ALAIBAMA: Cool, mostly dry conditions prevailed across most of the State. Corn planting was underway throughout the state, with some emergence occurring in more southerly areas. Though night-time temperatures in the northern-most areas of the State sometimes dropped below freezing, no significant damage to corn, winter wheat was reported. Pastures were starting to green up despite cool, dry conditions. The peach crop was progressing ahead of normal, was in good condition, but growers expressed concerns about bacterial spot. Not ideal. The wet weather also slowed the work of bees in almond orchards.

ARIZONA: Temperatures for the State were mostly below normal for the week ending March 26. Precipitation was reported at 14 of the 22 reporting stations. Prescott received the most precipitation at 0.34 inches and Maricopa received the least at 0.01 inches. Alfalfa condition remains mostly good to fair. Range, pasture conditions are very poor to poor.

ARKANSAS: March Crop Weather Summary: The month began with warm, dry conditions. Windy conditions were observed throughout most of the month. Strong winds did produce a few tornadoes scattered in the upper part of the State. A cold front came through to mark the beginning of spring. This front also produced some snow, some sub-freezing temperatures in the upstate. There were also several much needed rain showers scattered throughout the state. These showers did hamper several days of early field work. Still, more rain is needed to overcome the drought conditions from the previous year. The month ended with warm temperatures, lots of sunshine which felt more like the beginning of spring. Corn, some soybean planting are already underway. Farmers are busy with land preparation which includes fertilizing, liming and plowing. They are also draining fields in some of the wetter areas. The winter wheat is starting to show some size in some in the areas with adequate soil moisture. Livestock made it through winter in mostly fair condition. Haying and other supplemental feeding are still necessary in the dryer counties.

CALIFORNIA: Rains boosted growth of field crops. Some planting, field preparation was delayed due to the wet weather. Some small grain crops were damaged by flooding in Sonoma County. Sugar beets continued to emerge. Sweet potato hoed preparation was winding down by mid March. Cool wet weather slowed development on fruit trees, provided conditions for disease. Orchards were treated with fungicides to prevent blossom rot. Many growers ran water in deciduous fruit orchards to aid in frost protection. Pruning of prune trees was completed. Maintenance in vineyards was ongoing. Some grape vines in the Central Valley began to leaf out. Citrus harvest was slowed, though yields, quality were good. Strawberry plants in San Joaquin Valley showed good growth. Many fruit trees were blooming, some were past peak bloom, beginning to leaf out. Many cherry trees were damaged by the wet cool conditions. Avocado harvest began. Most almond orchards were past bloom, beginning to leaf out. Damage to the almond crop from the wet cold weather continued to undergo assessment. Pistachio trees began pushing buds in Fresno County. Walnut groves were pruned, shredded. Rain was beneficial to pastures. Sheep grazed in foothill pastures with a few still on retired crop land fields. Sellers continued to retain ownership of lambs due to low prices. Old crop lambs continued to ship from pastures in the Imperial Valley. Cows were stressed by the wet weather, milking conditions were not ideal. The wet weather also slowed the work of bees in almond orchards.

COLORADO: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DELWARE: Producers are topdressing, applying lime to their fields, getting ready for the planting season. Continued dry weather is starting to impact winter seeded grains, but the effects are not irreversible yet. Ground is being prepared for potato seeding and green pea seeding is underway.

FLORIDA: During the first half of March, dry conditions caused growers to irrigate vegetables in the central, southern Peninsula, new corn plantings in the northern Peninsula, Panhandle. Field preparations for soybean, peanut planting were active in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Sugarcane harvesting slowed around Lake Okeechobee with some mills closing. Vegetable planting, harvesting remained active in the central, southern Peninsula as northern Peninsula, Panhandle producers started to plant spring crop watermelons. Around mid-month, cabbage cutting reached the seasonal peak as growers satisfied the St. Patrick’s Day demand. Potato digging in the Hastings area increased seasonally. Dry weather during the last half of March spurred land preparations, field crop planting in the Panhandle, northern Peninsula, increased vegetable harvesting in the central, southern Peninsula. Near the end of the month, scattered rains over some southern and northern Peninsula, Panhandle areas brought minor relief to dry conditions. The rain storms, especially those crossing the southern Peninsula, spawned tornadoes with some damage occurring. Other activities included non crop cutting, winterizing, irrigation. Citrus and other vegetables, non citrus fruit harvesting, Valencia harvesting began picking up the second, third week of the month. Grapefruit harvesting peaked at just over one million boxes during the second week, with a larger percentage of both colored, white going to processing. Honey tangerine harvest stayed between 100,000 to 150,000 boxes per week, while Temple harvest averaged less than 50,000 boxes per week. Most pasture was fair to good in March, with drought and seasonally cool temperatures limiting grass growth. At the beginning of March, small grain forage in the Panhandle, in the north started to grow. By month’s end, warm season pasture had started to green up. Hay feeding was active throughout month. Cattle condition was poor to good throughout March.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7 for the month of March. Once again, variable temperatures, rainfall characterized the month of
March, according to the USDA, NASS, Georgia Field Office. The month began with dry, warm conditions. Precipitation increased as the month progressed. Many counties reported no rain during the first week, moderate rain during the last week. This was good news to farmers who had started planting early in the month. The winter dormancy began to subside mid-month as warmer than average temperatures sparked greening in hayfields and pastures. The beginning of the month found cool season vegetables doing well, but growers were concerned that unseasonable warm days could lead to some late cold damage. These concerns were realized as the last week of March brought freezing temperatures once again. This cold snap slowed watermelon transplanting and damage to crops is still unknown. Corn planting, field preparation, pasture fertilization were some of the activities that took place throughout the month. Farmers relied on hay supplies for supplemental livestock feed and the end of the month found many farmers in short supply. Inches began to fill in the central statewide. The onion crop was expected to look good and harvest was expected to begin by the end of the month. Cabbage, other small grains were also reported to look good. Activities Included: Routine care of poultry, livestock, pasture weed control, tobacco transplanting, weaning of fall calves, primary tillage, spraying fungicide on wheat.

**HAWAII:** DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**IDAHO:** Topsoil 6% short, 71% adequate, 23% surplus. During the past week, temperatures recorded for the state were above average, most weather stations received precipitation. Winter wheat condition 5% fair, 91% good, and 4% excellent. Hay, roughage supply 11% very short, 16% short, 71% adequate, 2% surplus. Lambing 72% complete. Calving 74% complete. Southeastern Idaho farmers experienced prohibitive winter weather, keeping farmers off their fields. Livestock are in very good shape. South-Central Idaho farmers have begun spreading manure and setting up sprinkler systems.

**ILLINOIS:** Topsoil 10% very short, 31% short, 50% adequate, 9% surplus. Oats 14% planted, 11% 2005, 9% avg. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 30% fair, 55% good, 12% excellent. Statewide precipitation averaged 1.61 inches above normal so far during March. The smallest district total was 2.74 inches in the Central District, while the greatest precipitation totals ranged from seven to eight inches in the two southern districts. The precipitation definitely helped topsoil moisture conditions around the state, but subsoil moisture conditions are still a concern. Temperatures have averaged near normal so far during March. Winter wheat is generally doing well in most areas of the state. Fieldwork has been limited due to the precipitation received this month, but fertilizer has been applied in some areas. Activities Included: Hauling grain, spreading manure, tending to calves, and machinery preparation for planting.

**INDIANA:** Winter wheat is reported to be in mostly good condition, is beginning to green up. However, some areas received heavy rainfall during mid-March which left some wheat under water for a short period of time. Some tillage work was done, fertilizer spread on soils that were dry enough to support heavy equipment. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Calving, lambing remain active on many livestock operations. Feedlots are muddy in most areas. Pastures are beginning to green up. Hay supplies are mostly adequate. The average state temperature for March 1st through March 24th was 39.6° which was .3° above normal. The average precipitation was 4.08 inches which was 2.18 inches above normal. The heaviest rainfall occurred in southern areas of the state, some of which received up to 5 inches above normal amounts. Activities Included: Tax preparation, ordering supplies, preparing planting equipment, hauling grain to market, attending farm meetings, cleaning fence rows, financial planning, and taking care of livestock.

**IOWA:** Soil 16% very short, 34% short, 47% adequate, 3% surplus, a nice increase of moisture from the past month. Movement of grain for the state was 23% none, 40% light, 33% moderate, 4% heavy. NEEDED MOISTURE ARRIVED. Agricultural Summary: March brought a mixture of rain, snow, therefore the soil moisture is adequate, but not saturated. In some areas of the state, anhydrous application, spring tillage have begun. Cow/calf operators in several parts of the state lost calves during last week’s snow storm. Manure hauling was good this month due to light frost penetration. At the end of March, the average depth of snow cover across Iowa is negligible. The average depth of frost penetration for the state is 2 inches, compared to last year’s 5 inches. Availability of hay, roughage supplies 7% short, 75% adequate, 18% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage supplies 5% poor, 40% fair, 55% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 43% none, 22% limited, 21% moderate, 14% extensive. Livestock losses continue to be light due to the warm, dry weather for most of the month. Hog Pig losses were at 26% below avg.; 72% avg.; 2% above average. Cattle, calf losses were below last year’s state averages at 21% below avg.; 66% avg.; 3% above average.

**KANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 1.1. Topsoil 7% very short, 25% short, 64% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 25% very short, 46% short, 29% adequate. Oats 53% planted, 47% 2005, 52% avg. Wheat 11% jointing, 15% 2005, 11% avg.; condition 9% very poor, 20% poor, 45% fair, 24% good, 2% excellent; wind damage was 75% none, 20% light, 4% moderate, 1% severe, freeze damage was 82% none, 16% light, 2% moderate. Pasture feed 13% very poor, 21% poor, 46% fair, 19% good, 1% excellent. Hay, forage supplies 4% very short, 18% short, 76% adequate, 2% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 90% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 13% very short, 28% short, 59% adequate.

**KENTUCKY:** March began warm and dry. Temperatures averaged 46° across the state, 6° above normal. High temperatures averaged from 60 in the West to 57 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 35° in the West to 34° in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.02 in. statewide which was 0.97 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.00 in. at Buckhorn Lake to a high of 0.11 in. at Covington. A very mild and wet second week brought severe thunderstorms to the State. Rainfall totals ranged from 4 to 6 in. along and south of the Ohio River. Flooding was reported in northern sections of the Commonwealth. The counties along the TN/KY border reported one inch or less. Extreme high temperatures reached upper 70’s to 80 degrees. Temperatures averaged 53°, 10° above normal. Highs ranged from 64 in the West to 62 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 46° in the West to 43° in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 2.61 in. statewide which was 1.58 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.26 in. at Quicksand to a high of 7.06 in. at Evansville. The third week started off wet and very mild with temperatures in the 70’s, then temperatures cooled to near seasonal normal with dry conditions at weeks end. Temperatures averaged 47°, 2° above normal. High temperatures averaged from 58 in the West to 57 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 39° in the West to 38° in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.73 in., 0.30 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.25 in. at Cape Girardeau to a high of 1.51 in. at Williamstown. Cooler than normal temperature with snow, sleet in the north ushered in spring the fourth week. Temperatures averaged 36°, 11° below normal. High temperatures averaged from 45 in the West to 44 in the East. Low temperatures averaged 29° statewide. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.48 in., which was 0.56 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.01 in. at Mayfield to a high of 1.33 in. at Paducah. Temperatures the final week of March rose steadily to normal and above normal and periods of showers. The periodic rain and warmer temperatures helped pastures, fall seeded small grains to begin greening. However, the frequent return to cooler temperatures during the month slowed growth. Corn producers prepared ground for planting and began seeding the crop in southern counties late in the month. Fruit was vulnerable to a sudden hard freeze as trees began to bud out at mid-month. Livestock remained in mostly good condition, mostly with good to moderate feed. Farmers continued to feed cattle to supplement the limited feed for growing pastures.

**LOUISIANA:** The state averaged 2.46 inches of rain over the last four weeks, remaining 3.44 inches below the state average. Field crop producers were preparing fields for spring planting as weather condition permitted. Sugarcane producers were fertilizing, spraying pre-emergence herbicides. Other field crop producers were getting equipment ready for the upcoming season. Hay producers, cattlemen began to cut ryegrass for hay. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures, feeding hay. Strawberry producers continued harvesting, selling their crop. Crawfish harvest continued, and larger sizes were being reported.

**MARYLAND:** Producers are busy applying poultry litter, topdressing wheat, preparing corn ground, planting peas. Continued dry weather is starting to concern producers as they prepare for the growing season. Small grains are doing okay, but since there has been no rain applied.
nitrogen is not moving to the root zone. Hay supplies remain adequate.

MICHIGAN: March temperatures were near normal for most of the month. Precipitation for the last four weeks ranged from 1.23 inches in the northwest Lower Peninsula to 3.26 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula. Snow covered most of the State on March 1st. On March 15, snow covered the Upper Peninsula, northernmost part of the Lower Peninsula, which continued for the rest of the month. Some snow fell in the Lower Peninsula, but melted soon after. Cattle were looking good with some calving starting. Farmers were busy preparing machinery for the start of fieldwork. Some producers started applying nitrogen fertilizer to winter wheat fields. Overwintering of winter wheat, alfalfa fields appears good. Cool temperatures have kept fruit development from moving too fast. Flower buds are beginning to swell in southern portions of the fruit areas. Operators are pruning apple, cherry and peach trees. Maple syrup production is going well with good conditions for sap flow. Activities Included: Pruning fruit trees, hauling manure, hauling crops to market, applying nitrogen fertilizer, preparing machinery, caring for livestock, lambing, and calving.

MINNESOTA: Heavy wet snow late in the month improved snow cover across most of the state. Areas of Southern, Central Minnesota reported 2-12 inches of snow as of the end of the month. Sub surface frost ranges from 0-22 inches. Producers are purchasing seed for spring planting, preparing machinery. Livestock has witnessed winter. Feed supplies have been sufficient.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.3. Soil 15% short, 51% adequate, 34% surplus. Hay supply 54% short, 44% adequate, 2% surplus. Feed grain 100% adequate. Corn 33% planted, NA 2005, 21% avg.; 12% emerged, NA 2005, 3% avg. Soybeans 1% planted, NA 2005 2% avg. Wheat 52% jointing, NA 2005, 38% avg.; 1% heading, NA 2005, NA avg.; 3% poor, 46% fair, 47% good, 4% excellent. Cattle 2% very poor, 11% poor, 41% fair, 31% good, 15% excellent. Pasture 10% very poor, 20% poor, 38% fair, 24% good, 8% excellent. Wet conditions across the state have affected the planting of many fields. Before the rain arrived, early varieties of soybean planting had begun. Corn planting is progressing well, emergence rates are looking good. The demand for hay in March increased due to cooler temperatures and a decline in grass growth. The rains that fell during the week, along with the forecast of warmer temperatures, should help to improve grass growth.

MISSOURI: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

MONTANA: Topsoil 4% surplus, 4% 2005, 58% adequate, 41% 2005, 31% short, 33% 2005, 7% very short, 22% last year. Subsoil 2% surplus, 1% 2005, 42% adequate, 13% 2005, 4% short, 31% 2005, 15% very short, 55% last year. For the month of March, Montana experienced moderate to heavy precipitation. On March 18 Great Falls experienced record high precipitation of 0.34 inches compared to the 1968 high of 0.33 inches, record snow fall of 4.2 inches compared with the 1968 high of 3.3 inches. On the same day, Helena received record precipitation of 0.36 inches compared with the 1987 high of 0.18 inches. Great Falls received the most moisture in March with 2.02 inches. Joliet experienced the high temperature of 68 degrees. West Yellowstone experienced the low temperature of -23 degrees. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 1% last year, 10% poor, 11% 2005, 43% fair, 44% 2005, 39% good, 38% 2005, 7% excellent, 6% 2005, wind damage is 49% none, 50% 2005, 37% light, 33% 2005, 13% moderate, 15% 2005, 1% heavy, 2% 2005, freeze, drought damage 46% none, 43% 2005 29% light, 39% 2005, 24% moderate, 15% 2005, 1% heavy, 3% 2005, spring stages are 84% still dormant, 36% 2005, 15% greening, 55% 2005, 1% green, growing, 9% last year. Winter wheat protection from snow cover is 58% very poor, 59% 2005, 25% poor, 8% 2005, 15% fair, 14% 2005, 2% good, 11% 2005, 0% excellent, 8% last year. Ranchers are providing supplemental feed to 96% of cattle, calves, 94% 2005, 95% of sheep, lambs, 84% last year. Livestock grazing is 81% open, 71% 2005 difficult, 18% 2005, 10% closed, 11% last year. Calving is 57% complete, 55% 2005, lambing is 37% complete, 47% last year.

NEBRASKA: For the month of March 2006, a large storm during the third full week of the month produced large amounts of snow over the eastern two-thirds of Nebraska. The heavy, wet snow resulted in moisture accumulations of one to two inches. Field work was halted, but the moisture was welcomed by crop producers. The snow made livestock care difficult. As of March 26, snow cover was reported in all districts of the state. Average snow depth ranged from over three inches in the southwest to over seventeen inches in north central counties. During the first two weeks of the month average temperatures were above normal, but below normal the last half of the month. Wheat conditions were near month ago levels 4% very poor, 7% poor, 46% fair, 40% good, 3% excellent. This is below last year’s condition 59% good or excellent. Poorest wheat conditions were reported in the Southwest. Oat planting was underway in southern counties with 9% seeded statewide. Hay, forage supplies adequate or surplus across the majority of the state. Cattle, Calves condition 2% poor 14% fair, 67% good, 17% excellent, below year ago levels. Calving has progressed to 64% complete with some call losses reported due to the storm, but overall losses were below average.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: New England had unusual weather conditions during the month of March, very little snow, colder than normal temperatures in the region. Warmer weather arrived at the end of the month. New England precipitation levels are below normal for this time of year with parts of the region being three inches below normal. New England maple sugar producers were busy during the month. Sap production quantity, quality has improved over the last couple of weeks. Activities Included: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were below normal the first week of March in most state localities. During mid-March temperatures were up to 20° above normal across most of the state. By the end of March, temperatures fell to below normal in most areas. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in many areas during the month. Total precipitation for the month was below normal in most localities. There was no measurable snowfall for the month in most parts of the state. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: Greenhouse work, equipment repair, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: The month began with a warm relatively dry week, with temperatures averaging about 8° above normal for the state. The season’s first strong winter storm brought welcome heavy snow to western, northern areas of the state mid month. However, overall effect on the current drought will be marginal as water equivalents from the snow remained light for most locations. Closer to months end, the far north, portions of eastern New Mexico received precipitation from a series of storms. Farmers spent the month laser leveling, preparing fields for pre-irrigation, making other preparations for this years crops. Windy conditions made field work difficult in the latter part of the month, the increasing fire danger is a major concern across the state. Wind damage was reported to onions, pasture. The outlook for alfalfa was not promising with limited irrigation water expected this season. The dry, warm winter has left winter wheat in bad shape. Chile, onion planting was ongoing during the month. Forage from wheat pastures, rangeland were limited, as livestock producers were busy supplementing feeding and hauling water.

NEW YORK: Maple syrup production was underway in many regions of the state, although in some eastern areas, cold daytime temperatures have delayed sap flows. Extremely high winds in February caused a lot of damage to sap lines by fallen trees and broken branches. Extra hours of work were required to repair damage in time for the maple season. Activities Included: Tending livestock, grading, packing apples, onions, potatoes, cabbage, machinery maintenance and repair.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 4.5. Soil 4% very short, 29% short, 62% adequate, 5% excellent. Activities Included: Feeding, tending livestock, tax preparation, topdressing small grains, preparation for spring planting. The State finally received some much needed rainfall during the week of March 20th with amounts ranging from .4 to 2.4 inches. The rainfall was accompanied below normal temperatures.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures during March were slightly below
normal. Snow melted across the state, while the largest quantities remained in the northeast. Average statewide snow cover was 2.3 inches on March 26, compared with 0.9 inch a year ago. Starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 18, 4 days later than last year. The expected starting date ranged from April 10 in the south central to April 28 in the northeast. Hay and forage supplies were rated 0% very short, 4% short, 86% adequate, 10% surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were rated 0% very short, 2% short, 89% adequate, 9% surplus. Calving was 36% complete with lambing 55% complete, period last 5% complete. Cow conditions were rated 0% very poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 68% good, 19% excellent. Calf conditions were rated 0% very poor, 2% poor, 7% fair, 72% good, 19% excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 72% good, 18% excellent. Pasture and ranges were 99% still dormant, 1% growing. County and secondary roads were rated 95% open, 4% difficult, 1% closed. Road conditions were 2% drifted, 2% icy, 24% muddy, 72% dry.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Although the beginning of March was mild, spring 2006 began with weather conditions more like mid-winter. Clouds over cold northeast winds kept high temperatures in the 50s. Rains developed late in the evening and into Tuesday morning. Heavy amounts exceeding one inch were common across the upstate and central Midlands. For the remainder of the last week, high altitude, northwest winds delivered successive days of cold, below normal temperatures. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings, the mercury fell to or below freezing at many inland sites. 1° F colder than the period of record. The remainder of March was nine degrees below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 67° at Pritchardville on March 23. The lowest official temperature reported was 22° at Cedar Creek and Lake Bowen on the morning of March 26. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.75 inches at Springfield ending at 7:00 a.m. on March 21. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 1.2 inches. SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Colby 54 degrees. Surface moisture and soil temperature occurred in some areas. Small grains were still in good shape. Planting of spring vegetables has begun in some areas.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Topsoil 16% very short, 26% short, 58% adequate. Subsoil 43% very short, 44% short, 13% adequate. Wheat 31% very poor, 34% poor, 29% fair, 6% good; 43% jointing, 28% last week, 55% last year, 45% average. Rye 25% very poor, 32% poor, 38% fair, 5% good; 30% jointing, 20% last week, 80% last year, 31% average. Oats 59% very poor, 25% poor, 15% fair, 1% good; 77% planted, 75% last week, 95% last year, 89% average. Corn 36% seedbed prepared, 28% last week, 51% last year, 44% avg.; 6% planted, N/A last week, 17% last year, 11% average. Sorghum 18% seedbed prepared, 11% last week, 23% last year, 19% average. Soybeans 20% seedbed prepared, 14% last year, 26% last week, 22% average. Peanuts 12% seedbed prepared, 6% last week, 22% last year, 22% average. Cotton 33% seedbed prepared, 29% last week, 47% last year, 43% average. Livestock 15% very poor, 44% poor, 30% fair, 11% good: Pasture, Range 38% very poor, 29% poor, 28% fair, 5% good. Livestock: Cattle, marketing was mostly average but some heavy trading was reported in the East Central, South Central districts. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged a little more than $102 per cwt. Heifer feeders less than 800 pounds averaged nearly 97.50 per cwt. Cold weather kept parasite activity down but cattle were still plagued with moderately heavy insect activity in areas of southern Oklahoma. Cattlemen enjoyed the rainfall for pasture green up but more runoff moisture is needed to replenish low stock ponds. Calving and lambing were still active.

OREGON: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

Pennsylvania:

March had a very cool beginning. The 2nd and 3rd day of the month seemed to be the coldest as very few areas reached a high of 40° Fahrenheit. Traces of snow fell throughout the month, but most fell through at all, during these two days. These storms of snow, sleet, freezing rain increased livestock stress, caused travel disruptions. High winds were reported throughout the month including gusts of 66 mph in Erie. Overall, the majority of the days in March had below normal temperatures. Principal farm activities for the month of March included milking cows, spreading manure, and planning for this year’s crop season. However, during the span from March 9th to the 14th, a warm front made its way through Pennsylvania raising temperatures 10° above the daily average. During these several days temperatures ranged from high 50’s to mid 70’s for daily highs across the Keystone state. Harrisburg, Gettysburg were said to have hit the 80° mark on the 13th. The warm front also brought several showers as most of the precipitation measured for March fell during this span of 6 days. After the warm front passed, temperatures dropped again below normal and remained there as we make our way into April.
about the dry conditions, the affect these conditions might have on the state. Some producers have expressed concern that the lack of adequate forage will hinder animal health, particularly with regards to wool production. Producers have reported needing a few more weeks of sunshine before they can start field work. Livestock were in poor condition, with reports of heavy losses in two southeast counties.

WASHINGTON: Rain was reported in most of the state causing fields to remain wet. Winter wheat condition is in fair to excellent condition overall but some damage was reported in Walla Walla County. Damage has largely been due to the cold front that passed through mid-month, but the extent of that damage remains to be seen. Damage to winter wheat, potatoes, and others was ongoing. Rice planting had begun, early planted fields were being flooded. Soybean producers began seeding in southern regions. In the Rio Grande Valley, sugarcane, citrus was harvested as well as remaining winter vegetables. Cabbage, spinach, and other leafy greens were under heavy irrigation in the Winter Garden area, some harvesting was ongoing. There was concern about freeze damage on pecan and peach trees that had bloomed. Range, pastures were in bad shape statewide, but started to improve somewhat as spring green up began to occur. Hay was in very short supply and it was necessary to import bales from neighboring states. Cattle body conditions were below average due to the lack of adequate forage.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 3. Subsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 88% adequate, 10% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 94% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 6% poor, 33% fair, 57% good, 4% excellent; freeze damage 46% none, 38% light, 12% moderate, 4% severe. Spring wheat 1% planted, 21% 2005, 22% avg.; 3% emerged, 0% 2005, 1% avg. Barley 1% planted, 1% 2005, 16% avg.; 4% emerged, 0% 2005, 2% avg.; 13% planted, 17% 2005, 10% avg. Corn 100% mature, 0% 2005, 0% avg.; harvested (grain) 100%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Cows calved 55%, 57% 2005, 44% avg. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 65% good, 23% excellent. Sheep condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 73% good, 10% excellent. Range, pasture 4% very poor, 1% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, 14% excellent. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 0% short, 95% adequate, 5% surplus. Sheep sheared on farm, sheared on farm 42%, 33% 2005, 32% avg. Sheep sheared on range, Sheep sheared on range 17%, 24% 2005, 17% avg. Ewes lamb on farm, Ewes lamb on farm 62%, 57% 2005, 43% avg. Ewes lamb on range, Ewes Lamb on range 19%, 22% 2005, 16% avg. Apples full bloom or past 0%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Apricots full bloom or past 0%, 22% 2005, 17% avg. Sweet cherries full bloom or past 0%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Tart cherries full Bloom or past 0%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Peaches, full bloom or past 0%, 18% 2005, 7% avg. Pears, full bBloom or past 0%, 53% 2005, 16% avg. There was warming trend before a few storms moved through and made conditions too wet for farmers to get into the fields. Farmers are anxious to start planting, but it will take a few more weeks before fields are dry enough for farm work.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil 1% very short, 29% short, 70% adequate, compared with 1% short, 29% adequate, 70% surplus last year. Hay, roughage supplies 2% very short, 13% short, 80% adequate, 5% surplus. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 5% short, 93% adequate. Winter Wheat conditions 3% poor, 11% fair, 86% good. Cattle, calves 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 78% good, 5% excellent. Calving 63% complete, compared to 65% last year, 69% for the 5-year average. Sheep, lambs 1% poor, 33% fair, 63% good, 3% excellent. Lambing 68% complete, compared to 63% last year, 68% for the 5-year average. Activities Included: Calving, lambing, feeding, plowing, working on equipment. Southern half of the state remains dry.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures in Wisconsin were slightly below normal for March. Average high temperatures during the month reached the low 40’s. Average low temperatures ranged from 10 to 30° across the state. Northern areas of the state received 1.03 to 2.33 inches of precipitation during March. The west central area received 1.41 inches of precipitation, slightly above normal for the month. Southern areas received 2.19 to 3.56 inches. This is 0.56 to 1.69 inches above normal. Snow cover can still be found in northern areas of the state.

WYOMING: Topsoil 7% very short, 37% short, 54% adequate, 2% surplus. Temperatures during the four weeks ending Friday, March 24th, continued colder than average in almost all stations. Averages ranged from 0.4° above normal in Riverton to 4.4° below normal in Wheatland. The high temperature was 73 in Torrington, the low was minus 11 in Jackson, Big Piney, and Laramie. Precipitation was below normal except in some Eastern areas. The most precipitation was reported in Chugwater with 1.37 inches, Redbird with 1.31 inches, Dillinger with 1.24 inches. The average depth of snow cover 1.4 inches. A few western counties had over 6 inches of snow while most counties had one inch or less of snowcover. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 34% fair, 62% good; wind damage 21% none, 61% light, 14% moderate, 4% severe, freeze damage 79% none, 18% light, 1% moderate, 1% severe. Spring calves born 47%, 2005 43%, 5-year average 48%. Farm flock ewes lambed 52%, 2005 50%, 5-year average 53%. Farm flock sheep shorn 52%, 2005 56%, 5-year average 57%. Calf, lamb losses mostly normal with reports of heavy losses in two southeast counties. Rain, snow over the weekend was hard on livestock. Range, pasture conditions 7% very poor, 9% poor, 50% fair, 34% good. Grazing prospects 13% poor, 47% fair, 38% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 5% very short, 21% short, and 74% adequate.

WASHINGTON: Rain was reported in most of the state causing fields to be too wet to farm. Winter wheat condition is in fair to excellent condition overall but some damage was reported in Walla Walla County. Damage was also reported for winter red onions in Walla Walla County. This damage has been caused by extreme cold temperatures in February. Spring is here, irrigation season has begun and many farmers were busy preparing for spring planting in most of the state. Planting for growers in the southeast was well underway for spring wheat and potatoes. Spring calving continued, poor rangeland conditions were reported in the southeast corner of the state.

VIRGINIA: March continued dry with above normal temperatures early in the month followed by below normal readings toward the end. Most areas have remained dry, though a storm system mid-month brought some moisture to the state. Some producers have expressed concern about the dry conditions, the affect these conditions might have on the start of planting. Dry conditions have allowed farmers to continue with some spring field work such as top-dressing, applying herbicides. Activities included: Preparing equipment for spring planting, fixing fences, attending the last winter meetings. Virginia remained mostly dry in March with temperatures above normal early in the month followed by below normal readings toward the end of the period. Most areas experienced some precipitation mid-month, but more moisture could be used.