**Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories**

**ALABAMA:** Days suitable for fieldwork was 6.0. Topsoil 19% very short, 50% short, 27% adequate, 4% surplus. Corn 40% planted, 39% 2003, 41% avg. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 4% poor, 19% fair, 74% good, 2% excellent. Pasture feed 8% very poor, 15% poor, 53% fair, 22% good, 2% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 26% fair, 51% good, 12% excellent. Ground preparation continues for spring planting. Activities: Fertilizing pastures, fungicide, insecticide applications on fruit crops.

**ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures for the State were slightly above normal for the second week of April. Small grains heading is well underway. Durum 58% Wheat, 50% winter, 55% barley, 60% other Small Grains headed, which is ahead of the previous, five year estimate. Alfalfa conditions remain good to excellent. Cotton 16% planting which is ahead of previous year. Precipitation was reported at 14 of the 17 reporting stations. Precipitation ranged from 1.02 inches at Canyon De Chelly, 0.03 inches at Parker.

**ARKANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Soil 0% very short, 14% short, 75% adequate, 11% surplus. Corn 76% planted, 73% 2003, 53% 5-yr avg.; 41% emerged, 28% 2003, 12% 5-yr avg. Soybeans 7% planted, 2% 2003, 1% 5-yr avg. Sorghum 20% planted, 17% 2003, 14% 5-yr avg. Cotton 0% harvested, 0% 2003, 0% 5-yr avg. Rice 31% planted, 18% 2003, 9% 5-yr avg.; 1% emerged, 1% 2003, 0% 5-yr avg. Wheat 13% headed, 1% 2003, 9% 5-yr avg.; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 34% fair, 52% good, 12% excellent. Hay-Other condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 49% fair, 42% good, 6% excellent. Hay-Alfalfa condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 54% fair, 45% good, 0% excellent. Pasture, range feed1% very poor, 5% poor, 34% fair, 51% good, 9% excellent. CROPS: The state is ahead of schedule on planting both corn, rice. Rain near the week's end helped to activate rice herbicide, after topdressing dried out earlier in the week. Soil temperatures must improve in order for early soybeans, rice to emerge. The eastern portion of the state is continuing to prepare the ground for soybeans, cotton, through burndown. Despite the threat of stripe rust, the wheat crop remains in good condition. LIVESTOCK: Livestock are in good condition. Producers are selling cull cows. Pasture, hay fields are receiving herbicide applications to control weed population.

**CALIFORNIA:** Warm weather benefitted the growth, development of small grain crops. Seed head development was noted in most fields. Irrigated fields of winter wheat were reported to be in good condition. However, many dryland wheat fields were reported to be in poor condition due to a lack of rainfall. Fungicide applications to control leaf disease were almost complete. Fields of wheat, oats, winter forage were cut for hay, silage. 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 seed, vineseed was underway. Alfalfa fields continued to be cut, windrowed, and baled. Some fields were irrigated and 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 planting. Newly planted fields had emerged, were showing vigorous growth. Rice fields were being prepared for planting. Some dry bean fields were treated with pre-emergent herbicides. Sugar beet plantings developed at a rapid pace. Cultivation, irrigation, insecticide treatments were applied in many fields to bring harvest ready fields to harvest, 1% 5-yr avg. Potato harvesting continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Warm weather accelerated the development of lilies. Fungicide applications began in grape vineyards as warmer weather increased the disease threat from mildew. Vines in raisin, wine, table grape vineyards were growing rapidly, bloom appeared imminent. Irrigation, cultivation, herbicide treatments were underway. Leaf, bunch thinning continued in early variety table grapes. Bloom sprays continued in many pome fruit orchards. Insect control treatments began in some areas.罝dows were also busy grafting new varieties onto existing fruit trees. Kiwifruit vines were in the shoot elongation stage, some growers began thinning canes. Blueberries and strawberries were gaining size under optimal weather conditions. Strawberries were maturing rapidly, picked for commercial shipments, sales at roadside stands. Bloom continued in many citrus orchards. Insect control treatments began in orchards where the bloom period had ended and beehives had been removed. The Navel orange harvest was approximately 70% complete. Demand slowed in anticipation of the Easter holiday, but quality was holding up well as temperatures moderated. Picking crews were busy in Valencia orange, Minneola orchards. Lemon harvesting continued as the market continued to strengthen. Almond orchards were showing good nut development. Irrigation was underway in many orchards. Late variety walnuts, pecans in southern locations started to leaf out, catkins were falling. In other areas, walnut trees were blooming, were treated for blight, San Jose scale. Pistachio trees were leafing out. Vegetable planting continued at a rapid pace in many locations. Generally warm weather conditions were beneficial to growth. Irrigation, cultivation, fertilizer application, fumigation were underway as growers worked to keep pace with the demands of plant growth. Field preparations continued in areas where planting had not commenced. Planting of eggplant, okra, sweet corn, peppers, fresh market, processing tomatoes continued. Melon crops were being planted along the Central Coast. Broccoli, spinach, tomato, lettuce fields were showing good development. Onions and garlic for fresh market and process were growing steadily. Asparagus harvesting continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Carrot harvesting continued Kern County. Broccoli, head lettuce, cauliflower continued to be harvested in Monterey County. The following vegetables were also harvested: beets, bok choy, cabbage, cilantro, daikon, fennel, green beans, green onions, kale, kankon, leeks, leaf, romaine lettuce, mustard greens, radicchio, radishes, snow peas, spinach, sugar peas, Swiss chard, tong ho, turnips, you choy. Good pasture feeds were reported in some parts of the State. However, pasture, rangeland conditions were declining overall due to warm, dry weather conditions. Livestock conditions were good. Cattle were being moved to markets in Central state. Cattle weight gain appeared normal. Sheep grazed in pastures, in a few alfalfa fields. Some sheep were moved to desert grazing land. Spring lambs were being moved to market in the central area. Bees were active in blooming citrus orchards.
COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.6. Topsoil 26% very short, 44% short, 28% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 56% very short, 31% short, 13% adequate, 0% surplus. The Front Range, eastern plains received anywhere from a half inch to nearly two inches of moisture. Temperatures for the week were above average with exception of the cold temperatures at the end of the week. Spring barley 33% seeded, 34% 2003, 38% avg.; 17% emerged, 10% 2003, 11% avg. Dry onion 71% planted, 57% 2003, 58% avg.; 4% very poor, 15% poor, 35% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. Summer potatoes 14% planted, 15% 2003, 24% avg. Sugar beets 45% planted, 24% 2003, 31% avg. Spring wheat 24% planted, 27% 2003, 29% avg.; 6% emerged, 6% 2003, 9% avg. Cows 75% calved, 72% 2003, 70% avg. Eves 65% lambed, 64% 2003, 63% avg.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Topsoil 80% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil 87% adequate, 13% surplus. Barley 4% poor, 20% fair, 64% good, 12% excellent. Winter wheat 3% poor, 19% fair, 65% good, 13% excellent. Pasture feed 14% poor, 14% fair, 72% good. Strawberries 10% bloomed, 2% 2003, 19% avg. Apples 8% bloomed, 8% 2003, 19% avg. Peaches 27% bloomed, 45% 2003, 53% avg. Snap 9% beans, 5% 2003, 7% avg. Green peas 40% planted, 35% 2003, 40% avg. Potatoes 29% planted, 12% 2003, 30% avg. State farmers experienced a few days of cool, wet weather. Air temperatures averaged around 45° with many areas receiving close to a half an inch of precipitation. Despite the cool, wet weather, farmers made good progress with planting green peas, potatoes. A few acres of snap beans, field corn, sweet corn were planted. Small grains remain in fair to good condition. Grain heads should begin to form as soon as the weather becomes warmer. Hay supplies continue to be in short supply in many areas.

FLORIDA: Topsoil 15% very short, 40% short, 44% adequate. 1% surplus. Subsoil 10% very short, 45% short, 45% adequate, Temperature average; normal to 2°, below, major cities. Daytime highs: 70s, 80s; Palmdale, West Palm Beach recorded at least one high in 90s Nighttime lows: 40s, 50s, 60s; some northern Peninsula, Panhandle localities reported at least one low in 30s; Jay in extreme western Panhandle reported no lows below 50. Rainfall: none, many locations from Homestead to Jay, to about 1.00 in. Pensacola, MacClenny. Significant storms, Sunday, April 11 mostly crossed over central Peninsula, a few southern Peninsula areas, but broadened to include both northern, southern Peninsula on Monday, April 12. These thundershowers brought from traces to over 2.50 in. rain, Sunday, April 11 to many Peninsula localities but missed most Panhandle, many northern Peninsula areas. Cotton planting started, Jackson County; low soil temperatures, hard soils causing most Panhandle, northern Peninsula producers to wait on warmer, earlier weather. Spring crop planting on schedule for cotton, St. Johns County. Corn planting, land preparations for cotton, peanut planting nearly finished, Washington County. Pecans budding out, Jefferson County. Rain near mid-week; Baker County, boosted tobacco growth. Topsoil, subsoil moisture short to adequate, Panhandle; very short to short, northern Peninsula; short to mostly adequate, central, southern Peninsula. Washington, Jackson, Madison, Taylor, Baker, Union, Marion, Volusia, Brevard, St. Lucie, Charlotte, Broward, Dade counties reported some very short soil moisture. Okeechobee County reported a few localities with surplus soil moisture. Strong winds, Madison County, tossing some irrigated vegetable plants. Central, northern Peninsula producers picking blueberries; very light supplies available. Okra harvesting, very light amounts, underway, Dade County. A few southern Peninsula producers picking very small quantities of watermelons. Strawberry harvesting nearly finished, Plant City area. Other vegetables available; snap beans, cabbage, cantaloupe, watermelons, eggplant, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, tomatoes. Very light supplies, endive, escarole, lettuce, remain available as harvesting nears end. Variable temperatures with limited rainfall at end of week reported, low’s in 40s, highs in 80s, bloom complete all citrus areas, with extensive irrigation trees in excellent condition, harvest complete on early-mids, near weekly peak on Valencia’s, grapefruit full harvest, beginning to decline, tangerines declining, Tempeles near complete. Pasture feed 5% very poor, 15% poor, 60% fair, 20% good. Cattle condition 15% poor, 50% fair, 35% good. Permanent pastures starting to green in localities receiving recent rains. Most Panhandle, northern Peninsula pastures need rain. Most surface ponds, Panhandle, northern Peninsula low. Earlier rains, Madison County boosted winter grazing growth. Most pastures deteriorated due to continued dry weather; most northern Peninsula grazing poor to fair; most pasture, Panhandle and central, southern Peninsula rated fair to good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 5.9. Soil 19% very short, 54% short, 27% adequate. Corn 6% poor, 46% fair, 44% good, 4% excellent; 62% emerged, 33% 2003, 60% avg. Hay 5% very poor, 19% poor, 53% fair, 21% good, 2% excellent. Peanuts 0% planted, 0% 2003, 0% avg. Sorghum 4% planted, 1% 2003, 5% avg. Tobacco 3% poor, 52% fair, 42% good, 3% excellent; 46% transplanted, 20% 2003, 52% avg. Wheat 93% jointing, 94% 2003, 92% avg.; 67% boot, 74% 2003, 75% avg. Onions 6% very poor, 14% poor, 45% fair, 27% good 8% excellent; 6% harvested, 1% 2003, 2% avg. Watermelons 8% poor, 58% fair, 30% good, 7% excellent; 65% planted, 54% 2003, 52% avg. Apples 99% good, 1% excellent; 47% blooming, 41% 2003, 37% avg. Peaches 7% very poor, 9% poor, 41% fair, 43% good; 98% blooming, 94% 2003, 95% avg. Widely scattered showers fell across the State late in the week. Showers brought little relief to dry fields. Dry conditions persisted throughout the State. More rain is needed to replenish soil moisture. Dry conditions have slowed spring planting, hurt crops in the field. Producers prepared land for spring planting, including irrigating hard ground prior to plowing. Operators took soil samples, applied fungicides, lime, fertilizer. Field preparations for peanuts, cotton began in fields in south state. Livestock producers continued supplemental feeding. Activities: Routine care of livestock, poultry.

HAWAII: Except for a few passing showers during the week, mostly dry weather occurred throughout the State. However, a stalled shear line over the Big Island dumped over seven inches of rain, caused flooding in windward fields. Bananas, papayas were drying out after past months’ showers, but became soaked again by the weekend’s rains. Vegetable crops were in fair condition, making slow progress.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.50. Topsoil 3% very short, 28% short, 69% adequate. Some precipitation was reported for the state. Sugarbeet planting is in full swing, nearly all of the grains have been planted. Crop emergence has been seen in throughout the state. Oats 37% planted, 33% 2003, 16% avg.; 12% emerged, 8% 2003, 2% avg. Onions 88% planted, 93% 2003, 81% avg.; 42% emerged, 28% 2003, 18% avg. Dry peas 53% planted, 8% 2003, 11% avg.; 10% emerged, 1% 2003, 0% avg. Potatoes 3% planted, 4% 2003, 4% avg. Irrigation water supply 5% very poor, 17% poor, 41% fair, 37% good. Hay, Roughage supply 1% very short, 14% short, 75% adequate, 10% surplus. Lambing complete 95%. Calving complete 90%. Activities: Spreading fertilizer, planting, preparing for irrigation.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil 1% very short, 19% short, 71% adequate, 9% surplus. Oats 79% planted, 58% 2003, 63% avg. Alfalfa 5% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, 10% excellent. Pasture 6% poor, 20% fair, 65% good, 9% excellent. There were generally good weather conditions around the state last week, with fieldwork picking up as the week progressed. Corn planting has started across the state as all districts had at least one percent of the corn planted. Livestock is in good condition with the mild spring so far. Activities: Grain preparation, applying fertilizers, chemicals.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Topsoil 1% very short, 8% short, 77% adequate, 14% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 7% short, 77% adequate, 14% surplus. Excellent week for fieldwork. Soils became progressively drier during the week. Subsoil dry in some areas. Very little precipitation. Several fields of corn planted in the southern region, especially the southwest. Tillage of soils, spreading fertilizer, spraying chemicals were the major activities. Temperatures averaged 5° below to 3° above normal for the week. Precipitation averaged 0 to 0.27 inches. Farmers were hauling grain to market, taking advantage of the high prices. Seeding of oats was in full swing. Winter wheat still looks good, thin spots in some fields. Hay, forage crops improving. Winter wheat 26% jointed, 20% 2003, 25% avg. Hay supplies 2% very short, 10% short, 80% adequate, 8% surplus. Pastures 1% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 58% good, 8% excellent. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Feedlots are drying up. Calving, lambing continued. Activities: Spreading lime, preparing equipment, cleaning out ditches, fence rows, installing drainage systems, seeding legumes, purchasing supplies, hauling manure, taking care of livestock.
were applying spray for Peach leaf Curl, copper for Bacterial Canker in sweet cherries. Pruning, training of young trees continued.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil 15% very short, 40% short, 40% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 17% very short, 43% short, 39% adequate, 1% surplus. Oat 84% ground prepared, 4% 2003, 4% avg. Soybeans 1% ground prepared, 0% 2003, 1% avg. Approximate date full-scale fieldwork will begin is April 16, 2004. Farmers in most areas of the state took advantage of the dry spring weather to begin field activity during the past week. Small grain seeding progressed quickly in southern parts of the state, but the major wheat, barley production region of the Red River Valley has just begun with seeding. The far northern counties still have lake ice, melting snow drifts, frost in the ground, major field work is a week or more in the future. In southern state, access to fields is easy, with most normally wet spots relatively dry. Statewide average temperature for the week was 41.4°, which is 1.8° above normal.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Topsoil 22% very short, 31% short, 46% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 39% very short, 35% short, 26% adequate, 0% surplus. Oat 64%, seedings, 39% 2003, 48% avg. 3% excellent. Currently, 84% of the cattle, 74% of the sheep are receiving supplemental feed. Calving, lambing are at normal. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.03 in. statewide, 0.95 in. for western Nebraska Seneca area. Oat 63% planting, 42% 2003, 49% avg.; 10% emerged, 4% 2003, 11% avg. Sugar beets 24% planted. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Calving 86% complete with losses rated mostly
NEVADA: Rains fell in eastern state early in the week while high pressure kept storms clear of western state. Average temperatures remained well above normal statewide. Snows continued to recede during the warm days. River basin snow packs for the primary rivers fell to 32 to 76% of normal. Warm weather had plants greening, growing. Weed spraying became active. Irrigation was becoming more common. Ditch cleaning was underway in later irrigation regions. Field preparation, Spring grain planting advanced. Fall seeded grains were in mostly good condition. Mint planting continued in Orovada. Calving continued in full swing, branding was underway. Shearing, lambing were underway. Activities: Calving, lambing, field preparation, spring planting, ditch cleaning, irrigation.

NEW ENGLAND: Seasonal temperatures across the state during the week. Scattered snow showers in the North on Monday. Maple sugaring activities winding down in the south. Northern Vermont, Maine progressing as temperatures cooperate. Activities: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, tapping maple trees, performing general maintenance, continuing to prepare preparations for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 4.8. Soil 91% adequate, 9% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures were below normal in most areas of the state for much of the week. Irrigation water supplies 58% adequate, 42% surplus. Farmers were busy fertilizing, plowing, planting where conditions allowed. Barley, hay, winter wheat fields were rated fair to good condition. Sweet corn stalks emerged in some plastic covered fields. Plastic mulch was laid in preparation for planting vegetables in central, southern portions of the state. Greenhouse grown cabbage was ready for transplanting in some localities. Most other greenhouse grown vegetables are awaiting warmer weather before transplanting activities will occur. Spring season vegetables, potatoes were planted in some locations. Peaches, apples were rated in mostly fair condition. Blueberries were rated mostly in good condition. There were reports of frost damage to some small strawberry plants in the southern portions of the state.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.3. Topsoil 3% very short, 39% short, 49% adequate, 9% surplus. Stormy weather continued over the state for the second consecutive week as several features interacted with moist air over the state. Over one third of the reporting stations measured over an inch of precipitation, Clayton, Clovis both measured over 2 inches. Severe storms also produced some hail, a few tornados over the eastern plains on Wednesday. Much colder air brought some snow to parts of the state late in the week. Temperatures were generally below normal statewide, especially over the east. With the increased moisture, weather conditions, farmers were not able to do much in the fields which slowed corn, upland cotton planting. Alfalfa weevils have been spotted, farmers are treating fields. There was 14% light wind damage, 2% severe damage reported. Damage was reported to sprinklers, barns, alfalfa, small grains, a dairy reported losing two cows, calves. Alfalfa 58% fair, 33% good, 9% excellent 5% 1st cutting complete. Cotton 10% planted, corn 3% planted. Winter wheat 18% very poor, 10% poor, 40% fair, 32% good, 3% reported to be headed. Lettuce conditions remain mostly good to excellent. Chile conditions 26% fair, 54% good, 20% excellent, 80% planted. Onion conditions dropped slightly and are in mostly fair to good condition. Ranchers spent the week feeding cattle in hopes that the increased moisture will help pasture feeds soon. Cattle conditions 1% very poor, 20% poor, 41% fair, 37% good, 1% excellent. Sheep conditions 2% very poor, 29% poor, 46% fair, 23% good. Range, pasture feeds 22% very poor, 32% poor, 36% fair, 7% good, 3% excellent.

NEW YORK: Warmer weather dominated the state, permitting outside activities to progress rapidly. As fields dried, spring plowing gained momentum. Producers continued grading, packing, moving potatoes, onions, apples to market. Maple syrup activities were limited to cleaning up equipment, putting it away for the year. Activities: Spreading manure, tending livestock, pruning fruit trees, repairing fences, machinery, preparing for spring planting.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 6.1. Soil 5% very short, 32% short, 59% adequate, 4% surplus. Activities: Planting cabbage, corn, tobacco land preparation, fertilizing pastures, moving cattle to summer pastures, general farm maintenance. The small grain crops are in need of rainfall as many fields have had less than an inch of rain since topdressing was applied. Much of the State received a hard freeze during the first part of the week with low temperatures for the week ranging from 25 to 35°F. The dry weather pattern continued with most of the State receiving less than a half inch of precipitation. The dry conditions allowed farmers to make substantial gains in field work, especially corn planting.

OHIO: Days suitable for field work 2.8. Topsoil 0% very short, 1% short, 60% adequate, 39% surplus. Oats 14% planted, 11% 2003, 31% avg.; 1% emerged, 1% 2003, 6% avg. Potatoes 3% planted, 3%, 8% avg. Winter wheat 13% jointed, 13% 2003, 15% avg. Hay conditions 1% very poor, 6% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 8% excellent. Alfalfa 95% jointing, 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 77% good, 6% excellent. Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 77% good, 6% excellent. Calving 68% complete, lambing 79% complete, shearing 86% complete. Pastures, ranges 79% still dormant, 21% growing.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Topsoil 2% very short, 21% short, 75% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 7% very short, 28% short, 63% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter Wheat 93% jointing, 82% last week, 87% 2003, 75% avg. Oats 2% very poor, 9% poor, 41% fair, 45% good, 3% excellent; 50% jointing, 33% last week, 44% 2003, 44% avg. Rye 1% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 72% good, 10% excellent; 95% jointing, 90% last week. Corn 76% seedbed prepared, 65% last week, 69% 2003, 71% avg.; 28% planted, 22% last week, 22% 2003, 22% avg. Sorghum 30% seedbed prepared, 23% last week, 39% 2003, 33% avg. Soybeans 46% seedbed prepared, 35% last week, 37% 2003, 41% avg. Peanuts 40% seedbed prepared, 32% last week, 45% 2003, 50% avg. Cotton 68% seedbed prepared, 59% last week, 72% 2003, 67% avg. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 58% good, 13% excellent. Pasture, Range 3% very poor, 14% poor, 43% fair, 36% good, 4% excellent. Livestock: Livestock conditions improved slightly from the previous week. This week’s livestock conditions came in at 13% excellent, 58% good, 24% fair, 4% poor, 1% very poor. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged $100.06 per cwt., up from last week. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds was also up from last week, averaging $91.90 per cwt.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil 7% very short, 35% short, 53% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 4% very short, 24% short, 70% adequate, 2% surplus. Barley 65% planted, 60% previous week, 50% 2003, 66% 5-yr avg.; 36% emerged, 32% previous week, 22% 2003, 3% poor, 43% fair, 44% good, 10% excellent. Spring wheat 68% planted, 62% previous week, 70% 2003, 68% 5-yr avg.; 25% emerged, 25% previous week, 38% 2003. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 6% poor, 37% fair, 42% good, 14% excellent. Range, Pasture 5% very
poor, 11% poor, 42% fair, 32% good, 10% excellent. Activities: Unseasonably warm, dry conditions continued over the State last week. Precipitation was non-existent in most areas. Warm weather allowed fieldwork to progress ahead of schedule in some areas. High temperatures reached the lower eighties in western state, the upper seventies in several eastern state areas. Warm nights in the Willamette Valley limited the need for frost fans. High winds in Union County caused occasional soil erosion. The Dalles recorded 60 growing degree days (Base 50°F), highest for the week. Spring, barley planting was full swing last week. Dry weather across much of the State allowed for good planting progress. However, many areas haven’t had significant precipitation since mid-March, that was having an adverse effect on already emerged crops. Early irrigation started in Baker, Umatilla counties because of the dry conditions. Above normal temperatures accelerated crop growth Statewide. Herbicide applications to grain, grass crops got underway, while earlier than normal due to warmer temperatures in western region. In western region, fields were prepared for sweet corn, tomatoes, other vegetable crops. Garlic, shallots, late potatoes, chard, kale was showed up at farmers markets. In Washington County, rhubarb was ready to eat, green peas reported to be growing rapidly. In Central state, winter protective fabric was being removed from carrots. Greenhouse, nursery activity was in full swing with most greenhouses opened, showing good color. Lots of planting, moving of plants, irrigation, watering container going on. Weather has been very good for sales. Plastic sheets installed, growers were busy digging ornamentals, shipping plants. Unseasonably warm weather advanced many fruits throughout the State with the help of increased bee activity. Sherman County fruit trees were about two weeks ahead of schedule, Yamhill County was 10 to 12 days ahead of schedule. Marion County fruits, berries were also ahead of schedule, showed a heavy fruit was. Wasco County sweet cherry, trees enjoyed ideal pollination weather. Fruit trees around The Dalles reached full bloom, started to leaf out. Willamette Valley fruit trees were in various stages of bloom. Apples were in bloom; pears were past bloom; peaches were near shock fall. Washington County strawberries experienced a lush growth spurt. Clackamas County strawberries were being planted, while others started to bloom. Southern Valley strawberries, blackberries, raspberries were still waiting for bloom. Southern coast blueberries were in bloom; bacteria; supplier a problem. Fruit trees started in Jackson. Josephine counties were in bloom; most pear varieties were past bloom. Early spring conditions on livestock, pasture land are good in Clackamas, Marion, Washington counties. Conditions are fair to good in north central areas of the State. Low soil moisture in Malheur County limited pasturage growth. Branding is underway in Baker County, calving is winding down there. Marking, vaccination of early calves in Wasco County is ongoing. Some flooding along the Grande Rhonde River in Union went for soil was mainly affecting pasture land there. Supplemental feed, feeding of hay is being reduced there as grass becomes more abundant.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Days suitable for field work 3.0. Soil 61% adequate, 39% surplus. Spring plowing 25% complete, 8% 2003, 25% avg. Winter wheat crop 1% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 61% good, 6% excellent. Oats 15% planted, 10% 2003, 19% avg. Pasture feeds 8% very poor, 7% poor, 39% fair, 37% good, 9% excellent. Activities: Spring tillage; planting spring crops; spreading fertilizer; spreading manure; pruning fruit trees; repairing fences, machinery; caring for livestock; preparing, filling taxes.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for field work 6.1. Soil 20% very short, 62% short, 18% adequate. Corn 67 % planted, 33% 2003, 64% avg.; 38% emerged, 0% 2003, 28% avg.; 3% poor, 54% fair, 43% good. Sorghum 13% planted, 3% 2003, 9% avg. Cotton 3% planted, 1% 2003, 3% avg. Winter wheat 8% headed, 22% 2003, 27% avg.; 2% poor, 51% fair, 47% good. Barley 4% headed, 15% 2003, 17% avg.; 43% fair, 57% good. Pastures 2% very poor, 15% poor, 52% fair, 27% good, 4% excellent. Rye 30% headed, 37% 2003, 39% avg. 1% turned color, 0% 2003, 1% avg.; 3% poor, 65% fair, 32% good. Oats 20% headed, 30% 2003, 35% avg. 1% turned color, 0% 2003, 2% avg.; 5% poor, 63% fair, 32% good. Soybeans 3% planted, 0% 2003, 3% avg. Tobacco 17% transplanted, 9% 2003, 21% avg. Grain Hay 3% harvested, 3% 2003. 11% avg.; 6% poor, 35% fair, 59% good. Peaches 2% very poor, 7% poor, 18% fair, 44% good, 29% excellent. Snapbeans 47% planted, 44% 2003, 47% avg.; 1% poor, 3% fair, 96% good. Cucumbers 66% planted, 54% 2003, 60% avg.; 4% poor, 15% fair, 81% good. Watermelons 46% planted, 37% 2003, 62% avg.; 25% poor, 68% fair, 7% good. Tomatoes 79% planted, 63% 2003, 66% avg.; 39% fair, 61% good. Cantaloupes 58% planted, 32% 2003, 45% avg.; 84% fair, 16% good. Livestock 3% poor, 34% fair, 51% good, 12% excellent.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 14% very short, 30% short, 55% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 33% very short, 31% short, 35% adequate, 1% surplus. Feed supplies very short, 19% short, 69% adequate, 4% surplus. Stock water supplies 24% very short, 28% short, 48% adequate. Winter Wheat breaking dormancy 95%, 91% 2003, 75% avg. Barley 26% seeded, 16% 2003, 12% avg. Oats 39% seeded, 26% 2003, 19% avg. Spring Wheat 44% seeded, 30% 2003, 22% avg. Cattle condition 1% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. Sheep condition 20% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. Range, Pasture 14% very poor, 24% poor, 39% fair, 21% good, 2% short, 9% excellent. Calving 59% complete. Lambing 65% complete. Calf moved to pasture 14% complete. Calf deaths 27% below avg.; 70% avg.; 3% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths 14% below avg.; 86% average. With much of the state receiving little or no precipitation last week, moisture levels continue to be a concern for farmers, ranchers across the state. Activities: Calving, lambing, feeding livestock, fixing fences, fertilizer application, disk, seeding of small grains, preparing for planting of row crops.

**TENNESSEE:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 3% very short, 23% short, 71% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 14% short 81% adequate, 4% surplus. Wheat 78% jointed, 65% 2003, 71% avg.; 93% 2003, 100% avg.; 1% poor, 14% fair, 58% good, 27% excellent. Apples 84% budding or beyond, 81% 2003, 84% avg.; 60% blooming or beyond, 56% 2003, 53% avg. Peaches 95% budding or beyond, 93% 2003, 96% avg.; 80% blooming or beyond, 72% 2003, 79% avg. Pastures 3% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 12% excellent. Producers across the State made good progress with most field activities last week, especially planting corn, despite scattered showers towards week’s end. Corn continues to out pace last year, was a full week ahead of the 5-year average. Wheat was rated in mostly good condition with no major insect or disease problems being reported. Activities: Setting tomatoes, fertilizing hay, pastures, applying herbicides, preparing fields for planting cotton, early soybeans. Some growers were busy digging, transplanting, shipping nursery crops. Temperatures averaged near normal statewide last week, while rainfall averaged below normal, generally one half to one inch below.

**TEXAS:** Agricultural Summary: Continued rains across the state have given many producers a positive outlook on this growing season. Most of the state received between one, four inches of rain from the various storms, showers that were triggered during the week. Rainfall in some areas exceeded 5 inches for the week, one location reported as much as 12 inches. Most stock tank levels had risen or were full after recent moisture. Some areas in the Cross Timbers, Blacklands, South Central areas could still use more runoff. Due to the rainy weather most of the week, field work was halted, was at a standstill in many areas. Some losses were expected on some of the recently planted acreage across the state due to hail, wind, flooding. Also one producer reported some newly planted cotton will need to be replanted due to flooding. Field work will resume, further planting of crops is expected as soon as fields dry enough to support machinery. Most cattle were in good condition, removed from supplemental feeding, although some producers were still feeding. Some disease was reported in wheat crop. Small Grains: Wheat continued to improve, progress across most areas of the state. In the Plains, wheat had approached boot stage. In other areas wheat fields were beginning to head out. In Northern areas, most the wheat was thinning. There was minimal hail damage to some acreage, but nothing too significant. In South Central, Coastal Bend regions there was slight hail, rain damage. Wheat disease, insects were on the rise in several regions. Wheat 68% of normal compared with 62% last year. Corn: Planted corn was benefiting from recent moisture across the state. Planting of corn was halted due to storms, standing water in fields. Corn planting in the Panhandle is 10 to 20% of the expected county as of yesterday. Field conditions are outstanding as moisture levels were up. Cotton: In several regions, cotton planting, preparations will resume as fields dry. Producers in the Plains were encouraged by favorable soil moisture available for a dryland crop. Some yellow herbicides were applied in areas of the Southern Low Plains, although many producers in this region were awaiting drying out to apply pre-emerge chemicals. In areas where cotton planting has begun, it may not be necessary to replant some flooded-out or damage acreage. In most areas, the rain is expected to benefit the planted acreage. Sorghum: Land preparations and planting are expected
to resume in the Northern Low Plains as weather permits. Planting was halted with the arrival of the rains, is expected to resume as conditions allow. For the most part, planted sorghum in southern regions benefitted from soil moisture, although some will need to be replanted due to flooding. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit, Pecans Pecans: Some pecan zinc sprays were being applied. Pecans were budding out in the Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau. Reports confirmed that pecans were doing very well at this time. Pecan producers in South State began case scouting activities, as the temperatures continued to rise. Cattle conditions were still adequate. Body conditions were favorable due to supplemental feeding earlier in the season. For the most part no feeding was necessary with the exception of a few producers still doing so due to saturated fields. Shearing, working of sheep, goats were reported. Some branding, vaccinating of cattle continued as well.

UTAH: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil 2% very short, 23% short, 73% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 8% very short, 26% short, 66% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 13% poor, 21% fair, 57% good, 7% excellent. Spring wheat 66% planted, 75% 2003, 60% avg. Spring wheat 20% emerged, 37% 2003, 28% avg. Barley 67% planted, 78% 2003, 53% 2000, 27% avg. Oats 57% planted, 48% 2003, 31% avg.; 8% emerged, 33% 2003, 16% avg. Corn 0% planted, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Alfalfa height 5%, 3% 2003, 1% avg. Cows Calved 75%, 76% 2003, 74% avg. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 13% excellent. Sheep Condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 17% fair, 71% good, 12% excellent. Range, Pasture 5% very poor, 20% poor, 38% fair, 36% good, 1% excellent. Sheep conditions: Farm -4%, 12% 2003, 66% avg.; 37% on range, 53% 2003, 48% avg. Eastem lambs from 72%, 77% 2003, 72% avg. 25% 45% 2003, 38% avg. Apples Full Bloom Or Past 33%, 7% 2003, 3% avg. Apricots full Bloom Or Past 72%, 94% 2003, 93% avg. Sweet Cherries full Bloom Or Past 45%, 49% 2003, 25% avg. Tart Cherries full Bloom Or Past 33%, 40% 2003, 17% avg. Peaches, Full Bloom Or Past 48%, 74% 2003, 33% avg. Pears, Full Bloom Or Past 90%, 60% 2003, 25% avg. Activities: Plowing, planting, spraying, winter grains, corrugating alfalfa fields, caring for livestock. Cool temperatures, scattered precipitation helped the early spring crops as well as fall planted crops. Box Elder county reported corn and onion producers were making planting decisions based on anticipated water shortages. More counties reported Morman Crickets hatching. Warm spring weather and an average winter have created ideal conditions for the crickets. Mountain counties reported rain and cool temperatures last week. Every drop of precipitation is welcomed but has created some concern in the hatched grain. Fruit trees showed light growth accelerated by warm spring temperatures and scattered showers. Livestock were in good condition. Producers continued lambing and calving activities as well as shearing sheep.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork was 7.0. Topsoil 5% very short, 30% short, 60% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 20% very short, 17% short, 59% adequate, 4% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 2% short, 98% adequate. The highest temperature in the state was 82°F in Olympia, Kelso, Shelton. The lowest temperature in the state was 28°F in Deer Park, Republic. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 7% poor, 44% fair, 39% good, 8% excellent. Spring wheat 3% poor, 54% fair, 35% good, 8% excellent; 80% planted, 50% emerged, Barley 1% poor, 60% fair, 33% good, 6% excellent; 71% planted, 35% emerged. Warm weather improved winter wheat conditions. Spring cereals were emerging in fair to good condition. Most producers agree that rain is needed in order to aid current crop conditions. Potatoes 33% planted, 16% emerged. Corn 19% planted. Dry peas 40% planted. Processing green peas 55% planted. Potato planting was in full swing. Christmas tree growers were still fertilizing. Some Christmas tree producers expressed concern about the lack of rain, warm temperatures, which could result in seedling mortality in newly planted fields. Onion planting in Grant County was completed, while sweet corn planting continued. Hay, other roughage supplies 1% short, 95% adequate, 4% surplus. Range, pasture feeds 12% poor, 41% fair, 47% good. Dairy producers were harvesting green cheese using the occasional rain. Sprays were being applied. Pecans were budding out in the Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau. Reports confirmed that pecans were doing very well at this time. Pecan producers in South State began case scouting activities, as the temperatures continued to rise. Cattle conditions were still adequate. Body conditions were favorable due to supplemental feeding earlier in the season. For the most part no feeding was necessary with the exception of a few producers still doing so due to saturated fields. Shearing, working of sheep, goats were reported. Some branding, vaccinating of cattle continued as well.

WISCONSIN: Soil 3% very short, 26% short, 62% adequate, 9% surplus. The state saw a wide variety of weather conditions for the past week. Freezing temperatures at night were common, statewide. Temperatures ranged from the high 60’s to low 70’s to lows in the 20’s. Temperatures for the week averaged about 2 degrees warmer than normal. The Northern parts of the state reported frost still in the ground. Total precipitation for the season remained about .5 inches above normal, although only trace amounts of rain were reported in many areas last week. Spring tillage 10% complete, compared to 5% 2003, 10% 5-yr avg.

WYOMING: Days suitable for field work 4.0. Topsoil 3% short, 66% adequate, 31% surplus compared to 2003 4% short, 75% adequate, 21% surplus. Intended acreage prepared for spring 34% planting, 27% 2003, 40% 5-yr avg. Hay, roughage supplies 2% very short, 9% short, 76% adequate, 13% surplus, compared to 10% very short, 52% short, 37% adequate, 1% surplus 2003. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 5% very short, 91% adequate, 3% surplus, compared to 2% very short, 15% short, 83% adequate 2003. Corn 2% planted, 2% 2003, 3% 5-yr avg. Oats 12% planted, 30% 2003, 31% 5-yr avg.; 1% emerged, 4% 2003, 8% 5-yr avg. Tobacco beds 72% seeded, 92% 2003, 81% 5-yr avg.; 6% emerged, 16% 2003, 24% 5-yr avg. Winter wheat 29% fair, 69% good, 2% excellent. Hay conditions 4% poor, 41% fair, 53% good, 2% excellent. Apples 15% fair, 85% good. Peaches 10% fair, 84% good. Cattle, calves 4% poor, 31% fair, 60% good, 5% excellent. Calving 83% complete, 79% 2003, 81% 5-yr avg. Sheep, lambs 1% poor, 41% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent. Lambing 85% complete, 86% 2003, 83% 5-yr avg. Cool, wet conditions have slowed progress for outdoor projects. Activities: Calving, lambing, plowing gardens, lime, fertilizer application, fence repairs.