



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: The month of December consisted of a winter storm that spawned severe weather throughout the entire State. Several reported storms during the last week of December 2012 brought freezing temperatures and much needed rain to drought stricken Alabama. However, the US Drought Monitor released on December 25, 2012 indicated dry conditions still prevail as majority of the State was 70.53 percent abnormally dry compared to only 29.47 percent free from drought. Though Mobile was the largest county affected by recent storms, Amanda Ryan, Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director, stated crops and livestock conditions looked great as rural areas within the county avoided major damage. Ryan also said all crops have been harvested, and winter wheat has been planted. Perry Woodruff, FSA County Executive Director, confirmed cotton recorded the best yields seen in a long time. Additionally, Perry stated corn harvest was complete and yields were very poor due to drought. Henry Dorrough, Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) Regional Extension Agent, said recent rain has been good for soil moisture, but cold temperatures were preventing forages from producing the dry matter needed for livestock grazing. As a result, producers were feeding hay and other supplements to provide the bulk of nutritional needs for livestock.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State started out mostly above normal for the first three weeks of December and finished below normal in the last two weeks of the month. The temperature extremes for December were a high of 85 degrees in Coolidge and a low of -10 degrees at Grand Canyon. Precipitation was not recorded until the second week of the month. All but one of the twenty-one reporting stations finished the year with below normal precipitation. The Grand Canyon finished the lowest at 41 percent of normal precipitation. Parker finished the year at normal precipitation. Cotton harvesting was just over 95 percent complete by the end of the month. Alfalfa harvesting was about half finished and sheeping off continued on the alfalfa fields across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: December started with above normal temperatures followed by several cold fronts that brought high winds, hail and other severe weather events throughout the State. On December 25th, a storm system brought freezing rain and record snowfall to central and northern Arkansas and blizzard conditions occurred in northeastern Arkansas. Despite the storms, drought conditions remained for much of the Western and Northwestern parts of the State. Ponds and subsoil moisture remained low in many areas. Cattle producers were feeding hay. Field work was minimal during December. Many producers were planning for the 2013 crop season.

CALIFORNIA: Small grains crops continue to emerge. Weather systems continued to benefit the crop condition of small grains and the crop was rated mostly good to excellent. Pruning continued in vineyards and stone fruit orchards. Disking, shredding brush and trellis work was also ongoing. Late variety table grape harvest was nearly complete. Persimmon and kiwi harvest were complete. Apple harvest continued. Navel oranges continued to be harvested. Lemon and lime harvests continued. Hybrid grapefruit was picked and packed. Satsuma mandarin harvest continued. Owari and Clementine tangerine harvest continued. Pruning and other activities were wrapping up in almond, pistachio and walnut orchards. Nut trees were in dormancy for winter across the State. Kern County reported carrots being harvested, while broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage were growing. In Tulare County, planted winter vegetable crops continue to grow well due to adequate rain. Fresno County reported harvesting of carrots, fall broccoli, cabbage and head lettuce. Harvest was finished for eggplant, garlic, onion, squash and processing tomatoes. Field fumigation was ongoing for next year's onion, melon and tomato fields. Winter vegetables such as beets, chards choys, daikon, kales, turnips and mustard greens were growing nicely. Recent moisture helped as pasture continued to recover from dry conditions. Bees in State for upcoming almond bloom.

COLORADO: Most areas of the State received below normal precipitation during December. Higher elevations received significant snowfall the last half of the month. Statewide, mountain snowpack is 68% of average as of December 20 with northern mountains closer to normal than southern. Temperatures averaged above normal the first half of the month and below normal the second half for most of the State. Winter wheat stands remain in mostly fair to poor condition. Soil moisture ratings continue as mostly short to very short in most areas.

DELAWARE: Hay supplies were mostly adequate, but varied across the State. Topsoil and subsoil moisture levels were at adequate levels thanks to steady rainfall. Soybean harvest continued into December. Barley and winter wheat plantings had emerged and are looking good due to the mild weather. Cover crops were also being planted as allowed by field conditions.

FLORIDA: Sugarcane harvest on schedule. Cotton harvest about 85% completed at beginning of month. Planted winter forages, cover crops. Emerged forages stressed by dry conditions. Most northern areas, winter field crops struggled due to lack of moisture. Cool season plantings needed rain. Almost all crops harvested by end of month in northern areas. Vegetable harvest slowed by cool temperatures at beginning of month. Irrigation necessary due to dry soils. Harvested, replanted winter vegetables. Vegetable growers irrigated to keep moisture levels up. Above normal temperatures resulted in good growing conditions; some harvesting behind schedule due to cool weather in November. Avocados, mangoes blooming. Vegetables marketed eggplant, lettuce, radishes, tomatoes, peppers, green beans, squash, cucumbers, sweet corn, and various specialty items. Early marketing of strawberries reported. Harvesting of early, mid-season oranges, grapefruit underway. Harvesting, mowing, and general grove maintenance primary grove activities. Statewide, pasture condition mostly fair, down slightly as drought expanded. Feeding of hay, supplements started. Some locations had reduced forage growth due to cooler temperatures, hard frost. Winter forage planted in Panhandle and northern areas. Northern counties, feeding hay. Most cattle in good condition. Stock pond's water levels low in southwest. Hay feeding increased as month progressed. Month's end, many pastures deteriorated to poor and fair condition due to cold temperatures, drought. Cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent, with most fair to good.

GEORGIA: According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service's Georgia Field Office, Georgia climate cooled during the month of December. Precipitation estimates for the month in Georgia ranged from 1 inch on the southeast coast up to 8 inches in the Blue Ridge and lower Piedmont Regions of the State. December's average temperatures ranged from the mid 40s to the higher 50s. Most of the State was slightly warmer than normal for this time of year. Rain has improved soil moisture; however, severe drought still covers roughly 68% of the State, compared to 82% one year ago. Field activities included late harvesting of crops, late planting of small grains and routine care of livestock.

HAWAII: December weather conditions started out very dry with 100 percent of the State designated in some stage of drought. As the month wore on, trade winds delivered precipitation easing the drought conditions in some areas. Irrigation reservoirs operated by the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) increased water levels due to the rainfall received during the second half of the month. No irrigation water restrictions were in force on the Waimea irrigation system on the Big Island of Hawaii. The first week of December was the fifth week running with 100 percent of the State in some stage of drought. Trade winds were light most of the week bringing very little precipitation. The Island of Kauai was the one exception with the Omao area recording a weekly total of 3.19 inches of rain. Other areas across the State experienced humid and vuggy conditions due to lack of trade winds. Shortening days and cooler nights slowed the growth and progress of many crops, particularly at higher elevation sites. Pasture conditions remained very poor in most areas due to continued lack of moisture. During the second week, drought conditions improved slightly with the areas of Kauai receiving a one category improvement as compared to the previous week, due to the rainfall received. Across the remainder of the State, drought conditions remained unchanged this week. Trade winds picked up and were more active throughout the second week of December bring much needed precipitation to many areas, particularly to the windward (eastern) side of the islands. Day length continues to shorten and nighttime temperatures continue to decrease as the winter solstice approaches. Pastures received a boost from the rainfall this week, however much more is still needed to encourage re-growth of forage in areas which have been severely affected by the drought. The third week of December brought some much needed rainfall. While the amount of precipitation varied by location, average weekly total measured by monitored National Weather Service automatic rain gauges was 1.39 inches across the State. The Mountain View area of the Big Island received an impressive weekly total of 6.72 inches. Drought conditions decreased again this week with all major islands except Kauai showing some improvement. Strong trade winds persisted throughout the week bringing moisture to many windward and central areas. Leeward areas received only isolated showers and continue to remain very dry. During the final full week of 2012, drought conditions again showed a slight improvement over those of the previous

week. Most improvements in drought conditions occurred along the windward coast of the Island of Hawaii. Trade winds remained steady throughout the week with the occasional stronger gust, however precipitation totals decreased from those observed the previous week. With the end of the year in sight, yearly rainfall totals from monitored rain gauges measured approximately 55 percent of the historic annual average. This rainfall deficit is reflected by the current drought conditions, as 83 percent of the State remains abnormally dry or drier.

IDAHO: Calving complete 2%, 3% 2011, 3% avg. Lambing complete 1%, 1% 2011, 1% avg. Hay and roughage supply 0% very short, 13% short, 84% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 7% fair, 71% good, 22% excellent. Franklin County Extension educator reports good accumulation of snowfall in the mountains. Livestock in good winter condition.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 28% short, 68% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 20% very short, 47% short, 32% adequate, 1% surplus. For the month of December, temperatures averaged 36.7 degrees, 6.7 degrees above normal. Precipitation was below normal with an average of 2.32 inches, 0.28 inches below normal.

INDIANA: Average temperatures thus far during December have been well above normal across the State. Precipitation totals have been below normal with the exception of some southeastern counties where precipitation has been normal to slightly above normal. The driest areas have been in southwestern counties. Winter wheat is reported to be in mostly good condition as temperatures have been mild, but the crop will need snow cover when temperatures do fall. A good deal of fall tillage was done during the month, and some dry fertilizer, manure and lime was spread. Many operations were busy moving grain to market and also forward contracting 2013 crops. Livestock are reported to be in mostly good condition. Hay supplies remain mostly adequate, but prices are beginning to climb as demand is starting to increase. Other activities included purchasing inputs for 2013 crops, income tax preparations, clearing fence rows, repairing and installing drainage tile, hauling grain to market and tending livestock.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture levels rated 45% very short, 42% short, 13% adequate, and 0% surplus. Moisture continues to be an important topic across Iowa. Although drought conditions in some areas have eased and many were glad to see significant snowfall in December; concerns remain about how much moisture will be available in the Spring. Along with slowing grain movement, snow and ice meant some producers had to feed hay to their livestock, but losses remain mostly average.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture 47% very short, 39% short, 14% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 9% very poor, 22% poor, 45% fair, 23% good, and 1% excellent; wind damage 79% none, 15% light, 5% moderate, and 1% severe; freeze damage 85% none, 11% light, 4% moderate, and 0% severe. Range and Pasture condition 57% very poor, 27% poor, 14% fair, 2% good, and 0% excellent. Feed grain supplies 21% very short, 27% short, 50% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 35% very short, 36% short, 28% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 44% very short, 33% short, 23% adequate, 0% surplus. Most areas of Kansas received limited moisture during the month of December with only 3 of the 53 stations reporting over 1 inch of precipitation. The lightest amounts were in the south central where Hutchinson only received .07 inches. Most of the State did receive some snow during the last half of December. The temperatures varied widely during the month with a low of -11 degrees at Colby to a high of 76 in Winfield. Finishing cotton harvest was the primary fieldwork. For 2012, all 53 stations received below normal precipitation. Amounts ranged from a high of 41.37 inches at Pittsburg in the southeast to a low of 7.44 inches at Tribune in the west central. Departures from normal ranged from -17.63 inches in Ottawa to -4.42 in Johnson. Livestock producers were grazing cattle on crop residue and supplement feeding. Due to the lack of precipitation producers are concerned about pasture conditions and low stock pond level.

KENTUCKY: This past December recorded both above normal temperatures and rainfall. Precipitation was much needed as the State had been under a lengthy dry spell, stretching two months. However, the Commonwealth did experience some periods of cold weather, where wind chill values dropped into the teens and the livestock cold stress index was put into the danger category. Tobacco producers continued to strip their burley as December rains made conditions favorable. The wet weather also improved soil moisture conditions, which was beneficial for fall seeded small grain growth.

LOUISIANA: Louisiana's average rainfall total for the month of December is inconclusive due to the holidays. Harvesting of sugarcane was ongoing. Citrus producers were spraying to control diseases. Strawberries were being harvested. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures and feeding hay. Crawfish producers were putting out traps. Other activities included repairing and cleaning equipment.

MARYLAND: Hay supplies were mostly adequate, but varied across the State. Topsoil and subsoil moisture levels were at adequate levels thanks to steady rainfall. Soybean harvest continued into December. Barley and winter wheat plantings had emerged and are looking good due to the mild weather. Cover crops were also being planted as allowed by field conditions.

MICHIGAN: The precipitation for the past four weeks ending December 30 varied from 1.81 inches to 2.12 inches in the Upper Peninsula and 1.86 inches to 3.17 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Field activities were finished heading into December. After above average temperatures in early and mid December, seasonal weather and snowfall late in the month provided some cover for winter wheat, but snow level still allowed for some manure spreading.

MINNESOTA: As of December 30, temperatures for the month averaged from 1.8 degrees above normal in the North Central District to 4.7 degrees above normal in the Southeast District. Temperature extremes included a low of -21 degrees at Warroad and a high of 64 degrees at Winona Dam. Precipitation averaged from 0.30 inch below normal in the Northwest District to 0.68 inch above normal in the Central District. As of December 30, the greatest monthly precipitation of 2.39 inches was recorded in Canby. As of December 25, the entire State was rated from abnormally dry to extreme drought by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Areas rated in extreme drought were primarily southern parts of the State, reaching up into the West Central and Central districts, as well as parts of northern Minnesota. Snow storms in mid-December brought snow cover across most of the State.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil moisture 0% very short, 0% short, 28% adequate, 72% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 22% fair, 66% good, 1% excellent. Range and pasture 3% very poor, 16% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, 0% excellent. Mississippi farmers have finished harvesting crops for the season. Winter wheat planting is nearing completion. Some areas of Mississippi are in need of soaking rain. Wheat looks good and we are getting much needed rainfall. Mild temps have allowed ryegrass to really grow. Most producers have been feeding hay for several weeks and few have ryegrass available for grazing. Wilkinson County has gone from being very dry to getting adequate rainfall over the course of the last 5 days. Slow steady rain is improving drought conditions.

MISSOURI: December was warmer and drier than normal. Average temperatures were 4 to 8 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 1.64 inches compared to the 30 year average of 2.70 inches. The condition of the dormant winter wheat crop ranges from fair to excellent with the majority rated good. Short stock water supplies continue to be an issue across the State.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 16% very short, 8% last year; 28% short, 40% last year; 53% adequate, 50% last year; 3% surplus, 2% last year. Subsoil moisture 27% very short, 13% last year; 30% short, 36% last year; 43% adequate, 46% last year; 0% surplus, 5% last year. Corn for grain harvested 93%, 97% last year. Range and pasture feed condition 42% very poor, 11% last year; 28% poor, 21% last year; 23% fair, 37% last year; 7% good, 26% last year; 0% excellent, 5% last year. Livestock grazing 44% open, 84% last year; 22% difficult, 11% last year; 34% closed, 5% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle 90%, 72% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep 96%, 69% last year. Much of Montana experienced some snowfall during the month of December with low temperatures dipping well below zero and average low temperatures in the lower teens to lower 30s at most reporting stations. West Glacier received the largest amount of precipitation for the week with 4.46 inches of moisture and most other stations saw 0.08 to 4.22 inches of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the upper 40s to lower 60s, with the State-wide high temperature of 64 degrees recorded in Hardin and Joliet. The coldest reported low of -29 degrees was recorded in Scobey followed by Chester with -27 degrees.

NEBRASKA: Wheat conditions rated 15% very poor, 34 poor, 37 fair, 14 good, and 0 excellent. Hay and forage supplies rated 10% very short, 29 short, 61 adequate, and 0 excellent. Cattle and Calves condition rated 0% very poor, 2 poor, 28 fair, 64 good, and 6 excellent, well below last year's 93 percent good or excellent. Unseasonable warm and dry weather the first half of the month was followed by rain and snow that brought some much needed moisture to the State, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Temperatures averaged above normal but lows fell below zero the last half of the month. Snow provided cover for wheat, but made it difficult for cattle to graze stalks. Supplemental feeding is underway and feed supplies were adequate with cattle in good condition. The eastern third and southern tier of counties received well above normal precipitation while most of the west was below normal. Fertilizer was still being applied until mid month when rain and snow fell. Wheat conditions continue well below year ago levels. The majority of the State saw temperatures average 1 to 5 degrees above normal during December. Topsoil temperatures

ranged from 21 to 34 degrees during the last week of the month and in general were cooler in the central third of the State. The eastern third and southern tier of counties received from .7 to 2 inches of precipitation, while much of the remainder of the State received a half inch or less.

NEVADA: A series of storms passed across the northern part of the State leaving some much-needed precipitation. Snow accumulated at the higher elevations toward the end of the week. Weekly average temperatures averaged near normal due to much colder weather later in the week. Fall seeded crops got a blanket of snow. Winter livestock feeding increased. Hay loads continued to move to California dairies. Onion shipping continued. Potato processing remained active. Planning for 2013 grazing was underway as drought and fires severely hurt some ranges. Herd culling was active. Main farm and ranch activities included equipment maintenance, marketing of stored crops and planning for next season.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures were above normal across New England during December. Average highs ranged from the upper 20's in Maine to the lower 40's in the southern States. Precipitation during December was also above average at most locations. The first week was warmer than normal with record high temperatures recorded in some northern locations. Precipitation was light, with most areas receiving about a half inch of rain during the week. The second week began very warm with widespread precipitation. High temperatures reached the low 60's in the southern States. The rest of the week was mostly dry with temperatures falling back to more normal levels. The third week was much warmer than normal with several heavy rain storms that brought over 2 inches of precipitation to multiple locations across the region. Winter finally settled in during the fourth week of December as temperatures fell below average at many locations and a series of winter storms blanketed the region with snow by week's end. On December 30, the highest snow depths ranged from over a foot in the southern States to over 2 feet in the northern States.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were mostly normal the entire month of December. Precipitation was average in most locations across the Garden State. Farmers finished their 2012 season harvesting of corn and soybeans. Other activities included attending meetings, equipment repair, greenhouse work, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: December began with temperatures above normal across the State. A storm moved into the State bringing snow over the northern mountains the second week in December. Average temperatures were below normal. A late December storm brought needed moisture into the State. The winter storm brought in cold air and precipitation to the western and northern parts of the State. Native range soil conditions are very dry throughout the State, without much native grass available due to this year's drought. Minimal snow and precipitation has been received this winter to date. No standing volume of forage production. Primary feed is previous year's grasses or non-existent. Browse is very poor as well. Due to drought oaks, mahogany leaves, etc are shattering leaves at this time when under normal conditions they would offer some feed. Tanks are dry or nearly dry.

NEW YORK: Outside activities and daily chores continued. Temperatures ranged from below freezing to 40's. There were two snow storms in the last week. 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 3.4 days suitable for field work, compared to 5.9 days on December 10th. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 1% very short, 14% short, 69% adequate and 16% Surplus. The State received much needed rain for the week ending December 30th. Soybean harvest continues with the wet weather slowing down harvest in many areas. Producers continued to tend livestock.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth was 4.7 on December 30. Hay and forage supplies were 11% short, 76% adequate, 13% surplus. Snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 21% poor, 57% adequate, 22% excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat was rated 15% poor, 57% adequate, 28% excellent. Cattle condition 2% poor, 13% fair, 68% good, 17% excellent. Sheep condition 3% poor, 17% fair, 65% good, 15% excellent. Road conditions 96% open, 4% difficult. Ten percent were drifted, 12% icy, 78% dry. Snowfall amounts varied across the state in December with no major impacts on winter operations reported. Areas with limited snowfall benefitted livestock producers, although some areas had only recently received adequate snow protection for alfalfa and winter wheat. Agricultural activities during December included moving hay and livestock to winter yards, and marketing grain.

OHIO: The December 2012 average temperature for Ohio was 38.0 degrees, 6.3 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the State averaged 4.60 inches, 1.76 inches above normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that the wheat crop is

in good to excellent condition. Wet was planted in time for good growth before snow. Initial snow cover in fields occurred during the last week of December. Cattle are in good to excellent condition. Current hay inventories are reduced from normal; some operators are purchasing hay to make up for a shortfall in hay production. The dry summer reduced the number of dry hay cuttings.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 68% very short, 24% short, 8% adequate. Subsoil moisture 80% very short, 18% short, 2% adequate. Wheat 21% very poor, 40% poor, 28% fair, 11% good; grazed 22% this month, 37% last year, 35% average. Canola 17% very poor, 48% poor, 29% fair, 6% good. Rye 26% very poor, 44% poor, 26% fair, 4% good; grazed 30% this month, 63% last year, 64% average. Oats 25% very poor, 24% poor, 47% fair, 4% good; grazed N/A this month, 42% last year, 21% average. Livestock 3% very poor, 14% poor, 47% fair, 32% good, 4% excellent. Pasture and Range 46% very poor, 36% poor, 17% fair, 1% good. The condition of small grains and canola across Oklahoma continued to deteriorate under the protracted drought. The poor condition of small grains meant limited grazing opportunities for livestock producers already facing poor pastures and low hay supplies. A winter storm on Christmas Day brought snow, with the highest totals falling in southeastern Oklahoma. A few other minor precipitation events followed the last week of December. The Southeast district recorded 2.49 inches for the month so far, with most districts averaging less than half an inch. Overall the moisture received during December was still far below average for the month, leaving seasonal totals even further behind.

OREGON: Most of the State saw slightly warmer than average temperatures & above normal precipitation this December. High temperatures ranged from 50 degrees in Lakeview to 64 degrees in Echo. Low temperatures ranged from 32 degrees in Astoria & Tillamook down to -9 degrees in Burns. Only seven of the forty-two stations reported below normal temperatures, mostly in southeastern Oregon. Total precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) varied from .86 of an inch in Rome to 19 inches at Detroit Lake. Most stations in the State reported above normal precipitation, as only 11 stations reported below average precipitation levels. Most parts of the State did receive snowfall, as 54 stations of 70 reported snowfall but only 18 of these 54 stations still have measurable snow on ground at the end of the month. Even with the little moisture received, the snowpack in Wallowa County was doing well with the colder temperatures. For Morrow County, snowpack is down due to the dry fall weather. The blanket of snow is protecting wheat crop well in north central counties as they have no seeding & insect issues reported; farmers with no-till/direct-seeded fields continued to report issues with voles in Sherman & Wasco counties. Washington County saw rain & flooding, experiencing eight days of flooding. The resulting excess soil moisture was causing difficulties for some crops, notably grass for seed. Southern Oregon & northern California saw heavy snows & strong winds from the 20th to 25th, causing fallen trees & temporary power outages in many counties. Filberts were trimmed, with forecasts of a good harvest in 2013. Most livestock are on feed now.

PENNSYLVANIA: There were various reports of heavy frosts throughout the State of Pennsylvania during the month of December. Both soybean and corn harvests were in the process of being completed. Finishing up these harvests may have been delayed due to the lack of available storage. The late December snow has placed a protective cover on the ground. Farmers are currently catching up on building and equipment maintenance. Orchard owners are busy pruning trees, mowing, and controlling rodents. As of December 27, 2012, the Harrisburg area received 3.9 inches of snow for the month, with the greatest snowfall on December 26th. The highest temperature of 67 degrees occurred on December 4th, while the lowest temperature of 22 degrees occurred on the 24th. The average temperature was 39.9 degrees, which is 5.5 degrees above normal. A total of 3.54 inches of rain fell, which is 0.65 inches above the average. There was also low visibility due to thick fog during many days throughout the month. High winds were also an issue, with wind speeds approaching 48 miles per hour on the 22nd of December.

SOUTH CAROLINA: December began with cool temperatures and sunny skies. Highs were in the fifties for most counties with a few southern counties in the low sixties. Seasonally cool temperatures for Saturday eased higher for Sunday, December 4th. The Charleston AP reached 74 degrees on Sunday afternoon. The warm temperatures led to showers on Tuesday night, with Jocassee Dam receiving 1.64 inches and Pickens 0.95 inches. Walterboro's Wednesday afternoon 81-degree high temperature plummeted 44 degrees to a Thursday morning low temperature of 37 degrees. High temperatures on Friday, December 9th, retreated back into the 50's and settled into that range for the weekend. Florence and the North Myrtle Beach AP reached 57 degrees on Saturday afternoon. Sunday, December 11th, started with a frosty 31 degrees at Sandhill and McCormick. The State average temperature for the period from December 5th to December 11th was three degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.4 inches. A cold rain fell across the southern counties on Monday morning, December 12th. Tuesday's morning low temperature fell to 27 degrees at Saluda

and Cedar Creek before much warmer air began to arrive from the south. Sandy Run and Pinopolis reported a mild 72 degrees on Wednesday. The string of unseasonably high temperatures continued on Friday, December 16th, for the central and eastern parts of the State with Columbia, Dillon, Hartsville and the Georgetown AP each recording 77 degrees. Mostly sunny, cool weather was observed over the last fall weekend of the year. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was seven degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the week was 0.1 inches. Milder air was observed on Tuesday, December 20th as Orangeburg, Pinopolis and the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station each reached 74 degrees. Evening showers fell over parts of the Piedmont and Upstate. By Wednesday morning, Pickens had measured 0.97 inches of rain. A boundary of cooler weather eased into the State on Christmas Eve. McCormick and Saluda recorded a Saturday high temperature of just 58 degrees. Christmas Day Sunday began with partly cloudy skies, then periods of light rain for central South Carolina and eastward to the coast. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was nine degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.6 inches. Monday, December 26th began with mostly sunny weather and Walhalla reporting a low temperature of 27 degrees. A boundary passed through the State overnight with periods of heavy rain and a few reports of thunder. Much of Wednesday saw cooler air spreading over the State. On Thursday morning, the temperature at Anderson, Greenwood, Sandy Run and Cades fell to 25 degrees with heavy frost observed across the Midlands. A gradual warming trend started on Friday, December 30th and continued through the year-ending weekend. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was five degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.8 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth (inches) 4. Winter wheat snow cover 61% poor, 39% adequate. Winter wheat condition 21% very poor, 49% poor, 27% fair, 3% good. Alfalfa snow cover 37% poor, 61% adequate, 2% excellent. Feed supplies 23% very short, 32% short, 43% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 31% very short, 36% short, 33% adequate. Calf deaths 12% below average, 88% average. Cattle condition 2% poor, 25% fair, 66% good, 7% excellent. Sheep condition 2% poor, 17% fair, 68% good, 13% excellent. Sheep & lamb deaths 3% below average, 97% average. Road conditions--township 93% open, 6% difficult, 1% closed. Road conditions--county 98% open, 2% difficult.

TENNESSEE: Winter Wheat condition 1% poor, 12% fair, 75% good, 12% excellent. Cattle condition 3% poor, 19% fair, 68% good, 10% excellent. Producers were feeding hay during December and most have ample hay stocks on hand. Hay stocks were rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Temperatures above normal. Rainfall near normal.

TEXAS: Most areas of Texas received below average precipitation during December. Monthly totals ranged from 0.1 inch or less in Central and West Texas to 4 inches or more in the eastern half of the State. Rainfall aided the growth of cool-season grasses in some areas. However drought conditions persisted across large portions of the State and more moisture was needed to promote small grain development. Snowfall and freezes occurred in the Plains and North Texas. Across the State, cotton harvest and planting of winter wheat and oats were mostly complete. Producers continued to prepare cropland for spring planting.

UTAH: For the week ending December 30, 2012. Box Elder County reports that December brought several beneficial storms which soaked the soil and then covered the soil with snowpack. These storms were much needed. In Cache County, fields are covered with about 8 inches of snow and the temperature is near zero. No field work is being done. Box Elder County ranchers are beginning to feed their stock hay now as many of the fall pastures are covered with snow. Cache County reports that livestock have healthy appetites when the weather is this cold. Thankfully, most ranchers and dairymen have sufficient feed for at least a few months. Ranchers are hoping for warmer temperatures before most begin the calving season. Some baby lambs are being born in small farm flocks, but warm sheds and lots of bedding have proven to be adequate for success in these cases.

VIRGINIA: The month of December has been a mild month for producers across the Commonwealth, with warm temperatures and minimal rainfall. By and large, the soil moisture levels across the State continue to be low, although many areas have received much needed precipitation by way of rain or snow since Christmas. Small grain conditions have improved with the added moisture, as have pastures and hayfields improved as well. Although the small showing of rain has been beneficial, more moisture will be needed to prevent a drought moving into the spring. Activities included making planting decisions for 2013, taking soil samples and spreading lime and scouting small grain crops.

WASHINGTON: Much needed precipitation was received this month improving the moisture profile in Whitman, Grant, and Lincoln County. Winter wheat appeared to be in good condition prior to being blanketed by a layer of protective

snow. In Yakima County there was no cause for concern regarding possible crop damage due to weather conditions. In Whatcom County, raspberry growers continue to tie and prune vines. In Grant County, dry corn harvest was mostly complete with the exception of a few growers. Persistent rainfall throughout the month limited most agricultural activity in the western region. In Grays Harbor and Thurston County, minor flooding along the Chehalis and Satsop Rivers occurred with no damage being reported to farm land or structures. Livestock owners in reported good demand for haylage Statewide as colder temperatures arrived the last week of the month in. In Northeastern Counties such as Stevens, cattle ranchers were hay feeding their cattle and will continue to do so until spring. In Thurston County, Christmas tree growers breathed a well deserved sigh of relief once the holiday had arrived and tree harvest was completed.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 5% short, 92% adequate and 3% surplus compared to 67% adequate and 33% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 6% short, 93% adequate and 1% surplus compared to 1% short, 90% adequate and 9% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 5% short and 95% adequate compared to 11% short, 87% adequate and 2% surplus last year. Winter wheat conditions were 44% fair and 56% good. Cattle and calves were 1% poor, 8% fair, 87% good, and 4% excellent. Sheep and lambs were 1% poor, 6% fair, 92% good, and 1% excellent. Weather conditions in December were a mix of mild weather with rain and later snow as temperatures dropped in the State. Farming activities for the month included farmers celebrating the holidays, planning for the next crop season, and preparing for calving and lambing.

WISCONSIN: December average temperatures for the State of Wisconsin ranged from 4 to 8 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 31 to 40 degrees. Average low temperatures ranged from 15 to 28 degrees. Full month precipitation ranged from 1.85 inches in Eau Claire to 3.87 inches in Milwaukee. The entire State received snow in December, with significant accumulation in the latter half of the month. Of the reporting stations, Madison received the most snow, with 23.4 inches since December 1.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 23% very short, 44% short, 29% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 33% very short, 42% short, 24% adequate, 1% surplus. Average depth of snow cover 3.00 inches. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 28% poor, 45% fair, 26% good; wind damage 52% none, 46% light, 2% moderate; freeze damage 95% none, 3% light, 2% moderate. Farm flock sheep shorn 1%. Calf losses 76% light, 24% normal. Lamb losses 77% light, 23% normal. Cattle condition 2% poor, 56% fair, 41% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 47% fair, 49% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 8% very short, 36% short, 56% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 28% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Farm activities included tending to livestock. December's high temperatures ranged from 36 degrees at Lake Yellowstone to 70 degrees in Torrington. Low temperatures ranged from 18 degrees below zero at Lake Yellowstone to 1 degree in Casper. Average temperatures ranged from 17 degrees to Lake Yellowstone and Big Piney to 31 degrees in Torrington. Temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in Dubois to 8 degrees above normal in Buffalo-Johnson. All stations received some precipitation ranging from 0.06 inch in Shirley Basin to 3.79 inches at Lake Yellowstone. Lake Yellowstone is the only station with above normal precipitation for the year. The rest of the State is reporting between 2 and 10 inches below normal precipitation for the year. Lincoln County reported weather is bitter cold with cattle producers feeding the full amount of hay. In Uinta County, snow accumulations are helping with the dry conditions. Supplemental feeding is in full swing. Temperatures are very cold. Albany County reported cold and windy conditions with a small amount of dry, fluffy snow. The open winter so far has helped producers stretch their available hay supplies. The mountains have received some snow lately, but still some concern for next year's irrigation needs. Calving is about 4-6 weeks away.

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

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Julie Schmidt – Crop Weather, Barley, Hay	(202) 720-7621
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