ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 67% adequate, 25% surplus. Corn 13% planted, 6% 2001, 18% avg. Winter wheat 11% headed, 10% 2001, 13% avg.; 1% poor, 26% fair, 68% good, 5% excellent. Pasture, range feed 1% very poor, 10% poor, 36% fair, 44% good, 9% excellent.Livestock feed 1% very poor, 8% poor, 25% fair, 51% good, 15% excellent. Farmers are tilling for spring planting. Continual surplus moisture are stopped or halted fieldwork in some fields. Catfish farmers have restocked ponds, some are feeding more often due to warmer temperatures.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE:

ARIZONA: Temperatures throughout the state were above average for the week with slight precipitation reported. Lack of precipitation has caused the deterioration of range, pasture feeds. Cotton planting is getting underway with 15% of the spring 2002 cotton crop being planted.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.3. Soil 0% very short, 0% short, 26% adequate, 74% surplus.; Sorghum 0% planted, 2% 2000, 2% 5 yr. avg. Corn 7% planted, 24% 2000, 14% 5 yr. avg. Wheat 0% headed, 0% 2000, 2% 5 yr. avg.; 4% very poor, 21% poor 34% fair, 34% good. 7% excellent. Other Hay 2% very poor, 42% poor, 37% fair, 19% good. Pasture, Range feed 2% very poor, 25% poor, 45% fair, 22% good, 6% excellent. FIELD CROP : Planting corn, sorghum. Fertilizer is being applied to wheat, hay, pastures. Row crop planting is extremely limited due to excessive rainfall. Commercial tomatoes are being bedded, plastic laid. LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, RANGE: Cattle were in good condition. Cattle producers were working cattle, weaning calves, selling livestock.1/Many reports are received on Friday, may not reflect conditional changes due to weekend weather.

CALIFORNIA: Cotton planting was underway in a few areas, while field preparation continued elsewhere. Alfalfa hay, seed fields were thriving, but some fields were treated for weeds. Alfalfa hay was being cut, windrowed, dried, baled. The recent rain, warm weather stimulated growth, development of grain, silage crops. Wheat, barley, oats continued good progress; irrigation, weed control continued. Harvesting of winter forage continued in occasional fields. Grain fields planted to green manure were mowed and disced. More rain would improve dryland hay, wheat crops; some oat hay was stunted from the lack of moisture. Robust growth of sugar beets continued, as fields were irrigated and cultivated. Ground was being prepared for rice planting, herbicides were applied. Stubble from 2001 rice fields was still being burned in occasional fields. Growers continued planting corn for grain, silage. Recently planted corn began to emerge in response to the improved weather conditions. Safflower planting was underway in a few areas. Seasonal cultural activities such as weed control, cultivation, irrigation continued in orchards, vineyards. New orchards, vineyards were being planted where older ones had been removed. Peaches, plums, nectarines were in full bloom; most trees were already leafing. A few stone fruit orchards were being girdled to increase fruit size. Apricot growers began to thin fruit in the Firebaugh district. San Joaquin cherry orchards passed the mid-blossom stage. Apple blossoming continued. Grape growers irrigated, mowed cover crops, cultivated, applied herbicides in vineyards. Bud break continued in grape vineyards; new shoots were growing rapidly in the warm sunlight. Strong spring growth was noted in citrus orchards due to the recent warm weather. Navel, valencia orange harvesting continued. Grapefruit picking was ongoing in the desert, in the San Joaquin Valley. Lemons were also being picked. The harvest of minneola tangelos neared completion. Strawberry plants were spreading; blooming; fields were weeded and irrigated. Nut growers were performing seasonal cultural activities such as pruning, irrigating, spraying trees. Most almond orchards were fully leafed, developing well. Walnut, pecan trees began pushing buds. Brush removal, shredding continued. Recent warm weather has stimulated growth, development of vegetables. Warmer weather has dramatically improved asparagus production. Hot caps will soon be removed from summer squash. Watermelon planting was in progress in the west side districts of Fresno County; growers used transplants to get a quick start on the season. Cantaloupes, mixed melons were also planted, using seeds or transplants. Fresh market, processing tomato planting continued using mostly transplants; field preparation was still in progress. Lettuce, garlic, onions, tomatoes, other vegetable fields continued to show excellent progress. Some spinach fields were prepared for harvest in Tulare County. Fresno County’s broccoli, asparagus harvesting continued. Lettuce harvesting continued at a steady pace. The following vegetables were also harvested. Basil, cabbage, carrots, celery, collard, green onions, mustard greens, collard greens, leeks, daikon, mint, parsley, radishes, radicchio, turnips, squash. Recent rainfall improved grazing conditions on foothill, rangeland pastures. Cattle continued to exhibit good weight gains. Lambing was reported in some areas, as a few flocks of sheep grazed harvested broccoli, alfalfa fields. Turkey production continued; young hatchings were thriving. Beekeepers were moving bees out of almond orchards, preparing to move bees out of dried plum orchards. Out of state hives were headed home.

COLORADO: Days suitable for field work 5.8. Topsoil 29% very short, 46% short, 24% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 24% very short 48% short, 28% adequate, 0% surplus. Temperatures were unseasonably warm for most of the week. Most of state experienced dry conditions, while some areas received spotty moisture. Spring barley 15% planted, 15% 2001, 29% avg. Dry onions 25% planted, 25% 2001, 42% avg. Sugar beets 6% planted, 6% 2001, 11% avg. Spring wheat 9% planted, 11% 2001, 18% avg. Winter wheat 3% pastured, 6% 2001, 7% avg. Cows 55% calved, 59% 2001, 62% avg. Ewes 47% lambed, 52% 2001, 47% avg.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Topsoil 3% very short, 35% short, 62% adequate. Subsoil 27% very short, 50% short, 23% adequate. Barley 19% poor, 37% fair, 41% good, 3% excellent. Winter Wheat 20% poor, 37% fair, 41% good, 2% excellent. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 15% poor, 24% fair, 55% good, 3% excellent. Strawberries 1% bloomed, 6% avg. Apples 1% bloomed, 5% avg. Peaches 11% bloomed, 16% avg. Sweet corn 3% planted, 4% 2001, 2% avg. Green peas 15% planted, 7% 2001, 9% avg. Potatoes 25% planted, 3% 2001, 9% avg. Hay supplies 10% very short, 33% short, 57% adequate. Showers Tuesday, Saturday helped surface soil moisture levels, as well as small grains, peas, potatoes that have been planted. Poultry operators are at a heightened alert for biosecurity, due to avian influenza outbreaks in the region.

FLORIDA: Topsoil 1% very short, 44% short, 55% adequate. Subsoil 2% very short, 34% short, 64% adequate. Rainfall range: from mostly...
traces to over 1.00 in. at Okahumpka, Pensacola; several reports of no measurable rain. Temperature average: 1° below normal at Pensacola to 5° above at many central, southern Peninsula localities. Daytime highs: 70s, 80s. Nighttime lows: 40s, 50s, 60s. Sugarcane harvesting nearly done, several mills closed. Tobacco transplanting gaining momentum. Producers preparing for cotton, peanut planting; to get underway in 2 to 3 weeks. Mostly dry weather increasing need for irrigation of vegetables over central, southern Peninsula. Vegetables available: Tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, squash, sweet corn, strawberries. Dry, warm, windy week citrus areas. Rain needed, irrigation active. Bloom completed. Valencia harvest very active all areas. Grapefruit going mostly to processors. Temple, Honey tangerine harvest slowing as supplies run low. Hedging, topping active in harvested groves; dead trees being removed, burned; resets going in larger groves. Pasture feed 5% poor, 75% fair, 20% good. Cattle feed 65% fair, 35% good. Panhandle: pasture feed poor to fair due to dry soil condition; near freezing temperatures hurt grass in some locations. North: pasture feed fair due to drought; cool season forages starting to head, warm season permanent grass greening-up. Central: pasture feed fair, stockpens very low. Southwest: pasture feed mostly fair. Statewide, condition of cattle fair to good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 5.4. Soil 4% very short, 22% short, 67% adequate, 7% surplus. Corn 2% poor, 35% fair, 59% good, 4% excellent; 51% planted, 36% 2001, 51% avg.; 27% emerged, 27% 2001, 52% avg. Hay 1% very poor, 12% poor, 4% fair, 39% good, 2% excellent. Sorghum 1% planted, 0% 2001, 1% avg. Tobacco 3% poor, 46% fair, 50% good, 1% excellent; 19% transplanted, 8% 2001, 22% avg. Wheat 68% jointing, 63% 2001, 78% avg.; 32% boot, 35% 2001, 43% avg. Onions 20% fair, 76% good, 4% excellent. Watermelons 6% poor, 46% fair, 48% good; 28% planted, 16% 2001, 31% avg. Apples 20% poor, 30% fair, 50% good; 0% blooming, 1% 2001, 14% avg. Peaches 3% very poor, 1% poor, 2% fair, 7% good, 15% excellent; 51% blooming, 75% 2001, 75% avg. Most of the State received beneficial rains over the weekend. Recent rains have replenished soil moisture in many areas throughout the State. Temperatures for the week were near normal to slightly above normal. Spring planting preparations advanced despite rains. Corn planting, tobacco transplanting progressed where weather conditions allowed. Growers applied fertilizer to pastures, hay fields. Onion crops fared well. Central state peaches were in good shape, as most of the crop escaped cold weather damage earlier in the month. Activities: Preparing land for vegetables, planting cotton, applying the first spray to pecan trees, routine care of livestock, poultry

HAWAII: Southerly winds brought variable weather to the State throughout the week. East state banana orchards were in fair condition due to disease infection, low temperatures, cloudy conditions. Past week’s clouds, rain brought an increased incidence of fungal diseases to lower Punu papaya orchards, forcing growers to intensify spraying. Ginger root planting, field preparations were active in East state fields.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.2. Topsoil 24% short, 60% adequate, 16% surplus. Irrigation water supply 6% very poor, 13% poor, 76% fair, 5% good. Fields are beginning to dry out, allowing more fieldwork. Onions 14% planted. Hay, haygrade supply 1% very short, 18% short, 79% adequate, 2% surplus. Calving 81% complete. Lambing 75% complete. Activities: Preparing fields, equipment for spring planting, applying fertilizer, feeding livestock

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.3. Topsoil 1% very short, 13% short, 46% adequate, 40% surplus. Oats 14% planted, 9% 2001, 26% avg. Alfalfa 1% poor, 29% fair, 65% good, 5% excellent. Pasture 5% very poor, 8% poor, 33% fair, 50% good, 4% excellent. Farmers in some areas of far northern state were able to spread dry fertilizer, apply anhydrous, seed oats during the week. Fields in the rest of the state were too wet for virtually any fieldwork to be accomplished. The cooler than normal weather during the month of March, above average precipitation in the south has kept fields saturated to the point where application of nitrogen is at a standstill. Some wheat and corn crops are beginning to show signs of stress which are being delayed because of the cool temperatures. Crops near harvest time indicated that farmers would begin having nitrogen applied by airplane soon if soil conditions did not improve. The condition of the wheat crop continues to improve as it comes out of dormancy. Activities: Hauling grain where roads were solid enough, taking delivery on seed, completing maintenance on machinery, attending farm sales.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture is mostly adequate to surplus. Snow, rain, ice last week halted field activities around the State. Most central, northern areas received heavy snow amounts. Farmers were busy preparing equipment, purchasing supplies for spring planting of crops. Pastures, forage crops are in mostly fair to good condition. Pasture growth, development have been slow thus far. Hay supplies are mostly adequate. Winter wheat is in mostly good condition. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Feedlots are muddy. New born calves, lambs were under stress last week. Calving, lambing active. Activities: Hauling manure, moving grain to market, top dressing wheat, marketing tobacco, baling fence, purchasing seed, fertilizing, attending FSA offices, clearing fence rows, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 8% very short, 42% short, 49% adequate, 1% surplus. Oat planting, spring fertilizer applications were underway in state during the last week of March, with weather patterns consisting primarily of below normal temperatures, precipitation. Concern over dry soil conditions persist. Oat 12% plantings, compared to the 5-yr avg.; 15% avg.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil 29% very short, 47% short, 24% adequate. Subsoil 32% very short, 49% short, 19% adequate. Another dry week. Very little moisture received in the State. Wheat 16% very poor, 25% poor, 34% fair, 23% good, 2% excellent. Wheat has come out of dormancy, but is growing very little because of dry conditions. Damage from wind, freeze damage has been light. Wheat 10% jointed, 2%, 2001, 20% avg. Oats 85% planted, 36% 2001, 70% avg. Corn planting beginning in southeast. Pasture feed 13% very poor, 23% poor, 42% fair, 22% good. Stockmen providing supplemental feed to livestock. Hauling water to cattle necessary some areas. Stockmen concerned about grazing potential of dry pastures. Stock water supplies 11% very short, 34% short, 55% adequate. Hay, forage supplies 2% very short, 15% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 5% short, 92% adequate, 3% surplus.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.2. Topsoil 1% short, 31% adequate, 68% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 4% short, 49% adequate, 46% surplus. For the week, temperatures averaged 49°, 1° below normal. Rainfall statewide was 2.47 inches, 1.44 inches above normal. Land prepared for planting corn, soybeans, 28% tobacco, 50% transplants seeded. Roughtage requirements livestock are getting from 19% pastures. Farms with livestock on 83% winter feed. Winter hay supply still 35% on hand. Cattle are in good condition with abundant hay supplies. Winter damage to legume stand; 5% alfalfa, 5% red clover. Fall seeded acreage lost to winter kill; wheat 3%, 3% barley. Wheat 2% poor, 17% fair, 58% good, 23% excellent, barley 3% poor, 19% fair, 6% good, 11% excellent. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 15% poor, 28% fair, 45% good, 10% excellent.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Soil 4% short, 52% adequate, 44% surplus. Corn 43% planted, 29% last week, 48% 2001, 57% avg.; 20% emerged, 10% last week, 6% 2001, 25% avg. Rice 16% emerged, 0% last week, 0% 2001, 0% avg. Rice planting continued, early season weed control has begun. Sorghum 2% planted, currently at, has not been planted this early since 1995. Spring 39% plowing, 34% last week, 33% 2001, 50% avg. Sugarcane 2% very poor, 14% poor, 41% fair, 37% good, 6% excellent. Wheat 2% very poor, 9% poor, 41% fair, 41% good, 7% excellent; 14% headed, 6% last week, 8% 2001, 42% avg. Livestock 2% very poor, 7% poor, 42% fair, 45% good, 4% excellent. Vegetables 1% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 39% good, 2% excellent. Range, pasture 3% very poor, 17% poor, 44% fair, 34% good, 2% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Topsoil 2% very short, 25% short, 70% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 36% very short, 43% short, 20% adequate, 1% surplus. Barley 1% very poor, 7% poor, 35% fair, 45% good, 12% excellent. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 13% poor, 33% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. Pasture feed 8% very poor, 22% poor, 42% fair, 25% good, 3% excellent. Tobacco beds 95 transplanted, 82% 2001, 81% avg. Strawberries 3% bloomed, 2% 2001, 5% avg.
Apples 1% bloomed, 2% 2001, 7% avg. Peaches 3% bloomed, 3% 2001, 22% avg. Sweet corn 4% planted, 4% 2001, 2% avg. Green peas 27% planted, 15% 2001, 23% avg. Potatoes 11% planted, 1% 2001, 22% avg. Hay supplies 6% very short, 25% short, 59% adequate, and 10% surplus. Rain showers last week helped to replenish soil moisture, restore pasture feeds after a dry winter.

MICHIGAN: Days were suitable for fieldwork 5. Weather conditions for most of the week were cold, rainy, with warmer weather the latter part of the week. Temperatures ranged from 4 to 8° below normal in the State. Average rainfall amounts ranged from no precipitation in the west central Lower Peninsula to 0.42 inches in the southeastern Lower Peninsula.

MINNESOTA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.5. Soil 34% adequate, 66% surplus. Corn 23% planted, 42% 2001, 41% avg. Cattle 1% very poor, 6% poor, 31% fair, 56% good, 6% excellent. Pasture 2% very poor, 9% poor, 42% fair, 39% good, 8% excellent. Wheat 44% jointing, 57% 2001, 64% avg. Watermelons 9% planted, 21% 2001, 19% avg. Blueberries 3% poor, 29% fair, 59% good, 9% excellent. Hay, 5% poor, 40% fair, 49% good, 6% excellent. Hay Supply 1% short, 66% adequate, 33% surplus.

MISSOURI: Warmer temperatures at the end of the week encouraged more farmers to begin fieldwork, but progress is not widespread, mostly limited to tillage and spreading fertilizer. Weekly rainfall averaged 0.71 inches, varying from less than 0.25 inch in the northeast, west-central districts to 2.76 inches in the southeast district. Precipitation for March averaged 3.40 inches, close to the 30-year average of 3.48 inches. March rainfall by district ranged from less than 1.50 inches in the northern and west-central districts to 7.91 inches in the southeast district. Much of the southeastern district is still too wet for fieldwork. Cool weather has slowed the growth of wheat, hay, pastures.

MONTANA: Day suitable for fieldwork 1. Topsoil 24% very short, 38% short, 37% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 52% very short, 35% short, 13% adequate, 0% surplus. March snow storms have provided some much needed moisture throughout the state. At the end of last week, some seeding of small grain is now underway, with 1% of the barley crop in the ground, the same as 2001. Spring wheat, durum wheat, oats are all less than 1% seeded at this time. Winter wheat was observed to be 87% dormant, 13% greening at the end of last week. Wind damage 16% none, 37% light, 25% moderate, 22% heavy. Winter wheat 30% very poor, 30% poor, 31% fair, 8% good, 1% excellent. Livestock is reported to be in good condition throughout the state, with a few reports of death loss due to cold temperatures. By week’s end, calving 58% complete, 29% lambing complete. Grazing was reported to be 64% open, 9% difficult, 27% closed. However, little forage is available, as pastures are fighting to recover from prolonged drought conditions. As such, livestock receiving supplemental feed 96% for cattle, calves, 96% for sheep, lambs.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil, subsoil moisture supplies were adequate to short. Spring tillage, fertilizer applications were underway. Oat planting 15% seeded, 5% 2001, 24% avg. Cattle, calves 1% poor, 16% fair, 63% good, 20% excellent. Calving 64% complete with calf losses average to below average.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE.

NEW ENGLAND: Maple tapping continued last week; many producers have no need to trudge through snow to reach their taps, due to mild winter temperatures this year. Manure spreading by dairy farmers continues. Activities: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, tapping maple trees, performing general maintenance, preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 3.6. Topsoil 2% very short, 11% short, 78% adequate, 9% surplus. Scattered showers provided some relief from dry conditions, replenishing surface reservoirs, topsoil moisture supplies. Winter wheat, barley were rated in mostly good condition. Producers were concerned the mild winter caused excessive growth in some wheat, barley fields. Hay producers have completed seeded new alfalfa fields. Pastures have begun to green up with some growth reported in the central, southern counties. Mild weather conditions allowed producers to make good progress harvesting dandelions, leeks. Vegetable producers tended greenhouse plants, began planting herbs, summer potatoes, peas in some areas. Orchards cleared brush, applied fertilizer, continued pruning apple, peach trees. Mild winter weather resulted in early flowering in some areas. Some apple orchards reported trees were showing green tips. Peaches, blueberries were reported in bud stage.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for field work 6.5. Topsoil 56% very short, 30% short, 14% adequate. While two storm systems crossed the state during the week, temperatures still averaged above normal. Early in the week, the first system ushered in cool air across the east, some rain, snow showers across the north. Mid week was warm, dry as high pressure dominated. By the end of the week, a second storm with a more southerly track favored the southeast. Rain showers, a few thunderstorms brought light precipitation to much of the state, southeast got as much as 1 to even over 2 inches of rain. Farmers continued to fight the wind last week, most were thankful for a little rain. Activities: Field preparation, fertilization, planting. Alfalfa was looking good with over half of the crop in fair to excellent condition. Total wheat was in very poor to good condition with 32% being grazed. Lettuce was in mostly good to excellent condition. Onion planting was completed, reported to be in fair to excellent condition. Okra was 31% planted. The state is about 50% short on its normal rain fall, ranchers are marketing their late calves, culling herds a little heavier than normal due to the bad pasture feeds. Pasture, range feed 27 very poor, 48% poor, 24% fair, 1% good.

NEW YORK: March began with mild weather permitting outside activities to get off to an early start. However, this was quickly put to a stop by snow storms. Attention was turned to ice, snow removal. Conditions improved, by month's end efforts were again geared to getting an early start on fieldwork. The maple syrup season peaked near the end of the month with conditions near ideal for sap flow. Apple, onions, potatoes continued moving from storage to market. Caring for livestock, spreading manure, orchard maintenance, machinery repair were other major activities.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 4.0 compared to last week’s 2.7 days. Soil moisture 3% very short, 7% short, 70% adequate, 20% surplus. Significant rainfall continued across most of state last week. The rainfall was accompanied by above normal temperatures. Activities: Top-dressing small grains, land preparation, planting Irish potatoes, cabbage. Recent rains will delay corn planting in some areas. Other areas reported minor frost damage to peaches, strawberries from cold weather the week of March 22nd.

NORTH DAKOTA: Below normal temperatures, precipitation across the state contributed to dry soil conditions. Producers are getting machinery ready for spring, attending sales. The average snow cover for the state was 0.7 inches as of March 31, up from the 0.6 inches on March 3, 2002, but down from 0.8 inches on April 2, 2001. Hay supplies 0% very short, 3% short, 87% adequate, 10% surplus. Grain, concentrate supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 90% adequate, 8% surplus. Calving 46% complete while lambing was 64% complete. Sheep shearing was estimated to be 74% complete. Cattle, cow 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 72% good, 11% excellent. Calf 0% very poor, 0% poor, 14% fair, 74% good, 12% excellent. Sheep 2% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 70% good, 11% excellent. Lamb 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 70% good, 13% excellent. Pastures, ranges 55% open, estimated to be 100% dormant. Roads 99% open, 1% difficult. Roads 0% drifted, 6% icy, 7% muddy, 87% dry.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 0.6. Topsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 49% adequate, 49% surplus. Corn 1% planted. Oats 6% planted, 7% 2001, 12% avg. Tobacco beds 10% seeded. Tobacco beds 1% having plants up. Winter wheat 5% jointed. Livestock 0% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 62% good, 11% excellent. Pasture feed 5% very poor, 11% poor, 48% fair, 33% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat 3% very poor, 9%
Barley 2% headed, 3% 2001, 2% avg.; 10% poor, 17% fair, 73% good. Oats 15% headed, 9% 2001, 17% avg.; 10% poor, 29% fair, 60% good, 1% excellent. Rye 28% headed, 13% 2001, 24% avg.; 43% fair, 54% good, 3% excellent. Corn 45% planted, 23% 2001, 42% avg. Cantaloupes 20% planted, 9% 2001, 14% avg. Cucumbers 35% planted, 20% 2001, 30% avg. Snap beans 23% planted, 23% 2001, 27% avg. Tobacco 4% transplanted, 4% 2001, 5% avg. Tomatoes 35% planted, 27 % 2001, 21 % avg. Watermelons 42% planted, 24% 2001, 37% avg. Pastures 1% very poor, 13% poor, 25% fair, 57% good, 4% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for field work 0.5. Topsoil 5% very short, 23% short, 67% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 7% very short, 31% short, 57% adequate, 5% surplus. Feed supplies 2% very short, 8% short, 82% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies 6% very short, 12% short, 76% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter rye 3% poor, 43% fair, 49% good, 5% excellent. Winter wheat 3% breaking dormancy, 1% rye breaking dormancy. Cattle death losses 34% below normal, 65% normal, 1% above normal. Calving 34% complete. Calf deaths 28% below avg.; 69% avg.; 2% above avg. Cattle moved to pasture 1% complete. Lambing 54% complete. Sheep, lamb deaths 30% below avg.; 69% avg.; 1% above avg. Expected date to start spring field work, April 15, 2002. Little has been reported in the way of spring field activity due to cold temperatures, a snowfall that prevailed during the month of March. Activities: Working on machinery, haulng grain, calving, lambing, feeding livestock.

TEXAS: Agricultural Summary: Wide swings in the weather pattern brought freezing temperatures to areas of the Plains; warmer temperatures during mid winter weeks, heavy thunderstorms to eastern, Northern, Central locations. Elsewhere, mostly dry, windy conditions covered the state during mid week. By late week, areas of the Plains, many southern, eastern locations received severe storms accompanied by heavy rains, hail, some tornadoes as the result of a Pacific low pressure area that crossed the state. Small grains in these areas benefited from the increased moisture levels as well as earlier planted corn, sorghum. In other areas conditions remained mostly dry, small grains moisture content decreased to below normal late in the week. Plow stress from lack of moisture. flowers of spring crops proceeded at a moderate rate in central, southern locations where soil moisture, temperature was adequate. Irrigation was necessary on some emerging crops in the drier southern locations, some pre- watering remained necessary in many other locations as soil moisture was too low for adequate germination. Supplemental feeding continued to be necessary in most locations across the state. Pasture recovery continued to be slow as the result of cold conditions earlier in the month. In some areas soil moisture was too low for any green-up to occur, remaining livestock was being totally fed. Herd reduction, some liquidation continued for some producers in the drier locations as continued feeding was not economically feasible. Field Crops Report: Small Grains: Growth, development continued for small grains in areas where earlier rains fell. Many locations in the same areas received additional rainfall in late week, however many areas remained dry, some wheat fields have been a total loss. Abandonment, blow-up was still being considered by some producers if rains are not immediate. Wheat 43% of normal...
Compared with 64% 2001. Spring oats were emerging in some locations, were affected by lack of moisture, cold temperatures in some areas. Corn: Land preparation and planting made fair progress across the state, however activity was mostly stalled in the wetter locations. Emergence, development moved forward in areas where moisture was adequate, however growth was slow in the drier locations. Insect populations remained active in some locations. Cotton: Land preparation continued where possible. Pre-watering remained necessary in some locations as soil moisture was adequate, however low temperatures were also a concern. Adequate moisture was required for planting. Planting continued and moved northward into some south central locations where temperature, soil moisture were adequate. Emergence of earlier planted cotton remained mostly satisfactory. Planting began on a limited basis in El Paso county. Sorghum: Land preparation, planting continued, but remained slow in areas where earlier rains occurred. In some locations conditions were considered too dry for planting at this time. Emergence and growth were adequate. Irrigation remained active in Pasco. The lowest temperature conditions remained high in some locations but some areas progressed slowly due to moisture level shortages. Some producers were waiting on a final decision with the farm bill before they began preparation. Soybeans: Land preparation, planting continued, but slow as the result of earlier rainfall. In eastern locations some soybeans were washed-out during heavy periods of rainfall and others were in bad shape as the result of too much rain. Emergence was occurring in southern, eastern locations. Rice: Planting continued, but most areas were in need of rain to adequately germinate the crop. Some flushing was also in progress to aid in securing a good stand. A few locations remained too wet for planting. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit, Pecans: In the Rio Grande Valley harvesting continued for cabbage, carrots, some remaining greens. Onion harvest began in most locations. Harvest of citrus remained active, but continued to slow. Melon crops were producing well in the San Antonio-Winter Garden planting continued for watermelons, cantaloupes, cucumbers. Earlier damaged potatoes, onions were making good to fair recovery. Carrot harvest continued in some locations. In East Texas land preparation was mostly on hold until drying out occurs, however some melon planting continued in drier locations. In the High Plains land preparation continued, but remained slow in some areas depending on levels of soil moisture. Onions, carrots continued to move, progress was made in some areas, but conditions remained variable depending on moisture levels. Some areas received additional heavy rains during late week, will continue to improve. However, in some areas drought conditions lingered and no pasture recovery was in progress. Supplemental feeding remained high for remaining cattle herds in these dry areas. In a few locations most livestock herds have been greatly reduced or liquidated due to a shortage of supplemental feed. Some producers were buying water rights as well water was unavailable, water rationing was in progress for many small towns in the drier areas. Grass seedling, springing was underway in southern, central locations where earlier rains had increased soil moisture levels.

**Virginla:** Topsoil moisture ratings increased nicely, but surface water levels remained generally low. Subsoil moisture remained low due to the earlier extended periods. Tobacco farmers were busy seeding their greenhouses, plant beds. Potato producers began planting, should complete their planting soon. The month ended on a better note, as rains fell across the state. Some flooding was reported in southwestern state. of dryness.

**Washington:** Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 4.7. Topsoil 0% very short, 5% short, 90% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 0% very short, 10% short, 87% adequate, 3% surplus. The highest temperature in the state was 69°F in Pasco. The lowest temperature in the state was 24°F in Omak. Snowed, thawing each day may have caused damage to the roots of winter wheat plants. Spring wheat is ahead of normal at 25% planted. Rangeland, pastureland have not yet recovered from 2001 drought. Range, pasture feeds 2% very poor, 8% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 4% excellent.

**West Virginia:** Topsoil 2% very short, 11% short, 73% adequate, 14% surplus, 7% short, 82% adequate, 11% surplus at this time 2001. Wheat 4% very poor, 14% poor, 54% fair, 28% good, 20% poor, 63% fair, 17% good 2002. Small grains have been slowed due to dry weather. Cattle, calves reported in poor to good condition, sheep, lambs were reported in fair to good condition. 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, haul water in some areas. Dry conditions have been an aid for calving, lambing. Hay, feed grain supplies are adequate. Activities: Feeding livestock, general maintenance. Major rains on the 20th and 31st have reduced the short term effects of the dry, warm winter. Drought, near drought conditions that existed over much of the State may be broken if precipitation continues at recent levels.

**Wisconsin:** Days suitable for fieldwork 1.1. Soil 10% short, 78% adequate, 12% surplus. Northern State ground is still frozen, snow covered, while southern state has no frost, bare ground. Fieldwork is just starting in southern state, with oat planting, spring tillage, fertilizer applications, manure hauling activities.

**Wyoming:** Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Topsoil 23% very short, 45% short, 32% adequate. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 11% poor, 25% fair, 63% good, wind damage 32% none, 55% light, 10% moderate, 3% severe. Natrona, Goshen county had 15%-25% severe wind damage. Winter wheat freeze damage 82% none, 15% light, 3% moderate. Campbell, Natrona had the most moderate freeze damage. Barley 9% planted, 28% 2001, 39% avg. No Spring wheat planted, 4% 2001, 10% average. No oats planted, 0% 2001, 6% average. Pasture, range 24% very poor, 26% poor, 40% fair, 10% good. Stock water supplies 20% very short, 32% short, 48% adequate. Barley planting well behind normal. Spring like temperatures for the week. Topsoil moisture continued to improve. Snow water equivalents from mountain snow pack ranges by basin from 63%-85% of normal, similar to last week.

**Utah:** Days suitable for field work 5. Topsoil 30% short, 59% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 26% short, 72% adequate. Winter wheat 14% poor, 43% fair, 43% good; freeze damage 71% light, 25% moderate, 4% severe. Spring wheat 24% planted, 26% 2001, n/a avg. barley 16% planted, 16% 2001, n/a avg.; freeze damage 52% none, 26% light, 22% moderate. Oats 10% planted, 14% 2001, 7% avg. Cows 58% calved, 50% 2001, 43% avg. Cattle, Calf 2% poor, 25% fair, 67% good, 6% excellent. Sheep sheared 49% on farm, 23% 2001, on range 18%, 15% 2001, n/a avg. Ewes lambed 56% on farm, 34% 2001, n/a avg.; 28% range, 15% 2001, n/a avg. Sheep 2% poor, 34% fair, 58% good, 6% excellent. Range, Pasture feed 1% very poor, 19% poor, 54% fair, 26% good. Activities: Spring planting, shearing sheep, lambing, calving. Crops such as alfalfa are behind on growth due to cold weather.