**Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin**

**State Stories**

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**ALABAMA:** The state received a mixture of sunshine, rain, wind, cold weather for the month. These conditions allowed peach orchards to receive much needed chill hours. Farmers are attempting to harvest the last few fields of cotton, ginnings are nearing completion. Cattle are being fed more hay because of colder than normal weather. Activities: General care of livestock, poultry, catfish. Sunshine, rain allowed wheat, rye pastures to begin to grow as warmer weather comes, goes.

**ALESKA:** DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures for most of the state were above average for the week. Alfalfa conditions ranged from fair to mostly good. Sheep continued to graze on alfalfa fields for winter pasture. Small Grains planting is near completion, while emergence is well underway. Range and Pasture conditions have been very poor to poor due to lack of precipitation. There were only 1 of the 18 reporting stations to be above normal level.

**ARKANSAS:** A very strong cold front brought extremely cold temperatures to the state in January. Temperatures fluctuated greatly during the month. Although there were no new record highs or lows recorded this was the coldest January since 1994. The New Year started with little moisture, relatively normal temperatures. After a short period of normal winter weather, temperatures, a major cold front brought snowfall with these extremely cold temperatures. Mid-month daily temperatures were much below normal. The snowfall was light, but brought much needed moisture. This was the driest January since 1986 with less than one inch of moisture. Drizzle, light rains continued throughout the final days of the month with the heaviest amount of moisture being recorded in the east, southeastern portions of the state. With the cold weather, producers had very little activity in the fields. Lack of early-season moisture, these extremely cold conditions have set the wheat back. Cattle were being fed, but considered in fairly good condition. Many producers were attending annual producer meetings, yet attendance is reported by some as being down from previous years.

**CALIFORNIA:** Field preparations for spring planting of grain, silage crops continued. Fields were cultivated, leveled, given pre-plant herbicide treatments. Some wheat fields were fertilized by aircraft. Sweet potato hoed bed fumigations continued. Several alfalfa fields were fed off by sheep or green-chopped. Cotton residue plow-down remained incomplete, as wet field conditions prevented plowing in a few areas. In the latter half of January, ample soil moisture and mild weather conditions aided the growth, development of wheat, barley, oat plantings. Sugar beet plantings showed steady development. Irrigation was underway in some fields by mid-month. Potato harvesting continued. Pruning, brush shredding, removal continued in vineyards, tree fruit orchards. Work was hindered in early January by wet conditions in many vineyards, orchards. Trees, vines that had been removed were piled for burning, chipping. New fruit trees were planted in open ground where older orchards had been removed. Tree fruit orchards received herbicide applications for weed control, dormant spraying to control overwintering pests. Strawberry plants showed steady growth. Navel orange harvesting continued, with overall crop quality, color enhanced by cool temperatures, rain early in the month. However, some puffy, crease damage has been evident. Blood oranges, mandarins, pummelos were picked, packed. Lemon harvesting was winding down by the end of the month. Tree pruning, removal continued in walnut, almond, pistachio orchards. Dormant season spraying continued. Trees blown over by the December wind storms were being cut, removed in early January. New almond, walnut trees were planted in some locations. Field preparations for the spring vegetable crop continued in January. Harvested broccoli, cauliflower fields were shredded and disced. Bed preparations, fumigation continued in some melon fields. Planting of processing tomatoes was underway in the San Joaquin Valley by mid-January. Broccoli, lettuce were planted for the spring harvest. Earlier plantings of broccoli, lettuce, garlic, onion were thriving. Head lettuce was planted from transplants in the Salinas Valley. Broccoli harvesting continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Carrot harvesting continued in Kern County. The following vegetables were also harvested: bok choy, Napa cabbage, daikon, mustard greens, garlic, leaf lettuce, Romaine lettuce, green onions, parsley, radicchio, radishes, spinach, turnips. Winter pastures in the central, northern parts of the State were mostly in good condition throughout the month. Pasture growth in parts of the Central Valley was slowed by fog, low daytime temperatures. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued in some areas. Movement of stocker cattle to foothill pastures was largely completed by the end of January. Sheep grazed in alfalfa fields, pastures in central state. Lambs grazed in alfalfa fields in the southern desert area.

**COLORADO:** Topsoil, subsoil moisture supplies are at critically low levels in most areas. January temperatures were above normal, while the moisture received was again well below average. Snowfall has been limited to the mountain areas. Mountain snow pack is at 75% of normal, which is slightly higher than 2002, but reservoir levels remain very low. The Eastern Plains remain very dry. Water officials continue to hold meetings across the state regarding water allocations for spring, summer 2003. Producers with junior water rights may not receive their usual allocations and wells along the South Platte may have to curtail pumping to satisfy senior water right holders downstream. Winter wheat remains dormant in mostly fair condition, but vulnerable to blowout, freezing temperatures without snow cover. Activities: Continue to center around feed, care of livestock in preparation for the upcoming lambing, calving activities.

**DELAWARE:** The ground was frozen enough by second week of January that many farmers were able to complete soybean harvest. The frozen ground has minimized damage to wheat fields by snow geese, preventing them from pulling plants up by the roots. Pastures are in poor condition, hay is in short supply. Livestock appears to be in fair condition despite the extremely cold weather. Activities: Working on farm equipment, going to agricultural conferences, finishing harvesting.

**FLORIDA:** The new year brought significant rains to most localities during the first week with most areas receiving from one to two inches, except for the southeastern coast, extreme southern Peninsula which remained dry. Cold temperatures crept over the Peninsula during the first full week and stayed for most of the month bringing hard freezes, frosts as far south as the Everglades near the end of the month. Dry conditions for most of the month increased the danger for wildfires. Temperatures in most citrus areas did not go low enough for long enough to harm citrus fruit, trees. The cold placed most trees in a quasi-dormant condition, helped to slow or retard new growth. High winds during the coldest days prevented frost from forming on citrus fruit. Citrus producers prepared irrigation systems to run around the clock. Other citrus growers, including
those as far south as Hardee, Hendry Counties, dir banked young trees as protection from the frost, while some in more northern areas iced fruit for cold protection. Citrus harvesting continued with growers picking as much fruit as packing houses, processors could handle prior to the cold. Other citrus field activities during the month included mowing, chopping of cover crops, hedging, topping, dead tree removal, application of fertilizer, discing, deep plowing to help dry out wet soils. The cold damaged the succulent foliage on young sugarcane plants with most expected to recover. Sugarcane harvesting remained active throughout the month. The cold temperatures, heavy rains in prior months lowered prospects of small grain yields. The cold temperatures limited grass, small grain forage growth during the month with pasture rated mostly poor to fair at the end of the month. Most livestock producers fed supplements, hay to cattle throughout the month. Most cattle were in fair to good condition at the end of the month. Strawberry growers ran overhead sprinklers to form ice caps on plants as protection from the cold which saved some immature fruit, most plants. Floriculture, nursery producers covered some plants with blankets, iced some plants with sprinkler systems, warmed others with heaters for cold protection with some loss occurring. However, most floriculture, nursery plants are expected to recover from the freezes, frosts. Some floriculture, nursery growers harvested the St. Valentine’s Day crop prior to the cold temperatures. The freezing temperatures caused damage to some vegetables, especially in the Everglades region, with some minor snow by shorelines occurring, some acreage abandoned. Vegetable harvesting continued throughout the month with snap beans, cabbage, celery, cilantro, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, miscellaneous herbs, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, a very light supply of carrots marketed.

GEORGIA: Soil moisture levels remained constant. Cold temperatures for the month of January appeared to have caused minimal crop damage. The extreme cold damaged small grain fields, delayed winter grazing, led to poor germination of rye, winter wheat in some areas. Pastures appeared in good condition despite the colder than normal temperatures. Hay was utilized more than normal as a feeding source for cattleman. Vidalia onion fields suffered minor damage due to the weather. Below normal temperatures created a significant decrease in the pest population in some areas. Rainfall for the month was limited. Mild temperatures, rain are needed to improve small grain planting, winter grazing. Activities: Fruit producers continued pruning, onion fields recovered from freezing temperatures, routine care of livestock, poultry continued.

HAWAII: A stalled cold front system brought more showers to the State at midweek, continued to the week’s end. Light showers benefitted East state banana orchards early in the week. Lower Puna papaya orchards were in fair condition due to dry conditions. Vegetables remained in generally fair condition with the beneficial showers, regular irrigation.

IDAHO: Topsoil 15% very short, 13% short, 73% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter Wheat 0% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 7% excellent. Hay, Roughage Supply 2% very short, 3% short, 83% adequate, 12% surplus. Lambing 30% complete. Calving 10% complete. January precipitation near normal, but not enough to erase the deficit from last fall. Most precipitation received as rain. January temperatures well above normal, increasing concerns about insect, weed problems for 2003. With the stress of cold temperatures, cattle, sheep reported to be in very good condition. Some winter wheat has emerged from dormancy in the lower elevation areas of the state.

ILLINOIS: Topsoils 15% very short, 42% short, 42% adequate, 1% surplus. Colder, drier than normal temperatures occurred across the state last month which helped the livestock remain healthy, allowed for ample grazing of corn stalks. Average temperature departure was one to 4°F colder than normal, precipitation was one, one half to two and one half inches below normal. Reports of low subsoil moisture levels are common with concern being voiced regarding the upcoming spring if adequate moisture is not received. Pastures have been grazed very short due to the dry conditions and very light cover on the soil surface. The amount of snow cover across the south during the past month but due to the extreme cold weather during the middle part of the month many wheat growers are concerned if the crop will survive. Activities: During the month included attending seed and chemical meetings, researching and signing up for the farm program, conducting the usual wintertime maintenance on farm machinery.

INDIANA: Soil moisture is still a major concern, especially in the northern regions. Weather conditions were cold with frequent snow showers during most of the month. Temperatures were below normal during most of January, averaging about 5°F below normal in most regions of the state. Precipitation was mostly in the form of snow. Snow amounts were above normal for January. Snowblanketed most areas for many days during the month which helped protect wheat during days of very cold temperatures. Farmers spent most of the month working on taxes, searching for records for the new farm program. Farm program is currently being reviewed on the farm. Winter wheat in the area has finished up crop insurance claims. Fertilizer was spread when soils were frozen enough to support heavy equipment. Activities: Snow removal, hauling manure, moving grain to market. Winter wheat is in mostly good condition. Pastures were snow covered during most of the month. Livestock are in mostly good condition, but were under stress during the cold weather. Feedlots are wet, muddy. Hay supplies are in short supply, most areas. Hay prices are high. Processing of tobacco has been slow. Lambing underway on some farms. Activities: Cleaning up, repairing equipment, attending farm meetings, FSA offices, purchasing supplies, seeding clover, stripping tobacco, spreading lime, taking care of livestock.

IOWA: State received winter weather in the form of snow, colder temperatures during January. The snow, however, did not appear to be enough to improve soil moisture availability, as 70% of the state was reported as being short to very short on soil moisture. At the end of January, the average depth of snow cover across state was 1 inch, compared to no snow cover last month, 5 inches at the same time 2002. The average depth of frost penetration for the state was 16 inches, compared to 5 inches last month, 8 inches at the same time 2002. Movement of grain for the state was 25% none, 48% light, 24% moderate, 3% heavy. Hog, pig losses in January were 17% below average, 71% avg.; 12% above avg. Cattle, calf losses 22% below avg.; 76% avg.; 2% above avg.

KANSAS: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

KENTUCKY: Kentuckian's knew it was cold this January, but maybe not the 14th coldest January in the past 108 years, despite frequent snow it was still the 18th driest January in the past 108 years. What was expected to be a very mild January for Kentucky, due to the return of "El Nino" turned out to be exactly the opposite, extremely cold. The first week of January had the greatest departure from normal, mild temperatures, wet conditions. But the remainder of the month experienced extremely cold temperatures, dry conditions with arctic air dominating the Bluegrass temperatures, frequent snow showers fell across the state. Cold temperatures was extreme in the lower elevations of the state, where the low temperatures was less than or equal to freezing, 18 afternoons when the high temperatures didn't rise above 32°F. Most locations reported temperatures falling into the single digits on 5 to 7 days during the month. Temperatures for January 2003 averaged 28.4°F across the State which was 3.4°F below normal. High temperatures averaged from 36 in the West to 38 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 6°F below normal in the West to 3°F below normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 21°F in the West to 23°F in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 3°F below normal in the West to near normal in the East. The extreme high temperatures was near 60°F on the 8th of January at Paducah, the extreme low temperature was -11°F on January 27th at Covington. Precipitation (liq. equi.) totaled 2.08 in. statewide which was 1.30 in. below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 2.13 in., Central 2.39 in., Bluegrass 1.80 in. and East 2.02 in., which was 1.57, 1.63, 1.65 and 1.68 respectively below normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.88 in. at Lexington to a high of 2.63 in. at Quicksand. Snowfall totals: Lexington 6.3 in., Paducah 6.8 in., Louisville 5.3 in. at the airport(SDF), 3.5 in. at the NWS Office (LMK), Jackson (JKL) 9.7 in., Evansville 1.8 in., Bowling Green 3.4 in. Unofficial reports of near 8 in. of snow were reported in some WestCentral Southeast sections of the State. Burley tobacco auction sales were suspended as of January 16. Sales will resume on February 10. conclude for the season on February 20, 2003. Sales of burley tobacco at non-auction receiving stations were not affected by the sales suspension, however some contract centers did
LOUISIANA: Harvesting of sugarcane was finally finished. Sugarcane producers were approximately two weeks behind due to the extremely wet, muddy conditions caused by excessive amounts of rain in November, December. Field crop producers were preparing for spring planting as field conditions continued to dry out. The state average was only 1.79 inches of rain over the last 4 weeks.Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures, feeding hay. Strawberry producers took precautions (including covering) to avoid any major freeze damage as temperatures dropped into the upper 10s, lower 20s in the central, southern parishes during January. Crawfish producers continued putting out traps as harvesting was just getting started.

MARYLAND: Livestock appear to be in good condition although hay, feed is in short supply in many areas. Cold temperatures have increased heating costs for poultry growers. Small grains are in mostly fair to good condition. A few soybeans were harvested once the ground froze. Activities: Repairing equipment, stripping tobacco, spreading manure, lime, record keeping.

MICHIGAN: Livestock was affected by the snow cover, cold temperatures during January. Snowfall has been minimal for most of the month. Most of the State experienced below zero temperatures during January. Winter wheat was protected from winter kill by snow cover in many areas but some areas were exposed. Activities: Hauling manure, snow plowing, fruit trimming, wood cutting, feeding, maintaining livestock, repairing equipment. All livestock were in good condition, feed supplies were adequate, but there were some reports of hay supply shortages.

MINNESOTA: Overall conditions for winter have been very mild with minimal snow, some cold days. Very little snow cover, deep ground frost, minimal moisture is a concern. Dry conditions could cause moisture problems this coming crop season. Winter injury to alfalfa, other perennial crops is a possibility with frost going deeper into the soil because of the lack of snow cover. Livestock conditions, feed supplies are good. Very cold temperatures in the last week of January allowed frost depth to increase.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil 1% short, 60% adequate, 39% surplus. Wheat 99% emerged, NA 2002. Hay supply 9% short, 71% adequate, 20% surplus. Feed Grain 4% short, 96% adequate. Overall, January was a dry month that allowed growers to do some fieldwork, smooth rutted fields. Winter grazing forages have suffered due to a bad start, but may respond to warmer weather, nitrogen fertilizer.

MISOURI: Precipitation during January averaged about 0.63 inch, well below the 1.71 inch 30-year average, the lowest for the month in many years. Generally dry weather over several months has lowered water levels in stock ponds, particularly in western, northern counties. Low river levels are adversely affecting barge traffic, slowing grain marketing. Over a week of below normal temperatures caused some stress to livestock but warmer weather late in the month provided relief. Only limited snow cover has been available in most areas and all cover was gone by end of month, but the wheat crop appears to be in fair to good condition. Farmers are caring for livestock, doing taxes, getting ready for the spring work.

MONTANA: Soil conditions 25% very short, 46% short, 26% adequate, 3% surplus compared to last year which was 38% very short, 53% short, 9% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 45% very short, 39% short, 16% adequate, 0% surplus compared to last year during which subsoil moisture 49% very short, 45% short, 6% adequate, 0% surplus. During the month of January weather conditions in state have been dry with a few exceptions. Winter wheat 3% very poor, 25% poor, 42% fair, 28% good, 2% excellent. This is better than last month’s of 1% very poor, 25% poor, 55% fair, 18% good, 1% excellent. This year’s winter wheat crop is also rated better than last year’s crop which was rated 6% very poor, 45% poor, 47% fair, 2% good, 0% excellent. Wind damage to the winter wheat crop 27% none, 23% light, 49% moderate, 1% heavy. Freeze, drought damage for the crop 11% none, 36% light, 51% moderate, 2% heavy. Snow cover for winter wheat is rated 83% very poor, 9% poor, 8% fair, 0% good, 0% excellent which is due to the result of the lack of moisture throughout the state. Livestock grazing was 81% open, 15% difficult, 4% closed, compared to last year when 71% open, 20% difficult, 9% closed. Currently, 94% of the cattle are receiving supplemental feed, 96% of sheep. Last year 96% of cattle, 94% sheep received supplemental feed. Calving, lambing 4% and 3% completed respectively compared to 3% for each last year.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures for January averaged below normals for the first week, above normals for the remainder of the month with highest readings during the second, forth weeks. Precipitation for the month was minimal, occurred during the last two weeks in the form of snow. At the end of January, Wheat 11% very poor, 18% poor, 48% fair, 22% good, 1% excellent, well below 2002. Hay, forage supplies were mostly adequate to short. Cattle were grazing stalk fields. Activities: Planning for the 2003 crop year, FSA sign ups, year end book work, livestock care, attending farm sales.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: Snow storms during January continued to help replenish water supplies. Frigid temperatures persisted throughout most of the month. Activities: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Weather conditions were chilly, cold for January, with temperatures averaging below normal. The first of three winter storms swept through the area on January 2. Snowfall totals varied from 1 to 4 inches in the central portions of the state to nearly 12 inches in some northern counties. The following week, the other storm brought 2 to 4 inches of snow to the central, southern counties. The third storm brought 2 to 4 inches to a few southern counties on January 17. The remainder of the month was mostly dry, except for a few snow flurries the week of January 27. The highest recorded temperature was 55°F on January 9. The lowest recorded temperature was 3°F on January 28. As of January 8, the drought emergency was suspended for all but eight counties in the southern portion of the state. Although stream flow, reservoir level have returned to normal, drought warnings for groundwater remain in effect for south state.

NEW MEXICO: The month of January was extremely dry, the warmest on record due to high pressure that stretched across the state. The first week brought temperatures averaging between 3 and 4°F above normal for the state, with some northern, plains areas reaching as high as 8°F above normal. Two minor storms affected the northern counties, but brought them little precipitation. The above average temperatures continued into the second week, with statewide temperatures averaging 6°F above normal. Several reporting areas in the southeastern counties reached the low 70s for the first time this year. Precipitation was minimal, scattered throughout the state. The third week brought area continued warm weather, even less rain, with the state averaging 5°F above normal. A few lower elevation areas in the south reached the lower 70s late in the week. Eastern counties experienced a cold front during the middle of the fourth week of January, but the rest of state continued averaging temperatures 5 to 10°F above normal. Carlsbad reached a high of 76°F, with several other locations reporting temperatures in the 70s. Again, precipitation was practically nonexistent. The last week of January brought still warmer temperatures, unfortunately no moisture. Temperatures were 8°F above
normal across the southern counties, 10 to 12° above normal across the north. Carlsbad hit 81°. Strong winds have begun to move in, kicking up dust created by the dry conditions. So far all stations are reporting a well below average accumulation of precipitation for the year. Supplemental feeding continues, ranchers have been busy getting ready for the calving, lambing season. Farmers have been working to prepare their fields for this year’s crops. Chile, cotton fields have been plowed under, the pecan harvest is complete. The wheat crop is progressing, but needs more moisture. Hopefully February will bring rain.

NEW YORK: The month of January was dominated by numerous heavy snowfalls combined with prolonged periods of frigid temperatures. Many areas of the State recorded 20 or more consecutive days where the temperature did not rise above freezing and the wind chill temperatures were limited due to coldness and excessive snow. Activities: Tending livestock, snow removal, farm machinery maintenance, attending farm meetings, trade shows, grading, packing onions, apples.

NORTH CAROLINA: Soil 2% very short, 2% short, 49% adequate, 47% surplus. The month of January brought cold temperatures, below normal precipitation to state. Field activities at the end of the month were limited by cold temperatures, excessive soil moisture caused by snow, rain. These conditions have not been favorable for late planted small grains, causing many stands to exhibit signs of stress. Wheat 28% very poor or very poor on the coldest, hardest of winters. Hay, feed supplies 1% very poor, 6% poor, 28% fair, 51% adequate, 22% good, 16% excellent. Hay, forage supplies 6% very short, 20% short, 72% adequate, 2% surplus. Cattle 1% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 65% good, 8% excellent while sheep 1% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 60% good, 13% excellent. Roads conditions for travel 95% open, 4% difficult, 1% closed. Six percent of the roads drifted, 21% were icy, 3% muddy, 70% dry.

OHIO: January 2003 was 5.4° colder than normal in state, with temperatures averaging 21.1° across the state. Precipitation averaged 1.68 inches, 0.85 inches below normal. Dairy cattle remain in good condition, with some producers reporting an increase in milk production. Producers reported beef cattle in good condition.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 6% very short, 33% short, 60% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 6% very short, 24% short, 68% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 54% good, 16% excellent. Rye 1% very poor, 2% poor, 27% fair, 44% good, 26% excellent. Oats 1% very poor, 6% poor, 41% fair, 45% good, 7% excellent. Wheat Grazed 60% 2003, 35% 2002, 35% avg. Rye Grazed 86% 2003, 40% 2002, 22% avg. Oats Grazed 45% 2003, 36% 2002, 30% avg. Livestock 0% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 60% good, 6% excellent. Pasture, Range 4% very poor, 12% poor, 43% fair, 38% good, 3% excellent; Livestock. Livestock were rated in mostly good condition. Mild temperatures in January has been good for cattle feeding Statewide. Hay supplies are above average. In some areas, pond levels are getting low enough that producers have had to haul water.

OREGON: Activities: Winter care of livestock ongoing across State. Supplemental feed continued. Shipments of wheat, barley, oats, corn, potatoes, dry onions continued. Nurseries digging, shipping balled, burlapped, bareroot plants. Outbreaks of Exotic Newcastle Disease in California, Nevada had animal health officials working hard to prevent disease from spreading into state. State Department of Agriculture offering partial reimbursement to certified organic growers. An estimated 300 to 350 growers potentially eligible for partial reimbursement of costs incurred, to become certified, under national organic law. Low precipitation levels continue to be a concern. According to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as of January 13, most river basin sites less than 80% of average snow water equivalent. Values ranged from 2% for Coast Range to 111% for Rogue, Umpqua.

PENNSYLVANIA: During the month of January state experienced above normal temperatures, below average precipitation. Temperatures for the first week were seasonable, locations throughout the state received snow. The second week saw above average temperatures, rain. Temperatures during the third week of January were seasonable to above normal again, with traces of precipitation. During the final week of January temperatures were warm; some locations were 20° above normal. The precipitation total for the month was 0.92 inches below normal. Activities: Caring for livestock, cutting firewood, hunting, slaughtering manure, maintaining machinery, attending farm shows, meetings.

SOUTH CAROLINA: The year ended and the new year began with warm spring-like temperatures prevalent throughout most of the week. A cold front came through on Friday bringing much cooler temperatures for the weekend; the lows were in the 20’s and highs in the 40’s. The week ended with mostly clear skies, windy conditions. The temperatures warmed up slowly to start the second week of January. The temperatures continued to warm up until another cold front arrived on Friday, once again bringing cold temperatures, windy conditions for the weekend. An area of high pressure was over the state at the start of the third week which kept the high temperatures only in the 40-50° range until mid-week. Thursday morning brought about widespread snowfall from the mountains all the way to the Midlands. Most of the accumulation was in the upstate. The week ended with mostly clear skies, strong northerly winds which made for frigid wind chills. Temperatures warmed back up in the 60-70° range to start the last full week of January. Another cold front came through during the middle of the week bringing scattered sleet on Wednesday, statewide snow on Thursday. It was the largest statewide snow storm in twenty-three years. The snow storm either closed or delayed numerous businesses, schools on Thursday which also carried over into Friday. Several areas around the state set new record low temperatures on Friday. The week ended with mostly clear skies, warmer temperatures. The month of January ended with several days of overcast skies with cool morning temperatures that warmed in the afternoons. The average statewide rainfall for the month of January was below an inch. Activities: Feeding hay to livestock, tending to winter grazing pastures. Some farmers are busy servicing their equipment for the upcoming crop year while some have already started preparing land for planting. The majority of the small grains are in mostly good condition with some damage reported on late planted wheat.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Feed Supplies 18% very short, 28% short, 51% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 21% very short, 28% short, 49% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter Rye 1% very poor, 19% poor, 35% fair, 32% good, 13% excellent; 5% very poor, 14% poor, 45% fair, 32% good, 4% excellent. Cattle 2% poor, 26% fair, 59% good, 13% excellent. Sheep 1% poor, 22% fair, 63% good, 14% excellent. Road conditions—county 98% open, 2% difficult; township 97% open, 3% difficult. Cattle deaths 35% below normal, 64% normal, 1% above normal. Average snow depth 1.5 inch. Alfalfa snow cover 77% poor, 20% adequate, 3% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover 89% poor, 11% excellent. Winter rye snow cover 74% poor, 9% adequate, 17% excellent. Calf deaths 30% below avg.; 69% avg.; 1% above avg. Sheep, lamb deaths 32% below avg., 67% avg.; 1% above avg. The year 2003 started with above-normal temperatures along with below-normal snowfall. With much of the state reporting little or no snow cover, farmers, ranchers continue to be concerned about damage to winter crops. Activities: Routine chores, hauling grain, hay, calving, tending to livestock.

TENNESSEE: The beginning of the January started with temperatures averaging above normal. Precipitation averaged near normal in the West, East, slightly below normal elsewhere. By mid-month, a blast of arctic air covered much of the region, as several fronts moved across the Volunteer state bringing cold air, wintry precipitation. Temperatures were between 7 and 9° below normal. Precipitation across the state was below normal for most of the month. Livestock, hay supplies were adequate for the month. Winter wheat was in mostly good condition.
.TEXAS: Soil moisture levels began to fall in many areas. The moisture from rain, snow received in the Panhandle during December was drying up due to warm temperatures, strong winds. The Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau regions also had low soil moisture problems. January was a month of extreme temperatures. Unseasonably warm weather preceded two major Arctic blasts in consecutive weeks. 80 readings were replaced by teens in the Panhandle, 30's as far down as South state. Precipitation was short for most of the state. A majority of the rain fell in South Central state, the Upper Coast in the first half of the month with most gauge readings reporting an inch or less. All other areas of the state were fairly dry as the cold fronts failed to bring much moisture. Harvest of remaining cotton, peanuts, sorghum, pecans was complete. Fieldwork across the state primarily consisted of deep breaking the soil, some top dressing of small grains. Most wheat was reported in good shape but by month's end some fields were showing signs of drought stress. Supplemental feeding of livestock increased during the month as conditions deteriorated. Some sickness in livestock was attributed to the wide swings in temperatures. Greenbugs, ticks were a problem, but freezing conditions slowed them down a bit.

UTAH: It has been an unusually warm, dry winter in state. Lack of water, snow pack continue to be a concern for growers. At present, Weber County expects to run short of water for field irrigations in early August. The warm weather has caused fruit trees to be more than a month ahead of normal in heat unit accumulations. This is raising concerns about early blooms, increased risk of frost damage if cold weather returns. Many producers have put livestock in feedlots due to shortages of hay, lack of forage on winter ranges. With the threat of drought looming again this year, producers are looking into alternate plantings of grains, short day corn to provide feed for livestock. At the end of January, snowpack was about 56% of average in the state.

VIRGINIA: Pasture 11% very poor, 22% poor, 38% fair, 26% good, 3% excellent. Livestock 5% poor, 35% fair, 55% good, 5% excellent. Small Grain, Winter Grazing Crops 7% very poor, 20% poor, 41% fair, 28% good, 4% excellent. State experienced very cold weather during the month of January. Most counties reported some rain, snow during the month, but said that January was drier for the most part. However, many counties saw some precipitation during the last week of the month. There are still some crops that have been left standing in the field due to the precipitation, frozen ground. Most producers have had to abandon their remaining corn, cotton, soybeans. Yields are poor for what they were able to harvest. There were many acres of small grains seeded late, some acres that were not seeded at all. Because of the cold weather, late planting, growth of the small grains is running behind schedule. The cold weather has also taken its toll on pasture, winter grazing crops. For that reason, producers are feeding livestock full time. Hay supplies are getting tight as many farmers are trying to locate hay for the rest of the winter. Many farmers are looking into alternative feeding practices. The livestock seem to be in good to fair condition for the time being. Most counties continue to report full ponds, running springs, keeping hopes high for adequate irrigation in the spring. Activities: Feeding livestock, looking for hay, repairing equipment, fences, attending meetings, finishing up crop insurance claims, ordering seed, supplies for the upcoming season, watching the futures market, taking soil samples when the weather permits, getting ready for spring calving. Temperatures for the month of January were cold. Below freezing temperatures were characteristic for most of the month. Many of the counties were covered in snow for a week during the middle of the month. Except for some rain during the last week, January was fairly dry.

WASHINGTON: Unseasonably warm weather throughout January has many ag producers predicting an early spring. Warm temperatures, copious rainfall has resulted in early emergence of foliage on Peach Plums, other native plants in Grays Harbor County. Daflodils, other spring flowering bulbs are up and showing buds. Christmas tree growers have started planting. Soils in western state remain super saturated as the result of heavy rainfall during the latter part of the month with some minor flooding in the usual places. In the east, temperatures, rainfall have also been above normal for the month. Most of the rain has soaked into the ground with very little runoff. Winter wheat, pastures are actively growing, improving in condition. Asotin County noted that there is no snowpack in the mountains, which has created concerns about water supplies next summer.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil 3% short, 80% adequate, 17% surplus. Winter wheat was reported in fair to good condition. Cattle, calves 1% poor, 19% fair, 76% good, 4% excellent. Sheep, Lambs 11% fair, 87% good, 2% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 9% very short, 26% short, 64% adequate, 1% surplus. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 7% short, 91% adequate. January characterized by below normal precipitation, temperatures. Hay supplies running short in some areas of state as some farmers were looking for hay to purchase. Muddy conditions no longer a problem due to below freezing temperatures across the state. Activities: Feeding livestock, purchasing, moving of hay.

WISCONSIN: The month of January in State cover lacking across most of the state for the entire month. Precipitation for the month was below .5 inch. Temperatures in state for the month of January were very near normal. High temperatures for the month were in the low 50's for a brief period of two days, with average temperatures from 4 to 27o. Low temperatures, at the major weather stations, were recorded from minus 5 to minus 14o.

WYOMING: Topsoil 31% very short, 54% short, 15% adequate. Subsoil 48% very short, 46% short, 6% adequate. Winter wheat 23% poor, 50% fair, 27% good, 30% wind damage none, 36% light, 20% moderate, 14% severe, freeze damage 90% none, 9% light, 1% moderate. Avg snow cover depth 3.70 inches. Cattle 4% poor, 40% fair, 56% good. Sheep 3% poor, 50% fair, 46% good, 1% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 24% very short, 37% short, 38% adequate. Stock water supplies 29% very short, 47% short, 24% adequate. Spring calves born 4%, 2002 6%, 5 yr avg 5%. Farm flock sheep born 8%, 11% 2002, 11% 5-yr avg. Farm flock ewes lambed 4%, 6% 2002, 7% 5-yr avg. Monthly temperatures averaged 16 above normal in Greybull to 11 above normal in Laramie, Worland. All but one station received some precipitation for the month, but totals were mostly below normal. The heaviest moisture fell in Sundance at 1.51 inch Atton 1.09 inch, Jackson 1.04 inch, Newcastle 1.00 inch. Yearly totals were behind normal at almost all stations.