ALABAMA:  February’s weather was cold, windy, and at times rainy. The wheat crop is a little behind normal due to wet weather in the fall. Some growers are applying nitrogen fertilizer. Corn growers in the south are preparing for planting. Some tillage, fertilizer activity is underway in the north in preparation for corn planting. Soil moisture is good across of the state. Peach blooming was thinned out by 15 to 20% because of freezing. More cold weather is forecast for this week but it is not expected to harm peaches. Peach growers have several weeks to go before they can feel safe from future freeze damage. Activities included: General care of livestock, poultry, and catfish.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA:  Temperatures for the State were mostly below normal for the first week of March. Emergence is virtually complete on the durum wheat, barley acreage. Durum wheat has started to head on 7% the acreage, while barley has headed on 12% of the acreage. Alfalfa condition remains mostly good. Precipitation was reported at all of the 17 reporting stations ranging from 0.08 inches in Willcox to 1.14 inches in Payson.

ARKANSAS:  Winter wheat is reported in fair condition. Cattle remain in good condition. Pasture condition is good thanks to warm conditions, adequate moisture. February was the warmest since 2000 and the 6th warmest since 1978. Temperatures for the month averaged above normal. The highest temperature for the month was 78°F, the lowest was 30°F. There were 3 days with high temperatures in the 70s, 11 days with temperatures in the 60s, no low temperatures less than 30 degrees. Precipitation during the month totaled 2.71 inches, 0.56 inches below normal.

CALIFORNIA:  In State, ample soil moisture, moderate temperatures provided excellent growing conditions for fields of barley, oats, wheat, other small grains. Wet conditions kept growers from discing under cotton fields to meet the plowdown requirement for Pink Bollworm, also slowed down field preparation for planting. Sweet potato hotbed fumigations were completed. Sugar beet plantings grew well, with some growers applying herbicides. Rice fields continued to be drained. Field work was finishing up in many grape vineyards, while buds began to swell in vineyards in the San Joaquin Valley. Blossoms appeared in apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach, plum orchards Statewide. Strawberry plants in the San Joaquin Valley continued to flourish. Blueberry bushes were blooming. NAVEL oranges, lemons, mandarines, avocados continued to be harvested, but recent rain caused delays, cancellations in harvesting. Navel harvest quality remained low due to rind decay, peel miner, end splits. Blossoms appeared in almond orchards. Due to a short supply of bees, many almond growers were buying bees to place in their orchards, wet weather caused unfavorable conditions for the bees to pollinate blossoms. Fields of asparagus, broccoli, garlic, head lettuce, onions were progressing well in response to warmer temperatures. Field preparation, planting of spring vegetables, such as cucumbers, squash, continued. However, some fields were too wet to work. Broccoli, cauliflower, carrots were harvested. The following vegetables were also reported harvested: beets, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, gailon, kale, kohlrabi, lemon grass, mustard greens, Napa cabbage, radishes, radicchio, sugar cane, taro root, turnips, and you choy. Winter pastures remained in good to excellent condition throughout February. Cattle, sheep were in good condition with no reports of supplemental feeding. Marketing of old crop lambs continued in the Southern State desert. Heavy rains caused serious problems for Southern State dairies, with milk production lower, death loss higher than normal. Central State dairies fared better, although muddy corrals caused a slight decrease in milk production.

COLORADO:  State experienced warmer than normal temperatures during the month of February. The mild conditions were beneficial to ranchers entering the calving, lambing season. Most of the state received above normal levels of precipitation as well. Statewide average snowpack levels are currently 100% of normal. The northern districts are experiencing a below normal average from 81 to 97%. Snowpack in the southern part of the state is above the average ranging from 114 to 145%. Winter wheat condition is rated good to excellent across the state in response to the warmer temperatures, increase in moisture. Activities: Continue to center around feeding, care of livestock and preparing for the spring planting season.

DELAWARE:  Though precipitation totals in February have been close to normal, soils are saturated, some delay in fertilizer application has been reported. Fruit trees, small grains over-wintered well. Hay, feed supplies are adequate. Livestock, poultry are in good condition. Producers are busy planning for the upcoming growing season, visiting FSA offices to report crops and moving stored grain.

FLORIDA:  Mostly warm, mild conditions during February allowed citrus harvesting, vegetable planting, harvesting, the preparation of land for field crop planting, tobacco transplanting, to proceed on schedule. Timely rains over the western Panhandle kept pastures in good to excellent shape, while, elsewhere, grazing was rated poor to fair due to drought. Permanent grasses reappeared, red clover started blooming near the end of the month in some Panhandle localities. The dry weather increased the risk for wild fires in some areas of the northern, central, southern Peninsula. Soil moisture supplies declined until significant rains near the end of the month over the Peninsula replenished some soil moisture levels. During early February, growers in the Quincy area started to lay plastic for tomato transplanting, highbush blueberries started blooming in Hernando County, producers around Hastings began digging a small amount of potatoes. Feathery new growth appeared on citrus trees about mid month, followed by the emergence of pinhead bloom buds. Cabbage cutting gained momentum after mid-month as the St. Patrick’s Day holiday neared. Late orange harvesting started about mid month with the picking of other orange varieties, tangerines, tangelos, grapefruit active throughout the month. Vegetables, other non citrus fruit harvested during the month included snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes. Picking of sweet corn in the Everglades region started to slow seasonally near the end of the month as potato digging increased around Hastings. Livestock producers fed hay throughout the month. Hay supplies remained adequate due to the mild winter weather.

GEORGIA:  Temperatures were mild for the month of February with lows in North State reaching down to the mid-teens, continuously reached the mid 30’s to 40’s for South State. High temperatures warmed up over the month from the 60’s statewide, up to the 70’s in North State and 80’s in South State. Pasture, grazing conditions continued to decline...
throughout the month due either to excessive or too little rain. The northern part of the State reported a large amount of precipitation including rain, hail in some areas, while some southern areas reported very little. Hay feeding was necessary because of the weather conditions. Excessive rain in some areas caused erosion. The cold conditions at the beginning of the month caused concerns about calving. Toward the middle, end of the month, mild weather contributed to small grains growth in South State. Highbush blueberries, early spring fruits approached full bloom this month, onions were reported to be in excellent condition. Activities Included: Soil testing, field preparations for spring planting, lime, fertilizer applications, top, side dressing of small grains, transplanting tobacco, cabbage, planting sweet corn, laying plastic for spring tomatoes, burning off pasture, hay fields, repairs to damage caused by freezing rain, sled, and the routine care of livestock and poultry.

HAWAII: Dry, sunny weather conditions remained over the State. Farm activities caught up to near normal levels. Most crops made good progress with active harvesting. Irrigation was at moderate to heavy levels. Banana, papaya harvesting remained active. Most leafy crops made good progress with the favorable weather. Production from mature dry onion fields expected low however dry conditions during the week was favorable for good crop development in younger planting.

IDAHO: Topsoil 1% very short, 39% short, 58% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 9% fair, 83% good, 8% excellent. Hay, roughage supply 1% short, 87% adequate, 12% excellent. Lambing 61% 2005. Calving 52% 2005. Very mild but dry weather continued across most of the state. More moisture is needed this spring to prevent drought conditions. Lambing, calving conditions continued well this past month. Activities Included: livestock feeding, milking cows, hauling, spreading manure, cleaning ditch banks, working on taxes, and machinery maintenance.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil 4% short, 69% adequate, 27% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 12% poor, 28% fair, 44% good, 16% excellent. Activities Included: Calving, hauling grain, preparing equipment for spring field work, attending agricultural meetings, events, watching commodity markets, and signing up for 2005 farm programs.

INDIANA: Very little fieldwork was accomplished during February. Field conditions were not suitable for heavy equipment during most of the month. Some chisel plowing took place in isolated areas. Fertilizer, lime were also being spread on some fields. Farmers were preparing equipment, purchasing supplies along with general farm chores. Producers are facing some tough decisions with the high nitrogen prices, equipment, purchasing supplies along with general farm chores. Field conditions were not suitable for heavy equipment during most of the month. Producers are facing some tough decisions with the high nitrogen prices, equipment, purchasing supplies along with general farm chores. Acceptable for good crop development in younger planting.

KANSAS: Topsoil 1% very short, 11% short, 73% adequate, 15% surplus. The State experienced normal to above normal temperatures most of February. Precipitation was generally light throughout the State during the month the wheat condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 19% fair, 59% good, 16% excellent. Wheat wind damage is 87% none, 11% light, 2% moderate, freeze damage is 86% none, 12% light, 2% moderate. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 78% adequate, 15% surplus. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 4% short, 83% adequate, 11% surplus.

KENTUCKY: February began on a calm, dreary note. Skies were cloudy, fog and haze were persistent across the State, but conditions were dry. By the middle of the first week a low pressure system tracking across the southeastern United States brought rain, snow showers. As much as 3 inches of snow fell in north central State. The precipitation continued into the 3rd before high pressure moved in bringing light winds and clear skies. The weekend was dry, sunny with temperatures several degrees above normal as highs climbed into the 50's and 60's. Temperatures averaged 39°, 6° above normal. The extreme high temperature was 63 at Berea, Glasgow, and London. The extreme low was 18 in Covington. Precipitation (liq. equiv.) totaled 0.19 in. statewide which was 0.67 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.04 in. at London to a high of 0.62 in. at Cumberland Gap. Above normal temperatures continued into the second week of February. The majority of the week was cloudy, drizzly, rainy as a series of low pressure systems north along a stationary front that had settled across the State. As the front moved east, cold air moved in bringing snow showers, flurries on the 10th. There was some light accumulation. Pleasant weather settled in the week due in part with temperatures remaining in the 50’s. It was short lived as another low pressure system brought rain late in the week to the region. Temperatures averaged 42°, 7° above normal. The extreme high temperature was 63 in Jackson. The extreme low temperature was 20 in Somerset. Precipitation (liq. equiv.) totaled 1.11 in. statewide, 0.23 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.61 in. at Spindletop to a high of 1.86 in. at Harrodsburg. The third week began with a weak cold front moving through the State. There were also strong southerly winds that ushered in warm air from the southern US. That allowed temperatures to climb into the 60’s and 70’s on the 15th. Another weak cold front moved through mid-week. There was no precipitation, but winds were from the northwest, so much cooler temperatures moved into the state. Another shot of cold air came early on the 18th as another cold front brought light snow flurries to parts of the State. High pressure settled in with temperatures remaining in the 50’s and 60’s. Skies remained clear, winds light. It was short lived as heavier widespread rains fell across the State on the 20th. Temperatures averaged 43 degrees, 6 degrees above normal. The extreme high temperature was 71 in Glasgow, Paducah, and Princeton. The extreme low temperature was 15 in Covington. Precipitation (liq. equiv.) totaled 0.61 in. statewide which was 0.27 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.24 in. to a high of 1.04 in. at Somerset. Drier conditions were common warm and dry. A cold front stalled across the State as the week began bringing thunderstorms, heavy showers to parts of the Bluegrass State. It lingered as a stationary front through the 24th. Little additional precipitation was associated with the front, however, it kept clouds, fog, haze around. Mid-week, a winter weather advisory was issued for the northern half of the State. Snow accumulation was generally less than 2 in. High pressure, clear skies, warmer temperatures moved in for the weekend. Skies began to cloud up the afternoon of the 27th as the next weather maker approached the state. Temperatures averaged 41°, 2° above normal. The extreme high temperature was 63 in Glasgow. The extreme low temperature was 17 in Covington. Precipitation (liq. equiv.) totaled 0.34 in., 0.54 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.07 in. at Henderson to a high of 0.74 in. at Paducah. Farmers continued hauling tobacco after heavy precipitation moved in for the weekend. Producers across the burley belt had sold 94% of their effective quota by months end. Receiving stations have closed for the season while another round of clean up auction sales is possible for the week of March 14. Markets, dates for same time last year. The average depth of frost penetration for the state was 7 inches, compared to last year’s 12 inches. Movement of grain for the state was 17% none, 37% light, 40% moderate, 6% heavy. Availability of hay, roughage supplies 4% short, 75% adequate, 21% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage supplies 6% poor, 41% fair, 53% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 32% none, 28% limited, 27% moderate, 13% extensive. Hog, pig losses in February 24% below avg.; 72% avg.; 4% above average. Cattle, calf losses 26% below avg.; 69% avg.; 5% above average.
these auctions have not been set yet. Greenhouses are busy preparing trays for tobacco seeding. Livestock producers continued to deal with muddy conditions as they provided hay, other feed to their herds. Mild temperatures, wet conditions caused only moderate livestock stress. Soil moisture to be adequate to surplus across the entire Commonwealth. Winter kill was reported in some areas as farmers began to access their small grain and hay fields.

MISSOURI: Before the heavy rains arrived during the last few weeks, livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures, feeding hay. Strawberry producers continued harvesting, selling their crop. Harvesting of crawfish continued with an average year expected.

MARYLAND: Late winter snows have saturated soils in western regions though most areas of the state are reporting soggy conditions. The wet weather may delay pea planting on the Eastern Shore. Hay, feed supplies are adequate, livestock are in excellent condition. Producers are busy filling crop plans with FSA, developing nutrient management plans and planning for the upcoming growing season.

MICHIGAN: Operators across the State reported a fairly normal February. A few farmers reported periods of well-below average temperatures. For the most part, producers faced the usual amount of cold weather, snowfall, but also enjoyed periods of sunshine, moderate temperatures throughout the month. Rainfall and intermittent thaws created ponding on some fields, leading to some concern for underlying wheat, alfalfa stands. Livestock conditions were reported generally good. Feed supplies were looking adequate to good. Farmers continued with maintaining, repairing machinery, buildings, hauling manure, cutting wood and plowing snow.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures have been generally seasonal this past month. There has been adequate precipitation, snow cover although snow levels have dropped somewhat due to a couple periods of above normal temperatures. Livestock feed inventories are in good supply, livestock conditions have been doing very well due to the warm winter conditions.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil 49% adequate, 51% surplus. Hay supply 28% short, 52% adequate, 20% surplus. Feed grain 1% short, 99% adequate. On average, February temperatures were a few degrees above normal. State rainfall averaged 5 inches with parts of central, southern state experiencing rains in excess of 5 inches. Frequent rain showers hampered normal fieldwork activities during February. Hay supply appears to be in good shape with fertilizer, herbicide treatments continuing to be applied to pastures. Wet conditions have delayed Burn down applications to row crop fields. Before the heavy rains arrived during the last few weeks of the month, warmer temperatures, adequate pasture growth resulted in increased grazing time for cattle.

MISSOURI: Precipitation for the State during February averaged 2.42 inches, compared with the 30-year average of 1.90 inches. Farmers have been fertilizing wheat where fields were dry enough but most areas need some warm, dry weather before fieldwork becomes general. Tillage has mostly been limited to the Bootheel. The wheat crop is coming out of dormancy, greening up, particularly in the southern half of the State. Wheat varies from fair to good condition, with stands in some areas showing evidence of the excessive moisture in both fall, winter. Livestock feed supplies are adequate in virtually all areas.

MONTANA: Soil 53% very short, 32% short, 14% adequate, 1% surplus compared to 2004 10% very short, 24% short, 65% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 61% very short, 30% short, 9% adequate, 0% surplus compared to 2004 28% very short, 50% short, 21% adequate, 1% surplus. During the month of February, temperatures were above normal with limited precipitation. The winter wheat 11% very poor, 11% poor, 40% fair, 45% good, 3% excellent. Despite the lack of snow cover, the winter wheat crop condition is better than last year. Wind damage to the winter wheat 39% none, 35% light, 22% moderate, 4% heavy. Freeze, drought damage 31% none, 46% light, 20% moderate, 3% heavy. Snow cover for winter wheat 91% very poor, 8% poor, 1% fair, 0% good, 0% excellent; spring stages 67% still dormant, 33% greening, 0% green and growing. Most of the pastures are available for grazing. Livestock grazing 82% open, 10% difficult, 8% closed. Currently, 97% of the cattle, 96% of the sheep are receiving supplemental feed. Calving is 34% complete and lambing is 18% complete.

NEBRASKA: No snow cover reported for the state. Temperatures averaged mostly above normals during the month with temperatures 12° above normals during the first week. The eastern third of the state received above normal precipitation with amounts up to 3.5 inches in the southeast. Minimal moisture received in the western two-thirds of the state continues to be a concern for dryland producers. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 38% fair, 48% good, 12% excellent. Hay, forage supplies mostly adequate. Condition of cattle, calves mostly good to excellent with spring calving 31% complete. Activities Included: Livestock care and spring planting preparations.

NEVADA: High pressure over the State early in the month trapped moist air, produced several foggy days. This was followed by a series of storms that were relatively weak in the north but much more significant in the south. Rainfall accumulation in Las Vegas approached record levels. Snow pack in the Sierras remained well above normal, but eastern state ranges held near to below normal snow. Snow cover on many winter ranges made supplemental livestock feeding necessary. Calving was getting underway in the lower elevations. Good soil moisture supplies benefited early range conditions in the south with widespread greening noted. Early grasses, weeds were beginning to appear in the north by the end of the month. Fall seeded crops were overwintering well. Activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock care, fence repairs, crop, livestock marketing, industry meetings.

NEW ENGLAND: Seasonal temperatures, snow prevailed during the month of February. Maple sugar producers were busy preparing for the upcoming season; some southern state producers have started tapping trees, boiling. Cool nights, warm days make for ideal tapping conditions. Activities during the month Included: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: The average monthly temperature across most of the state was 34°. The month began with temperatures below normal across most of the state, then climbing to above normal for the first half of the month, reaching up to 18° above normal in Atlantic City by February 15, 2005. Temperatures began to fall the second half of the month, remained below normal the last week of the month in most areas. Precipitation was at or near normal for the month. The greatest amount of rainfall occurred on February 14, 2005, when over one inch of rain fell in most localities. A winter storm brought 4.9 inches of snow to Atlantic City on February 24, 2005. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: Equipment repair and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: During the month of February many storms impacted most of the state. The first week nearly all reporting locations measured precipitation, with the heavier amounts in the south, east. Temperatures ranged from near normal over the northwest to generally a few degrees below normal elsewhere, with the greatest departures in the south. Two storms affected the state during the second week. Both storms produced the greatest impact over the west half of the state, with some copious precipitation amounts over portions of the west. Temperatures for the week were around normal or slightly above normal nearly statewide. The third week was another warm, wet week for most of the state as several minor storm systems moved across the state. A couple of rare, February severe thunderstorms developed between Albuquerque, Santa Fe on February 14, 2005, when over one inch of rain fell in most localities. High pressure over the State early in the month trapped moist air, produced several foggy days. This was followed by a series of storms that were relatively weak in the north but much more significant in the south. Rainfall accumulation in Las Vegas approached record levels. Snow pack in the Sierras remained well above normal, but eastern state ranges held near to below normal snow. Snow cover on many winter ranges made supplemental livestock feeding necessary. Calving was getting underway in the lower elevations. Good soil moisture supplies benefited early range conditions in the south with widespread greening noted. Early grasses, weeds were beginning to appear in the north by the end of the month. Fall seeded crops were overwintering well. Activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock care, fence repairs, crop, livestock marketing, industry meetings.

NEW YORK: Average temperatures with moderate snow fall totals were recorded across the state. An end-of-month snow storm blanketed
northwest reported that it is too early to tell. cattle are in good condition; winter wheat is much improved from last month, however counties in the good condition. livestock conditions 61% good, 24% fair, compared to poor, 32% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. livestock were rated in mostly grazed 2005, 35% 2004, 34% average. livestock 1% very poor, 3% poor, average. rye 85% grazed 2005, 74% 2004, 52% average. oats 40% fair, 67% good, 11% excellent. rye 3% poor, 17% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. oats 1% very poor, 5% poor, 41% fair, 50% good, 3% excellent. wheat 57% grazed 2005, 46% 2004, 45% average. rye 85% grazed 2005, 74% 2004, 52% average. oats 40% grazed 2005, 35% 2004, 34% average. livestock 1% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 61% good, 11% excellent. pasture, range 3% very poor, 12% poor, 32% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. livestock were rated in mostly good condition. livestock conditions 61% good, 24% fair, compared to 44% good, 33% fair 2004. death loss of cattle was mostly light. hay supplies were rated as mostly average.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil 3% short, 71% adequate, 26% surplus. subsoil 1% very short, 3% short, 81% adequate, 15% surplus. wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 28% fair, 54% good, 14% excellent. rye 3% poor, 17% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. oats 1% very poor, 5% poor, 41% fair, 50% good, 3% excellent. wheat 57% grazed 2005, 46% 2004, 45% average. rye 85% grazed 2005, 74% 2004, 52% average. oats 40% grazed 2005, 35% 2004, 34% average. livestock 1% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 61% good, 11% excellent. pasture, range 3% very poor, 12% poor, 32% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. livestock were rated in mostly good condition. livestock conditions 61% good, 24% fair, compared to 44% good, 33% fair 2004. death loss of cattle was mostly light. hay supplies were rated as mostly average.

OREGON: Activities: Winter care, supplemental feeding of livestock continued across the state. Movement of potatoes, corn, dry onions, and small grains also continued. nurseries kept up preparations for the upcoming season. according to the natural resources conservation service (NRCS), snowpack levels in the state remain very low, ranging from 18 to 50% of average. this is especially felt in the hood river, willamette, and umatilla basin, where levels are less than 30% of average. drought intensity in the state ranged from abnormally dry in southwest state, moderate in many central areas, severe in northeast, southeast state. a joint meeting of the state weed board, the invasive species council was held to address preventative means against noxious weeds. a voluntary premises registration program has begun in the state, identifying physical locations where livestock animals may be kept. In time this program could include tracking locations, movements of individual livestock animals.

PENNSYLVANIA: Principal farm activities for the month of February included milking cows. tow preparation, planning for this year’s crop season. the month of February was relatively mild throughout the state. highs in the northern, mountain areas of the state have been averaging in the upper 30s with lows at night consistently in the 20s and upper 10s. in the southern, valley areas of the state, temperatures ran well above normal for most of the month. high temperatures have been consistently in the 40s and upper 30s. lows at night have been averaging in the upper 20s. winter precipitation was below historic averages for the month. snowfall was nonexistent throughout the state for much of the month. the final week brought slightly cooler temperatures, a few inches of snow across the state.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Cold days, nights were observed during the first week of February. there were reports of brief periods of sleet on Tuesday. cloudy conditions turned rainy overnight on Wednesday with the approach of a frontal boundary. rainfall amounts exceeding one inch were common across the upstate. florence reported light snow with the exiting precipitation on Thursday. sunny days, seasonable temperatures started the weekend. by Sunday afternoon, milder 60° temperatures had settled over the state. for the period, the state average temperature was 2° below normal. the second week of the month boasted temperatures near normal to unseasonable warm. by the third week of February, temperatures fluctuated from above to below normal. the highest official temperature reported was 88° at orangeburg on February 6. the lowest official temperature reported was 25° at chester and clinton on the morning of February 4. the heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.75 inches at anderson ending at 7:00 a.m. on February 3. the average statewide rainfall for the period was 0.7 inches. farmers are busy in preparation for the upcoming planting season by servicing their equipment, tilling the land. the high fuel prices may encourage some farmers to pursue the option of no-till planting this year. farmers are also using winter grazing pastures to supplement their winter hay supply.

TEXAS: Weather conditions across the state were generally wet throughout the month. a few locations were able to begin preparations for next season’s planting, but they were few, far between. some producers were still attempting to harvest last fall’s cotton crop, some cotton was planted in southern locations. generally planting was minimal as wet conditions covered the majority of the state. rainfall was heavy in some locations, a few severe storms were reported. livestock condition remained variable, sickness in livestock increased somewhat as a result of the long term wet conditions. some weather related losses were also reported. range, pastures were considered excellent in most areas of the state, however pasture destruction increased as a result of the wet conditions. supplemental feeding remained necessary, many producers had trouble in getting feed to their herds as a result of the wet road conditions. rain was falling in many locations at the time of this report.
UTAH: State has received above average precipitation this water year through out the state, most water shreds are over 100% of normal snow pack. February brought cold weather, more precipitation across the state. Higher elevations received large amounts of snow, while lower elevations received snow, rain. Most areas have high soil moisture content so further flooding is a major concern across the state. Flooding continued to be a big problem in Washington County, river and creeks have caused a great deal of erosion. Rich County reports that most of the county has snow cover of up to 30 inches. Subzero nightly temperatures have limited snow melt during the day, causing for the upcoming calving season. Box Elder County also has a large amount of snow covered across ranging from 8-12 inches across the county. Bear River Canal Company is reporting to stock holders that water rationing is expected to continue this year. Bear Lake has been drawn down to record lows the past few years, will take a lot of water to fill the lake to normal levels. Pastures look good, should be in much better condition this spring than in previous years. Most producers are completing winter maintenance on equipment, working on financial statements, planning for the new season. Producers are still limited in the amount of field work that can be done due to snow coverage, frozen ground, muddy fields. Field work should start in the next few weeks.

VIRGINIA: Varying amounts of rain, snow fell across the Commonwealth in February. The mixed precipitation, above freezing temperatures brought muddy conditions to the state. These conditions hindered manure spreading, small grain top dressing activities. Spring calving has started. Some livestock deaths have been attributed to the damp, muddy conditions. Activities Included: Soil sampling, applying lime (when weather permitted), tax preparation, moving on-farm stored corn and soybeans to grain elevators, supply ordering, pickup, attending marketing, crop insurance meetings. Significant moisture, varying temperatures basically sum up the month of February in the Commonwealth. Throughout the month there were some parts of the state that faced rain showers, while other areas experienced snow showers. Above freezing temperatures allowed frozen ground to thaw leading to muddy field conditions in fields.

WASHINGTON: Unseasonably warm, dry temperatures were experienced in most areas of the state. The lack of rainfall for nearly three weeks greatly reduced soil moisture, allowed early soil cultivation. Snow fall was very minimal, therefore precipitation levels were considerably short, causing concern for the irrigation season. Initial reports suggest that the current dry spell may have been a record for the lack of rainfall. Very dry soil conditions limited spring plantings for some producers. Many producers may decide not to plant spring crops, such as spring wheat, or cut back on acreage substantially. Christmas tree growers continued planting trees, preparing to make herbicide applications due to the rapid growth of weeds. Livestock producers were jubilant that accelerated forage growth due to the warm, dry conditions reduced the amount of supplemental hay needed by livestock. Greenhouse tomato growers were pleased that the additional heat units were resulting in rapid plant growth. However, fruit and berry producers were concerned that the unusually warm days would bring premature budding, possible frost damage because of it. Rhododendrons, daffodils, ornament plants were blooming several weeks ahead of schedule. Retail garden stores, nurseries reported strong demand for primroses, other early blooming herbaceous plants. No crop losses reported.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil 1% short, 49% adequate, 50% surplus compared to 2004. 2% short, 78% adequate, 20% surplus. Hay, roughage supplies 9% short, 84% adequate, 13% surplus. Feed grains 1% short, 98% adequate, 1% surplus. Wheat conditions 4% fair, 96% good. Tobacco beds 1% seeded, compared to 3% 2004. Cattle, calves 10% very poor, 17% poor, 21% fair, 47% good, 5% excellent. Calving 41% complete, compared to 38% 2004. Sheep, lambs 1% poor, 11% fair, 83% good, 5% excellent. Lambing 40% complete, compared to 36% 2004. Activities Included: Lambing, calving, feeding cattle, maintaining livestock health. Due to the weather conditions feed, hay supplies seem to be holding steady. Mud is causing problems with getting feed into the fields, calving, lambing and causing some slides.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures averaged 5 to 60° above normal for the month of February. Average low temperatures were in the upper teens, low twenties. Average high temperatures were in the mid thirties during the month. Northern parts of the state received 0.70 to 1.00 inches of precipitation. This area has had normal to slightly above normal precipitation for the year. Precipitation in southern areas was between 1.30 and 1.90 inches. This area of the state has had one half to one inch above normal precipitation for the year. Light snow cover was reported in the northern reaches of the state. However, warmer temperatures during the month reduced snow cover across the state.

WYOMING: Calves 22% born, 24% 2004, 25% 5-yr average. Farm flock ewes lamb 26%, 26% 2004, 31% 5-yr average. Farm flock sheep shorn 29%, 28% 2004, 34% 5-yr average. Temperatures for the four weeks ending Friday, March 4 averaged above normal for the central, eastern portions of the State while the western portion was below average. Temperatures ranged from 7.90° below normal in Big Piney to 6.70° above normal in Riverton. The low temperature for the month was recorded in Big Piney at 26° below zero, and the high temperature was 63° 1.30 and 1.90 inches. This area has had normal to slightly above normal precipitation for the year. Precipitation in southern areas was between 1.30 and 1.90 inches. This area of the state has had one half to one inch above normal precipitation for the year. Light snow cover was reported in the northern reaches of the state. However, warmer temperatures during the month reduced snow cover across the state.