**ALABAMA:** Rain showers nearly every week in December brought much needed moisture to most of the state. Several cold weather systems brought cooler temperatures, however daily high temperatures have been recorded in the 70’s. Due to dry weather in October, November cotton harvest was nearly complete by December, slowed the planting of winter wheat. With the December rains, wheat fields emerged with decent stands.

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures for the State were above normal for the week ending January 2. Precipitation was reported at 1 of the 22 reporting stations. Canyon De Chelly received 0.04 inches of precipitation. Cotton harvest was complete on ninety-seven percent of the acreage, same percentage points from last year but behind the five-year average of ninety-eight percent. Alfalfa condition remains mostly good. Range, pasture conditions are mostly very poor to poor.

**ARKANSAS:** Winter was off to an early start in Arkansas. The beginning of the month produced several days of sub-freezing temperatures throughout most of the state. Snow, and ice were reported from central Arkansas to the northern half of the state during this period. The temperatures remained cool through the start of winter. The month ended with unseasonably warm temperatures and windy conditions. This weather further deepened drought conditions. Burn bans were issued to most of the state. The winter wheat, the pastures are in need of a good rain. Hay stocks are in short supply this winter due to the drought which is leaving some cattle producers purchasing supplemental feed as well as additional hay.

**CALIFORNIA:** Wet weather conditions throughout much of December were good for already planted small grain crops; however, rain hindered field preparation, planting activities for barley, oats, winter wheat. Winter wheat had a slow start, and was just beginning to head by the end of the month. Cotton harvest was completed early in the month, cotton field conditions were nearly finished. Sugar beet fields were planted. The grape harvest ended, with late variety grape harvest completed early in the month. Apples, kiwifruit, persimmons, pomegranate harvests were mostly complete, with good yields reported. Navel orange harvest continued. Many Valencia oranges were left unharvested or sent straight to juice plants. Pummelos, grapefruit hybrids, lemons, and many tangerine varieties were harvested. Blueberries were planted. Strawberries harvest drew to a close in the central valley, while planting began in the coastal areas. The pecan harvest was complete. Carrot harvest began. Fall melon, winter squash harvest was complete in the Imperial Valley. Fresh market broccoli, lettuce, and cauliflower harvest continued in fields not too wet to restrict accessibility. Radicchio harvest continued. New onion fields were transplanted, and onion, garlic plantings progressed well. Tomato beds were prepared for planting. Rain, unseasonably warm temperatures boosted new grass growth on winter pastures. Fall calving of beef cows was complete. Cattle were receiving supplemental feed in areas where grass was still short. Rain caused muddy conditions at dairies, feedlots. Beehives were placed in protected areas for the winter.

**COLORADO:** Temperatures in Colorado were above average for December during the last few weeks. Precipitation levels were normal throughout the month. Adequate levels of moisture from November through December have allowed the winter wheat to maintain a good stand. The mountain snowpack is reported 105% above normal for December.

**DELAWARE:** Soil moisture was rated adequate to surplus. Livestock appears to be in fair condition despite the cold early in December followed by a mild period toward the end. Small grains are in good condition. Activities Included: Working on farm equipment, going to agricultural conferences, and finishing harvesting.

**FLORIDA:** Scattered rains, especially over Panhandle, northern Peninsula, kept soil moisture supplies mostly adequate during December 2005, but interrupted some vegetable planting, harvesting with most activity staying on schedule. Mostly cool temperatures aided strawberry quality but slowed some strawberry plant growth with picking around Plant City. Dover slowly increasing during month. Harvesting of endive, escarole, Romaine lettuce, radishes, cabbage started by beginning of month. Earlier adverse weather significantly slowed celery crop around Lake Okeechobee, no significant amount available until end of month. Other vegetables marketed during month included snap beans, cucumbers, pickles, peppers, squash, tomatoes; very light amounts of sweet corn, eggplant, okra available. Cotton, peanut harvesting finished by first of month. Sugarcane harvesting continued around Lake Okeechobee. Citrus areas experienced cool weather first three weeks of December. Several mornings, temperatures recorded in high 30s to low 40s. From Christmas until end of month, temperatures continuously warmed, reaching high 70s, low 80s during afternoons, several days dropping only to mid 50s at night. Rainfall at or above average levels with showers across citrus belt first two weeks of month. While lakes, canals remain generally above normal levels, surface soil moisture levels being maintained with irrigation in dry areas. Growers continued mowing, middle cleaning programs for most of month, preparing groves for harvest. Owners still concentrated on clean up operations in groves where trees, barns blown over by Hurricane Wilma. Maturity levels continued behind normal, delaying high quantity of picking in early–midseason varieties. Early Tangerines, Tangelos picked steadily entire month. Less than one percent of Honey Tangerine crop was picked during month. Twelve major processing plants now open, one more planning to open early February. Two processing plants concentrated exclusively on Grapefruit for month. Pasture poor to good as month began. Small grain planting for forage in Panhandle, north behind due to drought, frost. Hay feeding active. Pasture condition poor to fair till mid-month due to drought, seasonal decline of permanent pasture. At mid-month December, rains helped established, newly planted cool season forages, beef cattle producers feeding hay, permanent pasture grass finished. Cattle condition mostly good. At month’s end cool to freezing temperatures slowing forage growth, hay feeding very active, Range in southwest in fair condition, stressed by drought, statewide cattle condition mostly fair.

**GEORGIA:** The final month of 2005 was marked by low temperatures, scattered rainfall, according to the USDA, NASS, Georgia Field Office. Temperatures statewide hovered between the mid 30’s and low 40’s. Rainfall was generally hit or miss. Some areas received almost constant precipitation, while others measured only a small amount. The cotton, soybean harvests continued, both nearing completion. Overall pasture conditions steadily improved throughout the month, due in large part to the late season rains, cooler temperatures. The cool season grasses have started to germinate. Small grain planting proceeded, but the rainfall slowed progress. Onion transplanting also continued, the crop...
**HAWAII:** The State experienced variable weather conditions during the week ending New Year Day, January 1, 2006. Early in the week, mostly clear skies with light variable winds brought warm days, moisture stress to the growing crops. At midweek, partly cloudy early morning hours, some afternoon cloud cover brought cooler temperatures. Brief scattered showers on New Year's Day gave relief but not enough to aid the very dry conditions of the crop growing fields.

**IDAHO:** Topsoil 0% very short, 7% short, 74% adequate, and 19% surplus. The majority of the 2006 winter wheat crop is in good condition. Winter Wheat Condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 4% fair, 82% good, and 14% excellent. Hay and Roughage Supply 9% short, 90% Adequate, 1% Surplus. Many counties in Idaho report unseasonably warm December weather and heavy precipitation, including the first Christmas rains in Custer County since 1964. Ranches and livestock were affected by heavy rains and flooding in Southwestern Idaho, some severely, while others suffer muddy work conditions. Activities: Producers are busy attending relevant agricultural seminars, repairing equipment, and preparing 2005 tax forms.

**ILLINOIS:** Topsoil 13% very short, 32% short, 49% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 1% poor, 21% fair, 67% good, 10% excellent. Below normal temperatures, precipitation levels experienced in November persisted throughout December. The state-averaged temperature in December was 25.8 degrees, 4 degrees below normal. Precipitation accumulated to 3.4 inches, only half of the normal 2.69 inches. The majority of precipitation fell as snow in early December. The snow melted in the later part of the month, leaving no cover on the wheat crop, muddy conditions for livestock. Farmers are grateful for the precipitation, but are hopeful for more in order to restore soil moisture. Most farmers indicate winter wheat is generally good, but a sudden return to a deep freeze could damage the crop. Activities included: Machinery repair, hauling grain, working on taxes, ordering seed, preparing for winter livestock birthing, and caring for livestock.

**INDIANA:** The state experienced below normal temperatures most of the month, but unseasonably warm temperatures arrived in time for the holidays. The winter wheat crop is reported to be in mostly good condition. Snow protected most fields during the coldest periods. Livestock operations were forced to feed larger than normal amounts of hay due to the cold temperatures. Warmer temperatures, the last week of December, allowed the ground to thaw making fields, feedlots very muddy. Stripping of tobacco is progressing well. Temperatures averaged about 4.4 degrees below normal for December. Precipitation averaged 2.27 inches compared with 3.06 inches for normal. Many farmers have been visiting FSA offices for 2006 DCP enrollment, LDP’s, and loans. Activities Included: Hauling grain to market, spreading fertilizer, financial planning, tax preparation, cleaning, repairing equipment, and taking care of livestock.

**IOWA:** Agricultural Summary: Cold Temperatures in Early December Gave Way to Moderation. Subsoil moisture supplies remain a concern particularly in the eastern, southeastern areas of the state. Soil moisture 12% very short, 31% short, 51% adequate, 6% surplus. Movement of grain for the state was 34% none, 39% light, 24% moderate, 5% heavy. Availability of hay, roughage supplies 6% short, 82% adequate, 12% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage supplies 5% poor, 35% fair, 60% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 36% none, 24% limited, 30% moderate, 10% extensive. Hog, pig losses in December were slightly above last year’s state averages at 20% below avg.; 77% avg.; 3% above average. Early December colder than normal temperatures gave way to more seasonal temperatures by month’s end. This resulted in muddy conditions, limited outdoor activities. Feedlot, pasture conditions were rated as muddy by several reporters. Generally, livestock conditions were rated as good, however, muddy conditions, warmer temperatures, humidity has caused some health problems. Reports of producers purchasing inputs were received. At the end of December, the average depth of snow cover across Iowa was 2 inches, compared to 0 inches at the same time last year. The average depth of frost penetration for the state was 4 inches, compared to last year’s 9 inches. Cattle, calf losses were also above last year’s state averages at 20% below avg.; 76% avg.; 4% above average. Grazing on corn stalk fields was reported in some areas as conditions permitted. Colder temperatures early in the month increased livestock feeding.

**KANSAS:** Topsoil 7% very short, 40% short, 50% adequate, 3% surplus. Wheat condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 32% fair, 53% good, 8% excellent. The State experienced mostly normal, below normal temperatures most of the month. Precipitation in the form of snow fell throughout the State during December with most falling in the eastern third. Wheat wind damage is 85% none, 13% light, 2% moderate. Wheat freeze damage is 87% none, 12% light, 1% moderate. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 86% adequate, 7% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 4% short, 90% adequate, 5% surplus.

**KENTUCKY:** December 2005: December began warm and wet. Temperatures averaged 39 °, 2° below normal. High temperatures averaged from 43 in the West to 48 in the East. Lows averaged 31° in West to 33° in East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 1.16 in. statewide which was 0.22 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.03 in. at Mayfield to a high of 2.23 in. at Nolin Lake. Tobacco stripping was aided by the increased moisture, marketing remained active. Warm wet weather was beneficial for fall seeded small grain growth. The first full week of the month was very cold, dry. Temperatures averaged 27°, 11° below normal. High temperatures averaged from 34 in the West to 36 in the East. Lows averaged from 19° in West to 23° in East. The cold temperatures so far puts December 2005 on track to rank as the 8th coldest December on record for Kentucky, tied with 1903. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.47 in. statewide which was 0.48 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.20 in. at Cape Girardeau to a high of 0.72 in. at Lexington. Cold temperatures stressed livestock and farmers were kept busy feeding and caring for their herds. Freezing precipitation hampered taking grain, tobacco to market in some eastern, northern areas of the State. Dry weather continued as temperatures moderated some the second week. Temperatures averaged 35°, 1° below normal. High temperatures averaged from 43 in the West to 41 in the East. Lows averaged from 30° in West to 26° in East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.65 in. which was 0.30 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.00 in. at Cumberland Gap to a high of 1.17 in. at Nashville. Farmers marketed grains, tobacco, livestock prior to the holidays. Cool, dry weather continued through the third week of the month. Temperatures averaged 33° which was 1°C below normal. High temperatures averaged from 42 in the West to 43 in the East. Lows averaged from 24° in West to 24° in East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.28 in. statewide which was 0.67 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.03 in. at Quicksand to a high of 0.70 in. at Williamstown. Livestock were in mostly good condition as winter feeding continued. Farmers were kept busy with routine chores, tobacco stripping. December finished with a very warm, mildly wet period as southerly winds dominated the final week of the year. Temperatures averaged 42°, 10° above normal. High temperatures averaged from 52 in the West to 50 in the East. Lows averaged from 34 ° in the West to 35° in the East. Precipitation (liq. Equ.) totaled 0.42 in. statewide, 0.50 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.00 in. at Quicksand to a high of 1.30 in. at Hardinsburg. Pasture became muddy with the increased moisture but warmer temperatures reduced livestock stress. Producers stripped tobacco and prepared to market grain and livestock prior to the New Year. December 2005 temperatures averaged 34 degrees, -1° from normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for December totaled 2.20 in. statewide which was -1.85 in. from normal, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.61 in at Cape Girardeau to a high of 3.58 in at Hardinsburg.

**LOUISIANA:** State closed out 2005 at 14.09 inches below the normal state average. The state averaged 3.3 inches of rain over the last 4 weeks. Harvesting of sugarcane was finished by the 3rd week of December. Citrus producers were spraying to control diseases. Strawberries were being harvested. Crawfish producers were putting out traps. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures and feeding hay. Activities Included: Continual clean up from the hurricanes, repairing and cleaning equipment for the 2006 crop season.
MARYLAND: Soil moisture was rated adequate to surplus. Corn, soybeans were harvested late. Winter grains are in good condition. Livestock is in good condition. Farmers are feeding livestock working on equipment and stripping tobacco.

MONTANA: December weather varied. Early in the month, snow, below normal temperatures were prevalent across the State. The winter wheat stands looked good, were helped by adequate snow cover. Towards the latter part of December, the temperatures warmed up. Above normal temperatures, rain reduced the snow cover in most areas. With the lack of frost in the ground, most of the snow, rain helped replenish soil moisture. There was pooling of water on some winter wheat acres in the southern part of the State. The lack of snow, cover was not welcome for winter wheat farmers as it could lead to winter kill in the coming months. The warmer temperatures helped livestock operators by easing some of the pressure on feed supplies. Activities Included: Hauling manure, limited field work, hauling crops to market, harvesting remaining corn, mending fences, trimming fruit trees, purchasing seed, fertilizer, and preparing end-of-the-year books.

MINNESOTA: The average temperature for December is 16 degrees with the average lows dropping to the negative teens. Though temperatures are normal they have been more extreme. Snow cover is good with six to eight inches. Winter grazing has not been possible with early snow fall but feed supplies from the harvest are very good. Some corn acreage was not harvested due to wet conditions and early snow but this is minimal. Soil moisture is very good with ground freezing normal. Reports indicate cattle are in good condition with exception of five herds that tested positive with TB. Field activities in preparation for spring were hampered in some areas due to wet conditions and early snow.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil 1% very short, 31% short, 64% adequate, 4% surplus. Hay supply 42% short, 52% adequate, 6% surplus. Feed Grain 13% short, 87% adequate. On average, December temperatures were about four degrees below normal. Cooler temperatures were felt during the first half of the month, milder temperatures arrived during the latter part of December. State rainfall averages were about an inch below average. Ryegrass, winter wheat growth picked up due to the warmer temperatures experienced late in the month. Grazing time continued to be an issue for cattle operators, but recent warm conditions allowed for increased grass growth. Hay supply, feed grain are both adequate with producers hopeful that milder temperatures will continue and cool-season forage growth will improve.

MISSOURI: Weather remained mostly mild during the past month, making care, feeding of livestock easier than normal. Many farmers in the areas which were driest during the past season have had to buy hay due to low-yields, early supplemental feeding requirements resulting from poor summer pastures. backdrop, the large carryover of hay from the previous year, an active hay market, particularly in the south-central, southwestern counties have helped most farmers who need hay to find it locally. Stock ponds continue to be low on water levels, with many reporters in the driest areas concerned that some ponds will freeze dry if extreme cold temperatures occur before significant rainfall. The wheat crop is in fair to good condition with most of the crop appearing well established with early growth.

MONTANA: Topsoil 10% surplus, 1% last year, 62% adequate, 41% last year, 24% short, 44% last year, 4% very short, 14% last year. Subsoil 2% surplus, 0% last year, 45% adequate, 11% last year, 41% short, 46% last year, 12% very short, 43% last year. During the month ending December 31st, there was moderate to light precipitation across the state. Fort Benton, Stanford tied for the high temperature at 64 degrees. West Yellowstone had the low temperature of -42 degrees. Swan Lake received the most moisture at 3.51 inches. Winter wheat condition is 1% very poor, 8% last year, 2% poor, 15% last year, 36% fair, 43% last year, 44% good, 33% last year, 17% excellent, 1% last year. Winter wheat wind damage is 68% none, 57% last year, 22% light, 26% last year, 9% moderate, 13% last year, 1% heavy, 4% last year. Winter wheat freeze and drought damage is 74% none, 54% last year, 23% light, 24% last year, 2% moderate, 21% last year, 1% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover is 39% very poor, 1% last year, 47% poor, 6% last year, 10% fair, 19% last year, 3% good, 38% last year, 1% excellent, 36% last year. Range, pasture feeds 8% very poor, 20% last year, 16% poor, 33% last year, 40% fair, 36% last year, 30% good, 10% last year, 6% excellent, 1% last year. Ranchers are providing supplemental feed to 92% of cattle, calves, 100% last year, 94% of sheep, lambs, 100% last year. Livestock grazing is 69% open, 12% last year, 14% difficult, 28% last year, 17% closed, 60% last year.

NEBRASKA: For the month of December 2005, producers began the month battling the impact of the late-November snowstorm. Above normal temperatures during the second half of the month melted snow cover, moderated livestock stress. The warmer conditions allowed grazing of stalk fields to resume, limiting livestock forage needs. A large portion of the state is either abnormally dry or very short due to moderate drought conditions. Depth of snow at the end of December was very light across most of the state, with only the central, north central districts reporting totals greater than two-tenths of an inch. Precipitation during December was light with the most falling on the eastern half of the state. Temperatures averaged well below normal the first full week but temperatures at the end of the month were well above normal. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures averaged more than 3 degrees above normal. Wheat condition remained near month ago levels, 1% very poor, 4% poor, 31% fair, 61% good, 3% excellent. Hay, forage supplies rated as adequate or surplus across the vast majority of the state. Cattle, Calves condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 75% good, 13% excellent, near year ago levels.

NEW ENGLAND: The month of December had mostly seasonal temperatures in New England, four winter storms hit the region. On December 4th, snow, freezing rain covered southern New England, southern portions of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. On December 9th, wintry mixture covered the region. Cold front came into the region from the 13th to the 15th where temperatures dipped below zero, reported as low as 20 below zero in northern New Hampshire. The following Friday, up to one foot of snow fell in the region, the largest amount thus far. Another cold front came to the region from the 20th to the 22nd as temperatures again dipped below zero for parts of the region. On Friday December 23rd, more wintry mixture arrived to northern New England. The last week of the month brought heavy rains which washed away most of the recent snowfall in southern New England. Farmers kept busy tending livestock, pruning trees, and marketing crops from storage.

NEW JERSEY: Some farmers finished their 2005 season harvesting their remaining corn, soybean fields during the first few days of December. Where field conditions permitted, farmers continued to plant small grain crops. Temperatures were below normal for the first half of December across most of the state. By mid-December temperatures reached normal, or near normal, in most localities. Temperatures in New England climbed above normal, remained there during the latter part of December for most areas. Snowfall for the month totaled less than six inches in most parts of the state. There was over 1.0 inch of rain in Atlantic City on December 25, 2005.

NEW MEXICO: December began with a wave of cold arctic air with our northern counties reporting overnight temperatures as low as -18 degrees. Only a few areas in the north, far northeast had any measurable precipitation, none reported over one tenth inch. Temperatures were near normal by the second week. The main weather event was a fast-moving storm that produced some rain and snow early in the week. Chama received over 5 inches of snowfall that melted down to 0.3 inches of moisture. A few other locations in the north measured between 1 and 2 tenths of an inch of moisture from the storm. The third week of December brought unseasonably warm weather throughout the state. Many areas averaged at least 5 to 8 degrees warmer than normal. The year ended with very warm, dry weather. Temperatures averaged about 9 degrees above normal for the state, and afternoon readings reached as high as the 60s and 70s in the lower elevations. Very strong wind on New Year’s Day fanned grass fires in the southeast where conditions have been dangerous dry for months. Farmers finished harvesting their cotton and sorghum, were still busy harvesting their chile, which is near completion, harvesting pecans, which will be finished by the end of January. Other farmers were busy leveling fields, trimming trees,
otherwise tending to their land. Ranchers were hauling feed and water, and preparing for the upcoming calving season.

**NEW YORK:** Below average snowfall with moderate to slightly below normal temperatures were recorded in the Capital Region. Precipitation in the form of rain fell from storms intermittently throughout the month. Albany was 5 inches below the thirty year average for precipitation. Activities: Tending livestock, spreading manure, machinery repair, maintenance, grading, packing onions, apples and potatoes, orchard clean-up and preparing facilities for winter.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for field work 2.5. Soil 0% very short, 3% short, 48% adequate, 49% surplus. December brought some much needed rainfall to help relieve drought conditions in the State. Temperatures were below normal throughout most of the month except for the last week of the year. Temperatures last week were above normal for most of the State with highs ranging from 57 to 65 degrees. Small grain condition ranked mostly fair to good, with wheat showing 2% excellent. Soybean harvest is near completion at 96% harvested. Activities Included: Harvesting soybeans, feeding livestock, stripping, grading burley tobacco and general farm maintenance.

**NEW YORK:** Below average snowfall with moderate to slightly below normal temperatures were recorded in the Capital Region. Precipitation in the form of rain fell from storms intermittently throughout the month. Albany was 5 inches below the thirty year average for precipitation. Activities: Tending livestock, spreading manure, machinery repair, maintenance, grading, packing onions, apples and potatoes, orchard clean-up and preparing facilities for winter.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Temperatures were above normal across the state during December. The mild winter conditions have allowed ranchers to continue to graze livestock. Reporters noted that producers were busy hauling grain, livestock to market. Some grain storage problems were also reported. Average snow cover was 5.5 inches on January 1. This compares to 6.2 inches a year ago. Hay, forage supplies 0% very short, 4% short, 87% adequate, 9% short. Snow cover protection for alfalfa 37% poor, 57% adequate, 6% excellent. Cattle conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 73% good, 13% excellent. Sheep conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 71% good, 13% excellent. County, secondary roads 92% open, 8% difficult, 0% closed. Ten percent of the roads were drifted, 31% icy, 4% muddy, 55% dry.

**OHIO:** The December 2005 average temperature for Ohio 27.3 °F, 4.4 above normal; however the average temperature for the last 2 weeks is 1.4 °F above normal at 30.9 degrees. Precipitation for the state averaged 1.92 inches, 0.99 inches below normal. Several winter wheat producing counties reported current winter wheat conditions are good to excellent. Snow cover of winter wheat fields has melted away, which has allowed heavy rainfall of past 2 weeks to soak into the ground rather than remain standing in fields. Cattle conditions are also excellent because of mild December temperatures, hay inventories for cattle operations seem fine for overwinter cattle stock.

**OKLAHOMA:** Topsoil 84% very short, 13% short, 3% adequate. Subsoil 66% very short, 25% short, 9% adequate. Rye 18% very poor, 33% poor, 43% fair, 6% good; Oats 37% very poor, 42% poor, 14% fair, 7% good; Livestock 19% poor, 58% fair, 19% good, 4% excellent; Pasture, Range 26% very poor, 28% poor, 31% fair, 14% good, 1% excellent. Livestock also deteriorated from 82% good on November 28, 2005 to 19% good on December 31, 2005. They were still in mostly fair condition. Forage supplies for cattle have been depleted in many pastures due to the lack of any regrowth. Fewer cattle were grazing on small grain pastures due to the decline of wheat conditions. The death loss of cattle was light to average. Hay supplies were rated as mostly average.

**OREGON:** December was very wet with heavy precipitation December 28-January 1. Areas of the coast received over 9.0 inches of rain last week. The Brookings-Harbor AgriMet station on the south coast recorded its second highest December precipitation since it was installed in 1999. Fields of nursery crops were flooded in the Willamette Valley where several inches of rain were recorded. Two Willamette Valley rivers are currently still flooded. Roads in some southern Oregon areas were closed or washed away with the 7.0 plus inches of rain received. Most central, eastern Oregon areas received between 1.0 and 4.0 inches of rain last week. Temperatures throughout the month have averaged around normal, but most areas were about 10° warmer than normal last week. Soils have been too wet for field activity. Lambing season has begun. Some calves were also being dropped and at their mother side. Greenhouses have been busy getting ready for spring and Valentine’s Day. Nurseries have been taking care of stock on hand, preparing to plant trees and shrubs in the spring.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Principal farm activities during the month of December included finishing off the corn, soybean harvests, attending organizational meetings, repairing barns, fences, spreading manure, making the final preparations for cold weather. A select few corn, soybean fields were not harvested due to excessive rainfall in parts of the state. The Keystone state along with most of the entire country has experienced below normal temperatures during the first three weeks of the month of December. Pennsylvania averaged 10°F below normal itself. Temperatures remained below freezing throughout the day and fell to the low teens even single digits at night. A daily record low was reported at Mt. Pocono (-9 degrees) for December 14. We have experienced some mixed precipitation (rain, freezing rain, and snow) for December as well. On the morning of December 9, snowfall was reported from 6 to 8 in deep in Harrisburg, while northern areas of the state had as much as 10 in. This snowfall provided protection for the winter wheat but put stress on livestock. As days came closer to Christmas, temperatures came back to normal as several warm fronts came in bringing in a few showers.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Daily high temperatures climbed to near 80°F during the first week of December. Scattered thunderstorms over a three-day period provided some relief from a relatively dry season. Clear skies brought the passage of a cold front with frosts across many areas. Warming southerly winds soon moderated temperatures, brought more thunderstorms to the area. The state average temperature was two degrees above normal for the first week. Sunny skies, freezing temperatures. The second week brought a storm which produced near gale conditions over the coastal areas and winter temperatures with highs only approaching 50 degrees. For the second week the state average temperature was five degrees below normal. These conditions lasted through the third week with sunny skies over most of the State. By Christmas temperatures were moderating somewhat into the high 50’s and low 60’s. However, a warm southern from brought warmer springlike temperatures to the area during the last week with temperatures in the mid to high 60’s over much of the midland, coastal areas. Some rough weather passed through the Midlands on Wednesday afternoon, that prompted the National Weather Service to issue tornado watches for many SC counties for a good part of Wednesday and Wednesday night.

In South Carolina, there were no confirmed tornadoes. There were, however, several strong to severe storms that raced across the state. The state average temperature was four degrees above normal for the week. Some early plowing, land preparation occurred in some areas. Small grains were still in good shape.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Feed supplies 1% very short, 7% short, 85% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 15% very short, 14% short, 68% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat 3% very poor, 17% poor, 43% fair, 32% good, 5% excellent. Cattle condition 3% poor, 14% fair, 66% good, 17% excellent. Sheep condition 1% poor, 10% fair, 67% good, 22% excellent. Road conditions, township 83% open, 15% difficult, 2% closed. Average snow depth 4.1 inch. Alfalfa snow cover 42% poor, 48% adequate, 10% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover 49% poor, 42% adequate, 9% excellent. Calf deaths from fall calf crop 29% below avg.; 70% avg.; 1% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths from fall lamb crop 45% below avg.; 54% avg.; 1% above average. While temperatures during December were mostly above normal, several storms worked their way through the state, bringing much needed precipitation to several areas. The November 27th ice storm which was followed by several winter storms early in December forced several farmers, ranchers to be without electricity for days, in some areas even a few weeks. Snowfall in December was significantly greater than last year, with many areas reporting having to deal with icy roads as well. Activities Included: Marketing grain, tending to livestock, and repairing machinery.

**TENNESSEE:** Temperatures across the state were generally below normal during the month of December, except for the last week of the year. Rainfall averages were below normal across the western portions of the state during the month, while the middle, eastern portions experience above normal precipitation during the first, third weeks. In areas where little to no rain fell, producers experienced germination problems in their recently seeded wheat fields. Overall, the 2006 winter
wheat crop was rated in fair-to-good condition, with some areas better or worse depending on the amount of rainfall received. No major problems have been reported for the State's livestock and hay supplies appear adequate.

TEXAS: Weather summary for the month of December December was generally warmer and drier than normal. In early month the first major cold front brought freezing temperatures to the majority of the state and was accompanied with light freezing rain and light snow in varied locations across the Plains, North Texas and many central locations. The effects of the ice and snow were short lived and harvest resumed quickly after being stalled during the snow and ice event. Fall harvest was completed in all areas and many producers enjoyed the best weather related harvest season in many years. Conditions remained dry during the month and generally the drought became steadily worse across the state. Wild fires were common across the state and many acres of grassland were destroyed along with several homes and out buildings. Conditions effecting livestock herds continued to decline as many producers were unable to locate adequate hay supplies. Herd reduction remained common across the entire state. In areas where irrigation was available crops continued to develop, however some shallow water areas were showing a decline in available water. Long range reports indicate more of the same for Texas.

UTAH: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

VIRGINIA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON: Unseasonably cold temperatures with no rainfall were experienced throughout the state for the first half of December. Mountain areas were covered with snow. For the rest of the month, state experienced mild temperatures, wet conditions, fog, heavy rainfall. Substantial rainfall was beneficial to dryland wheat, seeded CRP fields. Many rivers approached flood stage but no serious flooding occurred. Winter wheat and alfalfa crops were covered by snow. Winter wheat fields were reported mostly in fair to good condition. Christmas tree growers enjoyed nearly ideal harvest conditions for the first three weeks of the month, as frozen soils, lack of precipitation greatly facilitated tree harvest. U-Cut Christmas tree farms were busy all month. Some cattle were still out on ranges with supplemental forage being fed while the majority of cattle were on full feeding. Greenhouse tomato growers sowed seed at the end of the month for the 2006 crop. Orchardists started pruning trees.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil 1% very short, 3% short, 72% adequate, 24% surplus compared with 1% short, 60% adequate, 39% surplus last year. Hay, roughage supplies 1% very short, 7% short, 87% adequate, 5% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 96% adequate. Winter Wheat conditions 20% fair, 80% good. Cattle, calves 2% poor, 21% fair, 74% good, 3% excellent. Sheep, lambs 1% poor, 11% fair, 86% good, 2% excellent. Activities Included: Plowing fields and feeding livestock.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures averaged 1° above to 3° below normal during December. Low temperatures reached -11, while highs were reported in 40s. Precipitation ranged from 0.32 to 1.08 inches in northern areas of the state. Southern areas of the state received between 0.63, 1.19 inches of precipitation. Precipitation for the year was 1.93 to 9.11 inches below normal. Multiple snow storms hit the state during the first three weeks of the December. At the end of the month, warmer temperatures arrived, rain was received in many areas. The warmer temperatures, rain reduced most snow cover in the southern half of the state. Moderate snow cover was still present in the northern half of the state at the end of December.

WYOMING: Topsoil 6% very short, 30% short, 60% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 17% very short, 41% short, 42% adequate. The average depth of snow cover 2 inches. Winter wheat condition 6% poor, 35% fair, 59% good. Winter wheat wind damage 15% none, 66% light, 13% moderate, 3% severe. Winter wheat freeze damage 85% none, 15% light. Cattle condition 17% fair, 78% good, 5% excellent. Sheep condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 86% good, 2% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 2% short, 74% adequate, 24% surplus. Stock water supplies 9% very short, 15% short, 76% adequate. For the four weeks ending Friday, December 30th, temperatures varied widely, averaging mostly above normal, ranging from 3.6° below normal in Afton to 6.3° above normal in Torrington. Temperatures were extremely cold early in the period, unusually warm later. The high temperature for December was 65° in Torrington, the low was minus 35° in Big Piney. Precipitation was mostly below normal. The most precipitation was reported in Jackson with 1.63 inches, Afton with 1.49 inches, Newcastle with 0.73 inches. Most of Wyoming saw high winds over the weekend to begin 2006.