

# Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

## State Stories

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**ALABAMA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 11% short, 83% adequate, and 3% surplus. Corn planted 61%, 41% 2011, and 44% five year average. Corn emerged 33%, 21% 2011, and 18% five year average. Corn condition 7% fair, 79% good, and 14% excellent. Winter Wheat Headed 59%, 0% 2011, and 0% five year average. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, and 15% excellent. Livestock condition 2% poor, 17% fair, 64% good, and 17% excellent. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 61% good, and 15% excellent. The week's average mean temperatures ranged from 63.7 F in Gainesville, to 69.4 F in Mobile; total precipitation ranged from 0.03 inches in Talladega, to 3.20 inches in Coden. Wheat and canola crops in the northern part of the State received hail damage last week. Rainfall was variable across the State with some isolated areas of flooding in the northern part of the State, while the southeast region of the State received no rainfall and remains in a drought stage. Corn planting is progressing, but cool temperatures are slowing growth.

### **ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures were mostly above normal for the week ending April 8, ranging from 5 degrees above normal at Grand Canyon to 5 degrees below normal at Parker. The highest temperature of the week was 92 degrees at Coolidge. The lowest reading was 10 degrees at Grand Canyon. Precipitation was not recorded in any of the 21 weather stations for the week. Cotton planting is 25 percent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 21 percent. Alfalfa conditions are mostly fair to excellent, depending on location. Harvesting is occurring on three-quarters of the growing areas across the State. A third of the State's durum wheat crop has headed. Central Arizona growers shipped broccoli, cabbage, kale greens, cilantro, parsley and citrus. Western Arizona growers shipped broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, Chinese cabbage, endive, escarole, frisee, kale greens, Boston, green leaf, iceberg, red leaf, romaine, and other lettuces. Also shipped this week were arugula, bok choy, parsley, spinach and citrus. Rangeland conditions decreased from the previous week but continue to vary from very poor to good, depending on location. Dry conditions remain for most of the State.

**ARKANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Topsoil moisture 10% short, 82% adequate, and 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 7% short, 84% adequate, and 9% surplus. Corn 84% planted, 59% 2011, 50% avg.; 48% emerged, 21% 2011, 23% avg. Sorghum 15% emerged, 1% 2011, 2% avg. Soybeans 10% planted, 5% 2011, 2% avg.; 2% emerged, 1% 2011, 0% avg. Winter wheat 73% headed, 16% 2011, 15% avg. Livestock were in good condition last week. Pasture and range condition were reported in mostly good condition. Heavy rains and winds occurred in the Southern part of Arkansas, but very little precipitation occurred in the Eastern and Northern parts of the state. There were several reports of armyworm infestations in wheat.

**CALIFORNIA:** Wheat, grain hay, rye and oats continued to mature and were in fair to excellent condition. Over half of the winter wheat crop had headed out. Precipitation events that have occurred in the past weeks have reduced the pressure on producers to irrigate their crops. Cotton producers' main activity was preparing seedbeds. However some producers began to plant during the week. Alfalfa fields continued to green well following pest and weed control applications. Producers were making their first cutting of Alfalfa during the week. Rice ground preparation, fertilization and draining continued throughout the week. Plum, peach, apricot, and nectarine bloom was complete in all but the latest varieties. Trees were almost fully leafed out and showing fruit. Thinning continued in apricots. Cherries continued to bloom and leaf out. Prunes were past full bloom and beginning to leaf

out in Sutter and Yuba Counties. Weed treatments and bloom sprays continued in stone fruit orchards. Kiwis continued to be exported. Grapevines continued to leaf out while growth was beginning to accelerate. Apples were starting bloom and leafing out. Strawberries were being transplanted in Siskiyou County. Roadside strawberry stands had opened in Tulare County. Olive groves were pruned. Navel oranges, tangerines, tangelos and lemons continued to be harvested and packed for export. The harvesting of late variety navel oranges and early Valencia oranges began. Cara Cara orange harvest was wrapping up. Seedless tangerine groves were netted in preparation of the coming bloom. Almond bloom was over; almond trees were leafing out and nuts were growing larger. Freeze damage was becoming apparent in some areas hit hard by the March cold spell. Walnuts were continuing to leaf out while early varieties were in bloom. Growers were applying blight sprays. Pistachios were leafing out. Walnuts, almonds, and pistachios continued to be exported. Kern County reported carrots being harvested and tomatoes being planted. In Tulare County, Italian squash, tomato, and cucumber seedlings were being planted and tented under plastic and hot caps while processing tomato seedlings were being planted on the west side of the county. Fresno County reported processing tomato transplants were prosperous while lettuce was beginning to be harvested. Garlic and onions had established a good start. In Stanislaus County, broccoli, and spinach were being harvested as tomato transplants were being planted. San Joaquin County reported continued harvesting of asparagus. In Sutter County, field preparation continued and processing tomato transplants were delivered to fields. Non-irrigated rangeland began to gradually improve in response to the late spring rains. Greening was reported across the State. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. When weather conditions permitted, bees were working the cherry, plum and other stone fruit bloom.

**COLORADO:** Days suitable for field work 5.9 days. Topsoil moisture 8% very short, 37% short, 55% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 38% short, 52% adequate. Barley 36% planted, 26% 2011, 24% avg.; 30% emerged, 10% 2011, 7% avg. Spring wheat 32% planted, 14% 2011, 15% avg.; 10% emerged, 2% 2011, 4% avg. Winter Wheat 1% pastured, 6% 2011, 6% avg.; 18% jointed, 9% 2011, 10% avg. Sugarbeets 18% planted, 4% 2011, 9% avg. Summer potatoes 21% planted, 6% 2011, 5% avg. Dry onions 45% planted, 41% 2011, 38% avg. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 60% good, 5% excellent. Colorado experienced above average precipitation while the rest of the State had below average precipitation levels. Temperatures were above average for this time of year, but reports of freezing temperatures at night in the Western regions affected some of the cherry and peach producing areas. Windy and dry conditions prevailed on the Eastern Plains and in the San Luis Valley. Overall, mountain snowpack is 49 percent of average leaving irrigators concerned with a possible reduction in water deliveries this growing season.

**DELAWARE:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 59% short, 24% adequate. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 34% short, 59% adequate. Hay supplies 4% very short, 52% short, 44% adequate. Pasture condition 6% very poor, 12% poor, 14% fair, 65% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat condition 1% poor, 10% fair, 80% good, 9% excellent. Barley condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 80% good, 8% excellent. Corn planted 4%, 2% 2011, 2% avg. Barley headed 55%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Winter Wheat headed 2%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Green Peas planted 54%, 35% 2011, 48% avg. Potatoes planted 12%, 24% 2011, 31% avg. Sweet Corn planted 3%, 2% 2011, 2% avg. Apples bloomed 16%, 3% 2011, 10% avg. Peaches bloomed

59%, 18% 2011, 27% avg. Strawberries bloomed 36%, 16% 2011, 12% avg. Dry conditions have been good for working the ground, spraying, and planting. The small grains look good, but they need rain.

**FLORIDA:** Topsoil moisture 16% very short, 53% short, 29% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 14% very short, 48% short, 38% adequate. Peanut, cotton fields prepared for planting. Peanut planting active in Levy County. Cabbage supplies declined. Blueberry harvesting continued. Strawberry season concluded. Watermelons harvested ahead of schedule. Light harvest of potatoes, Hastings area. Vegetables marketed, snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, endive, escarole, endive, bell peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes. Light supplies of celery, cabbage, eggplant shipped. Valencia harvest averaged over 5 million boxes weekly. Pea-sized, larger fruit visible. Harvesting, young tree care primary grove activities. Pasture Condition 4% very poor, 25% poor, 50% fair, 19% good, 2% excellent. Cattle Condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 52% fair, 35% good, 4% excellent. Statewide; pasture condition lower due to drought, most fair. Most cattle in fair condition, slight decrease. Panhandle; pasture condition very poor to excellent. Cattle condition poor to excellent, most good. North; most pasture, cattle in poor to good condition. Central; most pasture in fair condition, varied from very poor to good as dry conditions continued. Southwest, pasture condition very poor to excellent, most fair. Hot, dry, windy conditions dried out soils, limited forage growth in pastures. Most cattle in fair condition.

**GEORGIA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil moisture 8% very short, 30% short, 58% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 12% very short, 36% short, 49% adequate, 3% surplus. Range and Pasture 3% very poor, 7% poor, 42% fair, 37% good, 11% excellent. Blueberries 15% very poor, 12% poor, 23% fair, 29% good, 21% excellent. Corn 1% poor, 20% fair, 72% good, 7% excellent. Corn Planted 71%, 49% 2011, 50% avg. Oats 3% poor, 37% fair, 48% good, 12% excellent. Onions 30% fair, 65% good, 5% excellent. Peaches 13% poor, 43% fair, 15% good, 29% excellent. Peaches Blooming 87%, 85% 2011, 90% avg. Rye 2% poor, 41% fair, 49% good, 8% excellent. Sorghum Planted 1%, 3% 2011, 2% avg. Tobacco Transplanted 11%, 5% 2011, 7% avg. Watermelons Planted 41%, 33% 2011, 39% avg. Winter Wheat 4% poor, 36% fair, 47% good, 13% excellent. Precipitation estimates for the State ranged from no rain up to 2.5 inches. The week's average temperatures ranged from the lower 60s to the mid 70s.

**HAWAII:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Soil moisture was at short to adequate levels. Very sunny and clear conditions early in the week gave way to overcast skies and isolated showers in the second half. These showers occurred mostly on windward areas. Increasing day length has helped encourage crop growth. Irrigation water supplies ensured that crops located in areas which did not receive precipitation this week continued to progress. National Weather Service gauge locations reported an average of 0.57 inches of measurable rainfall across all islands during the reference week. The National Drought Monitor listed 45.33 percent of land area in the State was classified as no drought present as of April 3, 2012, which is unchanged from the previous week's reference day. This is the third consecutive week in which drought conditions remained unchanged. No drought conditions were reported for the island of Kauai, the island of Oahu, or the southeastern tips of Hawaii and Molokai Islands. A total of 5.83 percent of the land area remained rated as extreme drought. The areas which remain classified in extreme drought are located on the leeward tip of Molokai Island, the southern leeward coast Maui Island, and a pocket on the Kohala slopes of the Big Island.

**IDAHO:** Days suitable for field work 4.1. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 11% short, 69% adequate, 18% surplus. Field corn planted 6%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Winter wheat jointed 5%, 5% 2011, 4% avg. Onions planted 70%, 35% 2011, 55% avg; emerged 0%, 0% 2011, 8% avg. Potatoes planted 4%, 1% 2011, 2% avg. Oats planted 27%, 1% 2011, 20% avg; emerged 13%, 0% 2011, 5% avg. Dry peas planted 8%, 15% 2011, 10% avg. Lentils planted 0%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Calving complete 89%, 89% 2011, 89% avg. Lambing complete 94%, 86% 2011, 87% avg. Hay and roughage supply 9% very short, 12% short, 67% adequate, 12% surplus. Irrigation water supply 23% fair, 50% good, 27% excellent. Sugarbeets planted 25%, 1% 2011, 25% avg; emerged 0%, 0% 2011, 3% avg. Spring wheat emerged 8%, 2% 2011, 5% avg. Barley emerged 8%, 1% 2011, 2% avg. The Nez Perce extension educator reported adequate soil moisture and mild temperatures have created excellent winter wheat conditions. The Franklin extension educator reports spring farming operations are moving right along.

**ILLINOIS:** Topsoil moisture 6 % very short, 40 % short, 51 %

adequate, 3 % surplus. Subsoil moisture 7 % very short, 40 % short, 52 % adequate, 1 % surplus. Oats 91 % planted, 70 % last week, 30% average. Warm and dry conditions throughout most of the State continued last week with an average Statewide temperature of 56.4 degrees, 8.8 degrees above normal. Statewide precipitation averaged 0.44 inches, 0.26 below normal. Despite these good conditions for planting, many farmers were hesitant to plant too much too early. In some cases, fields were too dry, and farmers were waiting on rain.

**INDIANA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 18% short, 67% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 11% short, 76% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat jointed 29%, 7% 2011, 9% avg. Pasture condition 2% very poor, 6% poor, 15% fair, 56% good, 21% excellent. Availability of hay 2% very short, 13% short, 81% adequate, 4% surplus. Temperatures ranged from 50 to 120 above normal with a low of 220 and a high of 870. Precipitation ranged from 0.0 to 1.61 inches. Some farmers have been working at a feverish pace, now that the earliest planting date that corn would be eligible for crop insurance replant payments has passed. In fact, six percent of intended corn acres have been planted which is ahead of the previous record of 3 percent established in 2004. However, other farming operations are waiting to begin planting until there is a less likely chance of frost. A few scattered fields of soybeans have also been planted at this point. Other activities included preparing planting equipment, performing pre-plant tillage operations, hauling grain to market, spreading fertilizer and manure, applying anhydrous ammonia, repairing and installing drainage tile and taking care of livestock.

**IOWA:** Topsoil moisture 12 percent very short, 31 percent short, 55 percent adequate, 2 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture 18 percent very short, 33 percent short, 47 percent adequate, 2 percent surplus. As Iowa's crop insurance plant date for corn slowly approaches (April 11), farmers are excited about getting planting underway. Most of the weekly rain occurred in the southeast corner of the State. The week's most common field activities were application of anhydrous, tiling, and leveling of last year's cornstalks.

**KANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 8% short, 80% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 17% short, 75% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat jointed 79%, 30% 2011, 32% avg.; winter wheat headed 6%, 0% 2011, 0% avg.; wind damage 86% none, 10% light, 3% moderate, 1% severe; insect infestation 82% none, 13% light, 4% moderate, 1% severe; disease infestation, 85% none, 12% light, 3% moderate, 0% severe. Range and pasture condition 13% very poor, 17% poor, 31% fair, 35% good, 4% excellent. Feed grain supplies 8% very short, 18% short, 72% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 18% very short, 24% short, 56% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 5% very short, 12% short, 79% adequate, 4% surplus. Last week, Kansas producers saw widespread precipitation and above normal temperatures, although temperatures were cooler than they have been the last several weeks. All stations received rain with three stations receiving over 2 inches - Clay Center at 2.17 inches, Concordia at 2.25 inches, and Garnett at 2.30 inches. Only 10 of the 53 stations received less than half an inch, mostly in the Southeast District. Record temperatures were reported early in the week with highs ranging from the low 80's to the low 90's before temperatures cooled later in the week. All stations reported at or above normal average temperatures with Emporia at 13 degrees above normal, while thirteen stations reported low temperatures at or below freezing, mostly in the northern districts. Producers are busy trying to control insects in alfalfa fields, preparing for spring planting, and applying herbicide and insecticide to wheat. The Central, South Central, and Southeast Districts all reported over 90 percent jointed as of Sunday. The Southeast District has 38 percent of this year's corn crop already planted. Many livestock producers have turned out cattle to spring pasture while some are finishing calving. Pasture burning has occurred in some areas, but spring burning has declined this year because of the early and rapid growth of grassland.

**KENTUCKY:** Days suitable fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil 2% very short, 11% short, 76% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% short, 82% adequate, 10% surplus. Rainfall averaged .49 inches Statewide, .5 in. below normal. Most precipitation Eastern locations, western areas need rain. Temperatures averaged 60 degrees, 7 degrees above normal. Tobacco transplants 84% set, 71% 2011, 75% avg. Transplants emerged 55%, 36%, 2011, 40% avg. Condition of winter wheat, 1% poor, 8% fair, 53% good, 38% excellent. Pasture conditions 3% poor, 19% fair, 54% good, 24% excellent. Winter kill light due to mild winter. Plant and forage growth continue 2 to 3 weeks ahead of

normal.

**LOUISIANA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Soil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 54% adequate and 43% surplus. Corn Planted 93%, 98% 2011, 94% avg; Emerged 68%, 81% 2011, 69% avg; 1% poor, 26% fair, 57% good, and 16% excellent. Winter Wheat headed 96%, 82% 2011, 62% avg; 4% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, and 13% excellent. Hay first cutting 4%, 1% 2011, 1% avg. Livestock 1% very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 56% good, and 6% excellent. Vegetables 2% very poor, 10% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, and 7% excellent. Range and Pasture 2% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 56% good, and 11% excellent. Sugarcane 3% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 54% good, and 18% excellent.

**MARYLAND:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 33% short, 63% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 27% short, 72% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay supplies 3% very short, 16% short, 81% adequate. Pasture condition 3% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, 11% excellent. Winter wheat condition 17% fair, 65% good, 18% excellent. Barley condition 1% poor, 22% fair, 53% good, 24% excellent. Corn planted 5%, 1% 2011, 1% avg. Barley headed 20%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Winter Wheat headed 4%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Green Peas planted 33%, 20% 2011, 28% avg. Potatoes planted 72%, 17% 2011, 34% avg. Sweet corn planted 10%, 3% 2011, 7% avg. Tomatoes planted 6%, 3% 2011, 5% avg. Apples bloomed 64%, 1% 2011, 9% avg. Peaches bloomed 82%, 6% 2011, 13% avg. Strawberries bloomed 34%, 15% 2011, 24% avg. Dry conditions have been good for spraying, ground working, and planting. The small grains look good, but they need rain. Crops are two to three weeks ahead of schedule. Rye being chopped for silage and corn will soon be planted behind it.

**MICHIGAN:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 1% very short, 12% short, 76% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 10% short, 74% adequate, 15% surplus. Pasture 3% very poor, 8% poor, 32% fair, 47% good, 10% excellent. Sugarbeets planted 85%, 2% 2011, 12% avg. Oats planted 46%, 3% 2011, 17% avg. Oats emerged 11%, 1% 2011, 1% avg. Lack of rain last week allowed farmers to make progress preparing fields for planting. Fertilizer and herbicide applications made to wheat. Overall, wheat appears to have weathered winter very well and is looking good. Sugarbeet planting continued. Emergence early planted sugarbeets very good. Temperatures at night have not been cold enough to negatively affect sugarbeets that have emerged. Alfalfa and oat planting continued. Livestock producers took advantage of dry weather to apply manure. Week of warm weather in March caused some enthusiasm to begin planting corn early, but with a return to more seasonal weather, this enthusiasm has waned. There was a small amount of corn planted last week. Unusually high temperatures during most of March caused fruit development to be about one month ahead of normal. Return of seasonable weather past two weeks has resulted widespread freeze damage. Severity of potential crop loss varies by fruit, area, and elevation. Tart cherries were in bloom. A heavy snow storm in northwest the weekend of March 3 caused extensive tree damage. Sweet cherries white bud to full bloom. Some buds killed many tart and sweet cherry blocks. Peaches in shuck southwest and bloom southeast. Strawberry flower trusses began emerging from crowns. Apples early bloom stages in southern areas. Blueberries mostly early to late pink bud. There have been no significant bud damage reports for apples or blueberries. Leaves out on juice grapes. Wine grapes at bud burst in south. Freeze damage has been moderate to severe in many vineyards. Vegetable growers taking advantage of warm spring weather. Southeast Michigan, soils in good condition for early April and some cabbage, sweet corn and potatoes planted. West central Michigan, recent below-normal temperatures delayed asparagus harvest until latter part of April. Onion planting now in full swing. Some onions planted mid-March already loop stage. Some early celery planted under tunnels and row cover.

**MINNESOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil moisture 13% Very Short, 47% Short, 38% Adequate, 2% Surplus. Subsoil moisture 18% Very Short, 50% Short, 32% Adequate. Corn land prepared 16%, 1% 2011, 1% avg. Soybeans land prepared 4%, 1% 2011, 1% avg. Barley emerged 1%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Approximate date full scale fieldwork to begin is April 18, 2012. More warm weather records were set early in the week with temperatures in the low to high 80's in southwest areas, contributing to Statewide average temperatures that were 9.7 degrees above normal this past week. A round of thunderstorms moved across the State late Monday evening and showers prevailed Saturday; however, amounts were sporadic for both rainfall events. Weekly rainfall amounts ranged from .36 inch in east central areas to 0 in southwest areas. Areas in the southern third of the

State continue to be rated as undergoing a severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

**MISSISSIPPI:** Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Soil moisture 78 percent adequate, 22 percent surplus. Corn 80% planted, 75% 2011, 73% avg.; 57% emerged, 46% 2011, 50% avg. Soybeans 16% planted, 6% 2011, 10% avg.; 7% emerged, 0% 2011, 3% avg. Sorghum 20% planted, 2% 2011, 4% avg.; 7% emerged, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Wheat 96% jointing, 95% 2011, 86% avg.; 79% heading, 32% 2011, 21% avg.; Wheat 8% poor, 26% fair, 52% good, 14% excellent. Watermelons 43% planted, 44% 2011, 48% avg. Hay 8% planted, 2% 2011, 6% avg. Blueberries 1% poor, 6% fair, 61% good, 32% excellent. Cattle 3% very poor, 7% poor, 36% fair, 44% good, 10% excellent. Pasture 2% very poor, 6% poor, 19% fair, 61% good, 12% excellent. Mississippi had a wet week with most of the precipitation falling on the lower western half of the State. The added moisture has aided crop conditions, however most producers are hoping for dryer weather next week so that fields can dry out. There have been problems with weeds and insects which are occurring earlier than usual.

**MISSOURI:** Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Precipitation 0.57 inches. Temperatures were 5 to 11 degrees above average. Topsoil moisture supply 1% very short, 16% short, 78% adequate, 5% surplus. Ground worked spring tillage 63%, 1 month ahead of 2011. Rice planted was 43 days ahead of 2011. Winter wheat headed and beyond 31%, nearly a month ahead of last year and the 5-yr average. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 58% good, and 10% excellent.

**MONTANA:** Days suitable for field work 4.7, 0.7 last year. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 1% last year; 27% short, 3% last year; 58% adequate, 56% last year; 3% surplus, 40% last year. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 0% last year; 29% short, 7% last year; 56% adequate, 71% last year; 4% surplus, 22% last year. Camelina planted 9%, 6% last year. Dry peas planted 10%. Flaxseed planted 5% percent. Lentils planted 10%. Oats planted 13%, 0% last year. Sugar beets planted 3%, 4% last year. Winter Wheat – spring stages 11% still dormant, 66% last year; 59% greening, 32% last year; 30% green & growing, 2% last year. Range and pasture feed condition 3% very poor, 2% last year; 17% poor, 15% last year; 46% fair, 44% last year; 30% good, 37% last year; 4% excellent, 2% last year. Livestock grazing 73% open, 36% last year; 10% difficult, 28% last year; 17% closed, 36% last year. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 83%, 92% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 82%, 93% last year. Calving complete 66%; 64% last year. Lambing complete 46%; 55% last year. A late winter storm brought snowfall and cooler nighttime temperatures to most of Montana toward the end of the week with many stations receiving 0.50 to 1 inch of precipitation. Rapelje received the highest amount of precipitation for the week with 2.50 inches of moisture. High temperatures ranged from the lower 50s to lower 80s, with the state-wide high temperature of 81 degrees recorded at Albion. A majority of stations reported lows in the upper teens to upper 20s, the coldest being West Yellowstone at 5 degrees, followed by Butte and Wisdom with 7 degrees.

**NEBRASKA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Topsoil moisture 18% very short, 43% short, 39% adequate. Subsoil moisture 15% very short, 41% short, 44% adequate. Wheat jointed 10%, 0% 2011, 1% avg. Alfalfa conditions rated 6% poor, 25% fair, 56% good, 13% excellent. Cattle and calves conditions 6% fair, 72% good, 22% excellent. Cows calved 83% complete. Calf losses 30% below average, 69% average, 1% above average. Even though conditions were favorable for planting corn, only a limited number of fields were planted with most producers waiting for the crop insurance initial planting date. Soil moisture levels continued below previous year and 5 year averages with precipitation limited to the southern tier of counties. Planting of oats reached the half way point with 15 percent of the crop emerged. Wheat was beginning to joint well ahead of average. Producers were applying fertilizer, performing spring tillage, and getting machinery ready for spring planting. Soil temperatures ranged from the mid 50's in the west to low 60's in the east. Cattle and calves were in mostly good to excellent condition. Spring calving was 83 percent complete with calf losses well below average. Temperatures averaged 3 degrees above normal across the western half of the State, while the eastern half was up to 10 degrees above normal. Highs reached the low 90's in the east and lows fell to the lower 20's in the Panhandle. Precipitation was limited to extreme southern counties with some locations receiving over one inch.

**NEVADA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Warm temperatures and some precipitation dominated the week's weather. Temperatures ranged from four degrees below normal to two degrees above normal.

Las Vegas recorded a high temperature of 86 degrees. Ely had the low of 9 degrees. Northern Nevada received some precipitation. Ely recorded 0.29 inches of precipitation. Windy conditions and rain showers prevented some field work in the northern part of the State. Seeding of spring crops was underway. Spring calving and lambing was underway. Main farm and ranch activities included prepping fields for seeding and equipment maintenance.

**NEW ENGLAND:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 52% short, 23% adequate, 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 13% short, 62% adequate, 14% surplus. The week began windy with partly cloudy skies and average temperatures ranging from the upper 40s to mid-50s. Temperatures throughout the week were generally average across the region with the exception of Sunday, which brought cooler daytime temperatures to northern New England. Dry, windy conditions persisted throughout the week, fueling brushfires across New England. In contrast, northernmost latitudes of New Hampshire and Maine reported over 3 inches of winter precipitation at the end of the week. General farm activities included working in nurseries and greenhouses, tending to livestock, spraying fertilizers, spreading manure, disking, plowing, and getting ready to plant fields.

**NEW JERSEY:** Days suitable for field work 6.5. Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 40% short, and 55% adequate. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 35% short, and 60% adequate. Pasture and Range condition 5% poor, 30% fair, and 65% good. Rainfall amounts were below normal for all locations. Temperatures reached highs in the mid 60s to mid 70s and lows in the upper 20s to upper 30s across the Garden State. Winter wheat is 100% emerged in the State, and the condition is 10% fair and 90% good. Most planting is on hold despite warm temperatures for fear of frost injury. So far frost has spared fruit producers from significant damage; however the season remains 3-4 weeks in advance with flowers in bloom with a threat of freeze for a month yet. Windy conditions have limited spraying opportunities. Dry conditions are noticeable but not critical due to the early date. Most winter grain crops look good. Producers are picking asparagus, and preparing fields for spring plantings. Other farming activities during the week are; tillage work, fertilization, irrigation of spinach and sod, establishing hay (spring planted) and spreading lime and fertilizer. Some early corn is planted. Insects are early as well. Livestock conditions are good. Conditions are favorable for calving and lambing. Dairy condition and milk production is average.

**NEW MEXICO:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil moisture 55% very short, 26% short and 19% adequate. Wind damage 8% light and 2% moderate; 40% winter wheat damaged and 8% onion damage to date. Freeze damage 6% light and 2% moderate. Alfalfa 11% very poor, 5% poor, 40% fair, 37% good and 7% excellent; 4% first cutting complete. Cotton 2% planted. Corn 1% planted. Irrigated winter wheat 3% very poor, 8% poor, 69% fair, 8% good and 12% excellent; 44% grazed. Dry winter wheat 60% very poor, 39% poor and 1% fair; 30% grazed. Total winter wheat 40% very poor, 28% poor, 25% fair, 3% good and 4% excellent; 35% grazed. Lettuce 2% poor, 48% good and 50% excellent. Chile 74% planted. Onion 18% fair, 63% good and 19% excellent; 100% planted. Cattle 29% very poor, 26% poor, 32% fair, 10% good and 3% excellent. Sheep 24% very poor, 36% poor, 36% fair and 4% good. Range and pasture 64% very poor, 18% poor, 11% fair, 6% good and 1% excellent. A snowstorm started off our week, giving us some much needed moisture. Temperatures were below normal.

**NEW YORK:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Soil moisture 5% very short, 16% short, 76% adequate, 3% surplus. Pasture Conditions 5% very poor, 39% poor, 36% fair, 16% good, 4% excellent. Pastures were turning green across the State. Favorable weather has allowed many farmers to get a jump start on field tillage operations, new seeding establishment, and manure spreading. Oats seedlings 25% complete. Sweet corn was 7% planted. Lettuce was 11% planted. Fruit trees, grapes, and strawberries experienced early growth. There have been several evenings with freezing temperatures and this resulted in frost damage. The damage is being monitored. A few storms produced some rain across the State. Temperatures range from the low 20s to the high 60s.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for field work 4.6. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 74% adequate and 21% surplus. The State received normal precipitation and above normal temperatures the week ending April 8, 2012. Frost and hail damage were concerns for some farmers this week although there have been no reports of damage yet. Planting of corn continued this week and is earlier than last year and the 5 year average.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. The approximate starting date for field work is April 3. Topsoil moisture supplies 12% very short, 23% short, 57% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies 1% very short, 16% short, 72% adequate, 11% surplus. Durum wheat 8% planted. Dry edible peas 3% planted. Canola 1% planted. Potatoes 1% planted. Hay and forage supplies were 2% short, 82% adequate, 16% surplus. Grain and concentrate supply 4% short, 83% adequate, 13% surplus. Calving and lambing 60% and 76% complete, respectively. Shearing 85% complete. Cow condition 1% poor, 9% fair, 74% good, 16% excellent. Calf condition 6% fair, 77% good, 17% excellent. Sheep condition 8% fair, 70% good, 22% excellent. Lamb condition 7% fair, 69% good, 24% excellent. The percentage of feed obtained from pasture and range for cattle and sheep were 18% and 11%, respectively. Pastures and ranges 52% growing and 48% still dormant. Ideal weather conditions allowed fieldwork and planting activities to continue ahead of average. Seeding was prevalent in areas while fieldwork was delayed in parts of the State affected by precipitation.

**OHIO:** Days suitable for field work 4.8. Top soil moisture 1% short, 78% adequate, 21% surplus. Apples condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 40% fair, 48% good, 8% excellent. Hay condition 3% poor, 20% fair, 60% good, 17% excellent. Livestock condition 4% poor, 18% fair, 61% good, 17% excellent. Range and Pasture condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 23% fair, 48% good, 21% excellent. Peaches condition 3% very poor, 6% poor, 37% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 13% poor, 33% fair, 39% good, 11% excellent. Winter wheat jointed 13%, 5% 2011, 6% avg. Potatoes planted 4%, NA% 2011, 3% avg. Apples green tip (or beyond) 85%, 12% 2011, 19% avg. Apples full bloom (or beyond) 40%, NA% 2011, 1% avg. Peaches green tip (or beyond) 84%, 14% 2011, 19% avg. Peaches full bloom (or beyond) 52%, NA% 2011, 3% avg.

**OKLAHOMA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 16% short, 74% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture 13% very short, 29% short, 54% adequate, 4% surplus. Wheat jointing 92% this week, 85% last week, 82% last year, 80% average; headed 41% this week, 9% last week, 6% last year, 6% average. Canola condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 19% fair, 53% good, 23% excellent; blooming 99% this week, 87% last week, 69% last year, n/a average. Rye condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 59% good, 22% excellent; jointing 94% this week, 86% last week, 92% last year, 90% average; headed 73% this week, 36% last week, 12% last year, 11% average. Oats condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 60% good, 18% excellent; emerged 96% this week, 79% last week, n/a last year, n/a average; jointing 43% this week, 26% last week, 25% last year, 31% average. Corn seedbed prepared 88% this week, 84% last week, 81% last year, 76% average; planted 31% this week, 28% last week, 21% last year, n/a average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 55% this week, 48% last week, 50% last year, 34% average. Soybeans seedbed prepared 33% this week, 26% last week, 31% last year, 33% average. Peanuts seedbed prepared 47% this week, 40% last week, 57% last year, 53% average. Cotton seedbed prepared 73% this week, 47% last week, 43% last year, 56% average. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 12% poor, 33% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. Pasture and range condition 6% very poor, 14% poor, 36% fair, 38% good, 6% excellent. Additional moisture fell this week and every Mesonet station recorded rainfall. The average rainfall for the State was 0.93 inches. Heading of wheat and rye progressed well ahead of normal, due to the favorable spring conditions. Wheat and canola conditions continued to improve. Field preparation for spring crops continued between rain showers, as did corn planting. Conditions of pasture and range improved from recent rainfall, and new growth was reported. Improved grazing availability benefitted cattle producers.

**OREGON:** Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 60% adequate, 35% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 5% short, 62% adequate, 28% surplus. Spring Wheat Planted 53%, 36% 2011, 61% average; Emerged 23%, 14% 2011, 26% average. Barley Planted 62%, 52% 2011, 62% average; Emerged 28%, 45% 2011, 39% average. Range & Pasture 6% very poor, 18% poor, 44% fair, 30% good, 2% excellent. Temperatures for the week were below normal for most stations across the State. They were also below normal for the weather year so far. Precipitation for the week was above normal for almost all stations & below normal for none. For the weather season, almost all stations also report above normal precipitation. Farmers & ranchers, in aggregate, had few days suitable for field work, but they had more such days than last week. Wet conditions have slowed field work but with hopes of drier weather soon for western Oregon. March was a good snow pack month for eastern

Oregon. Wet, cool weather may adversely detract from Willamette Valley small grain potential. Reports on clover for seed varied. In Umatilla County, spring seeding continued, with spring wheat seeding leading the way. Pea & corn seeding was planned for the coming week. Potatoes were about 50 percent planted. Onions planting was nearing its finish. Producers in the many wet areas were itching to get in the field. Wasco County sweet cherry buds were in the green-tip stage of development. Still await the bloom. Temperatures in Hood River remained above critical levels for orchard crops. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows - d'Anjou pear at blossom buds exposed to first white (WSU stages 2 to 4); Red Delicious apple at half-inch green (WSU stage 3); Bing cherry at green tip to open cluster (WSU stages 3 to 5); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2. In the Willamette Valley, Peaches were in bloom. The cool, wet weather has not been favorable for bee flights & successful pollination. Some early sweet cherry varieties were in the popcorn stage of bloom. Eastern Filbert Blight control sprays were applied. Prunes in some areas were in bloom but very spotty. Pears in southern Oregon were starting to need protection with some buds starting to show. In Douglas County, plums were moving past full bloom. Peaches, nectarines, & cherries were at full bloom. Pears were about 7-10 days away from full bloom. Apples & prunes were about 10-14 days away from full bloom. Expected freeze did not hit the Roseburg area. It was still too early to determine if wet field conditions will affect planting of April green peas. In general, producers will delay planning vegetables if cool, wet conditions persist. Greenhouses were busy getting spring starts ready for spring planting. Some early spring decorative starts were now at outlets. Nurseries also were very busy with sales of trees & shrubs. Cool, wet weather has slowed sales to local consumers. Tall shrubs shipped to market. Cool soil temperatures have retarded pasture growth. Pastures were green or greening across the State. In Lake County, livestock producers were starting to turn out onto government allotments. Some had to haul water.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Soil moisture 3% very short, 26% short, 69% adequate, and 2% surplus. Tobacco planted in beds 25%, 50% Prv. Yr., 14% 5-Yr. Avg. Peaches in the pink 99%, 29% Prv. Yr. Peaches in full-bloom 97%. Cherries in the pink 99%, 47% Prv. Yr. Apples in the pink 68%. Winter wheat condition 10% fair, 56% good, 34% excellent. Pasture condition 5% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 59% good, 10% excellent. Primary farm activities for the week included field preparation, manure hauling, planting oats and new seedlings and spraying herbicide. Spring plowing is well underway and is 50% complete, which is ahead of the 7% reported at this time last year.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Soil moisture 4% very short, 27% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat 1% poor, 30% fair, 64% good, 5% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 39% fair, 51% good, 1% excellent. Oats 1% very poor, 2% poor, 28% fair, 63% good, 6% excellent. Hay 50% fair, 48% good, 2% excellent. Peaches 60% fair, 39% good, 1% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 32% fair, 64% good, 1% excellent. Freeze damage 100% none. Corn planted 79%, 58% 2011, 55% avg; emerged 41%, 32% 2011, 29% avg. Winter wheat headed 60%, 16% 2011, 10% avg. Oats headed 60%, 20% 2011, 20% avg. Tobacco transplanted 18%, 9% 2011, 14% avg. Hay grain hay 5%. Snap beans, fresh planted 56%, 32% 2011, 33% avg. Cucumbers, fresh planted 31%, 27% 2011, 22% avg. Watermelons planted 52%, 43% 2011, 44% avg. Tomatoes, fresh planted 80%, 52% 2011, 51% avg. Cantaloupes planted 43%, 36% 2011, 32% avg. Record heat continued for the start of the week ending April 8, 2012. Charleston and Columbia both saw temperatures reach 91 degrees on Monday, April 2. Warm weather produced isolated thunderstorms across the State. Large hail was reported in a severe storm in the Upstate on Thursday with minimal crop damage observed. Cool weather moved in over the weekend with a light frost observed in parts of the State. The State average temperature for the period was seven degrees above normal with average rainfall at 0.8 inches.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 46% short, 40% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 39% short, 49% adequate, 3% surplus. Percent of winter wheat acreage hit by winter kill 8. Winter wheat boot 2%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Barley seeded 27%, 2% 2011, 3% avg. Barley emerged 1%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Spring wheat emerged 25%, 0% 2011, 0% avg. Feed supplies 2% short, 90% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 9% short, 88% adequate, 2% surplus. Range and pasture 8% poor, 40% fair, 44% good, 8%

excellent. Cattle moved to pasture 12% complete. Calving 55% complete. Cattle condition 1% poor, 7% fair, 69% good, 23% excellent. Lambing 66% complete. Sheep condition 1% poor, 5% fair, 65% good, 29% excellent. With little or no moisture seen across the State this week, small grain crops conditions have decreased slightly but allowed for row crop planting preparations to take place. Major activities last week included planting of small grains, preparing equipment and fields for the planting of row crops, applying fertilizers and chemicals, caring for livestock, calving and lambing.

**TENNESSEE:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil moisture 12% short, 80% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% short, 84% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter Wheat 94% top-dressed, 90% 2010, 87% avg; 85% jointed, 59% 2010, 51% avg. Apples 88% budding, 73% 2010, 79% avg; 62% blooming, 34% 2010, 33% avg. Range and Pasture Conditions 2% poor, 20% fair, 61% good, 17% excellent. Cattle 3% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, 14% excellent. Corn farmers took full advantage of the six days suitable for fieldwork to make great planting progress last week. Sub-normal precipitation, coupled with warmer than normal temperatures, allowed growers to end the week at forty-six percent planted. This pace is two weeks ahead five-year average and one of the most rapid starts on record. Winter wheat crop in good-to-excellent condition and developing at a rate two weeks earlier than usual. Main farm work, other than planting, fertilizer and pesticide applications. Pastures looked exceptionally good.

**TEXAS:** Areas of North and East Texas received up to 2.5 inches of rainfall for the week while other areas observed scattered showers. Weather conditions remained dry in much of the High Plains and the Trans-Pecos. In areas of the High Plains, dryland wheat remained stressed due to inadequate rainfall and soil moisture. Irrigated fields were being watered. In most other areas, rainfall helped to improve wheat and oat fields. Many producers were grazing livestock on wheat, and small grains continued to be cut for hay. Some producers were spraying or scouting for armyworms. Pre-plant activities continued for corn and cotton in the Plains. Insufficient soil moisture meant that many producers were irrigating ahead of planting. In the southern part of the State, corn, sorghum and cotton planting were underway. Recent rainfall helped boost fields already planted. In areas of North Texas and the Upper Coast, wet weather slowed planting. Early-planted vegetables were making good progress in the Low Plains while vegetable planting continued from the Low Plains to East Texas. Pecan trees were leafing out in the Edwards Plateau. Peach trees were beginning to produce peaches and looked to be in good shape. In the Low Plains and South Texas, producers were beginning to plant watermelons. Some watermelon acreage in the Lower Valley was damaged by hail. Cabbage harvest continued in South Texas while sugarcane, citrus and vegetable harvest continued in the Lower Valley. Dry conditions hindered the growth of pastures and rangeland in the High Plains and the Trans-Pecos. In most other areas, favorable weather conditions and adequate soil moisture allowed cool and warm season grasses to grow well. Many ranchers were fertilizing hay fields. Supplemental feeding decreased and livestock body condition was generally improving. Calving season continued and producers were working calves and shearing sheep.

**UTAH:** Days Suitable For Field Work 6. Topsoil moisture 29 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Subsoil Moisture 32% short, 66% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter Wheat Condition 18% fair, 60% good, 22% excellent. Spring Wheat planted 72%, 23% 2011, 31% avg. Spring Wheat emerged 24%. Barley planted 66%, 24% 2011, 36% avg. Barley emerged 22%. Oats planted 27%, 25% 2011, 23% avg. Oats emerged 4%. Cows Calved 76%, 72% 2011, 71% avg. Cattle and calves condition 10% fair, 66% good, 24% excellent. Sheep Condition 4% fair, 70% good, 26% excellent. Range and Pasture 7% poor, 43% fair, 43% good, 7% excellent. Stock Water Supplies 1% very short, 7% short, 91% adequate, 1% surplus. Sheep Sheared On Farm 60%, 65% 2011, 42% avg. Sheep Sheared On Range 50%, 43% 2011, 28% avg. Ewes Lamb On Farm 72%, 60% 2011, 66% avg. Ewes Lamb On Range 35%, 19% 2011, 23% avg. Apricots full Bloom Or Past 86%. Sweet Cherries full Bloom Or Past 22%. Tart Cherries full Bloom Or Past 19%. Peaches, Full Bloom Or Past 26%. Parts of Northern Utah reported below normal precipitation and a lot of wind. The nights were extremely cold. The recent snow storm provided needed moisture for Morgan and Weber Counties. Box Elder County apricots and early peaches were blooming this week and may have suffered frost damage from the cold weather at night. Pollination may also be suffering as bees are not flying or may not have migrated back from their winter trips to California. Farmers are busy doing fieldwork. They are planting small grains, safflower, and new alfalfa. Corn



farmers have mid-April as their target date to begin planting corn. Most of the winter wheat fields are looking well. Plant maturity seems to be a couple of weeks ahead of normal this year. Irrigation water supplies look good for this year. Farmers in Cache County have enjoyed ideal weather for getting crops planted. Most are quite happy about their field progress thus far. Small grains are mostly planted. Some safflower and alfalfa hay is also being planted this early. Corn growers are waiting awhile before planting corn. Growers who depend on irrigation water are feeling confident about water supplies if their source is a reservoir. Growers who depend on surface runoff are bracing themselves for a tight water year. In Morgan County the recent snow storm provided much needed moisture for sprouting newly planted grain and alfalfa crops. Weber County reported fields were drying out, so growers were happy to see the recent snow that will provide the moisture to germinate seeded fields. In Duchesne-Daggett Counties field preparation and planting are in full swing. In Summit County the first part of the week was dry and warm which helped farmers with field work before the end of the week turned cold and wet. Crop land is dry in Beaver County and farmers are working to get their irrigation systems going. Box Elder County livestock producers reported that they are beginning to brand and doctor calves, preparing to turn them out on spring pastures. Range herds of sheep are being shorn and are expected to begin lambing in earnest by mid-April. Producers report that lambs seem to be doing well. Prices for most commodities remain strong. However, milk price has been falling for the last two months. Dairy producers are struggling financially to make ends meet. In Cache County cattle and sheep have done exceptionally well during the mild winter. Growers report minimal calving and lambing losses as a result of the ideal weather conditions. Most calves and lambs are growing well. The producers in Duchesne-Daggett Counties are finishing up on lambing and calving with young livestock being reported in good health. In Summit County ranchers are still calving and lambing and have reported things going well. In Uintah County the dry weather conditions have been good for livestock during the calving and lambing season, but more moisture will be needed to maintain range land vegetation and crops.

**VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 36% short, 58% adequate, 5% Surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 21% short, 74% adequate, 4% surplus. Pasture 2% poor, 29% fair, 60% good, 9% excellent. Livestock 3% poor, 23% fair, 60% good, 14% excellent. Other Hay 38% fair, 51% good, 11% excellent. Alfalfa Hay 35% fair, 50% good, 15% excellent. Winter Wheat 2% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, 15% excellent. Barley 2% poor, 22% fair, 64% good, 12% excellent. Tobacco Greenhouse 35% fair, 34% good, 31% excellent. Tobacco Plant beds 97% fair, 3% good. Potatoes 100% fair. All Apples 1% poor, 94% fair, 5% good. Peaches 1% very poor, 3% poor, 63% fair, 33% good. Grapes 11% poor, 35% fair, 54% good. Oats 20% fair, 79% good, 1% excellent. Corn planted 22%; 7% 2011; 11% 5-yr avg. Summer Potatoes 85% planted; 87% 2011; NA 5-yr avg.. Many producers across the Commonwealth continued with corn planting this week, although an anticipated drop in temperatures may have caused some to refrain from planting despite adequate air and soil temperatures. The dry and windy weather has begun to take a toll as top soil moisture is decreasing. Frost late in the week was reported in some areas and slowed the growth of pastures and hay. The small grain crops seem to be heading or starting to head and with the chance of morning frost still likely, producers are worried that the cool temperatures may damage the crop.

**WASHINGTON:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.0. Topsoil moisture conditions were 3 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 31 percent surplus. The week was drier than the last which allowed more widespread fieldwork. Growth in hayfields was seen Statewide. Established hay stands looked excellent in Kittitas County. Winter wheat was beginning to green up in Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties. With favorable weather conditions many winter wheat producers in Adams County were able to spray with the hope of being completed in the coming week. In Franklin County, spring wheat and potato planting were in full swing with producers just starting to plant green peas and corn. In the Yakima Valley, fruit growers contended with frost protection during at least one morning when temperatures

reached into the upper 20s. Apricots were in post bloom while peaches and nectarines entered full bloom. Field crews were blossom thinning peaches and nectarines. Earlier cherry varieties were entering bloom. Apples were beginning to leaf out in the warmer areas of the county. Vegetable fields were being prepared with some growers laying out irrigation and black plastic. Tree fruit flower development was not affected by a cooler and wetter than normal spring in Chelan County. Temperatures up in the 60's jump started new growth on the raspberries in Whatcom County. Range and pasture conditions were 12 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Cattle operations continued feeding hay in most counties, although Asotin County cattle producers were sending a few out to pasture. In Klickitat County, green grasses were seen along the Columbia hills and the pastures in the valley were starting to grow.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Days for suitable for field work 6. Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 18% short, 71% adequate, 6% surplus compared to 7% short, 78% adequate, 15% surplus last year. Intended acreage prepared for spring crops 39%, 27% in 2011, 36% 5-year avg. Hay and roughage supplies 4% short, 76% adequate, 20% surplus compared to 8% very short, 27% short, 54% adequate, 11% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies 2% short, 97% adequate, 1% surplus compared to 4% very short, 19% short, 76% adequate, 1% surplus last year. Corn 3% planted, 4% in 2011, 2% 5-year avg. Winter wheat conditions 18% fair, 82% good. Hay conditions 1% poor, 30% fair, 62% good, 7% excellent. Apple conditions 8% very poor, 9% poor, 40% fair, 43% good. Peaches 15% very poor, 14% poor, 35% fair, 36% good. Cattle and calves 2% poor, 17% fair, 76% good, 5% excellent. Calving 87% complete, compared to 79% last year. Sheep and lambs 2% poor, 11% fair, 82% good, 5% excellent. Lambing 89% complete, compared to 82% last year. Weather was mostly ideal for field work last week. Farming activities included monitoring frost damage, planting early garden crops, moving livestock, preparing fields and planting crops, seeding pastures, fencing, calving, and lambing.

**WISCONSIN:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 24% short, 64% adequate, and 6% surplus. Spring tillage 19% complete, 1% 2011, 4% 5-yr avg. Temperatures remained above average this week, continuing the trend of this unusually mild winter. Farmers took advantage of the warm spring to get an early start on tillage and planting, though many producers remain concerned about the possibility of April frosts. The lack of snow cover this winter also contributed to dry conditions in some areas. Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 3 to 10 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 50 to 63 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 34 to 38 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Milwaukee to 1.20 inches in Eau Claire.

**WYOMING:** Days suitable for field work 6.30. Topsoil moisture 11% very short, 42% short, 47% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 32% short, 58% adequate. Barley 70% planted, 12% emerged. Oats 12% planted, 1% emerged. Spring wheat 13% planted, 2% emerged. Winter wheat condition 28% fair, 72% good. Crop insect infestation 93% none, 7% light. Spring calves born 54%. Farm flock ewes lambing 62%. Farm flock sheep shorn 52%. Range flock ewes lambing 13%. Range flock sheep shorn 20%. Calf losses 36% light, 64% normal. Lamb losses 39% light, 61% normal. Range and pasture condition 5% very poor, 4% poor, 42% fair, 49% good. Spring grazing prospects 18% poor, 51% fair, 31% good. Stock water supplies 18% short, 82% adequate. Weekly air temperatures averaged above normal at all but 1 of the 33 reporting stations. Moisture levels were at or below normal for all but 5 reporting stations. Temperature averages ranged from 3 degrees below normal at Cody to 13 degrees above normal at Lake Yellowstone and Buford. Weston County reported little to no measurable precipitation, strong winds and warm temperatures. Campbell County reports nice weather but a desperate need for moisture. Uinta County reports a concern about the level of snowpack and lack of precipitation. Activities included planting small grains, feeding livestock, shearing sheep, lambing & calving.