



# Crop Progress - State Stories

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**ALABAMA:** February temperatures ranged from 3.7 to 9.9 degrees warmer than normal depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.3 inches in Dale County to 9.2 inches in Marshall County. Most of the State received a significant amount of rain in February, with only the southeastern region of the State not receiving much precipitation. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 0.5 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 3 percent at the month's beginning. Despite the warmer temperatures, reporters in some areas noted fruit, early planted winter small grain crops, and grazing crops in poor condition due to deep freezes in December and January. Crops that were planted later were noted to have bounced back well from the freeze. Operators began field preparations for spring row crop plantings, although wet field conditions prevented some field work. Pastures continued to improve and started to green due to the warm temperatures and significant precipitation. Livestock were reported to be in good condition, although some operators had to supplement feed due to the lack of grazing in parts of the State.

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## ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**ARIZONA:** This report for Arizona is for the month of February 2023. Responses were based on the entire month, with consideration for any weather-related impacts that are forecast between now and month's end. By the end of the month, 44 percent of the barley crop had been planted, 36 percent had emerged, and 3 percent had headed. Sixty-three percent of intended Durum wheat acres had been planted, 27 percent had emerged, and 1 percent had headed. Ninety-seven percent of the alfalfa crop was rated good to excellent depending on location last week, with harvest taking place on more than three-quarters of the alfalfa acreage across the State. Statewide, 72 percent of the pastures and ranges were rated fair to good as soil moisture conditions remained mostly adequate. According to the United States Drought Monitor by February 27, moderate drought covered 20.6 percent of the State and severe drought was present across just 1.2 percent. The State was free of extreme and exceptional drought. In the northeastern part of the State, below freezing temperatures and near steady snowfall allowed for some moisture retention in the soil. In the southeastern part of the State, winter storms have improved soil moisture, but native forages were still dormant due to freezing conditions. In the south-central part of the State, significant precipitation has improved range conditions, but temperatures were still below normal. In the western part of the State, a few freezes resulted in frost damage in some areas. Above average precipitation was reported in the northwestern part of the State during the month. In the last 30 days, the average minimum temperature was reported around 15 Fahrenheit degrees, mostly in the north-central and northeastern part of the State. The average maximum was around 70 Fahrenheit degrees, mostly in the southwestern part of the State.

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**ARKANSAS:** For the week ending February 26, 2023, topsoil moisture 1% short, 42% adequate, 57% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 3% short, 53% adequate, 42% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of February were 14.0 days. February brought more rain than normal which improved soil moisture, but limited producers time in the fields. Cool-season forages have begun their transition from dormancy into the green-up stage. Ranchers continued to feed hay and supplements to their herds. Farmers did a lot of maintenance and seed orders as well as attending meetings for updates for commodities.

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**CALIFORNIA:** For the week ending February 26, 2023 - Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Topsoil moisture 50% adequate, 50% surplus. Subsoil moisture 40% adequate, 60% surplus. Pasture and range condition 50% good, 50% excellent. Winter wheat condition 5% fair, 85% good, 10% excellent. A major winter storm hit the State during the last week of the month bringing rain, hail, and snow. The northern part of the State recorded as much as 6 feet of snow. Snow was also reported at lower elevations in the San Joaquin Valley. The rain halted ground preparations in parts of the State. Rain also delayed tomato planting and herbicide and fungicide applications. Winter wheat and oats continued to grow well, except in Yolo County where there was localized flooding. Alfalfa hay and silage fields were dormant. When conditions allowed, fields were sprayed for weeds. Old Almond and walnut orchards were removed. Almond orchards

were in bloom during February, with frost concerns in the northern part of the State. Cold, wet weather hindered bee pollination activity in almond orchards across the State. Vegetable crop planting in the Salinas Valley was delayed due to food safety restrictions from previous flooding in the area. Garlic was planted and has sprouted. Broccoli was harvested and the plants were mowed before discing the fields. Range grass sprouted and was growing well.

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**COLORADO:** This report for Colorado is for the entire month of February 2023. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 15% short, 64% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 22% very short, 31% short, 45% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 8% very poor, 22% poor, 41% fair, 28% good, 1% excellent. Livestock condition 10% very poor, 13% poor, 31% fair, 40% good, 6% excellent. Pasture and range condition 10% very poor, 23% poor, 34% fair, 32% good, 1% excellent. Seasonal moisture during February improved the outlook in areas across the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 45 percent of the State is showing no signs of drought, up from 41 percent at the beginning of the month. Snow events brought above average moisture conditions across the State, with some areas receiving more than 200 percent of normal precipitation throughout February, helping improve drought conditions. Northwestern counties were experiencing colder than average temperatures, with areas of Moffat and Routt Counties realizing temperatures more than 12 degrees below normal. Crops remain dormant as snow remains on the ground with more storms on the way. In northeastern and east-central counties, reporters noted that stored feed supplies continue to be very short. Livestock condition declined due to poor growing conditions last season and lack of available supplemental feed. County reports noted snow cover was still significant but recent warm temperatures have started the melt off process and soils are benefiting from the moisture. Southwestern counties received varying amounts of moisture in February, with totals ranging from one-half inch to more than 4 inches in the high country. Reporters noted the recent snow brought optimism for the growing season and the moisture seems to be infiltrating the soil well. Some locales reported that deep mud remained due to precipitation melt off. Snowpack in the area continued to improve during February and is currently 142 percent of median snowfall. The San Luis Valley received above average moisture during February, but most of the area remains abnormally dry according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. According to county reports, livestock remained in good condition, with calving and lambing starting off well. Potato growers are beginning to prepare seed potatoes. Statewide, winter wheat condition declined, with 29 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, compared with 38 percent good to excellent from the previous report, and 21 percent good to excellent last year. As of February 26, 2023, snowpack in Colorado was 123 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

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**DELAWARE:** The State experienced warmer than normal conditions. Some producers are concerned that warmer temperatures are causing small grains and fruit trees to break dormancy too early for typical spring temperatures. There was very little precipitation and wind for the month. Water tables were reported in good condition. Fieldwork activities included spraying small grains to kill insects and disease, nitrogen application, and spreading manure on dry soil.

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**FLORIDA:** February temperatures ranged from 4.3 to 9.1 degrees warmer than normal depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from no rain in Collier County to 6.5 inches in Broward County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 80 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 72 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the State did not receive much precipitation in February, as only the southeastern and north-central regions of the State received a significant amount. The lack of precipitation worsened drought conditions across the State and negatively impacted pastures, with pastures reported as mostly poor to fair. The dry weather helped sugarcane harvest progress rapidly. Reporters noted that preparations for spring planting of row crops began in the second half of the month. Citrus grove activities throughout the month included mowing, fertilizing, spraying pesticides, removal of dead trees, and general grove maintenance. Fruits and vegetables that were planted and harvested during February include green beans, yellow squash, potatoes, strawberries, zucchini, sweet corn, pepper, and avocados. Rice planting began and progressed well throughout the month.

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**GEORGIA:** February temperatures ranged from 6.2 to 8.2 degrees warmer than historical averages depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.1 inches in Muscogee County to 7.6 inches in Lowndes County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 10 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions and 3 percent had moderate drought conditions by month's end, compared to 21 percent abnormally dry and 9 percent moderate drought at the beginning of the month. Georgia experienced unseasonably warm temperatures for February, which impacted many areas of agriculture across the State. Abundant rainfall in some areas delayed farmers from prepping fields for spring planting, although many areas reported that field work had begun. Winter grazing and cool season pastures benefitted from the recent mild winter weather and were showing growth with lime and fertilizer applications being made. Livestock conditions were mostly good; however, hay supplies ran low in some areas. The growth of wheat, rye and oats were

reported to be good due to the warm conditions and good soil moisture levels. Wheat fields were top-dressed with nitrogen. The Vidalia onion crop was reported to be progressing well, however, yields are anticipated to be down this year due to the freeze event at the end of December. Many areas reported that corn fields are going to begin being planted in the next two to three weeks due to the warm soil temperatures. Peanuts could be planted early if the warm temperatures remain. Many farmers are wary of a potential late season freeze after the warm weather of February.

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#### **HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

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**IDAHO:** The average temperatures in Idaho for February varied from below normal in most regions of the State to above normal in parts of north and central Idaho. Accumulated precipitation remained below normal in northern Idaho and above normal in southeast Idaho for the water year. In northern Idaho, the area saw cooler than average temperatures throughout February. In southwest Idaho, temperatures were above freezing, with good precipitation. Hay stocks looked good. The groundwork for cropland began. In south-central Idaho, conditions were mild with above average moisture. The feed supply appeared adequate. Soils were too wet or frozen for any early fieldwork. Manure hauling was the primary activity. In eastern Idaho, temperatures were below normal, with heavy snowfall. Snow coverage protected fall crops from extremely cold temperatures. Teton, Fremont, and Madison Counties experienced heavy snowfall, followed by extremely cold temperatures. High winds made livestock care challenging. Bannock, Bingham, and Butte Counties received good precipitation from snow. Calving and lambing season continued on-schedule.

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**ILLINOIS:** For the week ending February 26, 2023. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 8% short, 65% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 11% short, 68% adequate, 19% surplus. Statewide, the average temperature in February was 33.8 degrees, 4.3 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 2.46 inches, 0.49 inch above normal.

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**INDIANA:** Topsoil moisture for the month of February was 2% very short, 10% short, 66% adequate, 22% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 5% very short, 19% short, 65% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 2% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 54% good, 12% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 37.6 degrees, 7.5 degrees above normal for the month of February. Statewide average precipitation was 2.59 inches, 0.48 inch above normal. Average temperatures throughout February hovered consistently above normal for much of the State which frequently resulted in precipitation in the form of rain rather than snow. Precipitation averages were also consistently above normal this month, which slightly increased soil moisture levels from the previous month and resulted in muddy field conditions for some. Winter wheat conditions improved slightly from January with 66 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition. Livestock were reported to be doing well despite muddy field conditions. Other activities for the month included equipment preparations, grain hauling, nitrogen applications, and spring calving.

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**IOWA:** Farmers reported widely varying weather conditions for February, with temperatures from below zero to the 50s and a blizzard near the end of the month. Multiple snow and rain events during the month have producers more optimistic about soil moisture levels for the 2023 growing season. Calving and lambing is well underway. Livestock were reported to be in good condition, although feedlots were muddy and there were concerns regarding the effect of steep temperature fluctuations and the end-of-month blizzard on livestock health. Grain movement was normal for the season with some reports of gravel roads in poor condition. There were reports of trees being tapped for maple syrup.

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**KANSAS:** For the week ending February 26, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 30% very short, 30% short, 37% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 42% very short, 33% short, 24% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 25% very poor, 26% poor, 30% fair, 17% good, 2% excellent.

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**KENTUCKY:** For the month of February, Kentucky saw well above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Preliminary data suggests this could be in the top 5 warmest Februarys on record. The warm weather has increased the growing degree days as early vegetative development has been observed. Although precipitation for the month was close to normal, there were two flood events resulting from excessive rain. Temperatures for the period averaged 46 degrees across the State, 8 degrees above normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 3.62 inches Statewide, which was 0.24 inch above normal and 107% of normal. Hay supplies remain mostly adequate despite a fall drought that led to early supplementation. For the month, hay supplies 6% very short, 26% short, 62% adequate, 6% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 30% fair, 53% good, 9% excellent. Condition of winter wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 26% fair, 61% good, 10% excellent.

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**LOUISIANA:** For the week ending February 26, 2023, topsoil moisture 1% short, 70% adequate, 29% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 76% adequate, 23% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of February were 17.0 days. Conditions for the State consisted of temperatures warming and less rainfall frequency during the month of February. Field conditions were improving, and soil temperatures were on the rise allowing the planting preparation to begin. The warm temperatures resulted in early flowering of many plants. Several acres of herbicide were being applied in fields intending to be planted of rice and corn. A few acres of corn have already been planted in areas where ground conditions are allowing. Some rice acres will soon be planted in water seeded systems by air. Sugarcane producers have begun going back in the fields. Farmers and producers focused on planning for the new crop year and remain hopeful for the upcoming growing season.

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**MARYLAND:** The State experienced warmer than normal conditions. Some producers are concerned that warmer temperatures are causing small grains and fruit trees to break dormancy too early for typical spring temperatures. There was very little precipitation in February. Field work activities included nitrogen application and spraying small grain to kill insects and prevent disease. Overall, crops looked good.

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**MICHIGAN:** Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 16% short, 74% adequate and 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 30% short, 63% adequate, and 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 52% good, and 15% excellent. Precipitation for the month of February to date averaged 2.06 inches throughout the State, 0.74 inch above normal. Temperatures for the month of February to date averaged 26.9 degrees, 5.3 degrees above normal. Approximately 44 percent of the State experienced abnormally dry conditions or worse, with 21 percent experiencing moderate drought and 10 percent experiencing severe drought conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor. The driest areas include central, southeastern and thumb regions of the Lower Peninsula. February's weather fluctuations have producers concerned about crop condition. Flooding from warm temperatures turned into frozen ponds with the latest temperature drops. The most recent storm brought snow and ice cover, but producers are concerned that it was too late. Other activities throughout the month included crop planning, equipment maintenance and tending livestock.

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**MINNESOTA:** The weather during February was typical, with average temperatures only a few degrees from normal over most of the State. Snow depth had been decreasing the first few weeks of the month, but much of the loss was offset by a heavy snowfall later, which brought most of the southern half of the State a foot of snow. There were multiple reports mentioning minimal ground frost due to the consistent snow cover. Some livestock were lost to the cold, but largely there was no major concern.

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**MISSISSIPPI:** For the week ending February 26, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies were 1% very short, 1% short, 58% adequate, and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 1% short, 60% adequate, and 39% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of February were 15.0 days. Conditions for most of February have been mild, but mid and late February brought above average wet, rainy conditions. Wheat crops were showing signs of recovery from the January freeze. Livestock were maintaining a fair body condition with only hay to graze. Waterlogged field conditions made some work impossible, but warmer, dry conditions helped improve these areas. Many flowers were blooming, and crops were growing due to rainfall with warmer temperatures. Overall, with temperatures on the rise and excess rainfall across the State for the month of February, crop progress for the State has mostly recovered from cold winter temperatures last month.

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**MISSOURI:** For the week ending February 26, 2023. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 84% adequate, and 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 18% short, 77% adequate, and 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 67% good, and 4% excellent. Statewide, precipitation averaged 2.66 inches for the month of February, 0.66 inch above average. Temperatures averaged 38.6 degrees, 4.5 degrees above normal.

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**MONTANA:** This report for Montana is for the month of February 2023, through February 26. Responses were based on the entire month, with consideration for any weather-related impacts that are forecast between now and month's end. Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 32% short, 59% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 50% short, 37% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 70% fair, 21% good. Winter wheat wind damage 62% none, 26% light, 11% moderate, 1% heavy. Winter wheat freeze and drought damage 77% none, 10% light, 11% moderate, 2% heavy. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 1% very poor, 5% poor, 33% fair, 60% good, 1% excellent. Pasture and range condition 14% very poor, 31% poor, 31% fair, 24% good. Livestock grazing accessibility 27% open, 30% difficult, 43% closed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed cattle and calves 99% fed. Cows calved

11%; 5% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed sheep and lambs 98% fed. Ewes lambled 7%; 5% last year. The month of February brought below zero temperatures and snowy weather with varying precipitation totals to the State. Temperatures for the month of February ranged from 10 degrees below average to six degrees above average. Along the northern border and eastern half of the State, precipitation remained scarce and totaled 1 inch or less. The southern border and western portion received more precipitation with totals over 1 inch to more than 5 inches at higher elevations. Drought conditions improved slightly in areas experiencing moderate, severe, and extreme drought, however, overall drought conditions continued to persist compared to last month. Snow Water Equivalent totals for the State's basins remained close to or above average. Of the 13 basins, 7 of them remain above average. In Blaine County, cold temperatures were reported with increased need for supplemental livestock feed. Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties reported unseasonably cold and snowy conditions at the end of February. Area temperatures in late February were well below zero and frostbite was noted in newborn livestock. Extreme temperature swings stressed mothers and newborn livestock. Golden Valley and Musselshell County reports noted beneficial wet and heavy snow was received during February, but conditions were windy. Yellowstone County reports noted winter weather caused challenging calving and lambing conditions. In Broadwater County, there were concerns fall seeded winter wheat and hay crops experienced freeze damage due to ice. Extent of the damage was not yet known.

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**NEBRASKA:** For the week ending February 26, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 13% very short, 35% short, 44% adequate, and 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 30% very short, 43% short, 26% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 11% very poor, 29% poor, 41% fair, 18% good, and 1% excellent.

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**NEVADA:** For the week ending February 26, 2023 - Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Topsoil moisture 20% very short, 40% short, 40% adequate. Subsoil moisture 20% very short, 10% short, 65% adequate, 5% surplus. Pasture and range condition 25% very poor, 5% poor, 15% fair, 20% good, 35% excellent. Most of the State received less than an inch of precipitation during the month. Conditions were windy and the ground remained frozen in northern parts of the State. Only 6 percent of the State was in D3 drought, while almost 53% of the State was in D2 drought.

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**NEW ENGLAND:** February started off very dry, with less than two-tenths of an inch of precipitation in New England States. A late February storm brought snow in New England. Connecticut experienced warm temperatures and rains in some areas and little winter conditions. Pruning is ongoing and maple taps appeared to be doing well. In much of Maine, snow was minimal and potato crops have been a concern in some areas. Massachusetts reported that maple taps were started in the early part of the month among some farmers in anticipation of a warm winter. In New Hampshire, the weather was reported as much the same as other States. Rhode Island reported a cold snap at the beginning of February; however, warmer temperatures have been more predominant throughout. Vermont respondents reported variable weather conditions from average to fluctuating from cold to very warm. Snow cover also was reported as minimal here in many areas. Water supplies are in good shape which will keep surface water supplied through the beginning of spring. Farm activities remained the same this past month. Orchardists continued pruning. Farmers attended meetings and finished up last year's record-keeping. Growers are getting ready for the growing season by purchasing seed and fertilizer. Some farmers have started seeding vegetables in greenhouses. Farmers are working on farm equipment like tractors and planters in preparation for spring tillage and planting.

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**NEW JERSEY:** This month has been quite dry, with precipitation (almost all of it rainfall) averaging just over 1 inch. This is almost 2 inches below normal. Temperatures have averaged about 5 degrees above normal. This ranks the month well into the top 10 for warmth in comparison to all Februarys going back to 1895. Warm temperatures and adequate rainfall have allowed growers to prepare land for spring planting. Direct seeding started this past week for early vegetables and herbs with fields being covered with row cover. Early greenhouse plants are ready to transplant which will start this week or next. Nurseries are shipping plants to garden centers.

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**NEW MEXICO:** This report for New Mexico is for the month of February 2023, through February 26. Responses were based on the entire month, with consideration for any weather-related impacts that are forecast between now and month's end. Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 33% short, 49% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 21% very short, 42% short, 36% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 24% poor, 58% fair, 14% good, 3% excellent. Cows calved 6%, 15% last year. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 79%, 89% last year. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 29% fair, 45% good, 18% excellent. Ewes lambled 3%, 20% last year. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 72%, 80% last year. Sheep and lambs condition 7% very poor, 23% poor, 34% fair, 28% good, 8% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 21% very short, 41% short, 37% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 32% very short, 29% short, 39%

adequate. Dry conditions continued throughout New Mexico during the month of February, but the State did see some improvement in overall topsoil and subsoil moisture. Comments from across the State reported high winds. In some areas fire danger was high due to lack of moisture. Winter wheat condition showed some improvement due to receiving needed moisture, but still only had 17 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 13 percent last month and 5 percent last year. Converted moisture totals during the past month ranged from a trace of precipitation to approximately 3 inches. Any significant precipitation continued to mostly be accumulated in the western counties, but most counties saw below average precipitation again during the month. Average temperatures during February were generally above normal in the southeastern part of the State, where temperatures were slightly below normal in the northwestern part of the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor for February 23, exceptional drought (D4) continued its hold across a portion of land in Union County. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 3.6 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 14.6 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 29.1 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 30.4 percent. Drought-free conditions covered increased to 21.9 percent of the State.

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**NEW YORK:** February continued with variable extremes, having deep freezes and little snow cover in some areas, and then switching back to warmer temperatures. Overall, the month was warmer than normal. Areas where there were more extreme cold or heat, caused some concern for fruit crops, honeybees, and maple production. Vineyard crews did hand pruning and tied vines to wire.

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**NORTH CAROLINA:** For the week ending February 26, 2023, Subsoil moisture 6% short, 60% adequate and 34% surplus. Topsoil moisture 9% short, 57% adequate and 34% surplus. Barley condition 1% poor, 18% fair, 79% good and 2% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 13% short, 85% adequate and 1% surplus. Oats condition 26% fair, 74% good. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 12% poor, 52% fair, 32% good and 3% excellent. Winter wheat condition 13% fair, 79% good and 8% excellent. Throughout February, it has been very favorable for work conditions. The surge of warm weather the past two weeks has allowed farmers to start considering their first nitrogen application on wheat crops. The rainfall has been very adequate and in some cases a surplus keeping farmers out of the fields.

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**NORTH DAKOTA:** For the week ending February 26, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 7% very short, 27% short, 60% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 10% very short, 35% short, 50% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 49% fair, 44% good, 2% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions rated 1% very poor, 6% poor, 36% fair, 53% good, 4% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss rated 1% heavy, 61% average, 38% light. Calving progress was 10%, near 9% last year. Sheep and lamb conditions rated 2% very poor, 7% poor, 38% fair, 48% good, 5% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss rated 2% heavy, 56% average, 42% light. Lambing progress was 25%, ahead of 20% last year. Shearing progress was 37%, ahead of 28% last year. Hay and roughage supplies rated 2% very short, 14% short, 81% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies rated 2% very short, 16% short, 79% adequate, 3% surplus.

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**OHIO:** Topsoil moisture for the month was 5% short, 78% adequate, 17% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 13% short, 77% adequate, 10% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 6% poor, 39% fair, 46% good, 8% excellent. The Statewide average temperature was 37.8 degrees, 8.2 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 1.67 inches Statewide, 0.43 inch below normal for February. Above average temperatures and limited snowfall accumulations raised concerns among some farmers about vernalization requirements for winter wheat crops. Limited snowfall accumulations were sustained in the State's northern tier and at high elevations. Elsewhere, no snow cover persisted. Though precipitation was limited relative to historic averages in most counties, mild temperatures and wet weather in northwestern counties translated into muddy fields. Southeastern counties reported emergence of grass and hayfields in pastures. Livestock contended with wide temperature fluctuations during February. Some operations reported beef cattle entering calving season.

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**OKLAHOMA:** For the month of February, rainfall totals averaged 0.57 inch throughout the State, with the Southeast district recording the highest precipitation at 1.01 inches and the Panhandle district recording the lowest precipitation at 0.16 inch. According to the February 21 U.S. Drought Monitor Report, drought conditions were rated 81 percent abnormally dry to exceptional drought, down 12 points from last year. Additionally, 75 percent of the State was in the moderate drought to exceptional drought categories, down 12 points from the previous year. Statewide, temperatures averaged in the 40's, with the lowest recording of 5 degrees at Goodwell on February 23 and the highest recording of 87 degrees at Burneyville on February 21. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated adequate to very short and subsoil

moisture conditions were rated very short to adequate. There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending February 26.

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**OREGON:** Moisture conditions throughout the State ranged from very wet to wet for February. However, the western part of Oregon was still behind normal for seasonal precipitation. Temperatures ranged from lower than normal to around normal. Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties reported below average temperatures and heavy snowfall. Nursery crops without cover and small fruit canes were the most vulnerable. The snow cover protected winter grains in the Portland area. Benton and Lincoln Counties reported low temperatures and heavy snowfall late in the month, with as much as 15 inches of snow. Morrow County reported temperatures in single digits, with up to 4 inches of snow late in the month. The snow cover provided protection for winter wheat. Gilliam, Hood River, Wheeler, and Wasco Counties reported low temperatures and snowfall late in the month. The snow accumulation was anticipated to help with ground water supply and boost the crops. Low temperatures were a concern for cattle producers in their calving season. Baker and Grant Counties reported mostly mild winter weather with low temperatures and snow late in the month. Producers enjoyed milder winter conditions while calving. Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties reported rainfall and snowfall during the month. Drought continued for Douglas County, and producers could soon be eligible for drought assistance if conditions do not improve. Tillamook and Clatsop Counties reported snowfall and low temperatures. In Tillamook County, record snowfall of more than 12 inches halted field activities until the snow melted and fields dried.

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**PENNSYLVANIA:** The State experienced fluctuating weather conditions this month. There were spurts of snow and a few days of rainfall, along with some rather mild, warm days. The mild weather has been affecting the soil moisture. Some farmers were corn stalk chopping and baling this month. Small grains and forage like wheat, barley, and rye were quickly greening up. From now until the end of Spring will be a critical time for weather conditions, as this will affect the fruit crops.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA:** February temperatures ranged from 5.1 to 8.7 degrees warmer than historical averages depending on location. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 2.2 inches in York County to 5.3 inches in Greenwood County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 100 percent of the State had no drought classification by month's end, compared to 19 percent abnormally dry and 5 percent moderate drought at the beginning of the month. South Carolina experienced unseasonably warm temperatures for February, which impacted many areas of agriculture across the State. The warm weather pushed some perennial fruit crops into an early bloom, which raised concern among producers about a potential late freeze. Fields were being prepared for spring planting with lime applications being made and fields being burnt down. Abundant rainfall in the Lowcountry region delayed some field preparations due to wet field conditions. Hay supplies for livestock were noted to be dwindling, however pasture and forages were reported to be greening up earlier this year. Wheat in the Pee Dee and Lowcountry regions were reported to be progressing well and in good condition. Strawberries were noted to have had a difficult winter, with a late planting and an abundance of fungal diseases. Tobacco producers have set seeds in their greenhouses in preparation for the spring planting.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA:** For the week ending February 26, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 5% very short, 33% short, 60% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 9% very short, 48% short, 42% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 3% very poor, 17% poor, 57% fair, 22% good, and 1% excellent.

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**TENNESSEE:** For the week ending February 26, Days Suitable 2.7. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 64% adequate, 35% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 69% adequate, 30% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 10% poor, 30% fair, 49% good, 8% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 5% very poor, 23% poor, 40% fair, 30% good, 2% excellent. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 54% good, and 7% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 6% very short, 32% short, 57% adequate, 5% surplus. Tennessee has experienced bouts of unseasonably warm temperatures during the month of February. Precipitation levels have been high, replenishing the water table after the summer and fall drought, but creating challenges for producers needing to fertilize wheat and spray hay fields. Some wheat stands are still suffering from the freeze event in late December, coupled with periodic flooding at the beginning of this year.

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**TEXAS:** For the month of February, precipitation mostly ranged from trace amounts to upwards of 3 inches. However, isolated areas in East Texas received up to 6 inches of rainfall. Wheat and oats are responding to recent rains, but more moisture is needed to further the progress of the crops. Cattle are in fair condition and producers are depending on supplemental feed for much of their herd. Pasture and range conditions are mostly poor to very poor due to the lack of moisture and high winds.

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**UTAH:** This report for Utah is for the entire month of February 2023. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 77% adequate, 22% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 99% adequate. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 10% poor, 59% fair, 29% good. Winter wheat condition 6% poor, 28% fair, 66% good. Hay and roughage supplies 2% very short, 39% short, 59% adequate. Stock water supplies 8% short, 92% adequate. Cattle and calves condition 8% poor, 50% fair, 42% good. Sheep and lambs condition 6% poor, 53% fair, 41% good. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 87%. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 84%. Cows calved 8%. Ewes lambled-farm flock 12%. Cold winter temperatures along with isolated snowstorms occurred throughout the State for the month of February. As of February 26, 2023, snowpack in Utah was 153 percent measured as percent of median snowfall Box Elder County reports livestock producers continued feeding cattle due to the cold weather. Beaver County and Box Elder County report livestock producers were dealing with calving issues due to the cold weather.

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**VIRGINIA:** Topsoil moisture 3% short, 86% adequate, 11% surplus for week ending February 26, 2023. Subsoil moisture 7% short, 88% adequate, 5% surplus for week ending February 26, 2023. Winter wheat condition 14% fair, 55% good, 31% excellent. Barley condition 18% fair, 70% good, 12% excellent. Livestock condition 6% poor, 31% fair, 55% good, 8% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 6% very poor, 21% poor, 41% fair, 31% good, 1% excellent. Hay supplies 4% very short, 21% short, 73% adequate, 2% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 9%. Virginia experienced unseasonably warm temperatures and varied precipitation with flooding occurring in a few areas for the month of February. The heavy rainfall has led to a great deal of mud in some areas. Small grains are greening and growing fast in a few areas. Hay and roughage supplies are mostly adequate to short. Primary activities for the month include seeding tobacco greenhouses, planting spring gardens, and scouting small grains.

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**WASHINGTON:** In south-central Washington, it was an extremely dry February. There were small skiffs of snow and wind in recent weeks, with lows dipping to the single digits. Weather was not ideal for crops or livestock, but calving had begun around the region. In Yakima County, nearly all the precipitation came in the first week of February and measured less than half an inch. Producers made significant pruning progress on orchards and vineyards during the warmer times of the month. Northeast Washington had mild weather until mid-February. In Stevens County, blizzard-like conditions were experienced, and temperatures dropped well below zero with the windchill. In east-central Washington, February weather was fair. One week of high winds produced windchill that caused a few calf losses. Winter wheat was in mostly good condition after an assessment of the crop showed minimal damage. In western Douglas County, some areas were still under snow cover, which marked over 100 consecutive days of snow cover. Snow mold, pink and gray, started to damage susceptible winter wheat varieties. In southeast Washington, February conditions were dry with cold temperatures, causing possible livestock losses in the extreme cold and heavy winds.

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**WEST VIRGINIA:** For the week ending February 26, Topsoil moisture 4% short, 86% adequate, and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% short, 88% adequate, and 6% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 11% short, 85% adequate, and 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 6% short, 92% adequate, and 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 47% fair, 51% good, and 2% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 2% poor, 38% fair, 57% good, and 3% excellent. Cows calved 30%. Sheep and lambs condition 1% poor, 35% fair, 60% good, and 4% excellent. Ewes lambled 25%. Weather conditions for the month have been unseasonably warm with a mix of cold temperatures and rain and snow. Some flowers are in bloom and grasses are breaking dormancy. Farming activities for the month included preparing for the next growing season, calving, and lambing.

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**WISCONSIN:** February brought temperature swings and mixed precipitation to Wisconsin. The month started with below normal temperatures and Statewide snow cover. Warmer mid-month temperatures melted snow and even brought rain to much of the State. A large storm system February 22 and 23 brought over a foot of snow to parts of northwestern Wisconsin and freezing rain and ice in the South. Overall temperatures for the month averaged 2.4 degrees above normal and precipitation was 0.74 inch above normal through February 26. Except for parts of northern Wisconsin which were snow-covered throughout the month, there were concerns about winterkill in winter wheat and alfalfa. The above normal temperatures meant most livestock fared well, but there were reports of cattle suffering from respiratory problems due to the large temperature changes.

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**WYOMING:** This report for Wyoming is for the entire month of February 2023. Topsoil moisture 20% short, 65% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 34% short, 60% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 18% poor, 58% fair, 20% good. Hay and roughage supplies 23% very short, 16% short, 61% adequate. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 84% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 10%

short, 88% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 36% poor, 33% fair, 29% good, 1% surplus. Cows calved 4%. Ewes lambled 3%. Sheep shorn 10%. Wyoming saw continued relief from drought conditions in February, with most of the State receiving above normal amounts of moisture. Isolated areas of south-central and north-central Wyoming received precipitation levels as much as 2 inches above average. Some parts of the west, south, and east, however, received below average levels of moisture. Temperatures ran below normal for all of Wyoming in February. Western and central portions of the State were hit the hardest with frigid weather. Areas of Fremont County experienced temperatures in a range of 9-15 degrees below normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor report published on February 23, 2023, the amount of land rated drought free increased to 36.6 percent, compared to 29.8 percent as published on January 26, 2023. The amount of land rated abnormally dry stood at 19.6 percent, compared to 25.4 percent at the end of January. Moderate drought was found in 34.1 percent of Wyoming, a significant increase from 24.0 percent last month. Severe drought fell to 8.7 percent, compared to 17.7 percent last month. Extreme drought improved to 1.3 percent, compared to 3.1 percent at the end of January. In Carbon County, some producers reported that the severe winter conditions required purchasing supplemental feed and clearing grounds of snow to bring feed to livestock. A report from Goshen County indicated that soil moisture levels were improving. The bitter cold, however, was hard on livestock and hay supplies were low. Snow covered much of Laramie County. Grasses were expected to improve as warmer weather approached, but it was difficult to assess field conditions at this time. Heavy snowpack was found in Lincoln County, with southern areas seeing the highest amounts of snow. With the higher levels of snow and continued stormy weather, future overland flooding remained a concern with spring on the way. Farmers and ranchers were looking forward to the end of the cold season. Platte County experienced a lot of wind in February. Combined with the snow, producers were seeing very high snow drifts. Though heavy snow systems brought good amounts of moisture, winds were pulling some of that moisture out of pastures and fields. Producers were concerned that soil moisture levels remained low as a result, and more snow or rain was needed.

## Statistical Methodology

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

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov)

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch.....	(202) 720-2127
Chris Hawthorn, Head, Field Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Irwin Anolik – Crop Weather .....	(202) 720-7621
Joshua Bates – Hemp, Oats, Soybeans.....	(202) 690-3234
David Colwell – Current Agricultural Industrial Reports.....	(202) 720-8800
Michelle Harder – Barley, County Estimates, Hay .....	(202) 690-8533
James Johanson – Rye, Wheat .....	(202) 720-8068
Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet .....	(202) 720-2127
Becky Sommer – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum .....	(202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369
Lihan Wei – Peanuts, Rice .....	(202) 720-7688

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

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