ALABAMA: Soil moisture is adequate to surplus across most of the state at this time due to several rains in March and particularly the last two days. Growers have been preparing fields for planting but will now need to let them dry out for a few days before continuing. In north state corn growers will begin planting as soon as they can get back into the fields. In south state planting is well underway with herbicide burn-down for corn, cotton planting. Small grains are growing well. Planting time for vegetable crops in drawing near. Peach flower bud stages range from near complete petal fall in some varieties to early bloom in others. Most livestock have come through the winter months in good condition, grazing is near normal and most producers have an adequate supply of hay.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures for the State were mostly below normal for the fourth week of March. Durum wheat has headed on 20% of the acreage. Barley has headed on 42% of the acreage. In western state, cotton planting is underway. Alfalfa condition remains mostly good. Precipitation was reported at 10 of the 17 reporting stations ranging from 0.01 inches in Casa Grande to 0.65 inches in Flagstaff.

ARKANSAS: Winter wheat is reported in good condition. Cattle remain in good condition. Pasture condition is good thanks to warm conditions, adequate moisture. The first 27 days of March have been cool, dry. Temperatures for the month averaged above normal on 12 days, at normal on 1 day, and below normal on 14 days. The average temperature for full month of March was 52.8°F, 1.4 degree below normal. The highest temperature for the month was 83 degrees and the lowest was 31°F. There were 6 days with high temperatures in the 70s, 15 days with temperatures in the 60s and there were no low temperatures less than 30°F. Precipitation during the month totaled 3.36 inches, 0.83 inches below normal.

CALIFORNIA: In the state, conditions were wet throughout most of March, providing good growing conditions for grain crops. Field work was ongoing, where conditions allowed. Ground preparations for cotton planting was underway, corn planting began. Sweet potato hot-bed planting, field fumigation continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Alfalfa was growing well, the first round of cuttings, windrow ing began. Sweet potato plantings were doing well. Canes, shoots were growing rapidly in grape vineyards, immature clusters began to appear. Early varieties of stone fruits were being thinned as fruit continued to develop, some g rafting was underway. Apples began blooming across the State, with some early varieties developing fruit. Grapefruit, lemons, mandarins, Valencia oranges, tangelos, tangerines were harvested with good yields reported. Navel oranges were also harvested, but with declining quality, pack-outs. Avocado harvest continued throughout the month. Bloom was complete in most almond orchards, nearing completion in walnut orchards. Bees were moved out of almond orchards, into citrus orchards. Asparagus, carrots, broccoli, head, romaine lettuce, turnip harvest continued as conditions allowed. Melon planting began. Foothill pastures in much of the state were reported in the best condition in several years. Cattle, sheep were in very good condition, with many producers anticipating excellent weight gains. Ewes and lambs were moving from alfalfa fields due to the start of the alfalfa harvest.

COLORADO: Temperatures for March started warmer than average, then finished out the month well below the average. Precipitation levels started out the month in above normal amounts but dropped off substantially by the end of the month to below average amounts. Winter wheat condition has been rated from good to fair so far this crop season prompting operators to pasture in more acres than usual. Mountain snowpack is currently 109% of normal statewide. The northern regions are consistently below the normal with averages anywhere from 81% to 97%. The southern regions are in much better shape with 114% to 145% of the normal snowpack. Lambing, calving is progressing under good conditions with death losses being rated at below average for both. Activities: Center around care, feeding of livestock and planting spring crops.

DELAWARE: Air temperatures in the state were in the 50’s and rainfall was about normal. Farmers have begun field preparation, small grain spraying. Small grains were in good shape except where water laid in fields. Good quality hay for horses was in short supply while hay for cows was adequate. Activities Included: Top-dressing small grains, preparing equipment for spring tillage, and record keeping.

FLORIDA: Rainy weather during March delayed some field preparations for cotton, peanut planting, slowed some field corn planting, vegetable planting, harvesting, delayed some citrus harvesting, grove maintenance activities. The frequent showers reduced the quality of some vegetables with most in fairly good condition at the end of the period. The much needed moisture perked up pastures. By the end of the month, clover had bloomed in the Panhandle, and Bahia, Bermuda grasses in the northern Peninsula showed good growth, recovery from earlier dry weather, freezing temperatures. However, livestock producers fed hay to animals throughout the month as they waited on permanent pastures to develop, cattle were still grazing on small grain forage at the end of the month. Periods of cool, wet conditions favored disease development in some blueberries with growers taking adequate steps to combat infections. Cloud cover impeded warming by the sun with temperatures three to 8 degrees below normal during the first half of the month. The cooler temperatures held back the blooming of citrus trees with scattered stages, from small bloom buds to blossoms, showing by the end of the month. Abundant feathery new foliage growth appeared on most citrus varieties throughout the month. At the beginning of the month, some plum, apple, fig, other deciduous fruit in the Panhandle completed leaf development, flowering. Early in the period, northern Peninsula, Panhandle growers prepared land for the planting of watermelons as producers in the Quincy area transplanted tomatoes. Sugarcane harvesting remained active in the Everglades during most of the month but slowed seasonally from the middle to end as mills closed. Warmer temperatures arrived at the end of the month accompanied by frequent rains which slowed some field activities. Citrus grove caretakers finished most mowing, hedging, tree topping by mid month, started to apply fertilizers, copper sprays, herbicides in anticipation of blooming. Some strawberry growers opened fields for "U-Pic" during the last half of the month as the season neared the end. At the end of the month, blueberry producers prepared for the start of harvesting. The picking of oranges remained active throughout the month. Vegetables harvested during the month included snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, sweet corn and tomatoes with lighter amounts of eggplant, endive, escarole and lettuce available.
GEORGIA: Temperatures, rainfall started near normal for the month of March. However, heavy rains, cold temperatures toward the middle of month slowed land preparation, spring planting. Pasture, wheat, vegetable conditions were all rated fair to mostly good. Small grain was in good condition. Producers applied lime, fertilizer to fields, pastures. In central state, high winds, rains caused some minor damage to apple, peach, and pecan trees. Blueberries started to bloom but pollution appeared to be low due to the cold weather. Vidalia onions were in good condition. There were concerns about the high cost of fertilizer, diesel fuel. Livestock producers continued to feed hay due to poor pasture feeds. Activities Included: Preparation for conservation tillage planting, burndown of cover crops, the routine care of livestock and poultry.

HAWAII: Mixed weather conditions continued over the State. A high pressure system north of the state brought gusty winds, rains, cold temperatures mid to late week. Volcanic haze covered much of the state for a few days. Most crops made fair to good progress with active harvesting. Irrigation was at moderate levels aided by showers providing needed moisture in some districts. Banana, papaya harvesting remained active. Most leafy crops made good progress with the cooler weather. Onion crop benefitted from these weeks conditions as there were no reports of any significant rainfall in the major growing area.

IDAHO: Topsoil 2% very short, 32% short, 64% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 6% fair, 85% good, 9% excellent. Hay, roughage supply 1% short, 89% adequate, 10% excellent. 82% lambsing 2005. Calving 77% 2005. The majority of the state’s winter wheat crop is in good condition. With spring-like temperatures, many producers have already drilled the spring wheat crop. Calving, lambing, calving is going well throughout the state. Farmers are burning irrigation ditches, preparing irrigation systems for the upcoming season. Most areas in the state are receiving beneficial rains that have improved the topsoil moisture condition. Activities Included: Light tillage operations, spreading manure, and drilling spring grains.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil 4% short, 75% adequate, 21% surplus. Oats 13% planted, 22% 2004, 14% avg. Wheat 1% very poor, 9% poor, 22% fair, 59% good, 9% excellent. Farmers are anticipating warm temperatures in preparation for spring planting season. Activities included: Spring calving, spring tillage, anhydrous application, hauling grain, fertilizer application, hauling manure, and machinery preparations for spring fieldwork.

INDIANA: Some fieldwork was accomplished during March, mostly in the southwestern areas of the state. A few fields of corn were planted in this area. However, very little fieldwork was accomplished during March in most regions of the state. Field conditions were not suitable for heavy equipment during most of the month. Soils have remained cold, wet in many areas. Some discing, chisel plowing took place in isolated areas. Fertilizer, lime were being spread along with top dressing winter wheat. Farmers are concerned about the increased cost of fuel, fertilizer. Hauling corn, soybeans to market was the major activity. Farmers have continued to feed hay due to poor pasture conditions. Activities Included: Preparing equipment, cleaning ditches, tilling, purchasing supplies, attending farm related meetings, attending FSA offices for 2005 DCP, LDP’s, loans, pumping, hauling manure, spraying chemicals, applying anhydrous ammonia and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Soil 5% very short, 16% short, 70% adequate, 9% surplus. Movement of grain for the state was 19% none, 33% light, 37% moderate, 11% heavy. Warm, dry weather led to early field work. Farmers have been tilling for drainage, chisel plowing, applying lime. A great deal of dry fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia has been applied, especially in the Southern two-thirds of the state. Grain movement has picked up in some areas with ethanol plants receiving large amounts of corn. Reporters note Asian Rust is still being discussed and there is concern over high fuel, other input costs. Livestock enjoyed mild weather especially the cow-calf population. Calving has been easier than usual. Feedlot operators have experienced a great winter and early spring for feed yard conditions. At the end of March, on average, there was no remaining snow cover across Iowa. This compares with the lack of snow cover, visibly zero inches, at the same time last year. The average depth of frost penetration for the state was 3 inches, compared to last year’s 4 inches. Availability of hay, roughage supplies 5% short, 81% adequate, 14% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage supplies 6% poor, 41% fair, 53% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 46% none, 27% limited, 19% moderate, 8% extensive. Hog, pig losses in March were 18% below avg.; 80% avg.; 2% above average. Cattle, calf losses 27% below avg.; 71% avg.; 2% above average.

KANSAS: Topsoil 8% short, 78% adequate, 14% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, 4% surplus. The State received widespread showers at the end of the month. Wheat condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 52% good, 20% excellent; wind damage is 85% none, 11% light, 4% moderate, freeze damage is 87% none, 11% light, 2% moderate. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 78% adequate, 16% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 89% adequate, 7% surplus.

KENTUCKY: The month began with a low pressure system bringing clouds, fog, rain, snow to the area. A winter weather advisory was issued to start the month. Gusty west winds, snow accumulation of an inch or two was reported. By mid-month, cold high pressure settled over the State dropping low temperatures into the 10’s and 20’s. However, daytime highs began to warm up as southerly winds ushered in warmer air from the south. Another late week low pressure system moved through bringing rain, except northern state reported freezing rain. The week ended mostly sunny with highs near 60°. Temperatures averaged 38°, 3° below normal. The extreme high temperature was 85 in Paducah and Henderson. The extreme low temperature was 15 in Covington. Spindletop. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.61 in. statewide, 0.40 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.01 in. at Princeton to a high of 1.38 in. at Grayson. The second week of March was cold, dry. Monday was the warmest day of the week before a cold front moved through bringing isolated rain. As temperatures dropped, light snow fell across the eastern half of the State. High pressure settled in for the middle of the week. Improved weather returned by week’s end as a series of clipper systems rushed across the eastern US. Fairer, warmer weather arrived over the weekend, but by late Sunday night another storm system brought a few inches of snow to northern state. Temperatures averaged 39°, 4° below normal. The extreme high temperature was 75 in Paducah. The extreme low temperature was 15 in Covington. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.65 in. statewide, 0.36 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.01 in. at Covington to 1.27 in. at Grayson. The mid-month week was cool and dry. Western sections did not receive any rainfall while central, eastern sections reported light amounts. Moderate to heavy rainfall was received on the weekend in some central sections. Temperatures on the weekend rebounded into the upper 50’s and low 60’s. Temperatures averaged 42°, 4° below normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.14 in., 0.90 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.01 in. at Princeton to a high of 0.44 in. at Bristol. Much of the week was spent under cloudy and foggy conditions. Periodic breaks in the clouds allowed the sun to shine bringing temperatures up into the lower 70’s in some cases. This was the first full week of spring, and the threat of severe weather came with it. A waterspout, a few severe thunderstorms were reported. After a dry start to the year, flooding once again has become an issue across central, southeastern state. Temperatures averaged 47°F above average was 1°F below normal. High temperatures averaged from 55 in the West to 59 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 41°F in the West to 40 degrees in the East. The extreme high temperature was 74 in Glasgow and the extreme low temperature was 28 in Covington. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.02 inches statewide which was 0.01 inches below normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.14 inches at London to a high of 1.89 inches at Paducah. Statewide average precipitation amounts have averaged at or below normal for the past 6 weeks. Spring pastures growth was delayed by below normal temperatures, little greening had begun late in the month. Fall seeded small grains, legumes experienced some winter kill due to fluctuating winter temperatures, advanced growth going into winter. Farmers were busy applying fertilizer when moisture levels allowed them to enter fields. Soil moisture going into spring was rated 1% very short, 89% adequate, 7% surplus. Livestock condition was considered fair to mostly good after enduring a very wet, muddy, cold winter. Many farmer spent time finishing the clean up of flood, storm damage caused during February. Spring fieldwork was
slow due to wet conditions as the month ended. Tobacco auctions held clean up sales at mid month with light volume crossing the floors. Tobacco farmers began sowing their greenhouse and preparing plant beds late in the month.

LOUISIANA: Producers were hindered, again in March, by wet conditions throughout the state. The state received an average of 4.5 inches of rain over the past 4 weeks. Land preparation, spring planting for the 2005 crop year were behind last year, our 5-year average. Field crop producers were getting equipment ready for the upcoming season. Livestock producers were busy with spring calving, fertilizing pastures. Strawberry producers continued harvesting, selling their crop. Crawfish producers continued harvesting one of the best crops in recent years.

MARYLAND: Air temperatures in the state were in the 50’s and many areas received close to two inches of precipitation during the month of March. Heavy rains last week put a stop to field preparation, small grain spraying. Small grains were in good shape except where water laid in fields. There was some winter kill in fall-seeded alfalfa in some areas. Good quality hay for horses was in short supply while hay for cows was adequate. Activities Included: Top-dressing small grains, preparing equipment for spring tillage, and record keeping.

MICHIGAN: Farmers reported a fairly quiet March. Snow cover was variable, ranged from rapidly disappearing in the south to well over half a foot in the north. Between snow, rain, most operators noted adequate accumulated precipitation. Growers in some areas continued to be concerned about ice, ponding on winter wheat and alfalfa fields. Most livestock was reported in good condition. Calving, lambing had started on some operations, but the bulk was yet to come. Feed supplies were reported as generally good; however, some farmers noted good hay in short supply. Sap was just starting to run on maple syrup operations. Besides the normal winter activities of hauling manure, cutting wood, plowing snow, growers were also starting to get machinery ready for spring tillage, planting, as well as spraying urea on wheat. Producers were also preparing income taxes and marketing of last year’s crops was ongoing.

MINNESOTA: Topsoil and subsoil moisture continues to remain high. Temperatures are beginning to warm up to spring levels causing most of the snowfall in the northern portion of the state to melt with patches of fields showing through. The southern third of the state received heavy snowfalls in the middle of the month, with some areas receiving over 20 inches. With the recent spring temperatures, most of this snowfall has melted leaving standing water in the fields and possibly delaying spring field work.

MISSISSIPPI: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

MISSOURI: Precipitation for the State during March has averaged 1.59 inches, with about 90 percent of it coming during the past week. Although rainfall has been less than half of normal, moisture supplies are adequate due to the above normal precipitation in the preceding months. Cool weather during much of the month as well as the recent wet weather have limited early fieldwork in most of the State. Some field preparation for planting had been done in the Bootheel prior to the recent rain, farmers are expecting to make rapid progress as fields dry, warmer weather prevails. Winter wheat and pastures are green in most areas but growth is still slow.

MONTANA: Soil 22% very short, 33% short, 41% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 55% very short, 31% short, 13% adequate, 1% surplus. During the month of March, temperatures were near normal with widespread precipitation. The winter wheat 1% very poor, 11% poor, 44% fair, 38% good, 6% excellent; damage to the winter wheat crop 50% none, 33% light, 15% moderate, 2% heavy. Freeze, drought damage for the crop 43% none, 39% light, 15% moderate, 3% heavy. Snow cover for winter wheat 59% very poor, 8% poor, 14% fair, 11% good, 8% excellent. Winter wheat spring stages is 36% still dormant, 55% greening, 9% green and growing. Most of the pastures are available for grazing. Livestock grazing 71% open, 18% difficult, 11% closed. Currently, 94% percent of the cattle, 84% of the sheep are receiving supplemental feed. Calving is 55% complete and lambing is 47% complete.

NEBRASKA: Snow cover reported in northern, southwest districts averaging 0.3 inches. March temperatures averaged mostly above normals the first half of the month, below normals latter half. Portions of south central state received above normal precipitation during the month with amounts over 2 inches. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 35% fair, 47% good, 12% excellent. Hay, forage supplies mostly adequate. Condition of cattle, calves mostly good to excellent with spring calving 61% complete. Calf losses rated average to below average.

Activities Included: Livestock care and spring planting preparation.

NEVADA: Storms passed through the State early in the month, again toward the end of the month. Winnemucca recorded 1.45 inch of precipitation, Ely 1.08 inch, and Elko 1.00 inch. Snow accumulated in the Sierra, Reno received .34 inch of precipitation. Mountain snow pack remained well above normal in the west, but lagged below normal in the northeast. A warm spell at mid-month raised monthly average temperatures. Calving was common across the State, supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Early grasses, weeds were greening, having benefitted from the rains. Range, pasture feeds were very good. Haying got underway in the south. Wet field conditions were slowing onion seeding in Mason Valley. Fall seeded crops were beginning to break dormancy. Activities: Calving, early haying, onion seeding, equipment maintenance.

NEW ENGLAND: Snow storms throughout the first two weeks of March increased the annual total snow fall to record highs in parts of the state. For the month, seasonal temperatures prevailed. State maple sugar producers were busy during the month tapping trees. However, sap production quantity was limited due to cold temperatures early in the month, warm temperatures late in the month but syrup quality was reported as excellent. Activities Included: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock and preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: The average monthly temperature across most of the state was 36°. Temperatures were below normal across most of the state for most of the month of March. Precipitation was at or near normal for the month in most areas. There were trace amounts of snow in some localities during the month. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: Equipment repair and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: Topsoil 1% very short, 5% short, 81% adequate, 13% surplus. Temperatures for the first week of March were generally near normal to a few degrees below normal, with some low elevation rain, high elevation snow late in the week. The second week saw mainly clear skies, above normal temperatures. There were some gusty winds that resulted in some wind damage to crops. One of the more significant winter storms in recent years struck the state during the third week of March. Snowfall amounted as high as 3 feet were measured along the eastern slopes of the central mountain chain. Temperatures were below normal with readings dipping below zero over portions of the north and east. Freeze damage was 16% light, 21% moderate, 6% severe. Snow cover continued for much of the final week of March. The more significant storm passed through the state Friday and Saturday, leaving snow, cold rain over the northern half. Farmers were busy with land preparation, fertilizing, fighting weeds, working on ditches, conservation efforts. Alfalfa was in mostly fair to excellent condition. Lettuce 15% fair, 75% good, 10% excellent. Onions 80% good, 20% excellent, 95% planted. Chile 63% planted. Wheat was in mostly good condition and 51% was being grazed. Ranchers were busy marketing their late calves, maintaining their herds. Supplemental feeding is decreasing. Cattle 1% very poor, 5% poor, 46% fair, 40% good, 8% excellent. Sheep 2% very poor, 12% poor, 32% fair, 43% good, 11% excellent. Range, pasture 8% very poor, 15% poor, 27% fair, 44% good, and 6% excellent.

NEW YORK: Cold temperatures, intermittent snow events across the state during the first two weeks of March delayed the start of spring land preparation by producers. Warmer temperatures, melting snow during the end of the month increased flood potential. Many fields were still too wet to support machinery. Maple producers have experienced below average sap flows due to adverse weather conditions.
**NORTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for field work 2.7. Soil 1% short, 47% adequate, 52% surplus. Activities included: Planting cabbage, Irish potatoes, soil preparation, top-dressing small grains, corn planting preparations, general winter farm maintenance. Another week of scattered storms across the State brought rainfall ranging from 0.29 to 1.63 inches. The precipitation once again limited field work in some areas, causing delays in spring planting and applications of herbicides.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Mild weather during March provided favorable calving, lambing conditions. Much needed moisture was received in the southern part of the state; however, dry soil conditions still prevailed. Average snow cover was 0.9 inches on March 27, compared to 0.8 inches one year ago. Starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 16. Hay, forage supplies 2% very short, 15% short, 77% adequate, 6% surplus. Grain, concentrate supplies 1% very short, 4% short, 84% adequate, 11% surplus. Cattle conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 12% fair, 72% good, 14% excellent. Calf conditions were rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 77% good, 11% excellent. Sheep conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 74% good, 12% excellent. Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 0% poor, 11% fair, 80% good, 9% excellent. Calving was 41% complete, lambing 59% complete, shearing 80% complete. County, secondary roads 96% open, 3% difficult, 1% closed with 1% drifted, 0% icy, 21% muddy, 78% dry.

**OHIO:** The March 2005 average temperature for the state 32.50, 6.10 below normal. Precipitation averaged 1.96 inches, 0.60 inches below normal. All counties contacted reported that field conditions of winter wheat is improved from last month. Winter wheat is greening up with warmer day temperatures, nights which do not drop below freezing. Livestock are also in good condition, feed, hay stocks are adequate to support cattle inventories. It is still too cold, wet for farmers to begin outside field activities: most were occupied with attending technical meetings and maintenance of farm machinery for planting.

**OKLAHOMA:** Topsoil 3% very short, 18% short, 72% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 8% short, 82% adequate, 7% surplus. Wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 53% good, 19% excellent; 57% jointing, 45% last week, 59% 2004, 50% average. Oats 1% very poor, 4% poor, 37% fair, 53% good, 5% excellent; 95% planted, 92% last week, 94% 2004, 80% avg.; 9% jointing, 2% last week, 17% 2004, 16% average. Rye 1% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 66% good, 15% excellent; 83% jointing, 65% last week, 77% 2004, N/A average. Corn 52% seeded prepared, 48% last week, 47% 2004, 44% avg.; 19% planted, 6% last week, 13% 2004, 9% average. Sorghum 23% seeded prepared, 21% last week, 15% 2004, 18% average. Soybeans 27% seeded prepared, 20% last week, 30% 2004, 27% average. Peanuts 24% seeded prepared, 9% last week, 23% 2004, 22% average. Cotton 49% seeded prepared, 66% last week, 54% 2004, 44% average. Livestock 3% poor, 21% fair, 63% good, 13% excellent. Pasture & Range 1% very poor, 9% poor, 34% fair, 47% good, 9% excellent. Livestock were rated mostly good. In the southwest portion of the state, rain was needed for wheat pasture. Overall, graze-out small grain pastures were looking reasonably well. The death loss of cattle continues to be light. Livestock insect activities were mostly none to light. Feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged 113.54¢ per cwt, and feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged $104.42 per cwt.

**OREGON:** Last week finally brought some moisture to areas across the State. It was not nearly enough to reverse the conditions given the persistent warmth, dryness this winter according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Snowpack levels in the state continue to be extremely low, ranging from 13 to 37% of average. Livestock activities such as calving, lambing are winding down, livestock are doing well. Fertilizer, herbicide applications are being applied as the weather permits across the state. Spring wheat seeding is in progress, alfalfa fields are being irrigated. Many people decided to take advantage of the warm weather by planting trees, shrubs early, which have kept the nurseries, greenhouses busier than normal for this time of year. Several commodities such as pears, peaches, apricots, sweet cherry trees have started to bloom, while strawberries, peas, and onions are being planted.

**Pennsylvania:** Principal farm activities for the month of March included milking cows, spreading manure, planning for this year’s crop season. The month of March was warmer but brought below average temperatures throughout most of the state, particularly during the first half of the month. Highs in the northern, mountain areas of the state have remained in the upper 30s and lower 40s with lows at night consistently in the 20s. In the southern and valley areas of the state, temperatures are finally approaching historic averages after staying below normal for much of the month. Precipitation, both rain, snow, has been moderate for the month. Scattered snow flurries fell on parts of the state early in the month while snowfall has been picking up with the onset of Spring. As of now, there are no concerns regarding precipitation levels, soil moisture in the state, but cooler temperatures may delay planting, other field activities. The cooler weather has been more conducive to maple syrup production in the state.

**South Carolina:** March arrived on Tuesday with brisk winds, cold air. By the start of the weekend afternoon temperatures had risen back to near 70°. On Saturday, scattered storms developed ahead of an eastward moving frontal boundary. Berkeley County recorded a wind gust of 67 mph. Sunny, mild weather was observed on Sunday. For the period, the state average temperature was 6° below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 75° and the lowest official temperature reported was 19°. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.18 inches at Lake Marion on February 28. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 0.2 inches. The second week began with sunny mild weather. On Tuesday, a sharp boundary passed west to east with thundershowers, damaging high winds. The mercury fell below freezing Wednesday as cold high pressure moved over the state. Highs Thursday afternoon and Friday warming temperatures were observed into the weekend with a noticeable increase in surface winds. On both Saturday and Sunday, wind speeds bounded between 25 and 50 mph. Several wildfires were reported with structural losses. Before a few isolated thunderstorms began forming late Sunday, widespread 80° warmth made for the season’s warmest day. For the period, the state average temperature was one degree below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 85° on March 13. The lowest official temperature reported was 20° on March 9. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.72 inches at Clark Hill on March 9. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 0.4 inches. The third week of the month a nearly stationary front early in the week made for cloudy, cool weather. Rain developed along the boundary Wednesday, continued into Thursday. Afternoon high temperatures in the 40’s were well below normal. More sunshine, moderating warmth occurred over the weekend. On Sunday, the first day of Spring 2005, brisk southwest winds pushed the mercury into the low 70’s. For the period, the state average temperature was 6° below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 76° on March 20. The lowest official temperature reported was 24° on the morning of March 18. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.42 inches on March 17. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 1.0 inch. Heavy rains began on Monday. March 23rd stalled field work for a couple of days over much of the State. Corn planting was progressing well. Watermelon, cantaloupes are being planted. Some varieties of peaches are blooming, while some have already leafed out. Parts of Calhoun county received as much as 3.5 inches of rain Sunday night as a strong cold front brought heavy rains, thunderstorm to most of the State. Planting of vegetables continues. Small grains are reported to be in fair to good shape.

**South Dakota:** Days suitable for field work 2.4. Topsoil 11% very short, 32% short, 54% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil condition 16% very short, 13% short, 51% adequate, 24% surplus. Oat condition 11% very short, 12% short, 71% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies 22% very short, 27% short, 49% adequate, 2% surplus. Wheat 4% very poor, 4% poor, 32% fair, 54% good, 6% excellent; breaking dormancy 57%, 74% in 2004. Oats seeded 5%, 3% in 2004. Spring wheat seeded 6%, 6% in 2004. Cattle condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 72% good, 16% excellent. Sheep condition 6% fair, 80% good, 14% excellent. Range, pasture 23% very poor, 23% poor, 25% fair, 25% good, 4% excellent. Calving 32% complete, 37% in 2004. Lambing 51% complete, 47% in 2004. Cattle moved to pasture 6%. Calf deaths in March 33% below average, 66% average, 1% above average. Sheep and lamb deaths in March 36% below avg.; 63% avg.; 1% above average. Expected average date to start field work April 5th. The month of March was slightly warmer than normal, with a few snowstorms occurring, bringing some moisture to several areas throughout the state. Precipitation totals for the month were predominantly lower than normal, with many producers concerned over the lack of moisture. Activities for March Included: Hauling grain, calving, lambing, feeding livestock.
preparing for small grain seeding. The majority of farmers are preparing for spring fieldwork, with many getting an early start spreading fertilizer and a few seeding small grains.

**TEXAS:** Weather conditions across the state were generally unsettled during the month. Heavy snow events along with multiple rain events have crossed several regions during the month. Farming activities have been off, on however progress was made in many locations. Land preparation, planting in southern, central areas has been behind somewhat due to varied rain events, however catching up was in progress in late month. Across the Plains some cotton was yet to be harvested as conditions have remained too wet. Livestock condition remained variable as multiple weather swings has made conditions undesirable for many livestock herds. Losses have been minimal, but most were weather related. Range, pastures were mostly excellent for this time of year and greenup was ongoing. Supplemental feeding continued at months end, however was greatly reduced in many locations. Extended forecast was calling for a wetter than normal spring

**UTAH:** Days suitable for field work 3. Subsoil 0% very short, 3% short, 86% adequate, 11% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 2% very short, 14% short, 80% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 52% good, 26% excellent; freeze damage 5% none, 22% light, 15% moderate, 4% severe. Spring wheat 23% planted. Barley 18% planted. Oats 17% planted. Cows calved 58%. Cattle, calves condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 69% good, 14% excellent. Sheep condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 78% good, 7% excellent. Range, Pasture 6% very poor, 11% poor, 25% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent. Sheep Sheared On Farm, Sheared On Farm 34%. Sheep Sheared On Range, Sheep Sheared On Range 25%. Ewes Lamb On Farm, Ewes Lamb On Farm 59%. Ewes Lamb On Range, Ewes Lamb On Range 24%. Apricots full Bloom Or Past 23%. Sweet Cherries full Bloom Or Past 0%. Tart Cherries full Bloom Or Past 0%. Peaches, Full Bloom Or Past 19%. Pears, Full Bloom Or Past 54%. Statewide rainy, snowy conditions limited time in the field to an average of 3 days last week. Prior to the wet weather, farm activities included fertilization of fall grains, applying lime to alfalfas fields, and caring for livestock. The cold, wet weather has melted most of the snow from the fields, but shallow puddles of standing water remain. Box Elder county reported very wet conditions with a lot of surplus water runoff. Some northern counties reported irrigation water supplies remained a question for the upcoming growing season. Dryland wheat farmers reported adequate snow melt on their wheat as snow cleared from higher elevations. Cache county also reported melting snow due to the rain, which has contributed to puddles of standing water left in the fields. They anticipated some damage resulting from snow melt, saturated soils. Uintah county reported the record snow pack in the eastern Uintah mountains is cause for concern about spring floods. Every drop of precipitation is welcomed but has caused delays in field work. Livestock were in fair condition, but dealt with muddy conditions. Calving and lambing continued, but the cold wet weather stressed young livestock.

**WASHINGTON:** Days suitable for fieldwork.4. Topsoil 6% very short, 25% short, 64% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 26% very short, 46% short, 27% adequate, 1% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 13% very short, 13% short, 73% adequate, 1% surplus. The highest temperature in the state was 69°F at the Whitman Mission. The lowest temperature in the state was 22°F in Deer Park. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 58% good, 7% excellent. Spring wheat s 46% planted, 13% emerged. Barley 31% planted, 8% emerged. Potatoes 6% planted. Dry peas 14% planted. Processing green peas 8% planted. A nice soaking rain over the weekend came as good news to all sectors of agriculture. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition. Spring cereal crop seeding started, will be progressing during the next few weeks. The planting of potatoes also began. Christmas tree growers finished fertilizer application work. Producers were still concerned about the affect of the dry conditions on grazing land, non-irrigated crops. More rain will be needed to keep the crops sustained during warm, dry winds. Range, pasture feeds 18% very poor, 29% poor, 36% fair, 17% good. Oyster growers completed burrowing shrimp assessments in preparation for supplemental feeding, consumed harvest, transplanted harvest. There were some reports of problems with crooked calf syndrome due to lupine consumption. Stone fruits, pear trees, tulip fields were in bloom. Raspberries , blueberries were budding. Cranberry producers applied early season herbicides and continued bog maintenance work. Retail nursery, garden stores continue to increase inventories of annual bedding plants, vegetable transplants. Nurserymen were pleased that rainfall helped to alleviate drought concerns for home gardeners.

**WISCONSIN:** Temperatures in the state were slightly below normal for March. Average high temperatures during the month were in the low 40's. Average low temperatures ranged from 10 to 20°F across the state. Northern areas of the state received 0.45 to 0.90 inches of precipitation during March. This is 0.65 to 0.95 inches below normal for the month. The west central area received 1.55 inches of precipitation during the month, slightly above normal for the month. Southern areas received 1.00 to 1.25 inches, this is 0.50 to 1.00 inches below normal for the month. Snow cover can still be found in the northern reaches of the state. Warmer weather during the month reduced snow cover to zero or trace amounts in the remainder of the state.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil 1% short, 29% adequate, 70% surplus compared to 2004 91% adequate, 9% surplus. Hay, roughage supplies 4% short, 80% adequate, 16% surplus. Feed grains 2% short, 97% adequate, 1% surplus. Wheat condition 1% poor, 7% fair, 85% good, 7% excellent. Tobacco beds 16% seeded compared to 25% 2004. Cattle, calves 2% poor, 20% fair, 71% good, 7% excellent. Calving 65% complete, compared to 69% 2004, 68% for the 5-yr avg. Sheep, lambs 1% poor, 13% fair, 78% good, 8% excellent. Lambing 63% complete, compared to 64% 2004, 67% for the 5-yr average. Most field activities were on hold until drier conditions prevail. Activities Included: Maintenance of equipment in preparation for spring planting. Wet conditions have made feeding and working with livestock difficult.

**WYOMING:** Calves 44% born, 49% 2004, 51% 5-year average. Farm flock ewes lambed 51%, 52% 2004, 57% 5-year average. Farm flock sheep born 57%, 57% 2004, 5-year average 60%. Barley 39% planted, 42% 2004, 23% 5-year average. Oats 7% planted, 7% 2004, 2% 5-year average. Spring wheat 3% planted, 7% 2004, 3% 5-year average. Average high temperatures during the month, slightly above normal for the month. Temperatures ranged from 9.1°F below normal in Sundance to 3.5°F above normal in Riverton. The low temperature for the month was recorded in Big Piney at 3°F below zero, and the high temperature was 71°F at Sheridan. Precipitation averaged below normal for most of the State. The most precipitation fell in Afton with 1.39 inches, Lander with 0.91 inches, and Big Piney with 0.87 inches. Nearly all stations are below normal for the year.