**ALABAMA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4.  Topsoil 8% very short, 39% short, 39% adequate, 14% surplus. Corn 24% planted, 27% 2003, 25% avg. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 80% good, 1% excellent. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 11% poor, 52% fair, 29% good, 5% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 5% excellent. Recent rains brought relief to pastures, hayfields. Farmers will continue seed bed preparations, will begin spring crop fertilizations. Activities: Corn planting, applying nitrogen to wheat fields, general care of livestock, poultry, catfish.

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures for the State were slightly above normal for the month of April. Small grains emergence is complete, while heading is just underway. There was 24% Durum Wheat, 23% Winter Wheat, 43% Barley, 53%. Other Small Grains headed. Alfalfa conditions remain good to excellent. Cotton planting 7%, complete, which remains steady with previous year. Sheep have been grazing on alfalfa fields for winter pasture. Precipitation was reported at all 17 reporting stations. Precipitation ranged from 0.24 inches at Yuma and 1.29 inches at Payson.

**ARKANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Soil 0% very short, 13% short, 83% adequate, 4% surplus. Corn 63% Planted, 42% 2003, 30% 5-yr avg. Soybeans 13% Planted, 1% 2003, Sorghum 7% Planted, 7% 2003, 5% 5 yr avg. Cotton 0% Harvested, 0% 2003, 0% 5 yr avg. Rice 8% Planted, 7% 2003, 3% 5-yr avg. Wheat 1% Headed, 0% 2003, 2% 5-yr avg.; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 34% fair, 52 % good, 13% excellent. Hay-Other 2% very poor, 7% poor, 45% fair, 42 % good, 4% excellent; Hay-Alfalfa 0% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 72 % good, 0% excellent. Pasture, Range 1% very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 55 % good, 7% excellent. CROPS: Corn planting is well underway throughout the eastern part of the state, stands are starting to emerge. Wheat fertilization is near completion. Producers are now treating wheat with fungicides to control leaf rust. Some counties have begun planting early soybeans. Most of the state is preparing ground for planting of all spring crops. LIVESTOCK: Livestock are reported to be in good condition. The northwestern part of the state in experiencing dry conditions, awaiting rainfall to improve pasture feeds.

**CALIFORNIA:** Warm temperatures benefitted the growth, development of small grain crops. Most dryland, irrigated fields of winter wheat were reported to be in good condition. Seed head development was noted in some fields. Irrigation continued in a number of small grain fields to sustain optimal growth. Some fields were treated with fungicide applications to control leaf disease. Fields of wheat, oats, winter forage were cut for hay, silage. Alfalfa fields continued to be cut, windrowed, baled. Some fields were irrigated, treated with pesticides to control weevils, other pests. Spring planting of alfalfa continued in some areas. A few fields were treated with pre-emergent herbicides to prepare for spring planting. Newly planted alfalfa fields had emerged and were showing vigorous growth. Planting of corn, cotton continued in most areas. A few fields were cultivated, irrigated to allow optimal growing conditions for future plantings. Earlier plantings of corn, cotton continued to emerge, grow rapidly. Planting of safflower, sunflower, vineseed was underway. Ground preparation of rice fields was underway in most growing areas. Sugar beet plantings were thriving. A number of fields were treated with insecticides. Warm weather accelerated the development of lilies in the Central Coast region, early plant maturity has led to some concerns about availability for the Mother's Day holiday. Bloom fruit set was nearly complete in stone fruit orchards. Fruit were showing generally good size development. Thinning was underway on early stone fruit varieties. Irrigation, disease, pest control treatments continued in many orchards. Bloom continued in pome fruit orchards. Bloom sprays to prevent insect, disease damage was underway as needed. Flower clusters were showing in most raisin, wine, table grape vineyards. Grapevine suckering, leaf thinning had begun for some varieties. Irrigation, cultivation, soil amendment applications, herbicide, fungicide, pest control treatments took place in vineyards. Kidnut vines were leafing out. Strawberry fields showed plentiful blossoms, developing fruit. Harvesting began in many locations. Blooms were open in many citrus orchards. Picking, packing of Navel, Valencia oranges continued. Navel packouts declined because warmer than normal temperatures decreased fruit quality. Lemon harvesting continued as demand, prices continued to increase. Grapefruit harvesting was ongoing. Buds in pistachio orchards were pushing, pollen sacks started to appear on male trees. Catkins were visible on walnut, pecan trees. Walnut trees were blooming. Blight weed control treatments were made to walnut orchards. New almond orchards continued to be planted. Vegetable planting proceeded at a rapid pace in many locations. Generally clear weather conditions were beneficial to the growth of many summer vegetables. Hot caps were in place in some areas to protect the planted crops from wind damage. Overnight temperatures dropped to the low 40's, 50's, and into the 60's, which has moved up the expected harvesting dates. Broccoli, cauliflower, asparagus, brussels sprouts were harvested in Monterey County. Early squash varieties were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvesting of carrots continued in Kern County. The following vegetables were also harvested: beets, bok choy, cabbage, chard, green beans, kales, kankon, leaf lettuce, leeks, mustard greens, green onions, snow peas, spinach, sugar peas, turnips, you choy. Foothill pastures were drying faster than normal due to warm, dry weather, windy conditions. While a few cattle were beginning to move to market in Central State, widespread movement of cattle had not yet begun. Livestock were in good condition. Sheep were being moved from the Southern San Joaquin Valley to the Mojave Desert for grazing. Early spring lambs were being shipped to market or to other areas for further feeding. Alfalfa harvesting was in full swing, only a few sheep were reported on alfalfa pastures. Old crop lamb shipments from the Imperial Valley were winding down. Beehives were being moved into citrus orchards.

**COLORADO:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Top soil 54% very short, 33% short, 12% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 57% very short, 29% short, 14% adequate, 0% surplus. Average temperatures were above normal for the week with the exception of a cool front that hit the Front Range midweek. Brief heavy rains, snow was received along the Front Range.

**NASS**

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

State Stories

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Range. Spring barley 26% planted, 22% 2003, 28% avg.; 12% emerged, 6% 2003, 2% avg. Dry onion 64% planted, 35% 2003, 42% avg.; 2% very poor, 21% poor, 40% fair, 33% good, 4% excellent. Summer potatoes 6% planted, 0% 2003, 0% avg. Sugar beets 27% planted, 11% 2003, 18% avg. Spring wheat 17% planted, 17% 2003, 21% avg.; 4% emerged, 3% 2003, 3% avg. Cows 65% calved, 62% 2003, 62% avg. Ewes 55% lambed, 56% 2003, 54% avg.

DELWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.0. Topsoil 48% adequate, 52% surplus. Subsoil 73% adequate, 27% surplus. Barley 2% poor, 17% fair, 65% good, 16% excellent. Winter wheat 3% poor, 15% fair, 70% good, 12% excellent. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 5% poor, 11% fair, 79% good, 2% excellent. Apples 5% bloomed, 3% 2003, 7% avg. Snap 5% beans, 4% 2003, 3% avg. Green peas 30% planted, 23% 2003, 25% avg. Potatoes 19% planted, 1% 2003, 19% avg. Hay supplies 6% very short, 82% short, 12% adequate. Spring planting for green peas, potatoes, snap beans has begun. Sweet corn, tomatoes, field corn will begin to be planted in a few weeks. Strawberries, apples, peaches are starting to bloom. Small grains are in fair to good condition, the heads will begin to form in a few weeks if the weather stays favorable. Pastures are in fair to good condition, hay supplies are mostly short.

FLORIDA: Topsoil 6% very short, 46% short, 47% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 40% short, 57% adequate, 1% surplus. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies decreasing due to dry weather. Cool, dry conditions persisted. Temperature average 1 to 4\textdegree, below major cities. Daytime highs: 70s; most localities recorded at least one high in 80s. Nighttime lows: 40s, 50s, 60s; several northern Peninsula localities reported at least one low in 30s. Rainfall: none to about 1.50 in. Most areas recorded no measurable rain. Moisture supplies in nearly all localities short to adequate. Holmes, Jackson, Madison, Columbia, Union, Baker, Franklin counties reported very short, dry short to adequate. Seminole County reported a few spots with surplus soil moisture. Significant rainfall, Washington County let producers begin planting corn, again, prepare land for peanuts at a rapid pace. Some Jackson County producers irrigating corn, irrigating land prior to planting. Most cotton planting delayed due to dry soils, cool temperatures. Most soils too dry to plant, Madison County. Vegetable planting slowing seasonally, southern Peninsula areas. Central, southern Peninsula vegetable harvesting active; growers supplying spring holiday demand. Significant rainfall, Washington, Jackson counties allowed growers to resume watermelon planting. Old potatoes bulking up nicely, Hastings area. Broccoli, onion, leafy greens harvesting active, Hastings region. Vegetables in Leon County emerged. Other vegetables, non-citrus fruit available: snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, plus others area-wide; cool, wet, cool, windless, no rain reported, low winds. Slight showers, 50s, highs 70s, 80s. Petal drop to open bloom all areas, trees in excellent condition, harvest near complete on early-mids, near weekly peak on Valencia's, grapefruit harvest beginning to decline, tangerines declining, Tempeles near complete. Leon County, other northern Peninsula, Panhandle localities fertilizing pastures. Winter grazing condition decreasing rapidly, Madison County. Crimson, Red Clover heading out. Leon County. Grazing condition improved; most central, southern Peninsula pastures mostly fair to good; most Panhandle, northern Peninsula grazing poor to mostly fair. Cattle mostly fair to good, statewide.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 6.2. Soil 25% very short, 45% short, 29% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 6% poor, 50% fair, 40% good, 4% excellent; 67% planted, 35% 2003, 59% avg.; 47% emerged, 14% 2003, 42% avg. Hay 5% very poor, 14% poor, 56% fair, 22% good, 3% excellent. Sorghum 1% planted, 1% 2003, 2% avg. Tobacco 1% poor, 53% fair, 45% good, 1% excellent; 15% transplanted, 7% 2003, 28% avg. Wheat 91% jointing, 87% 2003, 85% avg.; 55% boot, 53% 2003, 56% avg.; 22% headed, 12% 2003, 20% avg. Onions 6% very poor, 15% poor, 45% fair, 28% good 8% excellent; 2% harvested. 1% 2003, 0% avg. Watermelons 4% poor, 59% fair, 34% good, 3% excellent; 37% planted, 29% 2003, 42% avg. Apples 1% fair, 99% good; 15% blooming, 7% 2003, 11% avg. Peaches 17% poor, 17% fair, 66% good; 68% blooming, 83% 2003, 87% avg. Dry conditions continued throughout the State last week. Little rain fell mid-week in some areas. More rain was needed for pasture, hay growth, grazing conditions to improve. Dry, cool weather, slowed soil preparation, planting. Cattlemen continued to feed hay. Producers continued to irrigate corn to insure adequate moisture for germination. Tobacco transplanting is underway in fields in south state. Sweet corn, snapbean planting continued. Farmers applied poultry litter on pastures. Activities: Routine care of livestock, poultry, harrowing land, applying fungicides.

HAWAII: Except for a few passing showers from a storm system in the north, mostly dry weather occurred throughout the State. Winds, showers were confined to windward, mountain areas towards the week's end. Bananas, papayas were in fair condition due to excess moisture, increasing disease infection. Vegetable crops were in fair to good condition, making slow progress.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.20. Topsoil 19% short, 76% adequate, 5% surplus. Little or no precipitation was reported for the state. Winter Wheat 27% fair, 70% good, 3% excellent. Spring planting is progressing ahead of last year for most reported crops. Some crop emergence has been seen in Northern State. Spring wheat 37% planted, 25% 2003, 18% avg. Barley 23% planted, 22% 2003, 19% avg. Oats 24% planted, 27% 2003, 9% avg. Onions 47% planted, 84% 2003, 56% avg. Dry peas 36% planted, 6% 2003, 6% avg. Sugar beets 52% planted, 35% 2003, 19% avg. Irrigation water supply 1% very poor, 18% poor, 38% fair, 43% good. Hay, Roughage supply 22% short, 77% adequate, 1% surplus. Lambing complete 92%. Calving complete 87%. Activities: Spreading fertilizer, preparing seedbeds, planting, preparing for irrigation.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.1. Topsoil 3% short, 71% adequate, 26% surplus. Corn 1% planted, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Oats 28% planted, 31% 2003, 43% avg. Alfalfa 1% very poor, 1% poor, 21% fair, 69% good, 8% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 9% poor, 22% fair, 82% good, 1% excellent. Barley 1% poor, 1% fair, 98% good. Spring wheat reported limited last week as soils dried out from earlier rains, farmers waited for ground temperatures to increase for corn to be planted. Activities: Hauling grain, preparing machinery for fieldwork, applying fertilizer, spreading manure.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.5. Topsoil 1% short, 54% adequate, 45% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 3% short, 68% adequate, 27% surplus. Rain early in the week slowed or halted field activities in most areas of the state. Very little fieldwork was accomplished until late in the period or during the weekend. Strong steady winds helped dry out soils during the weekend. Cool weather prevailed during most of the week. Temperatures averaged 2\textdegree below to 6\textdegree above normal for the week. Precipitation averaged 0.7 to 1.56 inches. Tillage of soils made some progress on the lighter type well drained soils. Many farmers were able to accomplished tillage operations last fall after harvest was completed. Spreading of fertilizer, spreading of lime took place in some areas. Farmers kept busy hauling grain to market, making final preparations for the upcoming planting season. A few scattered fields of corn have been planted. Oats have been seeded on some farms. Winter wheat appears to be in mostly good condition. Wheat starting to green up in the northern regions. Hay, forage crops are slow to develop thus far. Winter wheat 12% jointed, 5% 2003, 10% avg. Hay supplies 3% very short, 9% short, 81% adequate, 7% surplus. Pastures 2% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 58% good, 6% excellent. Farmers with grain on hand are happy with the high prices. Livestock are in fair to mostly good condition. Feedlots are muddy. Calving continues. Activities: Cleaning fence rows, cleaning out ditches, installing drainage systems, soil testing, top dressing winter wheat, purchasing supplies, hauling manure, taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.7. Topsoil 2% very short, 8% short, 78% adequate, 12% surplus. Compared to drier conditions last fall, last year at this time, soil moisture ratings were more favorable last week in the state. Warmer temperatures have triggered the onset of spring fieldwork for state farmers. While some areas remain too wet for field activities, other farmers have begun applying fertilizer to hay, pasture ground, re-seeding pastures, planting oats, spreading manure, applying nitrogen. There were multiple reports of tiles running throughout the state. Oat 14% seedings, 26% 2003, 28% 5-yr avg. No significant corn planting has occurred in the state.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 7% very short, 25% short, 62% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 25% very short, 30% short, 41% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture in northwest, west central state remains quite low. Winter wheat 27% jointed, 23% 2003, 25% avg.;
10% very poor, 18% poor, 24% fair, 34% good, 9% excellent; Range, pasture feeds 17% very poor, 24% poor, 37% fair, 19% good, 3% excellent. Feed grain 2% very short, 15% short, 82% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay, forage 2% very short, 22% short, 70% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water 13% very short, 19% short, 65% adequate, 3% surplus

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.9. Topsoil 3% short, 78% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil 6% short, 83% adequate, 11% surplus. Temperatures averaged 49°, 2° below normal. Rainfall statewide was 1.01 inches, which was normal. Land prepared for planting corn, soybeans, tobacco 47%. Tobacco transplants 73% seeded. Roughage requirements livestock are getting from pastures 36%. Winter hay supply still on hand 40%. Winter damage to legume stand: Alfalfa 3%, Red Clover 4%. Fall seeded acreage lost to winter kill: Wheat 6%, Barley 2%. Winter wheat 1% poor, 17% fair, 60% good, 22% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 6% poor, 28% fair, 54% good, 11% excellent

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Soil 4% very short, 27% short, 63% adequate, 6% surplus. Excellent weather conditions allowed producers to progress with field activities. Corn 8% poor, 37% fair, 55% good; 93% planted, 80% last week, 60% 2003, 59% avg.; 61% emerged, 23% last week, 20% 2003, 34% avg. Rice 26% emerged, 0% last week, 16% 2003, 19% avg. Rice producers continued planting but dry conditions were slowing growth. Spring plowing 75% plowed, 54% last week, 60% 2003, 61% avg. Sugarcane 4% very poor, 11% poor, 31% fair, 36% good, 18% excellent. Wheat 2% poor, 17% fair, 78% good, 3% excellent; 54% headed, 25% last week, 20% 2003, 38% avg. Livestock 1% very poor, 8% poor, 43% fair, 43% good, 5% excellent. Vegetable 1% very poor, 8% poor, 53% fair, 37% good, 1% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 11% poor, 50% fair, 33% good, 5% excellent

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.1. Topsoil 48% adequate, 52% surplus. Subsoil 57% adequate, 43% surplus. Barley 2% very poor,5% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 7% poor, 22% fair, 63% good, 6% excellent. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 7% poor, 19% fair, 50% good, 7% excellent. Strawberries 0% planted, 0% 2003, 3% 5-yr avg. Peaches 17% bloomed, 3% 2003, 11% avg. Peaches 17% bloomed, 18% 2003, 25% avg. Green peas 50% planted, 41% 2003, 34% avg. Potatoes 25% planted, 14% 2003, 20% avg. Hay 23% very short, 19% short, 58% adequate. State farmers experienced rainy conditions last week. Precipitation has not been heavy in recent months until last week. Spring planting has begun for vegetable crops such as green peas, potatoes. Field corn, other vegetable crops were soon to be planted in the next few weeks. Strawberries, apples, peaches are starting to bloom. Small grains are in fair to good condition, will begin to form heads assuming the weather remain favorable. Pastures are in good to excellent condition. Hay supplies are short to adequate

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 0% very short, 5% short, 76% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 9% short, 81% adequate, 8% surplus. The week brought variable temperatures, scattered precipitation to the major crop producing areas in the State. Planting activity was limited due to cool temperatures; however, some farmers were able to begin spring fieldwork as fields began drying out. Growers continued to haul manure, spread fertilizer. Activities: Fencing, brush cutting, preparing equipment for tillage, planting. Calving, lambing was in full swing for livestock producers. Fruit growers were pruning trees along with scouting, treating for peach leaf curl, scab infections. Apple growers prepared to thin orchards. Budset was variable across the State

MINNESOTA: Spring fieldwork is underway in a small number of areas. Many areas still have frost on the ground. There is still ice on many lakes. Producers are looking to begin full scale fieldwork soon. Weather conditions across the state are normal.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Soil 11% very short, 47% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 75% planted, 58% 2003, 52% avg.; 27% emerged, 17% 2003, 24% avg.; 3% very poor, 9% poor, 37% fair, 44% good, 7% excellent. Rice 9% planted, 4% 2003, 5% avg. Soybeans 21% planted, 6% 2003, 4% avg.; 5% emerged, 1% 2003, 1% avg.; 3% poor, 24% fair, 69% good, 4% excellent. Wheat 77% jointing, 70% 2003, 72% avg.; 8% heading, 2% 2003, 10% avg.; 3% very poor, 7% poor, 23% fair, 45% good, 22% excellent. Watermelons 36% planted, 43% 2003, 31% avg. Cattle 1% very poor, 11% poor, 26% fair, 55% good, 7% excellent. Pasture 5% very poor, 12% poor, 51% fair, 29% good, 3% excellent. Hay supply 5% short, 92% adequate, 3% surplus. Feed Grain 99% adequate, 1% surplus. Although the state has yet to see any significant spring rainfall, many producers are taking advantage of the dry weather to forge ahead with row crop planting, while others are holding back as a result of the dry soil conditions. Regardless of the situation, a substantial rainfall would be beneficial.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 78% adequate, 14% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 11% short, 83% adequate, 4% surplus. Farmers are busy with tillage for spring crops, with progress ahead of normal in southeastern counties but behind average across central, northern districts which received substantial rainfall in late March. Corn planting ranges from 67% in southeastern district to just getting started in northern two-thirds of State. Wheat, pastures responding to moisture, making growth in all areas. Pastures 6% poor, 37% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Hay supplies 12% short, 75% adequate, 13% surplus. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 6% short, 87% adequate, 5% surplus. Livestock condition 1% poor, 12% fair, 76% good, 11% excellent. Rainfall averaged 0.18 inch, ranging from under 0.10 inch across northern third of State to 0.37 inch in southeast district.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 17% very short, 27% short, 51% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 29% very short, 35% short, 33% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat 6% very poor, 14% poor, 38% fair, 39% good, 3% excellent; breaking dormancy, 6% still dormant, 57% greening, 37% green growing. Barley 12% planted 3% 2003, 3% 5-yr avg. Oats 3% plantings, 1% 5-yr avg. Spring wheat 2% planted, 1% 5-yr avg. Livestock grazing 71% open, 5% difficult, 24% closed. Pasture feeds 5% very poor, 28% poor, 40% fair, 24% good, 3% excellent. Currently, 95% of the cattle, 96% of the sheep are receiving supplemental feed, 2003 96% cattle and sheep. Calving, lambing 63% and 40% respectively. Spring planting has begun with all primary basins holding between 49 and 84% of normal water content. Irrigation was underway on some fields with stream waters, below normal. Light snow fell in Ely with a precipitation content of .29 inch. Grass was 80% complete with losses rated mostly average. Activities: Caring for livestock, treating army cutworms

NEVADA: Temperatures remained well above normal over most of the State. Parts of southern state received much needed rain as Las Vegas recorded .91 inch. Light snow fell in Ely with a precipitation content of .29 inch. Most clouds blew over northern state, leaving little or no precipitation. The warm weather continued to erode river basin snow packs with all primary basins holding between 49 and 84% of normal water content. Irrigation was underway on some fields with stream waters, ditch deliveries were underway in Lyon County. Water supplies for Lovelock again appear adequate. Field preparation was underway, some spring seeding was undertaken. Mint planting was underway in Orovada, fall seeded mint was emerging. Winter triticale, wheat, barley were looking good. Sheep were moving to seasonal range in White Pine County. Some shearing was delayed due to crews being delayed by rains in California. Calving was in full swing. Crickets were noted in Unionville. Activities: Calving, lambing, field preparation, spring planting, equipment maintenance, fence repairs, ditch cleaning, irrigation

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures were unseasonably cool for most of the week, fields received much needed precipitation after the dry winter. Maple syrup producers beginning to tap in Northern Maine, Vermont. Farmers stayed busy tending livestock, tapping maple trees, nursery/greenhouse work, preparing for spring planting season

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 1.9. Top soil 55% adequate, 45% surplus. Irrigation water 8% adequate, 92% surplus. Planting, plowing activities were limited due to wet, cool weather
NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil 4% very short, 41% short, 50% adequate, 5% surplus. One of the most significant precipitation events in recent years developed over the state late in the week as a strong storm system passed over the Southwestern U.S. Heavy rain, mountain snow fell from Friday through Monday. Heaviest precipitation was in two areas, the Middle Rio Grande Valley from Socorro to north of Albuquerque, also the Southeast Plains. In those two areas, precipitation often was over two inches or more. Flash flooding was common with the heavier storms. Temperatures were well above normal early in the week, but below normal toward the end of the week. Consequently, the weekly averages were within a few degrees of normal at most places. Farmers spent the week irrigating, planting chile, cotton. There was 3% light wind damage. Alfalfa 1% poor, 62% fair, 25% good, 12% excellent. Winter wheat 13% very poor, 27% poor, 42% fair, 18% good. Percent of wheat being grazed dropped to 24% from 42% as ranchers are pulling cattle off the fields. Cotton planting has begun, farmers 6% complete. Lettuce conditions were mostly good to excellent. Chile 73% planted, in mostly good condition. Onions were reported in mostly good condition. Ranchers spent the week mending fences, supplementing feed, moving cattle off alfalfa, wheat pasture. Cattle 27% poor, 38% fair, 34% good, 1% excellent. Sheep 3% very poor, 36% poor, 40% fair, 21% good. Range, pasture feeds 30% very poor, 41% poor, 25% fair, 2% good, 2% excellent.

NEW YORK: Warm weather finally made an appearance across the state permitting some producers to begin spring land preparation. However, many fields were still too wet to support machinery. Maple producers have enjoyed good sap flows. By week’s end the maple season neared completion. Producers started clean-up activities.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 4.2. Soil 3% very short, 16% short, 72% adequate, 9% surplus. Activities: Planting cabbage, corn, tobacco land preparation, applying herbicides to cover crops, weed control applications, fertilizing pastures, general farm maintenance. The small grain crops are in need of rainfall. Many fields have had less than an inch of rain since topdressing was applied. The dry spell continues with much of the State, especially in the East, only receiving 1 to 2 inches of precipitation for the week. Conditions range from a little over an inch to almost 9 inches below normal since January 1. Temperatures dipped this week, ranging from 2 to 7 below normal. The cold weather delayed tobacco transplanting.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil 5% very short, 21% short, 63% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 7% very short, 31% short, 58% adequate, 4% surplus. Above normal temperatures, dry conditions led to fieldwork getting underway in several counties. A few farmers have started sowing small grains, but there was no significant planting progress for any crops. The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 14. Hay, forage 1% very short, 12% short, 80% adequate, 7% surplus. Grain, concentrate 0% very short, 4% short, 91% adequate, 5% surplus. Cattle 0% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 64% good, 11% excellent. Calf 0% very poor, 1% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. Sheep 1% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 61% good, 14% excellent. Lamb 1% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 62% good, 15% excellent. Calving 56% complete, lambing 71% complete, shearing 82% complete. Pastures, ranges 86% still dormant, 14% growing.

OHIO: Days suitable for field work 0.7. Topsoil 0% very short, 0% short, 28% adequate, 72% surplus. Oats 2% planted, 5% 2003, 17% avg. Potatoes 1% planted, 1% 2003, 3% avg. Winter wheat 3% jointed, 65% 2003, 6% avg. Apple 1% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 65% good, 11% excellent. Hay 1% very poor, 8% poor, 30% fair, 54% good, 7% excellent. Livestock conditions 1% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 60% good, 13% excellent. Pasture feeds 4% very poor, 8% poor, 35% fair, 48% good, 5% excellent. Peach 1% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 64% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 54% good, 12% excellent. Wet weather continues to cause problems for state’s farmers as the rain came down five days last week. Field activities concluded Monday morning just before the first rain drops began to fall. Activities: Centered around equipment preparation, maintenance. Farmers, during the first few days, were able to plant small amounts of oats, potatoes. Vegetable producers planted sweet corn, cabbage this past week. Dairy farmers are enjoying high milk prices, with a few curdling parts of their herds.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil 4% very short, 29% short, 65% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 6% very short, 32% short, 61% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter Wheat 82% jointing, 62% last week, 76% 2003, 65% avg. Oats 3% very poor, 11% poor, 40% fair, 41% good, 5% excellent; 98% planted, 95% last year, 94% 2003, 94% avg.; 33% jointed in 18% last week. Ok, 26% 2003, 31% avg. Ry e 2% very poor, 7% poor, 21% fair, 58% good, 12% excellent; 90% jointing, 80% last week. n/a 2003, n/a avg. Corn 65% seeded prepared, 50% last week, 64% 2003, 60% avg.; 22% planted, 14% last week, 19% 2003, 16% avg. Sorghum 23% seeded prepared, 15% last week, 31% last year, 27% avg; Soybeans 35% seeded prepared, 32% last week, 33% 2003, 34% avg. Peanuts 32% seeded prepared, 23% last week, 32% 2003, 36% avg. Cotton 59% seeded prepared, 45% last week, 60% 2003, 53% avg. Livestock 2% very poor, 6% poor, 28% fair, 52% good, 12% excellent. Pasture, Range 4% very poor, 17% poor, 44% fair, 30% good, 5% excellent. Livestock: Livestock conditions were very similar to last week with 92% reported in fair to excellent condition. Only 8% were in poor or very poor condition. Milder weather continued to help livestock conditions. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged $97.51 per cwt., down slightly from last week. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds was down $3.81 from last week to average $86.41 per cwt.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil 2% very short, 19% short, 69% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 16% short, 79% adequate, 4% surplus. Barley 60% planted, 26% 2003, 56% 5- yr avg.; 32% emerged, 6% 2003, 2% poor, 44% fair, 42% good, 12% excellent. Spring wheat 62% planted, 47% 2003, 54% 5-yr avg.; 25% emerged, 13% 2003. Winter wheat 4% poor, 37% fair, 46% good, 13% excellent. Range, Pasture 7% poor, 42% fair, 36% good, 15% excellent. Activities: Unseasonably warm weather prevailed over much of the state last week. High temperatures generally ranged in the seventies; Medford, Pendleton, Roseburg, Ontario region got over eighty degrees. March was dry for several eastern state counties, more precipitation desired. Warm weather provided good opportunities for fieldwork, however. In Sherman County, rain early in the week, followed by warm temperatures, helped crop growth. Winter moisture in Morrow County adequate; more is needed to fill soils profiles. Clackamas, Polk counties received some light nighttime frost. Washington County experienced near freezing temperatures early in the week. Producers were working on equipment, preparing fields for planting. Spring planting well underway in some areas. Winter wheat, alfalfa crops appear to have survived winter with very little damage. Statewide, additional rain would be welcomed in order to “kick start” pasture, crop growth. In Wasco County, winter wheat fields came through winter with very little erosion problems. Sugarbeet planting began in Malheur County. Despite a relatively dry March, many irrigation reservoirs in eastern part of the state either full or filling at higher than normal rate. Weather across the state warm for this time of year but too early for planting most vegetables. In the Willamette Valley, vegetable beds were being prepared, rhubarb was up, growing. In Klamath County, fieldwork started, growers were receiving seed potatoes. Onion planting was well underway, potato planting started in Malheur County. Nurseries very busy digging, shipping plant material to out-of-state locations, mainly east of Mississippi River. Greenhouses are showing spring plants. Easter lilies, bedding plants to retail outlets. Planting of Christmas tree fields winding down. Flower growers having their open houses, field days; with warm weather, attendance has been excellent. Field grown Easter lily development was normal on southern state coast. Calving season in full swing with excellent weather conditions for calving reported across the state. Many producers grazing fields earlier than normal in western state due to drier conditions. Most pastures, rangeland are fair to good, with higher moisture conditions would be beneficial for most rangeland, especially drier areas in southeastern state. Many fruits, nuts in various stages of bloom last week. Honey bees were brought into multiple counties to aid in pollination. Most fruits, berries in Lane County near or past full bloom; apples pre-pink in early varieties. Control sprays applied throughout the Willamette Valley on fruit, nut trees. Warm days in Hood River County accelerated bud development in pear, apple, cherry trees. Frost fans,
heating were used early in week when radiation frost conditions developed. Blueberries developed new leaf growth, some blossoms on southern state coast. Cranberry development ranged from white bud, cabbage head to early shoot elongation.

**Pennsylvania:** Days suitable for field work 2.0. Soil 4% very short, 36% adequate, 60% surplus. Spring plowing 16% complete, 6% 2003, 17% avg. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 7% poor, 27% fair, 59% good, 5% excellent. Pasture feeds 7% very poor, 8% poor, 57% fair, 24% good, 4% excellent. Activities: Preparing for planting; spring tillage; spreading fertilizer; spreading manure; pruning fruit trees; repairing fences, machinery; caring for livestock, preparing filing taxes.

**South Carolina:** Days suitable for field work 6.0. Soil 16% very short, 60% short, 23% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 34% planted, 25% 2003, 46% avg.; 49% fair, 51% good. Sorghum 3% planted, 2% 2003, 4% avg. Cotton 0% planted; 1% 2003, 1% avg. Winter Wheat 5% headed, 12% 2003, 15% avg.; 2% poor, 43% fair, 33% good. Barley 1% headed, 3% 2003, 4% avg.; 43% fair, 57% good. Pastures 1% very poor, 17% poor, 47% fair, 33% good. Rye 24% headed, 25% 2003, 26% avg.; 61% fair, 39% good. Oats 8% headed, 15% 2003, 19% avg.; 3% poor, 55% fair, 42% good. Peaches 2% very poor, 7% poor, 16% fair, 45% good, 30% excellent. Snapberries 30% planted, 29% 2003, 33% avg.; 3% fair, 97% good. Cucumbers 40% planted, 43% 2003, 4% avg.; 15% fair, 85% good. Watermelons 18% planted, 24% 2003, 43% avg.; 33% poor, 60% fair, 7% good. Tomatoes 45% planted, 47% 2003, 40% avg.; 39% fair, 61% good. Cantaloupes 29% planted, 21% 2003, 25% avg.; 84% fair, 16% good. Livestock 4% poor, 35% fair, 54% good, 7% excellent.

**South Dakota:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.3. Topsoil 10% very short, 26% short, 60% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 31% very short, 35% short, 32% adequate, 2% surplus. Feed supplies 6% very short, 21% short, 70% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 29% very short, 24% short, 47% adequate. Winter Wheat breaking dormancy 94%, 83% 2003, 62% avg. Cattle 1% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, 16% excellent. Sheep 1% fair, 71% good, 16% excellent. Range, Pasture 14% very poor, 22% poor, 42% fair, 21% good, 1% excellent. Calving 48% complete. Lambing 54% complete. Cattle moved to pasture 4% complete. Calf deaths 30% below avg.; 69% avg.; 1% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths 19% below avg.; 81% average. Expected average date to start spring field work statewide March 31*. State had another week of predominately dry weather, with temperatures above normal for the majority of the state. Activities: Hauling grain, calving, lambing, feeding livestock, fixing fences, preparing for, seeding of small grains.

**Tennessee:** Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 3% short, 86% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 4% short 84% adequate, 12% surplus. Wheat 59% jointed, 46% 2003, 46% avg.; 91% top-dressed, 97% 2003, 92% avg.; 16% fair, 53% good, 25% excellent. Corn 21% planted, 28% 2003, 12% avg. Apples 83% budding or beyond, 71% 2003, 70% avg.; 42% blooming or beyond, 37% 2003, 32% avg.; 10% fair, 86% good, 4% excellent. Peaches 92% budding or beyond, 85% 2003, 89% avg.; 66% blooming or beyond, 58% 2003, 64% avg. Pastures 2% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 13% excellent. Cattle 2% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, 15% excellent. Alfalfa hay 1% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, 11% excellent. Other hay 2% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 10% excellent. The 2004 farming season is underway, growers report most activities are on-schedule after a relatively mild winter. The wheat crop made it through the winter in good shape, most of the acreage has been top-dressed. Pastures are greening-up, hay supplies remain adequate. Corn planting progress has advanced rapidly due to warm, dry weather the last half of March. Tobacco growers are monitoring the growth of transplants in greenhouses. Activities: Fertilizing pastures, herbicide applications, land preparation for planting cotton. With the mild winter, the State’s apple, peach crops have avoided any major frost damage. Precipitation last week was slightly below average, with the driest portion in the western part of the State.

**Texas:** Agricultural Summary: Warm, sunny weather was experienced over most areas of the state. By week’s end, an upper level low in northern state triggered numerous severe storms over large areas of the State. The western half of the state generally received rainfall accumulations ranging from a trace to 1/2 inch. Isolated locations received up to 2 inches. The South Plains, Trans Pecos experienced some of the most severe weather. Torrential downpours of up to 4 inches fell along with large accumulations of hail in these areas. Some tornadoes were observed, but caused only limited damage. Storms were also experienced in areas from the Edwards Plateau to South Central State, the Upper Coast. As much as 2 to 3 inches of rain were reported over widespread areas. Large hail fell in parts of the Winter Garden area. Those locations that missed the severe conditions received a trace to 1/2 inch accumulations for the week. The severe storms were just beginning to break up by the Rio Grande Valley for the remaining period. Eastern portions of the Upper Coast, as well as most of the northern Panhandle, North Central, East State recorded light or no rainfall. One isolated area of East State reported up to 2 inches. Soil moisture improved where rain fell, was at a surplus in some areas. Field work was very active across the State until the late week storm. Land preparations, planting of various summer crops moved forward in all regions. Cotton growers were focused on rapid pasturing, lodging, foaling, foaling were ongoing. Some fielded plants were approaching boot stage. Irrigation resumed in some fields. Many fields were still being grazed, some fields were expected to be cut for hay within the next few weeks. Russian wheat aphids, greenbugs, brown wheat miles were becoming an increasing problem. In the Blacklands, Central State, many fields were heading out. Powdery mildew worsened in many fields, rust was starting to appear. Producers were spraying accordingly. Wheat 65% normal, 65% 2003. Corn: Land preparation, some pre watering continued in the Panhandle. Planting was expected to begin within the next few weeks. Planting was mostly complete throughout the Blacklands, Central State. Only a few locations were not finished. Most fields were in good condition. Corn in the Rio Grande Valley was progressing well. Cotton: South Plains cotton producers were busy with lated preparations, including pre-estabishment. Tobacco growers in the Trans Pecos were getting ready to fill ponds, stock larve

**Utah:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Subsoil 9% very short, 24% short, 67% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter Wheat 3% very poor, 9% poor, 26% fair, 54% good, 8% excellent; freeze damage 57% none, 37% light, 6% moderate, 0% severe. Spring Wheat 46% planted, 61% 2003, 44% avg.; 10% emerged, 16% 2003, 12% avg. Barley 45% planted, 63% 2003, 39% avg.; 10% emerged, 21% 2003, 11% avg. Oats 21% planted, 33% 2003, 20% avg. Corn 0% planted, 0% 2003, 0% avg. Cows Calved 62%, 66% 2003, 63% avg. Cattle, calves 0% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 63% good, 13% excellent. Sheep 0% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 67% good, 9% excellent. Range, Pasture 3% very poor, 24% poor, 42% fair, 30% good, 1% excellent. Sheep Sheared On Farm 39%, 60% 2003, 51%. On Range 27%, 41% 2003, 21% avg. On Farm 66%, 61% 2003, 58% avg.; On Range 20%, 34% 2003, 27% avg. Apples Full Bloom Or Past 0%, 0% 2003, 0% avg. Apricots full Bloom Or Past 34%, 71% 2003, 79% avg. Sweet Cherries full Bloom Or Past 1%, 5% 2003, 2% avg. Tart Cherries full Bloom Or Past 0%. Peaches, Full Bloom
Or Past 0%, 34% 2003, 9% avg. Pears, Full Bloom Or Past 0%, 41% 2003, 11% avg. Activities: Plowing, planting, spraying winter grains, corrugating alfalfa fields, caring or livestock. Higher than normal temperatures have started snowpack melt early, have sealed many producers fears for a sixth year of drought. Box Elder county reports dryland winter wheat is doing very poorly. There have been some reports of acreage being plowed under, safflower being planted. Tulee county is starting to see Mormon Crickets hatching. Signs are pointing to a worse than usual 2003 in year infestation. Warm spring weather, an average winter has created ideal conditions for the crickets. Mountain counties are reporting snow, rain this last week. Every drop of precipitation is welcomed but has caused some delays in field work. Livestock are in good condition. Producers continued lambing, calving activities as well as shearing sheep.

**WISCONSIN:** Precipitation during the past week was trace amounts in most parts of the state with up to less than an inch in the southeastern part of the state. Temperature ranged in the low fifties this past week which was above the average for this time of year which is in the low to mid 40’s. Average temperatures were about 4° above normal. Soil conditions appear to be drying out. Farmers are now preparing their field equipment to start field preparations for spring planting.

**WASHINGTON:** Days suitable for field work 6.4. Topsoil 2% very short, 30% short, 67% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 18% very short, 19% short, 63% adequate. Irrigation water 100% adequate. The highest temperature in the state was 79° in Olympia. The lowest temperature in the state was 24° in Deer Park, Republic. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 6% poor, 44% fair, 43% good, 5% excellent. Spring wheat 55% planted, 20% emerged, 63% fair, 35% good, 2% excellent. Barley 40% planted, 10% emerged. Some barley, spring wheat plantings were almost two weeks ahead of schedule. Winter wheat is in fair to good condition. Douglas, Chelan Counties report possible snow mold, Garfield County reported some recent browning of winter wheat. Potatoes 1% planted. Corn 3% planted. Dry peas 1% planted. Processing green peas 35% planted. Christmas tree growers finished planting, applied herbicides, fertilizers. Hay, other roughage 82% adequate, 18% surplus. Range, pasture feeds 6% poor, 31% fair, 63% good. In the eastern side of the state, some producers began their first harvest of green chop, dairies were pumping manure onto their fields. Cattle herds were moved to new pastures have begun greening up, however, a few pastures are behind. Farmers labored on preparing fields for corn, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, soybeans. Good progress was made on fertilizer, lime applications. Activities: Farmers protecting their strawberries from cold, vegetable producers laboring in their greenhouses, cattlemen marketing cattle, farmers preparing to cut alfalfa.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for field work 1.0. Topsoil 65% adequate, 35% surplus, 2003 6% short, 78% adequate, 16% surplus. Intended acreage prepared for spring 14% planting, 25% in 2003, 27% 5-yr avg. Hay, roughage 2% very short, 8% short, 73% adequate, 17% surplus, 22% very short, 48% short, 29% adequate, 1% surplus 2003. Feed grain 3% very short, 16% short, 81% adequate, to 2% very short, 11% short, 87% adequate 2003. Corn 2% planted, 1% 2003. Oats 7% planted, 27% 2003, 16% 5-yr avg.; 1% emerged, 3% 2003. Tobacco beds 72% seeded, 62% 2003, 57% 5-yr avg. Winter wheat 41% fair, 53% good, 6% excellent. Hay 10% poor, 39% fair, 49% good, 2% excellent. Apples 20% fair, 80% good. Peaches 20% fair, 80% good. Cattle, calves 3% poor, 27% fair, 64% good, 6% excellent. Calving 81% complete, 75% in 2003, 70% 5-yr avg. Sheep, lambs 2% poor, 40% fair, 55% good, 3% excellent. Lambing 79% complete, 77% in 2003, 77% 5-yr avg. Activities: Machine maintenance, plowing, field preparation, fence building, livestock feeding.

**VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 3.0. Topsoil 13% short, 70% adequate, 17% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 8% short, 79% adequate, 11% surplus. The Commonwealth was cold, wet this week, with most areas experiencing up to one inch of rain. Although it did not rain hard, it did rain consistent. Despite the recent rain fall, most counties are still short on precipitation for this time of year. Temperatures were down this week, averaging about 5° below the State’s norm. The cool temperatures, rain have limited forage growth in several places. Most pastures have begun greening up, however, a few pastures are behind. Farmers labored on preparing fields for corn, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, soybeans. Good progress was made on fertilizer, lime applications. Activities: Farmers protecting their strawberries from cold, vegetable producers laboring in their greenhouses, cattlemen marketing cattle, farmers preparing to cut alfalfa.

**WYOMING:** Days suitable for field work 6.3. Topsoil 22% very short, 43% short, 34% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 29% very short, 38% short, 33% adequate. Barley 57% planted, 35% 2003, 39% 5-yr avg.; 4% emerged, 4% 2003, 3% 5-yr avg. Oats 19% planted, 2% 2003, 6% 5-yr avg. Spring wheat 14% planted, 2% 2003, 10% 5-yr avg. Sugarbeets 2% planted. Winter wheat 18% poor, 51% fair, 31% good. Spring calves born 62%, 58% 2003, 63% 5-yr avg. Farm flock ewes lamb 67%, 60% 2003, 67% 5-yr avg. Farm flock sheep shorn 70%, 2003 66%, 68% 5-yr avg. Range flock ewes lamb 11%, 8% 2003, 5-yr 12% avg. Range flock sheep shorn 33%, 28% 2003, 28% 5-yr avg. Calf, lamb losses remained mostly normal to light. Condition of cattle, calves mostly good. Condition of sheep, lambs mostly good. Range, pasture feed 9% very poor, 14% poor, 50% fair, 26% good, 1% excellent. Hay, roughage 2% very short, 2% short, 90% adequate, 6% surplus. Temperatures were above normal at all stations. Temperatures ranged from 4.4° above normal in Greybull, Worland to 11° above normal in Big Piney. The highest temperature was 83° in Torrington, the lowest temperature was 17° in Big Piney, Deaver, Redbird, Archer. Precipitation was below normal at almost all stations. Almost all stations reported less than a tenth of an inch for the week. The most precipitation fell in Afton, Lander with 0.34 inch, Cody with 0.18 inch, Powell with 0.11 inch.