ALABAMA: Heavy rains over most of the state filled up ponds, streams. Farmers are feeding cattle, which began calving, their last few bales of hay, are hoping pastures will begin growing soon. Currently, pastures are greening up with 1-3 inches of growth. Some producers are beginning to fertilize their cool season pastures. Row crop farmers are getting equipment ready for the field. Fertilizer is being applied to orchards, pastureland when dry enough to get over ground. Ryegrass is beginning to grow, fescue is greening up, giving some relief to cattle producers. Hay supplies are still on the low side, county FSA offices were busy handing out Feed Assistance materials to those farmers that signed up in the beginning of February.

ARIZONA: Area generally recorded below average temperatures with substantial precipitation throughout the state during the month of February. The state has received above average precipitation which has helped improve range, pasture conditions.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures were slightly above normal for the month of February. Precipitation in central Arkansas for the month was 8.27 inches. This is nearly 5 inches above normal and is the 7th wettest February on record. Severe weather and tornadoes hit the state on February 24th and damage was reported in approximately thirteen counties. Wet weather has hampered wheat fertilization and spring planting preparation by farmers. Cleanup continues from the December ice storms. Sixty-seven of the seventy-five counties in Arkansas were declared disaster areas in December due to ice damage.

CALIFORNIA: Large scale weather patterns changed significantly in February. A series of Pacific storms moved into the state, helping to bring precipitation totals closer to normal. Clear skies between the storms allowed temperatures to drop below normal, the accompanying sunny days encouraged plant development. Rainstimulated the growth of wheat, barley. Some fields were being fertilized by air. By month’s end alfalfa hay, seed fields were beginning spring growth. Fertilizer, herbicides were being applied, conditions permitting. February’s cotton field preparation activities included irrigation, pre-emergent herbicide applications. As sugarbeet seedling growth continued, hazing was necessary to frighten away hungry birds. Rainy weather sometimes hampered cultivating, fertilizing, pruning, brush shredding in vineyards, orchards. Early varieties of freestone peaches, nectarines, plums were pushing buds. Grapefruit picking was active in the desert areas. The harvest of navel oranges was slowing as March approached. Satsuma, lemon, tangerine harvests were active. Strawberries were being weeded, trimmed throughout the month; by late month some fields were blooming. Pre-emergent herbicides were applied to almond, pistachio orchards. Pruning of nut trees was active, but was dropping off as March neared. By the end of February almonds were in full bloom. Bees had some difficulty pollinating wet almond blossoms. Rainfall, cold temperatures made it difficult to perform vegetable field activities. Weed treatment continued in melon fields. Land preparation for planting of onions, carrots, peppers, processing tomatoes continued in the San Joaquin Valley. As March approached, tomato fields were being planted with both seed, transplants. Some fields were still undergoing fumigation. Lettuce fields were thriving; some fields were being weeded, thinned. Onions, garlic were progressing normally. Broccoli, cabbage were being cultivated, irrigated. Harvesting of asparagus, cauliflower, broccoli continued. The following vegetables were also being harvested: bok choy, carrots, daikon, cilantro, mustard greens, green onions, napa cabbage, parsley, turnips, radicchio. When February rolled around ranchers were still providing supplemental feed, but grasses improved as the month progressed. Central, northern rangeland pastures were in good condition by the end of the month. South-central foothill pastures that had been lagging were showing improvement. Livestock were in generally good condition. Only minimal supplemental feeding was necessary as March approached. Sheep, lambs grazed on alfalfa fields in central state. Spring lambs were doing well. Old crop lambs grazing alfalfa fields in the southern desert were shipped to market by the end of the month. Bees were actively pollinating orchards when not hindered by rain. March was welcomed in with a substantial accompanying storm system.

COLORADO: Throughout the month of February, average temperatures were mostly seasonal, with periodical snowstorms helping to relieve soil moisture shortages in some areas. Although the mountains received snowfall in February, snow pack in all basins except the Rio Grande remains below average. Soil moisture supplies remain mostly short to adequate along the Front Range, Eastern Plains. Damage to winter wheat from blowing soil, freezing temperatures has been average. Winter wheat condition ratings as of the beginning of March are 3% very poor, 14% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, 2% excellent. Calving, lambing are progressing, while many producers continue to attend industry meetings, farm shows, care for livestock, prepare income taxes.

DELAWARE: Temperatures ran pretty consistent through February with highs in the upper 30’s to mid-40’s, some showers, light snow. Major activities were: Fruit tree pruning, attending meetings for pesticide applicator, nutrient management certifications, applying lime, top-dressing small grain with nitrogen, clearing ditch banks, logging, preparing field equipment for spring work, receiving seed potatoes, meeting with vegetable processor field representatives.

FLORIDA: Warm temperatures aiding irrigated crop growth. Temperatures at major stations averaged from 4 to 13°F above normal. Most daytime highs 70s, 80s. Nighttime lows mostly 60s, 70s. Tallahassee recorded most lows in 50s; most Panhandle, northern Peninsula, some central Peninsula locals recorded at least one low in 50s. Most rainfall ranged from 0.00 in. at several sites to almost 0.50 in. Pensacola reported almost 2.00 in. falling through March 3 while Tallahassee recorded almost 1.00 in. with both receiving rain from a storm system that passed over the Peninsula on Sunday, March 4. The Sunday rain totaled from West Palm Beach to almost 2.50 in. at Homestead; most localities recorded significant totals except only minor amounts some East Coast localities. Moisture mostly very short to short. Farmers starting field preparations for spring planted crops. Peninsula winter forages under drought stress. Dry conditions increasing wild fire hazards. Sugarcane harvesting active. Feeding hay to livestock due to poor pastures. Some ranchers have problems getting hay because supply getting low. Threat of cold weather delaying planting of spring vegetables some northern Peninsula, Panhandle areas. Vegetables available: tomatoes, cabbage, peppers, strawberries, potatoes, snap beans, sweet corn, squash, lettuce, radishes, escarole, endive, cucumbers, eggplant, Chinese cabbage, parsley. Hot, dry most of week all citrus areas. Cold front Sunday, the 4th, deposited varying
amounts of rain around one inch. More rain needed, irrigation continues, some limited irrigation use due to salt water intrusion. New growth, bloom progressing all areas. Early, mid orange harvest just about over. Few Valencia being picked for fresh. Some cold damaged Valencia going to the processors. Most grapefruit being packed with eliminations going to the juice plants. Temples going both fresh, processing. Pasture feed 35% very poor, 45% poor, 20% fair. Cattle 55% poor, 40% fair, 5% good. Panhandle; pasture feed improved following light rain, small grain forage growing; permanent pastures greening up. North; cattle feed fair, pastures greening but growth slow due to cold, frost; fire hazard still high due to drought. Central; grass very short, pasture very poor due to continued drought; ranchers feeding hay, with some hay being brought in from North. Southwest; pasture feed poor due to drought; fire danger very high; cattle feed fair to good. Statewide, condition of cattle poor to fair.

GEORGIA: The state received much needed rainfall during the month of February. Topsoil moisture levels were mostly adequate. The rain helped alleviate short term moisture needs but much more will be needed to break the continuing drought. Mild temperatures along with rains have improved forages, winter grains, vegetables. Pasture feeds were mostly fair to good. Dressing of small grains reported with slight damage evident from cold temperatures in December. Applying of nitrogen delayed in some areas due to its high cost. Some planting of corn reported in south state. Conditions of peaches were very good but growers were concern about reports of an upcoming cold snap. Carrot harvest has begun. Feeding of livestock still required.

HAWAI'I: A low pressure system accompanied by a weak cold front returned to the State, bringing some cloudiness, scattered light to moderate showers. East state banana orchards were in mostly fair to good condition with regular spraying minimizing disease incidence. Puna, papaya orchards were in fair to good condition, while Pepekeeo, Keaua growers rogued trees infected with phytophthora, PRSV diseases. Head cabbage fields remained in mostly fair to good condition with regular spraying to control insect infestations. Ginger root harvest was active.

IDAHO: Cold weather conditions continue. Scattered snow showers throughout the state brought some moisture this past week. Field activities are minimal across the state. In Eastern areas, cool weather conditions have presented some challenges for cattlemen during the calving season. Calving is 36% complete, Lambing is 37% complete. Hay, Roughage 1% very short, 31% short, 64% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat 7% fair, 89% good, 4% excellent. Activities: Attending meetings, preparing taxes, marketing, feeding livestock, repairing machinery.

ILLINOIS: Statewide Topsoil moisture 26% surplus, 73% adequate, 1% short as of March 2. Rainfall was abundant across state during February causing soft feedlots, melting the last of the snow cover that was present across Northern state at the beginning of the month. Statewide total rainfall averaged 3.47 inches or nearly twice the normal rainfall received across northern state at the beginning of the month. Rainfall was .54 inches less than last month. Temperatures, in general, were above average for February. Small grains are mostly in fair condition due to the dry weather this month. Livestock appear to be well conditioned, especially nitrogen. Some fertilizer, lime have been spread. Calving underway. Major activities: Hauling grain to market, equipment cleaning, repair, spreading manure, attending meetings, tax preparation, purchasing inputs, cleaning fence rows, feeding hay, caring for livestock.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 16% short, 69% adequate, 16% surplus. Wheat 5% excellent, 35% good, 32% fair, 19% poor, 9% very poor. Temperatures variable, one warm day per week. Nighttime lows zero’s to 16 below range. Spring calving, lambing started, some weather related losses.

KENTUCKY: February temperatures were above normal, with each week exceeding the norm by 6 to 11°. Near-record to record highs occurred at the end of the second week with many locations breaking high temperature records set back in the late 1800's and 1930's. A 40° temperature drop occurred during this period. Precipitation amounts were 0.28 to 0.30 inches below normal the first two weeks of the month. Constant rain for three straight days at mid-month brought totals ranging from 0.55 inches in Covington to 3.81 inches in Somerset. Statewide totals averaged 2.20 inches which was 1.31 inches above normal. Rain showers with some thunderstorms and strong winds continued into the last full week of the month. February ended with adequate to mostly surplus soil moisture statewide. Farmers were contending with muddy field conditions. Warmer temperatures all month limited stress in livestock, producers provided normal winter feed. Winter wheat reacted to the warmer temperatures, began to show growth late in the month. Burley Tobacco markets closed for the season at the end of the month. State’s net sales through auctions, direct sales totaled 216.8 million pounds. Auction sales averaged $196.02 per hundred. Burley belt auction net sales amounted to 223.7 million pounds. Tobacco contracted directly from the producers by companies totaled 87.5 million pounds, averaged $198.43 per hundred. Other belt wide non-auction figures amounted to 4.5 million pounds.

LOUISIANA: Field activities were very limited due to wet conditions. Field crop producers were preparing for spring planting. Sugarcane producers continued with off-barring, fertilizer, herbicides. Citrus producers were spraying crop to control diseases. Strawberries were being harvesting. Crawfish producers were putting out traps. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pasture. Beef cows were calving. Other activities included: Repairing, cleaning equipment.

MARYLAND: The precipitation level in state was 2.14 inches, which was .54 inches less than last month. Temperatures, in general, were above average for February. Small grains are mostly in fair condition due to the dry weather this month. Livestock appear to be well conditioned, healthy. Hay, feed supplies are at an adequate level in most areas. On the Eastern Shore, farmers are: hauling, storing poultry manure. Farming activities throughout the state include: Liming fields, finishing tobacco stripping, spreading manure, soil testing, nutrient management planning, cleaning, repairs to barns, equipment, other farm maintenance.
MICHIGAN: The month was very cold overall, but heavy rains during the last weekend of February melted most of the snow, left standing water in some fields. Farm activity was limited to repairing farm equipment, spreading fertilizer. Corn fields continued to be harvested and wheat looks good. Some were starting to tap maple trees to make maple syrup. Livestock were looking good, feed supplies remained adequate.

MINNESOTA: February 2001 was the coldest, snowiest since February of 1989. Winter weather has been a challenge for livestock producers. Livestock producers had a lot of work everyday clearing snow, feeding livestock. The cold weather required extra feed, bedding. However, feed supplies are adequate. This February will rank as the 15th coldest statewide since 1895. The statewide average temperature was 6.3° below normal for February. Snow cover is observed over the entire state. Many places ended the month with a snow depth of two feet or more, a snow water equivalence of 3 to 4 inches. The statewide average precipitation was 0.50 inch above normal for February. There is concern with the amount of snowfall. There are areas where soils were supersaturated going into winter which causes a potential of significant runoff, surface erosion this spring. This brings concerns of spring flooding, delays in getting into the field in a timely fashion.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.0. Soil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 26% adequate, 71% surplus. Cattle 2% very poor, 11% poor, 39% fair, 31% good, 14% excellent, 1% very good, 11% poor, 45% fair, 39% good, 3% excellent. Hay Supply 87% short, 12% adequate, 1% surplus. Feed grain 25% short, 73% adequate, 2% surplus. There continues to be concerns about adequate hay supplies in many parts of the state. Rainfall has prevented fieldwork in the most of the state.

MISSOURI: Hay shortages are reported throughout most of the state. Winter wheat is still in the dormant stage but is starting to green up in the southern part of the state. The crop in general is in good to fair condition.

MONTANA: The state is lagging behind its moisture requirement. In February Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 45% short, 35% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 28% very short, 50% short, 21% adequate, 1% surplus. The condition of the winter wheat crop 3% very poor, 19% poor, 37% fair, 41% good, 0% excellent. Wind damage to winter wheat 33% none, 43% light, 20% moderate, 4% heavy. The winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 9% very poor, 53% poor, 17% fair, 18% good, 5% excellent. Livestock grazing 25% open, 30% difficult, 45% closed. The difficulties in grazing are reportedly due more to a lack of forage than to heavy snow cover. It is reported that food supplies continue to be short, prompting producers to buy just enough supplemental feed to get by. Livestock receiving supplemental feed 100% for cattle, calves, 99% for sheep, lambs. Calving 21% complete, lambing 13% complete.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures for the month averaged mostly 4 to 10° below normals. Precipitation in the form of snow fell in all but the second week of the month. Wheat 3% very poor, 12% poor, 35% fair, 42% good, 8% excellent. Snow cover on harvested stalk fields made supplemental feeding a necessity in most locations. Hay supplies were mostly short to adequate. Spring calving 20% complete, 26% 2000

NEVADA: February was colder than normal statewide with temperatures averaging 4 to 6 degrees below normal at central, northern stations, 1 degree below normal south. Precipitation was much above normal south, above normal in Winnemucca and Elko. Ely had below normal precipitation, Reno experienced it’s sixth straight month of below-normal precipitation. Snow pack in the Truckee River Basin was at 57% of normal at month’s end, other western basins were at roughly two-thirds of normal. Eastern State snow pack was at 112% of normal. Marketing of cattle was active with two major bull sales held during the month. Video marketing was also active. Calving increased, lambing was getting underway. Hay shipping continued. Shipment of onions from storage concluded. Potato processing was ongoing. Fall seeded grains, garlic were in good condition. Snow cover in central, eastern state prompted additional supplemental feeding. Main farm, ranch activities: Calving, lambing, equipment maintenance, livestock feeding, fence repairs, crop marketing.

NEW JERSEY: The average monthly temperature in February was 37°, with a minimum of 19° recorded on February 22nd, a maximum of 62° recorded on February 9th. A winter storm brought snow to much of the State February 5th. Accumulations ranged from 1-3 inches South, 3-5 inches Central, up to 30 inches North, West. Coastal regions were spared any significant accumulations, with most areas receiving only a trace of snow. The storm was followed by two weeks of Spring-like conditions, with scattered showers, mild temperatures averaging between 40° and 50°. Cold, wintry weather returned with the arrival of a second snow storm on February 22nd. Snow accumulations were more uniform across the state, with Central, extreme Northwestern areas receiving 4-6 inches, while the remainder of the state, including Atlantic City, the coastal areas, received 6-8 inches. The last week of February was marked by the return of moderate temperatures, scattered showers across much of the state. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Other activities included: Equipment repair, feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: February was the complete opposite of January, a little bit like March, considering the winds. The month started out mild with a dry cold, temperatures that averaged 6 to 7° below normal. The second week of February brought a winter storm to northern state, the mountains of the south, with normal temperatures around the state except in the extreme northeast where the temperature was as much as 8° below normal. The last two weeks of February brought average temperatures, a few days of cloud cover, but very little moisture. Ranchers spent the month repairing water pipes while farmers were preparing fields for spring planting, planting lettuce, greens, pruning pecan orchards.

NEW YORK: Cold weather, winter storms continued through the month, making outside activities difficult. Apple, onion, potato grading, packing remained a major project for producers. Caring for livestock, manure spreading, machinery maintenance, repair, attending meetings, trade shows were major activities.

NORTH CAROLINA: The month of February was mild with above normal temperatures. Dry weather continued with most areas below normal for the month, for the year. Rainfall measurements since September 1, 2000 are well below average in nearly all parts of the State. The Mountain region has been hit hardest by dry weather with Jefferson down over 10 inches dating back to September 1, 2000. However, a good soaking rainfall blanketed most of the State this past weekend. Though precipitation has been down, statewide soil moisture levels are relatively good with their current rating of 2% very short, 15% short, 70% adequate, 13% surplus. Small grains, specifically wheat, are still suffering from inconsistent stands but are currently in mostly good condition. Top-dressing small grains is a major outdoor activity, but has been limited due to the high cost of nitrogen. Nitrogen prices have been roughly 50% higher than last year though the supply is reported as adequate. Feed and hay supplies continue to be mostly adequate. Most farm activities have been concentrated indoors with tax preparation, seeding tobacco in greenhouses. Limited field activities include: Land preparation, planting Irish potatoes along with the aforementioned top-dressing small grains. Weather and Crop reports will resume the weekly publication schedule for the remainder of the 2001 growing season.

NORTH DAKOTA: A return to colder temperatures, major snowstorms during February contrasted with relatively mild conditions experienced in January. Colder temperatures forced producers to feed more high energy feedstuffs to compensate for increased maintenance requirements. Producers struggled to move large amounts of snow in order to gain access to grain, stored hay. The average snow cover for the state was 7.2 inches as of March 1st, up from 7.0 inches on February 4, 2001. 1.5 inches on February 27, 2000. Snow cover was sufficient to protect 78% of alfalfa fields. Hay 3% very short, 7% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Producers reported giving supplemental feed to 100% of their cattle, 100% of their sheep. Cattle, cow 0% very poor, 3% poor, 26% fair, 66% good, 5% excellent while sheep conditions were 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 62% good, 10% excellent. Cattle sales 3% below normal, 91% normal, 6% above normal. Lambing is approximately 13% complete. Farmers were beginning to make seed purchases, also considering amounts of expensive nitrogen to apply this spring. Some producers
wereurying to finish hauling grain before secondary roads become muddy.

**OHIO:** February 2001 was 4.0°F warmer than normal in state, with temperatures averaging 32.8°F across the state. Precipitation averaged 2.17 inches. 0.50 inches below normal. Snow fall continues to provide relief for dry soil. No problems have been reported with the winter wheat crop. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

**OKLAHOMA:** Topsoil 48% adequate, 52% surplus. Subsoil moisture 65% adequate, 35% surplus. Wheat 6% very poor, 33% poor, 46% fair, 15% good; 25% grazed. 51% 2000 42% avg. Oats 20% very poor, 14% poor, 53% fair, 13% good.; 9% grazed. 41% 2000, 41% avg. Rye 1% very poor, 22% poor, 68% fair, 9% good. Livestock 4% very poor, 13% poor, 45% fair, 35% good, 3% excellent. Pasture. Range 16% very poor, 38% poor, 35% fair, 11% good; Large quantities of precipitation were received during February, soaking soils, resulting in wet, soggy conditions in most areas of the State. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated entirely in the adequate or surplus categories.

**OREGON:** Activities: Winter digging & shipping of balled, burlapped, & bareroot plants ongoing. Winter orchard pruning continued statewide. Potatoes being processed. Grain shipments continue. Winter farm & ranch activities continued. Cattle & sheep reported in good condition. Cattle on supplemental feed. Some wheat growers in the Klamath Basin area are reporting they are not planting due to lack of rainfall. The entire state is below normal for the year. Officials have not yet declared a drought but are warning if things continue there may be shortages. Have had reports from fishermen that the Willamette River is flowing at levels normally only seen during the late summer.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** The average high temperature for February was about 43.5°F, slightly above normal. The average low temperature was approximately 26.1°F, which was above or below normal depending on the location. The average monthly temperature was around 34.8°F. The highest temperature of the month was 61°F on the 9th and 10th. The lowest was around 14°F which occurred on the 18th of the month. There were about 9 days with measurable precipitation in February. Total precipitation for the month was from 1.23 to 1.48 inches which varied from county to county. The total precipitation for the year was slightly below normal. There were about 4 days with measurable snowfall in February. Between 5.9 to 9.5 inches occurred in most areas during February. Major activities: Hauling, spreading manure; machinery maintenance; fixing fences; buying seeds, other supplies; caring for livestock; plowing; buying hay, corn; shoveling snow; tax preparation; attending farm shows, organizational meeting, planning for the 2001 crop season.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** The state’s average temperature for February was 50°F Fahrenheit, 3°F above normal. The average precipitation for February was approximately 2.30 inches which is about 1.67 inches below normal. Farmers were busy repairing, maintaining equipment, pruning fruit trees, caring for livestock, attending agricultural seminars, preparing records for year end totals, taxes.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Hay, roughage 11% very short, 27% short, 58% adequate, 4% surplus. Stock water, 6% very short, 13% short, 74% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter rye 1% poor, 22% fair, 72% good, 5% excellent. Winter wheat 5% very poor, 12% poor, 39% fair, 40% good 4% excellent. Accessible livestock feed: 55% readily, 36% difficult, 9% inaccessible. Accessible stock water: 79% readily, 18% difficult, 3% inaccessible. Road conditions–county roads: 85% open, 13% difficult, 2% closed. Township roads: 69% open, 26% difficult, 11% closed. Average snow depth statewide is 17 inches. Alfalfa snow cover 14% poor, 66% adequate , 26% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover 18% poor, 62% adequate, 20% excellent. Winter rye snow cover 1% poor, 69% adequate, 30% excellent. Cattle 4% poor, 29% fair, 53% good, 14% excellent. Sheep 3% poor, 30% fair, 52% good, 15% excellent. Cattle Death Losses since Feb 1: 10% below normal, 83% normal, 7% above normal. Calf deaths since Feb 1: 8% below avg.; 85% avg.; 7% above avg. Sheep, lamb deaths since Feb 1: 25% below avg., 70% avg., 5% above avg. Below normal temperatures, abundant snowfall extended an already long winter. Producers are ordering fertilizer, seed for the 2001 crop year. Cattle, sheep condition are reported as 96% and 97% fair to excellent with death losses 93% and 95% below normal to normal respectively.

**TENNESSEE:** All areas reported above normal temperatures, above normal precipitation during the month of February. Weekly temperatures averaged anywhere from 4 to 8°F above normal throughout the entire month, with several locations breaking the 70 degree mark. Rainfall was widespread throughout the month with the heaviest amounts reported during the week of February 12 through February 18. Western areas received over 4 inches during this time, while middle portions got over five inches. Heavy rains caused some isolated flooding, but damage was minimal. Additional rain was received the following week, with Knoxville reporting over 2 inches. The wheat crop is in mostly good condition, growers are applying fertilizer, spraying the crop as the weather allows.

**TEXAS:** Generally conditions across the state remained unimproved during February. Frequent weather fronts crossing the Plains brought periods of high wind, rain, ice, snow. Cloudy conditions with light rain, drizzle covered the majority of Central, Southern and Eastern Regions. In the Lower Valley spring planting began with corn, sorghum, some cotton being planted. Soil moisture was inadequate in some Lower Valley locations however, planting moved forward. Planting activities will increase whenever weather conditions improve. Supplemental feeding of livestock remained constant across the state as colder, wetter than normal conditions continued. Water available for livestock was adequate in most locations however, some water hauling was in progress in isolated locations of South state.

**UTAH:** Major activities included fertilizing alfalfa fields, calving, lambing. Some sheep owners have sheared already. Cattle, sheep tend to be in good shape. Some operators tried to minimize feeding this winter, livestock are thin as a result. Range conditions are poor due to deep snow, cold weather, summer drought. It is too wet in some areas to begin field work, but the good winter, spring moisture should be beneficial to producers as the growing season begins.

**VIRGINIA:** Topsoil 17% short, 80% adequate, 3% surplus. The unserviceable warm temperatures throughout February were good for livestock. Muddy conditions became a problem in some areas as farmers tried to do field work. However, towards months end some fields began to dry, farmers were able to get into fields. Hay, Roughage 2% short, 83% adequate, 15% surplus. Feed Grain 1% short, 99% adequate. Wheat 30% poor, 66% fair, 4% good. Cattle 1% poor, 15% fair, 77% good, 7% excellent; Percent calved 33%, 31% 2000. Sheep 37% fair, 53% good, 10% excellent; Percent lambed 26%, 22% 2000.

**WASHINGTON:** Concern about the lack of rainfall continued to be the topic of discussion among the agricultural community. Soil moisture levels across the state continue to be short. Reservoir levels, snow pack in the Cascade mountains currently are about 50% of normal. No damage was reported to farms, ranches, or livestock from the Puget Sound area earthquake. Field activities for the 2001 season were beginning. This years winter wheat crop was in good condition. Growers expressed concern about snow mold, but there have been no reports so far. Pruning activities continued for tree fruit with no reports of winter injury. Calving, lambing began for many farms, ranches, progressed with few problems. Livestock were reported in good condition. Cattle feed may run short due to earlier than normal feeding by some producers. Ranchers have also been worried about available water in stock ponds, now, in the upcoming year. The mild weather contributed to continued forage growth, a decrease in hay sales. Christmas tree growers took advantage of the dry soils, finished planting under nearly ideal conditions. Commercial daffodil growers were reporting first blooms.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil 17% short, 80% adequate, 3% surplus. The unseasonable warm temperatures throughout February were good for livestock. Muddy conditions became a problem in some areas as farmers tried to do field work. However, towards months end some fields began to dry, farmers were able to get into fields. Hay, Roughage 2% short, 83% adequate, 15% surplus. Feed Grain 1% short, 99% adequate. Wheat 30% poor, 66% fair, 4% good.. Cattle 1% poor, 15% fair, 77%
good, 7% excellent; Percent calved 33%, 31% 2000. Sheep 37% fair, 53% good, 10% excellent; Percent lambed 26%, 22% 2000.

**WISCONSIN:** The month was characterized early with normal temperatures, scattered snow accumulation. By the end of the month, snow levels decreased resulting from periods of warm weather, rain.

**WYOMING:** Topsoil 14% very short, 41% short, 44% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 23% very short, 40% short, 37% adequate. Average depth of snowcover 5.0 inches. Winter wheat crop in mostly fair to good condition. Winter wheat wind damage 51% none, 33% light, 13% moderate, 3% severe. Winter wheat freeze damage 78% none, 17% light, 5% moderate. Cattle, sheep in fair to good condition. Spring calving 23% complete. Farm flock ewes were 28% lambed. Losses were near normal for both calves, lambs. Hay, roughage supplies 50% very short, 35% short, 15% adequate.