1.14	1.64	9.04	116	4.65	98	90	58	0	7	2	1
	MANSFIELD	44	27	54	22	35	6	1.73	1.20	1.51	8.80	111	4.64	99	90	61	0	6	2	1

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 27, 2016

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	40	27	48	23	33	4	0.94	0.47	0.86	5.88	93	2.90	79	84	64	0	7	2	1
	YOUNGSTOWN	47	27	60	21	37	7	1.37	0.86	1.24	9.25	129	5.06	120	84	59	0	6	2	1
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	60	36	73	24	48	3	0.69	0.20	0.69	4.13	92	1.06	41	76	35	0	1	1	1
	TULSA	60	36	76	24	48	4	0.48	-0.10	0.48	9.81	171	1.21	37	80	45	0	2	1	0
OR	ASTORIA	56	39	64	35	48	3	0.61	-1.25	0.20	41.68	151	21.15	122	92	78	0	0	5	0
	BURNS	46	20	50	11	33	1	0.05	-0.23	0.05	5.10	148	1.72	80	86	66	0	7	1	0
	EUGENE	58	37	63	31	47	3	0.40	-1.10	0.28	23.27	105	9.66	70	93	83	0	2	3	0
	MEDFORD	59	36	69	29	48	3	0.18	-0.31	0.15	12.97	176	5.24	117	91	56	0	2	3	0
	PENDLETON	54	30	60	26	42	2	0.04	-0.24	0.03	4.65	115	2.37	92	85	66	0	6	2	0
	PORTLAND	59	39	64	33	49	5	0.61	-0.37	0.34	26.17	177	10.93	120	85	61	0	0	3	0
	SALEM	59	37	64	31	48	4	0.45	-0.75	0.28	25.77	149	10.53	98	91	74	0	1	3	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	50	30	65	23	40	8	3.34	2.67	2.77	13.18	139	8.99	147	78	51	0	5	4	1
	ERIE	39	26	43	22	32	2	0.37	-0.20	0.20	8.94	107	5.05	109	88	77	0	6	3	0
	MIDDLETOWN	48	30	62	21	39	6	2.22	1.48	1.76	14.21	161	9.92	178	86	54	0	5	4	1
	PHILADELPHIA	53	36	65	27	44	8	2.31	1.62	1.90	11.68	124	6.54	107	71	48	0	2	4	1
	PITTSBURGH	48	30	62	22	39	7	1.04	0.45	1.01	7.75	100	4.71	96	80	49	0	4	2	1
	WILKES-BARRE	46	29	62	23	38	7	1.64	1.14	1.21	8.39	120	5.84	132	77	51	0	5	3	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	48	28	59	22	38	7	1.26	0.63	1.11	9.72	120	6.36	123	80	52	0	6	3	1
RI	PROVIDENCE	49	30	61	20	40	8	1.68	0.85	0.88	12.80	108	8.00	104	77	50	0	4	3	2
SC	BEAUFORT	69	49	78	35	59	7	0.27	-0.43	0.15	8.87	87	5.98	85	83	41	0	0	2	0
	CHARLESTON	69	47	78	32	58	6	0.38	-0.37	0.19	11.48	112	8.34	119	83	42	0	1	2	0
	COLUMBIA	64	44	80	28	54	5	2.21	1.27	1.77	13.12	112	6.67	80	82	55	0	2	3	1
	GREENVILLE	60	39	70	26	49	3	2.49	1.36	1.30	18.34	150	8.26	99	89	52	0	2	3	2
SD	ABERDEEN	45	24	68	18	34	12	0.01	-0.12	0.01	1.20	97	0.56	65	85	71	0	7	1	0
	HURON	46	24	70	19	35	11	0.05	-0.12	0.05	1.81	138	0.53	58	92	58	0	7	1	0
	RAPID CITY	52	22	72	14	37	8	0.01	-0.12	0.01	1.37	121	0.74	101	72	32	0	7	1	0
	SIOUX FALLS	42	26	63	21	34	10	0.17	0.02	0.16	2.42	170	1.11	123	87	71	0	7	2	0
TN	BRISTOL	53	37	63	24	45	5	1.64	0.77	0.65	12.61	125	7.34	109	94	61	0	2	5	1
	CHATTANOOGA	57	42	63	30	50	5	2.73	1.49	1.52	21.16	143	10.75	108	85	61	0	1	4	2
	KNOXVILLE	54	41	63	28	47	3	2.10	1.06	0.79	16.70	130	8.86	106	91	66	0	2	5	2
	MEMPHIS	57	42	71	30	49	2	2.07	0.96	1.52	12.62	90	7.85	95	82	56	0	1	4	1
	NASHVILLE	57	40	67	28	49	6	1.17	0.20	0.85	11.63	98	6.71	91	83	54	0	2	5	1
TX	ABILENE	61	40	72	30	51	0	0.68	0.38	0.56	2.92	90	0.72	37	79	50	0	1	2	1
	AMARILLO	58	29	76	23	44	2	0.39	0.24	0.39	1.97	117	0.69	64	74	27	0	5	1	0
	AUSTIN	68	44	72	29	56	0	1.14	0.60	1.14	4.47	73	2.18	59	79	53	0	1	1	1
	BEAUMONT	71	47	79	37	59	2	0.94	0.22	0.92	10.10	71	5.96	66	94	44	0	0	2	1
	BROWNSVILLE	78	53	92	42	66	2	0.00	-0.22	0.00	2.04	56	1.88	75	90	46	1	0	0	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	76	50	83	34	63	2	0.21	-0.25	0.14	3.18	63	2.29	69	80	46	0	0	2	0
	DEL RIO	71	48	76	37	60	2	0.05	-0.19	0.03	1.07	49	0.73	51	75	46	0	0	2	0
	EL PASO	70	41	79	34	55	3	0.00	-0.08	0.00	1.61	105	0.53	69	52	15	0	0	0	0
	FORT WORTH	63	43	72	32	53	1	2.20	1.51	1.75	7.07	107	3.24	81	74	45	0	1	3	1
	GALVESTON	67	52	75	45	60	1	0.86	0.30	0.80	7.45	73	3.96	60	93	55	0	0	2	1
	HOUSTON	69	47	74	39	58	1	1.81	1.09	1.14	9.34	91	4.13	63	83	49	0	0	2	2
	LUBBOCK	59	32	74	25	46	1	0.09	-0.08	0.09	1.96	110	0.39	35	73	36	0	5	1	0
	MIDLAND	62	38	74	30	50	-1	0.30	0.16	0.29	1.72	103	0.48	47	76	47	0	2	2	0
	SAN ANGELO	65	37	73	28	51	-1	0.77	0.47	0.64	3.06	109	0.80	43	86	49	0	3	2	1
	SAN ANTONIO	68	47	73	35	58	1	1.54	1.10	1.34	4.41	84	2.93	90	82	45	0	0	2	1
	VICTORIA	73	48	79	37	61	3	1.79	1.29	1.61	6.54	96	4.94	113	92	54	0	0	2	1
	WACO	64	43	72	30	53	0	2.13	1.47	1.07	6.07	88	2.45	59	85	53	0	1	2	2
	WICHITA FALLS	61	38	73	28	49	1	1.26	0.82	1.01	4.32	103	1.70	68	81	45	0	2	2	1
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	53	32	65	27	42	5	0.01	-0.33	0.01	4.68	123	2.45	95	80	46	0	5	1	0
VT	BURLINGTON	38	18	53	9	28	6	2.09	1.70	1.67	8.79	146	4.35	114	77	54	0	7	2	1
VA	LYNCHBURG	50	35	60	24	42	3	1.02	0.24	0.46	12.00	124	7.04	109	82	61	0	2	4	0
	NORFOLK	59	42	72	33	50	7	0.95	0.12	0.72	14.21	141	10.84	153	77	50	0	0	3	1
	RICHMOND	55	37	69	22	46	5	1.88	1.10	1.02	13.59	144	7.65	121	83	56	0	2	3	2
	ROANOKE	50	38	65	30	44	3	1.65	0.87	0.77	12.78	142	8.23	134	80	70	0	2	4	2
	WASH/DULLES	50	35	58	24	42	5	0.88	0.18	0.36	11.62	133	7.86	139	79	63	0	2	3	0
WA	OLYMPIA	56	33	63	28	45	4	0.73	-0.69	0.20	28.94	135	14.44	106	96	84	0	2	4	0
	QUILLAYUTE	56	39	70	31	47	4	0.67	-2.33	0.42	49.81	124	30.57	119	93	75	0	1	4	0
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	56	41	61	34	48	4	0.54	-0.43	0.17	23.72	160	12.51	136	86	68	0	0	5	0
	SPOKANE	49	30	55	23	40	6	0.02	-0.34	0.02	7.91	145	3.47	108	88	58	0	6	1	0
	YAKIMA	57	29	65	23	43	6	0.02	-0.15	0.02	6.21	189	2.74	143	80	60	0	5	1	0
WV	BECKLEY	46	34	62	23	40	4	1.66	0.90	0.98	9.39	103	5.84	97	85	70	0	3	5	1
	CHARLESTON	52	37	68	28	45	6	1.32	0.50	0.85	11.72	123	6.13	98	83	55	0	3	4	1
	ELKINS	48	32	64	20	40	7	1.15	0.34	0.65	9.70	98	5.01	78	87	56	0	4	5	1
	HUNTINGTON	52	36	66	30	44	5	1.49	0.68	1.04	13.80	146	7.39	122	85	58	0	2	3	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	39	25	61	20	32	10	0.02	-0.16	0.02	4.80	173	0.96	55	85	54	0	7	1	0
	GREEN BAY	36	26	50	20	31	8	0.00	-0.24	0.00	7.85	222	2.14	101	87	64	0	7	0	0
	LA CROSSE	43	29	62	27	36	10	0.00	-0.22	0.00	6.44	192	1.52	72	84	49	0	6	0	0
	MADISON	40	29	57	26	34	9	0.00	-0.30	0.00	5.21	128	1.88	78	81	64	0	7	0	0
	MILWAUKEE	40	29	57	25	34	6	0.00	-0.39	0.00	5.72	102	1.90	56	79	60	0	7	0	0
WY	CASPER	48	21	60	11	35	6	0.00	-0.17	0.00	2.45	141	1.40	125	72	34	0	6	0	0
	CHEYENNE	47	24	64	15	36	6	0.00	-0.12	0.00	1.96	154	1.11	137	58	30	0	7	0	0
	LANDER	48	23	59	18	36	8	0.00	-0.15	0.00	1.40	90	0.92	97	66	24	0	7	0	0
	SHERIDAN	52	20	66	13	36	7	0.00	-0.13	0.00	1.78	91	1.44	113	67	37	0	7	0	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals ***** Not Available**

National Agricultural Summary

February 22 – 28, 2016

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Temperatures were generally above average, with the northern Great Plains at least 9°F above normal for the week. Some areas in the Great Basin and Florida recorded below-average temperatures. Dry conditions stretched across much of the West. Precipitation was more widespread in the East, with some 3- to 6-inch totals reported from southern Louisiana to western North Carolina.

Arizona: Alfalfa conditions were rated 78 percent good to excellent. Harvesting continued on two-thirds of the state's alfalfa acreage. Rangeland conditions varied widely, depending on location, but were mostly good to fair. Central Arizona growers shipped broccoli, cabbage (green and red), cilantro, kale greens, and parsley. Western Arizona growers shipped anise, arugula, Bok Choy, broccoli, cabbage (green and red), cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, cilantro, endive, escarole, kale greens, varieties of lettuce (Boston, Iceberg, green leaf, red leaf, romaine and other), parsley, radicchio, and spinach. High temperatures continue to rapidly deplete soil moisture. The weather station at Window Rock reported 0.01 inch of precipitation, while the other 49 weather stations reported no precipitation during the week. The highest temperature was 90°F at Buckeye. The lowest temperature was 9°F at Springerville.

California: Highs were in the 40s to 60s in the mountains; 60s to 70s in the valley; 60s to 80s along the coast from north to south; and 70s to 80s in the deserts. Lows were typically in the 10s to 40s in the mountains; 30s to 40s in the valley; 30s to 50s in the desert; and 40s to 50s along the coast from north to south. The only area that recorded any precipitation was in the mountains north of Redding. Warm, sunny weather assisted in drying fields, so that groundwork and preparation continued. Rice fields were mostly drained. Cotton beds were being prepared and alfalfa was getting ready for the first cutting. Winter forage crops continued to grow well with the warmer weather. Herbicide sprays were applied to winter grain and alfalfa crops. Black-eyed beans were shipped. Orchards were sprayed and mowed as necessary for weed control. In Yuba County, some peach and prune orchards were pruned. Some brown rot control was done in stone fruit orchards. In San Joaquin County, the cherry bloom had begun and growers prepared for the application of bloom sprays. Grapevine pruning continued. In Tulare County, midseason stone fruit varieties were in full bloom. Early-season varieties were showing signs of leaf growth. Grapevines continued to be pruned and tied. Weed control was performed on berms. Pomegranate orchards were pruned. Kiwifruit continued to be packed for shipment to foreign markets. Navel oranges, tangerines, Minneola tangelos, and lemons continued to be harvested. Citrus groves continued to be topped and skirted, with pruned brush shredded. New trees were planted to replace old groves. Seedless tangerines were netted to prevent cross pollination during the upcoming citrus bloom season. Warm weather aided almond bloom progression. Most almond orchards were in full bloom and the application of bloom sprays continued. Packing houses continued to pack walnuts, almonds, and pistachios for foreign and domestic markets. The asparagus harvest started in Colusa and San Joaquin Counties. In San Mateo County, Brussels sprouts fields were fumigated. In Fresno County, onions, garlic, and processing tomatoes were planted. Fields for lettuce seed, Bell peppers, and spring carrots were fumigated. Onions were fertilized. Kale, arugula, and Mazuna mustard for seed were all blooming. The kale was treated for downy mildew. In Tulare County, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, and Brussels sprouts were harvested and sold at farmer's markets. Valley and foothill non-irrigated pasture grasses and forbs capitalized on the recent precipitation and the above-normal temperatures, with a flourish of new growth. Some early grasses were already developing seed. Cattle and sheep were feeding on the verdant rangeland from the coast to foothills. Sheep also grazed some fallow and abandoned fields. Dairies were drying out, while the warm days stimulated milk production. During the sunny days, bees were active in almond orchards. Some hives were moved into stone fruit orchards as the early varieties started to bloom.

Florida: Temperatures ranged from 29°F in Mayo to 86°F in Fort Lauderdale. Strong storms brought additional rain to Holmes County. There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork, compared with 6.2 days last week. Sugarcane harvest continued, but delays caused by wet weather will result in harvest running late—possibly into June—which will affect next year's crop. Some land preparation continued in Washington County, but Tuesday's rain slowed efforts in some locations. Some Dixie County watermelon fields were seeded. Watermelon transplant preparation was underway in Suwannee County. Strawberries, onions, broccoli cabbage, and other cool season vegetables were harvested in Bradford and Flagler Counties. Irish potatoes were planted in Flagler and Putnam Counties. South Florida vegetable crops were heavily impacted by the cold, wet weather conditions the past 8 weeks, with yields on many items off by 30 to 50 percent. Also, rampant disease has increased fungicide applications and increased production costs dramatically. Miami-Dade County crops harvested included green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, tomato, eggplant, pepper, herbs, boniata, Malanga, avocado, and other tropical fruits. Rainfall was light across most of the citrus belt, along with cool conditions. Harvesting of the non-Valencia oranges was mostly done for the season. Processing plants and packing houses switched to Valencia oranges. Honey tangerine harvest was lagging this season. Temples were being harvested as Royal tangerines and were doing well in the fresh market. There were still plenty of red and white grapefruit groves that have been spot picked and cleaned for both the fresh and processed market. Orange trees were beginning to hit the peak of their bloom season. Most had open flowers and were starting to form new fruit for next season's crop. Caretakers were busy with hedging and topping programs. Irrigation was being turned back on in areas that have received little rainfall over the past few weeks. Other grove activities included fertilizing and general grove maintenance. Walton and Dixie County pastures were rated poor in some areas due to frost and flooding. Winter grazing pasture problems were reported in Taylor and Putnam Counties due to warm weather at the beginning of the planting season. South Florida cattle producers were feeding supplements to augment scarce available pasture forage. Ranchers hoped for warmer weather and increasing daylight to boost pasture forage.

Texas: Precipitation ranged from trace amounts to 3 inches or more. Areas stretching from the Blacklands through South Central Texas and into East Texas received from 2 to 3 inches. Coastal Bend, South Texas, and the Lower Valley received up to an inch of rain. In parts of the High Plains, producers were concerned with above-normal temperatures as wheat continued to progress out of dormancy. Statewide, wheat and oat conditions were mostly fair to good. Preparations for the upcoming cotton crop continued in the Northern Low Plains and Edwards Plateau, while cotton planting was active in the Lower Valley. In parts of the Blacklands, Coastal Bend, and South Central Texas, corn planting was active. Sorghum planting began in the Coastal Bend, Upper Coast, and the Lower Valley. Fruit tree producers in North East Texas continued to prune and thin tree limbs. Harvest of citrus, sugarcane, and vegetables continued in the Lower Valley. Statewide, pastures began to improve with recent rainfall, but there were signs of stress in parts of South Texas and the Lower Valley. Cattle remained in good condition as supplemental feeding continued in the Cross Timbers and the Blacklands.

February State Agricultural Summaries

These summaries, issued weekly through the summer growing season, provide brief descriptions of crop and weather conditions important on a national scale. More detailed data are available in Crop Progress and Condition Reports published each Monday by NASS State Statistical Offices in cooperation with the National Weather Service. The crop reports are available on the Internet through the NASS Home Page on the World Wide Web at http://www.nass.usda.gov.

ALABAMA: Temperatures in February were typical for late winter, with some reports of temperatures slightly warmer than normal. All areas of the State reported moderate to significant rainfall, which hindered some field work and delayed some planting. There were, however, no reports of flooding or water damage. Most reports indicate that farmers had adequate supplies of hay through the winter. Some farmers reported planting fewer wheat acres, or being behind in planting. Livestock, pastures, and wheat have been reported as being in fair to good condition. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from 2.97 inches in Muscle Shoals to 7.9 inches in Haleyville. Average mean temperatures for the month ranged from 44.0°F in Moulton to 54.6°F in Mobile.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State started out mostly above normal for the month of February. The temperatures were in the low 80°F in several parts of the State and a low of minus 12°F at Window Rock during the first two weeks of the month of February. The last two weeks were in the low 90°F in several parts of the State. Four of the fifty reporting weather stations finished the month of February with precipitation above 100 percent of normal. Roll and Teec Nos Pos finished the lowest at 9 and 12 percent of normal precipitation, respectively, and Bullhead City finished the highest with 119 percent of normal precipitation. Durum wheat and barley plantings were complete in February. Alfalfa harvesting was active on about two-thirds of the fields. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month of February.

ARKANSAS: Throughout February temperatures were above the normal range and participation was also well above normal for the month. Weather patterns of warmer than normal temperatures have energized an early spring pattern of growth. Rainfall has provided enough moisture to begin early green up of warm season perennial forages. Producers got most all of the fields fertilized and ready for planting. Winter wheat and ryegrass has kicked off nicely. Livestock producers continue to feed hay and/or utilize winter grazing pastures.

CALIFORNIA: February started with a cool, moist, wintry trend to a warmer and dry spring-like one with temperatures cooler than normal by 1 to 4°F. Much of the first week was dry, with precipitation totals averaging 1/4 inch or less. Mid-month heavy snows fell in the northern Sierras and around the Truckee/Tahoe area, where 1 foot snowfall totals were common. During the last week of the month, temperatures ranged from 40s to 80s in the mountains and in the deserts, respectively. The only area of the State that recorded any rainfall were the northern fringe of the state in the mountains north of Redding. Herbicidal sprays were applied to winter grain crops. Corn seed was received in advance of spring planting. Herbicidal sprays were applied to winter grain and alfalfa crops. Black-eyed beans were exported to foreign markets. In Colusa County, wheat fields in the county were growing at a very vigorous rate. Due to drying conditions, row crop fields were sprayed for weeds to clean them up. In Fresno County, reported warm weather was ideal for grain development. In Yuba County, rice fields were drained but rain keeps filling them up. Alfalfa hay was growing rapidly for first cutting. Warm, sunny weather assisted in drying fields so groundwork and preparation continued. Cotton beds were being prepared. Recent rains slowed citrus harvest. Citrus packing houses continued to pick and pack a variety of citrus for domestic and export markets. Navel, Cara Cara, Blood oranges, lemons, Mandarins and Minneola tangelos, Melo Gold and Oro Blanco hybrid grapefruit, along with pomelos continued to be packed and shipped to domestic and foreign markets. Grape vines were being pruned and tied. Kiwis were being trellised and new plants planted. In Sutter County, pruning of grapevines and fruit crops continued. In Fresno County, herbicides were applied to wine grapes. In Tulare County, pomegranate orchards continued to be pruned. Seedless tangerines were netted to prevent cross pollination during the upcoming citrus bloom season. In Tulare County, nut packing houses were packing shelled and in-shell walnuts, shelled pecans, and pistachios for domestic and foreign export. In Sutter County, almonds were beginning to bloom. Warm weather aided almond bloom progression. Most almond orchards were in full bloom and the application of bloom sprays continued. Kale, mazuna, and other vegetable seed crops were fertilized. The artichoke harvest has started off well. Certified Producers continued to grow winter vegetables, and selling produce such as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, and Brussel sprouts at the local Farmer's Markets. Summer vegetables continued to be planted under hot-caps. Valley and foothill non-irrigated pasture grasses and forbs capitalized on the recent precipitation and the above normal temperatures with a flourish of new growth. Some early grasses were already developing seed. During the sunny days, bees were active in almond orchards. Some hives were moved into stone fruit orchards as the early varieties started to bloom.

COLORADO: Topsoil moisture 9% very short, 17% short, 70% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 20% short, 69% adequate, 7% surplus. Pasture and range condition 14% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair, 40% good, 3% excellent. Livestock condition 2% poor, 14% fair, 75% good, 9% excellent. Winter wheat condition 12% poor, 43% fair, 36% good, 9% excellent. Calving and lambing 13% and 10%, respectively. Above normal temperatures resulted in a snow cover decline throughout Colorado. The lack of snow cover protection for wintered crops remained a central concern as wheat in some eastern localities had broken dormancy. Snowfall accumulations were greatest east of the Front Range while trace amounts were received elsewhere. As of February 29, snowpack in Colorado was at 98 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

DELAWARE: For the month of February, maximum registered temperatures in some parts of the region were

67°F with daily average high of 54°F and minimum 8°F with daily average minimum of 24°F. Most areas saw 15 instances of precipitation with near maximum of 2.61+ inches of snow mixed with rain in one single day, which led relatively high surpluses in sub and topsoil moisture. The weather conditions also contributed to some flooding episodes, leaving soggy fields and hampering livestock feeding. The prevailing wet condition also had prevented Nitrogen application to small grain even when the date was moved back. On the other hand, a few reports were received regarding farm structures collapse from snow weight. Soil wheat has been top-dressed where possible. February goes in the books as one of a cold, rainy, and foggy month. Other farming activities for the end of the month and beginning of next month included: reading equipment, securing seed and nutrient applications plan, taking soil samples, purchasing supplies, and attending educational workshops as is usual for the month February.

FLORIDA: Field work and soil preparation for spring plantings continued in Panhandle. Second week of month, standing water was present in fields. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades, Hendry Counties. Flagler, Putnam County farmers continued planting cabbage, potatoes. By end of month, potato planting was complete. In Bradford County strawberries, onions, greens, cabbage, Swiss chard was harvested. Blueberry bushes in Marion County showed signs of blooms. Vegetable harvest in Southwest part of State slowed due to cooler weather. Third week of month, freezing weather caused concern for crops. Gadsden County farmers tilled soil in preparation for corn, peanut planting. Planting of late cabbage, harvesting of strawberries, onions, and greens occurred in Bradford County. Flagler, Putnam County farmers harvested cabbage. Some damage to vegetables noted in southwest counties due to cold wet weather conditions which reduced quality and volume. Farmers applied fungicides to protect crops from frost and wind damage. Miami-Dade County harvested green beans, pole beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, boniato, malanga, avocado, bitter melon, herbs. Some pastures were in poor condition due to standing water, frost. Ranchers providing supplemental feed due to lack of forage crops. Lowest temperatures of season recorded across the citrus growing area. Abnormally dry conditions in Collier, Hendry, lower half of Indian River Counties. Citrus processing plants ran at full capacity. Early and midseason oranges were harvested and processed. Harvesting of Hamlin, Navel, and Pineapple oranges, early tangerines over for the season. Valencia oranges, Honey tangerines, colored grapefruit, a small amount of white grapefruit, and midseason oranges were being harvested for fresh fruit. Grove activity slow, irrigating, mowing, fertilizing, some are hedging and topping after harvest.

GEORGIA: Throughout the State, producers have experienced frequent, heavy rain events during February that did not allow saturated fields to dry sufficiently before the next rain event occurred. Some flooding has occurred in the northern portion of the state. Precipitation totals for the month have ranged from 2.5 inches in the eastern central region to 7.4 inches in the northern region near Atlanta. For the majority of the state, rain and saturated soil have led to significant delays in fertilizer and pesticide applications, soil testing, field preparations, and planting. Widely fluctuating temperatures have also caused crops and pastures to suffer. Overall, above average temperatures have led to increased disease and pest pressure, while cold snaps have caused frost damage to some small grains. Despite difficulties, a few producers have been able to get into their fields to begin laying plastic for spring vegetables and planting corn. In the northwestern region, pasture grasses and small grains have been in relatively good condition despite the rain and flooding. In the rest of the state, the majority of producers have experienced fair to poor pasture and small grain conditions due to saturated soil, increased disease and pest pressure, frost damage, and nitrogen deficiencies. In light of unfavorable weather and wet pasture, cattle condition is fair to good. Due to inconsistent grazing, hay supplies are adequate to depleted, depending on the region. Fruit growers have begun pruning fruit trees. Fears have grown throughout the state about a late freeze damaging prematurely blooming fruit and nut trees. Onion condition was fair to good.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: February brought much warmer weather and above normal temperatures throughout the State. Snow was melting in almost all areas and some fields were no longer snow covered with totally visible ground. There was a marked decrease in snow this month and scattered showers throughout. Blaine County had some large pools of standing water as the snow rapidly melted over still frozen ground. Crop activity was minimal in most areas, but winter wheat had begun to emerge. Some field work was getting started and many producers were preparing to begin spring plantings in the coming weeks. Gooding County reported operations spreading manure and tillage. Hay was in abundant supply. Caribou County reported that seed potatoes started to ship. Calving and lambing were underway and reports indicated things going well with no notable issues. Butte County estimated they were about halfway through calving. Ada County reported that pasture and grazing land were in high demand to obtain grass for the cattle in the coming season due to the Soda Fire last year. There were no other reports of adverse crop or livestock conditions for the month.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 79% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 85% adequate, 14% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 36% fair, 47% good, 11% excellent. Statewide, temperatures for the month of February averaged 32.7°F, 2.5°F above normal. Precipitation averaged 1.36 inches, 0.57 inch below normal. Care of livestock and calving were the main activities during the month.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 3% short, 70% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 75% adequate, 17% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 1% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 54% good, 13% excellent. Temperatures for the month averaged 33.0°F, 2.6°F above normal. Statewide average precipitation was 2.69 inches, 0.42 inch above normal. The exceptional winter continued through February, which started and ended with above average temperatures. Fluctuating temperatures and sporadic winds presented challenges for many growers, interrupting fieldwork as well as creating grain storage issues. A dip in temperatures during the second week held temperatures 11.1°F below normal, on average, through the week. Total precipitation was a little below average north of Interstate 70, with the exception of Elkhart, Noble and Lagrange Counties in the northeastern part of the state. Southwestern counties bordered by the Wabash were drier than normal as well.

Areas of the state received significant snowfalls on the 8th, the 14th and the 24th, but mild temperatures limited the duration of snow cover. Some burnt tips and damage was noted on wheat, and topdressing has been delayed where conditions prohibited fieldwork, but the crop remains in good condition. With calving underway, livestock are in good condition, though feedlots are getting muddy. Hay supplies are adequate in the south but tighter in the north, reflecting the opportunities for cuttings last spring and early summer when the northern part of the state received excessive rains. Mild conditions have raised concerns over insect pressure. Otherwise, growers kept busy hauling manure, spreading lime, installing tile, keeping up with paperwork and hauling grain to market.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 1% short, 73% adequate, and 26% surplus. Iowa experienced above normal temperatures for the month of February, which resulted in plenty of snowmelt throughout the State. There were numerous reports of drainage tile running steady, as well as standing water in low-lying areas. Fieldwork activities for the month of February were limited to scattered manure and dry fertilizer applications. Grain movement in February rated 27 percent moderate to heavy, slightly more than the previous month. Hay and roughage supplies were comparable to last year at this time. Cattle feeding was reported to be a challenge due to muddy conditions.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture supplies 5% very short, 31% short, 63% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies 6% very short, 24% short, 68% adequate, and 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 35% fair, 51% good and 8% excellent; Hay and Roughage supplies 0% very short, 3% short, 86% adequate, 11% surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 2% very short, 12% short, 84% adequate, and 2% surplus. Cattle and Calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 24% fair, 69% good and 6% excellent. Calving progress 24% calved. Cattle and calves death loss 0% heavy, 61% average, and 39% light. Sheep and Lambs condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 31% fair, 67% good and 2% excellent. Sheep and lambs death loss 0% heavy, 66% average and 34% light. Temperatures averaged 4 to 6°F above normal. The spring-like conditions prompted winter wheat to break dormancy early. Rain was needed to support growth and development. Producers in southern counties were beginning spring fieldwork activities. The mild conditions have been good for the calving season.

KENTUCKY: For the month of February, the Commonwealth saw near normal temperatures and above normal rainfall. The State saw an average of 4.86 inches for February, which was over an inch above normal. The last day of February signals the end of meteorological winter and based on preliminary data, the state was on average, 4°F above normal for the season. This would make the 2015-16 winter one of the warmest on record for the State. Temperatures for the period averaged 39°F across the state which was 2°F warmer than normal. High temperatures averaged from 49 in the West to 46 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from near normal in the West to 3°F cooler than normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 32°F in the West to 32°F in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 3°F warmer than normal in the West to 7°F warmer than normal in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 4.86 inches statewide which was 1.2 inches above normal and 133% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 4.02 inches, Central 5.19 inches, Bluegrass 4.66 inches and East 5.56 inches, which was -0.06, 1.22, 1.49 and 2.12 inches respectively from normal. Most tobacco producers have finished stripping their crop, but the remaining tobacco in the barns was being stripped as conditions allowed. The amount of tobacco stripped 98%. Wheat producers are optimistic about the crop. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 69% good, 13% excellent. Hay supplies have tightened for some producers, but a relatively mild winter has helped most to have adequate stocks on hand. Hay and roughage supplies 2% very short, 15% short, 77% adequate, 6% surplus. At the end of January, 86% of supplies were rated as adequate to surplus, compared to 83% currently. Livestock conditions have declined slightly from last month. Wet, muddy conditions for some producers have been stressful on livestock. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 71% good, 8% excellent. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the State. Farmers were busy performing routine equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season.

LOUISIANA: Wet conditions during February slowed crop producers with field preparation for spring planting. Equipment preparation was completed as producers awaited dryer conditions. Sugarcane producers clipped and plowed stubble, as well as repaired field damage from the wet harvest season. Livestock producers continued to feed hay and graze rye grass pasture as calving season wraps up. Crawfish producers continued to put out traps for harvest. Budding and flowering had begun for many fruit and shade trees.

MARYLAND: For the month of February, maximum registered temperatures in some parts of the region were 67°F with daily average high of 54°F and minimum 8°F with daily average minimum of 24°F. Most areas saw 15 instances of precipitation with near maximum of 2.61+ inches of snow mixed with rain in one single day, which led relatively high surpluses in sub and topsoil moisture. The weather conditions also contributed to some flooding episodes, leaving soggy fields and hampering livestock feeding. The prevailing wet condition also had prevented Nitrogen application to small grain even when the date was moved back. On the other hand, a few reports were received regarding farm structures collapse from snow weight. Soil wheat has been top-dressed where possible. February goes in the books as one of a cold, rainy, and foggy month. Other farming activities for the end of the month and beginning of next month included reading equipment, securing seed and nutrient applications plan, taking soil samples, purchasing supplies, and attending educational workshops as is usual for the month February.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 72% adequate, and 27% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% short, 75% adequate, and 14% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 6% poor, 31% fair, 14% good, and 14% excellent. Temperatures fluctuated widely throughout the month, moving from 8-12 °F above normal during the first week of the month to 2-5 °F below normal during the second week before returning to normal and above normal late in the month. The Upper Peninsula saw its fair share of lake effect snow throughout the month. A storm system on February 2 brought upwards of 6-12 inches of snow to the U.P., which was followed by two weeks of nearly daily snow events to the area. Some areas reported receiving more than 15 inches of

snow during the second week of the month, with as much as 25.5 inches received the peak in Munising during that period. In the Lower Peninsula, heavy rains and isolated thunderstorms came across the Central region during the first few days of February. A high wind event on February 19 brought gusts ranging from 46 to 58 mph across many areas, bringing down trees and power lines, causing damage to buildings and property, and kicking up massive waves on Lake Michigan. A winter storm on February 24-25 brought significant snowfall to many areas of the Lower Peninsula, causing power outages, school closings, and even closings of State government offices; snowfall totals from this storm ranged from 6-14 inches, but warmer weather the following weekend melted much of what had fallen. Topsoil condition remained essentially unchanged from last month. No areas of the State were rated abnormally dry after the February 9 Drought Monitor, and no major icing or flooding issues were reported. Milder temperatures have kept winter wheat and rye crops from seeing significant freeze damage, and farmers are making plans for early nitrogen applications on winter wheat, but some crop weather reporters expressed concern that wheat and rye were vulnerable to winter kill should a cold snap occur. Sugarbeet storage conditions have been poor; more than average spoilage was expected. Maple taps were going in during February and sap was running. Fruit growers kept busy pruning their orchards, although in the northwest, many orchards were still snow covered. Livestock were reported to be doing well except for some mud to contend with; the mild winter has required less forage for livestock farmers building hay supplies.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were mostly warmer than normal across the state throughout February. Two early month blizzards brought above normal snowfall to southwestern Minnesota. The February 2-3 snowstorm was the fifth largest February snowfall on record in the Twin Cities, with 9.4 inches of snow measured at The Twin Cities International Airport, and a high of 13.5 inches of snow reported in Bloomington. The February 7-8 blizzard was marked by snow and high winds, which whipped up the existing snow pack, particularly in southwestern Minnesota, where gusts of up to 58 MPH were noted. The preliminary statewide average temperature for the month was 4°F above average. High temperatures were reached on February 19th and 27th, with several locations reporting high temperatures into the 50s and 60s. A low of -36°F was reported on February 14 at Embarrass. The preliminary statewide average precipitation was slightly (.05 inch) below normal, but some areas received half an inch or more above the normal precipitation levels. With the warmer temperatures, many areas report little to no snow cover remaining. Concerns persist about possible winterkill in alfalfa and fall seeded crops. Livestock producers have continued calving and lambing. Livestock conditions are generally described as very good, with a few concerns related to muddy conditions in some areas. Feed supply continues to be more than adequate.

MISSISSIPPI: The State saw a fair amount of rain for the month with some areas experiencing severe weather conditions, causing flooding and saturated ground conditions. Warmer weather coupled with welcomed rainfall made planting for some areas of the state ideal, which led to some producers preparing for spring plantings. Aerial applications of burn down herbicides have also been applied over the last several weeks. Winter wheat looked average and was in need of warmer temperatures. Cattlemen were feeding hay.

MISSOURI: Topsoil moisture 11% short, 80% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 84% adequate, 8% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 8% short, 84% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% short, 94% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter Wheat condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 40% fair, 49% good, 2% excellent. Field activities included tillage and fertilizer applications.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 10% very short, 3% last year; 29% short, 16% last year; 58% adequate, 75% last year; 3% surplus, 6% last year. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 4% last year; 34% short, 16% last year; 52% adequate, 68% last year; 3% surplus, 12% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 77% none, 71% last year; 19% light, 22% last year; 3% moderate, 5% last year; 1% heavy, 2% last year. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 79% none, 65% last year; 19% light, 25% last year; 2% moderate, 8% last year; 0% heavy, 2% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 62% very poor, 37% last year; 22% poor, 31% last year; 11% fair, 25% last year; 3% good, 7% last year; 2% excellent, 0% last year. Livestock grazing accessibility – 64% open, 49% last year; 14% difficult, 24% last year; 22% closed, 27% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle and calves 98% fed, 96% last year. Livestock birthing – calving complete 8%, 10% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 98% fed, 97% last year. Livestock birthing – lambing complete 6%, 5% last year. Warm temperatures and lack of snow cover have some farmers beginning spring work in their fields and are making plans for early planting according to reporters. Winter damage to winter wheat increased from the previous month as a result of decreased snow coverage. The State's snow coverage fell to 5 percent good to excellent which is slightly below last year at this time when snow coverage was 7 percent good to excellent. Livestock grazing is 78 percent open to difficult compared to 73 percent at the same time last year. Dry conditions and lack of grass have more producers providing supplemental feed at higher rates than the previous year with 98 percent of both cattle and sheep being fed, compared with 96 percent of cattle and 97 percent of sheep last year. Livestock birthing continues in mild conditions for the season with 8 percent of calving and 6 percent of lambing complete so far which is behind the five year average of 12 percent for cattle but right on the five year average of 6 percent for sheep.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 14% short, 80% adequate, and 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 15% short, 80% adequate, and 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 38% fair, 49% good, 10% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 7% short, 91% adequate, and 1% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 88% adequate, 5% surplus. Cattle and calves condition, 0% very poor, 0% poor, 13% fair, 73% good, 14% excellent. Calving, 10% complete. Cattle and calves death loss, 1% heavy, 72% average, 27% heavy. Sheep and lamb condition, 0% very poor, 0% poor, 21% fair, 77% good, 2% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss, 1% heavy, 62% average, 37% light. Temperatures averaged 4 to 6°F above normal. Snowfall occurred early in the month across much of the State, with heaviest amounts in central and northeastern counties. By the end of February, the snow had melted leaving little or no snow cover statewide. The mild conditions have been good for the calving season. The frost was coming out of the ground, leaving feedlots muddy.

NEVADA: Well below normal temperatures followed the low that pushed through the last week of January, which gave way to mild temperatures by mid-week in the northern and central regions of the State the first of February. Weather conditions were clear, calm, and dry with no precipitation across the northern areas until the third week of the month, when a low front moved through bringing rain, snow, and high winds. Temperatures moderated toward the end of the week and into the final week of February. The southern portion of Nevada experienced a gradual increase in daily temperatures from the mid-40s to the high 70s. The last week of February had a slight dipping of daily temperatures from the mid-70s down into the mid-60s.

NEW ENGLAND: Warm temperatures and little snow cover continued to be a concern from the last month throughout the region. Connecticut experienced heavy rains in some areas and little winter conditions. Pruning is ongoing and maple taps appeared to be doing well. In much of Maine, snow was minimal and potato crops have been a concern in some areas. Massachusetts respondents reported variable weather conditions from average to fluctuating from cold to very warm. Snow cover also was reported as minimal here in many areas. Maple taps were started in the early part of the month among some farmers in anticipation of a warm winter. In New Hampshire, the weather was reported as much the same as other states. Rhode Island did experience snowfall among rainstorms; however, warmer temperatures have been more predominant throughout. Vermont was reported as setting record warm temperatures. Additionally, Vermont had some flooding due to heavy rains. Maple farmers struggled to keep sap flowing with the fluctuating temperatures. Farm activities remained the same this past month. Orchardists continued pruning and farmers attended meetings, finished up last year record-keeping, and repaired equipment among other items.

NEW JERSEY: El Nino continues to impact the State with unusually rapid fluctuations in temperature and weather. Some areas had two to three feet of snow with 5 to 10 degree temperatures which then rapidly switched to 50 to 65 degree days with about three to five inches or more of heavy rain and thunderstorms. This was good for snow removal, but not for outdoor farm activities. On the plus side of this wet and changeable weather, the large amount of rain and snow was recharging the groundwater nicely after such a dry fall. Soil testing and fertilizer planning were ongoing. Onion seeding has begun. Spinach and kale transplants are being prepared. Overwintered crops were waking up. Growers were finishing up winter tasks and preparing for spring.

NEW MEXICO: February delivered above average temperatures coupled with below average precipitation to much of the State. Reporter comments from District 10 indicated an early snow melt. Average temperatures ranged from 8°F above to 1°F below normal. Daytime highs ranged from 55°F at Chama to 91°F at Roswell. Overnight lows remained below freezing at all weather stations, with several locations recording temperatures well below 0°F. Most notably, Eagle Nest recorded a low of -27°F. A relatively strong El Nino provided beneficial moisture to many locations from January into early-February, but comments indicated that precipitation accumulation had decreased in recent weeks, leading to irrigation in some wheat fields and increased concern about fire danger in native pastures that currently have ample feedstuffs available. Monthly precipitation totals were below normal for most locations. Reporter comments from Curry County indicated that winter wheat was starting to show new growth following warm temperatures toward month's end. Ranchers in the area were marketing some of their wheat-fed cattle. Elsewhere, approximately 80 percent of the winter wheat in Union County was being grazed, and 20 percent of the irrigation circles used for corn have been disked as producers prepare for the upcoming season. Topsoil moisture 30% very short, 20% short, 48% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 15% short, 80% adequate. Winter wheat condition 20% fair, 30% good, 50% excellent. Cows calved 15%, 7% last month, 4% last year. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 83%, 67% last month, 90% last year. Cattle condition 2% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 57% good, 9% excellent. Ewes lambed 12%, 4% last month, 4% last year. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 77%, 78% last month, 91% last year. Sheep and lamb condition 15% very poor, 19% poor, 15% fair, 51% good. Feed and concentrate supplies 5% very short, 18% short, 57% adequate, 20% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 7% very short, 7% short, 60% adequate, 26% surplus. Stock water supplies 3% very short, 23% short, 74% adequate.

NEW YORK: The State experienced wide fluctuations in temperature throughout the month; a few nights of below zero temperatures were reported early in the month but by mid-February a large warm front had brought lots of rain and warmer weather. In some parts of the State very little or no snow cover was reported. Some concerns were reported over flooded fields and frost damage to alfalfa fields due to lack of snow. In addition, unusually warm and wet weather has farmers concerned about bees and fruit development. Despite these conditions some reports of manure injection were reported. Field activities for the month included tending livestock, trees, and vines, and fixing and maintaining machinery and structures.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 2.5. Topsoil moisture 46% adequate and 54% surplus. Subsoil moisture 46% adequate and 54% surplus. Snow, ice, and rain made for saturated soil conditions in February. This led to delays in field work and challenges in feeding livestock. Heavy winds were observed, and a severe storm with damaging winds and tornado reports occurred on February 24th. Winter wheat condition 10% very poor, 19% poor, 38% fair, 30% good, 3% excellent. Oats condition 5% very poor, 18% poor, 46% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent. Barley condition 1% very poor, 22% poor, 37% fair, 40% good. Pasture conditions 6% very poor, 24% poor, 49% fair, 19% good, 2% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 12% very short, 40% short, 46% adequate, 2% surplus.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 22% short, 71% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 25% short, 65% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 5% very poor, 4% poor, 37% fair, 53% good, 1% excellent. Cattle and calves condition, 0% very poor, 1% poor, 12% fair, 77% good, 10% excellent. Calving, 7% complete. Cattle and calves death loss, 0% heavy, 41% average, 59% light. Sheep and lambs condition, 0% very poor, 2% poor, 14% fair, 73% good, 11% excellent. Ewes lambed, 11% complete. Sheep and lambs death loss, 1% heavy, 38% average, 61% light. Hay and roughage supplies, 1% very short, 5% short, 81% adequate, 13% surplus. Stock water supplies, 2% very short, 9% short, 86% adequate, 3% surplus. Temperatures averaged 6 to 9°F above normal. The

mild conditions have been easy on livestock and limited hay demands. Snow cover was minimal as the month closed. Producers were busy moving grain to market before spring road weight limits changed.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture 5% short, 61% adequate, and 34% surplus. Subsoil moisture 12% short, 70% adequate, 18% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 2% poor, 26% fair, 55% good, and 17% excellent. The February 2015 statewide average temperature was 30.0°F, 2.8°F above normal. Precipitation averaged 3.15 inches Statewide, which was 0.89 inch above normal for the month of February. The mild weather which has characterized this winter season continued for much of the month. Most of the state saw above normal precipitation amounts except for the northwest. Williams, Defiance. Paulding, Van Wert, Mercer, Fulton, Henry, Putnam, Allen, Lucas, Wood, Hancock, and Hardin Counties received below normal precipitation. There was a snow storm late in the month, which helped some areas with low moisture. The lack of snow cover throughout the month was not an issue due to the mild temperatures. The mild winter has produced wheat that looks to be in great condition. Some high wind events in the northern part of the state may have caused some damage to vines and fruit trees. Muddy soils and surges of precipitation contributed to soil erosion in fields without residue of cover crops.

OKLAHOMA: The State experienced warm and dry weather for the month of February. The heaviest rains were received in the South Central and Southeast districts. According to the OCS Mesonet, the weather was mostly dry and warm, creating fire warnings for much of the state. The worst of which was a 17,000 acre fire north of Buffalo in Harper County. Precipitation across the state averaged 1.03 inches, ranging from 0.28 of an inch in the Panhandle district to 2.15 inches in the Southeast district. Statewide temperatures averaged in the mid 40's, with the lowest recording of 2°F at Kenton on Wednesday, February 3rd and the highest recording of 91°F at Buffalo on Thursday, February 18th. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to short.

OREGON: Rain for the month of February diminished from the heavy pace of December and January allowing some field work to get done. The State experienced fairly mild conditions with the exception of a few heavy rain events across the state. Soils were saturated in the west and just beginning to dry out. Polk County reported that flooding concerns greatly subsided during the month. The west saw a good amount of snow and precipitation. Runoff started to fill some reservoirs. Lake County reported that water level was at 111% of normal since the beginning of the year. Record rainfalls this winter caused considerable field erosion, especially on newly planted fields. Producers started to evaluate the damage. Cattle and sheep appeared to have wintered well. The warm weather helped reduce livestock feed consumption. Clatsop County occasionally turned out cows from confinement, on a day to day basis. Pastures were starting to grow. Warming weather had grasses showing good signs of growth, earlier than normal. In the east, wheat had emerged and green was visible all over. Morrow County reported winter wheat in the two, three or four leaf stage of growth. In the west, plants were showing earlier than normal. Prunes and peaches were blooming. Pears and apples had swollen buds. Hazelnuts had broken bud and producers were in the orchards pruning. Early vegetable plantings went into fields that were well drained. Nearly all perennial crops were about ten days ahead of last year's bloom.

PENNSYLVANIA: February winter weather in the State, while fiercely cold for a short time, appears to have abated with icy cold mid-February temperatures giving way to a warm and rainy glimpse at what many hope to be an early spring. Across the State, most snow has melted and some fields have even had enough exposure to begin greening. Despite the abundance of mud and some reports of flooding, the opportunities presented by this early thaw are not being overlooked. Maple syrup production is largely active and the preparation and pruning of fruit trees has begun in the anticipation and hope of continued fair weather. Other field activities, limited only by wet conditions, included machine maintenance, manure hauling, soil sampling, and preparations for spring seeding.

SOUTH CAROLINA: February was another wet month with windy and warmer temperatures across the State. The average high temperatures ranged from mid 50s to low 60s and the average low temperatures ranged between low 30s to low 40s. Precipitation estimates for the State ranged from 2.28 to 7.73 inches. In the northern counties small grain seeding is complete and crops are ahead of schedule due to warm winter. Some of the oats planted early have already headed. Most other small grains are progressing well. Pasture and livestock are in good condition. In the rest of the State, rain is still delaying field work. The field preparation has not started yet in some parts because the ground is too wet. The frequent rains have limited application of chemicals and fertilizers.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 21% short, 72% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 24% short, 66% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 30% fair, 62% good, and 7% excellent. Stock water supplies 7% very short, 21% short, 68% adequate, 4% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very poor, 3% poor, 84% adequate, and 12% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions 0% very poor, 0% poor, 16% fair, 74% good, and 10% excellent. Calving progress 6%. Cattle and calf death loss 0% heavy, 52% average, 48% light. Sheep and lamb condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, and 13% excellent. Ewes lambed 15%. Sheep and lamb death loss 0% heavy, 53% average, 47% light. Temperatures were 6 to 8°F above normal for many locations. The warmer weather, particularly late in the month, decreased the snow cover substantially and was beneficial for calving and lambing.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable 2.3. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 56% adequate, 43% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 62% adequate, 37% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% poor, 20% fair, 61% good, 15% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 4% very poor, 18% poor, 42% fair, 33% good, 3% excellent. Cattle condition 3% poor, 30% fair, 61% good, 6% excellent. Hay supplies 3% very short, 13% short, 74% adequate, 10% surplus. The State experienced several days of measureable rainfall leading to some minor flooding and muddy conditions. This limited field activities for wheat producers such as fertilizer and insecticide applications, and early applications of nitrogen.

TEXAS: The State experienced moderate weather conditions for the month of February. Precipitation throughout

the State was scarce with the eastern part of the State receiving the highest levels of ranging from trace amounts to upwards of 3.0 inches. Isolated areas in East Texas experienced precipitation upwards of 5.0 inches. Hail was experienced in areas of the Edwards Plateau, North East, and South Texas. Cotton and oat harvest was concluded. Pecan harvest was on its finishing stage.

UTAH: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 1% last year; 1% short, 41% last year; 74% adequate, 58% last year; 25% surplus, 0% last year. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 8% last year; 12% short, 39% last year; 85% adequate, 51% last year; 3% surplus, 2% last year. Pasture and range condition 3% very poor, 0% last year; 10% poor, 13% last year; 29% fair, 40% last year; 56% good, 44% last year; 2% excellent, 3% last year. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 0% last year; 0% poor, 1% last year; 34% fair, 24% last year; 55% good, 71% last year; 11% excellent, 4% last year. Hay and roughage supplies 0% very short, 0% last year; 0% short, 0% last year; 60% adequate, 70% last year; 40% surplus year, 30% last year. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 2% last year; 5% short, 6% last year; 89% adequate, 91% last year; 5% surplus, 1% last year. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 0% last year; 0% poor, 0% last year; 23% fair, 9% last year; 67% good, 77% last year; 10% excellent, 14% last year. Sheep and lambs condition 0% very poor, 0% last year; 0% poor, 0% last year; 29% fair, 17% last year; 63% good, 76% last year; 8% excellent, 7% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 63%, 57% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 56%, 53% last year. Cows calved 15%, 15% last year. Farm Flock Ewes Lambed 14%, 12% last year, and Range Flock Ewes Lambed 2%, 1% last year. During February, Utah received less precipitation than the historical average, with the hardest hit region being the Southwestern part of the State. Abnormally dry conditions persist in two-thirds of the State with the Southeast primarily being the only region not affected. Overall drought conditions have improved since the beginning of the year. This is indicated by topsoil and subsoil moisture content which has significantly improved from February 2015. Recent warming conditions have caused the snowpack to melt more quickly dropping it below 100% faster than anticipated.

VIRGINIA: Barley conditions were 2% poor, 33% fair, 60% good, and 5% excellent. Oats conditions were 49% fair and 51% good. Winter wheat conditions were 3% poor, 38% fair, 55% good, and 4% excellent. Livestock conditions were 1% very poor, 9% poor, 30% fair, 54% good, and 6% excellent. Pasture and range conditions were 16% very poor, 25% poor, 29% fair, 27% good, and 3% excellent. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 14%. February weather conditions were predominantly wet with snow, rain, and ice. Heavy damaging winds occurred during the month, and a severe storm with tornado reports hit on February 24th. Farm activities have been limited during the month with cold, wet conditions. The resulting mud has been challenging for many livestock producers, causing concern over pasture conditions and hay supplies.

WASHINGTON: It was a mild but wet late winter throughout the State. Water levels were reported as excessive and record breaking in almost all areas, especially compared to the drought conditions of the previous two years. Water forecasts were as high as 150% of normal and reservoirs were filling nicely. The western portion reported steady sheet flow and flooding in the fields. Central and eastern areas received little to no new snow this month and remaining snow cover was almost gone in all but the highest elevations. There was little to no run-off as most of the accumulated moisture was absorbed into the ground. Livestock looked good across the State. Lambing was well underway in all regions and calving season had begun. The moisture and wet conditions put most fieldwork on hold, but there was some intermittent work done throughout the month. Some spring wheat planting occurred. Orchards were pruning their trees when possible. Snohomish County reported some cane-tying being done. Adams County reported growers spraying for broadleaf and grassy weeds in winter wheat fields. Columbia County was spraying and doing some tillage work. Overall, the State was pleased with the moisture levels and preparing for an early spring.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 77% adequate and 23% surplus, compared to 4% short, 72% adequate, and 24% surplus last year. Subsoil moisture was 6% short, 80% adequate, and 14% surplus, compared to 1% very short, 8% short, 73% adequate, and 18% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 1% very short, 9% short, 87% adequate, and 3% surplus compared to 3% very short, 15% short, 75% adequate, and 7% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 4% short, 93% adequate, and 3% surplus compared to 5% short, 89% adequate, and 6% surplus last year. Winter wheat conditions were 6% very poor, 20% poor, 24% fair, 47% good, and 3% excellent. Cattle and calves were 2% poor, 17% fair, 74% good, and 7% excellent. Calving was 24% complete, compared to 33% last year. Sheep and lambs were 2% poor, 22% fair, 71% good, and 5% excellent. Lambing was 30% complete, compared to 34% last year. This month has been a mix of cold weather with heavy snow and warm weather with rain, making muddy conditions in fields and pastures. Farming activities included calving, lambing, making plans for the upcoming planting season, and watching livestock for health issues.

WISCONSIN: February temperatures at the five major weather stations ranged from 2.1 to 3.5°F above normal. Average highs ranged from 29.8 in Eau Claire to 35.0 in Milwaukee, while average lows ranged from 13.2 to 21.9 in those same cities. Precipitation ranged from 0.52 inches in Madison to 1.15 inches in Green Bay. Green Bay received the most snowfall out of the major cities with 12.2 inches. Madison received the least, with 6.0 inches of snow for the month. Significant cold and snow during early February gave way to well above normal temperatures in the second half of the month. Temperatures climbed into the 50s in many areas during the final weekend of the month and weather stations throughout the State observed record daily high temperatures on February 27th or 28th. Reporters commented that the unusually warm and dry weather has melted snow cover in any areas of the State. The weather has maple syrup producers anticipating an early sap run. Hay producers are concerned that the lack of snow cover may lead to ice damage to alfalfa.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 37% short, 60% adequate. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 35% short, 63% adequate.Winter wheat condition 4% poor, 24% fair, 72% good. Hay and roughage supplies 6% short, 55% adequate, 39% surplus. Livestock condition 1% poor, 17% fair, 75% good, 7% excellent. Stock water supplies 3% very short, 28% short, 69% adequate. Pasture and range condition 7% poor, 40% fair, 53% good. Cows calved 9%, 12% 2015, 12% average. Ewes lambed 8%, 22% 2015, 14% average. Sheep shorn 13%, 22% 2015, 15% average.

International Weather and Crop Summary

February 21 - 27, 2016

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Wet, warm weather prevailed over most of the continent, with much-above-normal temperatures accelerating unseasonably early winter crop development in the Balkans.

WESTERN FSU: Abnormally warm conditions promoted early winter wheat development in southern-most growing areas and kept most of the region uncharacteristically devoid of snow cover.

MIDDLE EAST: Unseasonable warmth caused winter wheat to break dormancy in central Turkey much ahead of the normal green-up date.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Moderate to heavy rain eased drought in Morocco and western Algeria, though winter grains have likely suffered irreversible impacts from this season's severe dryness.

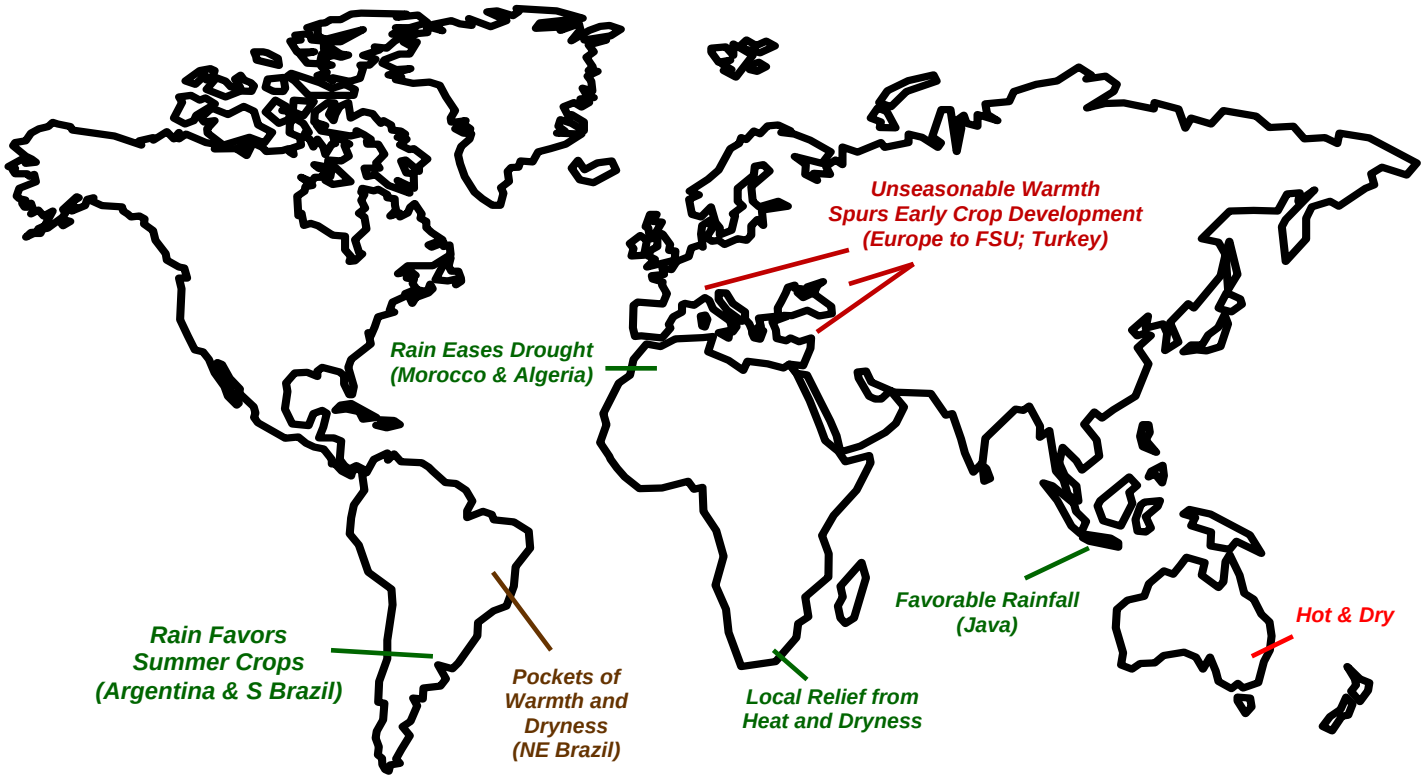
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Favorable rainfall continued in Java, Indonesia, for rice planted later in the growing season, but likely came too late to improve prospects for earlier planted rice.

AUSTRALIA: Hot, mostly dry weather promoted maturation of summer crops planted early in the growing season but increased stress on later-sown crops which remained immature.

SOUTH AFRICA: Showers brought some relief from stressful heat to western and northern corn areas.

ARGENTINA: Locally heavy rain maintained mostly favorable levels of moisture for summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton.

BRAZIL: Moderate to heavy rain continued in southern farming areas as unseasonable warmth and dryness expanded in soybean and cotton areas of the northeastern interior.



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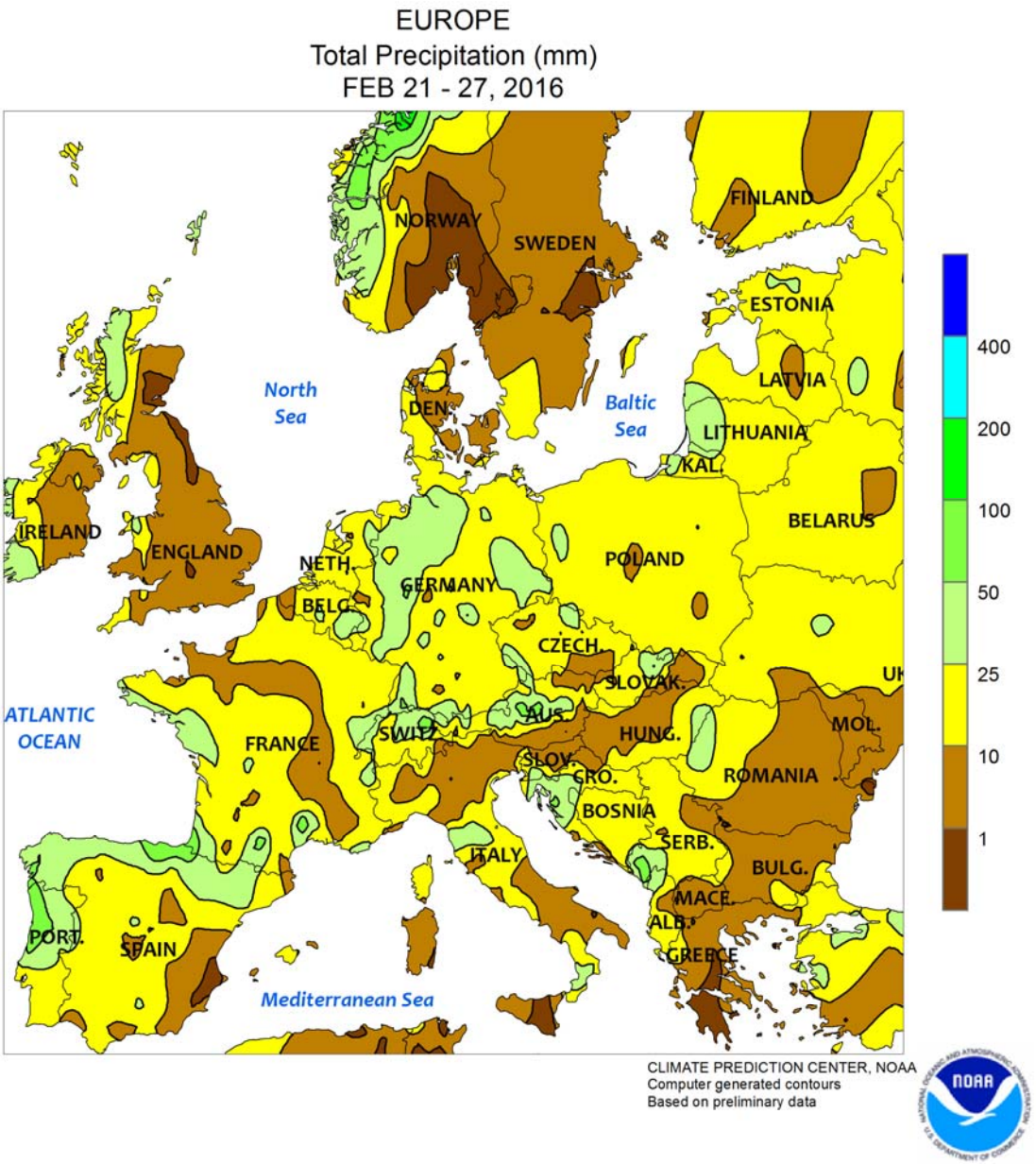

EUROPE

Warm, unsettled weather prevailed across much of the continent, with much-above-normal temperatures persisting over southeastern Europe. Widespread showers continued across Europe, with amounts averaging 10 to 30 mm in the region's primary northern winter wheat and rapeseed areas; however, rain was lighter (less than 5 mm) in the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, soil moisture remained adequate to abundant for still-dormant winter crops in Germany and Poland, while wheat and rapeseed were likely breaking dormancy in France. Lingering showers (5-35 mm) over Spain and Italy boosted soil moisture for vegetative to reproductive winter grains and increased irrigation reserves for warm-season crops. Spring-like warmth promoted unseasonably early winter grain and oilseed development from the Slovakia and Hungary into the Danube River Valley; temperatures in southeastern Europe averaged up to 8°C above normal, with daytime highs reaching the lower to middle 20s across the southern Balkans. While not detrimental to immediate crop prospects, the early green-up has increased the chance of a late-winter or early-spring hard freeze impacting crops during the more susceptible jointing (or beyond) stage of development.

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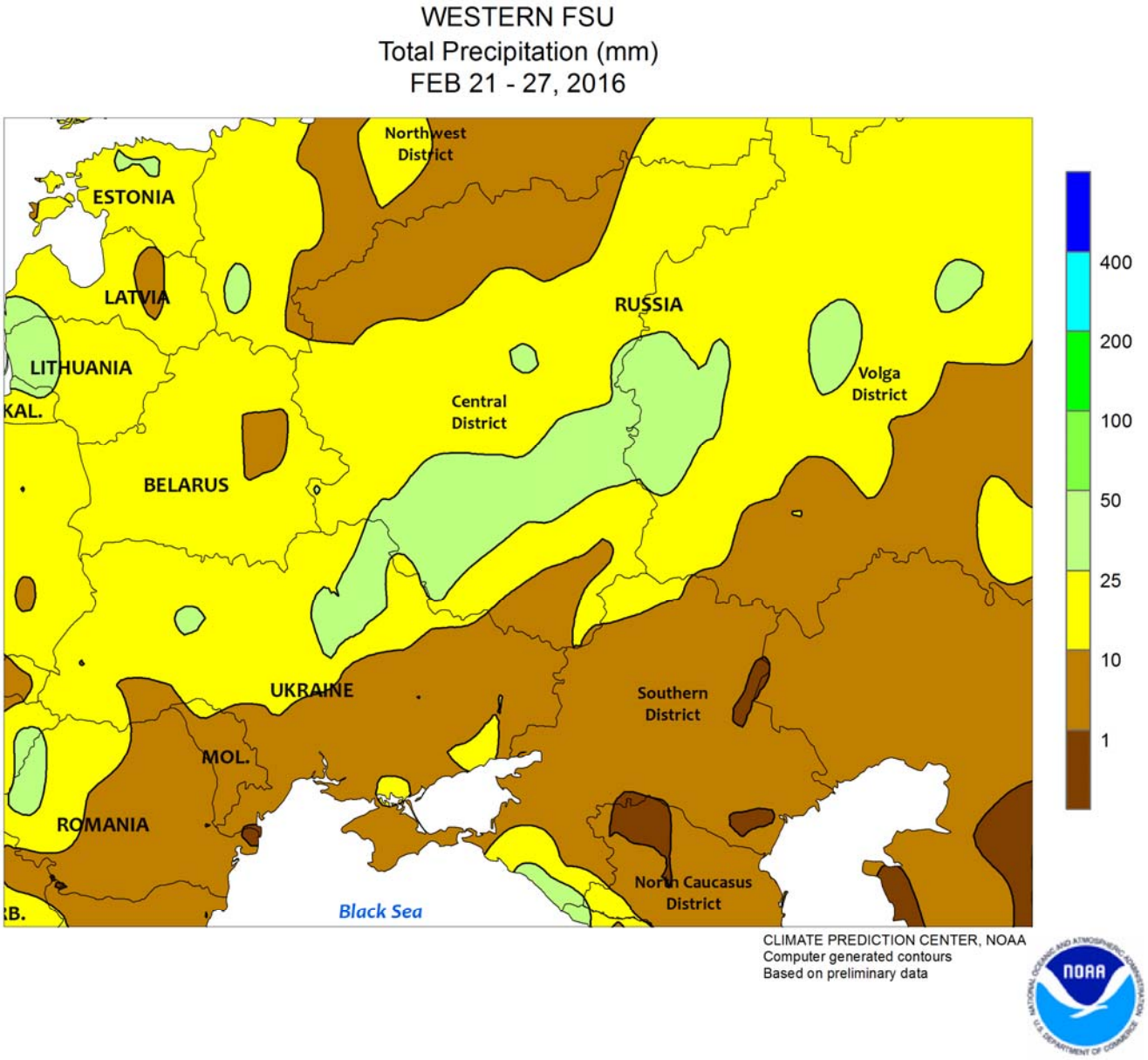

WESTERN FSU

Unsettled, unseasonably warm weather prevailed over the region, accelerating southern wheat development and keeping most crop areas uncharacteristically devoid of snow cover. Precipitation for the week totaled 10 to 30 mm from Belarus and northern Ukraine into central Russia, boosting moisture reserves for dormant winter crops. Precipitation was lighter in southern portions of Ukraine and Russia, where 2 to 13 mm was reported; however, soil moisture supplies remained abundant for winter wheat following a wet winter. Temperatures averaged up to 10°C above normal, with daytime highs above freezing (3-8°C) in the north and the lower 20s along the Black Sea Coast. Consequently, snow was confined to the Volga and northern Central Districts in Russia, in sharp contrast to the end-of-February climatology of a region-wide snowpack. Furthermore, winter crops in Krasnodar Krai (located in southern-most portions of the Southern District) continued to develop well ahead of normal. While the recent spring-like warmth has not been detrimental to winter wheat, the early development and lack of protective snow cover have left crops more vulnerable than usual to potential incursions of late-winter or early-spring bitter cold.

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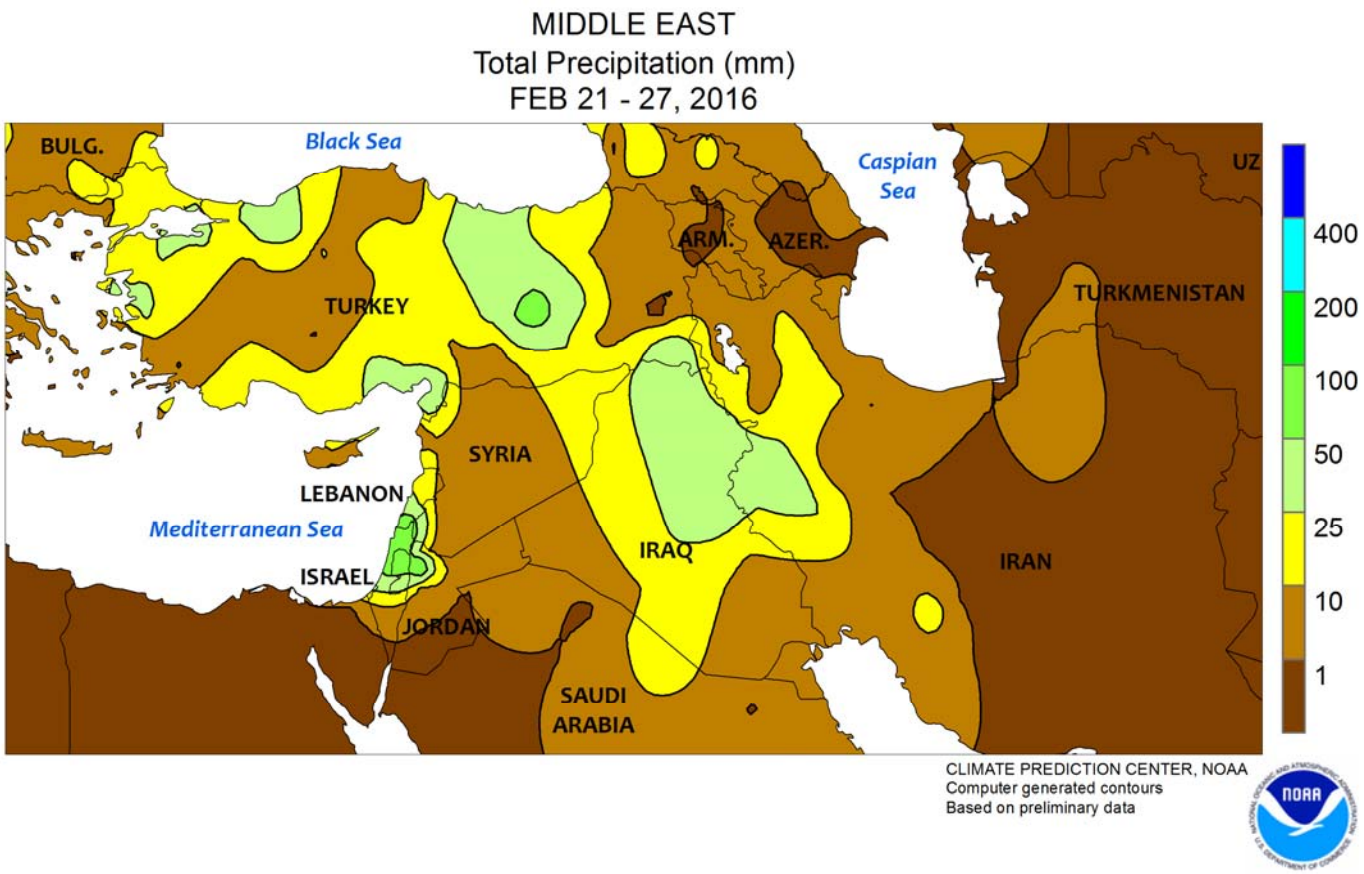

MIDDLE EAST

Wet weather returned, though much-above-normal temperatures continued to promote unseasonably early winter crop development. In Turkey, where winter grains have broken dormancy more than a month ahead of normal, rain and mountain snow (4-50 mm liquid equivalent, locally more) sustained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for crop development. Locally heavy showers (20-80 mm) on the eastern Mediterranean Coast benefited vegetative to heading winter crops. Similarly, widespread moderate to heavy rain (10-40 mm) across Iraq's winter crop areas continued the excellent winter grain growing season. Wet weather (5-45 mm) also spread into western Iran, where winter precipitation to date has totaled locally more than 200 percent of normal. Drier conditions settled over northeastern Iran, but winter crop prospects remained favorable here as well. Temperatures in Iran averaged 6 to 12°C above normal, ushering winter crops out of dormancy in the typically-colder northwest up to 4 weeks ahead of normal and accelerating crops toward the heading stage of development in warmer southern growing areas. While the unseasonable warmth has not been detrimental to winter wheat and barley prospects, the unusually early development coupled with a lack of snow cover will leave crops more vulnerable than normal to any potential incursions of late-season bitter cold.

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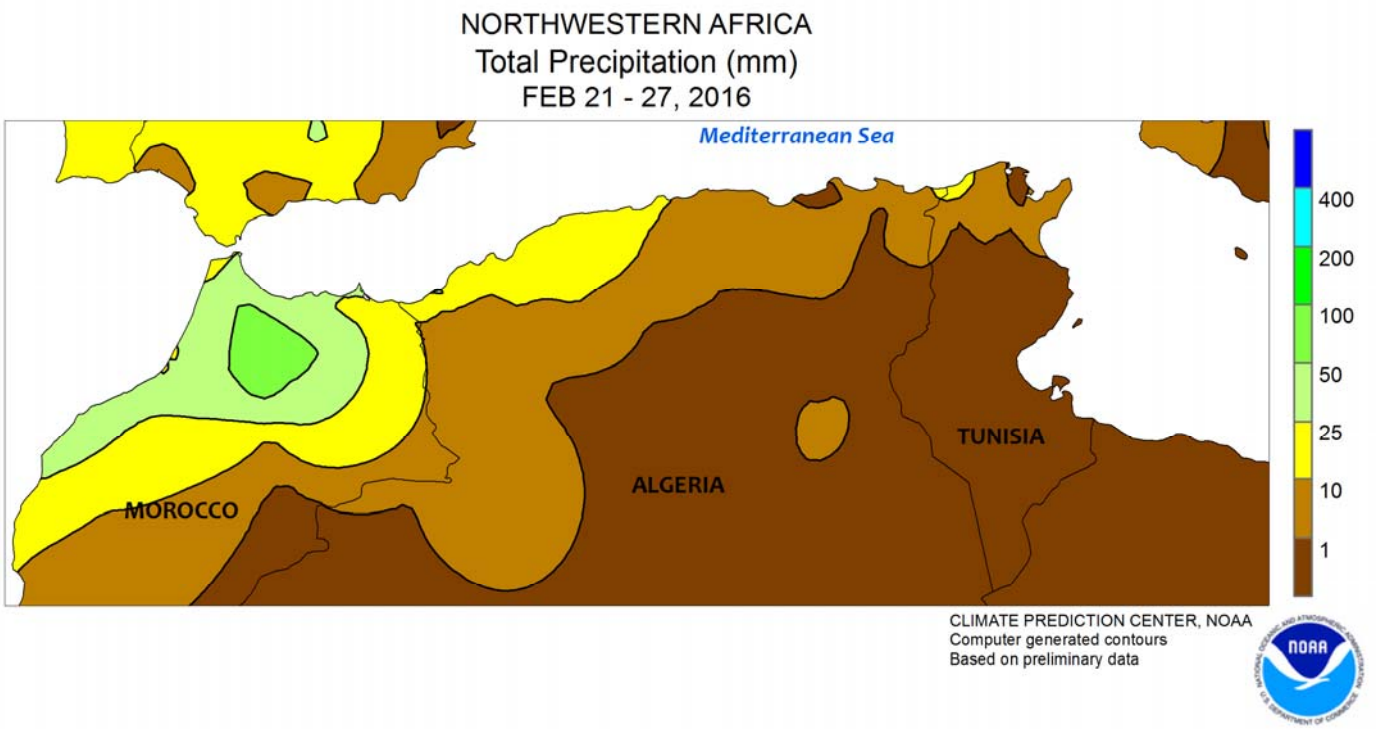

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Much-needed rain eased drought in western growing areas, while showers sustained favorable growing conditions over the eastern half of the region. Widespread moderate to heavy showers (10-85 mm) improved soil moisture for drought-afflicted winter grains in Morocco. However, even with the recent rainfall, winter grain yield prospects have likely suffered some irreversible losses due to the duration and severity of this season's extreme drought. Nevertheless, the moisture was timely, with crops that survived the drought approaching or entering the heading stage of development. Showers likewise improved yield prospects for winter crops in western and central Algeria, though the drought in Algeria has not been as severe and pervasive. In Tunisia, vegetative wheat and barley benefited from another round of light to moderate showers (1-19 mm); these more easterly areas have been spared northern Africa's locally extreme dryness.

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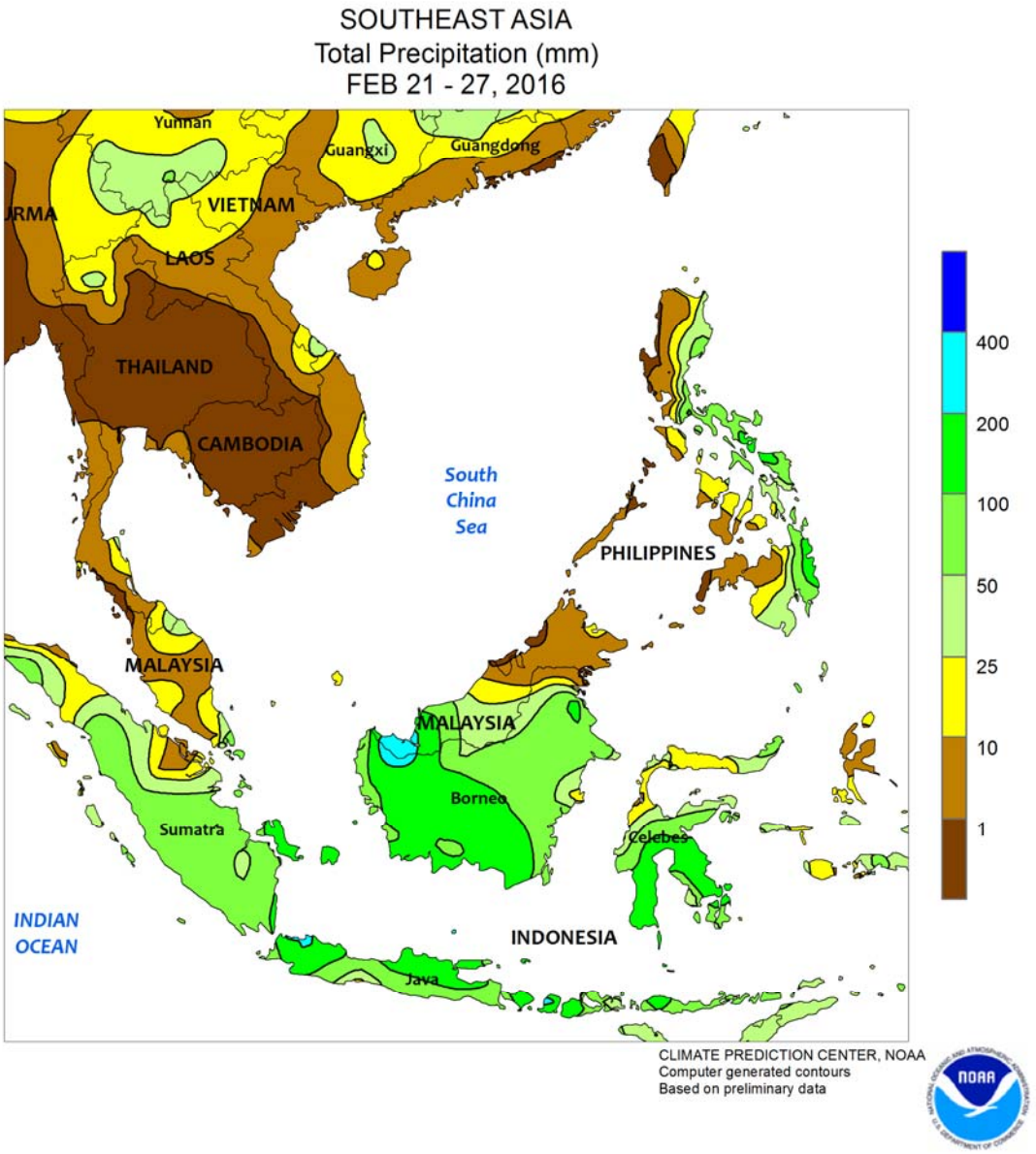
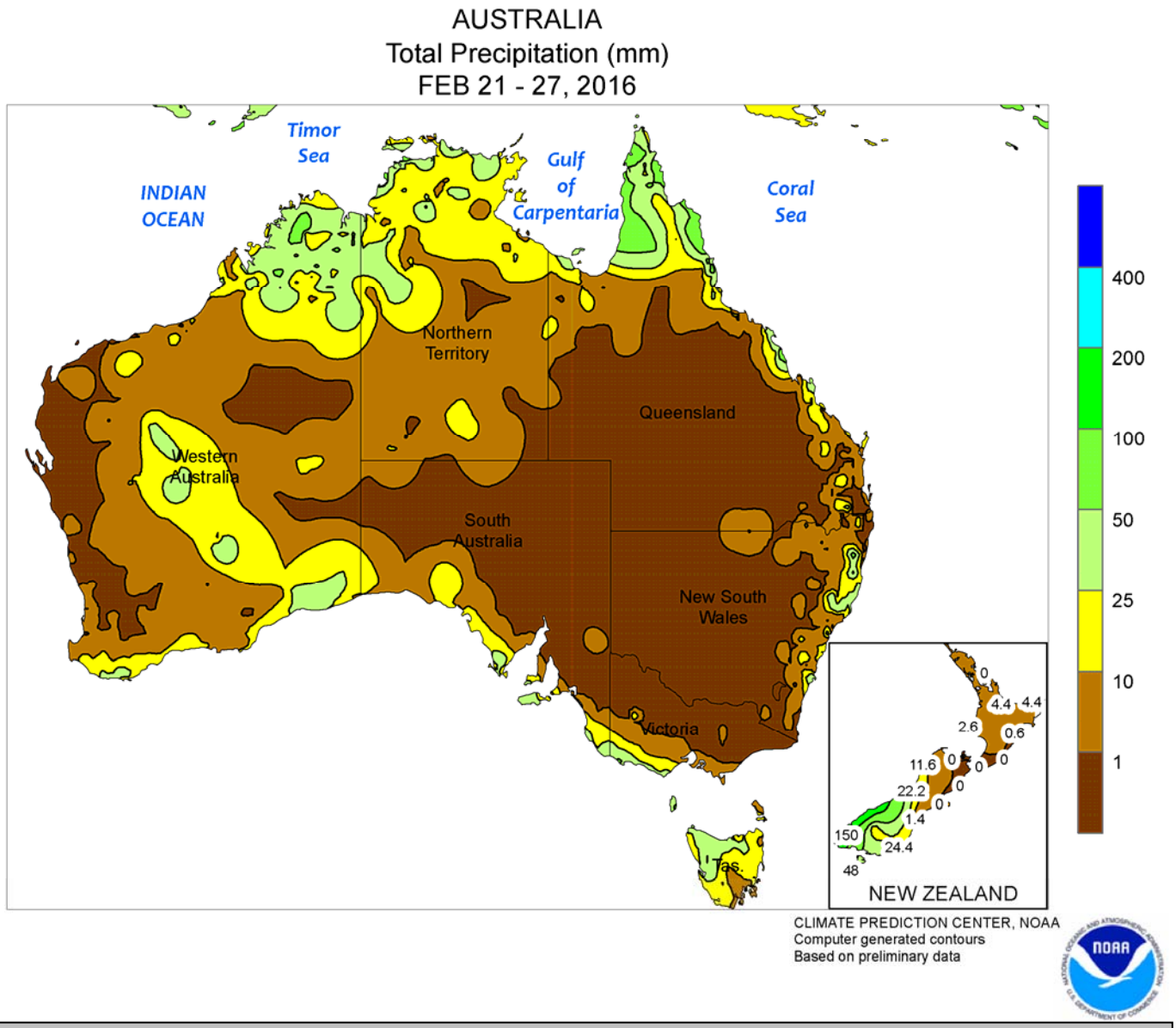


SOUTHEAST ASIA

Seasonally heavy showers (over 100 mm) continued in western and central Java, Indonesia, maintaining favorable short-term soil moisture for rice planted later in the growing season. In eastern growing areas, heavier-than-usual rainfall (nearly 200 mm), boosted long-term water supplies while keeping the rice crop well watered in the short term. Moisture conditions have also been good for oil palm in Indonesia over the last several weeks, with 50 to over 100 mm of rain over the last 7 days maintaining favorable soil moisture. The moisture situation was more mixed in Malaysia, where much of the peninsula and Sabah have received little rainfall since January 1, while consistently heavy rainfall in Sarawak has kept oil palm trees well watered. Meanwhile in the Philippines, reinvigorated monsoon showers overspread much of the east, easing dryness and improving moisture conditions for rice and corn. Though, significant deficits continued from the eastern Visayas to Mindanao. In Indochina, dry-season rice cultivation continued in Thailand and southern Vietnam, where irrigation supplies continued to be limited for rice and prospects have declined year to year.

For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



AUSTRALIA

Hot, mostly dry weather (generally less than 5 mm) filtered into eastern Australia, benefiting maturing cotton and sorghum but stressing immature crops. The heat and dryness promoted maturation of summer crops planted early in the growing season. However, the hot, dry weather was unfavorable for later-sown summer crops, increasing evaporative losses and hastening crop development. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3°C above normal in southern Queensland and 2 to 5°C above normal in northern New South Wales. Extreme maximum temperatures ranged from the middle 30s to lower 40s degrees C.

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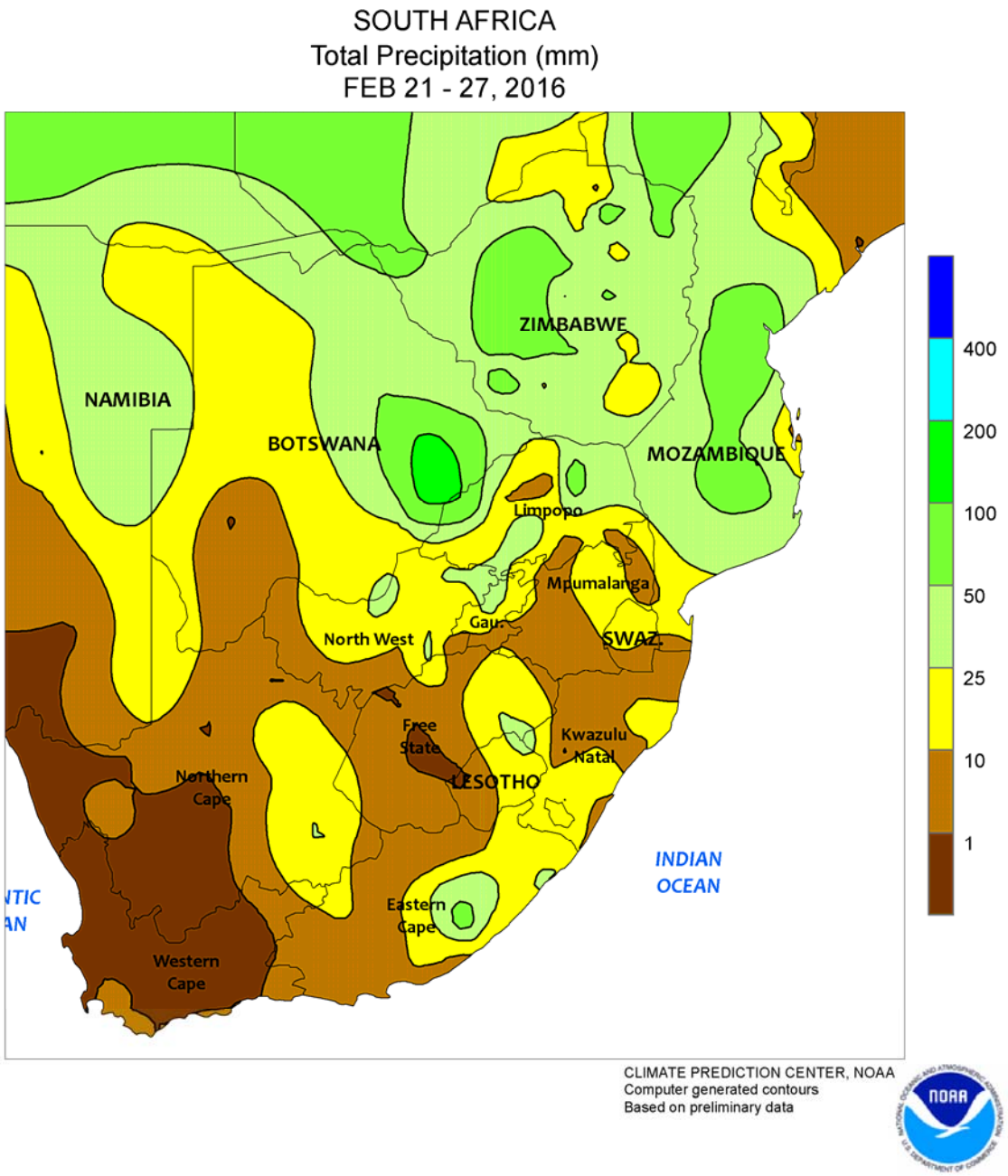

SOUTH AFRICA

Mid-week showers brought needed relief from heat and dryness to northern and western sections of the corn belt. Rainfall totaled 10 to 50 mm across the main growing areas of North West, northern Gauteng, and Limpopo. Prior to the onset of the rain, high temperatures reached the middle and upper 30s (degrees C) on several days, posing additional stress on late-planted summer crops in or approaching reproduction. Somewhat drier conditions prevailed farther south, with amounts mostly ranging from 2 to 25 mm in Free State, Mpumalanga, and northern KwaZulu-Natal. As in the north, weekly temperatures averaged 2°C or more above normal, though daytime highs were mostly confined to the upper 20s and lower 30s. Elsewhere, warm weather (daytime highs briefly reaching the middle and upper 30s) maintained high moisture requirements for sugarcane in KwaZulu-Natal and eastern Mpumalanga, where little rain (generally less than 15 mm) fell. Mostly dry weather also dominated the Cape Provinces, spurring late-season development of summer row crops and favoring harvesting of tree and vine crops in Western Cape.

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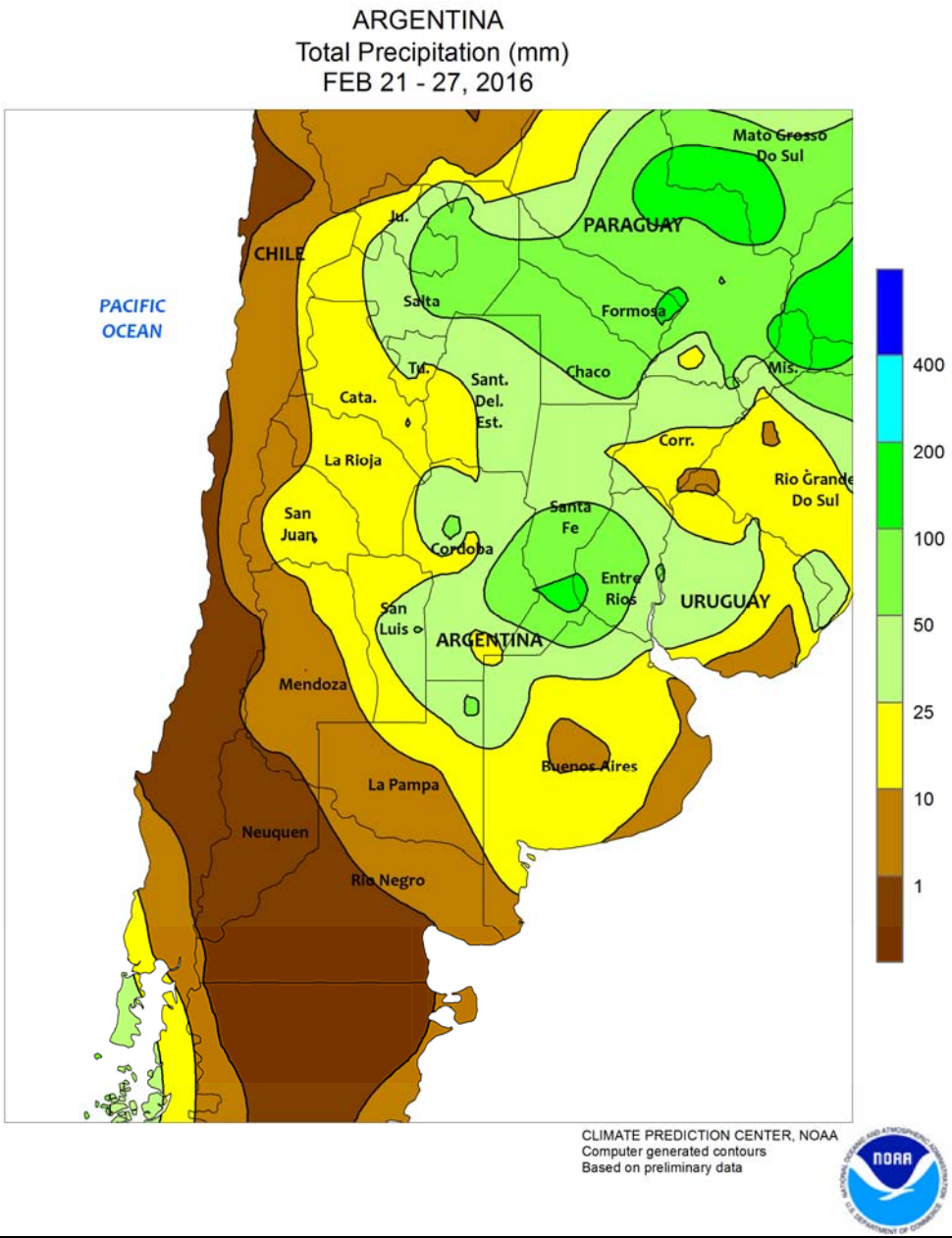

ARGENTINA

Near- to above-normal rainfall continued throughout the region, maintaining overall favorable levels of moisture for immature summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton. Amounts totaled more than 25 mm over large sections of central and northern Argentina, with nearly all farming areas recording at least 10 mm. The heaviest rain (greater than 50 mm, with local amounts in excess of 100 mm) was concentrated over sections of the Parana River Valley (southern Santa Fe and neighboring locations in Cordoba, Entre Rios, and northern Buenos Aires) and in the north from Salta eastward through Chaco and Formosa. Weekly average temperatures were 2 to 3°C above normal in central Argentina, with daytime highs reaching the lower and middle 30s (degrees C) on several days before the passage of a cold front during the latter half of the week. After the frontal passage, nighttime lows fell below 10°C over parts of La Pampa and Buenos Aires. Farther north, weekly temperatures averaged as much as 4°C above normal, with daytime highs approaching 40°C with the approach of the rain-producing frontal system. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 31 percent harvested as of February 25, 4 points ahead of last year.

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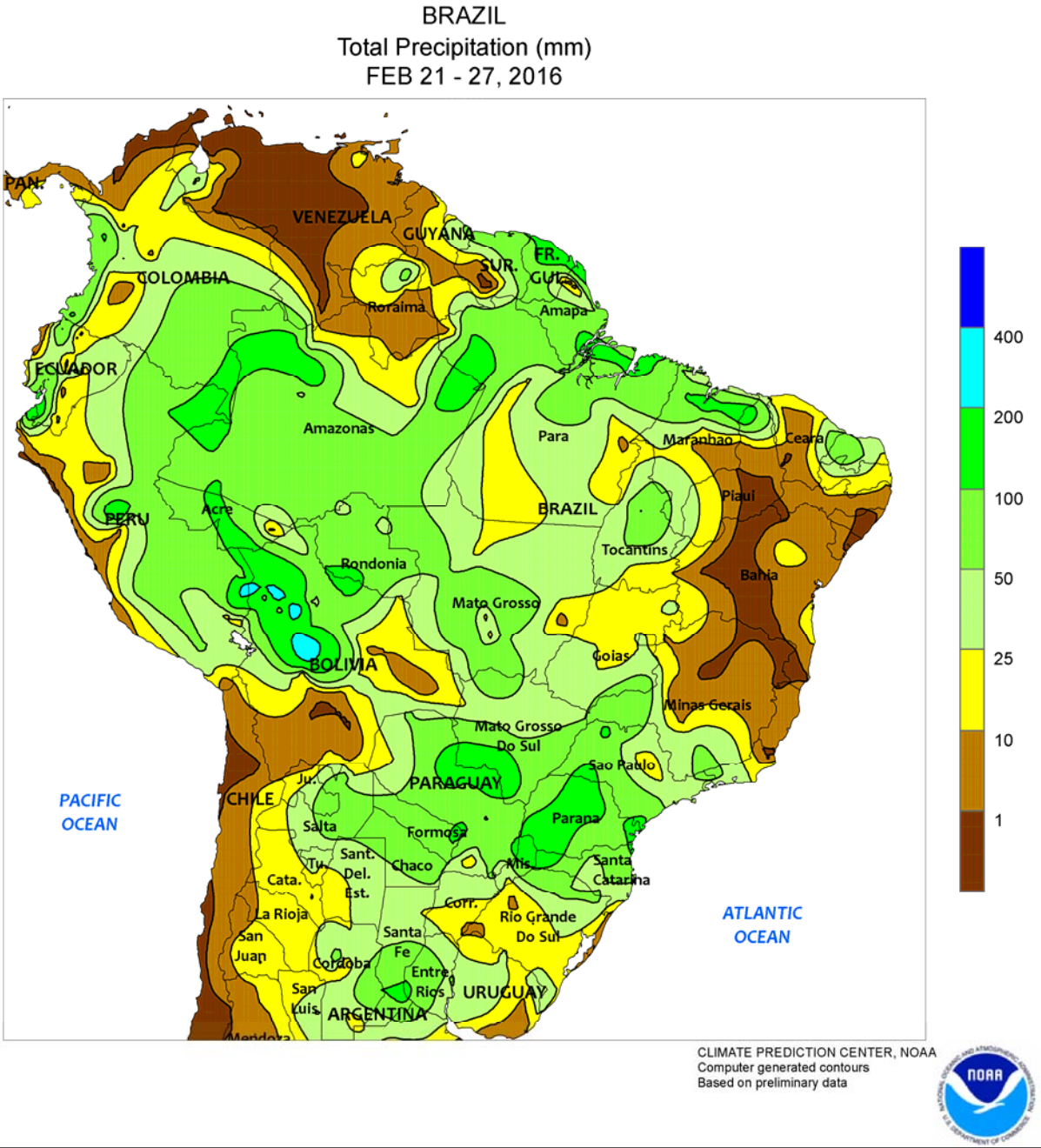

BRAZIL

Unseasonably wet weather continued in the south as warmer, drier conditions intensified in the northeastern interior. Moderate to heavy rain (25-100 mm) maintained overall favorable conditions for immature corn and soybeans from Mato Grosso do Sul and Sao Paulo to northern Rio Grande do Sul, although pockets of excessive rain (greater than 100 mm) likely caused harvest delays and localized flooding in sections of Parana and Paraguay. According to the government of Parana, soybeans and first crop corn were 50 and 37 percent harvested, respectively, as of February 22. Weekly average temperatures were near to above normal throughout the south; the highest departures from normal occurred in the driest parts of Rio Grande do Sul, where daytime highs occasionally reached the middle 30s (degrees C). Elsewhere, light to moderate showers (10-40 mm) overspread the Center-West Region (Mato Grosso, Goias, and northern Mato Grosso do Sul), which recorded daytime highs in the middle 30s on most days. Meanwhile, warmer- and drier-than-normal conditions continued for a third week in Brazil's northeastern interior (Tocantins, western Bahia, and western farming areas of Maranhao and Piaui), reducing moisture for cotton and immature soybeans but hastening drydown of maturing summer crops. Weekly average temperatures were 4°C or more above normal in parts of the northeast (daytime highs reaching the upper 30s for much of the week), and rainfall totaled less than 10 mm in spots.

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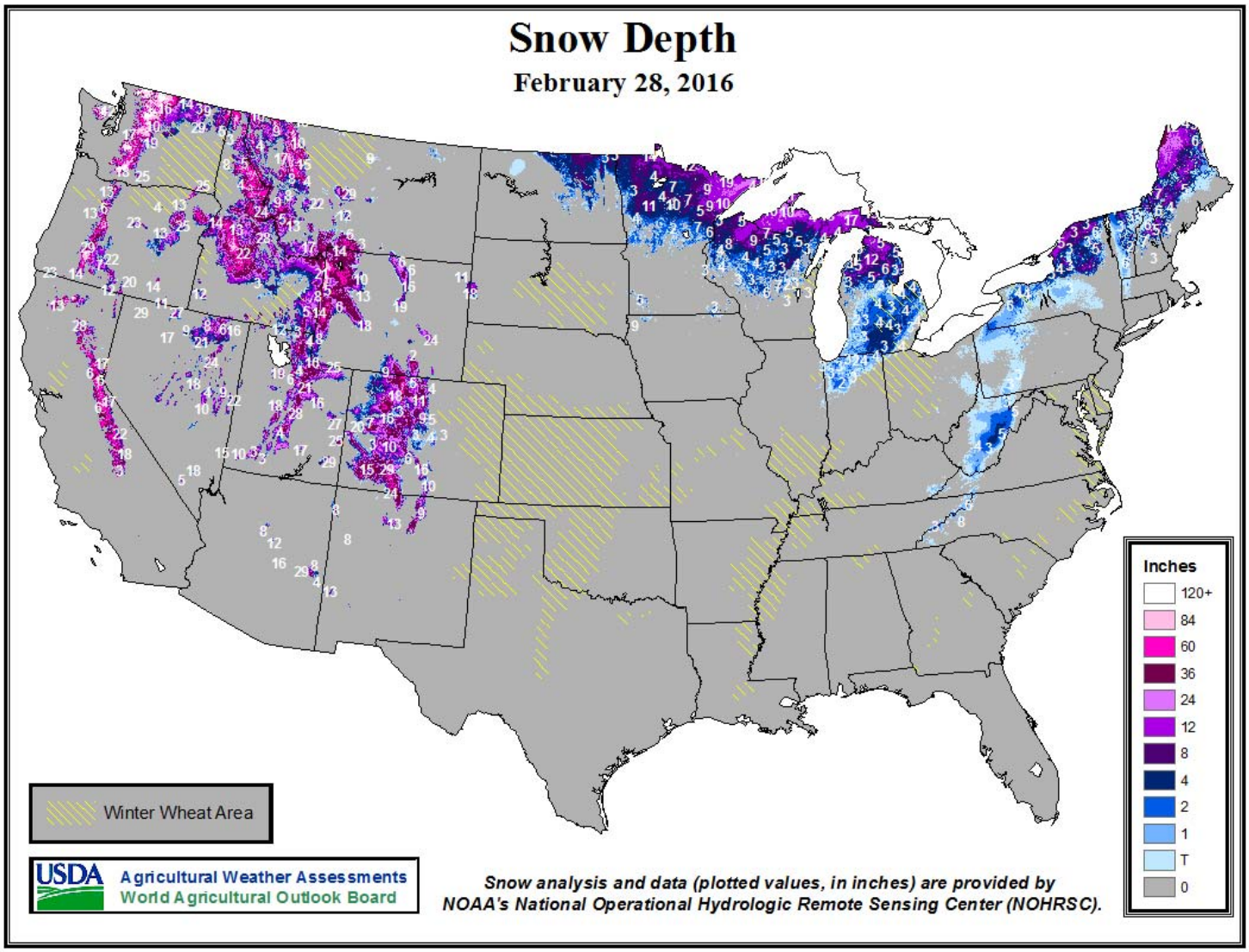

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