

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

State Stories

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ALABAMA: The month of January saw short duration drops in temperatures followed by warmer and moist conditions. While the weather was pleasant, fruit growers throughout Alabama and the southeast were concerned about the mild winter Alabama has experienced this year. The Peach Orchard News reported that fruit crop producers were not accumulating enough "chill hours," or temperatures at or below 45°F. The US Drought Monitor released January 17 stated that 45.48 percent of the state was experiencing no drought conditions at the time. The Southeast Regional Climate Center stated that Coden was the driest county in Alabama receiving 0.70 inches of rain over the past month, while Belle Mina was the wettest county receiving 9.97 inches of rain over the past month.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State started out mostly above normal in January and remained mostly above normal for the rest of the month. The temperature extremes for January were a high of 82 degrees in Coolidge and a low of 2 degrees at Grand Canyon. Precipitation was not recorded until the third week of the month. Five of the twenty-one reporting stations have yet to receive precipitation in 2012. Cotton harvesting was virtually complete by the end of the month. Alfalfa harvesting was slow and sheeping off continued active on the alfalfa fields in central and western areas of the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: January began with very mild weather, as temperatures remained warmer than normal and dry conditions existed throughout the State. Colder temperatures, rainfall, and some snow flurries moved into the State during the middle part of the month. A storm system produced severe thunderstorms and several F2 tornadoes in the central and southern regions of Arkansas on January 22. The last week of the month brought rain to the entire State, with the western side of Arkansas recording the heaviest rainfall amounts. With the relatively wet January, fieldwork was slow for Arkansas producers. Producers continued to attend winter meetings and plan for the 2012 crop season. Livestock producers were still feeding hay. The warmer weather helped winter wheat conditions, and some producers were applying fertilizer and herbicides to wheat fields.

CALIFORNIA: Dryland grain growth and development has been improved by recent rains. Winter wheat and oats were reported to be in excellent shape due to warm temperatures following the precipitation. In the Valley though, more rains continued to be needed to sustain small grain and alfalfa growth. Oats were sprayed for weeds in Stanislaus County. Growers continued applying fertilizers and herbicides. Pre-emergent spraying, irrigation, and pruning continued in fruit orchards. Growers also applied some fertilizers and herbicides. Peach, kiwi and prune orchards were irrigated, pruned, and planted. Grape vineyards continued to be dug and pruned. Persimmon harvest was virtually complete. Navel orange and tangerine harvests continued, as internal maturity continued to improve. Oro Blanco and Melogold grapefruit harvest was winding down. Pummelo harvest continued. Strawberry fields were progressing well. Pre-emergent spraying, irrigation, orchard removal, planting, and pruning continued in nut orchards. Growers also applied some fertilizers, herbicides and soil amendments. Walnut orchards were being pruned. In the Sacramento Valley, rangeland began to green in response to the tardy precipitation. Rangeland in the San Joaquin Valley and south of the Tehachapis was still in need of rain to sustain current conditions. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Sheep and cattle grazed on retired farmland and alfalfa fields. Out of state bees continued to arrive for the almond bloom; many of the bees are being placed directly in orchards and not in holding areas.

COLORADO: Most areas of the State received below normal amounts of precipitation during January and temperatures averaged well above normal. Currently, the mountain snowpack in the northern regions are 73% of average. The southern areas are 82% of average.

Statewide, mountain snowpack is currently 75% of average. The winter wheat growing areas experienced mostly dry and occasional windy conditions during the month. Some erosion was observed on hilltops and ridges. Overall the winter wheat crop remains in mostly fair to good condition.

DELAWARE: Rainfall was steady through January and soil moisture levels were mostly adequate throughout the state. Farmers were busy applying agricultural lime to fields where field conditions allowed. Hay supplies were mostly adequate thanks to warm temperatures and limited snow cover which allowed for an extended grazing season. Moisture and extended grazing also led to pasture conditions being rated at low levels. Farmers also took time to attend agricultural conventions.

FLORIDA: Most field crops harvested for season; sugarcane harvesting continued; potatoes still in the ground. Palm Beach County too early to assess the extent of damage to young sugarcane shoots and older, mature sugarcane crop from early January freeze. Frost affected mostly upper leaves and crops such as snap beans, squash that were flowering. Hardier, leafy green crops survived the freeze fairly well, but wind damaged several layers of outer leaves. Palm Beach County green beans at all stages of development suffered significantly. Movement included snap beans, bell peppers, eggplant, radishes, squash, strawberries. Light supplies cabbage, celery, endive, escarole, sweet corn. Sparse rainfall worsened drought conditions throughout citrus region. Harvesting of early oranges (Navels and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines, and Nova Tangelos continued. Valencia and Honey tangerine harvest has begun. Production practices general grove work, fertilizer application and irrigation as needed. Statewide, pasture condition mostly poor to fair throughout January, condition declined slightly by month's end. Most cattle in fair to good condition, improved as month progressed. Drought first limiting factor to forage availability; cold temperatures down to 24 degrees in northern part of Peninsula froze pastures and lowered quality. Hay and supplements fed throughout the month. Summer pastures dormant and cattle depended on limited winter forage and fed hay. Small grain winter forage planting continued, delayed by dry soils. Hay stocks short in many locations. During month, some stock ponds dried. Heavy frost in southwestern areas burned some pasture grasses. Month's end, cool season forages improved on days of warmer weather, most cattle required additional hay. Most pastures suffered from overgrazing; some winter forage not ready for grazing. Most cattle in fair to good condition. Pastures hurt by frost early in month recovered some. Condition of cattle poor to excellent, with most good.

GEORGIA: January climate varied only slightly from December. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from 0.5 inches on the southeast coast up to 9.5 inches in the northern Appalachian area of the State. The month's average temperature ranged from the lower 40s to the upper 50s. Georgia was warmer than normal for this time of year and received only half of the chill hours that were received in January of 2011. Rains have given Georgia some relief from the exceptional drought; however, extreme drought still covers roughly 67% of the State compared to less than 7% one year ago. Field activities include preparation for spring planting and routine care of poultry and livestock.

HAWAII: There was very little rain and plenty of sun island-wide the first full week. The sunny days allowed windward areas to finally recover from the recent heavy rains. Growth in lower elevations was boosted, but clear skies led to cold nights in the higher elevations, slowing growth a bit in those areas. The second full week of January was mostly dry again island-wide with plenty of sun and, toward the end of the week, plenty of vog as well. There were a few exceptions over the week, notably in the Ka'u district from Volcanoes National Park to Pahala; the evening of Jan. 16, the Kealakomo gage recorded 2.03 inches, and the Pahala gage saw 1.41 inches, helping to keep pastures greener in that area. The trade showers continued to diminish

through the week. Only a few light passing showers mainly fell over the windward sections of Maui were noted. A weather front to the northwest of the islands created a change in wind patterns. South winds brought some rainfall through the central section of the island. Some volcanic haze also moved through the central section of Maui carried by the south winds. Irrigation water continued to be available throughout the island; however, pastures on the southwest section of Maui Island continued to be very dry. Regrowth of the upper elevation pastures have been slow mainly due to cool temperatures and decreased sunshine. Dry conditions prevailed during the third full week across Hawaii Island, with predominantly clear, sunny skies and almost no measurable rainfall. The highest recorded rainfall all week was 0.35 inches at the Waikoloa gage, which fell overnight on Sunday the 22nd. Leeward areas continue under varying degrees of drought, with little relief during this dry January. The absence of trade winds brought vuggy conditions in the beginning of the week, and some resulting crop damage was reported in the area around Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Regular trade wind conditions returned on Thursday, pushing the vog southwest along its normal route. Mostly sunny skies with a few light scattered showers over isolated windward areas in Maui County. Winds varied throughout the week. Trade winds were predominate and gusty at times. By week's end, wind velocity diminished. Day light was increasing with the sun setting later in the day. Overall, the weather was favorable for crop growth and encouraged pasture forage regrowth. Heavy rains fell in Kauai and mountainous areas of Oahu during this week. Light rain returned to the island during the fourth full week ending on January 29, 2012, which ended a weeks-long dry spell. The rain fell in windward areas, and in the first half of the week in the Ka'u district from Volcanoes National Park to Pahala. Light rains fell during the second half of the week over Kealahou and Honaunau as well. Variable winds prevailed during the first half of the week, bringing vuggy conditions to windward areas until the return of the trades on Friday. Drought conditions continue in persistently dry leeward areas. Much more rain is needed island-wide to come up to normal January precipitation levels. Sunny and warm weather has continued this week for most areas throughout Maui County. Rainfall has continued to decrease in the windward section of the islands and with the warm temperature and increased sunshine these areas are showing signs of drying out. Leeward sections of the island have not received any significant rainfall for several weeks and are very dry. Irrigation water supply is currently available, but without additional rainfall to replenish supply, reservoir levels for the Upcountry areas of Maui will continue to decrease. Generally, crops are making good progress. However, some areas have continued to be detrimentally affected by wildlife feeding. Showers fell in the mountain areas of Kauai and Oahu.

IDAHO: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 15% short, 72% adequate, 9% surplus. Calving complete 15%, 11% 2011, 12% avg. Lambing complete 19%, 11% 2011, 15% avg. Hay and roughage supply 38% very short, 24% short, 37% adequate, surplus 1%. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 28% fair, 63% good, 8% excellent.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 9% short, 77% adequate, and 14% surplus. The mild winter continued for the month of January. Temperatures averaged 30.5 degrees, 5.7 degrees above normal. Precipitation was below normal in the Northern districts and above normal in the Southern districts. Statewide, precipitation was 9/100 of an inch above normal with an average of 1.87 inches. The mild temperature has left the winter wheat crop rated mostly good and has had little effect on livestock.

INDIANA: The weather during January was both warmer and wetter than normal in Indiana. The average temperature of 31.6o was 5.6o above normal. The State received an average of 3.43 inches of precipitation which was 1.16 inches above normal. Winter wheat is reported to be in mostly good condition, but there are some concerns about the lack of a protective snow covering during some the colder temperatures. Very little field work was accomplished during the month because wet soils did not freeze enough to support equipment in most areas. Many operations were moving grain to market to fulfill January contracts. Muddy feedlots and pastures caused some stress to livestock and farmers alike. Warmer than normal temperatures allowed farmers to feed less hay which helped stretch supplies. Farmers were also visiting their local FSA offices to sign up for the 2012 DCP or ACRE programs. Other activities included clearing fence rows, income tax preparations, purchasing inputs for 2012 crops, repairing and installing drainage tile, hauling grain to market and tending to livestock.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture levels rated 21% very short, 36% short, 42% adequate, and 1% surplus. Although both humans and animals have been enjoying the warmer than normal weather, concerns about moisture levels heading into planting season remain. The warm winter has helped livestock and kept hay supplies mostly adequate. Some cows are still reported on corn stalks.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 16.6. Topsoil moisture 13% very short, 33% short, 53% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 9% poor, 39% fair, 42% good, and 7% excellent; wind damage 90% none, 8% light, 2% moderate; freeze damage 96% none, 4% light. Range and pasture condition 29% very poor, 25% poor, 33% fair, 13% good. Feed grain supplies 11% very short, 17% short, 69% adequate, 3% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 25% very short, 29% short, 43% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 12% very short, 24% short, 63% adequate, 1% surplus. Unusually warm, dry and windy January weather in Kansas has decreased soil moisture and winter wheat condition, however, the warm weather has aided livestock producers in a smooth start to the calving season and in stretching the hay and forage supply. Producers saw very little precipitation during the month as only 3 stations received over 0.20 inch; Concordia with 0.33 inch, Leavenworth with 0.26 inch, and Holton with 0.24 inch. High temperatures ranged from 64 degrees to 74 degrees, while lows ranged from -1 degree in Oberlin to 18 degrees in Liberal. Average temperatures ranged from 31 to 40 degrees. January temperatures ranged from 4 degrees above normal at Clay Center to 11 degrees above normal at Topeka. A year ago, topsoil moisture supplies were 24 percent very short, 35 percent short, 40 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Farmers were busy with tillage, applying anhydrous ammonia and weed control, taking advantage of the mild weather conditions. The lack of moisture during January decreased the wheat condition from December. The warm, open weather has helped stretch hay and forage supplies.

KENTUCKY: The first week of January experienced above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall. The mostly mild weather continued from the previous 3 weeks of very mild winter conditions. But, unlike previous weeks, there was very little rainfall for the Bluegrass State. Temperatures for the period averaged 38 degrees across the State which was 4 degrees warmer than normal and 4 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 50 in the West to 46 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 30 degrees in the West to 27 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.01 inches Statewide which was 0.88 inches below normal and 1% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.00 inches, Central 0.01 inches, Bluegrass 0.01 inches and East 0.03 inches, which was 0.93, 0.95, 0.75 and 0.88 inches below normal. While average temperatures were above normal during the second week of January, Kentucky experienced some of the coldest temperatures so far this year. Also, a couple of snow events occurred. The most significant was an Alberta Clipper that moved through on Saturday, January 14, and brought a swath of snow to central and eastern Kentucky. Most of the snowfall occurred in about a 5 hour window and 1 to 3 inches was typical with localized amounts of 2 to 4 inches in south-central and eastern Kentucky. Temperatures for the period averaged 35 degrees across the State which was 2 degrees warmer than normal and 2 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 45 in the West to 42 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 27 degrees in the West to 28 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.09 inches Statewide which was 0.22 inches above normal and 125% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.87 inches, Central 1.24 inches, Bluegrass 1.01 inches and East 1.24 inches, which was -0.04, 0.31, 0.26 and 0.34 inches respectively from normal. The third week of January saw temperatures go up and down several times during the week with above normal rainfall. The week started off mild and wet, transitioned to cold and dry then finished the weekend mild. Eastern and east-central section received most of the rainfall last week. Temperatures for the period averaged 39 degrees across the State which was 6 degrees warmer than normal and 4 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 49 in the West to 48 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 31 degrees in the West to 31 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.93 inches Statewide which was 0.1 inches above normal and 112% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.47 inches, Central 0.95 inches, Bluegrass 1.01 inches and East 1.29 inches, which was -0.41, 0.07, 0.29 and 0.44 inches respectively from normal. Weather conditions for the last week of January continued to be mild and wet. The first half of the workweek was very mild with cooler temperatures toward the weekend. Measureable rainfall occurred 5 out of 7 days last. The mild conditions continued from the previous week with temperatures into or near the 60s at least twice during the week. Temperatures for the period averaged 42 degrees across the State which was 9 degrees warmer than normal and 4 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 48 in the West to 54 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 35 degrees in the West to 35 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.69 inches Statewide which was 0.91 inches above normal and 217% of normal.

Precipitation totals by climate division, West 1.73 inches, Central 1.91 inches, Bluegrass 1.86 inches and East 1.27 inches, which was 0.9, 1.08, 1.18 and 0.49 inches above normal. Farmers were kept busy tending to their livestock, but mild temperatures were favorable to their condition. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the State.

LOUISIANA: The State averaged 4.67 inches of rain this month, remaining slightly below the norm. Field crop producers continued to repair equipment in preparation for spring planting. Strawberry producers began harvesting berries. Livestock producers continued supplemental feeding. Crawfish producers continued to put out traps in preparation for harvest.

MARYLAND: Mild winter temperatures helped extend pasture grazing for livestock operations. Warm temperatures allowed livestock, poultry, and greenhouse operations to save on winter heating costs. Soil moisture has remained mostly adequate as rain, and snow in some cases, fell during the month of January. Hay supplies were mostly adequate as there was only brief snow coverage during the month. Small grains and cover crops conditions were steady thanks to the mild winter weather.

MICHIGAN: The precipitation for the four weeks ended January 29 varied from 1.16 inches to 2.15 inches in the Upper Peninsula and 1.29 inches to 2.12 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Temperatures were warmer than usual for the month of January, ranging from 2.8 to 9.3 degrees above normal across the State. Snow depth was well below normal due to mild winter conditions. Winter wheat condition for the state was reported 16% excellent, 48% good, 30% fair, 5% poor, and 1% very poor.

MINNESOTA: January was warmer and drier than normal. Temperatures for the month averaged from 6.6 degrees above normal in the Southeast District to 9.3 degrees above normal in the Northwest District. Temperature extremes included a low of -26 degrees at Warroad and a high of 62 degrees at Marshall. Precipitation averaged from 0.47 inch below normal in the Northeast District to 0.06 inch below normal in the Central and Southwest Districts. Greatest monthly precipitation of 1.30 inches was recorded in Hutchinson. Monthly average temperatures ranged from 7 to 9 degrees warmer than normal, placing January 2012 among the seventh warmest Statewide, according to the Minnesota State Climatology Office. January was the fourth consecutive month with significantly above normal temperatures across the State, making the October, 2011 through January, 2012 period one of the warmest in State history. Soil frost depths increased during January, starting out at a few inches below the soil surface and dropping to as deep as 20 to 30 inches in places where there is little snow cover. January was also drier than normal. The largest monthly snowfall totals for the winter were recorded, including 14.9 inches at Orr and 14.1 inches at Kabetogama in the Northeast, and 12.7 inches at Lanesboro in the Southeast. As of January 24, with the exception of the southeastern tip, the entire State was rated as undergoing a moderate to severe drought by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil moisture 0 percent very short, 13 percent short, 54 percent adequate and 33 percent surplus. Wheat 0% very poor, 3% poor, 26% fair, 55% good, 16% excellent. Cattle 0% very poor, 1% poor, 55% fair, 44% good, 0% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 17% poor, 29% fair, 52% good, 1% excellent. Recent rains during January refilled many farm ponds from the fall drought. Rains mixed with warmer temperatures resulted in wet fields and larger than normal winter weeds. Most winter wheat was dormant with some beginning to tiller. Ryegrass pastures were being grazed and many have had nitrogen applied. Hay supplies were adequate. Cattle were doing well and the lack of a harsh winter greatly helped their condition.

MISSOURI: January was warmer and drier than normal. Average temperatures were 6 to 8 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 1.14 inches with the southeast district averaging 3.15 inches. The condition of the dormant winter wheat crop ranges from fair to excellent with the majority rated good. Standing water in the southeast district dried up, and work slowly progressed on levees around the State.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 11% very short, 1% last year; 35% short, 8% last year; 53% adequate, 74% last year; 1% surplus, 17% last year. Subsoil moisture 13% very short, 4% last year; 34% short, 14% last year; 48% adequate, 77% last year; 5% surplus, 5% last year. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 0% last year; 10% poor, 2% last year; 62% fair, 25% last year; 23% good, 59% last year; 3% excellent, 14% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 50% none, 85% last year; 22% light, 14% last year; 25% moderate, 1% last year; 3% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damaged 61% none, 87% last year; 32% light, 11% last year; 6% moderate, 2% last year; 1% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 73% very poor, 1% last year; 14% poor, 6% last year; 8% fair, 26% last year; 4% good, 59% last year; 1% excellent, 8% last year.

Livestock grazing 64% open, 11% last year; 22% difficult, 35% last year; 14% closed, 54% last year. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 87%, 96% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 88%, 96% last year. Calving complete 3%; 3% last year. Lambing complete 1%; 1% last year.

NEBRASKA: Wheat conditions rated 0% very poor, 3 poor, 32 fair, 61 good, 4 excellent. Hay and forage supplies rated 0% very short, 5 short, 93 adequate, and 2 excellent. Cattle and Calves condition rated 0% very poor, 0 poor, 8 fair, 83 good and 9 excellent. Weather conditions were warm and dry compared to normal. Temperatures averaged 7 degrees above normal for the month. Snow that had fallen during the month melted with the above normal temperatures allowing cattle producers to make good use of stalks. As a result, feed usage was not heavy and feed supplies were adequate with cattle in good condition. Field work continued with the warm, dry weather and wheat conditions continued well above year ago levels. During the last week of the month, topsoil temperatures ranged from 29 to 32 degrees. Topsoil moisture supplies rated short to very short across two-thirds of the State and adequate in the remaining counties. Precipitation during January was light with most areas receiving less than a quarter of an inch of moisture.

NEVADA: January temperatures were warmer than average. Reno recorded a high of 69 degrees for the month. Elko recorded a low of -10 degrees for the month. More precipitation was recorded in January than in December, but recorded amounts were still below normal. All stations recorded some precipitation. Reno recorded the most with 1.54 inches. Nevada snow packs are below normal levels for this time of year. Cattle marketing continued. Onion processing was ongoing. Main farm and ranch activities included equipment maintenance and feeding livestock.

NEW ENGLAND: The month of January was mild with below average snowfall and monthly average temperatures ranging from 2 to 8 degrees above average throughout New England. The highest sustained wind speeds above 30 miles per hour were recorded in mid-January. Snowfall totals in January were generally between 7 to 20 inches, with higher accumulations in northernmost latitudes. Total precipitation for the month ranged from as low as 1.23 inches in northern elevations in New Hampshire to 4.13 inches in Portland, ME. The first week began warmer than normal across New England with temperatures reaching the 40s in northern States and as high as the mid-50s in southern States. A minor cold snap during the middle of the week was followed by record breaking temperatures, as high as 61 degrees, in southern States and above average temperatures elsewhere in New England. Average to above average temperatures dominated most of the second week until arctic air settled in on January 15 and brought the lowest temperatures so far this season. Occasional snow and rain showers fell during the first half of the month with the heaviest precipitation occurring on January 12. Temperatures were seasonably cool during most of the third week, with the exception of January 17-18 when temperatures rose into the 40s in most areas. Snowfall during the week was heaviest in Maine and southern New England. The fourth week was the warmest in January with temperatures 9 to 16 degrees above normal. Temperatures failed to dip below freezing in every New England State for at least one night. The fourth week ended with heavy rain throughout the region with the exception of moderate snow in northern Maine. Farmers were busy tending to livestock and moving applies and potatoes out of storage. Some maple producers took advantage of the warm winter by setting out taps and boiling sap.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were much above normal throughout the month of January in most localities. Temperatures averaged from highs in the fifties to lows in the twenties. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in all localities. Up to 7 inches of snow fell in some areas across the State toward the end of January. Agricultural producers continued greenhouse work, livestock care, repairing machinery, and attending meetings.

NEW MEXICO: The State got a break from the continuous snowstorms to ring in the New Year with sunny skies and warm temperatures. A cold front moved south across the State the second week of January, bringing in much cooler temperatures. Areas in the western part of the State saw temperatures below zero. The third week New Mexico experienced above normal temperatures for mid January due to a northern polar jet stream path. Moisture during the month has brightened wheat fields, both irrigated and dryland, although temperatures and soil conditions prohibit growth. Some herd reductions occurred as ranchers evaluate pasture conditions, feed costs and hay supplies. Remaining livestock are being fed with means other than pasture grasses. Some livestock are being sold off to maintain the rest of the herd. Pecan harvest continues to be delayed by December moisture.

NEW YORK: Outside activities and daily chores continued. Weather

was warmer than normal for this time of year with very little snow. 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: State-wide soil moisture levels were rated at 4% short, 73% adequate and 23% surplus. The State received below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures throughout the month of January. The main farm duties were tending to livestock, general farm maintenance and marketing of grain.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth was 1.8 on January 29. Hay and forage supplies were 2% short, 73% adequate, 25% surplus. Snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 90% poor, 9% adequate, 1% excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat was rated 80% poor and 20% adequate. Cattle condition 7% fair, 63% good, 30% excellent. Sheep condition 5% fair, 64% good, 31% excellent. Road conditions 96% open, 4% difficult. Four percent were drifted, 12% icy, 84% dry. January saw below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures. The outlook was positive for livestock producers amidst the mild weather conditions, yet some concerns were expressed regarding snow protection for alfalfa and winter wheat.

OHIO: The January 2012 average temperature for Ohio was 31.5 degrees, 5.0 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the state averaged 3.5 inches, 1.09 inches above normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that the crop is in fair to good condition. Much of the crop was planted late and acreage planted is down from operator planting intentions due to a wet fall. Most of the winter wheat growing areas have been without snow cover during January; freezing and thawing conditions in January have contributed to the deterioration of the winter wheat conditions from last fall. Cattle are in good to excellent condition. There are no widespread disease problems reported by producers.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 13% very short, 34% short, 50% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 39% very short, 34% short, 27% adequate. Wheat 1% very poor, 8% poor, 37% fair, 47% good, 7% excellent; grazed 39% this month, 36% last year, 36% average. Canola 1% very poor, 7% poor, 43% fair, 43% good, 5% excellent. Rye 1% very poor, 7% poor, 25% fair, 56% good, 11% excellent; grazed 67% this month, 64% last year, 61% average. Oats 1% very poor, 3% poor, 34% fair, 54% good, 8% excellent; grazed 47% this month, 16% last year, 17% average. Livestock 10% very poor, 19% poor, 36% fair, 31% good, 4% excellent. Pasture and Range 43% very poor, 29% poor, 20% fair, 6% good, 2% excellent. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range with 29 percent rated poor to very poor. Ranchers continue feeding hay and selling cattle with prices holding strong. Rains received over January were welcomed but have done little to replenish critically low ponds with many producers continuing to haul water.

OREGON: The month of January was generally warmer and wetter than normal. All but three stations reported higher than normal temperatures. High temperatures ranged from 50 degrees in Ontario, up to 69 degrees in Pendleton. Low temperatures ranged from 30 degrees in Coos County, down to -4 degrees in Christmas Valley. The precipitation hoped for back in December, came mid- to late January, with the majority of it in the Western regions. Thirty of the forty-two stations had above average precipitation levels, and all but two stations received over an inch. Along the Coast and in the Willamette Valley, precipitation levels ranged from 5 to 10 inches, with flooding in low areas. Detroit Lake reported the most precipitation of 20.75 inches for the month. Snow accumulation was also better in January, but there are still concerns about the lack of snow pack. Wallowa County was still around 60 to 70 percent for snow pack, and still hoping for improvements in the coming months. Lake County improved from 48 percent to 58 percent of normal for the water year. An ice storm that hit across Umatilla County was called one of the worst in recent years, but no severe impacts to crops or orchards reported. Winter grain crops still looked to be in good shape in the Northeast region. There have been an increasing number of geese over-wintering in the Willamette Valley, causing severe damage to winter grain crops and grass seedlings. Washington County also reported trouble with damaged fields from elk being pushed down to farm land by the snow in higher elevations. Peaches started to grow in Lane County, and blueberries top apical buds had broken. Hazelnut orchards near the McKenzie River had about 20 acres under a foot of water. Due to the mild winter in Lake County, many livestock producers were able to begin feeding later than normal.

PENNSYLVANIA: Temperatures and weather conditions have been variable throughout Pennsylvania in the month of January. The State received precipitation in the form of both rain and snow during the month, with the majority of the snowfall happening on the 21st of the month. Principal farm activities for the month of January included

shelling of some field corn and pruning fruit trees. Early January began with windy conditions, and above average temperatures. The Harrisburg area received 4.5 inches of snow or ice throughout January. The average high temperature was 42.3 degrees and the average low was 25.7 degrees. January 7th was the warmest day of the month, with a high at 60 degrees. The lowest temperature of the month was 11 degrees, which happened on January 4th. The average temperature for the month was 34.0 degrees, which is 3.9 degrees above normal.

SOUTH CAROLINA: A mixture of mild and wintery temperatures was observed in the first month of 2012. January began with cold weather across the State. On Wednesday, January 4th, the season's coldest air was observed with temperatures in Pelion dropping to 12 degrees in the morning. Highs did not exceed the lower 50's for the State. Thursday warmed to 63 degrees in Orangeburg before temperatures dropped again on Friday, January 6th. Light rain swept over the UpState and temperatures were in the 20's in the Lowcountry. Warm air moved in late Friday leading to temperatures in the 70's for Bishopville on Saturday. On Sunday, January 8th, temperatures were a mild 75 for much of the State. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was three degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.1 inches. Heavy fog enveloped Eastover on Tuesday, January 10th. Stormy weather developed on Wednesday as warm, moist air collided with an approaching boundary of colder air. A hail path affected the counties of Pickens, Greenville and Spartanburg. Clearing skies on Thursday evening were accompanied with high winds. Aiken reported a low temperature of 19 degrees on Friday, January 13th. The State's highest temperature on Sunday afternoon was observed in Allendale with a near-seasonal temperature of 59 degrees. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was five degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.5 inches. Mostly sunny conditions allowed for a modest warming of up to 59 degrees at Kingstree, Charleston and Beaufort on Monday, January 16th. Showers entered the State on Tuesday. At 8:00 p.m., Anderson, Clemson and Greenville noted heavy rain. Colder air filled in behind the departing wet weather and on Thursday morning, Caesars Head, Chesnee and Cedar Creek all recorded 25 degrees. Another round of rain and thundershowers fell over much of the UpState on Friday, January 20th and moved east during much of Saturday. On Sunday morning, Newberry reported a 24-hour rain of 1.20 inches and Darlington reported 0.73 inches. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was four degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 1.1 inches. On Monday, January 23rd, the weather included noon-day observations of heavy rain falling near the Greenville Spartanburg area and, at the same time, dense fog with one-quarter mile visibility reported in Columbia. A brief boundary of colder air raced through the State overnight Tuesday. The Conway airport Tuesday high temperature of 77 degrees fell 43 degrees to a Wednesday morning low temperature of 34 degrees. Another surge of unseasonal warmth returned on Thursday. The Kingstree airport reached 79 degrees and both Summerville and Orangeburg noted 78 degrees. Showers formed during the overnight hours ahead of an approaching cold front. Sunny, blue skies were observed over the weekend with afternoon temperatures in the 60's on Saturday and in the 50's on Sunday, January 27th. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was seven degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.3 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth (inches) 1.6. Winter wheat snow cover 87% poor, 13% adequate. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 29% poor, 45% fair, 24% good, 1% excellent. Alfalfa snow cover 83% poor, 17% adequate. Feed supplies 1% short, 92% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 7% short, 92% adequate, 1% surplus. Accessible livestock feed supplies 99% readily, 1% difficult. Accessible stock water supplies 99% readily, 1% difficult. Cattle death losses 36% below normal, 62% normal, 2% above normal. Calf deaths 33% below average, 63% average, 4% above average. Cattle condition 6% fair, 80% good, 14% excellent. Sheep condition 4% fair, 70% good, 26% excellent. Sheep & lamb deaths 33% below average, 66% average, 1% above average. Road conditions--township 98% open, 1% difficult, 1% closed. Road conditions--county 100% open. The month of January saw the first significant snow fall for much of the State, improving snow cover conditions for the alfalfa and winter wheat. Livestock are still thriving across the State with low death rates, and plentiful feed supplies.

TENNESSEE: Winter Wheat 3% poor, 15% fair, 73% good and 9% excellent. Cattle 5% poor, 26% fair, 60% good and 9% excellent. Muddy conditions created by a mild, wet winter are starting to impact the wheat crop and the feeding conditions for cattle and other livestock. Eighty-two percent of this year's winter wheat crop is rated in good or excellent condition; however, there are a few wheat fields that are beginning to show signs of damage from standing water. During January, many farmers have dealt with very muddy and sloppy feeding

conditions for livestock. Most livestock producers have adequate hay stocks on hand for this time of year; although, there have been a small handful of reports of hay stocks running low and farmers looking to buy hay. For the month of January hay stocks were rated 4 percent very short, 13 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus. At this same time, sixty-nine percent of cattle were rated in good or excellent condition. During January, temperatures averaged well above normal across the entire State. Most of Tennessee has averaged above normal precipitation for the month.

TEXAS: Most areas of the State were relatively dry at the beginning of the year, but have started to experience increased precipitation levels over the last few weeks. Most levels ranged from traces of rainfall to 2 inches. Around the end of the month, isolated showers brought as much as 5 to 10 inches in areas of Central and Eastern Texas. In the High Plains, high winds depleted some of top soil moisture from wheat fields that had benefitted from previous rains. There were even reports of winds in excess of 40-60 mph in several areas. In the Blacklands, small grains progressed due to unseasonably mild days and even nights in some cases. However, there were some issues of spider mites in some of those fields. In the Northern High Plains, early planted wheat failed due to continued, unfavorable growing conditions. In the Southern High Plains, there were some reports of wheat damage from flocks of geese feeding in fields as well as blowing sands. There were several reports of Hessian fly infestation in wheat fields in the Edwards Plateau. In the Southern High Plains and Northern Low Plains, producers listed and prepared cotton fields for spring herbicide applications. However, dry weather has made many producers cautious about increasing cotton acres and planting high dollar seed. Increased wind and rain helped pecans to fall in yard trees, but some remained in the shuck. In the Lower Valley, producers continued to harvest vegetables, citrus, and sugarcane while citrus greening disease caused a five-mile quarantine on the movement of citrus nursery stock. Livestock were generally in fair to good condition across the State although supplemental feeding was necessary. Hay supplies were extremely minimal and expensive as many producers searched for hay out of State. Local beef cattle markets were strong in price and high in volume as some producers were considering additional culling due to forecasts of continued dry conditions.

UTAH: The State had lower than average precipitation throughout the month of January. A few storms brought snow to the mountains with little snow in the valleys. The mild winter has been good for livestock. Although most reservoirs in the State are full, many producers are hoping for a larger snowpack this winter, especially in areas which rely on runoff. Box Elder County reported that field work is at a standstill. One producer reported planting some spring grain in early January as the field was open and dry enough to work. Cache County producers are concerned about winter kill in wheat due to the lack of snow cover this season. Many of the reservoirs in Duchesne County are full and irrigation water is expected to be sufficient this coming growing season; however, growers remain concerned over the lack of a snowpack. Beaver County has been very dry but farmers were encouraged by recent snow fall. Livestock across the State of Utah are mostly in excellent condition. Calving in Box Elder County has just begun. The weather has been mild which should help with calf survival rates. Livestock producers have just reportedly had to begin feeding hay. It has been a great winter so far for pasturing cattle. Many cattle were still grazing pastures as of mid-January with only minimal protein supplementation. Cattle and Lamb prices have remained strong and livestock producers are optimistic for the future. Owners of beef cattle in Cache County have saved hay because cattle have been able to graze ditches, fence lines, and crop residue due to the relatively mild winter weather. Livestock are in very good condition. Winter Range conditions in Utah County are fair to good; moisture will be needed for summer ranges to be in good condition. In Duchesne County the storms from the last couple of weeks have increased moisture in the area; however, more moisture is needed to reduce the likelihood of a dry summer. Cattle in Uintah County are in excellent condition due to the warm winter. Livestock are still able to graze some fields, although they are also being fed hay. In Beaver County livestock are doing well and calving has begun. Many farmers did not have to start feeding their livestock until the most recent snow falls. Sheep producers in Iron County report winter ranges have a good amount of forage, but producers have had to haul water to the ranges due to the lack of snow. Wayne County ranchers that have begun calving have

experienced excellent calving conditions.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 2% short, 82% adequate, 16% Surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% short, 83% adequate, 13% surplus. Beef Cattle Forage Obtained from Pastures 22%. Milk Cow Forage Obtained from Pastures 13%. Sheep Forage Obtained from Pastures 40%. Livestock 4% poor, 26% fair, 55% good, 15% excellent. Small grain and winter grazing crops 1% poor, 20% fair, 64% good, 15% excellent. Ample amounts of rain have fallen throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unseasonably mild temperatures have kept the grounds from freezing in many areas. Wheat growers have been applying fertilizer and herbicides. Lime spreading, soil sampling, equipment repair, input purchases, and some deep tillage activities continued. Many producers are getting greenhouses ready for tobacco and plowing their land.

WASHINGTON: A mild winter trend continued through the first few weeks of January with below average precipitation and no major winter storms. For much of the State, a major snow and ice storm took place during the third week of January. Western Washington was hit the hardest, with Thurston County snow totals reaching close to two feet of snow directly followed by a major ice storm. The ice storm resulted in the most residual damage. Many producers, including Christmas tree farmers, foresaw months of power saw work to clean up the damage from fallen trees around the farm. Below zero temperatures in Whatcom County hampered milking operations due to freezing pipes. It was too early to tell if strong cold winds damaged berry plants in Western Washington. On the flip side, in Lincoln County and surrounding areas winter moisture remained at extreme lows. Winter wheat producers in the area need adequate winter moisture in order for there to be enough moisture left in September for seeding. Lack of snow in Pend Oreille County resulted in six inches of unwanted frost. Calving began on many ranches in Ferry County. Shellfish growers in Pacific County continued oyster and clam harvest operations.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 2% short, 64% adequate and 34% surplus compared to 2% very short, 8% short, 75% adequate, and 15% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 1% short, 91% adequate, and 8% surplus compared with 4% very short, 15% short, 73% adequate, and 8% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 1% short, 98% adequate, and 1% surplus compared with 2% very short, 21% short, 76% adequate, and 1% surplus last year. Winter wheat conditions were 8% fair and 92% good. Cattle and calves were 1% poor, 20% fair, 74% good, and 5% excellent. Sheep and lambs were 1% poor, 13% fair, 84% good, and 2% excellent. The month of January has been unseasonably warm and extremely wet. Farming activities included feeding hay and taking care of livestock, repairing fences, rotating livestock feeding areas to minimize muddy conditions, calving and lambing.

WISCONSIN: January temperatures ranged from 5 to 7 degrees above normal. Precipitation ranged from 0.56 inches in Eau Claire (0.27 inches below normal) to 1.40 inches in Madison (0.25 inches above normal). Snowfall totals for the month ranged from 7.7 inches in Eau Claire to 14.3 inches in Milwaukee. The entire state had snow cover.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 27% short, 65% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 23% short, 69% adequate. Average depth of snow cover 1.8 inches. Wheat condition 1% poor, 17% fair, 82% good. Winter wheat wind damage 55% none, 45% light. Winter wheat freeze damage 99% none, 1% light. Spring calves born 2%. Farm flock ewes lambing 4%. Farm flock sheep shorn 7%. Calf losses 26% light, 74% normal. Lamb losses 33% light, 67% normal. Cattle condition 12% fair, 87% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 8% fair, 92% good. Stock water supplies 12% short, 88% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 9% short, 89% adequate, 2% surplus. Warm and Dry across State. Crook County reports that higher elevation snow cover is very low. Lincoln County reported that they picked up some snowpack towards the end of January. Most areas are in 70 percent of normal. It has been cold but not super cold. Sublette County reports that snow cover varies greatly across the county with a lot of snow in the north and very little in the south. Converse County reported warmer than normal temperatures and dry conditions. Uinta County reports low mountain snowpack, valley floors are open and bare except in the western part of the County. High temperatures ranged from the mid 30s to the high 60s. Low temperatures ranged from 22 below zero to 3 above.