ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.3. Corn planted 18%, 11% 2002, 12% avg. Winter wheat 2% poor, 30% fair, 62% good, 6% excellent. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 5% poor, 38% fair, 42% good, 12% excellent. Livestock 4% very poor, 9% poor, 25% fair, 50% good, 12% excellent. Peach growers worried about recent cold weather while maintaining insect, disease control spray schedules. Farmers are spreading lime, fertilizer, chicken litter. Activities: Ground preparation for planting, fertilizing, spraying pastures, general care of livestock, poultry, cattle.

ALASKA: 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 emergence is virtually completed, while heading is underway. Range, Pasture feeds have improved due to the recent precipitation. There were 17 of the 17 reporting stations above normal percentage levels

ARKANSAS: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

CALIFORNIA: Cotton planting began in several locations. Pre-plant irrigation, herbicide applications to new planting beds continued in areas where cotton planting had not yet started. Preparation of corn fields for planting continued. Fields of wheat, barley, oats and winter forage were thriving. Soybean head development in small grain fields was widespread as crop maturity advanced. There were reports of rust in a number of wheat fields. Grain planted for hay or silage was cut, windrowed and baled in many areas. Vigorous growth continued in sugar beet fields, as irrigation and cultivation were in progress in several locations. Conditions were good for the continued planting of safflower and sunflower. New shoots and leaves were growing rapidly in raisin, wine, and table grape vineyards. Growers cultivated, irrigated, and treated vineyards to prevent disease and insect damage. Fruit continued to develop in early variety stone fruit orchards. A light fruit set was reported in some locations due to early season rains. A few growers in the Central Valley began thinning fruit in apricot and plum orchards. Girdling activities commenced in a few plum orchards to improve fruit size. Cherry and apple trees continued to bloom. Irrigation, cultivation, herbicide application, and treatments to prevent disease and insect damage continued in many tree fruit orchards. Many growers released predatory insects to combat insect pests using biological control methods. Ground preparation and planting of new tree fruit orchards continued in several areas. Strawberry fields were full of blooms. Heavy fruit set and rapid berry growth were reported. Irrigation was underway in many citrus orchards. Open flowers became evident in orange orchards in the Central Valley. Picking and packing of Navel and Valencia oranges, lemons, and grapefruit continued. Puff and rind breakdown continued to lower Navel orange packouts. Minneola harvesting was winding down. Fruit began to show in almond orchards. Early variety walnut orchards started to leaf out and develop flower clusters. Blight spray treatments continued in walnut orchards. Growers irrigated, cultivated, and applied treatments to control diseases, insects, pests, and weeds. Winter vegetable harvesting was winding down. Preparation of new fields for planting of tomatoes, sweet corn, melons, and other warm season vegetables continued. Warm weather vegetables growing under hot caps or plastic row covers were thriving as daytime temperatures increased and skies remained clear. Some asparagus fields were tilled for other crops in response to unfavorable market conditions. Plantings of onions and garlic continued to thrive. Irrigation and weed control activities took place in many onion and garlic fields. New fields of tomatoes were planted for both fresh and processing use. Previously planted tomato fields were harvested. Broccoli, leaf lettuce, head lettuce and asparagus continued to thrive in the San Joaquin Valley. Weeding crews were at work in some unharvested lettuce fields. Harvesting of broccoli, lettuce, and asparagus continued. The following vegetables were also harvested: carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, green onions, mustard greens, parsley, radishes, radicchio, and spinach. Rangeland conditions were good overall, and continued to improve. However, some supplemental feeding of cattle still took place. Cattle and sheep grazed on foothill rangeland and fallow fields in the Central Valley. Some sheep were still grazing on alfalfa pastures. In the southern desert area, sheep grazed in alfalfa, sudan, and post-harvest vegetable fields. Bees were active in blooming cherry and apple orchards. Some hives were being placed in orange groves in the Central Valley.

COLORADO: Days suitable for field work 4.1. Topsoil 10% very short, 22% short, 66% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 36% very short, 37% short, 26% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperatures were seasonal for the week. The front range received additional moisture totaling up to half an inch. Spring barley 18% seeded, 14% 2002, 25% avg.; 2% emerged, 23% 2002, 37% avg. Sugar beets 6% planted, 5% 2002, 9% avg. Spring wheat 13% planted, 8% 2002, 15% avg.; 2% emerged, NA% 2002, 1% avg. Winter wheat 5% pastured 3% 2002, 7% avg.

DELAWARE: Rain and melting snow resulted in fields being too wet and muddy to begin spring preparations. This has delayed the planting of some early season vegetables and toodpecking of small grains. Hay is in short supply but feed supplies is fair. Small grains are in fair condition. Livestock and poultry wintered well. Spring activities include spreading manure and fertilizer, spraying small grains, planting peas and potatoes, and preparing fields for spring plantings.

FLORIDA: Temperature average: normal to 4 deg. above. Daytime highs: 70s, 80s. Nighttime lows: 50s, 60s; several reports of 40s on at least one day. Rainfall range: less than 0.10 in. at Marianna to over 3.50 in. at Pierson. A cold front crossing on March 30-31 caused both highs, lows to fall well below normal; Crestview low 28, West Palm Beach low 50 on Monday, March 31. Topsoil moisture: 1% very short, 9% short, 80% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 10% short, 80% adequate, 10% surplus. Some short soil moisture supplies in pockets of southeastern Peninsula, in a few northern Peninsula localities. Some surplus moisture conditions in central Peninsula. Big Bend area. Producers in Panhandle, northern Peninsula preparing land for field crop planting. Sugarcane harvesting continues, Everglades. Growers assessing recent cold temperature damage to tomatoes around Quincy.
Okra harvesting underway Dade County: very light supplies available. Other vegetables available: cabbage, carrots, celery, cucumbers, sweet corn, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, tomatoes; very light supplies of blueberries, eggplant, endive, escarole. Lettuce harvesting virtually finished. Rain two or more days this week, citrus areas. Bloom almost over. However, a few older trees still have open bloom. Warm temperatures hastening the completion of this year’s bloom cycle. Valencia harvest increasing for both fresh, processing. Movement of white, colored grapefruit active with most of fruit coming from lower east coast. Tangelo harvest about over for season. Some Honey tangerines, Tempeles still going to fresh trade, juice plants. Caretakers cutting over crops, spraying, hedging, tapping and pushing out dead trees. Pasture feed: 5% poor, 40% fair, 55% good. Cattle condition: 40% fair, 55% good, 5% excellent. Pasture condition improved from last week all areas. Panhandle: cattle condition, pasture mostly good, however ground quite wet. North: pastures greening up, but grass growth slow; some low lying pastures damaged by standing water. Central: warmer weather caused forages to green up. Southwest: cattle condition mostly good, pasture condition mostly fair. Statewide: cattle condition good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 4.0. Soil moisture 3% short, 58% adequate, 39% surplus. Corn 5% very poor, 13% poor, 39% fair, 34% good, 9% excellent; 20% planted, 44% 2002, 42% avg; 9% emerged, 23% 2002, 22% avg. Cotton 0% planted, 0% 2002, 0% avg. Hay 1% very poor, 9% poor, 41% fair, 47% good, 2% excellent. Sorghum 0% planted, 1% 2002, 1% avg. Tobacco 55% fair, 40% good, 5% excellent; 3% transplanted, 16% 2002, 13% avg. Wheat 85% jointing, 58% 2002, 66% avg; 42% boot, 26% 2002, 32% avg, 6% headed. 5% 2002, 9% avg. Onions 12% poor, 36% fair, 52% good. Watermelons 2% very poor, 4% poor, 61% fair, 32% good, 1% excellent; 14% planted 24% 2002, 21% avg. Apples 25% fair, 25% good, 50% excellent; 2% blooming, 0% 2002, 0% avg. Peaches 4% fair, 96% good; 83% blooming, 69% 2002, 61% avg. This past week was spent drying out from the previous week’s rains. Recent rains have replenished soil moisture in most areas throughout the State. Temperatures for the week were near normal to slightly above normal, until a cold front moved through the State during the weekend. Spring planting preparations advanced despite previous weeks rains. Corn planting and tobacco transplanting have been delayed due to wet fields. Growers applied fertilizer and sprayed for weeds in pastures and hay fields. Fungicides were being applied to the onion crop. Some disease reported in wheat. Other activities included preparing land for vegetables, row crops and applying the first spray to pecan trees and routine care of livestock and poultry.

HAWAII: The tail of a storm system brought some showers to parts of the State during the past week. East Hawaii banana harvest remained steady. Lower Puna papaya orchards were in fair condition due to lack of moisture. Vegetables remained in mostly fair to good condition with beneficial showers and heavy irrigation.

IDAHO: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ILLINOIS: Farmers have begun seeding oats in the north and anhydrous ammonia was being applied recently central Illinois. Oat seeding advanced to 15 percent complete as of March 30, compared to 12 percent last year and the average of 22 percent. Average temperature departure from normal for the month was plus or minus one and one-half degrees. Precipitation for the month ranged from one and one-half inches to nearly three inches. In the Southwest and Southeast Districts, more than half of the topsoil moisture is rated surplus. Farmers in this area have begun spreading nitrogen on their wheat crop with four wheelers as the topsoil is very saturated. As of March 30, topsoil moisture statewide was rated as seven percent very short, 29 percent short, 53 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus. Warmer weather and rain showers during the month have combined to help the wheat crop begin its spring “green up”. Other activities during the month included finalizing farm program signup, preparing income taxes, hauling grain, spreading fertilizers and chemicals, planting peas and potatoes, and preparing equipment for spring field work.

INDIANA: Temperatures warmed up early in the week allowing for some drying of soils. Temperatures averaged 4° to 10° above normal for the week. Rain and wet soil conditions prevented field activities in most areas of the state during the week. Precipitation averaged 0.07 to 1.92 inches. Dry subsoil conditions exist in some of the northwestern regions of the state. Tillage was underway in some fields, primarily on the well drained lighter type soils. Some fertilizer and pre-plant anhydrous ammonia was applied on fields dry enough to support heavy equipment. Farmers were moving grain to market and preparing equipment for spring planting. Wheat is in mostly good condition. Wheat is greening up in the central and northern areas. Some top dressing of wheat occurred. Livestock nutrition in all areas. Lambing and calving active. Hay supplies are in short supply, most areas. Hay prices remain high. Good, quality hay difficult to find. Pastures are improving in the southern counties. Lambing and calving continued. Major activities: hauling manure, repairing machinery, visiting FSA offices, purchasing supplies, soil testing, seeding clover, tilling fields, spreading lime and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Most of significant moisture fell in Southeast Kansas. Subsoil moisture in Western and North Central Kansas remains quite low. Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 22% short, 67% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 30% very short, 35% short, 35% adequate. Wheat condition is rated 4% very poor, 14% poor, 38% fair, 37% good, and 7% excellent. Winterkill of wheat is 4%. Wheat jointed is 15%. Most wheat looks pretty good to date, but considerable precipitation will be needed to sustain wheat in our drier areas. Range and pasture conditions are 21% very poor, 30% poor, 34% fair, 14% good, and 1% excellent. Stockwater supplies are 20% very short, 30% short, 50% adequate. Hay and forage supplies are 13% very short, 39% short, 47% adequate, and 1% surplus. Feed grain supplies are 5% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, and 2% surplus. Calving is winding down and preparation for corn planting is underway.

KENTUCKY: March went out like a lion as two storm systems produced periods of showers and thunderstorms on two days. The second of the two systems resulted in temperature fluctuations rarely seen this early in the season. Temperatures were in the 30s degree range in the morning, warming to the 60s degrees earlier in the week. Temperatures hovered near freezing at the ends week, many parts of northern and eastern Kentucky saw rain change over to light-to-moderate snowfall. Temperatures averaged 54 degrees which was 5 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 0.76 in. statewide which was 0.27 in. below normal. Soil moisture was rated good statewide. Rain received helped maintain adequate soil moisture. Farmers actively applied fertilizer and prepared fields for seeding. Winter wheat was rated fair to good and was greening with the warmer weather. Pasture growth increased due to the warmer temperatures and sufficient moisture. Livestock condition was considered fair to mostly good after enduring a very wet, muddy and cold winter. Some farmers spent time preparing equipment for spring fieldwork. Tobacco farmers were preparing traditional and float plant beds and seeded flats in their greenhouse.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Soil moisture 50% adequate, 50% surplus. Rice 23% planted, 7% last week, 32% 2002, 29% avg. Sorghum 0% planted, 0% last week, 2% 2002, 0% avg.

MARYLAND: Livestock and poultry are in good condition. The snow in early March hampered beef calving. Hay supplies are very short. Rain and melting snow left many fields wet and delayed preparations for the coming crop year. Small grains are starting to grow. Peaches are in good condition and beginning to bloom. Spring activities include topdressing nitrogen on wheat, preparing tobacco beds, spreading manure, and preparing fields for spring plantings.

MICHIGAN: Warmer weather arrived with the beginning of spring in March. Snow has melted in most areas of the State. Soil moisture levels remain low even with the addition of the snow melt. Feed supplies are variable throughout the State. Some western Upper Peninsula cattle farmers are purchasing hay from Wisconsin to get them through to spring green up. Livestock made it through the winter well. Calving on beef operations and lambing is in full force. Sheep operations are preparing to shear. Grape growers in the northwest Lower Peninsula reported a
damaging freeze on March 2; temperatures bottomed out at 14 below zero. The scope of the damage remains unknown. Wheat conditions are variable depending on the amount of winter snow cover. Weather conditions have been poor for maple syrup production. Growers continued to ready equipment for spring planting and pay taxes. Greenhouse work continued.

MINNESOTA: Conditions for the month have been relatively mild with minimal precipitation and few cold days. Most of the snow cover is gone. Erosion and frost are concerns. Winter injury to alfalfa and other perennial crops is a concern. Farmers are preparing for spring field work. Feed supplies and livestock conditions are good overall.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Soil moisture, 57% adequate, 43% surplus. Corn 27% planted, 22% 2002, 37% avg.; 2% emerged, NA 2002, 14% avg. Wheat 58% jointing, 41% 2002, 59% avg.; 1% very poor, 6% poor, 47% fair, 43% good, 9% excellent. Hay Supply 18% short, 74% adequate, 8% surplus. Feed Grain 13% short, 83% adequate, 4% surplus. Cattle 3% very poor, 7% poor, 29% fair, 51% good, 10% excellent. Pasteure 3% very poor, 17% poor, 34% fair, 39% good, 7% excellent. Watermelons 22% planted, 8% 2002, 15% avg. Corn planting made good progress last week as farmers were able to work around the scattered showers.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1, ranging from 2.5 days northeast district to 6.0 days northwest. Topsoil moisture 18% very short, 22% short, 57% adequate, 3% surplus. The northwest and north-central districts are indicated as having the least topsoil moisture, with ratings of 92% and 85% short or very short. Many reporters are also concerned about a lack of drying air during the week. Weather in most areas permitted tillage operations and fertilizer application but most farmers have not begun planting. Field activities have been most active in the west-central, northwest and north-central districts. Wheat condition is reported lowest in the northwest district where 36% is rated poor or very poor, while most other areas show large majorities of fair or good condition. Pasture condition is rated as 14% very poor, 24% poor, 37% good, and 3% excellent, with mostly poor or very poor condition in the northwest, north-central and southwest districts. Rainfall for the week averaged 0.53 inches.

MONTANA: For the week ending March 30, there were 2.7 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture ratings were 5% very short, 21% short, 68% adequate, and 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 26% very short, 37% short, 36% adequate, and 1% surplus. Field tillage was 93% not started, 5% just started and 2% well under way. The winter wheat crop was rated 2% very poor, 9% poor, 58% fair, 26% good, and 5% excellent ahead of last year’s rating of 30% very poor, 31% poor, 29% fair, 9% good, and 1% excellent. Winter wheat is breaking dormancy and is rated 40% dormant, 53% greening, and 7% green, and growing. The state’s barley crop is 2% planted compared to last year’s crop at 1%. Range and pasture feed conditions are rated 22% very poor, 21% poor, 33% good, and 1% excellent. Currently, 97% of the cattle and sheep are receiving supplemental feed compared to last year when 98% of cattle and 96% sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Calving and lambing are at 56% and 36% complete, compared to 58% and 28% last year.

NEBRASKA: Moisture received improved topsoil to 11% very short, 37% short, and 52% adequate. Subsoil moisture supplies remained at last fall levels with 87% short and very short. Cattle on stalk fields continued to find grazing potential, with some supplemental feeding continuing. Producer activities included spring fieldwork, planting preparations, and livestock care.

NEVADA: Much needed rains fell across the State, but accumulated precipitation for the season remains sorely lacking. Rains were generally heaviest in north-central Nevada with Winnemucca recording .44 inch. Reno and Las Vegas recorded on traces. Temperatures averaged near normal for the week with some days warmer than normal and some cooler. Mild weather was good for calving which was in full swing and lambing which was beginning. Sheep shearing was getting underway. Livestock movement to Spring ranges was beginning. Pastures and ranges lacked water and most rated just fair in condition. Onion planting was underway and garlic was in good condition. Main farm and ranch activities: calving, lambing, field preparation, spring grain seeding, onion planting, equipment maintenance, fence repairs, crop marketing, ditch burning, irrigation.

NEW ENGLAND: DATA NOT AVAILABLE:

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work were 4.1. Wet soil conditions limited field access. Heavy rain occurred in parts of the state on March 29, 2003, producing rainfall amounts of over 1.0 inch in southern New Jersey. Alfalfa was rated 68% adequate and 34% surplus. Winter wheat and barley were rated mostly in fair condition and some top dressing of small grains was done. Some planted fields showed evidence of goose damage. There was some winter kill in hay fields and regrowth is slow. First oaks and alfalfa seedings are just starting. Vegetable producers tended greenhouse plants and laid plastic mulch. Planting of cabbage, sweet corn, lettuce, and peas has begun. Some orchard operators applied fertilizer and lime, pruned peaches and apples, sprayed fruit with oil sprays, and planted trees. The late snow melt and high soil moisture has delayed pasture growth. Cattle are being held inside due to wet pastures.

NEW MEXICO: After a warm start to the week, some unseasonably cold air pushed into New Mexico from the northwest on Thursday and covered much of the state for the remainder of the week. Consequently, the statewide average temperature was close to normal. Lower elevation spots in the south hit the 80’s during the afternoons the first half of the week, but cooled down by as much as 20 degrees or more late in the week. Red River dipped to one below on the 29th. Measurable precipitation fell at half the stations, but amounts were generally light. Red River reported the greatest total with 47. Total soil moisture was rated 19% very short, 40% short, 38% adequate and 3% surplus. There were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Wind damage was 13% light, 1% moderate, and 5% severe. Freeze damage was 8% light, 12% moderate, and 13% severe. Farmers spent the week preparing fields, irrigating, and planting chili. Alfalfa conditions dropped slightly from last week and are now listed as 16% very poor, 10% poor, 43% fair, 29% good, and 2% excellent. Total wheat condition also declined since last week, primarily due to the effect the drought is having on the dryland crop. Total wheat is now listed as 7% very poor, 28% poor, 50% fair, 14% good, and 1% excellent, with 27% still being grazed. Lettuce, chile, and onions continue to do well, with all three crops listed in fair to excellent condition. Chile planting is moving along with 46% complete. Ranchers were busy calving and lambing, shearing, hauling water, and heavily supplementing feed. Cattle conditions remained about the same at 9% very poor, 14% poor, 41% fair, 37% good, and 1% excellent. Sheep, on the other hand, saw some decline in conditions and are listed at 11% very poor, 22% poor, 40% fair, and 27% good. Pasture and range saw little change at 26% very poor, 25% poor, 45% fair, and 4% good.

NEW YORK: Spring fieldwork was stalled by snow cover throughout most of the month. As snow melted, fields became wet and work was further delayed. Storage crops such as onions, potatoes, apples and cabbage continued moving to market after grading and packing. Maple producers continued with deep snow depths as they struggled to tap trees and maintain sap lines. Sap began flowing as weather conditions turned favorable for maple syrup production. Early reports indicate higher than usual sugar content for the sap. Tending livestock, spreading manure, machinery repair and maintenance, and attending meetings and trade shows were some of the other major activities.

NORTH CAROLINA: Warm, spring like conditions dominated North Carolina weather, allowing field work to resume. Great progress was made applying fertilizer and pesticides and preparing fields for corn and tobacco planting. Pastures are rebounding nicely, nursery stock is budding strongly, and many fruit trees are in full bloom. Some fruit crops may have been damaged by a late weekend winter blast which brought colder temperatures and snow to higher elevations. More instances of cereal leaf beatle were reported and treatment for alfalfa weevil and pasture weeds has begun. There were 4.3 days suitable for field work, compared with 1.7 days the previous week. Statewide, soil moisture levels are rated at 0% very short and short, 58% adequate and 42% surplus. Other activities for the week included equipment and fence maintenance; tending to tobacco greenhouses; planting potatoes,
cabbage, sweet corn, and snap beans; discing in last year’s cotton stalks; and completing Agricultural Census forms.

NORTH DAKOTA: Below normal temperatures were recorded early in the month, warming to the upper 50’s to low 70’s by the end of the month. The average snow cover for the state was 0.4 inches. Hay and forage supplies were rated 5% very short, 21% short, 72% adequate, and 2% surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were rated 1% very short, 8% short, 88% adequate, and 3% surplus. Cattle conditions were rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 26% fair, 63% good, and 6% excellent. Calf conditions were rated 0% very poor, 3% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, and 11% excellent and calving was 39% complete. Sheep conditions were rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, and 8% excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 2% very poor, 4% poor, 20% fair, 67% good, and 7% excellent. Lambing was 55% and shearing was 73% complete. Ninety seven percent of the pastures and ranges were still dormant. Road conditions for travel were rated 98% open, 2% difficult, and 0% closed. One percent of the roads were drifted, 1% icy, were 13% muddy, and 85% were dry.

OHIO: Day suitable for fieldwork 2.4. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 64% adequate, 33% surplus. Corn planted 0%, 1% 2002, 0% avg. Oats planted 1%, 5% 2002, 11% avg. Tobacco beds seeded 20. Tobacco beds having plants up 6%, 1% 2002, 2% avg. Winter Wheat jointed 1%, 4% 2002, 4% avg. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 66% good, 10% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 9% poor, 36% fair, 49% good, 5% excellent. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 4% poor, 20% fair, 56% good, 18% excellent. Farmers in Ohio began prepping their equipment for the spring planting season. Most tillage work was put on hold until the fields have dried out. However, Amish farmers were seen plowing their fields. Producers reported purchasing seed and chemicals. Some began seeding cover crops, planting vegetables, fertilizing fields and spreading manure. Farmers continued removing stored grain and hauling it to local elevators.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 25% short, 67% adequate, 2% surplus. Topsoil moisture 9% very short, 22% short, 67% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter Wheat 72% jointing, 53% last week, 31% last year, 54% avg; Rye 1% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 64% good, 12% excellent; Oats 0% very poor, 5% poor, 40% fair, 52% good, 3% excellent; 15% jointing, 5% last week, 13% last year, 24% avg; Corn 58% seedy prepared, 38% last week, 45% last year, 43% avg; 14% planted, 10% last week, 13% last year, 8% avg; Sorghum 22% seedy prepared, 20% last week, 18% last year, 20% avg; Soybeans 31% seedy prepared, 20% last week, 22% last year, 28% avg; Peanuts 21% seedy prepared, 17% last week, 37% last year, 25% avg; Cotton 49% seedy prepared, 37% last week, 45% last year, 42% avg; Livestock 1% very poor, 5% poor, 33% fair, 54% good, 7% excellent; Pasture & Range 3% very poor, 14% poor, 40% fair, 40% good, 3% excellent; Livestock: Livestock condition decreased slightly from the previous week with 87 percent rated fair to good. Cattle auctions reported marketing were average. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds increased from last week and averaged $82.35 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds were unchanged from last week and averaged $75.46 per cwt.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork: 5.4. Topsoil 0% very short, 18% short, 70% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil 10% very short, 28% short, 58% adequate, 4% surplus. Barley planted: 22%, 55% 2002. Barley emerged: 4%, 20% 2002. Barley condition: 4% very poor, 9% poor, 650% fair, 22% good, 0% excellent. Spring wheat planted 43%, 65% 2002. Spring wheat emerged 10%, 12% 2002. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 17% poor, 54% fair, 27% good, 2% excellent. Winter Wheat rated 6% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 67% good, 18% excellent. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 27% fair, 66% good, 6% excellent. Winter wheat breaking dormancy by percent of acreage 75%. Cattle deaths 27% below normal, 71% normal, 2% above normal. Calving 35%. Lambing 44%. Calf deaths 28% below average, 70% average, 2% above average. Sheep and lamb deaths 16% below average, 83% average, 1% above average. Expected date to start spring field work statewide (Julian date) 98. March brought fairly average weather to South Dakota. Western parts of the state received the most moisture in March, but still have a need for more. Major farm activities include working on machinery, hauling grain, calving and lambing, and feeding livestock.

SOUTH CAROLINA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 19% very short, 37% short, 44% adequate. Subsoil moisture 31% very short, 38% short, 30% adequate, 1% surplus. Feed Supplies 22% very short, 35% short, 42% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 18% very short, 34% short, 46% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter Wheat rated 10% very poor, 14% poor, 41% fair, 31% good, 4% excellent. Winter Wheat rated 6% very poor, 17% poor, 41% fair, 31% good, 5% excellent. Barley 1% planted. Oats 1% planted. Spring Wheat 1% planted. Winter rye breaking dormancy 54%. Cotton condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 26% fair, 58% good, 12% excellent. Sheep condition 1% poor, 27% fair, 66% good, 6% excellent. Range and pasture 33% very poor, 30% poor, 24% fair, 12% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat breaking dormancy by percent of acreage 75%. Cattle deaths 27% below normal, 71% normal, 2% above normal. Calving 35%. Lambing 44%. Calf deaths 28% below average, 70% average, 2% above average. Sheep and lamb deaths 16% below average, 83% average, 1% above average. Expected date to start spring field work statewide (Julian date) 98. March brought fairly average weather to South Dakota. Western parts of the state received the most moisture in March, but still have a need for more. Major farm activities include working on machinery, hauling grain, calving and lambing, and feeding livestock.

TENNESSEE: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

TEXAS: Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions fluctuated drastically during the week. The week began with warm, wet and windy conditions. By mid-week, some parts of the plains and the Trans-Pecos saw snow flurries, while other areas experience light rainfall. Heavy rains, hail and thunderstorms were reported in Central and East Texas. By late week, cooler temperatures were seen in many areas, dropping into the twenties in some areas. In some areas where rains have fallen many stock tanks were now full. Small Grains: Condition of small grains varied throughout the state. Small grains continue to benefit in areas where rain and snow fell. Cold temperatures, along with high winds, caused some stress in many areas, especially drier locations. Some producers in the Plains have delayed irrigating wheat because of high fuel prices. In South Texas, small grains continued to struggle with some level rust reported. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 66 percent of normal compared with 43 percent last year. Corn: Planting and land preparations moved ahead in drier locations, activities were slowed in the wettest areas. Early planted fields were emerging with good stands. Corn planting was nearly complete in most southern areas, but remained active in the North and Central Texas. Some growers were switching to sorghum because of the late date. Cotton: Land preparations continued in drier locations. Some
producers were finishing up herbicides applications. Planting conditions were enhanced by recent rains. In the Coastal Bend some cotton may have to be replanted due to heavy rains during the week. In the High Plains, pre-irrigation of cotton fields continued. Sorghum: Land preparations continued in drier locations, but remained slow in areas where rains fell. Planting continued in parts of the Valley, South and Central Texas. Earlier planted fields continued to emerge and benefitted from good moisture levels. Peanuts: Land preparations and field work were achieved where conditions allowed. Preparations were interrupted by rain and high winds in a few areas. Rice: Planting progressed, but wet ground caused delays for some growers. Soybeans: Planting made some progress. Groundwork continued to be slow in the Upper Coast, where conditions remained wet. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans in the Rio Grande Valley, producers continued to harvest sugarsac, citrus, greens, carrots, and cabbage. Preparations continued for spring onion harvest. In central Washington, orchard and vineyard activities include tillage for full season beans, beef cows calving, and farmers signing up for the 2002 farm bill.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 5.8. Topsoil moisture was 16% short, 83% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 19% short and 81% adequate. Irrigation water supplies were 34% short and 66% adequate. The highest temperature in the state was 80 degrees in Pasco. The lowest temperature in the state was 22 degrees in Omak and Stampede Pass. Above normal rainfall improved the cropping outlook across the State. Fuel prices rivaled weather conditions as the main component for stalling fieldwork. Winter wheat condition was 2% very poor, 9% poor, 40% fair, 42% good, and 7% excellent. Spring wheat was 27% planted and 3% emerged. Barley was 7% planted. Spring wheat and barley seeding was underway. Winter wheat conditions continued to look good in Whitman County. Christmas tree growers almost completed planting. Potatoes were 5% planted. Hay and other roughage supplies were 11% short and 89% adequate. Livestock producers were tending newly born calves and lambs while also fencing pastures for rotational grazing. Cattle producers in the Okanogan and Ferry County area were running short of hay and looked to turn cattle out on rangeland early. In central Washington, orchard and vineyard pruning and cleanup neared completion.

WEST VIRGINIA: For the week ending March 30: Topsoil moisture 3% short, 79% adequate, and 18% surplus; Winter wheat reported 13% poor, 36% fair, and 50% good, 1% excellent. Cattle and calves 7% poor, 41% fair, 49% good, 3% excellent, calving 72%. Sheep and Lambs 14% poor, 48% fair, 38% good; lambing 71%. Hay and roughage supplies were 6% very short, 63% short, and 31% adequate. Feed grain supplies were reported as 1% very short, 14% short, and 85% adequate. March was characterized by above normal temperatures and below average precipitation. A late season snow storm struck parts of the state the last weekend of March, resulting in up to a foot of snow in the mountains. Hay supplies running short in some areas of state as some farmers are looking for hay to purchase. Calving and lambing problems were reduced from February until the snow storm of the 29th and 30th. Spring calf and lamb losses are higher than normal due to these conditions. Farm activities included calving, lambing, feeding livestock, purchasing and moving of hay and early spring activities.

WISCONSIN: Northern Wisconsin ground is snow covered in many places and much is still frozen. Southern Wisconsin has bare ground and very little frost left. Fieldwork has not begun in Wisconsin due to wet ground conditions at this time. Temperatures were 4-7 degrees above normal for the week. Freezing conditions occur at night with temperatures mostly around 50 degrees during the day. High temperatures in the upper 60’s were reported during the week. Precipitation ranged from .25 inch to 1.25 inch during the week. Southeastern Wisconsin remains behind season to date totals.

WYOMING: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**UTAH:** Days suitable for field work 5, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 12% short, 80% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 31% short, 58% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition 5% poor, 45% fair, 36% good, 14% excellent. Winter wheat freeze damage 93% none, 7% short. Topsoil moisture 4% short, 70% adequate, 26% surplus. Portions of Virginia experienced heavy rainfall during the latter part of the week. On Sunday night areas of Virginia experienced cold weather, with temperatures dropping to the low 20's and upper teens. Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.8. In some areas, the wet ground delayed planting and prevented fertilizer applications. Several farmers are slightly behind on their preparations for the growing season. In general, the grass has greened up with the rainfall. Several farmers were still looking for hay to supply early spring needs. A few farmer started light field work preparing tobacco land for planting. Other farm activities include tillage for full season beans, beef cows calving, and farmers signing up for the 2002 farm bill.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** For the week ending March 30: Topsoil moisture 3% short, 79% adequate, and 18% surplus; Winter wheat reported 13% poor, 36% fair, and 50% good, 1% excellent. Cattle and calves 7% poor, 41% fair, 49% good, 3% excellent, calving 72%. Sheep and Lambs 14% poor, 48% fair, 38% good; lambing 71%. Hay and roughage supplies were 6% very short, 63% short, and 31% adequate. Feed grain supplies were reported as 1% very short, 14% short, and 85% adequate. March was characterized by above normal temperatures and below average precipitation. A late season snow storm struck parts of the state the last weekend of March, resulting in up to a foot of snow in the mountains. Hay supplies running short in some areas of state as some farmers are looking for hay to purchase. Calving and lambing problems were reduced from February until the snow storm of the 29th and 30th. Spring calf and lamb losses are higher than normal due to these conditions. Farm activities included calving, lambing, feeding livestock, purchasing and moving of hay and early spring activities.

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