



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: The month of March brought light to moderate rains and below normal temperatures throughout most areas in Alabama. As producers prepare for the planting season, many were still indecisive about their intentions. Additionally, the desire for warmer weather was expressed due to pastures and hayfields being in poor condition throughout Central Alabama. James Jones, Jr., ACES CEC, said corn plantings have begun in Henry County, and small grains were doing well with recent moisture. Tim Malone, FSA CED, reported fescue pastures were starting to green up, wheat was starting to grow, and hay feedings have slowed down in Marion and Winston County. According to the US Drought Monitor released on March 19, 2013, 89.70 percent of the State was free of drought while 10.30 percent was abnormally dry. The average mean temperature over the past month ranged from 46.2°F in Guntersville to 55.7°F in Mobile. Total precipitation for the month ranged from 1.46 inches in Coden to 6.68 inches in Bankhead.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures were below normal the first week of March, but warmed up considerably during the third week to 96 degrees and continued in the 90's for the final week. Temperatures in March ranged from 3 degree below normal to 13 degrees above normal. Canyon De Chelly recorded the coldest temperature at 10 degrees during the first week. The high reaching 96 degrees in Yuma occurred on the third week. Scattered rain fell during the first week and third week of the month. Conditions were favorable throughout the month with greening up rangeland and pastures as summer months approach. Alfalfa harvesting was active over three-quarters of the State. Cotton planting started on the third week of the month, and by the end of the month 21 percent of the cotton had been planted. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures were normal during the first part of March, but the month ended with lower than normal temperatures. Most counties experienced significant rain and high winds in late March. A snow event occurred in the northern part of the State during the same timeframe. The southwestern portion was still experiencing drought conditions. For many producers, field preparation was slow due to wet conditions. Producers continued to apply nitrogen and herbicides to the wheat crop. Planting of rice and corn was limited due to cold weather. Cool conditions also delayed forage growth. This development has caused many livestock producers to continue feeding hay.

CALIFORNIA: Wheat, barley and other winter forage crops continued to grow as some field were starting to head. Irrigation continues, rainfall is needed to sustain growth. Producers were applying fertilizers and spraying with selective herbicides to control broad leaf weeds. Rice producers began draining leveling and cultivating fields. Cotton planting began in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Some stone fruit were blooming. Vineyards and stone fruit were irrigated, and began leafing out. Blueberries began blooming. Buds were forming on citrus trees. Navel and Valencia oranges, lemons and mandarins continued to be harvested. Hass avocado harvest continued. Almond bloom was nearly complete; trees were experiencing petal fall. Nutlets were showing on early varieties. Trees continued to leaf out. Pruning was ongoing in walnut and pistachio orchards, with bloom commencing in early varieties. Pistachios were showing bud break. In Tulare County, warmer temperatures were helping vegetables to grow. Fresno County reported that tomatoes were being transplanted, while bell peppers and carrots were being planted. Winter vegetables such beets, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, turnips, daikon, green onions, herbs, choys, chards and kales were harvested. The weather has been good for onions and garlic, which have been irrigated and fertilized. Fields were prepared for spring and summer vegetables. Range and pasture conditions were reported to be in fair to good condition. The continued lack of significant precipitation in some regions of the State has been detrimental with hindered grass development and unseasonably early desiccation. Sheep and cattle grazed on idle fields, dry land grain and alfalfa fields. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Bees were active pollinating almond and stone fruit orchards.

COLORADO: Most areas of the State received normal to slightly above normal precipitation during most of March. The eastern plains region received much needed moisture from snow storms the last half of March. Higher elevations also received significant snowfall during the month. Statewide, the mountain snowpack is currently 77% of average, up from 74% a month ago. Temperatures were above normal the first half of the month for most areas, but below normal during the 3rd week. The winter wheat crop is breaking dormancy in mostly fair to very poor condition. Generally, soil moisture ratings continue as mostly short to very short. Farmers are currently slightly behind schedule in planting small grains, onions, and sugarbeets.

DELAWARE: Wet cold weather during the month. Rain and snow causing farmers problems for getting small grains top dressed with fertilizer and pesticides. Farmers are trying to spread manure on dry areas of the fields. Soil moisture levels remain mostly adequate throughout the State. Hay supplies are tightening as State is mostly short. Pasture conditions continue to be in fair condition. Winter wheat and barley are in good condition. Farmers have started planting green peas.

FLORIDA: In Putnam and Flagler counties, potatoes were covered and uncovered repeatedly due to cold weather. Winter wheat looks good with recent rain. Some wheat fields being sprayed for disease. In Panhandle, land being prepared for peanuts. Field corn being planted. Sugarcane harvest close to completion. Rice planting begun. Planting of corn and watermelon delayed in northern part of State due to excessive rains, cold weather. Cabbage harvesting delayed due to weather conditions. Harvesting strawberries started. Early March patchy frost, temperatures near freezing in south Florida. Some damage reported due to frost, cold. Heavy winds battered sensitive vegetables. Cooler nights slowed growth vegetables. Harvesting string beans, sweet corn, winter vegetables in south Miami-Dade County. Vegetables coming to market include; tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, beans, corn, cucumbers, cabbage, broccoli, squash, potatoes, strawberries, and a variety of specialty crops. High temperatures for the month in mid 80s, lows in 40s. Rainfall light across citrus producing region. Drought conditions throughout citrus region. Harvesting of early oranges (Navels and Hamlins). Honey tangerines and tangelos about complete. White, colored grapefruit, Valencia oranges harvest strong and steady. Widespread citrus bloom heavy with all varieties showing varying stages of bloom. Cultural practices included irrigation, young tree care, and limited hedging and topping. Statewide Pastures in Panhandle in poor condition beginning of month due to freeze, drought. Drought the first limiting factor for forage growth, followed by cold. Later in month, rains helped pastures in Panhandle. Pasture recovered slowly due to colder than normal weather. Pastures throughout rest of State in poor to fair condition due to drought, cold. Cattle mostly in fair condition for the entire State.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 58% adequate, 39% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 10% short, 68% adequate, 21% surplus. Range and Pasture 3% very poor, 10% poor, 37% fair, 42% good, 8% excellent. Blueberries 16% poor, 29% fair, 37% good, 18% excellent. Blueberries blooming 97%, 100% 2012. Corn planted 18%, 43% 2012, 29% avg. Oats 1% very poor, 1% poor, 30% fair, 63% good, 5% excellent. Onions 2% poor, 55% fair, 39% good, 4% excellent. Peaches 9% poor, 28% fair, 10% good, 53% excellent. Peaches blooming 74%, 75% 2012, 76% avg. Rye 2% poor, 35% fair, 59% good, 4% excellent. Tobacco transplanted 14%, 2% 2012. Watermelons planted 11%, 22% 2012, 17% avg. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 15% excellent. Precipitation estimates for the State ranged from no rain up to 4.7 inches. The week's average temperatures ranged from the lower 30s to the mid 80s.

HAWAII: The month of March began with approximately 58 percent of the State rated as abnormally dry or drier according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Throughout the month precipitation fell primarily in light isolated showers with a handful of brief heavier rainfall events. These heavy showers resulted in flash flood warnings and advisories being issued within Hawaii and Oahu Counties towards the middle of the month. While storm systems were absent, typical trade wind weather prevailed with intermittent overcast skies and average daytime high temperatures which ranged from the low seventies to the mid eighties. Weekly summaries follow. During the first week in March, moderately heavy rains fell on windward areas of the Isle of Hawaii early in the week. Otherwise, most areas received only very light passing showers. Trade winds were breezy and consistently blowing 5 to 15 MPH. The average weekly total rainfall across the State was 0.64 inch, most of which occurred on the Island of Hawaii. Overall drought conditions dropped this week, primarily as a result of rains which fell during the end of February. The second week of March brought about an increase in overall drought conditions. Lack of rainfall over the past week caused drought conditions to expand by 7.27 percentage points. Heavy isolated rains fell over the Counties of Maui and Honolulu over the weekend, triggering a flash flood warning for Oahu on Sunday March 10. During the remainder of the week, trade winds blew steadily from the north east, and conditions fluctuated between overcast and clear with very light passing showers. Daytime high temperatures were in the mid seventies for most areas. The average weekly total rainfall across the State was 0.37 inch, the majority of which fell

on the Island of Oahu. Growth of most crops and pastures slowed this week due to slightly lower temperatures. Pastures in many windward and mountain areas were observably greener this week compared to the past several weeks. Weather during the third week in March consisted of gusty trade winds with isolated showers dropping variable amounts of rain. Rains were concentrated primarily on the Island of Hawaii with Oahu receiving some notable precipitation early in the week. Most other areas across the State experienced only light showers. Daytime high temperatures were in the mid to low eighties for most areas. The average weekly total rainfall across the State was 0.75 inch. Overall drought conditions remained unchanged from the previous week however, some areas which already had a drought rating experienced an increase in drought intensity. Most crops and pastures in areas which received some precipitation over the past several weeks are growing normally. The final week in March started off very dry with hardly any measurable precipitation falling during the first half of the week. Drought conditions remained unchanged from the previous week. Trade winds were fairly consistent throughout the week, but tapered off at times allowing the Kona winds to bring vog from the Isle of Hawaii northward to the other isles. Average weekly total rainfall across the State dropped to 0.20 inch. Day length continues to increase bringing longer periods of sunshine and increased temperatures. Despite lack of rains throughout the month of March, State irrigation reservoirs remain near holding capacities and provide service to the areas where available. Beneficial rains fell in most areas the final Sunday of March.

IDAHO: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 21% short, 69% adequate, 9% surplus. Calving complete 76%, 59% 2012, 40% avg. Lambing complete 64%, 66% 2012, 33% avg. Hay and roughage supply 0% very short, 36% short, 62% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 35% fair, 54% good, 11% excellent. Farmers across Idaho are top dressing, fertilizing, spraying and seeding as weather permits. The major activity has been hauling manure and burning ditches.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 6% short, 81% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 26% short, 58% adequate, 5% surplus. For the month of March, temperatures averaged 32.5 degrees, -7.1 degrees below normal. Precipitation was also below normal with an average of 2.27 inches, -0.02 inches below normal. Winter Wheat was rated as 9% poor, 26% fair, 57% good, and 8% excellent. The cold winter continued with rain and snow covering much of the State during the month. Spring calving continues but the wet cold conditions have been hard on the herds. Wet soil conditions have allowed very little fieldwork to be accomplished. Farmers are moving corn and beans to market, attending seminars and preparing machinery and equipment for spring planting.

INDIANA: Cold and dry conditions continued through March. Temperatures through the 24th of the month have averaged 33.9o which is 5.4o below normal. The State received an average of 1.88 inches of precipitation which was just 75 percent of normal. Northwest Indiana was the driest, but the southern third of the State actually received precipitation slightly in excess of normal. Very little field work has been done thus far due to the cool, damp weather conditions. The winter wheat crop remains dormant in most areas with only a small amount of acreage beginning to grow in some of the southernmost counties. Much of the crop received little snow cover. Winter wheat condition remains mostly good. Concerns over hay supplies were underscored by the delay in pasture growth. Spring calving is active on many livestock operations with few problems reported. Other activities included preparing tillage and planting equipment, spreading fertilizer and lime, hauling grain to market and tending to livestock.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture levels rated 35 percent very short, 49 percent short, 16 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Winter storms delivered needed moisture, but with the soil still frozen it did little to help alleviate concerns about soil moistures. Grain movement from farms to elevators was slow, rating 43% none, 42% light, 13% moderate, and 2% heavy. Cattle and hog losses were rated mostly average to below average. Hay and roughage supplies are rated at 54% short, 45% adequate, and 1% surplus. Hay and roughage quality rated 22% poor, 51% fair, and 27% good.

KANSAS: Days Suitable for field work was 11.4 days. Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 30% short, 50% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil Moisture 42% very short, 40% short, 17% adequate, and 0% surplus. Winter wheat jointed 3%, 33% 2012, 13% avg.; condition 11% very poor, 20% poor, 40% fair, 27% good, and 2% excellent; wind damage 81% none, 14% light, 4% moderate, and 1% severe. Range and Pasture condition 49% very poor, 31% poor, 17% fair, 3% good, and 0% excellent. Feed grain supplies 19% very short, 26% short, 53% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 36% very short, 37% short, 26% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 37% very short, 31% short, 32% adequate, 0% surplus. Kansas wheat producers were top dressing their crop and spraying for weeds. Livestock producers were challenged with below normal temperatures and freezing precipitation as spring calving progressed.

KENTUCKY: March weather has been true to form as a transition period. Overall, the Bluegrass State experienced below normal temperatures during March with short periods of warm weather. The State recorded precipitation from below normal to above normal. Producers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2013 crop season. Costs of inputs are being weighed against anticipated selling prices. Farmers were busy performing routine equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season.

LOUISIANA: The State averaged 2.50 inches of rain over the last four weeks. The cumulative rainfall during this time totaled 18.73 inches, four inches above the State norm. Corn, sorghum and rice have been planted in many areas with corn starting to emerge across the State. However, the significant rainfall at the latter part of the month has slowed down field crop plantings. Wheat across the State has started to head. Producers continue spraying and harvesting strawberries. Vegetable producers have been busy preparing for spring and summer crops. Crawfish producers have reported an improvement in size of crawfish in their catches. Livestock producers were fertilizing pasture and feeding hay.

MARYLAND: Wet cold weather during the month. Rain and snow limited field activities. Cold temperatures are affecting vegetable crops. Farmers are preparing for spring planting season. Hay supplies are being hauled in from out of State. Soil moisture levels remain mostly adequate throughout the State. Hay supplies are tightening as State is short to adequate. Pasture conditions are in fair to good condition. Winter wheat and barley are in good condition. Farmers have started planting green peas, tomatoes, sweet corn and potatoes. Green houses are filled with the first round of bedding and ornamental plants.

MICHIGAN: Precipitation for the four weeks ended March 24 was 1.94 inches in the Upper Peninsula and varied from 1.83 to 2.48 inches in the Lower Peninsula. The amount of snow cover for winter wheat varied based on region. Some areas reported adequate snow cover, while others reported minimal amounts. Current wheat condition is 60% good to excellent. The main activity for fruit growers is pruning. The consistent cold weather in March has slowed down fruit bud development. The weather has been good for sugarbeet storage piles as well.

MINNESOTA: PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR March, 2013. March Statewide temperatures were 1.4 and 1.8 degrees below normal respectively for the first two weeks of the month then dropped to 8.6 degrees below normal as of the week of March 17, 2013. Statewide precipitation was above normal as frequent snows were received. The U.S. Drought Monitor, released on March 21, places large portions of the northwest, west central, southwest, and south central Minnesota in the Extreme Drought category. Over 67 percent of the State's landscape is categorized in Extreme or Severe drought, down from 80 percent last month.

MISSISSIPPI: The month of March started with rain in some parts of the State but weather conditions were good. The favorable weather dried wet fields and allowed for corn planting to start. However, the latter part of the month, field work had begun but was halted due to excess rain. Planting will be delayed for several weeks. Strawberries are coming in well and looking good.

MISSOURI: March was colder and drier than normal. Two late season snow storms hit Missouri on March 21st and March 23rd - 24th. The March 21st snow storm was across the southwestern part of the State with some south-central district counties receiving over 7 inches of snowfall. The March 23rd and 24th winter storm dropped heavy snow across the center and portions of the northern part of the State. Average temperatures were 5 degree to 9 degrees below normal. Precipitation averaged 2.96 inches compared to the 30 year average of 3.24 inches. The east-central district received 4.44 inches of precipitation in March. Potatoes have been planted in the southeast district. A few fields planted to corn have been reported but most are waiting for warmer soil temperatures. Topsoil moisture supplies were 1% very short, 12% short, 73% adequate, and 14% surplus. Subsoil moisture supply was 15% very short, 25% short, 58% adequate, and 2% surplus. The condition of the winter wheat crop was 2% poor, 33% fair, 61% good and 4% excellent. Stock water supplies were 6% very short, 15% short, 77% adequate, and 2% surplus. Supply of hay and other roughages was 38% very short, 37% short and 25% adequate.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 16% very short, 6% last year; 23% short, 33% last year; 57% adequate, 57% last year; 4% surplus, 4% last year. Subsoil moisture 22% very short, 7% last year; 34% short, 36% last year; 43% adequate, 50% last year; 1% surplus, 7% last year. Livestock grazing 50% open, 79% last year; 23% difficult, 6% last year; 27% closed, 15% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle 95%, 92% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep 97%, 90% last year. Livestock birthing – calving complete 38%, 41% last year. Livestock birthing – lambing complete 24%, 24% last year. Montana was mostly dry with temperatures fluctuating between above and below average

during the month of March. Average low temperatures were the mid teens to upper 30s at most reporting stations. Opheim received the largest amount of precipitation for the month with 2.03 inches of moisture and most other stations saw 0.05 to 1.82 inches of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the mid 40s to lower 70s, with the State-wide high temperature of 72 degrees recorded in Huntley and Hysham. The coldest reported low of -15 degrees was recorded in West Yellowstone followed by Opheim with -11 degrees.

NEBRASKA: Wheat conditions rated 23% very poor, 38 poor, 33 fair, 6 good, and 0 excellent. Hay and forage supplies rated 16% very short, 37 short, 46 adequate, and 1 excellent. Cattle and Calves condition rated 1% very poor, 4 poor, 19 fair, 74 good and 2 excellent. Percent cows calved since January 1, 49%. For the month of March 2013, snow fall across the State brought much needed moisture to drought impacted areas. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels with most of the crop rated fair to poor. Cattle are in mostly good condition with calving nearly half way done. Snow depth averaged 1.8 inches across the State.

NEVADA: March weather did little to alleviate heightening concerns over drought. A couple of storms passed through the State early in the month, but little precipitation resulted. Temperatures averaged above normal Statewide and some areas warmed appreciably during the second half of the month. The winter snowpack above primary northern watersheds diminished and were generally 70-75 percent of average. Some fields were plowed in preparation of the growing season and herbicide applications continued. Winter seeded garlic was being sprinkler irrigated. Greenhouse production was active in the South. Onion shipping ended. Remaining 2012 crop hay was moving to contractual buyers. Calving continued and extra feeding was necessary in the North. Main farm and ranch activities included early field preparation, equipment maintenance, calving, lambing, feeding and doctoring livestock.

NEW ENGLAND: March overnight temperatures were average in southern New England but were above normal across the northern States. Daytime temperatures during March were below normal across the southern region but were generally average across the northern States. The region received several storms during the month, but as of the week ending March 24, monthly precipitation totals were well below normal in most locations. The month began with average daytime temperatures and above normal overnight temperatures. Maine received about a half inch of precipitation by week ending March 3 while most other locations were relatively dry. Average daytime temperatures and above normal nighttime temperatures continued through the second week of March. Most areas received precipitation during the week with the southern areas receiving between 0.30 to 1.10 inches and the northern areas receiving between a trace to less than 0.50 inches of precipitation. The week ending March 17 started warmer than normal across the region. Most areas received significant precipitation on March 12 and 13 with an inch or more recorded at many locations. The rest of the week was mostly dry with below normal temperatures. Temperatures during the week ending March 24 were generally below average and the region received between 0.30 and 1.40 inches of precipitation.

NEW JERSEY: March temperatures ranged from highs in the upper 50s to lows in mid 20s. Rainfall fell below average for the month. Light amounts of snow fall were reported in some areas across the State. Agricultural producers continued repairing machinery, feeding stored hay to livestock, and attending educational meetings.

NEW MEXICO: First week of March Remnants of the winter storm on February 24th had impacts in Northern, Central, and much of Eastern NM. Extreme winter conditions also closed a stretch of I-40 East of Albuquerque to the Oklahoma State line until midweek. After the storm moved east, temperatures stayed below average across the State until toward the weekend. An upper level ridge brought some early spring like weather to much of the State. Second week of March A cold front moved south through the region on Monday bringing isolated areas of precipitation mostly in the Northeast. High pressure behind the front then settled into the area on Tuesday bringing nice weather and warmer temperatures on Wednesday and Thursday, another frontal system moved into the region on Friday bringing widespread areas of rain along with snow in the higher elevations and colder temperatures. As the storm system exited to the east on Sunday conditions were improving conditions with only a few residual rain and snow showers were being reported. Third week of March Dry air moved out by the end of the week allowing a few light showers and thunderstorms across the Northeast and Eastern plains. Precipitation was less than .05 inches for all locations. Significant warming occurred during the late work week period, with near record and record highs throughout the State Thursday and Friday. The largest temperature departures above normal include 8 degrees in Gallup, 7 degrees in Los Alamos and 7 degrees in Ruidoso. Fourth week of March Average temperatures across the State were mostly in the 40's and mid 50's for Southern New Mexico and temperatures in the 30's for Northern New Mexico. The Northeastern part of the State received measurable amounts of precipitation.

NEW YORK: Outside activities and daily chores continued. Temperatures ranged from the low teens to the upper 50's. Scattered snow showers and lake effect snow throughout the month, punctuated by two moderate snow accumulations. Producers were kept busy repairing machinery and removing snow when needed. Major activities included caring for livestock, spreading manure, grading and packing potatoes, onions, apples and cabbage. Winter meetings and trade shows were well attended.

NORTH CAROLINA: There were 2.5 days suitable for field work for week ending March 24th, same days as for week ending February 24th. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 3% short, 50% adequate and 47% surplus which is very similar to the month of February as well. Many areas of the State received over 1 inch of rain during the past week with several areas receiving over 2 inches. Most of the State is still recovering from dry conditions so the rainfall is very beneficial. Average temperatures for this past week were below normal with low temperatures ranging from 14 to 34 degrees. Most tobacco seed greenhouses are ready for the upcoming season. The cool, wet weather is causing a delay in corn land preparations, requiring frost protection for strawberries and has caused pastures to become very muddy which raises concerns for animal health.

NORTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork were 0. Approx. starting date for fieldwork April 22, 2013. Average snow depth was 12.2 inches. Calving 34% complete. Lambing 51% complete. Shearing was 78% complete. Cattle/calf conditions 1% very poor, 4% poor, 17% fair, 67% good, and 11% excellent. Sheep/lamb conditions 5% poor, 21% fair, 65% good, and 9% excellent. Hay and forage supplies 2% very short, 15% short, 77% adequate, and 6% surplus. For the month of March 2013, colder than average temperatures and decent snowfall totals during March have producers in the eastern part of the State concerned with the potential of spring flooding. However, producers impacted by drought across the State in 2012 welcomed the additional precipitation. Agricultural activities during March included hauling grain to market, calving and lambing, and marketing cattle.

OHIO: The March 2013 average temperature for Ohio was 34.0 degrees, 4.1 degrees below normal. Precipitation for the State averaged 1.97 inches, 0.34 inches below normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that the crop is in good to excellent condition. There was some snow-cover in March and flooding has been insignificant so far this year. Cattle are in good to excellent condition. Hay inventories are low, but an increase of supply at auctions has brought the price down slightly. There are no reports of widespread diseases affecting cattle in the State.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 18% very short, 33% short, 48% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 45% very short, 43% short, 12% adequate. Wheat condition 10% very poor, 23% poor, 41% fair, 25% good, 1% excellent; jointing 41% this week, 31% last week, 70% last year, 50% average. Canola condition 15% very poor, 27% poor, 32% fair, 24% good, 2% excellent. Rye condition 19% very poor, 15% poor, 32% fair, 32% good, 2% excellent; jointing 40% this week, 35% last week, 79% last year, 67% average. Oats condition 10% very poor, 18% poor, 44% fair, 25% good, 3% excellent; planted 86% this week, 76% last week, 94% last year, 91% average. Corn seedbed prepared 53% this week, 42% last week, 64% last year, 56% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 26% this week, 23% last week, 31% last year, 23% average. Soybeans seedbed prepared 20% this week, 13% last week, 25% last year, 23% average. Peanuts seedbed prepared 14% this week, 5% last week, 20% last year, 32% average. Cotton seedbed prepared 27% this week, 26% last week, 45% last year, 40% average. Livestock condition 4% very poor, 17% poor, 43% fair, 32% good, 4% excellent. Pasture and range condition 36% very poor, 34% poor, 25% fair, 5% good. Improvements to crop conditions and pastureland from moisture received during February and early March were reported. The U.S. Drought Monitor showed improvements to drought conditions during March, although the entire State was still rated in a moderate drought or higher. Precipitation was below normal for March, at only 39 percent of normal for the State. Freezing temperatures towards the end of the month put small grains and canola at risk, as two fifths of wheat and rye were already jointing. Forage and grasses also showed little growth due to the cold temperatures.

OREGON: Almost all stations reported below normal precipitation, while about half of the stations reported above normal temperatures this March. High temperatures ranged from 57 degrees in Astoria & Florence to 73 degrees in Roseburg. Low temperatures ranged from 32 degrees in North Bend down to 8 degrees in Christmas Valley. Twenty-two of the forty-one stations reported above normal temperatures; all stations that reported below normal temperature were outside the Willamette Valley. The exception to the below normal precipitation in the State was Parkdale. Total precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) varied from 0.08 of an inch in Christmas Valley to 5.4 inches at Detroit Lake. Less than half of the State received snowfall, as 17 stations of 70 reported snowfall & only 14 stations still had measurable snow on ground at the end of the month. Recent rain moistened soil for farms in the south Willamette Valley, so the area

has to wait another week or two to till/farm the soil. Prune & peach trees were blooming. Pears trees were very near bloom. However the mornings were very cold still, creating frost in some places. The raspberry & blackberry plants were pushing new growth. All indications look like the area was about two weeks early in general, but really early if one thinks about 2012. Some peas were up, so some of the soil was at 50 degrees, which is the needed temperature for cole crops. Low Washington County temperature for the month was 29 degrees while the high was 56 degrees. The area received 2.2 inches of rain (combined with hail) last week. There was still snow on the Coast range. There was some inter-row planting of filberts, either adding new varieties or to replace diseased trees. Fertilizing grass for seed field was still ongoing. Some producers were preparing for planting sweet or field corn. In the Cornelius Plains some producers were preparing for new drained fields to deal with excess moisture. Wasco County Crop year is 65% of normal moisture through the end of February. Warm, then cold weather has been unusual & confusing for the crops. There has not been much growth in range, hay or wheat. Fruit trees were really confused. Tulips & daffodils were up for goodness sake! Days for farming in Sherman County this past week were zero because the main activity has been spraying & it has been too windy. Plus it was cold despite the blue skies. Looking out the window, it is a beautiful day but dare to step outside & you were chilled to the bone. Rainfall/snowfall was horrible in January & February; the area moved from about 1.5 inches over normal crop year moisture to two inches below normal, & is heading into the drier season. Fortunately, the March weather has been wetter than the previous two months & it's allowing the area to gain a bit but still a ways to go to catch up. The wheat crop is looking pretty great as 2013 temperatures (including the wild March weather of snow/hail, wind, & rain) has been such that wheat crops have grown well; plants were big for this time of year, but they have been sucking up any moisture that was there. Producers are concerned if there be enough moisture to grow the wheat all spring. Morrow County crop-year rainfall was approximately two inches below the long-term average. The rainfall in February was the lowest on record. Dry land wheat crop was holding up for now, but timely rains will be required for an average (or better) crop. Wallowa County March moisture was below normal, so farmers in the County were hoping that April bails them out again. Producers were gearing up for spring seeding. Lake County was 88 percent of average for precipitation since the beginning of the water year. The area received a significant amount of rain during mid week. Livestock producers will begin turning out onto government allotments within the next few weeks. Klamath County spring field work has begun. The Bureau of Reclamation is expected to make an announcement in the last week of March concerning water availability for the year. Some precipitation last week brought additional moisture to the area.

PENNSYLVANIA: March Madness does not just describe sports this year, it seems to be moonlighting as the theme of Pennsylvania's weather. The State received precipitation in the form of rain, sleet and snow during the month, with the majority of the snowfall happening on the 19th of the month. Principal farm activities for the month of March included spreading lime, manure, and chopping stalks. Temperatures and weather conditions have been varied within the State to say the least. The Harrisburg area received 2.3 inches of snow or ice throughout March. The average high temperature was 45.3 degrees and the average low was 30.2 degrees. March 10th was the warmest day of the month, with a high at 61 degrees. The lowest temperature of the month was 24 degrees, which happened on March 15th. The average temperature for the month was 37.7 degrees, which is 2.8 degrees below normal.

SOUTH CAROLINA: More cold moved into the State on Friday, March 1. Cedar Creek's sunrise temperature fell to 25 degrees. During the morning hours of Saturday, winter weather moved southeast from the North Carolina Mountains bringing snow showers in its wake. Only a novelty by the measurements, the public reported nearly two inches around the Rock Hill area and one inch over parts of Spartanburg County. The Town of Lancaster observed a "dusting." Shaw AFB in Sumter reported a Saturday high temperature of 45 degrees which was nearly twenty degrees below the long term average high for the date. Although the "climatological spring" was into its third day, Sunday was as cold as a mid-winter day. Overcast skies and northwest winds held the Sunday high temperature at Beaufort to just 45 degrees. The lowest official temperature reported was 20 degrees at Chesnee on March 3. The Edisto Beach temperature of 32 degrees on the first Monday morning of the month was that location's first freeze of the season. Hartsville reached a minimum of 24 degrees and the Charleston AP reported 27 degrees. Areas of rain moved through the State on Tuesday as an approaching boundary of colder air dropped into the Southeast. At 500 a.m., Anderson observed snow flurries. A "trace" of snow was noted at Caesars Head and Table Rock. Long Creek's high temperature on Wednesday was a cold 36 degrees. The Cedar Creek sunrise temperature on Friday morning was 24 degrees. Mullins made it to 55 degrees on Friday afternoon while Beaufort settled for 63 degrees. A slow moderation in temperature began on Saturday. Charleston reached a mild 67 degrees. Southeast winds on a sunny, Sunday afternoon helped bring the temperature and calendar closer to the date's climatology. While most locations reported high temperatures in the upper 60's, Florence warmed to 71 degrees. The State average temperature for the period was five degrees below the weekly long term average. The highest official temperature

reported was 73 degrees at Pinopolis on March 10. The lowest official temperature reported was 17 degrees at Hunts Bridge, Cedar Creek and Pelion on March 4. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.2 inches. Monday arrived with mild weather and no reports of freezing. The Georgetown AP and Hartsville AP both reported afternoon high temperatures of 73 degrees. An area of rain entered the far western corner of the State during the evening hours. On Tuesday morning, Jocassee Dam had received 1.62 inches of rain. Sunny skies replaced the passing rains and Shaw AFB in Sumter warmed up to 74 degrees. Strong west winds on Wednesday brought much colder air to South Carolina. Cedar Creek and Walhalla started the day at 29 degrees. The Charleston AP reported one of the warmer afternoon high temperatures at 68 degrees. Colder air to the north only allowed Sandy Springs and Rock Hill to reach 54 degrees. Freezing air settled into the State for Thursday morning. The temperature at Pelion fell 41 degrees overnight to a Thursday morning low of 27 degrees. North Myrtle Beach and the Charleston AP recorded 35 degrees. Most of the State's airports reported sunny skies from sunrise through the middle of the afternoon. The highest temperature reported on Thursday belonged to Edisto Beach and Barnwell with 59 degrees. Some light frost was observed on Friday morning but a return to more seasonal weather came quickly to start the weekend. Clarks Hill reported 73 degrees on Friday afternoon. Strong west to southwesterly surface winds on Saturday delivered a round of 80-degree warmth from the Upstate to the coastal plain. Walhalla, Sandhill and Beaufort all shared an 80-degree, Saturday high temperature. Chesterfield's 82 degrees was that site's warmest day since October 26, 2012. A few high clouds on Sunday scaled back the warming a few degrees but Hartsville and Dillon still reached 82 degrees. The State average temperature for the period was four degrees above the long term average. The highest official temperature reported was 83 degrees at Columbia Metro AP, Florence Regional AP and Jamestown on March 16. The lowest official temperature reported was 20 degrees at Caesars Head on March 14. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.4 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 33% very short, 41% short, 24% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 49% very short, 34% short, 17% adequate. Winter wheat condition 31% very poor, 40% poor, 27% fair, 2% good. Feed supplies 16% very short, 37% short, 45% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 26% very short, 30% short, 44% adequate. Accessible livestock feed supplies 87% readily, 10% difficult, 3% inaccessible. Accessible stock water supplies 86% readily, 13% difficult, 1% inaccessible. Range and pasture condition 27% very poor, 37% poor, 31% fair, 5% good. Cattle death losses 18% below normal, 82% normal. Calf deaths 10% below average, 89% average, 1% above average. Cattle moved to pasture 1% complete. Calving 27% complete. Cattle condition 2% poor, 23% fair, 69% good, 6% excellent. Sheep & lamb deaths 8% below average, 91% average, 1% above average. Lambing 59% complete. Road conditions--township 91% open, 7% difficult, 2% closed. Road conditions--county 94% open, 5% difficult, 1% closed. Sheep condition 3% poor, 19% fair, 68% good, 10% excellent. Major activities included moving snow, caring for livestock, hauling grain, repairing equipment and preparing for spring.

TENNESSEE: Wheat condition 2% poor, 16% fair, 64% good, 18% excellent. Cattle condition 4% poor, 24% fair, 64% good, 8% excellent. Farmers prepared for planting corn, top-dressed wheat, spread fertilizer, made lime and insecticide applications, and seeded pastures. Wheat progressed well with little to no disease or insect pressure. Fruit trees began to bud. Some farmers dealt with muddy feeding conditions. Most livestock operations in good shape with adequate hay stocks due to mild winter conditions. Hay stocks 7% very short, 20% short, 64% adequate, 9% percent surplus. Temperatures were highly variable with highs reaching the 80s and lows in the 20s.

TEXAS: East Texas and the Blacklands received one to three inches of precipitation in March, with areas in the Plains experiencing significant snowfall early in the month. Other areas saw less precipitation, with high winds across the state drying out soil moisture. Irrigated crops fared well, but dry land small grains struggled with insufficient moisture. Planting activities across the state persisted despite dry conditions with producers making good progress on corn and sorghum. Fruit trees bloomed and producers in the Lower Valley harvested vegetable crops. Pastures progressed enough in East Texas and the Blacklands for producers to reduce supplemental feeding. Across the rest of the state, however, pastures were stressed by dry conditions and high winds, and most cattle producers continued heavy supplemental feeding as pastures were not in good enough condition to support grazing. Some producers in the Plains moved cattle onto wheat fields.

UTAH: Days Suitable For Field Work 4. Subsoil Moisture 6% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn harvested (grain) 1%, 1% 2012, 1% avg. Cows Calved 1%, 34% 2012, 12% avg. Cattle and calves moved To Summer Range 1%, 1% 2012, 1% avg. Cattle and calves condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 12% fair, 83% good, 1% excellent. Sheep and lambs moved To Summer Range 1%, 1% 2012, 1% avg. Sheep Condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 12% fair, 83% good, 1% excellent. Range and Pasture 11% very poor, 20% poor, 39% fair, 28% good, 2% excellent. Sheep Sheared

On Farm, Sheared On Farm 1%, 26% 2012, 9% avg. Sheep Sheared On Range, Sheep Sheared On Range 29%, 11% 2012, 5% avg. Ewes Lamb On Farm, Ewes Lamb On Farm 48%, 22% 2012, 8% avg. Ewes Lamb On Range, Ewes Lamb On Range 1%, 13% 2012, 4% avg. Beaver County reports concerns about moisture and irrigation water. In Box Elder County the snow pack has melted except on some of the higher farming and ranching elevations. The ground was so dry that the water in the snowpack went into the ground rather than running off. Temperatures continue to be colder than normal with just a couple of warm days since the first of March. Carbon County reports that the snow has melted in the valley. The western part of the county is at the average level of precipitation accumulation while the eastern end of the county is close to 60% of normal precipitation. Topsoil moisture is good at this point and all depends on spring winds. In Box Elder County ranchers are busy testing bulls and calving. Some ranchers had trouble because calving began earlier than normal this year and many cows calved in deep snow. Reports from cattle and sheep producers are that cows are still calving and sheep in range flocks are getting ready to lamb. It has been a difficult calving season with deep snow and colder than normal temperatures. Sheep producers anticipate shearing their herds in the next couple weeks before lambing gets underway in mid April. Range conditions are reported to be poor at the current time. There is some green up beginning with the annual grasses, but March has been a dry month and a good rain storm is needed to bring the growth along. Beaver County reports that there are problems with ground squirrels in the Milford area. In Box Elder County farmers have been busy planting onions on some of the more sandy areas in the county. Some farmers have been applying fertilizer on their fall planted grain where the ground is firm enough to get on. Application of fertilizers and sprays is starting, depending on the crop planted or to be planted. Very little tractor work has been done in the county with the exception of onion planting. It looks like the weather will be dry enough this week to begin spring seeding of barley, oats, and spring wheat. Some safflower may also be seeded in the next couple of weeks on dry farms. Fall seeded grain is beginning to green up. Most crops in fields on irrigated ground look fair to good. Most of the Fall seeded grain did not get very well established last Fall, due to dry conditions, until very late in the planting season. Morgan County crop producers are applying herbicides to alfalfa and fertilizer to all of their fields. Weber County farmers are applying fertilizers and applying herbicide to their alfalfa fields. A few farmers are planting alfalfa and small grains.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 3% short, 55% adequate, 41% Surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 3% short, 67% adequate, 29% surplus. Beef Cattle Forage Obtained from Pastures 10%, 34% 2012. Milk Cow Forage Obtained from Pastures 4%, 14% 2012. Sheep Forage Obtained from Pastures 8%, 46% 2012. Pasture 3% very poor, 11% poor, 42% fair, 37% good, 7% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 7% poor, 26% fair, 58% good, 7% excellent. Small grain and winter grazing crops 1% poor, 22% fair, 67% good, 10% excellent. The Commonwealth of Virginia experienced a cold, snowy March. It was unseasonably cool, with most areas about 7 degrees below normal. Between the snowfall and muddy fields, farmers increased supplemental feeding when compared to last month. In most cases, producers were behind on spring applications (e.g. fertilizers, herbicides, and lime). Concern was voiced on condition of small grain crops if timely applications fertilizers cannot be applied. Spring calving was underway; the weather has made spring calving challenging. Other farming activities for the month included finishing up the maple syrup harvest, treating foot rot for sheep, and preparing to plant row crops.

WASHINGTON: Area producers began spring operations at full speed as the month of March provided a wide range of weather throughout the State. In Whitman and Walla Walla Counties, monthly precipitation was below normal with a total of 0.89 of an inch received mostly in the form of rain and some snow showers. Area producers began spring operations at full speed and were working whenever the weather allowed. In Asotin and Garfield Counties, spring wheat and barley, along with some Canola, was seeded. Temperatures in Lincoln County were still too low for field activity with snow mold affecting some winter wheat crops. In Grant and Adams Counties, potatoes and onions were starting to be planted. Yakima County received between 0.35 to 0.8 inches of precipitation in higher altitudes which contributed to an adequate reservoir of irrigation water for the 2013 season. In Whatcom County, most of the month was typical wet winter weather. Signs of spring occurred later in the month with raspberry and blueberry plants budding out. Blueberry growers were beginning pesticide applications. Grasses for pasture and silage were showing growth. In Stevens County, most fields were cleared of snow and crop producers began tillage operations. Ranchers continued calving while hay supplies continued to be tight. In Pend Oreille County temperatures and precipitation were normal. Calves were being born on a number of ranches and hay is still in demand at a high price.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 1% very short, 8% short, 66% adequate, and 25% surplus compared to 3% short, 87% adequate, and 10% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 4% very short, 7% short, and 89% adequate compared to 3% short, 78% adequate, and 19% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 5% short and 95%

adequate compared to 2% short and 98% adequate last year. Winter wheat conditions were 44% fair and 56% good. Cattle and calves were 20% fair, 78% good, and 2% excellent. Calving was 64% complete, compared with 69% last year. Sheep and lambs were 16% fair, 82% good, and 2% excellent. Lambing was 69% complete, compared with 75% last year. During the month of March, the weather has been mostly cold and dry with a few days of warmer weather and rain as frontal systems moved over the State. The first day of spring was welcomed with chilly temperatures. Farming activities for the month included winter feeding of livestock, calving, lambing, and tagging. Farmers are also looking forward to warmer weather.

WISCONSIN: March average temperatures for the State of Wisconsin ranged from 6 to 9 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 31 to 33 degrees. Average low temperatures ranged from 13 to 22 degrees. Full month precipitation ranged from 1.62 inches in Milwaukee to 2.40 inches in Madison. The entire State received snow in March. Of the reporting stations, Eau Claire received the most snow, with 23.7 inches since March 1.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 22% very short, 30% short, 48% adequate. Subsoil moisture 42% very short, 33% short, 25% adequate. Average depth of snow cover 1.3 inches. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 28% poor, 39% fair, 32% good; wind damage 5% none, 71% light, 23% moderate, 1% severe; freeze damage 86% none, 13% light, 1% moderate. Barley planted 9%, 33% last year, 20% average. Spring calves born 29%. Farm flock sheep shorn 21%; lambled 27%. Range flock sheep shorn 9%; lambled 7%. Calf losses 57% light, 43% normal. Lamb losses 44% light, 56% normal. Cattle condition 6% poor, 45% fair, 48% good, 1% excellent. Calves condition 1% poor, 32% fair, 67% good. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 41% fair, 52% good. Lamb condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 65% good. Range and pasture condition 19% very poor, 43% poor, 23% fair, 15% good. Spring grazing prospects 28% very poor, 37% poor, 29% fair, 6% good. Stock water supplies 5% very short, 49% short, 46% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 8% very short, 37% short, 55% adequate. Farm activities included tending to livestock, calving, and lambing. High temperatures ranged from 50 degrees in Jackson Hole to 74 degrees in Torrington. Low temperatures ranged from 17 degrees below zero in Lake Yellowstone to 13 degrees in Greybull. Average temperatures ranged from 21 degrees at Lake Yellowstone to 38 degrees in Cody and Torrington. Temperatures were below normal in eight stations. Big Piney and Buford were the most above normal at a plus six degrees while Powell, Big Horn, Midwest, Sundance, and Wheatland were the most below normal at a minus three degrees. Rock Springs was the only station receiving no precipitation during the month of March. Lake Yellowstone received the most precipitation at 2.2 inches. Twenty-seven out of the 33 reporting stations reported below normal precipitation for the year so far. Converse County reported below normal precipitation, April and May will need to catch us up. Irrigation prospects are not good. Lincoln County reported still pretty cold in the mornings, despite some moisture last week, snowpack is still quite low. Natrona County reported one to six inches of snow. In Uinta County, recent snowstorms have helped but the county needs more spring snow storms and precipitation.

Statistical Methodology

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

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch	(202) 720-2127
Anthony Prillaman, Head, Field Crops Section	(202) 720-2127
Brent Chittenden – Oats, Rye, Wheat	(202) 720-8068
Angie Considine – Peanuts, Rice	(202) 720-7688
Steve Maliszewski – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Anthony Prillaman – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet	(202) 720-9526
Julie Schmidt – Crop Weather, Barley, Hay	(202) 720-7621
Travis Thorson – Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369

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