ALABAMA:  Days suitable for fieldwork 4.9.  Topsoil 15% very short, 22% short, 58% adequate, 5% surplus.  Corn 58% planted, 59% 2003, 54% avg.  Wheat 2% very poor, 10% poor, 36% fair, 50% good, 2% excellent.  Pasture feed 10% very poor, 18% poor, 40% fair, 32% good, 0% excellent.  Livestock condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 28% fair, 51% good, 10% 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 third week of April.  Small grains heading is well underway.  60% of Durum Wheat, 55% Winter wheat, 60% of barley, 65% Other small grains headed.  Alfalfa conditions remain good to excellent.  Cotton planting 33% complete, which is ahead of previous year of 30% but behind the 37% 5-yr avg.  Precipitation was reported at 6 of the 17 reporting stations.  Precipitation ranged from 0.01 inches at Prescott, 0.83 inches at Willcox.

ARKANSAS:  Days suitable for fieldwork 5.  Soil 1% very short, 16% short, 76% adequate, 7% surplus.  Corn 87% planted, 87% 2003, 72% 5-yr avg.; 63% emerged, 52% 2003, 33% 5-yr avg.  Soybeans 11% planted, 7% 2003, 3% 5-yr avg.  Sorghum 30% planted, 35% 2003, 30% 5-yr avg.  Cotton 2% Planted, 1% 2003, 1% 5-yr avg.  Rice 46% planted, 46% 2003, 26% 5-yr avg.; 8% emerged, 5% 2003, 4% 5-yr avg.  Wheat 34% headed, 13% 2003, 31% 5-yr avg.; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 33% fair, 53 % good, 11% excellent.  Hay-Other condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 42% fair, 51 % good, 4% excellent.  Hay-Alfalfa condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 48% fair, 51% good, 0% excellent.  Pasture, Range feed 1% very poor, 4% poor, 31% fair, 56% good, 8% excellent.  CROPS:  Rainfall held up planting for a few days early in the week.  Additionally, cooler temperatures slowed growth of both corn, early soybeans.  So far only two counties have reported cotton acres planted.  Remaining counties expect to get underway within the next week.  Rice planting is still ahead of schedule, however unfavorable soil temperatures over the past week have caused some delay in emergence, germination.  This week's forecast for warmer temperatures is expected to speed up this process.  Winter wheat heading is right on schedule, the crop remains in overall good condition.  LIVESTOCK:  Livestock are in good condition.  Pastures are being fertilized, producers are continuing to apply herbicides to fields to control weed population.

CALIFORNIA:  Fields of small grain crops showed excellent growth, seed head maturity.  Nearly all irrigated fields of wheat were reported to be in good condition.  Some dryland wheat fields remained in poor condition from the lack of rainfall, were being baled for hay.  Earlier planted corn, cotton fields showed strong emergence, rapid growth.  Cotton planting was complete in many areas.  Cultivation, irrigation took place on newly-planted corn, cotton fields.  Ground preparation, pre-plant irrigation was ongoing.  Safflower, sunflower, vineseed planting continued in some areas.  Some fields of sunflowers had emerged, showed excellent growth.  Oats, winter forage continued to be harvested for greenchop, hay, silage.  The first cuttings of alfalfa continued, were also harvested for greenchop, hay.  A few fields experienced their second cutting for the season.  Newly-emerged alfalfa fields were growing well, being irrigated.  Rice planting began in some parts of the Sacramento Valley.  Most rice fields continued to be prepared for planting.  Dry conditions allowed many fields to be cultivated.  Preparatory activities included the fertilizer, pre-emergent herbicide applications, cultivation, flooding.  Potato harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley.  Sugar beet plantings experienced robust growth as many fields were cultivated, irrigated.  Lilies continued to be grown in the warm weather.  Warm temperatures promoted maturity, size in early cherry varieties.  As a result, the harvest of the Brooks variety to begin earlier than normal in some Reedley district orchards.  As harvesting neared, cherry growers began laying out reflective film sheets in orchard rows.  Immature plums were picked as a specialty export crop.  The high temperatures during bloom resulted in poor pollination in dried plum orchards.  Cultural activities were underway in many fruit orchards, grape vineyards.  Activities: Cultivation, pest control treatments, irrigation, fruit thinning in orchards, leaf, shoot thinning in vineyards.  Grape vineyards were also treated with fungicides to prevent mildew damage.  The spring strawberry harvest continued.  Strawberry fields were weeded and irrigated.  Citrus bloom was in full swing.  Fertilizer applications, irrigation, treatments to control insect pests, hedging, topping were underway in a number of citrus orchards.  Navel orange harvesting was nearing 80% completion.  Packouts continued to decline due to significant granulation, puff, rough rind texture, oversized fruit.  Valencia oranges, Mandarins, lemons continued to be harvested.  Bloom began in avocado orchards.  Olive orchards continued to develop bloom buds.  Almond sets were very good in most orchards.  Cultivation, irrigation were ongoing in almond, walnut, pecan orchards.  Blight spraying, fungicide applications continued in walnut orchards.  Summer vegetable planting continued at a steady pace.  Generally warm, sunny weather conditions stimulated growth.  Tomato blooms were starting to show in some San Joaquin Valley fields.  Vegetable fields were irrigated, cultivated, some pest, disease control treatments were applied.  Removal of plastic hot caps from late planted squash, cucumbers was in full swing in Tulare County. Planting of sweet corn, melons, fresh market, processing tomatoes, beans continued.  Onions, garlic for fresh market, processing made good progress, irrigation was ongoing in many fields.  Asparagus, brocoli, carrot, cauliflower, head, leaf lettuce harvesting continued.  The following vegetables were also harvested: basil, beets, cabbage, fennel, gailion, green onions, kale, leeks, mustard greens, ong choy, parsley, radicchio, saluyot, snow peas, spinach, squash, sugar peas, Swiss chard, tongo ho, turnips, zucchini.  Foothill pastures were drying rapidly in many areas due to lack of rain.  A slight chance of rain was forecast for next week but may only benefit some pastures in the northern area.  Pastures in Central State had dried beyond the point where rain would benefit them this season.  Feeder cattle were shipping to market in Central State.  Cattle movement was still a few weeks away in Northern State.  Livestock were in good condition.  Spring lambs were shipping to market or being moved from foothills to other available pastures.  Most old crop lambs in the Imperial Valley had shipped to market.  Mild temperatures were boosting milk production in some areas.  Bees were being moved into vegetable fields.

COLORADO:  Days suitable for fieldwork 5.3.  Topsoil: 23% very short, 48% short, 28% adequate, 1% surplus.  Subsoil 50% very short, 35% short, 17% adequate, 0% surplus.  The state experienced above average temperatures through mid-week.  Windy, cooler conditions prevailed across much of the state toward the end of the week with little or no moisture received.  Spring barley 45% seeded, 48% 2003, 52% avg.;
DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.3. Topsoil 52% adequate, 48% surplus. Subsoil 63% adequate, 37% surplus. Field corn 8% planted, 2% 2003, 9% avg. Barley 4% poor, 20% fair, 66% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 3% poor, 18% fair, 66% good, 13% excellent. Pasture feed 13% poor, 12% fair, 73% good, 2% excellent. Strawberries 16% bloomed, 11% 2003, 27% avg. Apples 24% bloomed, 29% 2003, 38% avg. Peaches 37% bloomed, 57% 2003, 71% avg. Snap beans 14%, 8% 2003, 9% avg. Sweet Corn 8% planted, 7% 2003, 10% avg. Green peas 59% planted, 59% 2003, 62% avg. Potatoes 40% planted, 22% 2003, 48% avg. Hay supplies 26% very short, 47% short, 25% adequate. Farmers experienced wet, rainy conditions last week. Field activities were halted due to several days of continuous rain. Warmer temperatures, drier conditions occurred at the end of the week allowing soils to dry so field work could continue. A small amount of planting progress was made for field corn, snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, potatoes. Small grains are in fair to good condition. Fruit crops made good progress in percentage bloom last week.

FLORIDA: Topsoil 5% very short, 45% short, 49% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 10% very short, 40% short, 49% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperature average 3 to 6° below normal, major cities. Daytime highs: 70s, 80s. Nighttime lows: 40s, 50s, 60s; some northern Peninsula, Panhandle localities reported at least one low in 30s. Rainfall: less than 0.25 to about 2.66 in.; central Peninsula localities received bulk of moisture. Early week rainfall replenished some soil moisture supplies; warmer temperatures, gusty winds during rest of week dried out some topsoil. Panhandle, northern Peninsula soil moisture mostly short to adequate; Santa Rosa, Washington, Madison counties reporting some spots with very short moisture. Central, southern Peninsula soil moisture short to mostly adequate: Seminole, Osceola counties reporting a few localities with surplus moisture; Charlotte County reporting a few spots with very short soil moisture. Southeastern Peninsula continues to have areas with very short soil moisture. Field crop planting preceding at rapid pace, Washington County; starting to get into full swing, Jackson, Taylor counties. Santa Rosa County producers delaying some cotton, peanut planting until adequate soil moisture available. Corn planting active, Madison County; some progress slowed due to gusty winds drying out soils. Sugarcane harvesting finished in lower Florida region; all mills closed. Irrigated vegetable acreage, Leon County, in good condition. Cool temperatures slowing some vegetable growth, Marion County. Gusty winds damaging some vegetables, Madison County. Hastings area growers dug first few potatoes; most fields at full flower, in good condition. Cabbage, broccoli harvesting slowing seasonally, Hastings region; sluggish market hindering onion movement. Watermelon picking slowly gaining momentum; most central, southern Peninsula producers continue to begin harvesting within next two weeks. Gilchrist County watermelons forming runners. Strawberry harvesting, Plant City area, nearly done; several fields open to U-Pick market. Other vegetables, non-citrus fruit available: snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes. Most lettuce harvesting, southern Peninsula, finished for season. Variable temperatures citrus areas, lows in 40s, highs in 80s, strong cold front with abundant rainfall anticipated this week. All areas, trees in excellent condition. Harvest complete on early-mids; near weekly peak on Valentias; grapefruit in full harvest, beginning to decline; tangerines declining; Temples nearly complete. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 20% poor, 60% fair, 19% good. Cattle condition 5% poor, 55% fair, 40% good. Panhandle: pasture very short due to drought, cool temperatures. North: pastures looking bad; hay supplies shrinking; hay feeding active; overall weather conditions resulting in some forage growth. High winds and extremely dry conditions, rain needed to improve forage. Central: cool night temperatures slowing grass growth. Southwest: cattle condition fair, range condition generally good. Statewide: most cattle in good condition.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 5.7. Soil 17% very short, 48% short, 35% adequate. Corn 6% poor, 43% fair, 46% good, 5% excellent; 76% emerged, 47% 2003, 73% avg. Cotton 4% very poor, 27% poor, 46% fair, 23% good. Hay 4% very poor, 23% poor, 52% fair, 19% good, 2% excellent. Peanuts 1% planted, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Sorghum 12% poor, 73% fair, 14% good, 1% excellent; 6% planted, 2% 2003, 10% avg. Soybeans 3% planted, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Tobacco 7% poor, 58% fair, 34% good, 1% excellent; 69% transplanted, 35% 2003, 74% avg. Wheat 98% jointing, 97% 2003, 96% avg.; 86% boot, 82% 2003, 86% avg. Onions 6% very poor, 14% poor, 39% fair, 33% good 8% excellent; 13% harvested, 3% 2003, 5% avg. Watermelons 15% poor, 56% fair, 25% good, 4% excellent; 77% planted, 68% 2003, 76% avg. Apples 15% fair, 78% good, 7% excellent; 72% blooming, 61% 2003, 64% avg. Peaches 1% poor, 2% fair, 97% good. Up to four inches of much needed rain fell across the State early in the week. The rain helped replenish soil moisture, green up fields, pastures. More rain is needed. Dry conditions delayed field preparation, planting. Cool temperatures, windy conditions damaged newly transplanted tobacco, watermelons, vegetables. Producers continued to irrigate crops. Land preparation for peanuts, cotton, tobacco progressed slowly. The condition of corn, small grains improved slightly. Wheat disease was minimal. Pecan trees were being sprayed with pre-pollination fungicide. Pasture feeds continued to decline forcing producers to supplement feed. Activities: Routine care of livestock, poultry.

HAWAII: A strong high-pressure system north of the State produced brisk trade winds throughout most of the week. Light-to-moderate showers occurred mostly in windward, mountain areas, but the stronger gusts pushed some rain into leeward areas. Bananas, papayas orchards were damaged by generally fair condition after the heavy showers during the first half of the week. Vegetable crops were in mostly fair condition, but making steady recovery from the past weeks’ rains.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.10. Topsoil 3% very short, 29% short, 68% adequate. Some precipitation was reported for most of the state. Potato planting is under way, nearly all of the grains have been planted. Crop emergence has been seen in throughout the state. Winter wheat jointed 6%, 12% 2003, 9% avg. Oats 50% planted, 41% 2003, 25% avg.; 20% emerged, 17% 2003, 6% avg. Onions 97% planted, 96% 2003, 91% avg.; 46% emerged, 58% 2003, 37% avg. Dry peas 65% planted, 11% 2003, 20% avg.; 16% emerged, 2% 2003, 2% avg. Lentils 42% planted, 0% 2003, 4% avg. Field corn 3% planted, 1% 2003, 2% avg. Spring wheat 25% emerged, 26% 2003, 16% avg. Barley 14%, emerged 22% 2003, 12% avg. Potatoes 8% planted, 10% 2003, 8% avg. Sugar beets 25% emerged, 20% 2003, 12% avg. Irrigation water supply 5% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 37% good. Hay, Roughage supply 1% very short, 14% short, 73% adequate, 12% surplus. Range, pasture feed 2% poor, 32% fair, 42% good, 24% excellent. Lambing complete 97%. Calving complete 95%. Activities: Spreading fertilizer, planting, placing wheel lines for irrigation.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil 16% very short, 41% short, 41% adequate, 2% surplus. Corn 2% emerged, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Soybeans 1% planted, 0% 2003, 0% avg. Oats 94% planted, 76% 2003, 77% avg. Alfalfa 1% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 8% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 4% poor, 28% fair, 60% good, 7% excellent. Farmers reported dry soil as the main deterrent to completing planting. Windy conditions across the state last week hampered some spraying. activities: Tilling, caring for livestock.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil 8% very short, 23% short 60% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil 6% very short, 17% short, 70% adequate, 7% surplus. Another excellent week for fieldwork. Field activities in full swing. Corn planting on record pace, 4 days ahead of previous record set in 1976, 8 days ahead of average. Soils became progressively drier during the week. Topsoil, subsoil dry in some areas. Very little precipitation, except in some southern areas. Snow early in week, southeastern area. Several fields of soybeans also planted. Tillage of soils, spreading fertilizer, spraying chemicals were major activities. Temperatures averaged 2° below to 6° above normal for the week. Precipitation averaged 0 to 2.27 inches. Farmers continued hauling grain to market. Seedings of oats is virtually complete. Winter wheat still looks good. Hay, forage crops improving, need rain. Winter wheat 46% jointed, 48% 2003, 51% avg. Hay supplies 2% very short, 10% short, 80% adequate, 8% surplus. Pastures 2% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, 8% excellent. Livestock are in mostly good
condition. Feedlots are dry. Calving, lambing continued. Activities: Spreading lime, preparing equipment, cleaning out ditches, fence rows, spreading lime, installing drainage systems, purchasing supplies, hauling manure, taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Agricultural Summary: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil 11% very short, 34% short, 54% adequate, 1% surplus the state. Subsoil 10% very short, 29% short, 59% adequate, 2% surplus. Soil moisture ratings were more favorable last week compared to a year ago. Warm, dry conditions accelerated fieldwork, especially corn plantings. Soybeans were planted in isolated areas. High winds in the latter part of the week triggered reports of topsoil erosion. Moisture is a concern in most areas. Field Crops Report: Oat 99% seedings complete ahead of 70% 2003 progress; 68% 5-yr avg.; 13% emergence, 55% very short to 2003, 14% behind the 18% 5-yr avg. Corn 19% planted, 2% 2003, 3% 5-yr avg. Primary seeded preparations were 66 percent complete, while fertilizer applications were 80% complete. Livestock, Pasture, Range Report: Calving was well under way with few losses reported. Favorable weather conditions during calving made for a smooth calving season. Pasture, range feeds deteriorated from the previous week to 3% very poor, 19% poor, 41% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil 7% short, 74% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil 7% short, 77% adequate, 16% surplus. Temperatures averaged 85°.1 above normal. Precipitation totaled 1.87 inches statewide, 0.69 inches above normal. Corn 58% planted, 38% 2003, 30% avg. Plant bed and greenhouse seeding 91% complete, 89% 2003, 92% avg. Tobacco transplants 66% emerged, 63% 2003, 69% avg.; 2% poor, 18% fair, 66% good, 14% excellent. Winter wheat 1% short, 17% fair, 50% good, 31% excellent. Pasture feed pastures 12% very poor, 4% poor, 26% fair, 55% good, 14% excellent. Barley 15% fair, 50% good, 35% excellent. Alfalfa height: 8 inches

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Soil 8% very short, 19% short, 68% adequate, 5% surplus. Corn 1% poor, 31% fair, 68% good; 99% planted, 98% last week, 96% 2003, 95% avg.; 92% emerged, 85% last week, 67% 2003, 75% avg. Hay 4% 1st cutting, 2% 2nd cutting, 7% 2003, 6% avg. Rice 2% short, 33% fair, 30% poor, 1% excellent. Sorghum 17% emerged, 0% last week, 0% 2003, 3% avg. Soybeans 10% planted, 0% last week, 7% 2003, 4% avg. Spring plowing 86% plowed, 82% last week, 81% 2003, 83% avg. Sugarcane 1% very poor, 8% poor, 50% fair, 36% good, 5% excellent. Wheat 3% poor, 25% fair, 64% good, 8% excellent; 84% headed, 81% last week, 66% 2003, 80% avg. Livestock 1% very poor, 6% poor, 34% fair, 55% good, 6% excellent. Vegetable 1% very poor, 5% poor, 46% fair, 46% good, 2% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 7% poor, 44% fair, 43% good, 5% excellent.
21% closed. Pasture feeds 20% very poor, 24% poor, 37% fair, 16% good, 3% excellent. Currently, 78% of the cattle, 73% of the sheep are receiving supplemental feed compared to last year when 82% of cattle, 85% of sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Calving, lambing 82%, 53% complete, compared to 82% and 59% last year.

NEBRASKA:  Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil 17% very short, 47% short, 36% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil 41% very short, 34% short, 25% adequate, 0% surplus. Temperatures averaged from normals to 7° above normals for the week. Precipitation occurred over most of the state with amounts ranging from traces to under one inch. Wheat 15% jointed, 10% 2003, 8% avg. Oats 84% planting, 68% 2003, 68% avg.; 25% emerged, 23% 2003, 29% avg. Sugar beets 57% planted. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Calving was 90% complete with losses rated mostly average. Activities: Caring for livestock, fieldwork, starting to plant corn.

NEVADA:  Some rains fell in eastern state late in the week. Average temperatures remained well above normal statewide during the first few days, but falling well below normal toward the end of the week as temperatures plunged downward. Snows continued to recede during the warm days of the week. Weed spraying continued as first time irrigation was well on its way. Ditch cleaning continued in later irrigation regions. Field preparation, Spring grain planting advanced. Fall seeded grains were in mostly good condition. Mint planting continued in Oroville. Onion planting was completed in the Mason Valley. 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 mixed with showers across the state England most of the week. Sunny weather prevailed throughout the weekend. Majority of maple sugar producers have completed their harvest, as warmer temperatures put a halt to the sap flow. Farmers continue to tend livestock, assist with spring calving, perform general maintenance in preparation for spring planting.

NEW JERSEY:  Days suitable for field work were 3.0. Soil 40% adequate, 60% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state, with over an inch of rain in many localities April 13, 2004. Temperatures were near normal in most areas of the state for much of the week; however, Sunday, April 18, 2004, temperatures rose to ten or more degrees above normal in many localities. Irrigation water supplies 55% adequate, 45% surplus. Farmers were busy fertilizing, plowing, planting where conditions allowed. Barley, hay, winter wheat fields were rated fair to good condition. Alfalfa hay started to green up in some central localities. Vegetables were planted under plastic tunnels in southern portions of the state. Greenhouse grown cabbage, escarole were transplanted in some localities. Most other greenhouse grown vegetables were awaiting warmer weather before transplanting activities will occur. Asparagus harvest began in the central, south; spinach harvest started in some areas of the south. Spring season vegetables, potatoes were planted in some locations. In the south, planting of white potatoes was finishing. Peaches, apples were rated in mostly good condition. Peaches were ready to bloom in the north, were blooming in the central, southern portions of the state. Apples had a tight cluster in the south; in the north buds were swelling, spurs were opening. Blueberries were rated mostly in good condition, displayed a tight bud in southern localities. Strawberry plants in the south were rated in poor condition, it was observed that plants were badly damaged under plastic. There were reports of sporadic blooming to some small strawberry plants in the southern portions of the state.

NEW MEXICO:  Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Topsoil 2% very short, 36% short, 57% adequate, 5% surplus. After two weeks of relatively wet, cool weather, precipitation was spotty, light this past week. Chama (.14”), Red River (.10”) were the only spots that managed to measure as much as a tenth of an inch. Temperatures for the week averaged near normal to slightly above normal, although the week began with early morning freezes at many locations. Afternoon readings reached the 80’s at lower elevation stations during mid to late week. Recent rains have been good for crops, pastures but have put a hold on planting. Alfalfa weevils continue to be a problem while some farmers are having to replant chile because the fields were too wet to knock the caps off. There was 24% light wind damage, 4% moderate damage reported in several counties along with flood damage where borders, concrete ditches washed out, debris settled on several fields. Alfalfa conditions 54% fair, 39% good, 7% excellent 10% of the first cutting complete. Cotton 20% planted. Corn 18% planted, both slightly ahead of the five year average. Winter wheat 10% very poor, 11% poor, 35% fair, 41% good, 3% excellent 8% headed. Lettuce remains in mostly good to excellent condition and onions improved slightly listing in mostly good to excellent condition. Chile 20% fair, 67% good, and 13% excellent, progress getting closer to completion at 85% planted. Ranchers spent the week with spring gathering, branding, supplemental feeding. Cattle conditions 1% very poor, 20% poor, 42% fair, 36% good, 1% excellent. Sheep conditions 1% very poor, 23% poor, 45% fair, 28% good, 3% excellent. Range, pasture feeds 27% very poor, 37% poor, 31% fair, 3% good, 2% excellent.

NEW YORK:  Wet weather throughout the state slowed spring planting activities. Vegetable planting under plastic was limited to well drained fields. Pastures were still damp with no signs of vigorous growth. In the Lake Ontario region, apples were at the one quarter to one half in green stage, cherries, peaches reached the swollen bud stage, pears were close to budburst. Maple syrup producers continued cleaning, storing equipment for the year. Activities: Spring pruning of fruit trees, tending livestock, mending damaged fencing, machinery equipment.

NORTH CAROLINA:  Days suitable for field work 3.1. Soil 0% very short, 4% short, 67% adequate, 29% surplus. Activities: Fertilizing pastures, disease, pest scouting, d general farm maintenance. The majority of the State received much needed rainfall during the first part of the week with amounts ranging from three quarters of an inch to slightly over three inches. The latter part of the week brought dry, sunny conditions allowing for a 15% increase in corn planting, almost a 10% increase in flue-cured tobacco planting.

NORTH DAKOTA:  Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil 6% very short, 19% short, 67% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil 11% very short, 25% short, 60% adequate, 4% surplus. Farmers were able to make good progress planting small grains, sugarbeets last week. Durum wheat 8% planted, both slightly ahead of the five year average. Winter wheat 15% very poor, 24% poor, 37% fair, 16% good, 3% excellent at many locations. Afternoon readings reached the 80’s at lower of the state for much of the week; however, Sunday, April 18, 2004, 3% 2003, 1% avg. Canola 4% planted, 2% 2003, 1% avg. Potatoes 2% planted, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Flaxseed 1% planted, 0% 2003, 0% avg. Soybeans 1% planted, 0% 2003, 0% avg. Hay, forage supplies 3% very short, 18% short, 74% adequate, 5% surplus. Grain, concentrate supplies 2% very short, 6% short, 87% adequate, 5% surplus. Calving 78% complete, lambing 86% complete, shearing 92% complete. Pastures, ranges 61% still dormant, 39% growing. Pasture, range feeds 7% very poor, 23% poor, 38% fair, 31% good, 1% excellent.

OHIO:  Days suitable for field work 2.7. Topsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 53% adequate, 45% surplus. Corn 3% planted, 4% 2002, 4% avg. Oats 30% planted, 34% 2003, 47% avg.; 3% emerged, 6% 2003, 21% avg. Potatoes 16% planted, 10% 2003, 14% avg. Soybeans 1% planted, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Winter wheat 21% jointed, 23% 2003, 28% avg.; 1% headed. Hay conditions 1% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 8% excellent. Livestock conditions 1% very poor, 3% poor, 19% fair, 64% good, 13% excellent. Pasture feeds 1% very poor, 6% poor, 31% fair, 53% good, 9% excellent. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 4% poor, 21% fair, 59% good, 15% excellent. Weather conditions improved this past week but soil temperatures remain too low for planting in some areas. In warmer locations, farmers planted corn, oats, potatoes, soybeans. Producers installed tile, top-dressed winter wheat, performed machinery maintenance, ground preparation. Growers applied herbicides, fertilizers in locations that were too wet for planting. Vegetables producers planted sweet corn, transplanted tomatoes.

OKLAHOMA:  Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil 6% very short, 25% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 10% very short, 27% short, 62% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter Wheat 97% jointing, 93% last week, 95% 2003, 86% avg. Oats 3% very poor, 8% poor, 45% fair, 40% good, 4% excellent; 63% jointing, 50% last week, 54% 2003, 58% avg. Rye 3% very poor, 8% poor, 21% fair, 59% good, 9% excellent; 26% headed, n/a last week, n/a 2003, n/a avg. Corn 87% seeded prepared, 76% last week, 85% 2003, 82 avg.; 41% planted, 28% last week, 31% 2003, 34% avg. Sorghum 35% seeded prepared, 30% last week, 44% 2003, 43% avg. Soybeans 54% seeded prepared, 46% last week, 52%
OREGON:

Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Topsoil 4% very short, 25% short, 65% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 21% short, 71% adequate, 5% surplus. Barley 76% planted, 65% previous week, 64% 2003, 76% 5-yr avg.; 45% emerged, 36% previous week, 38% 2003, 1% very poor, 4% poor, 34% fair, 52% good, 9% excellent. Spring wheat 87% planted, 68% 2003, 84% 2003, 86% 5-yr avg. Spring wheat 58% emerged, 33% previous week, 49% 2003. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 4% poor, 28% fair, 55% good, 12% excellent. Range, Pasture 2% very poor, 7% poor, 34% fair, 49% good, 8% excellent. Activities: Temperatures became much cooler across the State, precipitation picked up in a significant way, helping maintain soil moisture levels. Low temperatures generally fell in the thirties, reached the low twenties in some eastern areas. Weather conditions for normal vegetation growth were in the fifties along the coast, the sixties in the Willamette Valley, mostly in the seventies elsewhere. Counties in critical need of moisture, such as Morrow, Umatilla, welcomed the increased rainfall. Some hail, strong winds noted in central state. Scattered snow showers occurred early in the week in the Klamath Basin. Josephine County recorded some blustery wind conditions. The Dalles again recorded the highest number of growing degree days (Base 50°) for the week, with 27 GDD. Spring planting, other fieldwork continued last week. Hail reported in several counties in the central part of the state. Damage to crops, however, was minimal. Herbicide applications to grain, grass crops continued. Sugarbeet planting continued in Malheur County. In Marion County, there were a few reports of powdery mildew appearing in tall fescue fields. Washington County winter wheat was in the early boot stage. Cool, damp conditions stopped or slowed farming activity across much of the state. In the Willamette Valley, vegetable crops were in the fifties as quickly as possible, rhubarb harvest started. Jackson, Josephine counties reported that truck gardeners started preparing fields for vegetable crops. Malheur County reported onion planting was mostly complete, potato planting was in full swing. Cool, damp conditions slowed the recent rapid fruit, nut growth. The rainy weather prevented many from spraying their fruit, nut trees. Willamette Valley apples were in full bloom, pears were near blossom. Cranberry foliage entered in bud stage. Petal falls prays were applied to Jackson County pears which were about 16 days ahead of schedule. Jackson County blueberries should have a bumpier crop if the cold temperatures did not affect them. Nurseries were shipping lots of plant material, mainly balled, burlapped plants, containers, to the east coast. Local greenhouses supplied retail outlets with spring plants. Spring plant sales by community groups were underway. Tulip festivals going on. Christmas tree planting winding down. Field-grown Easter lilies in Curry County were showing normal foliage development, were a few inches above the ground. Branding, turnout were well underway across the state. Grazing conditions, pasture growth in many eastern state areas benefitted from recent rain showers. Good spring weather in Clackamas County led to a good calving season, livestock remained in good condition there. In Harney County, however, calving season has been generally warm, dry. Some rangeland grass in Sherman County turned brown about a month ahead of schedule. Some hay feeding in Union County underway, while other ranchers continued to utilize spring grasses there.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Soil 10% very short, 54% short, 36% adequate. Corn 82% planted, 46% 2003, 78% avg.; 55% emerged; 21% 2003, 51% avg.; 1% poor, 32% fair, 67% good. Peanuts 3% planted, 1% 2003, 6% avg. Sorghum 20% planted, 9% 2003, 18% avg. Cotton 5% planted, 1% 2003, 6% avg. Winter wheat 52% headed, 37% 2003, 51% avg.; 3% turning color, 1% 2003, 3% avg.; 2% poor, 51% fair, 47% good. Barley 30% headed, 29% 2003, 34% avg.; 1% turning color, 1% 2003, 4% avg.; 39% fair, 61% good. Pastures 1% very poor, 14% poor, 42% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent. Rye 60% headed, 56% 2003, 58% avg.; 5% turning color, 1% 2003, 6% avg.; 2% poor, 63% fair, 35% good. Oats 51% headed, 45% 2003, 56% avg.; 4% turning color, 1% 2003, 6% avg.; 5% poor, 53% fair, 42% good. Soybeans 5% planted, 1% 2003, 5% avg. Tobacco 48% transplanted, 21% 2003, 46% avg.; 2% poor, 27% fair, 65% good, 6% excellent. Grain Hay 11% harvested, 7% 2003, 18% avg.; 2% very poor, 7% poor, 33% fair, 58% good. Peaches 2% very poor, 6% poor, 13% fair, 47% good, 32% excellent. SnapBeans 65% planted, 56% 2003, 60% avg.; 3% fair, 97% good. Cucumbers 76% planted, 69% 2003, 77% avg.; 6% fair, 94% good. Watermelons 78% planted, 61% 2003, 79% avg.; 8% poor, 55% fair, 37% good. Tomatoes 89% planted, 81% 2003, 81% avg.; 4% fair, 96% good. Cantaloupes 70% planted, 49% 2003, 61% avg.; 83% fair, 17% good. Livestock 2% poor, 26% fair, 61% good, 11% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Topsoil 18% very short, 39% short, 43% adequate. Subsoil 42% very short, 28% short, 30% adequate. Feed supplies 8% very short, 22% short, 66% adequate, 4% surplus. Stock water supplies 32% very short, 25% short, 43% adequate. Winter Wheat breaking dormancy 100%, 97% 2003, 84% avg. Barley 92% seeded, 35% 2003, 22% avg. Oats 84% seeded, 47% 2003, 30% avg. Spring Wheat 77% seeded, 58% 2003, 37% avg. Cattle condition 1% poor, 21% fair, 63% good, 15% excellent. Sheep condition 1% poor, 19% fair, 66% good, 14% excellent. Range, Pasture 16% very poor, 26% poor, 40% fair, 17% good, 1% excellent. Calving 69% complete. Lambing 70% complete. Cattle moved to pasture 15% complete. Calf deaths 29% below avg.; 68% avg.; 2% above avg. Sheep, lamb deaths 20% below avg.; 80% avg. Rain showers moved across some areas of the state last week, with many farmers, ranchers still needing more precipitation to improve soil moisture levels. Activities: Calving, lambing, feeding livestock, fixing fences, fertilizer application, preparing ground for row crops, seeding of small grains.

SOUTH Dakota:

Days suitable for fieldwork 3.0. Topsoil 2% short, 79% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil 5% short 86% adequate, 9% surplus. Wheat 83% jointed, 82% 2003, 87% avg.; 4% headed, 7% 2003, 11% avg.; 18% fair, 57% good, 25% excellent. Apples 86% budding or beyond, 89% 2003, 92% avg.; 69% blooming or beyond, 76% 2003, 72% avg. Peaches 89% blooming or beyond, 79% 2003, 90% avg. Pastures 3% poor, 21% fair, 60% good, 16% excellent. A cold front passed through the state last week bringing welcome rain, cooler temperatures, even snow to some areas. Wet conditions only slightly delayed planting of the State’s corn crop last week, as producers are still ahead of schedule. Corn planting resumed towards week’s end, as clear skies and warmer temperatures returned. Producers were also making herbicide applications last week. The wheat crop was rated in mostly good condition with minor insect or disease problems reported. Fruit, strawberries, greenhouse tomato plants showed only slight signs of cold damage from last week’s cold weather. Activities: Fertilizing hay fields, spraying pastures for weeds, cotton land preparation. Temperatures averaged below normal statewide last week, while rainfall averaged above normal for the week across the entire state.

TEXAS:

Agricultural Summary: The week started off slowly with cold temperatures, a freeze. A hard freeze with temperatures in the 20’s was mostly concentrated in the Plains, but other northern areas received a light freeze. The extent of any damage from the freeze was still being assessed. The cooler spell also lowered soil temperatures, slowed growth of recently planted acreage. A few isolated showers were reported during the week, but no significant amounts of rain fell. Windy, warmer conditions prevailed during the latter half of the week. Areas that had previously been too wet were beginning to dry out with the assistance of the wind, warmer days, however fields in some locations were still too wet. spreading fertilizer, manure; pruning fruit trees; repairing fences, machinery; caring for livestock; preparing, filling taxes.
to work. Pasture green-up, improvement was very noticeable in most areas. Most livestock were in good condition, were requiring less supplemental feeding. Some crop losses from hail were confirmed from the previous weekend's storms in some central areas. Small Grains: Wheat continued to make good progress across most areas of the state. In the Plains, producers were somewhat concerned with the effects of the freeze early in the week. Some light damage may have occurred, but the full effects of the freeze were still somewhat unknown. Corn in the Panhandle, which had headed out, were maturing under excellent growing conditions. Disease, insect pressure was still a problem in several areas. Cattle grazing on wheat was still going strong, some haying of wheat fields had begun. Wheat 65% normal, 57% 2003. Corn: PLANTED acreage in central, southern areas was making good progress, was benefitting from recent moisture. Corn planting in the Panhandle was beginning to get underway. Soil moisture levels were ideal for planting in most areas. Corn 85% normal, 79% 2003. Cotton: Cotton planting, preparations resumed as fields began to dry. Some replanting was still expected to take place in fields damaged by earlier storms. More acreage in South State was making good progress as warmer, drier conditions were returning. Sorghum: Land preparations, planting was again taking place in northern areas. For the most part, planted sorghum in southern regions was making good progress, was benefitting from good soil moisture. Peanuts: Land preparations were active where conditions allowed. Planting had begun in a few isolated areas. Rice: Planting, emergence of rice continued. Soybeans: Land preparations, planting were active where conditions allowed. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit, Pecans Pecans: Application of zinc was active in some areas. Pecans were budding out in more areas. In the Rio Grande Valley, onion harvest was active again. Harvest of citrus, cabbage, greens, sugarcane had resumed. Preparations for melon harvest had begun. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden, cabbage harvest continued. Onions made progress and were nearing harvest. Range, Livestock: Pasture, range green-up was prominent across the state. Livestock were mostly in good feed. Cattle continued to graze wheat fields. Supplemental feeding was slowing. Haying activities were beginning to gain momentum across the state. Pasture fertilization was occurring where conditions allowed. Stock ponds water levels were in better shape across most areas. Some locations were still in need of additional rainfall.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 4% very short, 25% short, 65% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 21% short, 73% adequate, 3% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 2% short, 98% adequate. The highest temperature in the state was 80 degrees in Pasco. The lowest temperature in the state was 26° in Deer Park. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 7% poor, 39% fair, 47% good, 5% excellent. Spring wheat 4% poor, 46% fair, 44% good, 6% excellent; 95% planted, 69% emerged. Barley 1% poor, 55% fair, 39% good, 5% excellent; 91% planted, 63% emerged. Spring grains started to grow as most planting of spring cereals was completed. In Whitman County, growth of winter wheat was slowed due to cooler temperatures, condition improved with the rain. Potato conditions 10% fair, 90% good; 45% planted, 20% emerged. Corn 30% planted, 1% emerged. Dry peas 85% planted. Dry edible beans 45% planted. Processsing green peas 84% planted. Asparagus cutting slowly began, sweet corn planting continued. Hay, other roughage supplies 1% short, 98% adequate, 1% surplus. Range, pasture feeds 6% very poor, 13% poor, 37% fair, 44% good. In Lincoln County, calving was winding down. In western state, some grass harvest had begun, some green chop had been removed from forage fields. Most fruit bud break, blossoming are about ten days ahead of schedule. Due to winter conditions, concern over damage to tops of young raspberry vines, cherries, pears mounted. The daffodil, tulip flower harvest was almost completed.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 6. Subsoil 3% very short, 25% short, 72% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat 9% very poor, 11% poor, 27% fair, 48% good, 5% excellent. Spring wheat 80% planted, 87% 2003, 75% avg.; 38% emerged, 59% 2003, 42% avg. Barley 80% planted, 87% 2003, 71% avg.; 29% emerged, 54% 2003, 38% avg. Oats 51% planted, 63% 2003, 43% avg.; 13% emerged, 37% 2003, 22% avg. Corn 2% planted, 6% 2003, 3% avg. Alfalfa height 6%, 5% 2003, 2% avg. Cows calved 83%, 83% 2003, 82% avg. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 6% poor, 23% fair, 62% good, 9% excellent. Sheep Condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 88% good, 8% excellent. Range, Pasture 4% very poor, 24% poor, 45% fair, 26% good, 1% excellent. Sheared on farm 71%, 79% 2003, 79% avg. Sheep sheared on range 53%, 61% 2003, 61% avg. Ewes lamb on farm 81%, 88% 2003, 83% avg. Ewes lamb on range 42%, 59% 2003, 52% avg. Apples full bloom or past 90%, 24% 2003, 16% avg. Apricots full bloom or past 99%, 100% 2003, 99% avg. Sweet cherries full bloom or past 90%, 88% 2003, 86% avg. Tar cherries full bloom or past 97%, 84% 2003, 53% avg. Peaches full bloom or past 85%, 96% 2003, 59% avg. Pears full bloom or past 100%, 90% 2003, 42% avg. Activities: Plowing, planting, irrigating, spraying winter grains, corrugating alfalfa fields, caring for livestock. Cool temperatures, scattered precipitation has helped the early spring crops, as well as, fall planted crops. Box Elder county reports Range and Pasture conditions are deteriorating rather quickly. Cache county reports farmers are planting more short season forage crops this year rather than late season crops which require more irrigation. Drought concerns and Mormon Cricket infestations continue to be sources of reat concern. Mountain counties are still reporting freezing temperatures at night with scattered rain, snow. Fruit trees growth was accelerated by warm spring temperatures, scattered showers, but last weeks cooltemperatures are causing some concern. Livestock were in good condition. Producers continued lambing, calving activities as well as shearing sheep. Range, pasture feeds are causing some concern.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for field work 4.0. Topsoil 3% short, 63% adequate, 34% surplus, 86% 2003 adequate, 14% surplus. Intended acreage prepared for spring planting 45%, 48% in 2003, 51% 5-yr avg. Hay, roughage supplies 2% very short, 11% short, 81% adequate, 6% surplus, 17% very short, 26% short, 57% adequate 2002. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 5% short, 89% adequate, 4% surplus 6% short, 94% adequate 2003. Corn 4% planted, 3% 2003, 7% 5-yr avg.; 14% planted, 55% 2003, 46% 5-yr avg.; 4% emerged, 9% 2003, 16% 5-yr avg. Tobacco beds seeded 89%, 99% 2003, 90% 5-yr avg.; 29% emerged, 33% 2003, 43% 5-yr avg. Winter wheat 27% fair, 71% good, 2% excellent; 1% headed. Hay conditions 2% poor, 38% fair, 57% good, 3% excellent. Apples 23% fair, 77% good. Peaches 20% fair, 80% good. Cattle, calves 4% poor, 32% fair, 58% good, 6% excellent. Calving 89% complete, 88% 2003, 87% 5-yr avg. Sheep, lambs 3% poor, 43% fair, 50% good, 4% excellent. Lambing 90% complete, 92% 2003, 87% 5-yr avg. Activities: Fence mending, field preparation, fertilizer application, planting of fields.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 60. Soil 11% very short, 33% short, 52% adequate, 4% surplus. Temperatures across the state ranged from the mid 80's to the low 20's. Overall, temperatures were 2 to 4° above normal for this time of year. However, soil temperatures remained cold, with the last frost finally coming out of the ground in the northern parts of the state. In the southern parts of the state, the ground is still too cold for corn planting due to the cold nights. Rainfall amounts ranging from trace amounts in the northern to nearly 3 to 5 inches in the southern parts of the state. Many counties are reporting a lack of rain. Fields are getting dry, so the rain that was received this past weekend was welcomed. Due to the dry, cool conditions, pasture feeds are slow growing.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Topsoil 19% very short, 47% short, 32% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 31% very short, 36% short, 33% adequate. Barley 75% planted, 65% 2003, 63% 5-yr avg.;
33% emerged, 22% 2003, 18% 5-yr avg. Oats 47% planted, 21% 2003, 23% 5-yr avg.; 7% emerged, 2% 2003, 2% 5-yr avg. Spring wheat 55% planted, 25% 2003, 28% 5-yr avg.; 8% emerged, 1% 2003, 6% 5-yr avg. Sugar beets 32% planted, 27% 2003, 37% 5-yr avg. Corn 5% planted, 1% 2003, 1% 5-yr avg. Winter wheat 4% very poor, 28% poor, 59% fair, 9% good. Spring calves born 78%, 78% 2003, 80% 5-yr avg. Farm flock ewes lambed 81%, 79% 2003, 83% 5-yr avg. Farm flock sheep shorn 83%, 79% 2003, 82% 5-yr avg. Range flock ewes lambed 19%, 18% 2003, 23% 5-yr avg. Range flock sheep shorn 53%, 49% 2003, 48% 5-yr avg. Calf, lamb losses remained mostly normal to light. Livestock condition was mostly good. Range, pasture feed 13% very poor, 21% poor, 45% fair, 21% good. Stock water supplies 12% very short, 35% short, 53% adequate. Temperatures were above normal at almost all stations. Temperatures ranged from 4°F below normal in Archer to 6.4°F above normal in Jackson. The highest temperature was 76°F in Sheridan, Newcastle, Redbird, the lowest temperature was 3°F in Laramie. Precipitation was below normal at almost all stations. Most stations in the West reported less than a tenth of an inch, while stations in the Southeast reported more moisture. The most precipitation fell in Chugwater with 0.62 inch, Archer with 0.43 inch, Lander with 0.34 inch.