

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

State Stories

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ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 5% short, 69% adequate, and 26% surplus. Corn 68% planted, 85% 2008, 82% avg.; 47% emerged, 61% 2008, and 51% avg.; planted Conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 30% fair, 64% good, and 4% excellent. Cotton 3% Planted, 15% 2008, and 25 % average. Peanuts 0% Planted, 3% 2008, 4% average. Percent of Feed Obtained from Pastures 73%, N/A 2008, and N/A average. Winter Wheat 49% Headed, N/A 2008, and N/A avg.; condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 27% fair, 64% good, and 7% excellent. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 6% poor, 24% fair, 56% good, and 14% excellent. Pasture and range condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 21% fair, 68% good, and 10% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 6% short, 82% adequate, and 12% surplus. Producers in Alabama experienced dryer weather last week compared to previous weeks. Farmers anticipate beginning field work over the weekend and into the beginning of this week. The US Drought Monitor from April 21, 2009 indicated that the state was once again 100 percent free from drought, compared to 12 percent a year ago. Temperatures for the past week reached as many as 5 degrees above normal. Daytime high temperatures ranged from 85 degrees in Cullman to a hot 91 degrees in Hamilton, Pinson, and Dothan. Overnight lows varied from 35 degrees in Cullman and Bridgeport to 52 degrees in Dothan. Precipitation totals decreased from 0 inches in Bay Minnette and Geneva to 2.16 inches in Bridgeport. The amount of rainfall over weeks' past has caused wheat to show signs of tinting and yellowing. Cotton planting began last week, along with corn finishing and early soybean planting. Producers have welcomed the dryer weather as pasture fertilizing operations are rising.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures were above normal at all of the reporting stations across the State for the week ending April 26. No precipitation was reported at any of the 22 reporting stations. Cotton planting is complete on 50 percent of the acreage across the State. Small grains are headed on at least 75 percent of the acreage. Alfalfa harvest remains active on over three-quarters of the State's acreage. Alfalfa conditions are mostly good to excellent. Range and pasture conditions across the State are mostly fair.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Topsoil moisture 4% short, 75% adequate, 21% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% short, 79% adequate, 18% surplus. Corn 82% planted, 63% 2008, 87% avg.; 47% emerged, 38% 2008, 70% avg. Soybeans 3% emerged, 0% 2008, 2% avg. Sorghum 5% emerged, 0% 2008, 23% avg. Drier field conditions allowed producers to make significant progress in row crop plantings last week. Corn producers planted an additional 27% of the crop, 19% ahead of 2008 but still 5% behind the five-year average. Corn emergence was 9% ahead of last year but 23% behind the five-year average. Some producers were side-dressing nitrogen and applying herbicides to corn last week. Cotton planted was 1% ahead of last year but 6% behind the five-year average. Rice farmers planted 21% of the crop last week, 11% ahead of 2008 but still 15% behind the five-year average. Rice emergence was 6% ahead of last year but 14% behind the five-year average. Sorghum growers were able to plant 17% of the crop. Sorghum emerged was 5% ahead of last year but 18% behind the five-year average. An additional 6% of the soybean crop was planted last week as farmers continued to concentrate on getting their corn and rice crops planted. Soybean emergence was 3% ahead of 2008 and 1% ahead of the five-year average. Winter wheat headed was 23% ahead of last year but 3% behind the five-year average. Winter wheat remained in mostly fair to good condition. With the warmer temperatures, livestock remained in fair to good condition. Pasture and range and hay crops were also in fair to good condition as producers continued to fertilize pastures.

CALIFORNIA: The cutting of winter forage, other small grains for silage continued. Spring wheat seeding was underway. Winter wheat fields continued to be green chopped in preparation for corn planting. Corn fields continued to be planted; weed spraying was also underway. Early emerged corn plantings were showing excellent growth with the recent warm weather. Barley fields were starting to mature. Rice field planting began. Also rice fields were rolled, flooded, and a few fields were planted. The second cutting of alfalfa fields and baling continued. Cotton planting was still in progress. Weather in recent weeks caused growers to stop and start planting. The cotton crop looks good. Potatoes continued to be harvested. The north coast experienced excellent pear bloom while vineyards experienced bud break. Warm temperatures caused rapid shoot expansion in early grape varieties. Three days of record high temperatures caused increased growth, development rates of northern coastal olive trees. Olive trees in the San Joaquin Valley bloomed. Weed control continued in prune, peach, and nursery stock. Strawberry harvest picked up throughout the state; fruit quality remained good. Blueberries began to turn color. Cherries matured and were almost ready for harvest in some areas. Fungicides, insecticides were applied in orchards, vineyards. Fruit set was lighter than anticipated for some stone fruit varieties. Bee hives were moved into citrus locations to make orange honey. Navel orange harvest was mostly complete, however, navels displayed soft fruit and drying as quality slowly declined. Valencia harvest ramped up while Minneola harvest was mostly finished. Lemon, grapefruit harvests continued as harvest was almost complete for W. Murcott and Honey mandarins. Harvest picked up for Pixie mandarins. Pistachio trees damaged from the April frost were replanted in the Sacramento Valley. Blight treatments continued in walnut orchards. High temperatures caused increased evapo-transpiration rates in orchards causing light stress to some orchards. Growers monitored soil moisture content throughout the state as well as ants, mites, and navel orangeworms in the San Joaquin Valley. Almonds were sizing normally. Water availability was being revised in some areas of the Central Valley. Processing tomato planting continued in Sutter County. Broccoli, spinach were harvested in Stanislaus County while land was prepared for planting tomatoes, beans, cantaloupes. Lima, freezer bean plantings were expected to start in the upcoming weeks. Stockton area farmers were harvesting asparagus and planting tomatoes. Merced growers were reportedly planting tomatoes using drip irrigation techniques as high yields resulted from this practice last year. Early planted tomato fields in Fresno were showing their first blooms. Tulare County growers were planting and preparing vegetable beds. Harvests of squash, zucchini continued. Bitter melon, camote leaves grown in hot houses were being harvested for farmers markets. Pole cucumbers were making good growth gains. Bakersfield area onions were treated with mildew sprays and for thrips. Melons were growing nicely with some fields treated for aphids, mites. Sweet corn, onions, carrots were harvested in the Imperial Valley. The melon crop was progressing well. High temperatures resulted in rapid dry down on rangeland. Additional rainfall was needed to help growth. Supplemental feeding of hay, nutrients to livestock continued. Cattle weight gains were normal as rangeland conditions were average. Bees were moved to holding areas.

COLORADO: Days suitable for field work 4.7. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 15% short, 73% adequate 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 26% short, 56% adequate 7% surplus. Spring barley 40% planted, 61% 2008, 67% avg.; 21% emerged, 21% 2008, 28% avg. Dry onions 75% planted, 83% 2008, 86% avg. Sugarbeets 38% planted, 52% 2008, 62% avg. Summer potatoes 18% planted, 29% 2008, 34% avg. Spring wheat 35% planted, 44% 2008, 51% avg.; 15%

emerged, 14% 2008, 18% avg. Winter Wheat 41% jointed, 48% 2008, 49% avg. Colorado did not receive any moisture last week and temperatures averaged about 7 degrees above normal. The above average precipitation received two weeks ago and the warm temperatures last week provided excellent conditions for spring growth.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Topsoil moisture 2% short, 85% adequate, 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture 28% short, 68% adequate, 4% surplus. Hay supplies 10% very short, 31% short, 59% adequate. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 20% fair, 70% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. Barley condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 14% fair, 68% good, 13% excellent. Corn 9% planted, 42% 2008, 25% avg.; 1% emerged, 0% 2008, 1% avg. Soybeans 0% planted, 1% 2008, 0% avg. Barley 100% emerged, 74% 2008, 57% avg.; 21% headed, 0% 2008, 0% avg. Winter wheat 100% emerged, 100% 2008, 100% avg.; 0% headed, 12% 2008, 7% avg. Cantaloup 2%, planted 1% 2008, 2% avg. Cucumbers 1% planted, 3% 2008, 3% avg. Green Peas 84% planted, 90% 2008, 78% avg. Potatoes 83% planted, 82% 2008, 75% avg. Snap Beans 4% planted, 5% 2008, 15% avg. Sweet Corn 7% planted, 20% 2008, 18% avg. Tomatoes 3% planted, 2% 2008, 3% avg. Watermelons 1% planted, 1% 2008, 4% avg. Apples bloomed 48%, 54% 2008, 59% avg. Peaches bloomed 87%, 100% 2008, 87% avg. Strawberries bloomed 66%, 60% 2008, 38% avg. Farmers were making use of the clear weather to get their corn in. Some complaints of flooded/sloppy field conditions now – with farmers worried about their corn crops being planted timely."

FLORIDA: Topsoil moisture 36% very short, 45% short, 17% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 29% very short, 39% short, 30% adequate, 2% surplus. Peanuts 9% planted, 6% 2008, 4% 5-yr avg. Peanut planting began, Panhandle with 9% completed. Field work continued, preparing land for cotton, peanuts. Washington County planted most corn crop, some peanuts. Onions, ryegrass, clover hay were harvested. Columbia County millet, sorghum planted to help forage shortage. Corn, tobacco planting virtually complete. Peanut planting underway. Union County harvested oats, rye for hay. Okaloosa County small percentage of cotton, peanuts planted. Walton County busy preparing fields for peanuts, planting to begin in May. Flagler County harvesting potatoes. Hernando, Citrus, Sumter counties harvested blueberries. Soil moisture mostly adequate, Panhandle, Big Bend short, central, southern Peninsulas. Vegetable harvest increased, Collier, Hendry, Lee, Glades counties. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, watermelons were harvested. Cabbage harvest continued, Flagler County. Gadsden County prepared land for spring planting. Strawberry harvest continued, Washington County. Watermelon, tomato, severe damage from previous rainfall. Pompano city harvested peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, squash. Other vegetables marketed beans, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, lettuce. Dry weather affected surface soil moisture, citrus trees. Slight tree wilt during heat of day. Varied stages of water restrictions in affect. Next year's fruit between pea size on late oranges, marble size on early oranges. With exception of irrigation, caretakers implemented limited production practices. Harvest of Valencia oranges for processing remained very active. Grapefruit harvest slowed, most fruit coming from East Coast. Few honey tangerines, early oranges, Temples remain to be picked. Pasture Feed 15% very poor, 40% poor, 35% fair, 10% good. Cattle Condition 5% very poor, 10% poor, 55% fair, 25% good, 5% excellent. Pasture condition limited by cold, flooding in Panhandle, north; by drought in central, southwest counties. Panhandle pasture condition poor to good, permanent pasture grass provided some grazing, winter forage declined seasonally. Hay feeding declining. Cattle condition poor to excellent. North pasture condition poor to good, reduced by recent near freezing temperatures. Ryegrass, oat forage seasonally over. Hay feeding continues. Millet, sorghum planted for forage. Supplemental hay feeding active. Central pasture very poor to good, forage growth reduced by drought, hot, dry winds. Supplemental hay feeding active. Cattle condition very poor to good. Southwest pasture condition very poor to good, most poor to fair. Pastures suffering from drought, hot winds. Statewide cattle condition very poor to excellent, most fair.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 10% short, 78% adequate, 12% surplus. Corn 5% very poor, 14% poor, 45% fair, 33% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 5% poor, 36% fair, 47% good, 11% excellent. Range and pasture 2% very poor, 6% poor, 38% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent. Apples 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 60% good, 40% excellent. Hay 3% very poor, 5% poor, 44% fair, 41% good, 7% excellent. Onions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 39% fair, 59% good, 1% excellent. Peaches 0%

very poor, 15% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 0% excellent. Watermelons 2% very poor, 20% poor, 45% fair, 31% good, 2% excellent. Corn 84% planted, 91% 2008, 89% avg.; 71% emerged, 78% 2008, 78% avg. Soybeans 5% planted, 3% 2008, 3% avg. Sorghum 8% planted, 19% 2008, 14% avg. Winter wheat boot 94%, 96% 2008, 95% avg.; 75% headed, 80% 2008, 82% avg. Apples blooming 80%, 90% 2008, 79% avg. Onions 16% harvested, 19% 2008, 18% avg. Tobacco transplanted 50%, 74% 2008, 78% avg. Watermelons 82% planted, 90% 2008, 86% avg. Many fields dried during the week which allowed farmers to fertilize and plant. Some corn was being replanted where wet soils prevented good stands. Disease continued to spread in wheat. Cereal leaf beetle larva has been found. Other activities included applying lime, fertilizer and herbicide to pastures and hayfields.

HAWAII: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Soil moisture levels in most areas were adequate, with a few short. Most banana and papaya orchards were in fair to good condition. Harvesting remains light to moderate. Warmer temperatures allowed for fruit development. In general, the head cabbage crop was in good condition. Warm muggy condition early in the week was replaced by cooler, dry air by week's end. Light variable winds became light northerly winds by the weekend. Precipitation was light to moderate, with some localized heavier showers during the first half of the week, becoming very light by the weekend. Some momentary disruption to field activities associated with some of the heavy showers. Skies ranged from mostly cloudy to partly cloudy. The warmer conditions increased insect infestation presence.

IDAHO: Days suitable for field work 5.8. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 4% short, 92% adequate, 4% surplus. Field corn 12% planted, 8% 2008, 14% avg. Winter wheat jointed 15%, 3% 2008, 16% avg.; boot stage 1%, 0% 2008, 1% avg. Onions 78% emerged, 46% 2008, 63% avg. Potatoes 16% planted, 24% 2008, 20% avg. Oats 41% planted, 49% 2008, 50% avg.; 20% emerged, 32% 2008, 28% avg. Dry peas 13% planted, 11% 2008, 46% avg.; 6% emerged, 3% 2008, 20% avg. Lentils 5% planted, 3% 2008, 29% avg. Lambing complete 96%, 96% 2008, 98% avg. Hay and roughage supply 0% very short, 34% short, 61% adequate, 5% surplus. Irrigation water supply 0% very poor, 0% poor, 9% fair, 81% good, 10% excellent. Sugarbeets 87% planted, 88% 2008, 90% avg.; 11% emerged, 14% 2008, 32% avg. Range and pasture 0% very poor, 0% poor, 25% fair, 45% good, 30% excellent. Crops progressed nicely as warm weather improved field and crop conditions. The Twin Falls extension educator reported potato and sugarbeet planting is well underway but cool soil temperature has made farmers cautious of planting corn. Power County reported some irrigation of sugarbeets and winter wheat. Blaine County reported high winds later in the week and Elmore County reported heavy frost that may have harmed emerged crops.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.9. Topsoil moisture 42% adequate and 58% surplus. Corn 4% planted, compared to 5% in 2008 and 43% for the five-year average. Oats 72% planted, compared to 52% in 2008 and 81% for the five-year average. Winter wheat conditions stood at 1% very poor, 7% poor, 23% fair, 52% good, and 17% excellent. Oat conditions stood at 2% very poor, 5% poor, 41% fair, 46% good, and 6% excellent. Alfalfa conditions stood at 2% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 59% good, and 8% excellent. Pasture conditions 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 60% good, and 12% excellent. Red clover conditions 1% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, and 12% excellent. Wet conditions continued to slow the progress of planting throughout the state. Warm temperatures over the weekend helped in the drying process but were followed by more rain. Producers are ready to plant but are forced to wait for dry conditions. Temperatures averaged 58.9 degrees, 3.3 degrees above normal across the state. Statewide precipitation averaged 1.22 inches, 0.32 inch above normal.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.0. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 56% adequate, 43% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 67% adequate, 30% surplus. Corn 2% planted, 9% 2008, 25% avg. Winter wheat jointed 45%, 49% 2008, 61% avg.; condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 58% good, 20% excellent. Pasture condition 4% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 54% good, 11% excellent. Temperatures ranged from normal to 5o above normal with a low of 27o and a high of 87o. Precipitation averaged from 0.20 inches to 1.78 inches. Planting season has finally begun. Cool, wet conditions hindered field work early in the week. However, a strong breeze and temperatures over 80 degrees late in the week allowed soils to dry enough to support equipment in many areas. Many farmers were able to do some tillage work, spread dry fertilizer and knife-in anhydrous

ammonia. Strong winds made it difficult to spray herbicides. Fruit crops are reported to be in good condition at this time. Other activities included hauling grain to market, tilling soils, spreading fertilizer, knifing-in anhydrous ammonia, planting corn, hauling manure, and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Top soil moisture 5% short, 60% adequate, and 35% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% short, 65% adequate, and 29% surplus. Corn 47% planted, 25% average, 3% last year. Soybeans 2% planted, 1% average, 0% last year. Oats 93% seeded, 75% average, 26% last year. Oats 29% emerged, 36% average, 5% last year. Fertilizer applied, including fall application, 88% complete, 80% average, 65% last year. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 13% poor, 41% fair, 36% good, 8% excellent. Five days of beautiful weather and ideal soil conditions supported rapid corn planting across western two-thirds of State. Planting pace slightly slower across eastern one-third. Weekend rains saturated soils and quickly halted fieldwork throughout the State.

KANSAS: Days suitable for field work 3.6. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 4% short, 70% adequate, and 25% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 9% short, 76% adequate, and 14% surplus. Wind damage to wheat 74% no damage, 19% light damage, 6% moderate damage, 1% severe. Freeze damage 66% no damage, 21% light damage, 10% moderate damage, 3% severe. Insect infestation in wheat rated 82% none, 14% light, 3% moderate, and 1% severe. Disease infestation in wheat rated 82% none, 16% light, and 2% moderate. Range and pasture condition 3% very poor, 10% poor, 34% fair, 48% good, 5% excellent. Feed grain supplies 5% short, 92% adequate, and 3% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 1% very short, 9% short, 84% adequate, and 6% surplus. Stock water supplies are 4% short, 81% adequate, and 15% surplus.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for field work 3.8. Topsoil moisture 8% short, 70% adequate, 22% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 8% short, 76% adequate, 15% surplus. Tobacco transplants less than 2 inches 52%, 2 to 4 inches 39%, larger than 4 inches 9%. Tobacco transplants grown in conventional beds 3%. Tobacco transplants grown in greenhouses or floatation systems 97%. Expected date of first alfalfa cutting May 8. Winter wheat 4% headed, condition 2% poor, 20% fair, 55% good, and 23% excellent. Strawberry condition 3% poor, 23% fair, 60% good, 14% excellent. Weather improved by mid week allowing fieldwork progress to resume.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Soil moisture 3% very short, 4% short, 79% adequate and 14% surplus. Corn 100% planted, 100% 2008, 100% avg.; 98% emerged, 99% 2008, 98% avg.; 4% poor, 39% fair, 55% good, and 2% excellent. Sorghum 28% planted, 17% 2008, and 67% avg. Soybeans 34% planted, 17% 2008, and 34% avg. Wheat 100% headed, 99% 2008, 97% avg.; 13% turning color, 40% 2008, and 28% avg.; 2% poor, 25% fair, 66% good, 7% excellent. Spring plowing 94% plowed, 89% 2008, 89% avg. Sugarcane 2% very poor, 14% poor, 34% fair, 41% good, 9% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 56% good, 5% excellent. Vegetable 1% very poor, 7% poor, 40% fair, 49% good, 3% excellent. Range and pasture 1% very poor, 7% poor, 34% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent. Hay 1st Cutting 10%, 21% 2008, and 14% avg.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 6% short, 78% adequate, 16% surplus. Subsoil moisture 16% short, 77% adequate, 7% surplus. Hay supplies 6% very short, 10% short, 82% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture condition 1% poor, 16% fair, 66% good, 17% excellent. Winter wheat condition 5% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, 11% excellent. Barley condition 5% poor, 21% fair, 59% good, 15% excellent. Corn 7% planted, 23% 2008, 21% avg.; 0% emerged, 0% 2008, 1% avg. Soybeans 0% planted, 3% 2008, 1% avg. Barley 100% emerged, 52% 2008, 26% avg.; 23% headed, 0% 2008, 0% avg. Winter wheat 100% emerged, 100% 2008, 100% avg.; 6% headed, 14% 2008, 6% avg. Cantaloup 0% planted, 15% 2008, 14% avg. Cucumbers 5%, 15% 2008, 13% avg. Green Peas 75% planted, 83% 2008, 69% avg. Potatoes 63% planted, 93% 2008, 69% avg. Snap Beans 12% planted, 12% 2008, 8% avg. Sweet corn 16% planted, 27% 2008, 22% avg. Tomatoes 18% planted, 35% 2008, 27% avg. Watermelons 0% planted, 13% 2008, 15% avg. Apples bloomed 12%, 59% 2008, 47% avg. Peaches bloomed 40%, 86% 2008, 67% avg. Strawberries bloomed 57%, 71% 2008, 58% avg. Farmers were making use of the clear weather to get their corn in. Some complaints of flooded/sloppy field conditions now with farmers worried about their corn crops being planted timely."

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 3. Topsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 46% adequate, 52% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 3% short, 60% adequate, 36% surplus. Pasture 3% very poor, 8% poor, 40% fair, 39% good, 10% excellent. Barley planted 16%, 9% 2008, 31% avg.

Oats 49% planted, 46% 2008, 59% avg.; 10% emerged, 4% 2008, 16% avg. Potatoes 11% planted, 20% 2008, 19% avg. Precipitation varied from 0.89 inches southeast Lower Peninsula to 2.83 inches central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal western Upper Peninsula to 4 degrees above normal southeast Lower Peninsula. Heavy precipitation halted field activities. Although additional rainfall is expected to benefit crops that have already been planted, farmers may not be able to return to fields for several days. Rainy weather has hindered planting majority of state, but much needed. Corn and soybeans have not been planted most areas of state, but will begin as weather permits. Wheat progressing despite some damage from winter and animals. Some alfalfa fields had significant amounts of standing water. However, crop making progress. Oat planting underway. Sugarbeet planting nearing completion many areas. Overnight temperatures have been low, but not enough to cause damage to swollen fruit buds. Temperatures below 25 degrees Fahrenheit cause freeze injury to buds of most fruit crops. Apples ranged from silver tip to half-inch green west central. Apples northwest at green tip and at bud swell southeast. Peaches at early bud swell to green calyx. European plums at green tip, and oriental plums at tight cluster southwest. Northwest, plums at early bud swell. Apricots at first bloom. Sweet and tart cherries at side green to green tip. Raspberries at early bud swell. Blueberries at bud swell. Grapes at scale crack southeast. Fertilizer applications, pruning, and brush clean-up continued as weather permitted. Growers across State continued to prepare equipment for planting season and work soil as weather allowed. Precipitation during week and wind over weekend hindered field activities and delayed application of pesticides. West central area, asparagus crown planting full swing as carrot planting. Early planted cabbage and potatoes just beginning to show new growth and early sweet corn began to germinate southeast.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 18% short, 54% adequate, 25% surplus. Corn 56% land prepared, 3% 2008, 28% avg. Soybeans 10% land prepared, 1% 2008, 7% avg. Barley 1% emerged, 0% 2008, 4% avg. Potatoes 28% planted, 6% 2008, 25% avg. Green Peas 33% planted, 4% 2008, 21% avg. Spring tillage and seeding progressed under generally favorable weather conditions throughout the state. Daytime highs soared into the low 90s across the south and precipitation was primarily confined to late in the week. Soil moisture conditions held steady as much needed rains fell across southern Minnesota. Other farm activities included calving, equipment maintenance and pasture land weed control. The opportunity for spring field work continued to vary across the state last week. Seedbeds were drying and working up well under warm temperatures and strong winds across the south. Drying was comparatively slower across the central and north where producers are beginning to work lighter, sandier, soil. Northwestern producers remain the most limited as fields range from relatively wet to inaccessible due to earlier flooding. Soil moisture conditions are relatively unchanged from last week. Welcomed rains fell across the south late in the week. Surplus moisture conditions exist across the northwest as earlier floodwaters continue to dissipate.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Soil moisture 6% short, 78% adequate and 16% surplus. Corn 88% planted, 95% 2008, 95% avg.; 73% emerged, 83% 2008, 86% avg.; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 28% fair, 60% good, 9% excellent. Cotton 13% planted, 6% 2008, 23% avg. Peanuts 0% planted, 5% 2008, NA avg. Rice 38% planted, 54% 2008, 62% avg.; 14% emerged, 26% 2008, 31% avg. Sorghum 31% planted, 37% 2008, 50% avg.; 10% emerged, 17% 2008, 27% avg. Soybeans 33% planted, 43% 2008, 57% avg.; 16% emerged, 20% 2008, 35% avg. Winter Wheat 99% jointing, 100% 2008, 99% avg.; 88% heading, 84% 2008, 87% avg.; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 21% fair, 51% good, 23% excellent. Hay (harvested-cool) 27%, 21% 2008, 22% avg. Watermelons 77% planted, 82% 2008, 74% avg. Blueberries 0% very poor, 0% poor, 43% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Cattle 1% very poor, 6% poor, 21% fair, 55% good, 17% excellent. Pasture 0% very poor, 3% poor, 13% fair, 70% good, 14% excellent. Warm and sunny weather conditions allowed row crop planting progress to be made in various areas across the state. Several producers believe the favorable weather conditions will allow them to catch up on some of their planting intentions. Pastures and vegetables are in good condition, and hay harvesting is underway in parts of the state.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil moisture 2% short, 58% adequate, and 40% surplus. Spring tillage 50%, 23% 2008, 62% normal. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 41% fair, 48% good, and 4% excellent. Warm, dry conditions allowed producers to make substantial progress in spring tillage and planting. Rainfall

averaged 0.54 inches across the state.

MONTANA: Days suitable for field work 4.2 last year. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 29% last year, 8% short, 36% last year, 77% adequate, 34% last year, 15% surplus, 1% last year. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 39% last year, 20% short, 39% last year, 66% adequate, 21% last year, 5% surplus, 1% last year. Field tillage work in progress 42% none, 26% last year, 28% just started, 29% last year, 30% well underway, 45% last year. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 12% last year, 4% poor, 17% last year, 30% fair, 36% last year, 52% good, 30% last year, 12% excellent, 5% last year. Winter wheat spring stages 6% still dormant, 4% last year, 33% greening, 50% last year, 61% greening and growing, 46% last year. Barley 21% planted, 46% last year. Camelina 46% planted, 83% last year; 8% emerged, 29% last year. Corn 12% planted, 8% last year. Dry Peas 17% planted, 62% last year. Durum Wheat 4% planted, 24% last year. Lentils 10% planted, 28% last year. Oats 8% planted, 43% last year. Spring Wheat 24% planted, 45% last year. Sugar beets 35% planted, 37% last year. Precipitation was limited throughout the whole state during the week. Bozeman and Ryegate shared the most weekly accumulated precipitation of 0.78 of an inch. Highs were mostly in the 70s and 80s, and lows were mostly in the teens and 20s. Rudyard had the weekly high temperature at 84 degrees. Cut Bank had the weekly low temperature at 5 degrees. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 77%, 82% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 80%, 80% last year. Livestock grazing 79% open, 81% last year, 14% difficult, 13% last year, 7% closed, 6% last year. Calving completed 85%, 86% last year. Lambing completed 70%, 73% last year. Range and pasture feed condition 2% very poor, 18% last year, 10% poor, 32% last year, 58% fair, 33% last year, 27% good, 13% last year, 3% excellent, 4% last year.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.3. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 13% short, 77% adequate, and 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 16% short, 78% adequate, and 1% surplus. Corn 27% planted, 8% 2008, 18% avg. Soybean 0% planted, 0% 2008, 1% avg. Sorghum 0% planted, 0% 2008, 0% avg. Winter wheat conditions 0% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 61% good, and 12% excellent; 14% jointed, 11% 2008, 32% avg.; 0% headed, 0% 2008, 0% avg. Oats 86% planted, 78% 2008, 85% avg.; 34% emerged, 26% 2008, 44% avg. Alfalfa conditions rated 0% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 70% good, 7% excellent. Pasture and Range conditions 0% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 67% good, and 6% excellent. Cow calved 93% complete, calf losses rated 12% below average, 86% average, and 2% above average. Favorable planting conditions had corn and oat planters in fields. Corn planting is a week ahead of last year and four days ahead of the average. Oats planted made a large jump as well. The first few fields of soybeans have been planted. Soil temperatures warmed and were near 60 degrees for the first time this season. As calving season nears completion, producers were focused on working cattle and preparing to move livestock to pasture. Temperatures averaged 2 degrees above normal across the state with highs of 90 in many areas to lows below freezing in the Panhandle and North Central Districts. Precipitation was minimal, the northeast and southeastern parts of the state averaging just over a quarter of an inch of rainfall.

NEVADA: The first portion of the week was dominated by warmer than average temperatures across the State, while cooler than normal temperatures dominated the State the last three days of the week. All reporting stations in northern Nevada reported some precipitation while the southern portion remained dry. Eureka recorded the most with .66 inches of precipitation and a high of 76 degrees while Elko reported .58 inches and a high of 80 degrees. Las Vegas recorded the highest temperature across the State reporting 94 degrees while Reno was second reporting a high of 85 degrees. Ely captured the lowest temperature at 26 degrees with Eureka recording a low of 27 degrees. Planting of onions continued during the week, while some early movement of cattle to range land was reported.

NEW ENGLAND: The first half of the week was cool and wet, bringing much needed moisture to the area. Rain fell Monday through Wednesday in most locations, and several received very light rain on Thursday as well. High temperatures were below average, ranging in the upper 40s to low 60s. Nighttime temperatures averaged in the mid-40s. Sunny weather arrived on Thursday and remained throughout the weekend. Temperatures rose considerably, and broke record highs in most areas on both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday high temperatures were in the mid 80s. Sunday's high temperatures averaged in the mid 70s, but were still well above average. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.29 inches to 2.21 inches, with most locations averaging

around 1.50 inches. The warm, dry weekend weather was ideal for fieldwork. Major farm activities included plowing and discing, spreading manure and fertilizer, transplanting started vegetables, pruning trees, fertilizing orchards, and working in the greenhouses.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 5.0. Topsoil moisture 2% short, 90% adequate, and 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 90% adequate and 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in all localities. Temperatures were variable across the Garden State. Producers continued planting when weather permitted. Tomatoes, potatoes, and cucumbers plantings continued. Asparagus and arugula harvesting continued. Farmers continued spraying hay fields for cereal rust mites. Blueberries and apples were blooming, while peach stages ranged from late petal falls to split-shuck. Other activities included tilling fields, fertilizing crops, and scouting for pests.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil moisture 39% very short, 48% short, 13% adequate. Wind damage 25% light, 8% moderate, 4% severe. Freeze damage 8% light. Alfalfa 7% poor, 33% fair, 57% good, 3% excellent; 22% of the first cut completed. Cotton 20% fair, 80% good; 30% planted. Corn 42% fair, 53% good, 5% excellent; 33% planted. Irrigated Sorghum 16% planted. Winter wheat 26% very poor, 32% poor, 23% fair, 16% good, 3% excellent; 13% headed. Lettuce 8% very poor, 1% poor, 7% good, 57% good, 27% Excellent. Chile 44% fair, 42% good, 14% excellent; 76% planted. Onion 48% fair, 33% good, 19% excellent. Apples 60% in full bloom. Pecan 23% fair, 55% good, 22% excellent. Cattle 2% very poor, 22% poor, 47% fair, 29% good. Sheep 20% very poor, 37% poor, 33% fair, 10% good. Range and pasture 13% very poor, 36% poor, 47% fair, 4% good. Mostly sunny skies and above normal temperatures prevailed across New Mexico through midweek under a ridge of high pressure aloft. On Thursday, a few showers and thunderstorms developed across Southeast and Southcentral New Mexico, with minimal amounts of precipitation reported. An upper level storm system brought windy conditions to the state late in the week and into the weekend.

NEW YORK: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.9. Soil moisture 2% very short, 18% short, 70% adequate, and 10% surplus. Pastures 9% very poor, 10% poor, 36% fair, 43% good, and 2% excellent. Dry, warm spring weather accelerated early spring plantings. Corn planting was 4% completed. Oats 48% planted; 48% 2008. Potatoes 43% planted; 20% 2008. Winter wheat condition 3% poor, 23% fair, 64% good, and 10% excellent. Oat condition 24% fair, 67% good, and 9% excellent. Apples were 40% half-inch green to pink. Peaches were 60% half-inch green to pink. Pears were 47% half-inch green to pink. Sweet cherries were 3% green tip or earlier and 77% half-inch green to pink. In the Long Island Grape region, bud break may be slightly late this year due to the cool temperatures. Sweet corn 10% planted. Onions 10% planted. Snap beans and cabbage were 1% planted. Temperatures were cool and dry through the first half week, but ended the week well above normal. Precipitation was below normal for the week for most of the state despite heavy rainfall Monday night into Tuesday.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 5.4. Soil moisture 9% short, 85% adequate, 6% surplus. North Carolina received some precipitation last week ranging from no rain to 0.89 inches in Asheville. Average temperatures were above normal, ranging from 50 to 68 degrees. Topsoil moisture declined in some parts of the state due to high winds and warm temperatures. Activities during the week included field preparations and planting row crops.

NORTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.7. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 60% adequate, 39% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 5% short, 60% adequate, 34% surplus. The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be May 1. Durum wheat 1% planted, 16% 2008, 14% average. Dry edible peas 2% planted, 30% 2008, average not available. Pastures and ranges were 60% dormant, 40% growing. Hay and forage supplies were 23% very short, 38% short, 38% adequate, 1% surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 10% very short, 16% short, 73% adequate, 1% surplus. Calving was 80% complete. Lambing was 88% complete. Shearing was 94% complete. Temperatures were above normal and precipitation was below normal for much of the state this past week, allowing some farmers to begin fieldwork. Although general fieldwork and planting was delayed, fertilizer application, tillage, and planting were observed in a minority of fields by our reporters.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 1. Apples 3% very poor, 5% poor, 30% fair, 47% good, 15% excellent. Peaches 17% very poor, 19% poor, 28% fair, 29% good, 7% excellent. Hay 1% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 58% good, 9% excellent. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 19% fair, 68% good, 12% excellent. Range and pasture 1%

very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 53% good, 9% excellent. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 5% poor, 22% fair, 52% good, 20% excellent. Corn 8% planted 2008, 26% average Winter wheat jointed 35%, 39% 2008, 44% avg. Oats 54% planted, 54% 2008, 63% avg.; 24% emerged, 7% 2008, 18% avg. Apples green tip (or beyond) 80%, 87% 2008, 86% avg. Peaches green tip (or beyond) 71%, 84% 2008, 85% avg. Potatoes 16% planted, 25% 2008, 33% avg.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil moisture 8% very short, 18% short, 66% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 17% very short, 35% short, 42% adequate, 6% surplus. Wheat jointing 98% this week, 97% last week, 94% last year, 97% average. Rye condition 38% very poor 48% poor, 13% fair, 1% good; jointing 99% this week, 98% last week, 98% last year, 93% average; 80% headed this week, 54% last week, 70% last year, 78% average. Oats condition 28% very poor 33% poor, 32% fair, 7% good; jointing 66% this week, 52% last week, 65% last year, 67% average; 11% headed this week, N/A last week, 11% last year, 17% average. Corn seedbed prepared 93% this week, 90% last week, 90% last year, 95% average; 45% planted this week, 33% last week, 58% last year, 57% average; 19% emerged this week, N/A last week, 30% last year, 36% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 53% this week, 45% last week, 50% last year, 49% average. Soybean seedbed prepared 49% this week, 45% last week, 47% last year, 58% average. Peanuts seedbed prepared 72% this week, 64% last week, 76% last year, 74% average. Cotton seedbed prepared 75% this week, 73% last week, 87% last year, 79% average. Alfalfa hay 1st cutting 13% this week, N/A last week, 14% last year, 26% average. Watermelon planted 13% this week, N/A last week, 21% last year, 36% average. Livestock condition 4% very poor, 10% poor, 43% fair, 40% good, 3% excellent. Pasture and range condition 9% very poor, 18% poor, 38% fair, 34% good, 1% excellent. Livestock Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$104 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$95 per cwt. Livestock conditions increased from the previous week and were rated mostly in the good to fair range. Average livestock marketings were reported last week.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 15% short, 74% adequate, 16% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 14% short, 71% adequate, 9% surplus. Spring Wheat 81% planted, 73% 2008, 87% average. Spring Wheat 41% emerged, 65% 2008, 59% average. Barley 81% planted, 87% 2008, 81% avg.; 54% emerged, 52% 2008, 59% average. Winter Wheat Condition 1% very poor, 14% poor, 46% fair, 32% good, 7% excellent. Weather conditions were warmer, drier throughout the State. High temperatures ranged from 92 degrees in Medford, down to 57 degrees in North Bend. Low temperatures ranged from 39 degrees in Portland, down to 11 degrees in Christmas Valley. Only thirteen out of the forty three stations reported a measurable amount of precipitation last week. The Tillamook station reported the most with 0.21 total inches. Field Crops Sunny weather aided grain, row crop growth throughout much of the State last week. The dryer, warmer conditions were ideal for spring planting. Spring wheat emergence was nearing half complete, while barley emergence was slightly over half complete this past week. Grass seed crops looked good. Sherman County had some spring replanting into dry ground. Vegetables Early corn was in the ground in Washington County. Cool weather in Douglas County continued to delay vegetable planting for warm season crops. Fruits, Nuts Warmer temperatures early this past week aided fruit bloom, growth across most of the State. However, cool weather continued during the latter part of the week. Some fruit growers in southwestern areas had to use protection to deter frost damage. Hazelnuts were sprayed again this past week. Full bloom on cherries in Wasco County came quickly with warm weather earlier in the week. Pollination conditions seemed ideal there. Unseasonably warm temperatures accelerated fruit flower bud development in Hood River County. Nurseries Greenhouses. Greenhouses were busy with spring vegetable, ornamental starts. Nurseries were active delivering trees, shrubs to sale outlets. Nurseries were also busy covering plants most vulnerable to frost. Livestock, Range, Pasture Warm temperatures have helped pasture growth; grass & hay were starting to turn green. Cows, calves were reportedly in good condition; however some counties indicated dry range conditions.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Soil moisture 1% very short, 13% short, 73% adequate, 13% surplus. Corn 7% planted, 18% 2008, 15% avg. Wheat crop condition 2% poor, 23% fair, 62% good, 13% excellent. Oats 66% planted, 77% 2008, 67% avg.; 32% emerged, 14% 2008, 19% avg. Potatoes 5% planted, 24% 2008, 20% avg. Tobacco beds 90% planted, 61% avg. Alfalfa crop conditions 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 56% good, 16% excellent. Timothy

clover crop condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 68% good, 8% excellent. Peaches in pink 94% complete, 100% 2008, 95% avg. Peaches in full bloom 92% complete, 71% 2008, 68% avg. Cherries in pink 68% complete, 99% 2008, 94% avg. Cherries in full bloom 44% complete, 87% 2008, 74% avg. Apples in pink 62% complete, 59% 2008, 69% avg. Apples in full bloom 32% complete, 49% 2008, 42% avg. Pasture conditions 4% very poor, 10% poor, 30% fair, 42% good, 14% excellent. Spring plowing is 50% complete, 65% 2008, 62% avg. The weather throughout Pennsylvania was highly variable last week. The week started off rainy and cool. Later in the week, conditions ranged from frost in the morning to 80 degree temperatures in the afternoons. There was a total of 4 days suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included planting oats, corn, potatoes, mixed grasses, and tobacco in beds. Farmers also spent time with activities such as spreading manure, and spraying. The weather continued to promote favorable plowing conditions, as plowing is now 50 percent complete. Soil moisture conditions declined slightly last week.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Soil moisture 0% very short, 20% short, 78% adequate, 2% surplus. Corn 0% very poor, 0% poor, 36% fair, 63% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 25% fair, 68% good, 4% excellent. Pasture condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 41% fair, 56% good, 1% excellent. Oats 1% very poor, 1% poor, 17% fair, 72% good, 9% excellent. Tobacco 0% very poor, 1% poor, 42% fair, 55% good, 2% excellent. Hay 0% very poor, 0% poor, 43% fair, 54% good, 3% excellent. Peaches 0% very poor, 3% poor, 39% fair, 58% good, 0% excellent. Snapbeans, fresh 0% very poor, 0% poor, 50% fair, 50% good, 0% excellent. Cucumbers, fresh 0% very poor, 5% poor, 60% fair, 35% good, 0% excellent. Watermelons 0% very poor, 1% poor, 65% fair, 34% good, 0% excellent. Tomatoes, fresh 0% very poor, 0% poor, 46% fair, 54% good, 0% excellent. Cantaloups 0% very poor, 4% poor, 63% fair, 33% good, 0% excellent. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 72% good, 2% excellent. Corn 88% planted, 93% 2008, 94% avg.; 59% emerged, 67% 2008, 75% avg. Soybeans 2% planted, 4% 2008, 6% avg. Winter wheat 67% headed, 68% 2008, 74% avg. Oats 70% headed, 78% 2008, 78% avg. Tobacco transplanted 70%, 70% 2008, 74% avg. Hay grain hay 25%, 31% 2008, 27% avg. Snapbeans, fresh 71% planted, 73% 2008, 77% avg. Cucumbers, fresh planted 67%, 74% 2008, 82% avg. Watermelons 81% planted, 84% 2008, 83% avg. Tomatoes, fresh planted 93%, 95% 2008, 94% avg. Cantaloups 66% planted, 79% 2008, 79% avg. South Carolina received some wind and rain near the beginning of this past week, but the remainder of the week was mostly dry for the majority of the State. Days during the latter portion of the week were mostly sunny with above average temperatures. Some farmers benefitted from the dryer conditions, however several farms have reported the need for rain as topsoil dries out. Rain is needed to promote seed germination and to help activate chemicals. Corn planting is nearing completion, whereas some growers were not able to get all of the corn acreage planted that they wanted and are considering shifting acreage to cotton, peanuts, or soybeans. Tobacco transplanting made significant gains this past week. Winter Wheat heading is progressing well. Soybean planting has just begun and is expected to continue throughout this coming week with good weather in the forecast. Monday's thunderclouds rose to nearly 45,000 feet along the south coast. Parts of Charleston County received one-inch diameter hail. Drying, high pressure built over the state on Tuesday with breezy conditions. Sunrise temperatures on Wednesday fell into the 30's at the usual cold locations. At 3:00 pm, Greenville observed a relative humidity value of 11 percent. During the 24-hour period from Wednesday to Thursday morning, the Sandhill observation site noted an open pan evaporation water loss of 0.44 inches. A wildfire began Wednesday within Horry County, fanned by west winds gusting to 38 mph at the Marion Airport and 35 mph at the N Myrtle Beach Airport. An estimated 30 square miles of forest and residential property would eventually be consumed. Wind speeds calmed on Friday, allowing afternoon temperatures to rise to their highest of the spring season. All day sunshine helped push the thermometer to around 90 degrees. Sunny, warm weather was observed on Saturday and Sunday. The state average temperature for the period was three degrees above normal. The highest official temperature reported was 95 degrees at Camden on April 24. The lowest official temperature reported was 34 degrees at Chesnee on April 22. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.3 inches. The 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 70 degrees. South Carolina river stages were near normal.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.1. Topsoil moisture 70% adequate, 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 5%

short, 79% adequate, 15% surplus. Winter wheat breaking dormancy 93%, 96% 2008, 99% avg. Winter wheat boot 0%, 0% 2008, 3% avg. Barley seeded 15%, 32% 2008, 48% avg.; 1% emerged, 3% 2008, 12% avg. Feed supplies 4% very short, 15% short, 74% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 78% adequate, 18% surplus. Range and pasture 1% very poor, 15% poor, 28% fair, 48% good, 8% excellent. Calf deaths 4% below average, 76% average, 20% above average. Cattle moved to pasture 21% complete. Calving 81% complete. Cattle condition 2% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 9% excellent. Sheep, lamb deaths 3% below average, 85% average, 12% above average. Lambing 90% complete. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 25% fair, 57% good, 12% excellent. Warmer weather helped advance spring fieldwork, but wet soil conditions continue to delay spring planting progress and create some difficult conditions for South Dakota livestock producers.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil moisture 4% short, 79% adequate, and 17% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% short, 75% adequate, and 14% surplus. Wheat 90% jointed, 93% 2008, 96% avg.; 27% headed, 22% 2008, 43% avg.; 1% poor, 11% fair, 60% good, 28% excellent. Apples 83% blooming or beyond, 83% 2008, 88% avg.; 1% poor, 18% fair, 72% good, 9% excellent. Pastures 1% very poor, 6% poor, 23% fair, 55% good, 15% excellent. After three consecutive weeks of wet weather, farmers were finally able to make significant progress with their field activities last week. Ninety percent of the winter wheat crop has reached the jointing stage, in line with last year but slightly behind the five-year average. The crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition with no noteworthy reports of insect or disease pressure. Other agricultural field activities last week included applying fertilizers and fungicides. Temperatures averaged several degrees above normal across the State last week while precipitation was well below normal.

TEXAS: Top soil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state. Wheat condition was mostly very poor to poor. Oat condition was mostly very poor to poor. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide. Sorghum condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide. Range and Pasture condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide. The eastern part of the state received up to 6 inches of rainfall while the rest of the state received trace amounts of moisture. The freeze and drought damage to the wheat crop across the state was becoming more evident as the crop matures. Cotton field preparation took place in parts of the Plains. Recent rainfall in South Central Texas has prompted producers to begin planting. Corn planting neared completion in the Blacklands. Corn was progressing well in South Texas. Sorghum producers were planting in the Northern High Plains and the Cross Timbers. Pecan trees suffered from the recent freeze in the Cross Timbers. Cabbage, potato, and green bean crops continued to progress well in South Texas. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across the state. Rainfall in the Low Plains improved pasture conditions while ranchers in South Central Texas were applying fertilizer.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 5. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 21% short, 67% adequate, 12% surplus. Irrigation Water Supplies 0% very short, 12% short, 85% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter Wheat 98% emerged, 100% 2008, 100% avg.; 2% headed, Condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 34% fair, 40% good, 15% excellent; freeze damage 80% none, 16% light, 4% moderate, 0% severe. Spring Wheat 71% planted, 80% 2008, 76% avg. Barley 60% planted, 73% 2008, 69% avg. Fall Barley freeze damage 79% none, 15% light, 6% moderate, 0% severe. Oats 49% planted, 51% 2008, 56% avg.; 10% emerged, 14% 2008, 18% avg. Corn 3% planted, 6% 2008, 10% avg. Cows Calved 86%, 88% 2008, 89% avg. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 72% good, 9% excellent. Sheep Condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 79% good, 2% excellent. Range and Pasture 0% very poor, 10% poor, 43% fair, 44% good, 3% excellent. Stock Water Supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 91% adequate, 3% surplus. Sheared On Farm 72%. Sheep Sheared On Range 49%. Ewes Lamb On Farm 88%, 87% 2008, 90% avg. Ewes Lamb On Range 38%, 37% 2008, 49% avg. Apples Full Bloom Or Past 5%, 68% 2008, 82% avg. Apricots full Bloom Or Past 86%, 70% 2008, 92% avg. Sweet Cherries full Bloom Or Past 30%, 74% 2008, 86% avg. Tart Cherries full Bloom Or Past 14%, 80% 2008, 87% avg. Peaches, Full Bloom Or Past 48%, 11% 2008, 78% avg. Pears, Full Bloom Or Past 65%, 74% 2008, 88% avg. Utah experienced very nice weather at the first of the week with above average temperatures and sunny skies. The latter part of the week brought cooler temperatures with light rains. Box Elder County reports producers planting spring grains, and some safflower. Many farmers are also preparing for corn

planting. Dry farm winter wheat in higher regions is growing slower and not responding well because of the cooler temperatures. Farmers are also fertilizing and spraying for weeds and pests. Peach and apricot crops are doing well. Frost damage was minimal due to relatively warmer temperatures this week. Onions are mostly planted, as are most spring small grains. Growers also reported black grass bugs affecting mostly rangeland. Burnt and heavily grazed areas are not showing the infestations that occur on unmanaged areas. Sanpete County reports fruit trees were blooming this past week due to warm temperature however, snow, rain and freezing temps were reported the last two days. Spring fieldwork continues Summit County. Some operators were spraying weeds last week's warm weather and moisture have made pasture and alfalfa fields green up. Cache County reports two days for doing fieldwork last week. Rain and snow were reported and the cooler temperatures hindered the growth of alfalfa hay. Grasses that have been fertilized are growing well but many growers are getting discouraged with their inability to plant. Some farmers are looking to plant shorter season corn varieties for silage. Beaver County reports warm weather has alfalfa and pastures really greening up nice. Irrigation is under way Duchesne, concerns remain over irrigation water supplies. Windy wet weather limited fieldwork this past week in Emery County, but moisture received continues to help with irrigation water outlook. Iron county growers reported large numbers of army cutworms. Thus far, it appears they have mostly impacted weeds. Tooele County has estimated less than 1 grasshopper per square yard this season. Weber County reports wheat and barley planted late last fall has had a significant amount of winterkill. The rest of it looks pretty good. Morgan County reports the ground is still too wet to till in many areas. Box Elder County reports livestock producers report that cattle and calves are doing well. Sheep producers are lambing range flocks and no reports of any problems. Utah County reports livestock conditions are good, pasture and range conditions are looking very good due to the moisture. Duchesne County reports the cattleman have had good success with calving this year. The range flocks have just started lambing and most farm flocks have completed lambing. Summit County reports lambing and shearing continues. Beaver County reports some losses to scours in the last 2 weeks among new calves. Morgan County reports pastures are growing strong, but about 10 days behind normal.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil moisture 6% short, 86% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 18% short, 78% adequate, 3% surplus. Pasture 2% very poor, 6% poor, 31% fair, 58% good, 3% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 56% good, 7% excellent. Hay Other 1% very poor, 3% poor, 34% fair, 58% good, 4% excellent. Hay Alfalfa 1% very poor, 4% poor, 31% fair, 55% good, 9% excellent. Corn 29% planted; 44% 2008; 45% 5-yr avg.; 4% emerged; 14% 2008; 15% 5-yr avg. Winter Wheat 7% headed; 34% 2008; 10% 5-yr avg.; condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 28% fair, 54% good, 13% excellent. Barley 2% poor, 23% fair, 68% good, 7% excellent. Greenhouse tobacco 4% fair, 68% good, 28% excellent. Tobacco plantbeds 46% fair, 54% good. Flue-cured tobacco transplanted 1%; 6% 5-yr avg. Summer Potatoes 100% planted; 100% 2008; 97% 5-yr avg.; 40% condition fair, 40% good, 20% excellent. All Apples 2% very poor, 3% poor, 61% fair, 34% good. Peaches 4% poor, 61% fair, 35% good. Grapes 21% fair, 79% good. Oats 1% fair, 98% good, 1% excellent. Although rain showers continued into the early week throughout much of the state, by mid-week, unseasonably warm temperatures and dry weather allowed for producers to catch up on previously delayed planting and field operations. Corn planting is well underway and producers anticipate the start of soybean and cotton planting shortly. Also, with the continued warm weather, tobacco growers are gearing up to begin transplanting activities. Small grains are showing slight distress from the warm weather, although those that received adequate fertilizer continue to thrive. Producers choosing to harvest their small grains for silage are taking advantage of the dry weather to do so.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 15% short, 73% adequate, and 8% surplus. Cool weather settled in over the eastern portion of the state but generally, conditions remained dry. Whitman County reported spring seeding activities were being conducted county wide. Counties reported weed spraying activities were ongoing. Asotin County was the only county to report some fields still too wet to work. FSA committee reports indicate hay produces in Franklin County may be a week behind first cutting. Christmas tree growers were setting out midge traps in Douglas fir plantations. In the Yakima Valley, the week of April 20 started off warm with day time highs reaching the mid to upper 80s. Temperatures

cooled off during the week when nighttime lows dropped to near or just below freezing towards the end of the week, necessitating frost protection for soft and pome fruit growers. Peaches and nectarines were past petal fall stage, but aggressive flower thinning was observed last week. Cherry were at petal fall stage in the lower Yakima Valley but in full bloom in the upper Valley. Pears, plums and early varieties of apple were in bloom. Hand and chemical thinning of apples was taking place. There was no precipitation noted last week. In addition to Yakima County, multiple other counties noted fruit blossoms. Vegetable growers were harvesting asparagus and green onions in Yakima and Franklin Counties. In Thurston County, blueberry growers were monitoring temperatures closely as early varieties were in bloom. Whatcom County reported raspberries and blueberries were several weeks behind. In Pacific County, cranberry growers completed bog renovation work. Range and pasture conditions 2% very poor, 13% poor, 47% fair, 36% good and 2% excellent. On the west side, livestock producers reported Tansy Ragwort plants in fields which had been flooded over the winter. On the eastern side, Stevens County reported conditions were quite wet with frequent small showers and cool winds. Grazing activities were being kept to a minimum and one ton lots of hay were moving quickly to get animals through to grazing season. Calving was wrapping up for most cattle operations. In Pacific County, shellfish growers were busy with late season harvest of oysters and clams while seeding operations continued.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for field work 4. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 6% short, 80% adequate and 13% surplus compared with 9% short, 87% adequate and 4% surplus last year. Intended acreage prepared for spring 64% planting, 64% 2008, 59% 5-yr avg. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 14% short, 82% adequate and 3% surplus compared to 16% very short, 42% short and 42% adequate last year. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 7% short and 92% adequate compared to 9% very short, 42% short and 49% adequate last year. Corn 12% planted, 20% 2008, 12% 5-yr avg. Soybeans w 1% planted, 2008 and 5-yr avg not available. Winter Wheat conditions 3% poor, 32% fair, 55% good and 10% excellent. Oats 52% planted, 59% 2008, 44% 5-yr avg.; 24% emerged, 16% 2008, 15% 5-yr avg. Hay was reported 1% very poor, 9% poor, 48% fair, 39% good and 3% excellent. Apple conditions 44% fair, 55% good and 1% excellent. Peaches 47% fair and 53% good. Cattle and calves were 1% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 66% good and 4% excellent. Calving was 94% complete, compared to 88% last year. Sheep and lambs were 3% poor, 39% fair, 56% good and 2% excellent. Lambing was 94% complete, compared to 89% last year. Farming activities included equipment maintenance, field preparation, plowing, planting,

repairing fences and turning livestock out to pasture.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 17% short, 61% adequate, and 18% surplus. Temperatures were 1 degree below to 3 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 54 to 64 degrees across the state. Lows averaged from 35 to 42 degrees for the week. Precipitation ranged from 0.81 inches in Eau Claire to 3.14 inches in Madison. Corn 6% planted. Oats 58% planted, 7% emerged. Spring tillage was 35% complete. Warm temperatures during the week were followed by some much-needed rain during the weekend. Corn planting got underway, mainly in the southwest part of the state. Some growers were still finding frost while tilling in the Northwest and West Central districts. Early planted oats in the southern two-thirds of the state began to emerge.

WYOMING: Days suitable for field work 3.9. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 88% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 18% short, 77% adequate. Barley 66% planted, 57% previous week, 69% 2008, 73% avg.; 14% emerged, 7% previous week, 15% 2008, 32% avg. Oats 35% planted, 24% previous week, 41% 2008, 44% avg.; 12% emerged, 6% previous week, 7% 2008, 15% avg. Spring Wheat 19% planted, 17% previous week, 18% 2008, 38% avg.; 8% emerged, 6% previous week, 0% 2008, 9% avg. Winter Wheat 11% jointed, 5% previous week, 1% 2008, 4% avg. Corn 2% planted, 0% previous week, 3% 2008, 7% avg. Sugarbeets 35% planted, 0% previous week, 49% 2008, 65% avg. Winter wheat condition 1% poor, 12% fair, 78% good, 9% excellent. Spring calves born 76%, 71% previous week. Farm flock 81% ewes lambing, 74% previous week. Farm flock 79% sheep shorn, 72% previous week. Range flock 32% ewes lambing, 27% previous week. Range flock 56% sheep shorn, 48% previous week. Calf losses 22% light, 66% normal, 12% heavy. Lamb losses 26% light, 68% normal, 6% heavy. Cattle Condition 1% poor, 26% fair, 71% good, 2% excellent. Calves Condition 2% poor, 30% fair, 66% good, 2% excellent. Sheep Condition 1% poor, 26% fair, 72% good, 1% excellent. Lambs Condition 1% poor, 26% fair, 72% good, 1% excellent. Range and pasture conditions 11% poor, 28% fair, 52% good, 9% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% short, 93% adequate, 6% surplus. The ground in some areas was too wet to farm. Recent moisture has helped the topsoil moisture but a few windy days will dry it out. Pasture in some areas was starting to show a small amount of green. Activities preparing to plant small grain crop, calving and lambing, feeding livestock.