ALABAMA: North: Things are pretty good, cattle prices remain reasonable. Cotton, corn, soybeans were all near harvest completion before the much needed rains for pastures, cover crops began setting in. Now if markets would just cooperate. Most row crops are already harvested. About 200 acres of cotton are all that is left in the fields. There has been dry weather up until about the week of the 3rd of December. Most pastures are in poor to fair condition. Some farmers are already feeding hay to their cattle. Winter ryegrass grazing is low due to dry weather the past few months. Wheat planting is almost complete. The few farmers that are not finished with cotton harvest have not planted wheat yet. Most farmers are finished with crop harvesting, are working on tax, financial records. Machinery repair, upkeep is also going on. The warm weather this fall has resulted in slow start on chill hour accumulation for most of the state. Currently, total hours logged below 45°F are about 150 hours below average. Generally, most of the chilling needed to fulfill the dormancy requirements of fruit crops is received between December 15 and February 15, so we still have time to receive adequate chilling if the weather turns colder soon. On the other hand, the warm weather this fall has resulted in good growth on the strawberry crop, which should improve yields for growers this spring. Central and South: Still harvesting cotton (50% complete), some cotton received freeze damage in low areas about one month ago. Approximately 400 acres in Bulter county. Winter grazing is up, growing, looking good. Some cotton is averaging 1.5 bales, some late planted, freeze damaged cotton are not averaging as well. On other farms, farmers are scrapping and chopping stalks. Most cattlemen are feeding hay. Leading up to December it was very dry for most of the fall harvest season. This fall was excellent for cotton, peanut harvest but almost approaching a severe drought for the planting of small grains for grazing purposes. As for December, we have received the much needed rainfall but could use 2-3 inches during December to catch up on moisture for the year. Peanut harvest has been complete for almost a month. Cotton harvest continues with good yields continuing throughout the fall. This is very late, but the dry weather has allowed farmers an opportunity for this late harvest. Some area cotton farmers are pleased with the yields achieved from this 2001 cotton crop. Many producers report an average cotton yield of 1 ½ to 2 bales per acre. The grades have held through November being excellent. These will decline, as rainfall, cool weather will affect cotton grades from here until the end of harvest. Cotton yields look to be in the 650-700 pounds per acre range in some areas. Grazing for cattle has been widely planted and emerged. The problem for most cattlemen has been lack of rainfall, grazing has been slow to grow for most of the fall. Cattlemen will be two to three weeks later than normal turning cattle on small grains for grazing. Small grains planted for grain (wheat, oats, rye) are mostly all planted with 90% emerged and doing well after the recent rainfall. Henry county has planted about 2000 acres more acres of wheat this fall representing a 25% increase. All other acreage of grain for seed seem to be at same levels as in 2000 season with about 6,000 acres being planted. Winter forage annuals planted in mid to late September for grazing have produced little growth. While temperatures have remained unseasonable warm, lack of moisture is the culprit for poor growth. Producers are hopeful that winter rains will increase the production of these forages. Some permanent pastures (many still not dormant) have been overseeded this month in an attempt to gain more grazing. Pecan crop looks very good. Most pecan trees observed throughout the county have fully loaded branches, pecan quality looks relatively high. Insect pressure seems high for this time of year. An inspection of a field of oats with dead spots revealed a massive infestation of aphids. The problem so severe that many areas contained dead, dried leaves and stems. Most farmers are closely and carefully watching congressional movements on farm policies. Most local farm planning is delayed pending these actions.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE:

ARIZONA: Temperatures throughout the state were below average for the month of December. Above average precipitation was reported in the beginning of the month but tapered off during the latter half. Despite the precipitation in the early part of the month, the cotton harvest completion remained ahead of the five year average. In most parts of the state, range, pasture feeds remained mostly fair to good throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: December was very wet with heavier than normal rains statewide, and slight amounts of sleet and ice in the northern regions of the state. Early December precipitation totals ranged from 1 inch in the western counties to 5-6 inches in the eastern counties. Mid-month saw additional moisture ranging from 2-4 inches throughout most of the state. Due to the heavy rainfall (2-4 inches above normal) from December 2 - 16, county agents in some southern and eastern counties were estimating up to 25% of their winter wheat was lost or damaged. Flooding was widespread across the state, with one-fourth of all southern and eastern counties reporting heavy flooding in some areas. Replanting will begin when moisture subsides. Cattle were in good condition, but some pastures were covered in water, requiring extra feed and labor. Despite the excessive amounts of rainfall for the month, year-end annual rainfall totals will be three to five inches below normal.

CALIFORNIA: Unlike last year, December 2001 was wet. Cotton harvesting was essentially completed by month’s end. Most areas were in compliance with plowdown requirements. Following harvest, cotton growers prepared fields for next season’s planting. Soil moisture levels in December were ideal for germination of small grains. Dryland and irrigated wheat were thriving. A few fields of oats were green chopped. New fields of alfalfa were progressing well; some fields were sprayed for weeds. Rain caused lodging of winter forage in a few areas. Mylar was being used to scare birds away from young sugar beet plants. Seasonal cultural activities such as pruning, grafting, cultivating, dormant spraying continued in orchards, vineyards throughout the month. Some older variety trees, vines were removed, preparation for planting replacements. Brush was being shredded, diced, or piled for removal. December’s wet conditions sometimes hampered orchard activity. Harvesting of table grapes intended for fresh consumption was nearly completed by month’s end. The navel orange harvest was gaining momentum. Sacramento Valley navel oranges were large, sweet this season. Grapefruit picking continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Lemon picking was active in central, southern state. As January approached, Fresno County blueberry, strawberry plants were going dormant in response to winter weather. Nut trees were being pruned, some old ones were removed. As December drew to a close, a few pears were still being harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. Garlic, broccoli, onion fields displayed robust growth in response to December’s rains, good growing conditions. Irrigation was in progress in a few areas. Field preparation for new plantings of onions, tomatoes, garlic continued as soil conditions permitted. Spring cantaloupe fields were being prepared for planting in Southern state. Some spinach fields were being sprayed for weeds. Harvesting of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage continued. Harvested fields were being prepared for the next crop rotation. The following vegetables were also harvested: basil, carrots, celery, cilantro, green onions, mustard greens, collard greens, red, green leaf lettuce, kale, romaine lettuce,
turnips, Thai chili peppers, parsley, radishes, sugar peas, spinach. The month’s above normal rainfall continued to improve winter pasture feeds in many areas of central, northern state. Foothill streams were flowing. Supplemental feeding of cattle on foothill pastures continued to decline as the year ended. Late calving, lambing continued. Sheep were grazing in alfalfa, clover, or vegetable fields in central state. Southern desert area lambs were grazing on alfalfa or other hay pastures. As January approached, beekeepers prepared colonies for overwintering.

COLORADO: December weather was warmer, drier 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 significantly below average. Winter wheat continues dormant in mostly good condition, but vulnerable to blowout, extreme low temperatures due to lack of snow cover. Major activities continue to center around feed and care of livestock, preparation for the upcoming lambing, calving activities.

DELWARE: State farmers tend to winter activities as they feed livestock, spread manure, lime, fix equipment. Cold temperature set in after a warm start to winter. Precipitation for December measured 1.9 inches in Kent County, 2.0 inches in New Castle County, and 2.1 inches of rainfall in Sussex County. All three counties received less than normal amounts of rainfall, resulting in low groundwater table levels. Small grains are holding up through the dry weather, but moisture will be needed soon.

FLORIDA: Hot temperatures persisted throughout most of December. Spotty showers brought significant rains to a few scattered localities. However, most areas remained dry until a storm front crossing the State dropped up to a half inch at the end of the month. This front also caused temperatures to fall to freezing levels over most of the Panhandle and northern Peninsula, brought some frost to a few central localities. The mild conditions for most of the month allowed field work to stay on schedule, hastened the ripening of fruits, vegetables. Many citrus trees sprouted new foliage and started to produce bloom buds due to the early-spring-like weather. The oldest strawberry plants ripened about two weeks ahead of normal. Cotton producers finished harvesting in the Panhandle, northern Peninsula, while sugarcane planting, cutting made steady progress. Harvesting of early, midseason oranges for processing reached a near record pace after mid-month. Vegetable harvesting continued at a steady pace for most of the month.

GEORGIA: Temperatures for December were well above normal, except for the last week which was near normal to below normal. Most areas of the State received between 1.5 to 2 inches of rain for the month. This is about half of normal. Most cotton, soybean fields were harvested by mid month. 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. Farmers continued to feed more than the normal amount of hay to livestock due to the dry conditions. Pasture feed was poor to fair. Dry conditions during December has slowed the growth of small grains. Other activities included: Land preparation for spring planting.

HAWAII: Southwesterly winds brought warm, humid conditions to the State throughout most of the past week. Spraying for insect, disease control was returning to regular schedules. Banana harvest was active. Papaya fields were in fair to good condition with the drier weather benefitting orchard progress. Chinese cabbage, head cabbage, romaine, other cool-weather vegetable crops were in mostly fair to good condition. Sunny, dry weather was favorable for ginger root cultivation, harvest.

IDAHO: According to NRCS, snow water equivalent in state is near or above normal which is encouraging for the upcoming irrigation season. Good snow pack thus far in Northern, Eastern areas is encouraging for good winter wheat survival. Hay, roughage supplies were reported to be mostly adequate, winter wheat was reported to be in mostly good conditions. Activities: Preparing taxes, shop work, caring for livestock, gearing up for calving, lambing season.

ILLINOIS: Soil moisture 14% surplus, 80% adequate, 6 % short. Mild temperatures during the month of December provided livestock, wheat with good growing conditions for this time of year. Some respiratory problems were noted with Cattle though when the weather was the most humid. Heavy rains that fell in southern state has caused some concern for the wheat crop going into winter. The lack of any snowcover has wheat growers more concerned with the cool down in temperatures during the last week of December. As of December 28 wheat 7% excellent, 65% good, 25% fair, 3% poor. The heaviest of rains that fell during the month were across southern state with reports of streams, rivers flooding their banks. The cooler weather that prevailed at the end of the month did help firm up feedlots, fields for livestock, manure applications. Farmers were spending their days preparing for the upcoming tax season, placing early seed, chemical orders for next years crop.

INDIANA: Precipitation was mostly rain during the month, with some central, southern areas receiving heavy amounts. Flooding occurred in many river bottom fields. Very little snow fell, except for the extreme northern regions. Warmer than normal temperatures prevailed until late in the month when colder than normal temperatures arrived with lows reaching the single digits. Some fieldwork was accomplished during the month. Many farmers were tilling soils, applying fertilizer the first two weeks. Scattered fields of corn were harvested in early December. Farmers were moving grain to market, attending FSA offices for LDP payments. Pastures, forage crops are in mostly good condition heading into winter. Hay supplies are adequate to surplus. Winter wheat is in fair to mostly good condition. Livestock is in mostly good condition. Major activities: Chopping stalks, record keeping, stripping, marketing tobacco, building fence, repairing, cleaning up equipment, attending trade shows, hauling manure, cleaning brush, spreading lime, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Soil moisture 6% very short, 24% short, 68% adequate, 2% surplus. Summary for December 2001. Above normal temperatures extended fall weather allowed producers to complete additional fieldwork during December. The average depth of snow cover was only 1 inch, compared to 16 inches at the close of 2000. The average depth of frost penetration was 4 inches, well below the previous year’s 15 inches. Grain movement: none 18%, light 52%, moderate 28%, heavy 2%. Availability of hay, roughage supplies for livestock feed: 5% short, 83% adequate, 12% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage supplies: 6% poor, 43% fair, 51% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing: none 24%, light 21%, moderate 36%, extensive 19%. With mild December weather, livestock remained in excellent condition. Lows were limited, rated below the previous year. Hog, pig losses: below average 21%, average 76%, above average 3%. Cattle, calf losses: below average 31%, average 67%, above average 2%.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture 28% very short, 54% short, 18% adequate. Wheat 7% very poor, 16% poor, 35% fair, 35% good, 7% excellent. Wheat remains drought stressed in some areas. Damage from wind, freeze damage has been minimal. December temperatures have been moderate. Precipitation for the month was very light. Stockmen providing supplemental feed to livestock. Hay, forage 2% very short, 17% short, 76% adequate, 5% surplus.

KENTUCKY: December was abnormally warm, causing continued growth of grasses, fall seeded small grains, while limiting livestock stress. Heavy rain at mid-month replenished stock ponds, soil moisture. Wet weather made pastures muddy, limited field activities, while flooding low lying areas. Normal colder temperatures returned the last week of the month bringing the first snow flurries of winter to portions of the State. Burley tobacco stripping made good progress with the return of rain, increased humidity. KY gross burley sales volume through 12/21 was 196.1 million lbs. with an average price of $197.86 per cwt. The Burley Cooperatives received 6.9 % of gross sales, compared with 7.3% for the same period last year. Auction warehouses, as well as contract centers will resume sales on January 7, 2002.

LOUISIANA: Dry conditions throughout most of the month allowed sugarcane producers to make excellent progress with harvest. Sugarcane mills were in full swing. Cattlemen were fertilizing winter pastures, feeding hay. Many field crop producers were making preparations for spring planting. Citrus producers were harvesting, vegetable producers were preparing for spring planting. Other activities included: Repairing, cleaning equipment.

MARYLAND: State farmers tend to winter activities as they feed livestock, strip tobacco, prune fruit trees, spread manure, lime, fix equipment. Cold temperature set in after a warm start to winter. Precipitation for December ranged from 1.6 inches to 2.9 inches of rain. Although all counties received less
than normal amounts of rainfall, most areas have enough moisture for good small grain growth. Hay, feed are in plentiful supply.

MICHIGAN: Rye for cover, alfalfa has benefitted from the mild weather condition for most of December. Farm activities included: Storing equipment, repairing equipment, cleaning equipment, spreading fertilizer, completing the harvesting of corn. All livestock were doing well, in good health. Feed supplies were mostly adequate, though there were a few reports of hay, haylage shortages. The first snow cover came on December 20, with some parts of the State receiving three feet by the end of the month

MINNESOTA: Until the last week in December, it has been an extremely mild late fall, early winter. A snow storm in late November interrupted the mild pattern dumping record-setting snowfall amounts in the central part of the state. The snow melted quickly as above normal temperatures resumed. In areas surrounding the snowstorm, record-setting rainfall occurred. The rainfall, snow melt helped to improve topsoil moisture levels. Producers managed to accomplish a great deal of work after the completion of harvest. With the majority of fall tillage complete, more outdoor jobs were done than normal. The warm weather allowed for additional drainage work, as well as building construction, repair. Many beef producers are taking advantage of winter grazing with no snow. Feed supply is adequate. Livestock feed is good to excellent.

MISSISSIPPI: During the month of December temperatures were unseasonable warm, but temperatures returned to normal conditions near the end of the month. The state received adequate amounts of rainfall during the month. This was helpful in preparing the soil for the winter, producing adequate sub-soil moisture when spring rolls around. Many areas have ample supplies of hay going into the winter.

MISSOURI: Rainfall in December averaged nearly 3.00 inches, with the majority occurring during the second week of the month. Amounts by area ranged from under an inch in most northwestern, north-central counties to over 10 inches in 3 southeastern counties. Temperatures were mostly mild until late in the month when cooler weather moved in. Winter wheat condition is mostly in fair to good condition with adequate moisture for winter dormancy. Some wheat in the Bootheel could have some minor acreage losses due to excessive rainfall in December. Farmers in most areas are hoping for snow cover, especially for late-planted wheat, before severe temperatures occur. Hay supplies are mostly adequate except in some southwestern, south-central counties where supplies are short, particularly good quality hay for dairy cattle.

MONTANA: Temperatures were generally above normal for most of the month benefitting from a westerly air flow until the 20th when wind patterns changed, brought colder temperatures. The last ten days has seen temperatures below normal, snow especially in the western mountains. Eastern state remains very dry without much snow. Precipitation amounts for the month were below average for most stations. Winter wheat conditions are rated mostly fair to poor with the lack of snow cover a concern in most areas. Livestock are receiving supplemental feed to meet nutritional requirements, grazing remains mostly open, but very limited in quantity

NEBRASKA: Temperatures for the first three weeks of December averaged 6 to 14° above normals statewide while the last week averaged near normals to 4° below normals. Precipitation was light, fell as snow. Wheat 1% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 60% good, 6% excellent. Hay, forage supplies adequate. Cattle, calves 15% fair, 70% good, 15% excellent. Cattle on stalks with limited supplemental feeding

NEVADA: Several storm systems passed through state during December bringing much-needed precipitation to the region. Precipitation totals ranged from near normal South, East to twice normal West. Snoutel measurements show water equivalents of mountain snow packs at roughly 150% of normal. Snow accumulations are at roughly 125% of normal. Temperatures averaged above normal West, several degrees below East, near normal South. Marketing of cotton, cattle continued. Hay marketing, shipping was active with high demand. Shipments of onions from storage continued. Potato processing remained active. Fall seeded grains, garlic were in generally good condition. Winter livestock feeding was underway. Main farm, ranch activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock care, fence repairs, crop, livestock marketing, industry meetings

NEW ENGLAND: In state, unseasonably warm weather persisted throughout the first part of December. After mid-month, cooler temperatures, snow arrived in time for the holiday season. Drought conditions beginning in July of this year left water levels low in the northeast; precipitation during December was welcomed, but was not significant enough to make great improvements to water levels throughout most of the area

NEW JERSEY: Scattered showers during the first few weeks of December brought much needed rainfall to many areas of the state. Precipitation totals averaged from 1.84 inches to 2.39 inches by December 31. However, drought warnings remain in effect for several counties in the Northern, Central, Southern portions of the state, with some localities reporting precipitation amounts from 5 inches to 8 inches below normal for the month. Average precipitation levels for the year range from 7 inches to 12 inches below normal in many areas. Temperatures averaged above normal for most of the month, with several areas reporting highs in the low 70’s on December 6. Cooler weather returned the last week of December with temperatures averaging in the low 30’s across much of the state.

NEW MEXICO: The month of December started out cold with a light snow storm. There was very little moisture, moderately cool weather the rest of the month. The cotton harvest was completed during December. Red Chile, pecans continued to be harvested throughout the month. The red chile harvest, pecan harvest was nearing completion in the last days of December. Ranchers spent the month hauling feed and water when needed, they were also busy mending fences, getting ready for spring calving.

NEW YORK: The first week of December was the mildest in recorded history. Overall, monthly temperatures averaged above normal. Very little snowfall during the month in most areas. Exception was Buffalo, which received over 7 feet of snow from the 25th to the 29th. Prior to the 25th, Buffalo had received on 8 inches, compared with over 80 inches in 2000. Major activities: Tending livestock, machinery repair, maintenance, fixing fences, grading, packing apples, onions, pruning fruit trees, grape vines

NORTH CAROLINA: Soil moisture 15% very short, 38% short, 46% adequate, 1% surplus. State finally received measurable precipitation around the middle of December. Temperatures have been above normal for much of December. Rainfall has eased soil moisture concerns. However, most of the State received below normal rainfall for the year, significant in some areas, moisture problems are sure to resurface unless periodic precipitation continues. Pasture feeds are near depletion with most farmers now feeding hay supplies which are mostly adequate. The extremely dry fall benefitted harvest activities, bolstered yield potential in cotton, peanut

NORTH DAKOTA: Mild winter to date has been beneficial to livestock producers with reduced feed usage, improved gains, very few weather related health problems. The average snow cover for the state was 3.3 inches as of December 30th compared to 9.5 inches average snow cover for the state on December 31, 2000. Snow cover was sufficient to protect 59% of alfalfa fields. Hay 0% very short, 8% short, 78% good, and 14% surplus. Producers reported giving supplemental feed to 95% of their cattle, 98% of their sheep. Cattle, cow 1% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 71% good, 16% excellent while sheep 0% very poor, 1% poor, 6% fair, 77% good, 16% excellent. Cattle sales 15% below normal, 83% normal, 2% above normal. Road conditions remain good enabling producers to move hay, livestock, grain in a timely fashion. Some producers are reporting insect problems in stored grain due to above normal temperatures.

OHIO: December 2001 was 7.2° warmer than normal in state, with temperatures averaging 38.6° across the state. Precipitation averaged 2.88 inches, 0.05 inches above normal. The Southwest district received the most precipitation with 4.15 inches, while the North Central, Northeast districts received the least with 2.46 inches. The winter wheat crop looks in good to excellent condition.

OKLAHOMA: Many areas of state received rainfall during the month of December, improving moisture conditions. However, most of the State remained dry, more statewide rainfall is greatly needed. Temperatures during the month were warmer than normal. Areas that received adequate rainfall during the month
exhibited some wheat improvement. However, wheat fields in many other areas remain stressed from lack of precipitation. Additional moisture is greatly needed to stimulate growth, development. Wheat conditions varied across the State. By the end of December, one-third of the State’s wheat was being grazed. Wheat grazing has yet to occur in many areas due to thin or uneven stands. Some wheat has still not attained a sufficient root system to secure plants in the ground during grazing. Greenbugs were damaging fields in many areas, some producers have elected to control the populations by spraying.

OREGON: Activities: Winter care ongoing across the State. Livestock continue on supplemental feed. Shipments of wheat, barley, oats, corn, potatoes, dry onions continued. Noteworthy precipitation, including record number of consecutive days of rain, were recorded during the month with flooding reported in Tillamook County. The coastal areas were hit hardest, encountered wind up to 80 miles per hour.

Pennsylvania: The weather was mild during the first few weeks, but became harsh, cold during the end of December. The average high temperatures were mostly in the 50’s, the average low temperatures were mostly in the low 30’s. Despite some precipitation, dry conditions continue in some areas. Precipitation throughout the state was a little below normal for December. Some areas have received a small amount of snow. Major activities included: Fall plowing, corn harvesting, caring for livestock, hauling, spreading manure, fixing fences, machinery maintenance, pruning fruit trees, repairing barns. Farmers also began making plans for spring planting.

South Carolina: Temperatures ranged from above normal during the first part of December to below normal the last half. Statewide precipitation was drier than normal for the month, the only measurable rainfall occurred around mid-month which averaged above 1.0” in some places. Small grain growth was rapid due to warmer weather than normal and colder weather was needed to restrict growth. Farmers finished cotton, soybean harvest during the first half of the month. Pasture, livestock were in fair condition with some supplemental feeding.

South Dakota: Feed 1% very short, 7% short, 83% adequate, 9% surplus. Stock water 4% very short, 8% short, 83% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat 11% poor, 12% fair, 59% good, 18% excellent. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 14% poor, 27% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. County road 100% open. Township road 98% open, 2% difficult. Cattle feed, 1% poor, 10% fair, 67% good, 22% excellent. Sheep 1% poor, 16% fair, 61% good, 22% excellent. Average snow depth statewide, 1.8 inches. Alfalfa snow cover, 69% poor, 26% adequate, 5% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover, 78% poor, 20% adequate, 2% excellent. Winter rye snow cover, 54% poor, 35% adequate, 11% excellent. Calf deaths, 28% below avg.; 66% avg.; 6% above avg. Sheep, lamb deaths, 45% below avg.; 53% avg.; 2% above avg. The month of December brought above normal temperatures, melting the existing snow cover. Temperatures ranged from 4 to 10°F above normal for the month. The average temperature across the state was 26 degrees.

Tennessee: During the first half of December the Volunteer State experienced warmer than normal temperatures, especially in the Eastern sections. The Western half of the State received higher than normal rainfall. As the month came to a close, total rainfall averaged above normal in West state, near normal across the remainder of the State with temperatures also ranging above normal statewide. The 2002 winter wheat crop was rated in good condition. Cattle were also in good condition. Producers are feeding hay from adequate hay stocks

Texas: Early in the month conditions across the Plains were mostly open, remaining harvest was completed. In Southern areas cloudy, wet conditions were dominant, farming activities were mostly on hold until drying occurred. Clearing occurred in late month however, colder temperatures were prevalent, occasionally accompanied by some snow showers across the plains, portions of Central state. Range, pasture feeds had improved somewhat in many areas with the growth of cool season forages but, generally pastures remained in poor condition as a result of last summers drought. Livestock sickness remained steady but, no outstanding problems were reported.

Utah: Heavy snows are protecting fall grains, other crops. Due to snow cover, cold temperatures, livestock producers have begun to feed hay to cattle, sheep. Hay is expensive, may be in short supply if the weather stays this cold. Most livestock are in good to fair condition

Virginia: Beef Cattle 19% Forage, NA 2000, NA 5-yr avg. Milk Cow 4% Forage, NA 2000, NA 5-yr avg. Sheep 32% Forage, NA 2000, NA 5-yr avg. Pasture 37% very poor, 53% poor, 22% fair, 8% good. Livestock 3% very poor, 16% poor, 26% fair, 54% good, 7% excellent. Winter Grazing Crops 12% very poor, 28% poor, 32% fair, 27% good, 1% excellent. Unseasonably mild temperatures, dry conditions persisted throughout the Commonwealth during the first part of December causing topsoil moisture, pasture feeds to remain at critical levels. Unseasonably mild temperatures, dry conditions persisted throughout the Commonwealth during the first part of December causing topsoil moisture, pasture feeds to remain at critical levels. The lack of moisture caused many surface, ground water sources to become severely depleted. The lack of moisture in most areas delayed the development of small grains. Virtually all livestock producers had to feed their livestock supplemental hay do to the lack of pasture growth. By the middle part of the month the Commonwealth experienced relief in the form of rainfall. Harvest was completed for soybeans, cotton, winter apples. Some winter wheat remained unseeded due to the lack of moisture. Burley, dark fire tobacco producers continued to grade, market their crop. Farming activities included: Feeding livestock, cleaning, maintaining equipment, scouting fields, spreading lime, fertilizer on pastures, cropland. Temperatures for the month was unseasonably mild throughout most of the month. Temperatures began decreasing toward the end of the month to near normal levels.

Washington: Western state received a more normal rainfall level during the month of December. Several days of heavy rain and high tides were reported in Clallam, Jefferson Counties. Flood watches were issued in several Western state counties; no flood damage was reported. Central state mild winter weather with no excessive cold days was ideal for fruit trees. Winter wheat across the state was progressing normally, with some snow cover. Precipitation received over Eastern state has improved subsoil moisture levels. Adams county reported producers finishing up grass seeding, shrub planting on CRP land. Colder temperatures increased supplemental winter feeding to livestock. Forage supplies were reported adequate for December.

West Virginia: For the week ending December 30, Topsoil 13% very short, 42% short, 45% adequate, compared to 7% short, 91% adequate, 2% surplus at this time last December. Wheat ranged from 21% poor, 78% fair, 1% good, compared to 38% fair, 62% good last December. Wheat 74% emerged, compared to 96% last year at this time. Small grains have been slow to emerge due to dry weather. Cattle, calves, sheep, lambs were reported in mostly good condition as a result of the warmer than normal temperatures. The absence of freezing weather during most of the month was very important to livestock having access to limited water supplies. Below normal rainfall throughout most of the fall has required earlier feeding of livestock, hauling water in some areas. Hay supplies are adequate. Farm activities included: Feeding livestock, general maintenance.

Wisconsin: December was characterized with above normal temperatures, below normal snowfall. Mild temperatures allowed outdoor farm activities to continue without many delays.

Wyoming: Topsoil 23% very short, 55% short, 22% adequate 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 30% very short, 55% short, 15% adequate 0% surplus. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 68% good, 4% excellent, wind damage 82% none, 15% light, 2% moderate, 1% severe, freeze damage 96% none, 3% light, 1% moderate, 0% severe. Cattle 2% poor, 37% fair, 60% good, 1% excellent. Sheep 2% poor, 39% fair, 59% good. Hay, roughage supplies 4% very short, 29% short, 67% adequate 0% surplus. Stock water supplies 10% very short, 40% short, 50% adequate 0% surplus. Much colder temperatures with light precipitation toward the end of the month. Lack of snow cover has helped producers save hay supplies but has not helped stock water or soil moisture. Moisture is needed badly throughout state.