Despite the rain throughout the state, peach, nectarine, apple trees were ongoing in orchards; irrigation had started in some orchards as well. Herbicide applications for pre-emergent weeds, clean-up were continued. Sweet potato field fumigations continued. Sugar beets were growing well. The rains have laid some of the crops down in Stanislaus County. They are also busy fertilizing pastures.

The week ended with some much needed rain showers. This weather system also produced some strong winds, tornadoes in the northeast part of the state. There were also several reports of hail from these storms.

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 6% very short, 21% short, 71% adequate, 2% surplus. Corn 30% planted, 26% 2005, 19% avg. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 31% fair, 64% good, 3% excellent. Pasture condition 6% very poor, 13% poor, 43% fair, 35% good, 3% excellent. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 67% good, 11% excellent. Soil conditions were dry with rainfall late in the week in most areas. Farmers spent much of the week planting corn, burning-down cover crops ahead of cotton planting. Early planted corn that was up the previous week has been burned back to the ground due to freezing temperatures. Cattle are still consuming hay, but consumption has decreased as spring weather conditions approached. Many winter annuals, rye, oats, and wheat are beginning to mature and head out.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures for the State were mostly above normal for the week ending April 2. Precipitation was reported at 10 of the 22 reporting stations. Flagstaff received the most precipitation at 0.66 inches, Tucson received the least at 0.01 inches. Alfalfa condition remains mostly good to fair. Range, pasture conditions are poor to very poor.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Soil 2% very short, 20% short, 67% adequate, 11% surplus. Corn 49% planted, 24% previous week, 40% previous year, 33% 5-yr avg.; 20% emerged, n/a previous week. Soybeans 1% planted, n/a previous week, 0% previous year, 1% 5-year average. Sorghum 8% planted, 6% previous week, 1% previous year, 3% 5-year average. Rice 2% planted, 1% previous week, 1% previous year, 3% 5-year average. Winter wheat 5% headed, 1% previous week, 1% previous year, 0% 5-year average. Hay-alfalfa: 0% very poor, 0% poor, 72% fair, 28% good, 0% excellent. Hay-other 0% very poor, 7% poor, 61% fair, 29% good, 3% excellent. Pasture, range 4% very poor, 20% poor, 46% fair, 29% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 57% good, 10% excellent. The week began with warm and mild conditions for the first full week of spring. Cooler temperatures were still observed at night. The week ended with some much needed rain showers. This weather system also produced some strong winds, tornadoes in the northeast part of the state. There were also several reports of hail from these storms. Damage is still being assessed. Livestock was rated in mostly fair condition. Cattlemen are still feeding hay in some of the dryer areas of the state. They are also busy fertilizing pastures.

CALIFORNIA: Rains delayed the planting of corn, cotton, and beans, though a few growers were able to plant corn in Tulare County. Small grains, forage crops were growing well, but alfalfa growers delayed their first cutting to bale. Alfalfa weevil spraying, herbicide applications continued. Sugar beets were growing well. The rains have laid some of the crops down in Stanislaus County. Sweet potato field fumigations continued. Herbicide applications for pre-emergent weeds, clean-up were ongoing in orchards; irrigation had started in some orchards as well. Despite the rain throughout the state, peach, nectarine, apple trees were beginning to bloom Cherry, prune bloom continued. Various late variety apricot, plum orchards bloomed sporadically, while most early varieties continued to leaf. Strawberries were blooming rapidly. Apricot bloom was complete. Many vineyards were leafing out, irrigation began. Many vineyards were also sprayed with copper and sulfur. Growers began applying fungicide during the recent rains, new tree fruit orchards were still being planted. New fields of blueberries were planted. In some areas field conditions of blooming trees were too wet to enter. Some nectarine orchards were treated for thrips to prevent fruit scarring. Rains slowed pollination on almonds. Fungicides were applied to almond orchards to fight disease in some areas. Almond trees that did not pollinate dropped buds. Walnuts were getting closer to the catkins stage in Tulare County. Harvest of cool season Asian vegetables such as cauliflower, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, napa cabbage, sugar pea leaf, snow pea leaf, yu choy continued. Continued rain was a mixed blessing for California’s foothill pastures. In northern California, a record number of rainy days in March and a lack of sunny weather was beginning to negatively impact cattle weight gains. Due to the amount of moisture in the grass and low nutrient content, some cattle were losing condition. In central California, rain was much more beneficial to foothill pastures, cattle, sheep were in good condition. Spring calving of beef cows continued. Muddy conditions at dairies were not favorable for milk production. Old crop lamb shipments continued from the Imperial Valley. In central California, ewes, lambs were grazing on foothill pastures. New crop lambs were beginning to ship to other areas for further feeding. Bee activity in almond, stone fruit and orange orchards continued to be slowed by wet and windy weather. Some beekeepers were being moved out of almond orchards.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 9% very short, 25% short, 64% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 20% very short, 40% short, 40% adequate, 0% surplus. Colorado experienced relatively cool temperatures last week which helped slow soil moisture losses caused by high winds across the Front Range and Eastern Plains. Colorado needs more rain or snow next week or reporters suggest that the winds will begin to dry cropland out significantly. Evidence of wheat mite infestation has been reported in areas around the state which has producers considering treatment options. Spring barley 18% seeded, 28% 2005, 21% avg; 3% emerged, 8% 2006, 5% avg. Dry onions 26% planted, 44% 2005, 37% avg. Sugar beets 2% planted, 14% 2005, 13% avg. Spring wheat 9% seeded, 15% 2005, 13% avg; 1% emerged, 3% 2005, 2% avg. Winter wheat 6% planted, 5% 2005, 3% avg. Cows calved 62% 2006, 64% 2005, 62% avg. Ewes lambed 55% 2006, 52% 2005, 54% avg.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Topsoil 69% very short, 31% short. Subsoil 25% very short, 40% short, 35% adequate. Barley
condition 14% very poor, 9% poor, 31% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. Winter wheat condition 13% very poor, 8% poor, 30% fair, 45% good, 4% excellent. Pasture condition 15% very poor, 8% poor, 34% fair, 39% good, 4% excellent. Strawberries 5% bloomed, 0% 2005, 1% avg. Apples 16% bloomed, 0% 2005, 2% avg. Peaches 30% bloomed, 0% 2005, 7% avg. Green peas 35% planted, 15% 2005, 17% avg. Potatoes 40% planted, 8% 2005, 11% avg. Hay supplies 17% very short, 32% short, 51% adequate. Drier than normal conditions have promoted field work, but lack of moisture has affected stands of small grains, plantings of early season vegetables. Warm early season temperatures have pushed fruit blooms ahead of average.

FLORIDA: Topsoil 30% very short, 55% short, 15% adequate. Subsoil 27% very short, 30% short, 43% adequate. Rainfall range: none, virtually all localities, except 0.04 in., Ft. Lauderdale. Temperature average: major cities, normal to 5°. Daytime highs: 70s; most localities reported at least one high in 80s. Nighttime lows: 40s, 50s, 60s; several reports of at least one low in 30s; at least one low at 29°. Tallahassee, Alachua, Brooksville. Conditions favorable for wild fire outbreaks increased; at end of week, National Interagency Coordination Center reported two forest fires, one in Santa Rosa County, another in Miami-Dade County. Cold temperatures at beginning of week gave way to hot days, mild nights by end of week. Washington County: field work stopped; germination, plant growth slowed by frost, drought. Jackson County: producers prepared fields for cotton, peanuts; planting to begin over next 2 weeks, barring cold weather. Jefferson County: small grains need rain. Sugarcane harvesting virtually completed, Lake Okeechobee. Soil moisture supplies, southern Peninsula, mostly short to adequate; elsewhere, short to mostly adequate. Very short soil moisture: Washington, Gadsden, Baker, Marion, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Lee counties. Planting, harvesting vegetables active, central, southern Peninsula; growers started to satisfy mid-April holiday demand. Hastings: potato planting active; some acreage double cropped following cabbage harvest. Jefferson County: watermelon planting finished. Immokalee: no major vegetable damage from recent stormy cool weather. Palmetto-Ruskin: tomatoes suffered no significant damage from overnight temperatures early in the week and this was a concern for vegetable growers. Most of the state received no rain during the week, with very few counties reporting measurable amounts. Growers reported slight freeze damage to vegetables, tobacco, watermelon after the week’s cool start. Hay feeding for livestock, corn planting continued. Land for peanuts, cotton was being prepared and pre-plant chemicals were being applied. Many counties reported a need for rain, especially for newly planted, emerging crops. The dry weather slowed pasture growth. Activities Included: Fertilizing pastures, hayfields, pasture weed control, setting up poultry and livestock. Highbush blueberries were approximately three weeks from harvest. Onion digging has begun.

HAWAII: The week ending April 2, 2006 is the 6th week of rainy weather across the State, mainly over the northwestern islands. The series of storm systems west of the Hawaiian Islands continued to influence weather patterns producing moderate to heavy rains, thunderstorms, set new monthly rainfall records. The prolonged wet weather has created extensive flooding, landslides, road damage, closures of highways, dam, sewage spills in Oahu and Kauai counties. Agricultural crops in affected areas were in poor condition. The weather service forecasted that the heavy rains that hammered Oahu on Thursday and Friday may be the beginning of the end of the lingering wet weather patterns. Some improvement of the weather was seen during daytime hours over the weekend. Late Sunday night brought heavy rains causing flooding in windward Oahu.

IDAHO: Days Suitable for fieldwork 1.5. Topsoil 3% short, 54% adequate, 43% surplus. Sugar beets 1% planted, 16% 2005, 20% average. Oats 3% planted, 15% 2005, 13% average. Onions 4% planted, 21% 2005, 41% average. Dry peas 2% planted, 10% 2005, 10% average. Hay, roughage supply 8% very short, 11% short, 80% adequate, 1% surplus. Lambing 84%, 83% 2005, 84% average. Calving 88%, 82% 2005, 84% average. Irrigation water supply 1% very poor, 1% poor, 1% fair, 36% good, 61% excellent. Precipitation is up to an inch above average in Southwest Idaho for the week, with similar wet conditions across Idaho substantially delaying spring planting.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.7. Topsoil 5% very poor, 16% short, 60% adequate, 19% surplus. Temperatures across the state last week were one to three degrees above normal, precipitation was slightly below normal. Rains that fell were scattered throughout the week which did not allow soils to dry. Days suitable for fieldwork last week ranged from less than one to three depending on where you were in the state. A few farmers in northern part of the state were able to complete some limited fieldwork between showers including applying anhydrous, spreading dry fertilizer, seeding oats. Southern Illinois farmers were cleaning drainage ditches trying to get excess water off their fields. Corn planting has yet to begin, oat seeding continued on a limited basis last week. Oats 21% planted, compared to 28% last year, the 23% five-year average. Condition of the wheat crop continues to improve with the warmer temperatures and rain showers. Alfalfa, pastures are still slowly coming out of dormancy. Activities Included: Hauling grain, tending calves, attending auctions, preparing equipment for spring and fixing fence.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.3. Topsoil 0% very short, 4% short, 61% adequate, 35% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 9% short, 74% adequate, 16% surplus. Some fieldwork was completed early in the week on soils dry enough to support heavy equipment. Fieldwork will temporarily be put on hold as many areas received rain over the weekend. Several cases of wind damage have been reported. Winter wheat 5% jointed, 3% 2005, 5% avg.; 75% good to excellent compared with 69 % last year at this time. Hay supplies 6% short, 81% adequate, 13% surplus. Pastures 2% very poor, 10% poor, 29% fair, 54% good, 5% excellent. Temperatures ranged from 2° below normal to 5° above normal, utilization between 100,000 and 150,000 boxes a week, primarily for fresh market; large majority of Tempeles picked going to processing. Panhandle, north, central: pastures greening up but very little growth; most cattlemen continue to feed hay. Panhandle: growth of clover overseeded in pastures to good, most in poor condition. Pasture feed: 50% poor, 1% fair, 5% good. Cattle condition 5% very poor, 5% poor, 50% fair, 40% good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 6.4. Soil 10% very short, 37% short, 50% adequate, 3% surplus. Corn 4% poor, 55% fair, 39% good, 2% excellent; 53% planted, 36% 2005, 43% avg.; 26% emerged, 28% 2005, 29% avg. Sorghum 0% planted, 1% 2005, 2% avg. Wheat 74% jointing, 69% 2005, 74% avg.; 34% boot, 23% 2005, 40% avg.; 6% headed, 5% 2005, 12% avg. Pasture 4% very poor, 17% poor, 41% fair, 34% good, 4% excellent. Apples 79% fair, 21% good; 4% blooming, 4% 2005, 5% avg. Hay 5% very poor, 20% poor, 46% fair, 28% good, 1% excellent. Onions 2% poor, 12% fair, 47% good, 39% excellent; 0% harvested, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Peaches 4% poor, 23% fair, 73% good; 85% blooming, 65% 2005, 74% avg. Tobacco 8% poor, 45% fair, 47% good; 10% transplanted, 3% 2005, 12% avg. Watermelons 2% very poor, 5% poor, 40% fair, 53% good; 30% planted, 24% 2005, 26% avg. The last week of March began cool, ended with unseasonably warm temperatures. The state experienced an average low in the upper 40’s and an average high in the mid 70’s. Many areas reported freezing
short, 55% adequate, 6% surplus. The subsoil moisture rating is slightly drier than reported a year ago. Spring has Arrived with Rain. Agricultural Summary: The last few weeks of precipitation made it difficult for Iowa farmers to accomplish any fieldwork. While most areas remain too wet for field activities, a few farmers have begun applying lime, fertilizer, tilling, planting oats, and applying nitrogen. There were a few reports of tiles running throughout the state. Field Crops Report: Oats 6% seedings, well below last year’s progress at 28%; 15% five-year average. No significant corn planting was reported in the state. Primary seedbed preparations were 24% complete compared to 29% last year, 26% for the five-year average. Fertilizer applications, at 53%, were 5 percentage points ahead of last year, 6 percentage points ahead of the five-year average. Livestock, pasture, range report: Calving season is off to a good start even with the wet conditions. The wet, muddy conditions increase concerns for both calving, lambing, and other newborns. Pasture, range condition 10% very poor, 15% poor, 35% fair, 37% good, 3% excellent. The rainfall has made it difficult for farmers to access their feedlots and pastures.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil 4% very short, 28% short, 64% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 17% very short, 47% short, 36% adequate. Corn 3% planted, 3% 2005, 2% avg. Oats 65% planted, 60% 2005, 68% avg. Wheat 21% jointing, 25% 2005, 17% avg.; condition 7% very poor, 16% poor, 39% fair, 34% good, 4% excellent; wind damage 77% none, 15% light, 7% moderate, 1% severe, freeze damage was 84% none, 14% light, 2% moderate. Pasture feed 9% very poor, 20% poor, 44% fair, 26% good, 1% excellent. Hay, forage supplies 3% very short, 18% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 90% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 11% very short, 25% short, 64% adequate.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Topsoil 2% very short, 14% short, 71% adequate, 13% surplus. Subsoil 4% very short, 16% short, 70% adequate, 10% surplus. For the week temperatures averaged 55°, 5° d above normal. Precipitation statewide was 0.50 in., 0.51 in. below normal. Land prepared for planting corn, soybeans, tobacco 28%. Nitrogen fertilizer supplies available to meet anticipated needs 97%; below normal southeast Lower Peninsula to 80 above normal eastern. Precipitation statewide was 0.51 in., 0.51 in. below normal. Land prepared for planting corn, soybeans, tobacco 28%. Nitrogen fertilizer supplies available to meet anticipated needs 97%; below normal southeast Lower Peninsula to 80 above normal eastern. Lights have been insufficient. Calving and lambing continues.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Soil 5% very short, 18% short, 70% adequate, 7% surplus. Corn 60% planted, 41% 2005, 46% avg.; 26% emerged, 16% 2005, 14% avg. Sorghum 1% planted, NA 2005, 3% avg. Soybeans 13% planted, 5% 2005 7% avg. Wheat 77% jointing, 75% 2005, 65% avg.; 7% heading, 2% 2005, 3% avg.; 5% poor, 41% fair, 44% good, 2% excellent. Barley condition 3% very poor, 2% poor, 30% fair, 54% good, 2% excellent. Winter wheat condition 6% very poor, 35% poor, 36% fair, 26% good, 9% excellent. Winter wheat condition 6% very poor, 35% poor, 36% fair, 26% good, 9% excellent. Snowfall across the northern one-third of the state, ranges from zero to 4" while the southern two-thirds is reported to be zero. Precipitation for the week ranged from 0-2.7 inches of rain across the state. Average temperatures during the week were as low as 19° while the highs were up to 60 degrees. The average temperature for the week was 4° above normal. Producers are purchasing seed for spring planting, preparing machinery. Livestock has wintered well. Feed supplies have been sufficient. Calving and lambing continues.

MINNESOTA: Snow cover across the northern one third of the state, ranges from zero to 4" while the southern two-thirds is reported to be zero. Precipitation for the week ranged from 0-2.7 inches of rain across the state. Average temperatures during the week were as low as 19° while the highs were up to 60 degrees. The average temperature for the week was 4° above normal. Producers are purchasing seed for spring planting, preparing machinery. Livestock has wintered well. Feed supplies have been sufficient. Calving and lambing continues.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.3. Topsoil 8% very short, 21% short, 67% adequate, 4% surplus. Soybeans 18% very short, 41% short, 41% adequate, 0% surplus. In what has become a near weekly event in early spring, Missouri again experienced severe storms in all parts of the state, with damaging winds, hail, a few reports of tornados. This has created good conditions for upcoming row crop germination, as corn planting has begun in scattered areas of the state, particularly in the Bootheel. It has also been good for winter wheat growth. Pastures have greened up, but have been slow to grow due to recent, cool temperatures, lingering effects of drought.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2. Topsoil 6% surplus, 5% last year. 70% adequate, 33% last year, 20% short, 34% last year, 4% very short, 28% last year. Subsoil 1% surplus, 1% last year, 48% adequate, 16% last year, 37% short, 30% last year, 14% very short, 53% last year. For the week ending April 2, Montana experienced heavy precipitation, higher than normal temperatures. Hardin experienced the high temperature of 72 degrees. Wisdom experienced the low temperature of 3 degrees. Billings received the most moisture last week with 1.94 inches. On March 27th, Great Falls tied its 1972 daily precipitation record of 0.41 inches, and Bozeman tied its 1989 daily precipitation record of 0.33 inches. On March 29th, Billings set a daily precipitation record with 1.13 inches. Miles City broke its 1967 high for daily precipitation on March 31st of 0.47, with 1.20 inches. On April 2, Butte broke its 1935 daily precipitation record of 0.5 inches with 0.58 inches. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 4% last year, 8% poor, 9% last year, 49% fair, 45% last year, 36% good, 34% last year, 6% excellent, 8% last year, wheat spring stages are 49% still dormant, 18% last year, 42% greening, 62% last year, 9% green, growing, 20% last year. Spring wheat 1% planted. Barley 5% planted. Oats 1% planted. Ranchers are providing supplemental feed to 90% of cattle and calves, 91% last year, 93% of sheep, lambs, 85% last year. Livestock grazing is 81% open, 85% last year, 10% difficult, 7% last year, 9% closed, 8% last year. Calving is 62% complete, 63% last year, lambing is 44% complete, 50% last year. Range, pasture feed conditions are 4% excellent, 24% good, 55% fair, 15% poor, and 2% very poor. Field tillage work in progress is 87% not started, 78% last year, 7% just started, 14% last year, 6% well underway, 8% last year.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.5. Topsoil 1% very short, 11% short, 82% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 13% very short, 40% short, 47% adequate, 0% surplus. Temperatures averaged three to four degrees above normal. Soil temperatures increased ten degrees during...
the week, averaged in the mid forties. Oats 13% planted, 39% 2005, 24% avg.; 1% emerged, 5% 2005, 2% avg. Sugar beets 6% planted, 8% 2005. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 69% good, 12% excellent; calving 74% complete; calf losses average to below average.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: The week began cool, but warmer weather arrived mid-week, remained through the weekend. On Saturday, rain fell throughout the region. Maple syrup producers continue to collect sap as the season winds down. Other farmers stayed busy tending livestock, nursery/greenhouse work, and preparing for spring planting.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 7.0. Topsoil 60% very short, 30% short, 10% adequate. Temperatures averaged much above normal across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in some localities for the week. There was no measurable snowfall for the week in most parts of the state Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: irrigating, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, equipment repair, feeding stored hay to livestock. Apples are showing some green tip. Peaches are primarily in pre-pink with a few in pink. Apricots, some plums, and a few pears, are in bloom.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for field work 6.7. Topsoil 55% very short, 36% short, 9% adequate. A couple of minor storm systems brushed New Mexico during the week, mainly the northern half, also the eastern border counties with Texas. Red River, the wettest location in the state during March, continued to catch the brunt of the storms, with 1.27 inches of moisture. Chama, Farmington also measured over half an inch of moisture. Temperatures for the week were within a few degrees of normal just about everywhere. Farmers spent the week irrigating with limited water, fertilizing, pre-irrigating cotton, tilling fields, fighting off alfalfa weevil, pea aphids. The wind combined with the dry conditions continued to increase the risk of wild fires throughout the state. One fire in Union county destroyed over 20,000 acres. Wind damage was 27% light, 12% moderate, 1% severe. Freeze damage 18% light, there were reports of hail damage as well. Alfalfa was reported in mostly fair to good condition. Total wheat 34% very poor, 36% poor, 25% fair, 5% good. Only 4% of wheat pasture was being grazed compared to 13% last week, 35% last year. Lettuce, onions were in fair to excellent condition. Chile 75% planted, cotton growers were waiting for soil temperatures to rise before planting. Ranchers were supplementing feed. There were reports of hay stocks running short, trouble with loco weed. Cattle 2% very poor, 15% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, 1% excellent. Sheep 7% very poor, 11% poor, 47% fair, 28% good, 7% excellent. Range, pasture conditions 23% very poor, 31% poor, 33% fair, and 13% good.

NEW YORK: Spring fieldwork underway with the help of warm, dry weather. Moisture over the last two weeks was sparse, most areas lag normal precipitation. Plowing, manure spreading progressed. Onion planting in southern regions going full force. Maple syrup continued with good sap flow due to some cold nights, warm daytime temperatures, boiling into the early morning hours. Activities Included: Spring pruning fruit trees, tending livestock, mending damaged fencing and machinery equipment.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 6.3. Soil 16% very short, 44% short, 38% adequate, 2% surplus. Activities Included: Feeding, tending livestock, fertilizing of pastures, preparation for spring planting. Trace amounts of rain were experienced in most of the State. Abrnormally dry conditions continue for most of North Carolina, with calendar year rainfall amounts ranging from .1 to 7.5 inches departure from normal.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil 2% very short, 9% short, 70% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 14% short, 71% adequate, 12% surplus. Rapid snow melt and precipitation caused flooding of some fields, rivers, particularly in the eastern districts. Some county, township roads in these areas were flooded. Fields in the central, western districts ranged from mostly wet to needing additional moisture. Starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 18, 4 days later than last year. The expected starting dates ranging from April 7 in the south central to April 27 in the northeast. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 83% adequate, 10% surplus. Grains, concentrate supplies 0% very short, 1% short, 90% adequate, 9% surplus. Calving 49% complete with lambing 66% complete. Shearing was 84% complete. Cow conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 71% good, 19% excellent. Calf conditions 0% very poor, 0% poor, 8% fair, 76% good, 16% excellent. Sheep conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 8% fair, 70% good, 20% excellent. Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 8% fair, 70% good, 21% excellent. Pasture, ranges 98% still dormant, 2% growing.

OHIO: Days suitable for field work 3.3. Topsoil 0% very short, 11% short, 75% adequate, 14% surplus. Winter wheat 3% jointed, 2% 2005, 3% avg. Oats 5% planted, 2% 2005, 5% avg. Pasture condition 3% very poor, 11% poor, 30% fair, 48% good, 8% excellent. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 57% good, 16% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. Soil conditions have been favorable for producers to start plowing, tillage operations in most areas of the state. Some regions are concerned about the lack of soil moisture as they begin the planting season. Activities Included: Top dressing wheat, spreading lime, fertilizer, manure, obtaining seed, other inputs for the upcoming season, working on machinery. The State’s maple syrup season is quickly coming to an end as the night time temperatures begin to warm up. Planting of sweet corn has started in Meigs county.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1 Topsoil 18% very short, 28% short, 53% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 43% very short, 40% short, 17% adequate. Winter wheat jointed 67% this week, 43% last week, 71% last year, 57% average. Rye 19% very poor, 32% poor, 44% fair, 5% good; jointing 33% this week, 30% last week, 83% last year, 34% average. Oats 52% very poor, 33% poor, 15% fair; planted 84% this week, 77% last week, 95% last year, 92% average; jointing 15% this week, 17% last year, 18% average. Corn seedbed prepared 49% this week, 36% last week, 85% last year, 56% avg.; 18% planted this week, 6% last week, 22% last year, 16% average. Soybeans seedbed prepared 38% this week, 20% last year, 29% last week, 28% average. Peanuts seedbed prepared 20% this week, 12% last week, 33% last year, 31% average. Cotton seedbed prepared 40% this week, 35% last week, 51% last year, 50% average. Cotton 6% very poor, 44% poor, 19% fair, 13% good; Pasture, range 31% very poor, 35% poor, 28% fair, 6% good. Livestock: Cattle remained rated in mostly poor to fair condition. Hay supplies were rated below average in all Agricultural Reporting Districts. Additional moisture is needed to increase stock pond levels. Marketing of cattle was running near average across the state. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged $111 per cwt. Prices for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged nearly $101.50 per cwt. Insect activity was mostly light but some moderate parasite infestations were observed in areas of southern and eastern Oklahoma.

OREGON: Precipitation was reported for each weather station last week. Areas along the coast including Crescent City, Florence received the most rainfall, at 2.65 & 1.73 inches respectively, while several areas in the Willamette Valley received over an inch of rain. Those areas include Salem, Detroit Lake, Eugene. High temperatures were mostly in the 50's & 60's. The highest temperatures recorded last week was 66 ⁰ in Florence, Aurora, Portland, McMinnville, Salem. Low temperatures ranged from 17 ⁰ in Rome to 40 ⁰ in Crescent City. Cool, wet weather continued to delay fieldwork in many areas of the State. In western Oregon, crop development in many small grain, grass seed fields has been hindered by cool temperatures, excessive precipitation. Conditions were similar in much of central, eastern Oregon. Winter wheat, emerging spring wheat need some warmer weather to promote growth. As conditions allowed, producers were busy tilling, fertilizing, preparing ground for the upcoming season. Growers were starting fields in preparation of the vegetable season. Small acreage producers began vegetable starts to be transplanted later this spring. Jackson County reported early plantings of onions, peas, carrots, other spring vegetables. Cherries, plums began to bloom in the Willamette Valley amid cool, wet conditions. A recent hail storm in Yamhill County may cause spotty damage to cherries, plums that were in bloom. There were some reports of early peach losses to freezing conditions in February. Unsettled conditions prevailed in Hood River County. Some fair weather allowed growers to apply delayed dormant sprays. Isolated hail storms caused some damage to more advanced blossom clusters. In the lower Hood River Valley, Anjou pears were at WSU stages 2 & 3; Red Delicious apples were at green tip (WSU stage 2); Bing cherries were at green tip (WSU stage 3); & Pinot Noir grapes were at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage. Wasco County orchardists were starting
to apply their first fruit tree sprays of the season. Apricots, peaches were coming in bloom in southern Oregon, but more sun, warm days are needed for good pollination. Pears were also starting to show some bloom, but were also quite slow. New cherry acres were being planted in Sherman County. Grape pruning should be complete in Douglas County. Nurseries were in their busiest time of the year. Operations were finishing digging of bare root plants, digging, bailing smaller plants & shrubs, moving container plants. All nurseries were shipping plant material to east-coast markets. Greenhouses were very busy with flower, vegetable starts, shipping early-plant material to retail outlets. Pastures, range land needed warmer weather to take off in most areas of the State. Adequate moisture was available but the cool spring weather has slowed growth. The wet winter, spring should greatly help range grasses once warmer weather arrives. Late spring pasture growth, along with wet, muddy conditions, forced many producers to delay turning livestock out. This has resulted in some running very short on feed. Producers were busy with spring calving & lambing.

**Pennsylvania:**

- Days suitable for fieldwork 6.
- Soil 20% very short, 41% short, 38% adequate, 1% surplus. Spring plowing 36% complete, 3% 2005, 11% avg. Corn 1% planted, 0% 2004, 0% avg. Sorghum 1% planted, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Winter crop conditions 1% very poor, 3% poor, 36% fair, 55% good, 5% excellent. Oats 24% planted, 4% 2005, 5% avg.; 1% emerged, 0% 2005, 1% avg.; conditions 54% very poor, 0% poor, 8% fair, 38% good. Potatoes 2% planted, 0% 2005, 1% avg. Pasture conditions 15% very poor, 21% poor, 46% fair, 16% good, 2% excellent. A wide variety of annuals were seeded where temperatures allowed. Supplemental feeding was decreasing but still necessary in many areas. Pasture green-up continued.

**South Carolina:**

- Days suitable for field work 6.4.
- Soil 50% adequate, 45% short, 5% very short. Corn 40% planted, 30% 2005, 33% avg.; 2% poor, 56% fair, 41% good, 1% excellent. Pastures 9% poor, 50% fair, 39% good, 2% excellent. Rye 1% headed, 13% 2005, 20% avg.; 2% poor, 39% fair, 55% good, 4% excellent. Oats 2% headed, 10% 2005, 12% avg.; 1% poor, 44% fair, 52% good, 3% excellent. Peaches 1% very poor, 18% poor, 39% fair, 36% good, 6% excellent. Snap beans 28% planted, 22% 2005, 33% avg.; 1% poor, 39% fair, 41% good, 2% excellent. Watermelons 35% planted, 32% 2005, 29% avg.; 100% good. Tomatoes 40% planted, 27% 2005, 37% avg.; 50% fair, 50% good. Cantaloups 30% planted, 23% 2005, 21% avg.; 50% fair, 50% good. Livestock 1% poor, 27% fair, 66% good, 6% excellent. Tobacco 7% transplanted, 0% 2005, 3% avg.

**South Dakota:**

- Days suitable for fieldwork 1.3. Topsoil 3% very short, 7% short, 73% adequate, 17% surplus. Subsoil 12% very short, 18% short, 59% adequate, 11% surplus. Feed supplies 5% short, 89% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies 11% very short, 16% short, 67% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter wheat breaking dormancy 49%, 79% 2005, 57% avg. Barley seeded 1%, 3% 2005, 2% avg. Oats 1% seeded, 9% 2005, 5% avg. Spring wheat 5% seeded, 10% 2005, 7% avg. Cattle condition 9% fair, 76% good, 15% excellent. Sheep condition 8% fair, 72% good, 20% excellent. Range, pasture 3% very poor, 16% poor, 32% fair, 45% good, 4% excellent. Calving 50% complete. Lambing 55% complete. Cattle moved to pasture 4% complete. Calf deaths 23% below avg.; 73% avg.; 4% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths 27% below avg.; 72% avg.; 1% above average. Expected date to start spring field work April 5th. Temperatures averaged around 6° above normal last week, while precipitation was received in most areas of the state. Fields in some areas remain too wet to begin fieldwork, however some producers have begun seeding small grains. Mild weather has benefited calving, lambing, while the rains towards the end of the week have added to the wet conditions in feedlots, calving yards. Activities Included: Routine chores, tending to livestock, calving, lambing, repairing machinery, preparing for spring fieldwork, and small grain seeding.

**Tennessee:**

- Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil 12% short, 83% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 15% short, 79% adequate, 5% surplus. Wheat 47% jointed, 47% 2005, 42% average; top dressed 89%, 83% 2005, 89% avg; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 28% fair, 50% good, 19% excellent. Apples 68% budding and beyond, 65% 2005, 62% avg; 30% blooming and beyond, 24% 2005, 27% avg; 2% very poor, 10% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, 4% excellent. Peaches 88% budding and beyond, 83% 2005, 83% avg; 70% blooming and beyond, 59% 2005, 53% avg. Pastures 2% very poor, 16% poor, 41% fair, 35% good, 6% excellent. Cattle 2% very poor, 8% poor, 28% fair, 54% good, 8% excellent. Wheat damage from insects or disease was rated none-to-light. The peach crop was developing ahead of schedule; however, a short burst of cool weather caused bud loss in a few areas. Nurseries were busy with planting activities as well as digging and shipping. Hay producers used last week to make herbicide and fertilizer applications. Hay stocks in mostly short-to-adequate supply. As of Friday, Temperatures across Tennessee last week averaged several degrees below normal for the first part of the week, but quickly rebounded to above normal by the middle of the week. Rainfall averaged below normal for the week over far northeastern portions of the State, but above normal elsewhere.

**Texas:**

Agricultural Summary: Scattered showers occurred in many areas of the state as drought stricken regions were given some relief. However, long term effects from the drought were still apparent, some locations worsened. The Upper Coast, Central, East Texas reported rainfall amounts ranging from 1/2 to 2 inches. Isolated locations in those regions received up to 5 inches of rain. Rain gauges along portions of the Red River in North Central Texas recorded rain amounts from 1/2 to 3 inches. Other districts reporting moisture included the South Plains, Edwards Plateau, South Texas, Coastal Bend, the Rio Grande Valley. Totals in those regions ranged from a trace to over 1 inch. Springtime temperatures were in effect as highs in the 80’s were common in all areas with some 90’s reported in southern locations. Freeze damage from the previous week was noticed in some wheat fields that had headed out, in newly emerged corn, sorghum. Summer crop seeding as well as land preparations were ongoing as conditions permitted. Pasture green-up progressed northward as far north as Harlingen where there was some production expected from forages began to grow, especially in eastern locations that have been receiving rain for the past few weeks. Stock tanks were filled where downpours occurred, easing pressure on cattle. Irrigation remained active where available. Effects of the long term drought remained, a pattern of increased precipitation would have to be established to break the dry weather cycle across the state. Small Grains: Wheat fields were beginning to green-up on the Panhandle but there was still not much production expected from dryland. Insurance adjustors were busy disassembling failed wheat in the area. Some grazing was ongoing on irrigated land. For those fields still standing for grain harvest, crop dusters were spraying for greenbugs. In North Central Texas, the Blacklands, freeze damage was reported in headed fields. The effect on yield potential remained to be seen. Wheat condition was rated mostly poor to very poor. Oat condition was rated mostly very poor. Cotton: Rain in the Rio Grande Valley, Coastal Bend was very well received by cotton growers. For many fields, it was the first rain since before planting. Much more moisture will be needed to give the cotton crop a good start this season. Planting continued on the Blacklands. Preparations were ongoing on the South Plains, other northern regions. Irrigation was heavy in parts of South Texas. Corn: Corn fields on the Blacklands were hurt by the freeze received a few days prior, but fields reported were not fatal however, there was acreage that needed to be replanted. Planting progressed northward as field preparation was active on the Panhandle. Corn in southern regions was 4 to 5 inches tall in early planted fields. Irrigation in those regions was active where available. Statewide, corn condition was rated mostly fair to good. Sorghum: Fields were burned back by the freeze. Most should recover but some replanting was necessary. Growers in the Rio Grande Valley, Coastal Bend welcomed the much needed rain. Much more would be needed for adequate crop stands. Irrigation was active where possible. Rice: Planting continued on the Upper Coast. Fields were emerging, more growers were flooding fields. Soybeans: Planting was ongoing but there were delays along the Upper Coast, Blacklands, Northeast Texas due to rain. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans. In the Rio Grande Valley, rain was beneficial to all agriculture. Spring onion harvest gained momentum. Producers continued to harvest sugarcane, vegetables, citrus. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden, potato development was good, harvest was expected in the next few weeks. Cabbage harvest continued. In East Texas, there was some freeze damage in early planted watermelons, but they were expected to recover. Pecans, peaches that budded out, bloomed were damaged by the freeze. The full effect on yield was unknown. A hail storm in the Trans Pecos damaged pecan orchards. Grape vineyards on the Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau were hurt by the previous week’s freeze. Most of the damage occurred on the top vines. Livestock, Range, Pasture Report: Pastures continued to green-up, were beginning to provide more grazing opportunities for cattle. Drought stricken rangeland in South Texas responded well with the first significant rain in quite some time. Supplemental feeding decreased somewhat but was still necessary in most areas. Hay was still very scarce and expensive as importation continued. Cattle body condition was rated slightly better with the
Utah: Days suitable for field work 3. Subsoil 0% very short, 0% short, 90% adequate, 10% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 0% very short, 1% short, 92% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 6% poor, 34% fair, 56% good, 4% excellent; freeze damage 72% none, 17% light, 11% moderate, 0% severe. Spring wheat 16% planted, 30% 2005, 37% avg.; 7% emerged, 0% 2005, 8% avg. Barley 16% planted, 19% 2005, 31% avg.; 6% emerged, 0% 2005, 7% avg. oats 15% planted, 21% 2005, 20% avg. Cows calved 64%, 67% 2005, 62% avg. Cattle calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 12% fair, 66% good, 21% excellent. Sheep condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 73% good, 11% excellent. Range, pasture 3% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 62% good, 10% excellent. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 0% short, 92% adequate, 8% surplus. Sheep sheared on farm, Sheared on farm 54%, 37% 2005, 43% avg. Sheep sheared on range, Sheep sheared on range 25%, 26% 2005, 27% avg. Ewes lamb on range, Ewes lamb on range 68%, 69% 2005, 58% avg. Ewes lamb on range, Ewes lamb on range 24%, 25% 2005, 25% avg. Apples full bloom or past 0%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Apricots full bloom or past 11%, 28% 2005, 46% avg. Sweet cherries full bloom or past 7%, 0% 2005, 1% avg. Tart cherries full bloom or past 9%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Peaches full bloom or past 4%, 20% 2005, 10% avg. Pears full bloom or past 0%, 57% 2005, 19% avg. Heavy rains, some snow over the past week have hampered spring planting activities, but have improved the subsoil moisture condition. There was very little farm activities last week while fields tried to dry out. Calving, lambing continued with very little sickness. Little or no spring wheat or barley has been planted in the Northern counties. Onion planting has begun, but has been limited by wet conditions. Northern county fruit trees began to bud and apricots are close to blooming. Eastern counties are reporting very good valley moisture over the past few weeks with mountain snowpack drainage above normal. The drainage is expected to improve ground quality during the upcoming grazing and growing seasons. Field activities throughout the state should begin with warmer and dryer weather. Livestock were in excellent condition last week. Cattle producers in Eastern counties are reporting a good calving season with better than normal spring weather. Calving and lambing should continue in the coming weeks.

Vermont: Days suitable for field work 6.6. Topsoil 52% very short, 35% short, 13% adequate. Subsoil 26% very short, 52% short, 22% adequate. The Commonwealth experienced mild weather conditions this week with very little rainfall. All areas are very dry. Average rainfall for the state was 0.12 inches, the average temperature was 51 degrees. Dry conditions have slowed the development of hay fields and small grains. Some corn has been planted, while some producers are waiting for moisture levels to improve. Despite the lack of moisture, livestock appear to be healthy. Pasture, hay are falling behind in spring growth, feed conditions are becoming a concern for livestock producers. Producers took advantage of the mild temperatures to complete field work, prepare for planting. Vegetable growers have been busy in the greenhouses, tobacco farmers were busy this week bedding tobacco fields for the upcoming season. Activities Included: Calving, lambing, fence building, repair, litter, fertilizer spreading, preparing for soybean planting.

Washington: Days suitable for field work 4.4. Topsoil 1% short, 78% adequate, 21% surplus. Good moisture was reported throughout the state. Winter wheat is in fair to excellent condition overall, but the crop was reported to be lacking in nitrogen due to the large amount of moisture. Producers were busy planting potatoes, small grains, vegetables and dry peas. Fruit trees were leafing out, blooming in warmer areas. There is still some pruning taking place in the later season areas. Range, pasture conditions 1% very poor, 5% poor, 10% fair, 76% good, 8% excellent. Spring calving, lambing continued, pasture growth is increasing. Supplemental feeding continued and livestock was being moved to drier pastures.

West Virginia: Days suitable for field work 5.0. Topsoil 8% very short, 31% short, 59% adequate, 2% surplus compared with 34% adequate, 66% surplus last year. Intended acreage prepared for spring planting was 32%, 12% in 2005, 19% for the 5-yr avg. Hay, roughage supplies 2% very short, 14% short, 80% adequate, 4% surplus compared with 5% short, 81% adequate, 14% surplus in 2005. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 5% short, 93% adequate compared to 99% adequate, 1% surplus this time last year. Apple conditions 8% poor, 33% fair, 51% good, 8% excellent. Peach conditions 7% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 7% excellent. Hay 10% very poor, 22% poor, 25% fair, 42% good, 1% excellent. Winter Wheat conditions 2% poor, 15% fair, 83% good. Oats 17% planted, 1% 2005, 11% 5-yr avg. Cattle, calves 1% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 70% good, 5% excellent. Calving 74% complete, compared to 73% last year, 76% 5-year average. Sheep, lambs 2% poor, 31% fair, 64% good, 3% excellent. Lambing 85% complete, compared to 73% last year, 75% for the 5-year average. Activities Included: Calving, lambing, plowing, feeding and maintenance of equipment.

Wisconsin: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Soil 10% short, 75% adequate, 15% surplus. Wisconsin’s 2006 growing season is starting slowly. Rain, cold nights limited field activity during the week. Average temperatures were 3 to 6° above normal. High temperatures were in the 50s in most locations. Average low temperatures were in the 30s across the state. Rainfall totals last week ranged from 0.16 in Green Bay to 1.22 inches in La Crosse.

Wyoming: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.0. Topsoil 8% very short, 38% short, 50% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 21% very short, 43% short, 34% adequate, 2% surplus. Temperatures during the week ending Friday, March 31st, were above normal across the State except for a few stations in the West. Averages ranged from 5.8° above normal in Kaycee to 3.5° below normal in Afton. The high temperature was 72° in Redbird and the low was 5° in Afton. Precipitation was below normal except for some widely scattered areas. The most precipitation was reported in Riverton with 1.00 inch, Deaver with 0.64 inches, Kaycee with 0.53 inches. Barley 48% planted, 49% 2005, 35% 5-year average. Oats 0% planted, 10% 2005, 6% 5-year average. Spring wheat 8% planted, 95% 2005, 6% 5-year average. Sugarbeets 2% planted, 1% 2005, 2% 5-year average. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 34% fair, 63% good. Spring calves born 58%, 54% 2005, 58% 5-year average. Farm flock ewes lambed 60%, 63% 2005, 63% 5-year average. Farm flock sheep shorn 59%, 66% 2005, 65% 5-year average. Range flock ewes lambed 9%, 11% 2005, 10% 5-year average. Range flock sheep shorn 17%, 26% 2005, 24% 5-year average. Calf, lamb losses light to mostly normal with reports of heavy losses in three southeast counties. Cattle, sheep in mostly good condition. Range, pasture conditions 6% very poor, 9% poor, 54% fair, 30% good, 1% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 3% short, 87% adequate, and 10% surplus.