



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: December temperatures were generally on par with historical values, although temperatures late in the month were some of the lowest recorded in recent history. December began dry but the State received a significant amount of precipitation the rest of the month to improve drought conditions. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.1 inches in Talladega County to 9.6 inches in Cullman County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 49 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 84 percent at the month's beginning. Most producers harvested row crops in a timely manner, but some cotton harvest was behind schedule due to equipment issues and rainy weather. Winter wheat planting continued throughout the month on schedule, but reporters in some areas noted that the late cold weather caused damage to the crop. Some fruit and vegetable producers reported losses due to the extended period below freezing. The cold spell also caused damage to winter grazing conditions throughout much of the State. Livestock were reported to be in mostly fair condition, with producers using significant supplemental feeding due to poor winter grazing conditions.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: This report for Arizona is for the month of December 2022. Responses were based on the entire month, with consideration for any weather-related impacts that are forecast between now and month's end. By the end of the month, cotton harvest was 98 percent complete, compared with 68 percent on the last report and 97 percent for the previous year, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Twenty-six percent of barley has been planted and 9 percent has emerged. Twenty-two percent of Durum wheat has been planted and 4 percent has emerged. Ninety-five percent of the alfalfa crop was rated good to excellent depending on location last week, with harvesting taking place on more than three-quarters of the alfalfa acreage across the State. For the entire State, 79 percent of the pasture and range was rated fair to good as soil moisture conditions remained mostly adequate. According to the United States Drought Monitor for December 27, severe drought covered 7.9 percent of the State. The State was free of extreme and exceptional drought. In the northwestern part of the State, some spotty, heavy rains and snowfall were reported, but some areas were still very dry. Most range conditions fall in the fair category due to the presence of different weed species. In the western part of the State, last week rains have helped to improve soil moisture, but overall, during the entire month, below normal precipitation has affected soil conditions. In the last 30 days, the average minimum temperature was reported around 15 degrees Fahrenheit, mostly in the north-central and central-east part of the State.

ARKANSAS: For the week ending January 1, 2023, topsoil moisture 2% short, 38% adequate, 60% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 6% short, 38% adequate, 54% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of December were 17.0 days. December conditions for the State were cold and wet. Significant rainfall and major freeze events occurred with subzero wind chill taking a toll on cool season forages. Ranchers continued winter feeding and herd management while row crop farmers continued equipment maintenance and input planning for the upcoming season.

CALIFORNIA: For the week ending January 1, 2023 - Days suitable for fieldwork 3.4. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 40% adequate, 55% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% short, 45% adequate, 45% surplus. Winter wheat condition 5% fair, 85% good, 10% excellent. Snowpack content ranged between 13 and 16 inches in the Northern, Southern and Central Sierras. Field work was limited due to abundant precipitation and muddy fields. Precipitation and cool temperatures have been beneficial for dryland wheat and oats. Wheat, oats, and barley were planted. Irrigated pastures have benefitted from the recent rains and were growing well. Most cotton gins had completed their season. Strawberry fields were prepared for next year's crop. Blueberries were planted. Fields were prepped and planted with winter vegetables. Persimmons were harvested. Pecans were harvested in Tulare County. Navel orange, mandarin, grapefruit, lime, and lemon harvests

continued but were slowed at the end of December due to heavy rain. In the Central Valley, walnuts and almonds were sprayed for weeds.

COLORADO: This report for Colorado is for the entire month of December 2022. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 24% short, 62% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 26% very short, 37% short, 37% adequate. Winter wheat condition 5% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 50% good. Livestock condition 5% very poor, 8% poor, 33% fair, 46% good, 8% excellent. Pasture and range condition 11% very poor, 24% poor, 24% fair, 41% good. Moderately dry weather across the State during the month of December was interspersed with a few productive snowstorms. According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report, 86 percent of the State is abnormally dry or in a state of drought. Just under 31 percent of the State is in severe to exceptional drought, a much better start than 2022 when over 67 percent of the State was under severe to exceptional drought conditions. Productive snowstorms during the latter half of December improved moisture across the State, and greatly boosted snowpack. During the third week of December, bitter cold and snow moved across the State, causing temperatures to drop as low as -30 degrees. Northeastern counties remained very dry, but received beneficial moisture at the end of December, accumulating one to three inches above normal precipitation levels. Drought conditions deteriorated in southeastern counties since the end of the growing season, with most counties in a severe drought or worse. Livestock producers continued to utilize winter grazing arrangements where available. In southwestern counties, reporters noted snow events had provided good topsoil moisture. The San Luis Valley has received limited snowfall this winter, leaving soils dry and rangeland deteriorating. According to county reports, livestock were in fair condition and hay supplies were short. Producers continued to provide feed supplements due to poor range conditions. Statewide, winter wheat condition improved, with 50 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, compared with 30 percent good to excellent from the previous report and 25 percent good to excellent last year. As of January 1, 2023, snowpack in Colorado was 124 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

DELAWARE: The month of December saw a mix of extremely cold temperatures throughout most of the month, with unseasonably high temperatures and freezing conditions during the last week of the month. Farmers are concerned about what impact the weather fluctuations will have on small grains and livestock.

FLORIDA: December temperatures were on par with historical averages, although a cold spell at the end of the month brought significantly colder than normal temperatures. Total rainfall for the month ranged from trace amounts in Hernando County to over 9 inches in Pasco County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 41 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 33 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the State received little precipitation last month, which worsened drought conditions in the northern region of the State. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good, although the cold spell at the end of the month brought damage to pastures across the State. Livestock remained in mostly fair to good condition as well, but there were some reports of cattle death due to the cold spell. Sugarcane planting and harvest progressed well throughout December. Citrus grove activities throughout the month included mowing, fertilizing, maintenance hedging, spraying and general grove maintenance. Early oranges and red grapefruit that were not damaged by the hurricanes in the fall shipped to packing houses. Vegetables that were planted and harvested during December include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, boniato, and avocados.

GEORGIA: December temperatures were generally on par with historic averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.0 inch in Glynn County to 7.1 inches in Lumpkin County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 54 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions and 28 percent had moderate drought conditions by month's end, compared to 70 percent abnormally dry and 41 percent with moderate drought at the month's beginning. Excessive rainfall in some areas throughout the month limited winter field activities. Severe cold temperatures around the end of December caused stress on crops and livestock across the State. Livestock were reported to be in mostly fair condition, although some calves were noted to have been affected by the cold. The cold weather hurt cool season forages and winter grazing growth, thus prompting producers to increase supplemental feeding. Hay supplies were reported to be running low. Winter wheat growth was reported to have been stalled in some areas due to the below freezing temperatures but have since shown signs of recovery. Late planted cotton continued to be harvested and is nearing completion. Some cotton was severely damaged with bolls not opening in central Georgia.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: The average temperatures in Idaho for the month of December varied from below normal to normal for most regions of the State. Accumulated precipitation remained slightly below to slightly above normal for the water year. Northern Idaho had cooler than average temperatures and heavy snowfalls throughout December. In southwest Idaho,

temperatures were above freezing, with good precipitation. Hay stocks looked good. In south central Idaho, conditions were cold with little moisture. Rain on top of frozen soil caused some ponding in late December. Weather conditions were favorable for livestock. In eastern Idaho, temperatures were below normal, with heavy snowfall. While reservoir levels remained low, growers were cautiously optimistic about the snowpack in Bonneville and Madison Counties. Livestock was fed hay, and hay stores were adequate. Teton County experienced extremely cold temperatures followed by warmer temperatures leading to ice buildup in some areas. Bannock and Bingham Counties received persistent moisture in the form of snow and rain.

ILLINOIS: For the week ending January 1, 2023. Topsoil moisture 8% short, 82% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 23% short, 66% adequate, 5% surplus. Statewide, the average temperature in December was 30.0 degrees, 0.01 degree above normal. Precipitation averaged 2.47 inches, 0.22 inch below normal.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture for the month of December was 6% very short, 19% short, 63% adequate, and 12% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 9% very short, 30% short, 54% adequate, and 7% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 2% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 52% good, and 10% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 31.8 degrees, 0.7 degree above normal for the month of December. Statewide average precipitation was 2.35 inches, 0.71 inch below normal. December was off to a mild start, but gradually became colder as the month progressed. Except for a relatively warm week in early December, average temperatures hovered around normal for most of the month. Precipitation levels were below normal for the month of December, but some rain and snow events towards the end of the month helped replenish soil moisture. Winter wheat conditions remained relatively unchanged from the previous month with 62 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition. Livestock were reported to be doing well despite enduring a severe cold snap toward the end of the December. Other activities for the month included equipment maintenance, construction projects, manure applications, grain hauling, and completion of paperwork.

IOWA: Weather conditions were normal for December until late in the month when an Arctic cold front swept across the State creating blizzard conditions with wind gusts of 45-55 mph and wind chills down to -40 degrees. Most cattle producers were well-prepared, although there were some cattle deaths. Some swine and poultry illnesses were also reported. There were frozen water sources, wells, and pipes due to a week of below-freezing temperatures. Grain movement was hindered briefly by heavy and blowing snow and high winds. Fieldwork activities early in the month included planting cover crops, bulldozing, applying fertilizer, and tilling. Soil moisture levels continue to be a concern due to below average precipitation as farmers look forward to the 2023 crop year.

KANSAS: For the week ending January 1, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 43% very short, 26% short, 29% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 47% very short, 34% short, 18% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 23% very poor, 26% poor, 32% fair, 17% good, 2% excellent.

KENTUCKY: For the month of December, Kentucky saw above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The State has now received below normal precipitation for four months straight. Despite the low totals, overall spatial drought coverage was reduced from November. Although temperatures for the month were mild overall, an arctic event during the week of Christmas brought extremely cold weather and snow with wind chills well below zero. Temperatures for the period averaged 39 degrees across the State, 1 degree above normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 3.55 inches Statewide, which was 0.66 inch below normal and 84% of normal. Drought stunted fall pasture growth causing many farmers to begin feeding hay early. For the month, hay supplies 5% very short, 22% short, 65% adequate, 8% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 57% good, 8% excellent. Condition of winter wheat 5% very poor, 7% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, 4% excellent. Tobacco stripping 82% complete.

LOUISIANA: For the week ending January 1, 2023, topsoil moisture 1% very short, 1% short, 38% adequate, 60% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 1% short, 62% adequate, 36% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of December were 18.0 days. December conditions for the State were filled with excessive rain and severe weather. Several days consisted of below freezing temperatures and encounters with flash flood events leaving some fields incapable of equipment activity. Sugarcane harvest continued through the month with extremely wet field conditions, many producers reported concerns from freeze damage. A stretch of very cold temperatures in late December injured or killed most unprotected vegetables and the freeze events offered significant burn to the wheat crop and winter forages for livestock grazing. Crawfish producers will soon begin harvest efforts.

MARYLAND: The month of December saw a mix of extremely cold temperatures throughout most of the month, with unseasonably high temperatures and freezing conditions during the last week of the month. Despite the weather fluctuations, small grains and livestock in the State were reported in good condition. Farmers are beginning to spread lime as land begins to dry out.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 10% short, 82% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 27% short, 65% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 2% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 51% good, 20% excellent. Precipitation for the month of December averaged 2.09 inches throughout the State, 0.16 inch below normal. Temperature for the month of December averaged 27.3 degrees, 2.5 degrees above normal. Approximately 52 percent of the State experienced abnormally dry conditions or worse, with 32 percent experiencing moderate drought and 10 percent experiencing severe drought conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor. The driest areas included the southeastern and thumb regions of the Lower Peninsula. Soil moisture in western counties in the Lower Peninsula remained high while mid and eastern counties continued to have opportunities to complete harvest activities, wheat plantings, fall tillage, or fertilizer and manure applications due to dry conditions. Blizzard conditions and extremely cold weather halted fieldwork across the State between December 23rd and 26th. Unusually warm weather followed and much of the snow cover melted away. Other activities for the month included tilling work, purchasing seed, preparing equipment for spring, and tending livestock.

MINNESOTA: The average temperature for the month of December was a few degrees cooler than normal across the State. This was largely due to a cold stretch between the 20th and 25th of the month, covering the State in average temperatures 15 to 25 degrees below normal. Snowfall accumulation for the month was higher than normal for December, with most regions receiving 5 to 15 more inches than usual. Snow cover as of December 29 was higher than usual, with much of the northern half of the State having at least 15 inches of snow on the ground. In the southern half of the State, snow cover ranged from about a foot in the north to about a half-foot in the south. No major livestock losses have been reported.

MISSISSIPPI: For the week ending January 1, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies were 1% very short, 5% short, 74% adequate, and 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 5% short, 74% adequate, and 21% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of December were 19.0 days. Conditions for most of December have been mild, but late December brought freezing winter conditions. Late freezing temperatures caused severe damage to winter wheat and cover crops in some areas. Livestock conditions decreased with the cold front and set back winter pastures dramatically. The cold front burned down rye grass and killed it in some cases which kept those producers from getting a start on early grazing. Plant leaves were yellow in most areas throughout the State with minimum growth. Overall, with a mix of cold and warm temperatures for the month of December, crop progress for Mississippi should increase with a consistent warmer weather pattern.

MISSOURI: For the week ending January 1, 2023. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 14% short, 76% adequate, and 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 33% short, 59% adequate, and 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 27% fair, 66% good, and 4% excellent. Statewide, precipitation averaged 2.37 inches for the month of December, 0.45 inch below average. Temperatures averaged 33 degrees, 0.1 degree above normal.

MONTANA: This report for Montana is for the entire month of December 2022. Topsoil moisture 19% very short, 27% short, 53% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 27% very short, 40% short, 32% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat - condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 67% fair, 16% good, 6% excellent. Winter wheat - wind damage 82% none, 13% light, 4% moderate, 1% heavy. Winter wheat - freeze and drought damage 77% none, 22% light, 1% moderate. Winter wheat - protectiveness of snow cover 1% very poor, 36% poor, 25% fair, 14% good, 24% excellent. Pasture and range - condition 24% very poor, 17% poor, 28% fair, 30% good, 1% excellent. Livestock grazing accessibility - 23% open, 37% difficult, 40% closed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed - cattle and calves 95% fed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed - sheep and lambs 88% fed. The month of December brought little precipitation and cool temperatures to Montana. Limited precipitation for the month did little to change drought conditions in the State. According to the US Drought Monitor published on December 29, 2022, 87.9 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions, unchanged from the end of the November. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 28.0 percent, compared to 21.2 percent at the end of November. Moderate drought was present across 24.8 percent of the State, down slightly from 26.2 percent at the end of November. Severe drought covered 22.9 percent of the State, down from last month's 25.0 percent and extreme drought was found in 12.2 percent of the State, down from last month's 15.5 percent.

NEBRASKA: For the week ending January 1, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 33% very short, 40% short, 27% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 39% very short, 44% short, 17% adequate, and 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 10% very poor, 26% poor, 46% fair, 16% good, and 2% excellent.

NEVADA: For the week ending January 1, 2023 - Days suitable for fieldwork 0.8. Topsoil moisture 25% short, 75% adequate. Subsoil moisture 30% short, 70% adequate. The US Drought Monitor shows 75% of the State in D2 and more than 24% in D3. Winter storms and snowpack buildup halted field work operations. Cattle are receiving supplemental feed.

NEW ENGLAND: New England States experienced very variable weather - cold days, snow, rain, and periods of warmth. Christmas Eve in some parts of New England was the coldest in nearly 50 years. High winds in the Boston and northern New England areas caused power outages, potentially forcing some residents to go without heat in below-freezing conditions. Snow changed to rain as 2022 ended. According to a New Hampshire reporter, most of the counties had 3 or more inches of snow on the ground after a stiff windstorm on December 23rd, 2022. Power outages happened a few times but came back on quickly. According to a Vermont reporter most of the counties received about 24 inches of snow in December, but recent heavy rain and above freezing temperatures has melted most of it. Large amounts of rainfall through the holidays have provided ample water for wells and flooded some lowlands. Some freezing and thawing, however not a lot of ice, so not much impact on winter kill to date. Farm activities varied in December and included combining corn and spreading manure (CT), shipping potato crops (ME), planning for the 2023 season (NH) harvesting some cold crops and seeding winter rye (RI). In Vermont, strong winds brought down trees on maple sap lines at tapping time which has delayed progress. Orchardists prepared for pruning apple trees and Christmas tree growers finished up their season. Fresh greens were sold at winter farmers markets. Farmers looking forward to 2023 and how they will deal with high input costs in crop production and changing weather patterns.

NEW JERSEY: The temperatures this month went from warm to below normal to warm again. In addition to the temperature fluctuations, there has been a significant amount of precipitation. Cover crops were growing with the warmer temperatures. Vegetable and herb growers were seeding in the greenhouses to start early plantings in late February or early March.

NEW MEXICO: This report for New Mexico is for the month of December 2022. Topsoil moisture 41% very short, 35% short, 23% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 42% very short, 35% short, 23% adequate. Corn harvested for grain 98%, 99% last year. Cotton harvested 85%, 99% last year. Onions planted 99%; emerged 95%. Pecans harvested 84%, 70% last year. Pecan condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 36% fair, 24% good, 38% excellent. Winter wheat condition, 22% poor, 58% fair, 19% good, 1% excellent. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 57%, 69% last year. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 49% fair, 34% good, 11% excellent. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 71%, 61% last year. Sheep and lambs condition 11% very poor, 31% poor, 38% fair, 19% good, 1% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 17% very short, 38% short, 41% adequate, 4% surplus. Stock water supplies 24% very short, 40% short, 36% adequate. Dry conditions prevailed across the State during the month of December and further depleted soil moisture supplies. Row crop harvest wrapped up in several areas. Compared to last year, cotton harvest at the end of the month was behind last year while pecan harvest was ahead of last year's progress. Comments from Union County noted little moisture received during the month was accompanied by high winds. Temperatures varied widely in the area with overnight lows dipping below zero. Other eastern counties noted conditions remained dry and monthly precipitation was minimal. Across the State, livestock were grazing recently seeded winter wheat fields and pasture grass where available. County reports noted reduced livestock numbers on wheat or pasture due to dry conditions. Winter wheat condition declined. Converted moisture totals during the past month ranged from no precipitation to approximately 4 inches. Significant precipitation was mostly confined to western and central counties. Most counties saw below average precipitation during December and remained below average for the year. Isolated areas in a few counties continued to register yearly rainfall accumulation at or below 50 percent of normal. Conversely, yearly precipitation for an area centered over portions of Catron, Cibola, and Socorro Counties totaled 200 percent of normal or more. Average temperatures during December were generally above normal except for a few northeastern counties that were at or below normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for December 27, exceptional drought (D4) continued its hold across a portion of land in Union County. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 3.6 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 14.8 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 23.2 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 51.2 percent. Drought free conditions covered 7.0 percent of the State.

NEW YORK: December weather had extremes with a few areas experiencing large temperature fluctuations. Some northern and southeastern parts of the State, including Long Island, experienced abnormally dry conditions according to the U.S. Drought monitor. Snowfall varied across the State with the northwestern parts experiencing record levels and sheets of ice on fields. For other parts of the State, snow was temporary with temperatures warming back up. There were no reports that livestock were impacted by the weather, however there was concern on the impact to honeybees. Vineyards began dormant pruning which will continue until the spring.

NORTH CAROLINA: For the week ending January 1, 2023 - Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 22% short, 57% adequate and 19% surplus. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 17% short, 59% adequate and 22% surplus. Barley condition 2% poor, 16% fair, 80% good and 2% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 17% short, 81% adequate and 1% surplus. Oat condition 1% poor, 21% fair, 77% good and 1% excellent. Pasture and range condition 4% very poor, 14% poor, 66% fair, 15% good and 1% excellent. Winter wheat condition 18% fair, 75% good and 7% excellent. December was mild and warm in the first half of the month followed by a cold wave around the Christmas holiday. The weather warmed up at the end of the month.

NORTH DAKOTA: For the week ending January 1, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 8% very short, 34% short, 52% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 10% very short, 41% short, 45% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 3% poor, 48% fair, 46% good, 2% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions, 1% very poor, 6% poor, 37% fair, 51% good, 5% excellent. Sheep and lamb conditions, 2% very poor, 5% poor, 39% fair, 47% good, 7% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies, 1% very short, 9% short, 87% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies, 2% very short, 16% short, 80% adequate, 2% surplus.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture for the month was 2% very short, 10% short, 65% adequate, 23% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 7% very short, 24% short, 61% adequate, 8% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 2% very poor, 8% poor, 37% fair, 46% good, 7% excellent. The Statewide average temperature was 32.5 degrees, 0.8 degree above normal. Precipitation averaged 1.79 inches Statewide, 1.13 inches below normal for December. Approximately 64 percent of the State experienced abnormally dry conditions or worse, with 43 percent experiencing moderate drought, according to the US Drought Monitor. After a near average few weeks of temperatures and precipitation, a widespread deep cold weather pattern developed on December 22 with high winds and sub-zero temperatures, which remained for several days. Above average temperatures returned after Christmas with abnormally warm temperatures across much of the State, which resulted in all snow cover melting. The wild temperature swings created stress for livestock, especially younger animals. While some damage to winter wheat was reported, crop conditions have remained stable for the month.

OKLAHOMA: For the month of December, rainfall totals averaged 1.86 inches throughout the State, with the East Central district recording the highest precipitation at 3.15 inches and the Panhandle district recording the lowest precipitation at 0.16 of an inch. According to the December 27th US Drought Monitor Report, 98 percent of the State was in the abnormally dry to exceptional drought category, up 3 percent from the previous year. Additionally, 90 percent of the State was in the moderate drought to exceptional drought category, unchanged from the previous year. Statewide temperatures averaged in the high 30's and low 40's, with the lowest recording of -7 degrees at Vinita on Thursday, December 22 and the highest recording of 83 degrees at Tipton on Monday, December 5. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to short.

OREGON: Moisture conditions throughout the State ranged from very wet to wet for December. However, the western part of Oregon was below normal for seasonal precipitation. Temperatures ranged from lower than normal to normal. Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties reported record low temperatures and flooding in low areas. In Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, berries had floral buds, and other agronomic crops were in good condition. Low temperatures affected some nursery container materials. Polk County reported normal conditions. Benton and Lincoln Counties reported cold conditions likely affected livestock. A snowstorm resulted in downed trees that contributed to power outages. Tillamook and Clatsop Counties reported very wet conditions. Fields were seeded, but growth was slow. Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties reported runoff due to freezing temperatures, resulting in isolated flooding of fields with diversion ditches full of standing water. Cattle started to calve, and no losses were reported due to the weather. Umatilla and Wallowa Counties reported runoff and erosion in some fields due to frost and high precipitation. Winter wheat was doing well, however, some winter wheat stands were late to emerge due to a lack of autumn precipitation, resulting in a lack of overall number of stands. Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties reported good rainfall, albeit below average. Malheur County reported snowpack and annual precipitation above

100 percent for both the Owyhee and Malheur River Basins. They still had a long way to go due to reservoirs being completely drained last crop season. Growers were hesitant to acquire seeds and other supplies for crops that require vast amounts of water, such as corn. Wheeler County reported good moisture conditions. However, erosion of fields was reported due to frozen soil.

PENNSYLVANIA: For the month of December, the State experienced fluctuating warm temperatures and little snowfall. There was an extreme cold snap followed by warmer than normal temperatures that allowed some farmers to finish up harvesting. The heavy rain followed by an extreme cold snap over Christmas has frozen the ground. That allowed a lot of manure to get spread but once it warms up it will be a long time until the fields are fit to work again. Fluctuating temperatures and humidity are not particularly healthy for cattle in the barn nor for tobacco hanging in the shed. Some tobacco was getting moldy tips from excessive moisture in the sheds.

SOUTH CAROLINA: December temperatures were 1.0 to 3.2 degrees cooler than historic averages depending on location. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 1.6 inches in Charleston County to 5.9 inches in Greenwood County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 51 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 32 percent at the beginning of the month. Harvest of cotton and soybeans continued throughout the month as conditions allowed. Planting of winter wheat also carried on into December, with emergence aided by sufficient rainfall in most areas. Freezing temperatures during the last part of December caused stress to livestock and damage to cool season small grain crops, with oats noted to have been damaged the most in the Lowcountry region.

SOUTH DAKOTA: For the week ending January 1, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 16% very short, 33% short, 48% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 24% very short, 38% short, 36% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 5% very poor, 16% poor, 63% fair, 16% good, and 0% excellent.

TENNESSEE: For the week ending January 1 - Days suitable 2.5. Topsoil moisture 6% short, 65% adequate, 29% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% short, 74% adequate, 20% surplus. Winter wheat condition 6% very poor, 18% poor, 36% fair, 35% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 8% very poor, 20% poor, 43% fair, 27% good, 2% excellent. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 37% fair, 49% good, and 8% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 2% very short, 23% short, 68% adequate, 7% surplus. Tennessee experienced variable weather with an extreme cold snap mid-December and then unseasonably warm temperatures to round out the end of the month. Cold temperatures placed considerable strain on wheat, pasture, cattle, and production infrastructure including pipes and pumps. Forage stockpiles have been negatively influenced throughout the season by low rainfall, frigid events, and minimal snow to mitigate the cold, dry air.

TEXAS: For the month of December, precipitation mostly ranged from trace amounts to upwards of 3 inches; however, isolated areas in Southeast Texas and the Upper Coast received between 8 to 15 inches of rainfall. Cotton harvest was nearly complete throughout the State. Pecan harvest continued in the Southern High Plains and the Cross Timbers. Citrus, sugarcane, and vegetables were being harvested in the Lower Valley. Small grains seeding was nearing completion; however, development was behind normal in some areas due to cold, wet weather conditions. Range and pasture conditions were rated 67 percent poor to fair. Supplemental feeding continued Statewide.

UTAH: This report for Utah is for the entire month of December 2022. Topsoil moisture 7% short, 65% adequate, 28% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% short, 65% adequate, 27% surplus. Pasture and range condition 11% very poor, 17% poor, 70% fair, 2% good. Winter wheat condition 10% poor, 22% fair, 58% good, 10% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 18% short, 82% adequate. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 17% short, 79% adequate, 3% surplus. Cattle and calves condition 1% poor, 15% fair, 71% good, 13% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 6% poor, 34% fair, 57% good, 3% excellent. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 60%. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 50%. Cows calved 1%. Ewes lambed-farm flock 1%. As of January 1, 2023, snowpack in Utah was 170 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 3% short, 82% adequate, 15% surplus for week ending January 1, 2023. Subsoil moisture 3% short, 97% adequate for week ending January 1, 2023. Winter wheat condition 3% poor, 14% fair, 78% good, 5% excellent. Barley condition 1% poor, 13% fair, 83% good, 3% excellent. Livestock condition 4% poor, 27% fair, 64% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 14% poor, 40% fair, 43% good, 3% excellent. Hay supplies 1% very short, 16% short, 82% adequate, 1% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 16%. Virginia experienced below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation in December. The State experienced freezing rain and very cold

temperatures from Winter Storm Elliott which has caused stress on pastures and hay supplies and resulted in increased feeding of hay and silage for livestock. Hay and roughage supplies are mostly adequate to short. Primary activities for the month include equipment maintenance and purchasing seed and fertilizer.

WASHINGTON: Central Washington experienced low temperatures during December. In Klickitat and Yakima Counties, the ground had been covered in snow for about a month. Cattle were fed on winter ground. In Benton County, the weather through crop producing areas dropped into the single digits in the early morning hours. Perennial crops were dormant, and no orchard or agricultural activities were observed. Northeast Washington also saw a lot of snowfall in December. In Stevens County, there was one week of below freezing temperatures. There were no reports of flooding or livestock issues. Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties also saw snow, but it was not as cold. In the heart of Washington, an arctic blast swept through and caused sub-zero temperatures. This was followed by freezing rain and snow, which caused slick conditions. In Adams and Lincoln Counties, winter wheat was in mostly good to excellent condition, despite the weather. In southeast Washington, most counties saw above average snowfall. In Asotin and Garfield Counties, there were a few days of below-zero temperatures, and some livestock losses were reported. Most crops were snow covered, which should help limit crop loss.

WEST VIRGINIA: For the week ending January 1, Topsoil moisture 4% short, 78% adequate, and 18% surplus. Subsoil moisture 7% short, 80% adequate, and 13% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 8% short, 88% adequate, and 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 5% short and 95% adequate. Winter wheat condition 47% fair, 51% good, and 2% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 3% poor, 38% fair, 52% good, and 7% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 1% poor, 35% fair, 60% good, and 4% excellent. Weather conditions for the month have been wet with rain and snow, along with a mix of warm and very cold temperatures. Freezing temperatures caused some calf losses. Farming activities for the month included checking on livestock and planning for the next growing season.

WISCONSIN: December began with some farmers still harvesting their corn crop. Snowfall early in the month brought an end to the harvest leaving a few fields unharvested but providing good cover for overwintered crops. For the month, precipitation was 0.9 inch above normal. The average temperature for December was 0.3 degree above normal, but this masked some wide temperature swings. The storm system of December 22 brought snow, bitter wind, and temperatures well below normal. It was followed by unusually warm temperatures the last week of the month, which melted the snow in many parts of the State leaving some concern about damage to the alfalfa and wheat crops. The sharp swing in temperatures also brought concerns about respiratory illnesses in young livestock.

WYOMING: This report for Wyoming is for the entire month of December 2022. Topsoil moisture 23% very short, 33% short, 43% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 38% very short, 28% short, 33% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 20% poor, 66% fair, 9% good, 1% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, 4% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 82% good, 2% excellent. Stock water supplies 6% very short, 17% short, 72% adequate, 4% surplus. Pasture and range condition 4% very poor, 16% poor, 29% fair, 48% good, 3% surplus. Wyoming received little relief from the ongoing drought conditions during the month of December. Precipitation levels were slightly above normal in most of the northeast and southwest, while northwestern, southeastern and far southwestern portions of the State saw less than normal amounts of precipitation. Temperatures ran below normal for most of the State. Portions of northern and west-central Wyoming saw temperatures as much as 6 to 8 degrees below average. Some snow fall was reported over the last month in Washakie and Hot Springs Counties where grazing conditions were still fair to good. Reports in Lincoln County indicated significant rain and snowfall with much needed moisture and tolerable temperatures during December. According to the United States Drought Monitor for December 29, 2022, the amount of land rated as drought free was 25.6 percent, compared to 25.7 percent on December 1. The amount of land rated abnormally dry improved somewhat to 20.8 percent compared to 18.4 percent on December 1. Moderate drought was found in 25.0 percent of Wyoming, compared to 27.3 percent on December 1. Severe and extreme conditions remained constant since December 1 at 22.1 and 6.5 percent, respectively.

Statistical Methodology

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

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@usda.gov

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Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds	(202) 720-7369
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