ALABAMA: Cold wet weather conditions dominated most of the state, hindering row crop harvest. Pastures were over-seeded. Cold weather helped prevent premature peach bloom set. Other activities included general care of livestock, poultry, and catfish.

ARIZONA: Area recorded slightly above average temperatures with light precipitation throughout the state during the month of December. The Cotton harvest was virtually completed by the end of December, while the small grains planting is well underway. Range, pasture feeds were improving at the beginning of the month due to November rains, but lack of substantial precipitation in December has let conditions decline.

ARKANSAS: State weather conditions have been severe over the month. Ice storms, snow across the state slowed farm activities, but brought needed moisture to winter wheat fields. The main farm activities included: Pruning fruit trees, removing irrigation levees, repairing farm equipment. Livestock remain in mostly good condition. Cold temperatures, ice have added extra activities for livestock producers. There have been no reports of extensive chicken losses due to power outages.

CALIFORNIA: By month’s end, cotton harvest was completed and most fields were disked and shredded. Cotton plow-down compliance was made easier this year by mild, dry weather, which allowed unhindered field access throughout the month. Field preparation continued for the 2001 cotton crop. Pre-emergent herbicides and soil fumigants were applied to cotton beds. Alfalfa hay cutting ceased in most areas, as regrowth was slowed by lack of adequate sunshine and rainfall. Wheat, oat and barley fields were planted and fertilized. Many fields needed irrigation or rain for optimal growth and development. Land preparation and planting for winter forage crops continued throughout the month. Emerged winter forage crops were being irrigated. Rice fields were flooded to aid straw decomposition. December’s extended dry weather allowed some new rice fields to be leveled for production. Orchards and vineyards were being pruned and dormant sprays were applied. Brush was shredded or burned. As December was short of rainfall, many orchards were being irrigated by month’s end. Grapefruit picking was active in the desert areas. The harvest of navel oranges continued. Lemon, tangerine and Satsuma harvests were active. Herbicide and pre-emergent sprays were applied to almond and pistachio orchards. Pruning was also active throughout the month. Harvest of San Joaquin Valley broccoli and cauliflower was nearly completed as January approached. Many harvested fields were being plowed under and prepared for the next crop. During the last half of the month Imperial Valley lettuce harvesting operations were being delayed by one or two hours because of morning frost. Spring lettuce fields were being irrigated or planted. Harvesting of Salinas Valley brussels sprouts was about 75 percent completed by the end of the month. Green onions were being planted, primarily as transplants. Garlic and carrots continued to be planted. Land preparation for sweet corn and processing tomatoes continued. Other vegetables harvested this month included: cabbage; carrots; basil; bok choy; daikon; cilantro; mustard greens; parsley; radicchio; chili peppers; and spinach. Winter pasture conditions continued to deteriorate in central and northern California due to lack precipitation. As December drew to a close, supplemental feeding of cattle became more widespread. In some foothill areas, especially central California, early grass growth had died back because of dry conditions. December’s dry weather has enabled sheep producers to continue to graze on alfalfa fields in the central area. By the end of the month lambing was complete in most central and northern areas, but lambs were still being born in the Palo Verde area. Feeder lambs were still grazing alfalfa fields in the southern desert.

COLORADO: December weather was seasonal with average temperatures slightly lower than normal. Snowfall has been primarily in the mountain areas, with limited moisture in lower elevations. The Eastern Plains remain dry. Mountain snow pack is currently below average, but significantly above last year at this time in all areas. Winter wheat continues dormant in mostly good condition, but vulnerable to blowout and extreme low temperatures due to poor fall growth, lack of snow cover. Major activities continue to center around feed and care of livestock, preparation for the upcoming lambing, calving activities.

DELWARE: Steady below normal temperatures, some snow cover have been favorable for small grains, fruit trees. Goose feeding on small grains, particularly continued high populations of snow geese, have done some damage. The last acres of soybeans were harvested in December. Grain in temporary storage on farms has slowly moved to elevators. The continuous, unusual for this area, sub-freezing temperatures have kept livestock farmers busy keeping water available to animals. Other activities are: Timber harvest, machinery maintenance, spreading stored manure, litter.

FLORIDA: Several Peninsula localities experienced near freezing temperatures. Immokalee recorded low of about 36°F on at least one day; Homestead, 44°F; Ft. Pierce 37°F. Lows averaged 30's at Jacksonville, Pensacola, Tallahassee; 40s at Daytona Beach, Orlando, Tampa; 60s at Miami, West Palm Beach. Highs averaged 50s, 60s, 70s. Rainfall ranged from about 0.25in. to 1.50 in. with nearly all areas receiving some precipitation. However, drought conditions still exist several localities. Temperatures below freezing New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day with Immokalee recording 31 and 26, respectively. Homestead at about 36°F for December 31, January 1; Hastings, 25 and 24, respectively; Pierson, 25 and 23; Bradenton, 30 and 26; Ota, 28 and 26; Ft. Pierce, about 30 on both days; Dover, 27 and 28. The Everglades region experienced pockets of cold reportedly in 20s. Moisture in Panhandle adequate; Peninsula, very short to short with scattered areas of adequate moisture. Sugarcane harvest making good progress. Northern small grains, temporary pasture growth slowed by freezing temperatures. Peninsula winter forage under dormant stress. Sugarcane harvest active. Sugarcane damaged by freezing temperatures December 31, January 1 with extent of damage being assessed. Vegetables around Immokalee, in Everglades suffered significant damage from cold temperatures. Strong winds accompanying cold temperatures tossed crops in nearly all southern Peninsula regions. Most East Coast growers used freeze covers to prevent some acreage from low temperatures. Plant city. Floral City strawberry growers continued using overhead irrigation as protection from cold temperature damage. The expected volume of vegetables available over next few weeks down significantly due to freeze loss. Vegetables available include snap beans, tomatoes, squash, eggplant, sweet corn, peppers, cucumbers. Rain all citrus areas, more needed. Freezing temperatures December 31, very little citrus damage, low temperatures of short duration. Most fruit already picked in coldest locations. Harvesting crews moving lots of oranges to the processors. Some juice plants limiting incoming loads due to over loading. Fresh fruit packing houses very active all week. Caretakers cutting cover crops prior to harvesting and for fire protection. Hedging, topping on the coast,
southern areas. Burn permits limited due to dry conditions. Pasture feed 10% very poor, 55% poor, 35% fair. Cattle 5% poor, 85% fair, 10% good. Statewide, pasture very poor to fair. Cattle condition mostly fair. Panhandle: winter forage not growing well due to cold, frost; ranchers feeding hay where available; hay supplies being depleted; cold, frost stressing forage, cattle; ponds, lakes dry. North: permanent pasture poor due to drought, cold, frost; cool season forages condition fair. Central: available forage limited, condition poor. West Central: Pasture poor to fair due to drought; Tropical soda apple decreased pasture feed; water supply still very low.

GEORGIA: Soil moisture was mostly adequate for the State. The State received rainfall during the month, but more rain is needed to end deficits. Cotton, soybean harvests nearing completion. Pecan harvest was winding down. Planting of small grains was about complete. The small grain crops were in fair to good condition. Small grain top dressing occurred during December. Onion transplanting was almost complete. Condition was mostly fair. Tobacco bed preparation continued as transplanting will begin shortly. Farmers continued to feed hay to livestock. Pasture feed was poor to fair. Cold temperatures during December has slowed growth of small grains. Other activities included: Land preparation for spring planting.

HAWAII: Generally favorable weather for crop development, farm operations occurred throughout the State. Sunny weather with light, beneficial showers prevailed during the entire week. Big Island weather experienced generally sunny skies with light showers. East State banana orchards benefitted from the generally sunny weather and light showers. Rainbow papaya supplies continued to be plentiful from Puna, State. Head cabbage fields were in fair to good condition. Ginger plantings were in mostly fair to good condition with mature ginger root harvest being active.

IDAHO: Precipitation was scattered across the state with Northern areas receiving the majority during the start of the month. Hay, Roughage Supplies were reported adequate, while winter wheat was reported mostly in good condition throughout the state. There has been a fair amount of snow cover on winter wheat this past month. Livestock are doing well in winter confinement. Activities: Attending meetings, seminars, working on taxes, marketing, feeding livestock, machinery maintenance.

ILLINOIS: Cold temperatures, heavy snowfall during December have caused problems for most farmers. Producers are having to plow paths for livestock to get to water in addition to buying hay for feed. The record snow level has provided a thick blanket to protect the dormant wheat crop. Movement of grain was slowed due to icy, snow covered roads, frozen rivers.

INDIANA: December temperatures were harsh, cold, third coldest December on record. Temperatures remained below freezing for nearly all of the state after the middle of the month. Snow covered nearly all of the state during the last three weeks of December. Snow was frequent, heavy in many areas, the third highest on record for the month. Farmers were able to do some tillage, spread fertilizer, lime, along with other field activities during the first week of December. Since then, farm activities were mostly limited to care of livestock, hauling grain, snow removal from roads, farm lots. Winter wheat is in mostly good condition, is being protected by the snow cover. Livestock are in fair to good condition, but under stress from the cold weather, wind, snow. Early lambing underway. Hay supplies are adequate, consumption is high. Major activities: Hauling grain to market, equipment cleaning, repair, attending meetings, tax preparation, purchasing inputs, hauling manure, stripping tobacco, feeding hay, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Summary for December 2000. Heavy snowfall, bitter cold temperatures hard on livestock, especially in feedlots, slowing gains on cattle. Some livestock being fed extra corn, other feed. Farmers worried about supply of anhydrous ammonia. Average depth of snow cover 16 inches. Average depth of frost penetration 15 inches. Soil moisture 9% very short, 38% short, 51% adequate, 2% surplus. Snow slowing grain movement. Grain movement 19% none, 51% light, 29% moderate, 1% heavy. Availability of hay, roughage supplies for livestock feed 10% short, 83% adequate, 7% surplus; quality of hay, roughage supplies 8% poor, 47% fair, 45% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 64% none, 24% light, 10% moderate, 2% extensive. Producers concerned about running out of hay supplies. Hog, pig losses 5% below average, 87% average, 8% above average. Cattle, calf losses 8% below average, 81% average, 11% above average.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 27% short, 64% adequate, 2% surplus. Wheat 4% excellent, 43% good, 33% fair, 16% poor, 4% very poor. Mild early December then very cold remainder. Nighttime lows zero’s to 10 below range. Feeding lots of hay, other forages.

KENTUCKY: December 2000 was the coldest December since 1989, the 4th coldest on record. Temperatures were 4 to 5º below normal the first half of the month, 19 to 22º below normal the last half of December. Precipitation was below normal all month except for one major storm at mid month that provided 2 to 4 inches of rain. Sub-freezing temperatures with long periods of light snow, ice kept farmers busy caring for livestock. Supplemental feeding of cattle at moderate to high levels was necessary due to the extreme cold temperatures especially for the last half of the month. Farmers had to spend considerable time breaking ice to provide water to cattle as temperatures remained below freezing. Snow cover provided winter wheat some protection from the late month arctic cold in some eastern, central areas but provided minimal benefit in the West. Burley tobacco curing, stripping was hampered by the cold temperatures, lower humidity the last half of the month. KY Gross burley auction sales volume through 12/14 was 114.1 million lbs. at $197.07. An additional 57.8 million lbs. of contract sales was sold Belt wide at $198.12 per hundredweight. The Burley cooperatives received 7.7% of gross sales compared with 34.1% last season. Auctions recessed for Christmas break, will resume on Monday, January 8, 2001.

LOUISIANA: Most field work has been hindered by wet conditions. Southern sugarcane producers were trying to finish up harvest, which was delayed due to wet conditions. Sugarcane farmers were dealing with a lot of mechanical break downs due to mud and trash. Sugarcane mills were in full swing. Cotton producers were fertilizing winter pastures, feeding hay. Many field crop producers were taking soil samples, liming fields in preparation for spring planting. Citrus producers were harvesting. Vegetable producers were preparing for spring planting. Other activities included: Repairing, cleaning equipment.

MARYLAND: The precipitation level in the state was 2.31 inches, which was 1.10 inches below normal for December. Temperatures were below normal. Currently, most of the state is without snow cover. Fall moisture deficit, below normal temperatures have initially reduced small grain seeding development, but they appear to be in better condition now. Below normal development of wheat has lead to vulnerability due to disease and frost. The small grain fields are doing well in winter confinement. Activities: Attending meetings, seminars, working on taxes, marketing, feeding livestock, machinery maintenance.

MICHIGAN: Snow cover since mid-November stopped all field work. In areas where snow had been the heaviest, some corn, soybean crops were still standing in fields. Farm activity was limited to: Storing equipment, repairing equipment, plowing snow for the month of December. Livestock were doing well, in good health, with cattle being tested for TB. In spite of a few reports of a shortage of higher quality dry hay, feed supplies were adequate. The snow continued through the end of the month.

MINNESOTA: Fall tillage was nearly 100% completed by the end of November. Statewide average precipitation was 2.15 inches above normal for November. As of the end of December, snow cover was at least 4 inches across the state. Moisture levels were above average at freeze up. Fall moisture began to rebuild the subsoil moisture supply. The statewide average temperature was 1.1º below normal for November. Despite the cold, livestock are in good shape with plenty of feed available.
Producers are planning for 2001 crops, fertilizer. GMO's are the topic: to plant or not to plant.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Soil moisture 11% short, 62% adequate, 3% surplus. Cattle 4% very poor, 12% poor, 38% fair, 41% good, 5% excellent. Wheat 5% poor, 62% fair, 30% good, 3% excellent. Hay Supply 56% short, 41% adequate, 3% surplus. Feed grain 31% short, 64% adequate, 5% surplus. Temperatures were cooler than normal across most of the state. Snow, ice fell in many parts of the state.

MISSOURI: Cold weather, snow during recent weeks have limited farmwork to care of livestock, hauling hay, planning for the new year. December temperatures have been among the coldest on record. Precipitation averaged in December amounted to 1.45 inches of rainfall equivalent, compared with the 30-yr avg of 2.67 inches. Winter wheat was generally in fair to good condition as snow cover has protected the crop in most areas. Snow has prevented winter grazing, cold weather is causing greater demands on hay supplies. Hay shortages are showing up in many parts of the State, with the most significant deficiencies being in the south-central counties.

MONTANA: The month began with dry weather and near normal temperatures. A cold front entered the area during the evening of the 8th. The arctic air mass that followed stayed in-place until the morning of the 15th. Temperatures stayed cool for the remainder of the month, barring the 27th when southwest winds raised temperatures in the central Montana valley to a monthly high of 48 degrees. Snow this month has begun to bring much needed relief from this summers drought. Topsoil moisture was 10% very short, 41% short, 46% adequate, and 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 24% very short, 50% short, 25% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 0% very poor, 11% poor, 38% fair, 51% good, and 0% excellent. Wind damage to winter wheat was 29% none, 41% light, 23% moderate, and 7% heavy. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover was 0% very poor, 14% poor, 27% fair, 52% good, and 7% excellent. Supplemental feeding of cattle was 98%, and for sheep and lamb it was 100%. Ranchers realize that hay and straw supplies may not last through the normal feeding period. Consequently, many producers have resorted to feeding alternate feeds in order to stretch the supply of good quality hay. Complicating the matter is deep snow cover and ice that continues to restrict grazing in much of the state. Furthermore, deaths and losses of livestock due to severe weather conditions are being seen.

NEBASKA: Temperatures for the week averaged near normals west, 77° 10° below normals central and east. Snow depth averaged 3 inches. Wheat 1% very poor, 10% poor, 51% fair, 30% good, 8% excellent. Cattle on harvested stalk fields, supplemental feeding necessary in most locations due to snow cover, cold conditions. Feed grain supplies mostly adequate with hay supplies short to adequate.

NEVADA: December was mostly dry across state with the only significant storm activity coming at mid-month. Precipitation totals for the month were well below normal statewide. Snotel measurements show water equivalents of mountain snow packs below 50 percent in the West and, although higher, still below normal in most other watersheds. Temperatures averaged above normal West, Central , and South, but near normal in the Northeast. Marketing of culled cattle continued. Hay marketing, shipping was active. Shipment of onios from storage continued. Potato processing remained active. As fall seeded grains and garlic went in good condition. Winter wheat feeding was minimal due to the continued open weather. Main farm and ranch activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock care, fence repairs, crop marketing.

NEW ENGLAND: No significant weather events prevailed during OCT, NOV, or DEC. Christmas tree farmers were busy the first half of the month with tree sales. Farmers engaged in normal activities: Tending livestock, preparing for winter, moving apples, potatoes out of storage.

NEW JERSEY: Some farmers finished their 2000 season harvesting their remaining vegetable, soybean fields during the first few days of December. Besides some field preparation, no other significant outdoor activities occurred as temperatures were near or below freezing the latter part of the month. A major snow storm swept up the east coast December 30th, with many areas of the state receiving a foot or more of snow.

NEW MEXICO: December started off warm, but dry, cold conditions prevailed across the State during the last of the month allowing for the harvest of pecans, red chile, some lingering cotton. The first week of the month temperatures were generally normal with a state wide average about 1° above normal. In the second week of the month temperatures were above normal for most of the state with a state wide average 4° above normal. The third week of the month was below normal in the east as an arctic air mass briefly invaded the eastern plains, then quickly retreated; in the west temperatures were slightly above normal with the state wide average temperature being 1° above normal. A winter-type storm brought light precipitation to the northern part of the State during the last week of the month. Moisture did spread into the southern, central areas Christmas Eve, an upper level storm tracked northward from Old State bringing in rain, snow, ice. With snow still lying on the ground in the north, little forage on the ground for cattle to eat across the state. Ranchers will spend the rest of this winter season supplemental feeding, watering.

NEW YORK: Outside activities limited due to coldness, significant snow during the month. Major activities: Tending livestock, snow removal, grain, potato combining, apples, onions, attending meetings, machinery repair, maintenance, making plans for upcoming season. Corn harvest continued into early December until weather halted progress. Harvesting was later than usual because a cool, damp summer put planting. crop growth behind.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 4.4, though not a concern with most activities shifting to indoor. Statewide, soil moisture 1% very short, 23% short, 66% adequate, 10% surplus. The year ended with cold temperatures, little precipitation over the past two months. Many parts of the Mountain region are still blanketed with snow. Although this region has received measurable snowfall, the soil, water levels are still low because the cold temperatures have prevented melting. The Piedmont is still short on moisture while the Coastal Plain appears to be in good shape heading into the new year. Only isolated soybean acres are still unharvested. Farmers are focusing much of their attention on their 2000 taxes. Other activities included: Limited sorghum harvest, tending livestock, repairing equipment. Pasture feeds are near depletion with most farmers now feeding hay supplies which have remained mostly adequate. The next Weather and Crop report will be released on February 5, 2001.

NORTH DAKOTA: Heavy snow, colder than normal temperatures during December made caring for livestock difficult while causing difficulties moving hay, grain. Cold temperatures increased feed requirements, reduced gains for livestock as animals struggled to stay warm. The average snow cover for the state was 9.5 inches as of December 31, up from 7.3 inches on December 3 and 1.5 inches in 1999. Snow cover was sufficient to protect 93% of alfalfa fields. Hay 2% very short, 9% short, 82% adequate, 7% surplus. Producers reported giving supplemental feed to 99% of their cattle, 97% of their sheep. Cattle, cow 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% very fair, 72% good, 6% excellent while sheep 0% very poor 3% poor, 17% fair, 71% good, 9% excellent. Cattle sales were 3% below normal, 88% normal, 9% above normal. Some late season crop combining was reported. Grain marketings have been slower than normal due to cold, drifting snow on some secondary roads. Many producers reported insect problems in stored grain.

OHIO: December 2000 was 6.4° colder than normal in state, with temperatures averaging 20.8° across the state. Precipitation averaged 2.12 inches, 1.02 inches above normal. In northeast state, some corn is reportedly still standing. However, standing fields sustained heavy damage due to wind storms in early December, problems with lodging, broken stalks persist. The winter wheat crop is reported in good to excellent condition in the Northwest district, and has adequate snow cover at this time. Livestock are reported in good condition. Producers seem to be having minimal problems with pneumonia, other diseases in livestock.
OKLAHOMA: Topsoil 7% short, 73% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture 12% short, 77% adequate, 11% surplus. Wheat 17% very poor, 25% poor, 38% fair, 18% good, 2% excellent; 14% grazed, 40% last year, 30% avg. Oats 24% very poor, 22% poor, 42% fair, 10% good, 2% excellent; 7% grazed, 23% last year, 28% avg; Rye 18% very poor, 15% poor, 39% fair, 26% good, 2% excellent. Livestock 4% very poor, 16% poor, 46% fair, 33% good, 1% excellent. Pasture, Range 20% very poor, 37% poor, 31% fair, 12% good. Eastern areas the cold created ice storms which interrupted power, heavily damaged many trees including peach, pecan. The extreme cold had little effect on remaining harvest across the Plains, however progress was slowed in areas with ice accumulations. Land preparation continued where possible, planting of small grains slowed in conjunction with weather conditions, lateness in the planting season. In Central areas colder temperatures, saturated soils prohibited further planting, slowed progress in earlier planted fields. The colder temperatures aggravated the health problems for livestock, accelerated the need for supplemental feeding. Additional hay supplies continued to difficult to locate for some producers. Field Crops: Small Grains: Planting of wheat, oats slowed as weather conditions were unfavorable across most areas of the state. Some earlier planted fields were damaged by the severe cold, especially where plants were young. The colder temperatures slowed or halted emergence in other fields. Hessian fly, army worms infestations became a problem in some locations where winter wheat was planted. Wheat, state-wide wheat 65% of normal compared with 41% last year. Cotton: Harvest remained active across the Plains, Trans Pecos areas despite the extreme cold in early week. In many locations harvest of the remaining crop was winding down. In all areas some fields remained too poor for harvest, zeroing out was the only option for some growers Sorghum: Harvest of remaining sorghum was mostly completed on the Plains, land preparation moved ahead slowly for the 2001. Peanuts: Harvest was winding down across the Plains and in other areas where unharvested peanuts remained. Many fields remained unsuitable for harvest as the growing conditions this season were mostly unfavorable. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans Rio Grande Valley harvest of spinach, turnips, cabbage moved ahead, good progress continued for onions, tomatoes and carrots. as weather conditions remained favorable. Citrus harvest remained active. San Antonio-Winter Garden spinach development continued, but slowed due to extended cloudy conditions. Some fungal problems were occurring in the onion crop, harvest continued in area cabbage, turnip fields. East State harvest of greens continued in small, isolated locations. Soil moisture remained high, land preparation continued to be slowed as a result. High Plains turnip harvest was mostly completed, land preparation was slow in accordance with weather conditions. Trans Pecos onions made good progress, land preparation continued for the 2001 crops. Pecans: Harvest activity continued as weather conditions allowed. Some on-farm stored some trees in a few locations, yields remained below normal as a result of the dry growing season. Range and Livestock: Colder conditions slowed growth of cool season forages across the Plains, Central State which increased supplemental feeding requirements. In portions of East State continued rain has made it more difficult to supplement livestock. Muddy conditions have been difficult on livestock, producers alike. In other areas dry conditions continued, water reserves for livestock remained minimal. Some areas where feeding equipment was available were a problem with the colder weather, additional hay supplies continued to be difficult to obtain for some producers. Herd replacement continued where winter forage was available.

OREGON: Activities: Fall digging, shipping of balled, burlapped plants ongoing. Winter orchard pruning continued statewide. Onions, peppers shipped. Potatoes being processed. Grain shipments continue. Winter farm, ranch activities continued. Cattle, sheep reported in good condition. Cattle on supplemental feed. Temperature conditions across the state ranged above normal for the month while precipitation was below normal.

Pennsylvania: The average high temperature for December was around 32.5°, which was about 6.8° below normal. The average low temperature was approximately 17.9° which was approximately 7.4° below normal. The average monthly temperature was around 25.3° which was 7° below normal. This was the 5th coldest December on record in the state. There were about 8 days with measurable precipitation in December. The majority of the precipitation occurred on the 16th and 17th of December. Total precipitation for the month was around 3.3 inches. However, this amount vary from county to county. The total precipitation for the year is now 42.1 inches which is about 1.47 inches above normal. This caused some field activities to be halted. Several inches of snowfall occurred during the month. The seasonal snowfall amount is up over the last few years. Major activities included: Fall plowing; corn harvesting; hauling, spreading manure; fixing fences; caring for livestock; machinery maintenance; pruning fruit trees; repairing barns.

South Carolina: Overall, December's temperatures were below normal with temperatures dipping into the low 20's, even teens in some areas of the state. Statewide precipitation was also below normal with a statewide average rainfall of 0.1°. Farmers were completing their harvesting of cotton, pecans, soybeans. The cold dry weather has hindered winter wheat development around the state. Some damage to winter vegetables crops due to freezing temperatures was reported.

South Dakota: Feed 4% very short, 16% short, 74% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water 12% very short, 15% short, 67% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter rye 29% fair, 65% good, 6% excellent. Winter wheat 9% very poor, 19% poor, 36% fair, 34% good 2% excellent. Cattle 2% poor, 18% fair, 60% good, 20% excellent. Sheep 2% poor, 17% fair, 60% good, 21% excellent. Average snow depth 10.5 inches. Alfalfa snow cover 21% poor, 52% adequate, 27% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover 39% poor, 52% adequate, 9% excellent. Winter rye snow cover 24% poor, 50% adequate, 48% excellent. Calf deaths 12% below avg.; 84% avg.; 4% above avg. Sheep, lamb deaths 5% below avg.; 93% avg.; 2% above avg. Road conditions county 91% open, 8% difficult, 1% closed. Road conditions township 75% open, 20% difficult, 5% closed. Frequent snows, high winds with blowing snow, bitter cold challenged producers throughout the month of December. Temperatures ranged from 5 to 12° colder than normal. Winter crops are in mostly good condition with adequate snow cover. Large carryover stocks of hay are being utilized in feeding livestock.

Tennessee: Weather conditions during the month of December were cold with periods of freezing precipitation. Temperatures averaged below normal throughout the month, with the coldest period occurring at month's end. Temperatures during the final two weeks of the month averaged 10 to 18° below normal, with western areas reporting their coldest or second coldest December on record. The State received most of its precipitation during the middle of the month in the form of rain, freezing rain, snow. Cattle producers have been feeding more hay than normal due to the cold temperatures, but most believe they will have ample hay supplies to last the winter. Livestock was rated in fair-to-good condition. Wheat acreage was in mostly good condition before the cold weather set in, but some are concerned about their later planted acreage.

Texas: High winds, extreme cold along with light snow crossed the Plains in association with a strong arctic front in early week. In Central, 

Virginia: Beef Cattle Forage 26% obtained from Pastures. Milk Cow Forage 4% obtained from Pastures. Sheep Forage 16% Obtained from Pastures. Pasture 18% very poor, 23% poor, 43% fair, 16% good. Livestock 2% poor, 31% fair, 62% good, 5% excellent. Small Grain, Winter Grazing Crops 6% very poor, 17% poor, 41% fair, 34% good, 2% excellent. By the end of December both the cotton, soybean harvests were virtually complete. Some corn fields remained unharvested as storage was still in short supply. Lack of moisture in some areas, cold weather has suppressed small grain development. The colder temperatures along with snow cover in some areas has caused a more rapid use of the stored feed supply. Burley, dark fire tobacco producers continued to grade, market their crop. Activities for the month included: Cutting firewood, hunting, attending some educational meetings, cutting cotton stalks, cleaning, putting away equipment for the winter, taking soil samples, year end financial planning. Temperatures for the month have
been below normal. Snow covered some of the northern, western localities the last two weeks of the month. Many areas of the state received little to no rain or snow during the month, are in need of moisture.

WASHINGTON: There were no reports of weather related damage to crops or fields. Cold temperatures early in the month increased livestock feeding. Mild temperatures in the later part of the month continued to leave adequate hay supplies. Frozen soil conditions have restricted winter wheat growth, development. However, an adequate snow cover protected the growing winter wheat. Operators were busy pruning fruit trees in the Columbia Basin. No winter injury was reported to grapes or soft fruits. Christmas tree growers started cleaning harvested fields in preparation for replanting.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 1.5. Topsoil 7% short, 91% adequate, 2% surplus. Colder than normal temperatures throughout December required heavier feeding of livestock. Some farmers have welcomed the cold temperatures saying that the cold weather, frozen grounds are better for livestock than the fluctuating temperatures we’ve had in the past years. Hay supplies are plentiful due to the above average harvest, good growing season. Wheat 38% fair, 62% good, 96% emerged, 81% 2000. Cattle 1% poor, 12% fair, 80% good, 7% excellent. Sheep 22% fair, 71% good, 7% excellent.

WISCONSIN: Record breaking levels of snow fell in December. The month was characterized with below normal temperatures. Very little outdoor farm activity occurred during the month, due to the cold temperatures, regular snowfall.

WYOMING: Topsoil 11% very short, 34% short, 55% adequate. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 48% short, 41% adequate, 2% surplus. Average depth of snow cover 4.0 inches. Winter wheat crop in mostly fair to good condition. Winter wheat wind damage 77% none, 16% light, 7% moderate. Winter wheat freeze damage 90% none, 10% light. Cattle, sheep in fair to good condition. Hay, roughage supplies 19% very short, 52% short, 29% adequate.