Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin
State Stories

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ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Topsoil 1% very short, 8% short, 74% adequate, 17% surplus. Soybeans 94% harvested, 53% 2002, 74% avg. Pasture feed 5% very poor, 11% poor, 38% fair, 49% good, 3% excellent. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 6% poor, 18% fair, 55% good, 21% excellent

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures for the State were average for the week. Cotton 65% harvested, 82% 2002, 81% 5-yr avg. Alfalfa conditions remain good to excellent, with harvest progressing at a normal rate. Precipitation was reported at 14 of 17 reporting stations which ranged from 0.01 inches at Prescott to 0.25 inches at Grand Canyon.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Soil 1% very short, 9% short, 69% adequate, 21% surplus. Soybeans 99% shedding, 100% 2002, 100% 5-yr avg.; 98% Matured, 100% 2002; 96% Harvested, 89% 2002, 96% 5-yr avg. Cotton 97% Harvested, 92% 2002, 98% 5-yr avg. Wheat: 97% Planted, 83% 2002, 92% 5-yr avg.; 90% Emerged, 66% 2002, 78% 5-yr avg.; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 28% fair, 59% good, 10% excellent. CROPS: Harvesting activities were postponed until late in the week due to heavy rainfall in parts of the state. There were reports of a few farmers picking cotton a second time, some producers are still considering scraping cotton if there is a dry period during the winter. Wheat planting is near completion. Some producers are spraying for ryegrass in wheat fields. The week’s remaining activities revolved around field preparation for next season. LIVESTOCK: Livestock are reported to be in good condition. Producers are continuing routine cattle management throughout the state. Due to adequate rainfall, mild fall weather, pastures in the northern part of the state are in excellent condition.

CALIFORNIA: Cotton harvesting was completed in most of the State’s growing regions. Ideal weather conditions allowed many fields to be picked twice. Stalk shredding, discing activity continued in harvested fields. Planting of new grain fields continued. Previously planted fields exhibited good emergence, steady growth. Grains planted for winter forage were thriving. Cultivation, fertilization, soil amendment applications continued in grain fields that were not yet planted. Winter wheat planting continued. The alfalfa hay season was essentially over, though some fields had windrowed hay drying, or were being green chopper for animal feed. Harvesting of corn for silage was winding down. Late planting of garbanzo beans took place in a few fields. Sugar beet harvesting continued in some areas. Recently planted fields of sugar beets showed steady development. Pesticide applications were made in some sugar beet fields to control insect pests, weeds. Scarecrows, reflective tape were placed in a number of sugar beet fields to protect the plants from birds. Pruning, cultivation, soil amendments, weed control, cover crop planting were underway as growers prepared garlic vineyards, tree fruit orchards for the dormant season. Orchard, vineyard removal continued. Brush, stumps were piled for burning, or chipped for recycling or cogeneration use. Open ground was prepared for future plantings. A few apples continued to be harvested in northern areas of the State. Pomegranates were picked in Kern County. Persimmons, table grapes continued to be picked, packed in many locations. Recent rains affected the quality of some uncovered table grapes. To protect the fruit from moisture, growers covered late variety grapes with plastic. Raisins were trucked to local processing facilities. A few Central Valley strawberry fields continued to produce fruit for sale at roadside stands. Plant growth was slow but steady in the cool weather. Pre-emergent weed applications were in full swing in citrus groves. Growers also applied fungicides to prevent brown rot, other decay problems. Valencia oranges continued to be field juiced. Picking and packing of Navel oranges increased to meet the demand of Thanksgiving sales. Colder temperatures were helping to enhance fruit color. Lemons, Ovari, Okitsuwasi tangerines continued to be picked. Rainfall slightly hindered lemon harvesting in some areas. Pummelo, Satsuma mandarin harvesting was still underway, with good quality noted on the available fruit. Olive harvesting continued but was near completion. Disease control treatments were made in some olive orchards. Walnut harvesting continued in a few locations, pecans appeared nearly ready for harvest. Pistachio, almond harvesting was complete in most areas. Growers were busy pruning, applying weed, fumigation treatments to walnut, almond, pistachio orchards. Broccoli and cauliflower harvesting continued at a steady pace in Central Valley. Some lettuce fields continued to be harvested. Broccoli, lettuce planted for the spring harvest were showing good development. Fields of garlic, onions continued to be planted. Other crops being harvested for farmer’s markets included yams, radishes, chili peppers, celery, long beans, egg plant, sugar, snow peas, turnips, water cress, specialty vegetables such as basil, beets, bok choy, green onions, long beans, mo quas, okra, ong choy, parsley, hot peppers, yam leaves. Range, pasture feeds continued to improve throughout most of the State, as recent rainfall stimulated the growth of new grass. However, cold morning temperatures have slowed development in some parts of the northern coastal region. Sheep, cattle were being moved down from higher elevations. Supplemental feeding continued. Sheep, lambs grazed in alfalfa, fallow fields. Beehives were being prepared for overwintering.

COLORADO: Most of the state experienced unseasonably cold temperatures toward the end of the week. The Front Range, Eastern Plains received limited snow this weekend with totals ranging from 1 to 3 inches. Despite the snowfall, topsoil, subsoil moisture levels did not have significant improvement this week. Harvest of late season crops has virtually ended statewide. Winter wheat is completely emerged with below average stands.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil 60% adequate, 40% surplus. Subsoil 83% adequate, 17% surplus. Soybeans 80% harvested, 39% 2002, 75% avg. Winter Wheat 6% fair, 68% good and 36% excellent; 88% planted, 85% 2002, 87% avg. Pasture feed 2% poor, 11% fair, 77% good, 10% excellent. Hay supplies 17% very short, 22% short, 56% adequate, 5% surplus. Alfalfa Hay 5th cutting 35%, 69% 2002, 75% avg. Rain mixed with some sunshine resulted in a small amount of progress for soybean harvest, alfalfa hay harvest. Farmers will be finishing up their soybean harvest in the next two weeks. Planting of winter wheat is over 85% complete and the crop is in good to excellent condition. Hay supplies are short to adequate, pasture is in good to excellent condition.
FLORIDA: Topsoil 1% very short, 19% short, 79% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 19% short, 79% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperature average: normal to 5° above, major cities; Daytime highs: 70s, 80s. Nighttime lows: 40s, 50s, 60s. McClenney, Brockville recorded at least one low in 30s. Rainfall range none at Tavares, Umatilla, to 1.75 in. Quincy; 0.50 in. or less for most Peninsula localities. Rains, Panhandle, northern Peninsula increased soil moisture; supplies rated mostly adequate. Light showers, central, southern Peninsula maintained most soil moisture supplies. Fall, Panhandle, small showers; central, northern Peninsula areas, a few spots in northern Peninsula reported very short to short soil moisture supplies. Some localities, Okaloosa, Seminole, Brevard counties reported surplus topsoil moisture. Cotton harvesting over 90% done, Santa Rosa County; some rain delays. Peanut digging virtually done. Sugarcane harvesting continues, Everglades. Potato field preparation, planting active, Hastings area. Growers harvesting to help meet holiday demand. Harvesting of leafy crops, Escambia, central, Peninsula areas, getting underway, onion, tomato picking nearly done; harvesting in central, southern Peninsula areas increasing seasonally. Available: Snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, squash, watermelons. Very limited rainfall, citrus areas, associated with cold front. Citrus growers continue to irrigate; fall cultural practices include cover crop control, dead tree removal and replacement; good natural color, excellent appearance reported for early orange varieties, tangerine, grapefruit. Florida houses shipping early tangerines, early oranges, grapefruit, tangelos. All processing plants receiving eliminations, field run fruit as more harvest labor arrives. Pasture feed 5% poor, 25% fair, 65% good, 5% excellent. Cattle condition 5% poor, 15% fair, 70% good, 10% excellent. Statewide: pasture feeds mostly good; growth limited by drought, cool temperature. Panhandle, north: winter forage crops mostly planted with few ranchers still sowing; earlier planted small grain crops received growth, only to grow well; some winter forage ready for grazing by Thanksgiving Day; most Bahia grass playing out seasonally; patchy frost reducing grass growth. West central: pasture feed mostly good; grass greened up following light rain. Southwest: cattle condition mostly good; range condition good. Statewide: most cattle in good condition.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 5.1. Soil 2% very short, 15% short, 74% adequate, 5% surplus. Rye 86% planted, 79% 2002, 81% avg. Sorghum 91% harvested for grain, 81% 2002, 89% avg. Soybeans 5% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 10% excellent; 70% harvested, 45% 2002, 72% avg. Wheat 52% planted, 35% 2002, 39% avg. Other small grains 77% planted, 69% 2002, 72% avg. Onions 13% poor, 32% fair, 52% good 3% excellent; 36% transplanted, 19% 2002, 25% avg. Apples 95% harvested, 100% 2002, 100% avg. Pecans 5% very poor, 21% poor, 35% fair, 34% good, 5% excellent; 5% harvested, 39% 2002, 59% avg. Early in the week a storm front brought rain to most of the State. Some areas received between two, five inches of rain. Rainfall improved past moisture as well as small grain, winter grazing. Pasture feeds were helped greatly by the rain. Bermuda pastures benefitted from the warmer temperatures and rain. Harvest conditions have been good for cotton, pecans, peanuts. Corn, soybean fields have been harvested, oat, rye planting were ahead of normal. Apple harvest was approaching completion, most apples houses were still open. Small grain planting were helped by the rains. Cabbage seeding, in greenhouses, started. Hay feeding to livestock continued to increase. Activities: Routine care of livestock, poultry, sowling wheat.

HAWAII: High pressure to the north, a storm system northeast of the State generated strong trade winds in all areas. Showers were light, confined to windward, mountain areas. Banana harvest remained active despite some leaf shredding. Papaya orchards were making fair to good progress with steady harvest. Vegetable crops remained in mostly fair to good condition.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Topsoil 23% very short, 48% short, 29% adequate. Field Corn Harvested for Grain 96%, 71% 2002, 76% avg. Activities: Machinery maintenance, fall cultivation, hauling manure, feeding, caring, marketing livestock, harvesting corn for grain.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Topsoil 6% short, 72% adequate, 22% surplus. Fieldwork continued across most of the state early last week until rains halted it virtually everywhere at some point during the week. Farmers in far northern state received rains later, in smaller quantities than their counterparts further south, were able to accomplish more during the week. A few farmers continued to harvest corn but the main priority was fall tillage, spreading fertilizer, applying anhydrous. Last week’s rainfall will be beneficial for livestock growers as winter approaches, to the winter wheat crop as it enters dormancy. Activities: Spreading manure, hauling grain, deer hunting.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.4. Topsoil 1% short, 65% adequate, 34% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 5% short, 80% adequate, 13% surplus. Rain slowed harvesting along with other field activities during the week. Warm week with some strong winds. Corn, soybean harvest winding up in most areas. Wet soils slowing progress in the south, some eastern counties. Corn lodging is a problem in some remaining crop areas. Cotton harvesting continues. Some farmers applied NH3 during the week. Temperatures averaged from 9° to 14° above normal for the week. Precipitation averaged 0.71 to 2.39 inches. Winter wheat crop is in good condition, most areas. Corn 95% harvested, 98% 2002, 99% avg. Tobacco sales underway, stripping continued. Pastures remain good, aided by recent rains. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Fall calving virtually complete. Weaning of older calves continued. Activities: Moving grain to market, spreading fertilizers, feeding livestock, hauling to be recorded, cleaning up, repairing equipment, tilling fields, taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Agricultural Summary: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Topsoil 10% very short, 29% short, 59% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 31% very short, 40% short, 27% adequate, 2% surplus. Anhydrous ammonia application, fall tillage continued but was slowing down in many areas as state 2003 fieldwork came to a close. Reporters commented that more moisture will be needed to fully replenish the subsoil. In addition, water levels are in winter grain, water levels for area. Looking back, back 2003 the season, crops matured rapidly and harvest generally progressed ahead of normal for both corn, soybeans. The lack of rain beginning in late July, continuing into September was felt statewide. Overall, farmers reported corn yields were better than expected; soybean yields were worse than expected. Field Crops Report: Fall fertilizer application for the 2004 crop season was 60% completed statewide. Grain movement from farm to elevator 32% none, 40% light, 23% moderate, 5% heavy. Off-farm grain storage availability 11% short, 80% adequate, 9% surplus. On-farm grain storage availability 20% short, 73% adequate, 7% surplus. Hay, roughage availability 13% short, 79% adequate, 8% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage supplies 6% poor, 39% fair, 55% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 24% none, 24% light, 36% moderate, 16% heavy. Livestock, Range Report: fertilizer, livestock conditions. For the week, lino; forage conditions. Fat cow; forage conditions in most areas. Extreme temperature changes stressed young livestock. While calves were weaned, vaccinated, placed in feedlots, feeder calf sales continued to be strong.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 20% very short, 37% short, 40% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 30% very short, 34% short, 36% adequate. Cotton 48% harvested. Hay, forage supplies 5% very short, 14% short, 77% adequate, 4% surplus. Cattle conditions mostly stayed. Krause, blue, frosty. Harvest conditions were in mostly good to excellent condition going into winter. Farmers had favorable humidity to strip their tobacco, deliver it to auction, contract, harvest to sell. The 2003-2004 Burley auctions marketing season began on Monday, November 17. Gross auction sales for the first week totaled $11,772,000, averaged $196.92. Much of the tobacco offered for sale was purchased by the pool with some purchased by the warehouse for future sale. Contract sales for the week totaled 28,913,000 pounds averaging $199.14. For the season contract receipts totaled 42,110,000 pounds averaging $199.18. For the Burley Belt about 18% of the estimated crop has been sold by auction, contract.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Soil 2% very short, 22% short, 61% adequate, 15% surplus. Rainfall was finally received in areas of the state after several weeks of extremely dry conditions. Pecans 72% harvested, 60% last week, 62% 2002, 61% avg. Soybeans 100% harvested, 99% last week, 85% 2002, 96% avg. Sugarcane 68% harvested, 60% last week, 51% 2002, 57% avg. Wheat 80% planted, 49% last week, 50% 2002, 81% avg; 46% emerging, 40% last week, 26% 2002, 67% avg. Livestock 8% poor, 39% fair, 49% good, 4% excellent.
Vegetables 2% very poor, 32% poor, 50% fair, 16% good. Pasture, range 3% very poor, 28% poor, 53% fair, 16% good.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.6. Topsoil 60% adequate, 40% surplus. Subsoil 67% adequate, 33% surplus. Soybeans 77% harvested, 62% 2002, 85% avg. Winter wheat condition 3% poor, 22% fair, 65% good, 10% excellent; 93% planted, 82% 2002, 93% avg. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 50% good, 17% excellent. Tobacco 36% stripped, 57% 2002, 36% avg. Alfalfa hay 5th cutting 37%, 45% 2002, 77% avg. Hay supplies 13% very short, 30% short, 57% adequate. Rain during the last week hampered soybean harvest. Soybean harvest increased 6% to 77% harvested. A small amount of progress was made for alfalfa hay harvest. Planting of wheat increased 7% to 93% planted. Small grains crops are in fair to good condition. Hay supplies are short to adequate, pasture is in fair to good condition.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 1.0% very short, 3.0% short, 70% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil 4.0% very short, 21% short, 67% adequate, 8.0% surplus. Corn 84% harvested, 96% 2002, 93% avg. Corn harvest, fall tillage again stalled by wet weather this week. Scattered rain showers saturated topsoil, hindered corn dry down. Periods of high wind flattened more corn several districts. Temperatures well above normal across entire State, ranged from 6° above normal Upper Peninsula to 11° above normal three southern Lower Peninsula districts. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.81 inches western Upper Peninsula to 2.22 inches west central Lower Peninsula. With week’s rain, most districts above average rainfall is expected. Snowfall and precipitation since October in much of the state. Moisture availability improved around State. Corn harvest still on going a few counties. Moisture content still remained high. Wheat crop looked good. Late season vegetable harvest wrapped up for most growers across State. Some broccoli still being picked southeast. Most growers preparing equipment, land for arrival of winter.

MINNESOTA: Fall fieldwork is complete. Precipitation was received throughout the week in the forms of rain, hail early in the week, snow around the end of the week. Cold temperatures were reported throughout the state.

MISSISSIPPI: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Several days of favorable harvesting weather helped farmers virtually complete grain harvesting in most areas, while the cotton harvest needs just a few more sunny days to reach completion. Widespread rains early in the week were of benefit to the winter wheat crop, late pasture growth, replenishing moisture for next year’s crops. Rainfall averaged 2.48 inches, varying from 0.69 inch in the southwest district to 4.37 inches in the south-central district.

MONTANA: Weather conditions for the week were below normal temperatures, limited precipitation. Winter wheat crop 89% emerged, 7% very poor, 18% poor, 44% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures averaged from 3° below to 7° above normals for the week. Precipitation was statewide with amounts less than 0.50 inch. Harvest was virtually complete. Cattle were cleaning stalk fields.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: Activities: Tending livestock, preparing for the winter months ahead. Many also geared up for holiday sales. Christmas tree growers continued to prepare for a busy season.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 6.0. Temperatures were above normal across most of the state for the week. On Wednesday, November 19, 2003 temperatures were unseasonably warm being at least 15° above normal in most localities. The unusually warm temperatures on November 19, 2003, were accompanied by rainfall amounts in excess of one, half inches for most areas of the state. As weather permitted, the main activities were cleaning up fields, orchards. Harvest of late fall vegetables continued.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Topsoil 64% very short, 30% short, 6% adequate. While most of the week was warm, the coldest air of the season invaded state over the weekend. Temperatures fell into the single digits, even below zero over higher elevations of the north. Chama recorded -9 on the morning of the 23rd while Capulin was -2. Wind was strong over the entire state with the storm system over the weekend, with gusts topping 60 mph in quite a few areas. Precipitation for the week was spotty, light. Red River (15) was the only location that measured over a tenth of an inch. Farmers spent the week harvesting all crops remaining while pecan farmers prepared for harvest. While winter has fully set in this week the freeze damage to all crops was 20% light freeze damage, 20% moderate, 14% severe. The 7th cutting of alfalfa 91% complete, the cotton harvest 66% complete. Sorghum 30% very poor, 28% poor, 36% fair, 6% good, the crop is fully matured 51% harvested for grain. Winter wheat 42% very poor, 17% poor, 25% fair, 16% good. Peanuts were completely harvested this week, red chile reached 69% harvested. Lettuce 97% harvested, holding steady with the five year average. Onions were in mostly good to excellent condition and pecans were in mostly fair to excellent condition. Ranchers spent the week supplementing feed, finishing up shipping while many report to be at only 25% of stocking rate. Cattle conditions were listed as 16% very poor, 22% poor, 37% fair, 20% good, 5% excellent. Sheep 23% very poor, 28% poor, 31% fair, 16% good, 2% excellent. Range, pasture feeds 55% very poor, 29% poor, 14% fair, 2% good.

NEW YORK: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 39% adequate, 61% surplus. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 20% poor, 44% fair, 23% good, 10% excellent. Grain corn 72% harvested.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 4.5. Soil 0% very short, 4% short, 66% adequate, 28% surplus. Above normal temperatures prevailed again this week, averaging 3 to 12° above normal. Western areas of the State received heavy rainfall mid-week, ranging from one to almost six inches along with cooler temperatures. The eastern counties also received substantial rainfall. The wet conditions mid-week slowed harvest progress. However, by the end of the week temperatures were above normal with clear skies. Activities: Tending livestock, general farm maintenance.

NORTH DAKOTA: Mild temperatures during the beginning of the week gave way to cold temperatures state-wide, snow in the west, south. Temperatures reached the teens below zero in the northwest, north central, southwest districts.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Topsoil 0% very short, 0% short, 52% adequate, 48% surplus. Corn harvested for grain 93%, 95% 2002, 96% avg. Sugarbeets harvested 95%, 100% 2002, NA% avg. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 59% good, 20% excellent. Field activities were hampered this past week as more rain fell across the state. Field in many areas are too muddy for harvesting, tillage equipment. Most of the corn has been harvested but many of the remaining stocks have been damaged by the high winds. During the down time producers hauled grain to local elevators. Christmas tree growers are busy harvesting trees for the Holiday season. Many Wayne county residents are still cleaning up from the tornadoes which recently struck this county.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1 Topsoil 16% very short, 40% short, 41% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 22% very short, 40% short, 40% adequate, 2% surplus. Rye 4% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 49% good, 12% excellent. Oats 8% very poor, 17% poor, 27% fair, 44% good, 4% excellent; 94% seeded prepared, 93% last week, 98% 2002, 97% avg.; 65% planted, 61% last week, 68% 2002, 72% avg.; 60% emerged, 58% last week, 65% 2002, 61% avg. Sorghum 99 mature, 96% last week, 99 2002, 100% avg. Soybeans 84 harvested, 81% last week, 89% 2002, 92% avg. Peanuts 97% harvested, 95% last week, 83% 2002, 86% avg. Rye 7% very poor, 12% poor, 37% fair, 33% good, 11% excellent. Alfalfa Hay 4% very poor, 12% poor, 40% fair, 40% good, 4% excellent; 85% 5-cutting, 83% last week, 81% 2002, 60% avg. Other Hay 6% very poor, 21% poor, 41% fair, 29% good, 3% excellent; 99% 2-cutting, 98% last week, 99% 2002, 91% avg. Livestock 2% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 50% good, 16% excellent. Pasture, Range 8% very poor, 23% poor, 39% fair, 25% good, 5% excellent; Livestock ranged from mostly fair to excellent condition. Cattle auctions reported a decrease in marketings of steers, heifers less than 800 pounds for the week. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds decreased an average of $1.53 cents per cwt. from last week, averaged $102.93 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds decreased an average of $7.53 cents per cwt. from last week, averaged $96.54 per cwt.

OREGON: Topsoil 34% very short, 40% short, 25% adequate, 1% excellent. Subsoil 47% very short, 33% short, 20% adequate. Winter wheat 76% emerged, 68% previous week, 68% 2002, 88% 5-yr avg.; 4% very poor, 37% poor, 45% fair, 13% good, 1% excellent. Range, Pasture 14% very poor, 46% poor, 36% fair, 4% good. Activities: Weather conditions across the State are approaching those of the winter months. Lots of cold temperatures in Eastern State were accompanied with a mixture of rain, snow. Cold temperatures, measurable precipitation were also noted in Juneau County, with heavy frost, some snow accumulation in the hills. Winter wheat planting is now essentially finished. Livestock look good, many pastures are now greening up.
FEEDING OF HAY TO LIVESTOCK IS NOW ROUTINE, WILL CONTINUE AS SUCH UNTIL THE SPRING MONTHS.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Days suitable for field work 3.0. Soil 49% adequate, 51% surplus. Fall 72% plowing, 80% 2002, 88% avg. Corn 78% harvested, 92% 2002, 89% avg. Winter wheat 93% emerged, 96% 2002, 95% avg.; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, 11% excellent. Soybeans 77% harvested, 63% 2002, 88% avg. Alfalfa 4th cutting 95% complete, 94% 2002, 98% avg. Quality of hay made 16% very poor, 15% poor, 34% fair, 26% good, 9% excellent. Pasture feeds 10% very poor, 22% poor, 13% fair, 48% good, 7% excellent. Activities: Harvesting corn, soybeans; fall plowing; spreading manure, lime, fertilizer; planting wheat, barley; caring for livestock; storing machinery; preparing for winter, cutting firewood.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for field work 5.5. Soil 1% very short, 16% short, 82% adequate, 1% surplus. Soybeans 97% leaves dropped, 97% 2002, 97% avg.; 92% mature, 90% 2002, 92% avg.; 67% harvested, 96% 2002, 80% avg.; 8% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 9% excellent. Sorghum 99% harvested, 99% 2002, 97% avg. Cotton 99% bolls opened, 100% 2002, 100% avg.; 72% harvested, 64% 2002, 84% avg.; 2% poor, 21% fair, 69% good, 8% excellent. Peanuts 100% harvested, 99% 2002, 99% avg. Winter Wheat 54% planted, 53% 2002, 47% avg.; 42% emerged, 40% 2002, 33% avg.; 13% fair, 86% good, 1% excellent. Barley 86% planted, 81% 2002, 92% avg.; 67% emerged, 75% 2002, 78% avg.; 24% fair, 76% good. Pastures 15% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 9% excellent. Hay 87% planted, 85% 2002, 90% avg.; 74% emerged, 68% 2002, 68% avg.; 7% fair, 92% good, 1% excellent. Oats 80% planted, 82% 2002, 83% avg.; 68% emerged, 71% 2002, 69% avg.; 12% fair, 88% good. Livestock 1% poor, 16% fair, 69% good, 14% excellent. Pecans 55% harvested, 60% 2002, 60% avg.; 2% very poor, 17% poor, 40% fair, 33% good, 8% excellent. Winter grainings 94% planted, 86% 2002, 90% avg.; 80% emerged, 75% 2002, 77% avg.; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 72% fair, 27% good, 1% excellent.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Temperatures averaged above normal last week, with highs in the 60's, however, lows reached 8 below zero by week's end. The majority of the state received snowfall, putting an end to any further winter wheat emergence. A few corn fields have remained unharvested due to snow cover, but overall, harvest is complete. Activities: Finishing row crop harvest, baling corn stalks, weaning, selling calves, working cattle.

**TENNESSEE:** Several cold fronts moved through the State last week bringing rain, slowing field activities in some areas. The main agricultural activities taking place last week were harvesting cotton, soybeans, stripping tobacco, seeding winter wheat. The first front around mid-week produced an inch of rain over the Western half of the State and from 1 to 3 inches over the Eastern half. The second front entered the State on Sunday, produced around an inch of rain over the Western half with lesser amounts heading Eastward. Temperatures, precipitation averaged above normal last week.

**TEXAS:** Agricultural Summary: Weather during the week included a wide range of extreme conditions which began with torrential rains, tornadoes in early week. It continued with unseasonable warm temperatures, gusty winds during mid-week, finally ended with freezing or very cold temperatures at week's end. The majority of the rain fell on the Upper Coast, East State. Many areas in those regions received 5 inches of rain with isolated locations getting as much as 10 inches. Flash flooding occurred in creeks, urban areas. Tornadoes, high winds swept through several counties causing structure, tree damage. North Central State reported general rainfall accumulations ranging from a trace to 1 inch with some locations recording up to 2 inches. Other regions that received limited precipitation included Central State, the Edwards Plateau, South State, the Rio Grande Valley. Daytime temperatures during mid-week were in the 70's, 80's. High winds were common across the State. However, by early Sunday, the 23rd, a very powerful cold front plowed southward through the state, bringing cold temperatures. Snow fell into the teens in the Panhandle, freezing temperatures were approaching central areas by midnight. Soil moisture conditions improved where moderate rains fell, but in areas where downpours took place, excessive soil erosion occurred. Regions in the western half of the State were still short on soil moisture. Harvest of remaining summer crops was mostly wide open as producers took advantage of the warm weather mid week. Cotton producers on the South Plains finally got the hard freeze they were waiting on to kill their crops. Stockers continued to be turned out on wheat and oat pastures. Small Grains: Wheat was looking a little better in the Panhandle from the rain the previous week. However warm, windy conditions had depleted moisture from many fields. Irrigated fields continued to be in favorable condition. Planting of remaining acres of wheat, oats moved along. Wheat in North Central State had responded well to the moisture it received. Much more moisture will be necessary to make a grain crop out of the dryland acres. Producers continued to turn out stockers on wheat pastures where stands were adequate. Greenbugs, armyworms were present in many areas. Wheat 62% normal, 85% 2002. Corn: This season’s crop has been harvested. Southern regions began February harvests when temperatures warmed. Harvest was fast, furious due to high winds but producers in most locations were still finishing. The much awaited hard freeze finally arrived toward the end of the week. Acres of late planted cotton that was not yet mature were finished as fast as growth was concerned. Sorghum: Combining increased with the favorable field conditions. Reported yields have varied widely. Freezing temperatures halted any future growth. Producers in southern regions were fumigating fields as conditions allowed. Peanuts: Peanut harvest was winding down in most regions. Yields were reported as mostly favorable. Rice: Harvest of the raton crop progressed during the week, nearing completion in most locations. Soybeans: This season’s soybeans were all harvested. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit, Pecans In the Rio Grande Valley, land preparation was ongoing for spring planting. Fall vegetable crops were progressing well. Harvest of citrus was in full swing. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden, some irrigation of spinach and onions was necessary. Some tip-burn due to high winds was reported for spinach. Beet, cabbage harvest continued. Onion planting continued. In East State, Sweet potato harvest was complete. Pecans: Harvest was ongoing, nearing completion in many locations. Freezing conditions should help defoliate trees, break open hulls. High winds in some areas were forcing producers to rush to pick up blown down pecans before rotting. Range: Livestock: Range, pastures continued to be in fairly decent shape for this time of year. In drier areas, signs of moisture stress were showing up. Supplemental feeding increased due to the season. Stockers were being put out to wheat pasture. The last hay cutting of the year was completed in most locations. With the change from wet to warm to freezing, cattle were showing signs of sickness. Livestock marketing remained heavy as prices stayed high.

**UTAH: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

**VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil 1% short, 70% adequate, 29% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 78% adequate, 20% surplus. Pasture 1% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 55% good, 15% excellent. Livestock 1% poor, 10% fair, 67% good, 22% excellent. Other Hay 2% very poor, 6% poor, 28% fair, 51% good, 13% excellent. Alfalfa Hay 5% very poor, 10% poor, 32% fair, 43% good, 10% excellent. Soybeans 77% harvested, 51% 2002, 76% 5-yr Ag. Winter Wheat 86% seeded, 61% 2002, 79% 5-yr avg. Cotton 71% harvested, 88% 2002, 85% 5-yr avg. A heavy thunderstorm crossed state this week. Severe flooding was reported in state’s western counties. Some areas experienced 7 inches of rain. The flood damaged fences, roads, bridges, caused river blockages. Despite the rainfall, the outlook for small grains this week was good. Warm temperatures, adequate soil moisture promoted good fall growth. Livestock farmers delayed feeding hay this week because of the excellent pasture feeds. Activities: Removing water debris from crop fields, transporting fall apples to cold storage, registering for pesticide classes, hunting deer.

**WASHINGTON:** Days suitable for fieldwork 2.5. Topsoil 13% very short, 32% short, 41% adequate, 14% surplus. Subsoil 17% very short, 39% short, 44% adequate. Irrigation water supplies 10% very short, 10% short, 80% adequate. The highest temperature in the state was 69° in Pasco. The lowest temperature in the state was 7° in Deer Park. Winter wheat 98% emerged; 3% very poor, 17% poor, 56% fair, 24% good. Corn for grain 100% harvested. Hay, other roughage supplies 6% short, 92% adequate, 22% surplus. Snow fell across many areas of the State mid-week. Cold temperatures, snow, rain made for less than ideal conditions for the harvest of Christmas trees. Livestock producers were feeding supplemental hay to compensate for the cold temperatures, snow covered pastures. Pastures were in poor condition as producers brought cattle home for the winter. Producers continue to move calves to market at record high prices. Commercial holly growers were at that peak of harvest, rushing to get heavily burred bushes to market. Cold weather, strong winds caused damage to dryland wheat in Benton County.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for field work 3.0. Topsoil 45% adequate, 55% surplus, 2% short, 85% adequate, 13% surplus 2002. Corn 80% harvested, 87% 2002, 89% 5-yr avg. Soybeans 79%
harvested, 85% 2002, 93% 5-yr. avg. Winter wheat 4% fair, 96% good: 94% planted, 99% 2002, 99% 5-yr. avg.; 80% emerged, 95% 2002, 76% 5-yr. avg. Cattle, calves 1% poor, 15% fair, 79% good, 5% excellent. Sheep, Lambs 2% poor, 12% fair, 74% good, 12% excellent. Another round of flooding hit the state mid-week. Some areas experienced levels not seen in 50 years. Some fencing was damaged by debris. Activities: Were limited to dealing with problems associated with the flooding.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 15% short, 72% adequate, 13% surplus. Enjoyed temperatures around 10° above normal last week. The rain that fell early in the week was also welcomed by the state’s farmers. Fields again dried fairly quickly, farmers were able to get back into the fields by the end of the week. The 15% of the soil rated as short or very short is the lowest total to fall into those categories since July 11 of this year. Reporters commented that the added moisture at the end of the year has given them some hope that the 2004 growing season can get off to a good start. Reporters commented that they are happy with the amount of tillage that was completed this fall, many are probably done for the year. Deer hunting, visiting with relatives over the holiday will provide a well earned break for many farmers this week. Winter wheat was reported to be in good condition, statewide. Weak alfalfa stands heading into winter are a concern for some farmers. Many are hoping for a deeper snow cover than last year to provide protection for both crops.

WYOMING: DATA NOT AVAILABLE