



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: The month of February provided mild temperatures and some much needed rainfall throughout Alabama. Total precipitation for the month ranged from 4.01 inches in Muscle Shoals to 22.96 inches in Geneva. The average mean temperature over the past month ranged from 42.3°F in Crossville to 56.5°F in Mobile. According to the US Drought Monitor released on February 19, 2013, 65.28 percent of the State was experiencing drought conditions compared to 43.32 percent approximately a month ago. James Pitts, Director of the Chilton Area Horticulture Substation, stated recent cool temperatures and wet weather helped the peach crop though many producers were still concerned about the lack of chilling hours. Jeffrey Smith, FSA CED, said winter wheat was in good condition, and farmers were adding nitrogen and topdressing the winter wheat crop. Carol Gay, FSA CED, reported cattle sales were down, but prices were still good.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures fluctuated from normal in the first week of February, to mostly above normal in the second week, below normal in the third week and mostly below normal for the last week. Highest temperatures were in the 80's during the month. Lowest temperature of the month at -11 degrees in the Grand Canyon occurred in the third week. The last week of February had a surprise not seen in 50 years. Snow in the middle of the week in Tucson, the cactus was covered in snow along the I-10 corridor from Tucson to Phoenix. Much needed precipitation fell in the beginning of the month and continued throughout February. More precipitation is needed to help drought conditions. Pasture areas are in poor to good condition, depending on location. Durum Wheat and Barley plantings were complete by February. Alfalfa harvesting was active on about three-quarters the fields and sheeping off continued on various alfalfa fields across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: February began with normal to above normal reported temperatures, but temperatures were somewhat below normal near the end of the month. Several winter storms occurred throughout the month bringing severe weather to many parts of the State. Precipitation reports were mostly above normal near the end of the month. Major field activities included applying fertilizers and pesticides to winter wheat and applying burn-down herbicides. Livestock producers continued feeding hay. Increased rainfall helped improve pasture conditions weakened by drought.

CALIFORNIA: Precipitation continued to lag behind normal during February. Temperatures were generally lower than normal also, except in coastal regions. Wheat, barley and winter forage crops continued to grow. Fertilizer and herbicide applications were being applied. Weather conditions slightly slowed crop development. Producers began irrigating winter grains earlier than usual, and dry land crops need additional rainfall to sustain their growth. Seasonal pruning and spraying continued for grapes, olives, kiwis, and nut orchards. Orchards were irrigated to compensate for lack of significant rain. Harvest continued for oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and other citrus crops. Freeze damage from January has been minimal in harvested citrus. Early stone fruit varieties started to bloom, buds continued to develop on later varieties. Strawberries and blueberries were developing with the warmer temperatures. Bloom began in almond orchards. Harvest of winter vegetables including beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, daikon, herbs, choys, chards and kales were in full swing. Fall planted garlic and onions were growing well. In Tulare County, the first planting of summer vegetables has been delayed this year. Field activities for spring and summer vegetables included pre-irrigation, cultivation, bed formation, application of pre-emergent herbicides, and early planting. Spring lettuce, mustard greens, and broccoli rabe were emerging and reported growing nicely. Range and pasture were in fair condition across most of the State, but more precipitation is needed to sustain grass growth. Coastal pasture remained excellent. Sheep and cattle grazed on idle fields, dry land grain and alfalfa fields. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Hives were placed in blueberry, almond, plum and apricot orchards for pollination. Out-of-state hives continued to be brought in to meet the demand for pollinators. Bees were active in the San Joaquin Valley by the end of the month.

COLORADO: Most areas of the State received normal to above normal precipitation during February. The eastern plains region received much needed moisture from snow storms the last half of February. Higher elevations also received significant snowfall during the month. Statewide, the mountain snowpack is currently 74% of average, up from 61% a month ago. Temperatures were above normal the first half of the month for most areas, but below normal during the 3rd week. The winter wheat crop remains dormant under recent snow cover in mostly poor to fair condition. Generally, soil moisture ratings continue as mostly short to very short.

DELAWARE: Mixed winter temperatures during the month. Rain and snow in northern Delaware, rain in rest of the State. Soil moisture levels remain mostly adequate throughout the State. Due to the cold weather, very little early nitrogen application has occurred on small grains or pasture. Hay supplies were mostly adequate. Pasture conditions are fair. Winter wheat is in good condition. Farmers also took time to attend agricultural conventions.

FLORIDA: Early part of month Florida experienced significantly below normal rainfall. Field and vegetable crops were in dire need of rain. High temperatures for the month were in the mid 70s to low 80s. Lows reached the upper 20's in northern areas, but no damage was reported. Rainfall was sparse, worsening the drought conditions in all of the citrus producing regions, except for a small, drought free band that extends across the State. Harvesting of early and mid oranges was winding to a close, while harvesting of grapefruit, tangelos, and tangerines continued and the late season orange harvest began. Harvesting, mowing, and general grove maintenance were primary grove activities. Sugarcane harvesting continued on schedule. Seasonal soil preparation for spring vegetable planting continued. Plastic was laid for tomato crops in Gadsden County. Strawberries were harvested in Bradford County. Harvesting of winter vegetables and replanting of okra, sunflowers, and sweet potatoes in Miami-Dade County. Freezing temperatures caused fruit and vegetable farmers to take precautions to limit damage to crops. Strawberry damage was minimal due to the cold temperatures. Late blight caused problems on tomatoes. Vegetables marketed bell peppers, celery, cucumbers, green beans, hot peppers, tomatoes, squash, sweet corn, eggplants and a variety of specialty items and herbs. Pasture conditions mostly fair to poor. Dry, cold weather limited pasture growth, rain later in month was much needed. Cattle condition mostly fair to good.

GEORGIA: The month of February started with temperatures below normal and ended with temperatures above normal. Precipitation was near or above normal for most areas. Rains have given Georgia some relief from the drought conditions. Statewide, soil temperatures are averaging from the low 50s to lower 60s. Other activities included deciding on seed varieties, preparing equipment, fixing erosion in fields as conditions allowed, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

HAWAII: The month of February began with approximately 71 percent of the State rated as abnormally dry or drier according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Throughout the month, several storm systems passed through the islands dropping large quantities of precipitation over brief periods of time. These heavy showers resulted in several flash flood warnings being issued within the various counties throughout the month. While storm systems were absent, typical trade wind weather prevailed with intermittent overcast skies and average daytime high temperatures in the mid eighties. Rainfall events near the end of the month were severe enough to cause flooding and washed out fields on some windward areas on the islands of Hawaii and Maui. As the month of February comes to a close, State irrigation reservoirs are filled to capacity, and overall drought conditions have decreased by 11 percentage points. Weekly summaries follow. During the first week in February, a large front brought heavy rains to many areas across the State early in the week, also triggering flash flood warnings in Honolulu and Maui Counties. The latter half of the week was marked by typical trade wind systems, with conditions fluctuating between overcast and clear. Daytime high temperatures were in the upper seventies to low eighties for most areas. The average weekly total rainfall across the State was 1.67 inches. The second week brought heavy rains to most areas across the State midweek. During the remainder of the week, trade winds blew steadily from the north east, and conditions fluctuated between overcast and clear with light passing showers. Daytime high temperatures were in the mid to low eighties for most areas. The average weekly total rainfall across the State was 1.44 inches, the majority of which fell on the Island of Hawaii. Most crops and pastures in areas which received rain this week are growing normally. Pastures in many areas were observably greener this week compared to the past several weeks. Weather during the third week in Hawaii consisted of gusty trade winds with light passing showers in most areas. Heavy rains fell on windward areas of the Island of Hawaii towards the end of the week. Most other areas across the State experienced only light showers. A high pressure system to the north of the Hawaiian Islands created strong trade winds which were gusty enough to issue wind advisories towards the end of the week. Daytime high temperatures were in the mid to low eighties for most areas. The average weekly total rainfall across the State was 0.73 inch, the majority of which

fell on the Island of Hawaii at the end of the week. Most crops and pastures in areas which received precipitation over the past several weeks are growing normally. Pastures in many areas were observably greener. Recent heavy rainfall has recharged State irrigation reservoirs and brought them to their holding capacities. The final week in February brought large quantities of rainfall to many areas. Flash flood warnings were issued for Hawaii, Maui and Honolulu Counties. Blustery trade winds with occasionally stronger gusts resulted in an average weekly total rainfall across the State of 4.14 inches. Flooding and damage fields and roadways were reported in Maui and Hawaii Counties. Some windward locations on the Big Island recorded daily rainfall totals of greater than 5 inches. Increased day length and precipitation have spurred growth of crops in areas that were not damaged by excessive rainfall. Pastures in many areas are visibly greener, however pastures located in leeward areas of Hawaii and Maui Counties continue remain very dry and received little of the recent rainfall.

IDAHO: Calving complete 38%, 29% 2012, 36% avg. Lambing complete 38%, 35% 2012, 37% avg. Hay and roughage supply 0% very short, 50% short, 44% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 27% fair, 57% good, 15% excellent.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 18% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 15% very short, 43% short, 42% adequate. For the month of February, temperatures averaged 28.7 degrees, -0.6 degrees below normal. Precipitation was also above normal with an average of 1.90 inches, 0.26 inches above normal. Winter Wheat was rated as 2% poor, 29% fair, 61% good, and 8% excellent. The mild winter continued until the end of the week, when strong winter storms covered most of the State. Around the State, farmers with spring calving herds have started their calving season, while other farmers are moving some corn and beans to market, adding fertilizer applications, working on taxes, attending seminars and preparing machinery and equipment for spring planting.

INDIANA: The weather during February has been colder and drier than normal in Indiana. Temperatures through the 24th of the month have averaged 29.0o which is 0.7o below normal. The State received an average of 1.19 inches of precipitation which was just 62 percent of normal. East central and southeastern counties have received the least precipitation thus far in February at approximately 46 percent of normal. Winter wheat remains in mostly good condition with some farmers making nitrogen applications as soil conditions permit. Lack of snow cover during some of the coldest temperatures is causing some concern for the winter wheat crop. Hay supplies are mostly adequate but are beginning to get a little short in areas that were excessively dry last summer. Other activities included preparing tillage and planting equipment, income tax preparations, spreading fertilizer and lime, clearing fence rows, purchasing inputs for 2013 crops, repairing and installing drainage tile, hauling grain to market and tending to livestock.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture levels rated 45% very short, 41% short, 13% adequate, and 1% surplus. A winter storm delivered 6 to 7 inches of snow to parts of the State on February 21, but the average depth of snow cover was only 3 inches. Soil moisture shortages remain the major concern for farmers as the growing season approaches. High cash rents and input prices are also a concern. Grain movement from farms to elevators was slow, rating 47% none, 38% light, 13% moderate, and 2% heavy. Cattle and hog losses were rated mostly average to below average. Hay and roughage supplies are rated at 50% short, 49% adequate, and 1% surplus. Hay and roughage quality rated 23% poor, 46% fair, and 31% good.

KANSAS: Days Suitable for field work was 11.6 days. Topsoil moisture 27% very short, 34% short, 36% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil Moisture 54% very short, 35% short, 11% adequate, and 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 12% very poor, 24% poor, 41% fair, 22% good, and 1% excellent; wind damage 83% none, 13% light, 3% moderate, and 1% severe; freeze damage 86% none, 10% light, 3% moderate, and 1% severe. Range and Pasture condition 53% very poor, 30% poor, 15% fair, 2% good, and 0% excellent. Feed grain supplies 22% very short, 25% short, 52% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 35% very short, 37% short, 27% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 48% very short, 30% short, 22% adequate, 0% surplus. Snow brought much needed moisture throughout the State at the end of February. All 53 stations received trace amounts of moisture, with Johnson reporting 0.19 inches for the lowest and Lawrence reporting 2.69 inches for the highest. Temperatures varied widely during the month with a low of -4 degrees at Alton to a high of 73 in Ashland. There were 11.6 days suitable for field work, compared to 14 days a year ago. The precipitation was welcomed to start replenishment of stock water supplies, especially with the beginning of spring calving season upon us. Operators are hopeful the recent moisture will help improve grass conditions since they have been stretching their stored feed supplies.

KENTUCKY: The Commonwealth experienced mixed weather conditions during February. The State recorded temperatures from near normal to unseasonably warm. Except for the first week of February which saw above normal rainfall, precipitation for the remainder of the month was below normal. A weather system moving in from the west is expected to bring needed precipitation to end the month. Farmers were kept busy tending to their livestock and performing routine equipment maintenance. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the State. Farmers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2013 crop season.

LOUISIANA: The State averaged 5.75 inches of rain over the last four weeks. Field crop producers prepared fields for spring planting as weather conditions permitted and continued to repair equipment. Strawberry producers took precautions to avoid any major freeze damage. Livestock producers continued to feed hay. Crawfish producers continued to put out traps for harvest.

MARYLAND: Mixed winter temperatures during the month. A wintery mix continues in western and north central Maryland, and rain in the rest of the State. Soil moisture levels remain mostly adequate throughout the State. Hay supplies were mostly adequate; however Hay has been brought in from out of State to meet demand on the lower eastern shore. Pasture conditions are fair to good. Winter wheat is in good condition. Farmers also took time to attend agricultural conventions.

MICHIGAN: The temperature throughout the State has varied for the month of February. There have been cold days, warm days, snow, sleet, and rain reported throughout the State. The varying weather has been stressful on livestock. The amount of snow cover for winter wheat varied based on the region. Some areas reported adequate snow cover, while others reported minimal amounts of snow cover. Wheat condition is mostly rated fair to good. Sugarbeet processing continues.

MINNESOTA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

MISSISSIPPI: The average temperature for the beginning of February was around 60 degrees, warmer than the historic average. Heavy rains during the month left soil saturated. The Delta Farm Press reported that winter wheat is currently in the ground and subject to the adverse effects of flooding. Reports indicate that many winter wheat fields have been flooded for varying periods in January. Not surprisingly, there is considerable concern about the impact that flooding or waterlogging will have on the 2013 winter wheat crop.

MISSOURI: February was drier than normal with near normal temperatures. On February 20th and 21st a winter storm across central and northern part of the State left heavy snowfall with some areas receiving over 10 inches of snow. The southern part of the State received rain, freezing rain, and sleet from the storm. Average temperatures were 1 degree below normal to 2 degrees above normal. The southern part of the State received rain, freezing rain, and sleet from the storm. Precipitation averaged 1.95 inches compared to the 30 year average of 2.27 inches. The southeast district received 3.28 inches of precipitation in February. The condition of the dormant winter wheat crop ranges from fair to excellent with the majority rated good. Stock water supplies continue to be short across portions of the State. The majority of hay supplies are adequate as warmer weather has reduced the amount of hay fed.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 15% very short, 14% last year; 30% short, 39% last year; 51% adequate, 46% last year; 4% surplus, 1% last year. Subsoil moisture 25% very short, 14% last year; 35% short, 38% last year; 39% adequate, 44% last year; 1% surplus, 4% last year. Livestock grazing 45% open, 63% last year; 22% difficult, 18% last year; 33% closed, 19% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle 98%, 91% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep 98%, 91% last year. Livestock birthing – calving complete 16%, 14% last year. Livestock birthing – lambing complete 8%, 6% last year. The month of February brought a mix of warmer temperatures and snow showers across Montana. Average low temperatures were the lower 20s to mid 30s at most reporting stations. Neihart received the largest amount of precipitation for the month with 1.67 inches of moisture and most other stations saw 0.01 to 0.82 of an inch of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the upper 30s to upper 50s, with the state-wide high temperature of 59 degrees recorded in Hamilton and Hysham. The coldest reported low of -25 degrees was recorded in West Yellowstone followed by Cooke City and Plentywood with -24 degrees.

NEBRASKA: Wheat conditions rated 14% very poor, 36 poor, 38 fair, 12 good, and 0 excellent. Hay and forage supplies rated 11% very short, 38 short, 51 adequate, and 0 excellent. Cattle and Calves condition rated 0% very poor, 2 poor, 16 fair, 78 good and 4 excellent. Percent cows calved since January 1, 18%. For the month of February 2013, snow fall

across the eastern two thirds of the State brought much needed moisture to drought impacted areas. Snow accumulations were heaviest in the Southwest and South Central Districts with some areas exceeding 12 inches of snow. However, the Panhandle received only limited amounts of precipitation for the month. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels with most of the crop rated fair to poor. Cattle are in mostly good condition with calving underway. Cattle made good use of stalks until snows fell during the third week of the month, causing producers to rely on feed stocks. Temperatures averaged 1 degree below normal across the southern Panhandle and portions of the southeast. Most of the remainder of the State was 1-3 degrees above normal. Precipitation was above normal in the central third of the State while the western and eastern thirds were mostly below normal. Snow depth averaged 6 inches across the State with 9-10 inches common in Southwestern and South Central Districts. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 28 to 34 degrees.

NEVADA: Temperatures warmed a bit early in February before returning to the below-normal pattern that has characterized the season. Precipitation totals were below normal in nearly all areas and parts of the West and South received only traces. Snow accumulations in the principal watersheds of northern and central Nevada fell behind normal but ranging about 75% to 90% of the long term average. The Bureau of Land Management began meetings for contingency planning in case of drought. Different scenarios of grazing restrictions are being considered. Some fields were plowed in preparation of the growing season and some pre-emergent herbicides were applied. Potato processing was on going. Greenhouse production was active in the South. Onion shipments from storages were waning. Main farm and ranch activities included early field preparation, equipment maintenance, feeding and doctoring livestock.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures during February were generally average in the northern States but below average in the southern States. Several snow storms blanketed the region during the month. Concord, New Hampshire reported the third snowiest February in history. Monthly precipitation totals were above normal in parts of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The month began with average to above average temperatures across the northern tier States and below normal temperature across the southern States. A winter storm hit the region on February 8-9, bringing cold temperatures and heavy snow fall. Total precipitation ranged from just over a half inch in Vermont to over 1.60 inches in Connecticut. Temperatures warmed during the week ending February 17, with weekly average high temperatures in the low 40's in the southern States and mid-30's in the northern States. Most areas received some precipitation during the week with the highest amount recorded in Maine, with 0.90 inches, while Vermont received less than 0.1 inch. Daytime temperatures returned to average levels during the week ending February 24, but nighttime temperatures were generally above normal throughout the region. Most areas received some precipitation on February 19-20 and then another winter storm hit the region during the weekend. By week's end, the largest precipitation totals were recorded in Rhode Island, with 1.38 inches, Maine, with 1.52 inches, and Massachusetts, with 2.10 inches.

NEW JERSEY: By mid-winter standards, January 2013 was not an exceedingly memorable one in the New Jersey weather and climate annals. But like every month, there were certainly events worthy of mention. This included the State's coldest week since 2007 and a surge of warmth late in the month that was broken by a squall line with strong winds and heavy rain. Statewide, the January temperature averaged 33.7°, which is 2.5° above average. This ranks as the 27th mildest January since 1895 (119 years). Of the past 24 months, only one (November 2012) has averaged below normal. Going back a bit further, since March 2010, 30 of the past 35 months have been above average, one month was exactly average, and four months were below average. The first three weeks of the month were mostly on the mild side. On five of the first 20 days, one or more station topped out at 55° or higher. Cape May Courthouse (Cape May County) got to 59° on the 9th, when Woodbine (Cape May) and Egg Harbor Township (Atlantic) reached 57°. Greenwich (Cumberland) was 55° on the 12th and Berkeley Township (Ocean) 56° on the 13th. The 14th saw Egg Harbor Township at 60°, eight other stations in the 54 station NJ Weather and Climate Network reach 59° and nine at 58°. Five stations reached 58° and seven got to 57° on the 20th.

NEW MEXICO: February began with temperatures slightly above average from spotty rains and snow showers, to gusty winds greater than 45 mph. Above average temperatures were in the central and southeast part of the State. Snow showers along the central mountain chain at elevations of 8,000 feet or higher and rain below 8,000 feet. Very gusty winds across much of the eastern plains. In the second week, temperatures were a little below normal to 7 degrees above normal over the eastern plains. The State continued to be dry with very little precipitation over the northwest. In the third week, an early week storm brought snowfall over the northern and southern central mountain areas. Despite late week warming, temperatures were a few to several degrees below normal overall for mid February. In the fourth week, average temperatures across the State were below normal. Much of the State received precipitation in the form of snow as multiple

systems crossed New Mexico. Growers were transplanting onions and ground preparation was taking place for field crops. Pecan trees were being pruned and new pecan trees were planted. Winter forage crops starting to get green.

NEW YORK: Outside activities and daily chores continued. Temperatures ranged from below zero to the upper 40's. There was one nor'easter snow storm in the beginning of the month. Scattered snow showers and lake effect snow throughout the month. Producers were kept busy repairing machinery and removing snow when needed. Major activities included caring for livestock, spreading manure, grading and packing potatoes, onions, apples and cabbage. Winter meetings and trade shows were well attended.

NORTH CAROLINA: There were 2.5 days suitable for field work for week ending February 24th, compared to 3.1 days for week ending January 28th. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 3% short, 49% adequate and 48% surplus. Much of the State received over 2 inches of rain during the week with several areas receiving over 3 inches. Many areas of the State are slowly recovering from dry conditions due to the rainfall. Average temperatures for this past week were slightly below normal with low temperatures ranging from 8 to 24 degrees. Tobacco growers are beginning to seed greenhouses in preparation for this year's crop. Vegetable planting is gearing up as well. Other main farm duties were tending to livestock, general farm maintenance and marketing grain.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth was 7.0 on February 24. Hay and forage supplies were 1% very short, 16% short, 78% adequate, 5% surplus. Snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 48% poor, 32% adequate, 20% excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat was rated 26% poor, 47% adequate, 27% excellent. Cattle condition 2% poor, 17% fair, 68% good, 13% excellent. Sheep condition 3% poor, 17% fair, 69% good, 11% excellent. Road conditions 92% open, 7% difficult, 1% closed. Twelve percent were drifted, 15% icy, 2% muddy, 71% dry. Snowfall in February was primarily received in the eastern areas of the State while dry conditions remained in the southwest. February agricultural activities included feeding and selling of livestock, calving, lambing, hauling grain and purchasing seed.

OHIO: The February 2013 average temperature for Ohio was 28.0 degrees, 1.3 degrees below normal. Precipitation for the State averaged 0.93 inches, 1.02 inches below normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that the crop is in good condition. Early-planted acreage looks much better than late-planted acreage. There was some snow-cover in February, but flooding is insignificant so far this year. Cattle are in good to excellent condition. Hay inventories are low, but an increase of supply at auctions has brought the price down slightly. Barring a longer than expected winter, hay inventories should be adequate enough to last until spring.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 24% very short, 31% short, 43% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 66% very short, 25% short, 9% adequate. Wheat 19% very poor, 35% poor, 37% fair, 9% good; grazed 26% this month, 45% last year, 36% average. Canola 27% very poor, 30% poor, 40% fair, 3% good. Rye 26% very poor, 23% poor, 46% fair, 5% good; grazed 37% this month, 70% last year, 64% average. Oats 39% very poor, 27% poor, 27% fair, 7% good; grazed 14% this month, 42% last year, 19% average. Livestock 4% very poor, 18% poor, 48% fair, 28% good, 2% excellent. Pasture and Range 46% very poor, 36% poor, 15% fair, 3% good. Multiple rain and snow events throughout February, provided improvements to soil moisture conditions. Precipitation totals for the month to date averaged 2.13 inches for the State. Although the precipitation for the last 30 days has been above normal, statewide precipitation for the period since September 1st was only 63 percent of normal, ranging from 55 percent of normal in the North Central district to 77 percent of normal in the Panhandle. There was a small increase in the amount of the crop being grazed, though grazing was reported to be significantly less than normal. Pasture condition ratings have not yet shown significant improvements, though some areas have reported new growth in winter forage from the last few snow and rain events. Overall some recharge of ponds and lakes has occurred, but water levels are still very low.

OREGON: All parts of the State experienced below normal precipitation while a slight majority of stations reported above normal temperatures this February. High temperatures ranged from 49 degrees in Baker City to 69 degrees in Medford. Low temperatures ranged from 32 degrees in Roseburg & Bandon down to 6 degrees in Agency Lake & Klamath Falls. Twenty-five of the forty-one stations reported above normal temperatures; most stations that reported below normal temperature were in the southwestern region. All stations in the State reported below normal precipitation. Total precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) varied from 0.03 of an inch in Condon to 4.8 inches at Detroit Lake. Less than half of the State did receive snowfall, as 30 stations of 70 reported snowfall but only 14 of these 39 stations still have measurable snow on ground at the end of the month. There are concerns about water supply for Klamath County. It was still very cold for February. Snow accumulation is about 75 percent of average in the mountains. Cold weather &

expensive feed are affecting livestock producers negatively. Potatoes growers, strawberry growers, those needing to do tillage all were not able to do any farming. Ground froze & was very solid. No vegetation growing at all. In Douglas County, pruning in vineyards & orchards was near completion due to the nice weather during the past few weeks. Herbicide spraying also took place on most farms. Pasture & cover crops look very good with the good sunshine during February & minimal standing water. Very cold month in Josephine County Nighttime temperatures were at high of 50 degrees, occurring for five days in the month. Morning temperatures for 20 days were below freezing, with a low of 24 degrees. Main activities were mostly pruning & turning soil. The area had wind & prevailing fog throughout the month. Wheat & grass seed varieties looked good in Lane County. Some areas have heavy slug pressure. Most wheat fields were being sprayed & fertilized. Orchard grass & Fescues were also being fertilized. It was still too cold for planting even though there were weather breaks. Average temperatures were still cool, with 43 degrees in the day & 35 degrees in the evening. Blueberry, peach, & prune buds were breaking. Prunes were very close to pre white. Lawns were growing quite well with lots of moss this year. Pruning will finish soon. Washington County Filbert catkins were long & strong for the month. Filbert growers were almost done pruning their orchards. Grass for seed fields were fertilized & baited for slugs. Flooding has subsided. Planting for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was going along the Tualatin River & its tributaries. Even though weather for Yamhill County has been drier than normal, the County has still seen limited field work. Some replanting of winter wheat took place but early reports were that it wasn't doing very well. The winter wheat being replanted was that planted in the latter half of November, just before or just as the rains were hitting that chased everyone out of the fields for the winter. Slug damage & vole damage have been reported, however the drier weather has given the farmers a great opportunity to bait for both. Wasco County growers are worried about the unusual warm weather that past few weeks. There were warmer than normal temperatures for mid-February. Tulips were coming up in The Dalles! No Sherman County fieldwork yet, but the weather has turned enough such that the area went from being 1.5 inches over normal precipitation in December to about a quarter of inch behind in February. February is supposed to be the wettest period for the area. Growers were well aware that it hasn't rained & hoping for improved moisture through June. Winter wheat crop looks decent at this time for the area. Gilliam County had dry weather in January that was followed by a dry weather in February.

PENNSYLVANIA: Temperatures and weather conditions have been slightly cooler for Pennsylvania in the month of February. The State received precipitation in the form of rain, sleet and snow during the month, with the majority of the snowfall happening on the 13th of the month. Principal farm activities for the month of February included hauling manure, pruning fruit trees, and performing equipment maintenance. Early February began with slightly below average temperatures. The Harrisburg area received 3.5 inches of snow or ice throughout February. The average high temperature was 37.5 degrees and the average low was 24 degrees. February 15th was the warmest day of the month, with a high at 51 degrees. The lowest temperature of the month was 16 degrees, which happened on February 2nd. The average temperature for the month was 30.8 degrees, which is 1.5 degrees below normal.

SOUTH CAROLINA: February began with a dusting of snow early Friday morning at Caesars Head. The State's warmest location on Friday went to Edisto Island with 59 degrees. Cold westerly winds ushered in freezing air for the weekend. Minimum temperatures on Saturday fell to 17 degrees at Pelion and Ninety Nine Islands. Walhalla's high temperature only rose to 36 degrees. Fast-moving areas of precipitation rolled over the high elevation counties with measurable snow on Saturday night. On Sunday morning, Mountain Rest had measured 3.0 inches and Long Creek reported 2.0 inches. Mostly sunny, windy conditions were observed on Sunday afternoon. The thermometers at Florence, Sandhill and Aiken indicated a high temperature of 59 degrees. The lowest official temperature reported was 15 degrees at Chesnee on February 2. On the first Monday morning in February, the low temperature at Dillon dropped to 21 degrees. Chester and Clinton reported an afternoon high temperature of just 47 degrees while Charleston and Barnwell reached 58 degrees. After another frosty sunrise on Tuesday, warming southwest winds began to overspread the State. Kingstree and Orangeburg warmed to 70 degrees. Sunny, mild weather was observed on Wednesday. The thermometer at Allendale and Charleston indicated an afternoon high temperature of 75 degrees. Rains entered the State on Thursday from the southwest. Parts of west central South Carolina and eastward into the Pee Dee received a welcomed soaking into Friday morning. Some of the heaviest totals included 2.59 inches at Blackville, 2.45 inches at Allendale, 2.27 inches at Orangeburg, and 1.80 inches at Darlington. Clearing skies on Friday afternoon made way for colder, drier air on Saturday. A hard freeze of 25 degrees was recorded at Walhalla, Rock Hill and Cedar Creek. While clouds began increasing on Sunday, Sullivan's Island reached a mild 69 degrees. Sunday evening rains moved eastward from the mountains into the Lowcountry. The highest official temperature reported was 76 degrees at Witherbee on February 6. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.70 inches at Aiken and Barnwell on February 8. The State average rainfall for the week

was 1.6 inches. At 900 a.m. on Monday morning, February 11, "heavy rain" was falling at Orangeburg and only an hour later, Charleston and Beaufort also noted "heavy rain." The McEntire ANG AP and Hartsville both reached a Monday afternoon high temperature of 70 degrees. More soaking rains were observed on Tuesday for the Lowcountry. Edisto Island measured a 24-hour rainfall of 2.10 inches. For the third calendar day, Charleston reported "heavy rain" Wednesday morning. Sullivan's Island measured a 24-hour rainfall of 3.12 inches. Rock Hill's afternoon temperature of just 48 degrees was 28 degrees colder than the high temperature at Beaufort. Clearing, colder conditions occurred on Thursday. Much of the Upstate recorded morning low temperatures below freezing. Friday's sunshine and light winds helped Columbia and Barnwell record a mild 66 degrees. A band of precipitation arrived on Saturday morning with just enough cold air forcing to change rain to snow for much of the Upstate, eastern Piedmont, north Midlands and into the Pee Dee. The heaviest snowfall was observed near Edgemoor at 5.0 inches and thunder in the vicinity. Rock Hill measured 4.0 inches. Caesars Head, Chester, Spartanburg, Gaffney and Jonesville each measured 3.0 inches. Parts of Florence and Marion County received 1.5 inches and one-half inch fell over N Myrtle Beach. Temperatures on a clear Sunday morning fell to 18 degrees at Kings Mt. State Park and 19 degrees at Rock Hill. The afternoon high temperature at N Myrtle Beach never made it to 40 degrees. The highest official temperature reported was 78 degrees at Hardeeville on February 13. The lowest official temperature reported was 14 degrees at Caesars Head on February 17. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 3.88 inches at Hardeeville ending at 700 a.m. on February 13. The State average rainfall for the period was 1.8 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth (inches) 7. Winter wheat snow cover 56% poor, 42% adequate, 2% excellent. Winter wheat condition 20% very poor, 46% poor, 31% fair, 3% good. Feed supplies 18% very short, 35% short, 45% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 22% very short, 32% short, 46% adequate. Accessible livestock feed supplies 88% readily, 10% difficult, 2% inaccessible. Accessible stock water supplies 87% readily, 12% difficult, 1% inaccessible. Cattle death losses 28% below normal, 72% normal. Calf deaths 18% below average, 82% average. Calving 9% complete. Cattle condition 2% poor, 24% fair, 68% good, 6% excellent. Sheep & lamb deaths 8% below average, 92% average. Lambing 25% complete. Sheep condition 2% poor, 15% fair, 70% good, 13% excellent. Road conditions--township 91% open, 7% difficult, 2% closed. Road conditions--county 94% open, 5% difficult, 1% closed.

TENNESSEE: Wheat condition 1% poor, 15% fair, 65% good, 19% excellent. Cattle condition 3% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 9% excellent. Farmers prepared for planting corn, top-dressed wheat, spread fertilizer, made lime and insecticide applications, and seeded pastures. Wheat progressed well with little to no disease or insect pressure. Fruit trees began to bud. Some farmers dealt with muddy feeding conditions. Most livestock operations in good shape with adequate hay stocks due to mild winter conditions. Hay stocks rated 3 percent very short, 15 percent short, 71 percent adequate, 11 percent surplus. Temperatures above normal first half of month; near to below normal second half. Precipitation above normal.

TEXAS: East Texas and the Panhandle received between one and three inches of precipitation in February while the Trans-Pecos, the Edwards Plateau, and parts of South Texas remained much drier, with many areas recording a tenth of an inch or less for the month. Dry land winter wheat suffered from moisture-stress in these drier areas, leading to expectations of a below-average crop. Drought conditions continued to improve throughout the month, but remained moderate or worse across most of the State. Preparations for spring planting continued around the State. Planting of row crops and spring vegetables was underway in South Texas. Pastures conditions were generally good in East Texas while much of the range and pastureland across West and South Texas suffered severely due to dry, windy conditions. In areas with limited grazing availability, livestock producers were supplementing with hay and protein. The spring calving and lambing season had begun.

UTAH: Subsoil Moisture 9% very short, 23% short, 67% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn harvested (grain) 1%, 1% 2012, 1% avg. Range and Pasture 37% very poor, 23% poor, 21% fair, 17% good, 2% excellent. In Box Elder County the month of January brought several good snow storms. In many areas the valley snowpack is 1 foot or more. February has been a snowy and cold month in the Bear River Valley. Two major storms and several smaller ones hit the county and dropped several inches of snow. Snow depth on the ground in much of the county is currently about 15 to 20 inches. Temperatures have been below normal by 10 to 15 degrees for both daytime highs and overnight lows. Even with all of the snow at the lower elevations, the storms have not produced very much snow in the mountains. Current snowpack information from NRCS shows the Bear River drainage at 80 percent of normal water content in the snowpack. Carbon County reports that the snowpack is still below average and reservoir levels are still very low. Storms that hit northern Utah did not do much for the Mountains above Carbon County. Duchesne County farmers are worried about the coming year as the reservoirs

are empty and to fill them, we will need an exceptional water year. The snowpack is running at about 80%. Iron County reports normal to above normal precipitation has soil moisture in good shape. In Box Elder County the main activity for February has been feeding cattle and calving. Many livestock producers report more calves lost than normal this year due to the deep snow and cold night time temperatures. Around the clock care is needed to help the calves survive when they are born. Hay is expensive and hard to find. Many are hoping for a break in the weather so feed demands will diminish and help their feed stocks last through the feeding period. Many producers are optimistic about the amount of snow received, hoping that the grass will get a good start as the weather warms. Duchesne County reports feed costs continue to be very high and could get worse, due to the continuation of the drought. In Iron County cold and muddy conditions are reported, which makes the start of calving a little difficult. Some producers in Box Elder County have applied ash or graphite to fields of fall wheat and land that they intend to plant to onions. They are trying to reduce the amount of snow cover so they will be able to plant sooner or avoid any snow mold that may be developing under the snow cover. Much of the wheat that was planted last fall didn't grow as tall as normal because it was planted later than normal. There haven't been reports of snow mold yet.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 6% short, 74% adequate, 20% Surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 11% short, 70% adequate, 17% surplus. Beef Cattle Forage Obtained from Pastures 12%, 14% 2012. Milk Cow Forage Obtained from Pastures 7%, 9% 2012. Sheep Forage Obtained from Pastures 12%, 19% 2012. Livestock 7% poor, 34% fair, 54% good, 5% excellent. Small grain and winter grazing crops 2% poor, 25% fair, 65% good, 8% excellent. February was a cold month, with snow fall heaviest in the Blue Ridge Mountains and surrounding counties. Virginia's central and eastern counties also received some snow, but the majority of precipitation was rain. Overall, the season's total precipitation is above normal for most areas across the State for this time of year. The Commonwealth experience a few warm days with temperatures in the upper 50s to low 60s. However, the majority of the days were cooler with freezing or near freezing temperatures recorded for the nighttime lows. The majority of livestock is in good condition. Livestock producers continue to supplement feed as needed. Other farming activities for the month included pruning orchards and vineyards, machine maintenance, taking soil samples, applying lime, preparing taxes, and finished up plans for spring plantings.

WASHINGTON: In Whitman and Walla Walla Counties, a relatively normal winter continued. Crops were reported to be in good shape and producers were anxious to start field work but it is still much too early. In Lincoln County where snow had melted, the wheat looked good though some concerns of snow mold were evident. Calving continued in many Counties throughout the State as hay supplies continued to contract. In Yakima County, the lowest night time temperature experienced were around 20 degrees on February 20th in the crop-producing areas of the County. Most of the tree fruit, grapes and berries were pruned during this mild and dry month. Fruit tree bud swell is evident in most areas and fruit producers have applied delayed dormant pest sprays.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 1% very short, 10% short, 87% adequate, and 2% surplus compared to 5% short, 90% adequate, and 5% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 21% short, 76% adequate, and 3% surplus compared to 2% short, 89% adequate, and 9% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 3% short, 96% adequate, and 1% surplus compared to 1% short, 98% adequate, and 1% surplus last year. Winter wheat conditions were 1% poor, 45% fair, 53% good, and 1% excellent. Cattle and calves were 15% fair, 81% good, and 4% excellent. Calving was 27% complete, compared with 32% last year. Sheep and lambs were 11% fair, 86% good, and 3% excellent. Lambing was 29% complete, compared with 35% last year. During the month of February warm and cool temperatures fluctuated bringing both rain and snow to the State. Precipitation amounts were much higher at the beginning of the month and several streams and rivers went into flood stage. Farming activities for the month included calving, lambing, and continued planning for the next growing season.

WISCONSIN: February average temperatures for the State of Wisconsin ranged from 2 to 3 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 25 to 30 degrees. Average low temperatures ranged from 7 to 16 degrees. Full month precipitation ranged from 1.27 inches in La Crosse to 2.07 inches in Green Bay. The entire State received snow in February. Of the reporting stations, Green Bay received the most snow, with 16.5 inches since February 1.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 30% short, 49% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 35% very short, 40% short, 25% adequate. Average depth of snow covers 2.8 inches. Winter wheat condition 35% poor, 41% fair, 24% good; wind damage 26% none, 64% light, 10% moderate; freeze damage 90% none, 8% light, 2% moderate. Spring calves born 10%. Farm flock sheep shorn 13%; lambled 10%. Calf losses 50% light, 50% normal. Lamb losses 45% light, 49% normal, 6% heavy. Cattle condition 5% poor, 43% fair, 51% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 6%

poor, 45% fair, 48% good. Spring grazing prospects 24% very poor, 36% poor, 37% fair, 3% good. Stock water supplies 6% very short, 47% short, 47% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 6% very short, 36% short, 58% adequate. Farm activities included tending to livestock, calving, and lambing. High temperatures ranged from 28 degrees in Jackson Hole to 60 degrees in Torrington. Low temperatures ranged from 15 degrees below zero in Shirley Basin to 11 degrees in Rawlins, Lander, Riverton, and Rock Springs. Average temperatures ranged from 13 degrees at Lake Yellowstone to 29 degrees in Torrington. Temperatures were below normal in all but 3 stations Jackson Hole, Afton and Rock Springs reported temperatures 2 degrees above normal. Temperatures were 9 degrees below normal in Wheatland. Big Piney and Rock Springs were the only stations receiving no precipitation during the month of February. Yellowstone received the most precipitation at 0.53 inch. Twenty out of the 33 reporting stations reported below normal precipitation for the year so far. Snotel snowpack was reported at 84 percent compared to 116 percent this time last year. Weston County reported seriously dry conditions. The lack of snow pack has producers concerned about the grazing conditions for the coming season. Lincoln County reported snow pack below normal but in the 80 percent range. Some storms have helped, although none have been significant. Livestock producers are feeding hay. Albany County reported continued dry and windy conditions. Calving and lambing are getting started. The lack of snowfall causes concern for spring irrigation and grazing prospects. In Sweetwater County, range conditions are reported to be the worst most producers have seen. With little snow, water for the coming months is a concern for farmers and ranchers. Converse County reported snow pack in Laramie around 50 percent of normal. Irrigation prospects are a concern.

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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