ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Topsoil 16% very short, 28% short, 51% adequate, 5% surplus. Corn 95% planted, 78% 2005, 82% avg. 68% emerged, 50% 2005, 50% avg. Soybeans 25% planted, 7% 2005, 7% avg. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 17% fair, 74% good, 0% excellent. Pasture condition 6% very poor, 25% poor, 33% fair, 32% good, 4% surplus. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, 13% excellent. Alabama received much needed rains last week causing farmers to increase row crops planting. With the recent rains, fruit growers have reduced scheduled irrigations. Vegetable growers are also planting crops that were planned for bare dirt. Blueberry growers have seen a high population of gall midge. Peach orchards are still showing signs of increased plum curculio larva.

ARIZONA: Temperatures for the State were mostly below normal for the week ending April 30. Precipitation was reported at 7 of the 22 reporting stations. Flagstaff received the most at 0.25 inches of precipitation. Paloma and Rolf received the lowest precipitation at 0.01 inches. All of the reporting stations are at below normal precipitation for the year to date. Alfalfa condition remains mostly fair to good. Range and pasture conditions are very poor to poor.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Soil 1% very short, 14% short, 69% adequate, 16% surplus. Corn 98% planted, 96% previous week, 91% previous year, 94% 5-yr avg.; 92% emerged, 84% previous week, 69% previous year, 76% 5-yr average. Soybeans 32% planted, 24% previous week, 24% previous year, 20% 5-yr avg.; 17% emerged, n/a previous week, 9% previous year, 7% 5-yr average. Sorghum 68% planted, 59% previous week, 59% previous year, 64% 5-yr avg.; 49% emerged, 32% previous week, 34% previous year, 34% 5-yr average. Cotton 38% planted, 26% previous week, 26% previous year, 25% 5-yr average. Rice 87% planted, 78% previous week, 72% previous year, 76% 5-yr avg.; 62% emerged, 29% previous week, 32% previous year, 42% 5-yr average. Winter wheat 88% headed, 81% previous week, 76% previous year, 77% 5-yr average. Corn 0% very poor, 1% poor, 28% fair, 55% good, 16% excellent. Hay-alfalfa 0% very poor, 11% poor, 53% fair, 36% good, 0% excellent. Hay-other 0% very poor, 5% pPoor, 46% fair, 45% good, 4% excellent. Pasture, range 3% very poor, 10% poor, 46% fair, 38% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 6% poor, 20% fair, 51% good, 23% excellent. The corn crop was in fair to mostly good condition with 92% reported emerged. Nearly one-third of the soybean crop had been planted with 17% of the crop emerged. Sorghum planting was 68% complete with nearly half of the crop emerged. Cotton planting was 38% complete. Rice planting was 87% complete with crop emergence at 62%. Winter Wheat heading remained ahead of its normal rate with the crop in mostly good condition. Livestock remained in good condition. Farmers continued to fertilize pastures and work cattle last week. Recent rains improved pasture and hay crop conditions.

CALIFORNIA: Rice field cultivation activities occurred in a few areas, rice planting began in Merced County. The winter wheat crop continued to head out, no large-scale lodging was observed. Chopping of alfalfa, silage fields was ongoing. Alfalfa was also baled for hay. Safflower fields were planted. In the Central Valley, cotton was planted as field conditions dried. Some cotton fields had to be re-tilled due to soil crusting that occurred during recent rain storms. In Imperial County, cotton planting was complete. Field corn planting began. Sugar beet fields continued to make good progress. Some sugar beet fields in Fresno County were harvested, with good yields reported. Sweet potato planting began in Merced County. Field work across the State increased with the arrival of warm temperatures and dry weather. Disease pressure, however, remained high in orchards, vineyards. Field work in stone fruit orchards included pruning, fruit thinning, and applying fungicides to prevent hole fungus, brown rot. Some early stone fruit varieties began to show size. A few blossoms remained on cherry trees in Yuba County, fruit set appeared poor in cherry and peach orchards. Apple trees were being thinned. Kiwifruit vines were blooming in the San Joaquin Valley, pomegranate trees continued to leaf out. Growth in grape vineyards accelerated. Table grape vines were suckered, hoods were thinned. Shredding, discing of cover crops continued, and many vineyards were sprayed with fungicides. Strawberries were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley for sale at roadside stands. Warm, dry weather also increased field work, harvesting in all citrus orchards after being delayed due to the rain. Citrus growers were busy applying foliar fertilizer, spraying for weeds, hedging, topping orchards in preparation for the new crop. Fruit harvested included Navel, Valencia oranges, lemons, and grapefruit. Quality in Navels continued to decline, brown rot, mold around the cap stem end continued to be problems for recently packed Navels. Valencia harvest advanced, size and maturity continued to improve. Nut formation in almond orchards continued, while pistachio and walnut trees continued to leaf out. Some Serr walnuts were shook to thin out catkins, prevent over pollination. Blight sprays continued in walnut groves. The planting of zucchini squash began in some areas. Lettuce harvest tapered off as growers reported decay problems. Garlic, onions began forming bulbs. Onion transplants continued to grow rapidly, fields were treated with fungicides. Transplant tomato, cucumber, eggplant, peppers and squash were showing good growth. Packing, shipping of radicchio continued. Harvest of asparagus, broccoli, celery, spinach continued. Asian vegetables such as okra, eggplant, gourd, cantaloupe, squash, bean, sweet corn, and some other vegetables were reported as being more difficult to grow. Potatoes continued to be problems for recently packed. Strawberry, raspberry, and blackberry crops were also reported as being more difficult to grow. A number of growers experienced fruit and vegetable curculio problems this year.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil 18% very short, 40% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 25% very short, 48% short, 26% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperatures in Colorado remained slightly above average across the state last week. Moisture was received along the Front Range, in the Southeastern Plains in the form of isolated thunderstorms or snow showers. The moisture although beneficial, was slightly above average across the state last week. Moisture was received along the Front Range, in the Southeastern Plains in the form of isolated thunderstorms or snow showers. The moisture although beneficial, was not enough to greatly affect crop, subsoil condition in these drought stricken areas. Spring wheat 48% seeded, 59% 2005, 61% avg.; 16% emerged, 24% 2005, 24% avg. Spring barley 75% seeded, 71% 2005, 77% avg.; 27% emerged, 37% 2006, 37% avg.; condition 9% poor, 41% fair, 40% good, 10% excellent. Dry onions 91% planted, 88% 2005, 88% avg. Winter wheat 60% jointed, 49% 2005, 49% avg; 3% headed, 8% 2005, 3% avg.; condition 10% very poor, 19% poor, 34% fair, 34% good,

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 9% very short, 56% short, 34% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 18% very short, 36% short, 46% adequate. Corn 45% planted, 27% 2005, 31% avg. Corn 8% emerged, 0% 2005, 6% avg. Barley condition 9% very poor, 11% poor, 46% fair, 31% good, 3% excellent; 74% headed, 49% 2005, 53% avg. Winter wheat condition 10% very poor, 8% poor, 38% fair, 41% good, 3% excellent; 19% headed, 9% 2005, 11% avg. Pasture condition 10% very poor, 13% poor, 45% fair, 30% good, 2% excellent. Strawberries 49% bloomed, 24% 2005, 44% avg. Other hay 1st cutting 9%, 0% 2005, 4% avg. Apples 86% bloomed, 40% 2005, 72% avg. Peaches 96% bloomed, 89% 2005, 88% avg. Watermelons 6% planted, 2% 2005, 6% avg. Cucumbers 7% planted, 5% 2005, 6% avg. Snap beans 26% planted, 14% 2005, 21% avg. Sweet corn 23% planted, 24% 2005, 26% avg. Green peas 83% planted, 82% 2005, 83% avg. Potatoes 99%, planted, 67% 2005, 71% avg. Tomatoes 5% planted, 6% 2005, 8% avg. Hay supplies 15% very short, 34% short, 51% adequate. Dry conditions continue to cause concern. Winds delayed spraying.

FLORIDA: Topsoil 40% very short, 30% short, 30% adequate. Subsoil 35% very short, 40% short, 25% adequate. Temperature average: major cities, 3 to 4 deg. above normal; cold front at end of week caused temperatures to plunge below normal. Daytime highs: 80s; several localities reported at least one high in 90s. Nighttime lows: 50s, 60s, 70s. Alachua, Live Oak, MacClenny, Jacksonville reported at least one low in 40s. Rainfall range: none Arcadia to nearly 3.00 in. Jay: about 1.00 in. Monticello: 0.25 to 0.50 in. Alachua, Brooksville, Carrabelle, Citra, Live Oak, MacClenny, Marianna, West Palm Beach: 0.10 or less elsewhere. Rainfall end of week aided peanut, cotton germination, growth; planting very slow due to dry soil. Peanuts 5% planted last year. 4%; 5-yr avg. 10%. Topsoil moisture short to mostly adequate, Panhandle; very short to mostly short extreme northern Peninsula, including Big Bend area elsewhere, mostly very short with scattered areas of short, adequate supplies. Subsoil moisture short to mostly adequate, Panhandle; very short to mostly short, extreme northern Peninsula, very short to short, north central Peninsula; mostly adequate with scattered areas of short, very short supplies, southern Peninsula. Holmes County: some areas with surplus moisture. Less than one half percent, Statewide. Mostly clear conditions early in the week. Cool temperatures to arrive. A series of rain showers halted operations.  Corn planting is 2 days behind average.  Alfalfa 5% cut, 2% 2005, 1% avg. Red Clover 3% cut, 1% 2005, 0% avg. Alfalfa condition 2% poor, 16% fair, 62% good, 20% excellent. Red clover condition 2% poor, 15% fair, 72% good, 11% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 63% good, 15% excellent. Planting conditions were almost ideal which allowed farmers to make up for lost time. Almost 40 percent of the state’s corn acreage was planted last week. Temperatures were slightly below normal, and much needed rains across most of the state replenished soil moisture. Besides planting corn, farmers were busy last week with cutting hay, spraying chemicals, tending livestock, and preparing to plant beans.

HAWAI: Pleasant sunny weather with light trade winds, isolated showers continued over much of the State during the week ending April 30, 2006. These favorable weather conditions enabled vigorous field work throughout the week. Crops and pastures were in generally good condition. At midweek, a weak storm system north of the State created some afternoon clouds, but did not have enough moisture to produce widespread heavy rains. The system weakened trade winds resulting in warmer temperatures through the weekend. Moderate to heavy irrigation was needed for some drier fields due to sunny and windy weather conditions in recent weeks.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Topsoil 3% very short, 14% short, 68% adequate and 15% surplus. Oats 96% planted, 98% 2005, 94% avg. Alfalfa 5% cut, 2% 2005, 1% avg. Red Clover 3% cut, 1% 2005, 0% avg. Alfalfa condition 2% poor, 16% fair, 62% good, 20% excellent. Red clover condition 2% poor, 15% fair, 72% good, 11% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 63% good, 15% excellent. Planting conditions were almost ideal which allowed farmers to make up for lost time. Almost 40 percent of the state’s corn acreage was planted last week. Temperatures were slightly below normal, and much needed rains across most of the state replenished soil moisture. Besides planting corn, farmers were busy last week with cutting hay, spraying chemicals, tending livestock, and preparing to plant beans.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Topsoil 3% very short, 14% short, 68% adequate and 15% surplus. Oats 96% planted, 98% 2005, 94% avg. Alfalfa 5% cut, 2% 2005, 1% avg. Red Clover 3% cut, 1% 2005, 0% avg. Alfalfa condition 2% poor, 16% fair, 62% good, 20% excellent. Red clover condition 2% poor, 15% fair, 72% good, 11% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 63% good, 15% excellent. Planting conditions were almost ideal which allowed farmers to make up for lost time. Almost 40 percent of the state’s corn acreage was planted last week. Temperatures were slightly below normal, and much needed rains across most of the state replenished soil moisture. Besides planting corn, farmers were busy last week with cutting hay, spraying chemicals, tending livestock, and preparing to plant beans.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Topsoil 0% very short, 4% short, 66% adequate, 30% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 72% adequate, 20% surplus. Planting of corn made good progress in many central, northern areas. Field conditions were near ideal before weekend rain showers halted operations. Corn planting is 2 days behind average and 7 days behind last years near record pace. Corn 33% planted, 49% 2005, 40% avg.; 5% emerged, 8% 2005, 8% avg. Soybeans 5% planted, 10% 2005, 11% avg. Winter wheat 76% jointed, 78% 2005, 80% avg.; 11% headed, 4% 2005, 6% avg.; condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 61% good, 19% excellent. Pastures 1% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, 14% excellent. Livestock are reported to be in mostly good condition. Temperatures ranged from 4° below normal to 3° above normal with the high of 79°. Precipitation averaged from .24 inches to .85 inches. Activities Included: Spraying, soil preparation, applying fertilizer, hauling
grain to market, hauling, applying manure, fixing tile, and taking care of livestock.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.3. Topsoil 2% very short, 6% short, 71% adequate, 21% surplus. Subsoil 5% very short, 18% short, 66% adequate, 11% surplus. Corn planting was fast paced the first half of the week, many producers are finished, waiting for warmer temperatures to plant soybeans. Oats seeding is nearly complete. Soaking rains at the end of the week were welcomed by producers who had their corn in the ground and those who were low on subsoil moisture. There were reports of ponding in some fields and streams out of their banks, but mostly the rains were gentle and helpful. Field Crops Report: Oats 97% seedings, compared to 98% last year, 94% 5-yr avg.; 56% emerged, well behind last year's 79%, but comparable to the 5-year average of 59 percent. Corn 63% planted reached compared to 49% last year the five-year average of 42%, 5% emerged, the same as last year and two percent ahead of the 5-year average, with the lower third of the state reporting between 10 to 18 percent emerged. Primary seeded preparations were 81% complete compared to 79% last year, 76% for the five-year average. Fertilizer applications, at 90%, matched last year again this week and were 5 percentage points ahead of the five-year average. Livestock, weather hay 1st cutting 10%, 0% 2005, 2% avg. Apples 53% bloomed, 45% 2005, 67% avg. Peaches 79% bloomed, 64% 2005, 83% avg. Watermelons 43% planted, 11% 2005, 11% avg. Cucumbers 33% planted, 33%, 8% 2005, 11% avg. Lima beans (Processed) planted 7%, 0% 2005, 1% avg. Snap beans 11% planted, 5% 2005, 9% avg. Sweet corn 25% planted, 24% 2005; 27% avg. Green peas 99% planted, 71% 2005, 83% avg. Potatoes 98% planted, 75% 2005, 78% avg. Tomatoes planted 100% 2005, 95% 2005, 32% avg. Cantaloupes 20% planted, 15% 2005, 17% avg. Hay supplies 9% very short, 14% short, 75% adequate, 2% surplus. Minimal rainfall this week is again causing concern with producers. Small grains are beginning to head, but the crop is short from poor rainfall all spring.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Subsoil 1% very short, 20% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Pasture 2% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 48% good, 15% excellent. Barley 50% planted, 67% 2005, 40% avg.; 10% emerged, 21% 2005, 17% avg. Oats 79% planted, 86% 2005, 62% avg.; 39% emerged, 31% 2005, 26% avg. Potatoes 31% planted, 20% 2005; 22% avg. Asparagus 0% emerged, 0% 2005, 1% avg. Asparagus harvest amounts ranged from 0.04 inches eastern Upper Peninsula, central Lower Peninsula to 0.41 inches western Upper Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from normal in the east central, southwest, south central, southeast Lower Peninsula to 2 degrees above normal in the eastern and western Upper Peninsula and northwest Lower Peninsula. This past week, several area across State received frost, causing varying levels of damage to crops. Dry conditions were ideal for early spring planting but have caused dust comparable to that of summer months. Rain needed to settle dust and activate chemicals. Manure being spread full force and herbicides being applied. Corn planting underway. Soybean planting active in some areas. Most sugarbeets planted and beginning to emerge. Some frost damage reported. Hay wintered well and growing quickly, with early first cutting expected. Most oats planted and have begun to emerge. Wheat reported to need rain soon. Warm, mild temperatures across Michigan resulted in fruit being about one week ahead of normal development. Tree planting underway. Tree fruits blooming and bee activity heavy. Apples in the southwest at pink stage. Early varieties opening. In Grand Rapids area, most apple varieties at open cluster. Climbing cutworm damage apple buds reported. Early varieties of blueberries began blooming southeast; leaves unfolding. Blueberries west central developed tight cluster 2-3 inches in diameter. Red cherry in open cluster. Red cherries 1% set. Condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 58% good, 22% excellent. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 20% fair, 50% good, 28% excellent. Hay crops condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 55% good, 16% excellent. Tobacco height less than 2 in. 43%, 2-4 in. 35%, larger than 4 in. 22%. Percent of normal nitrogen fertilizer supplies available to producers 96%. Pasture condition 4% poor, 25% fair, 53% good, 18% excellent.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Topsoil 2% very short, 37% short, 55% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 9% very short, 31% short, 57% adequate, 3% surplus. Corn 42% planted, 28% 2005, 28% avg.; 10% emerged, 0% 2005, 4% avg. Barley condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 22% fair, 61% good, 8% excellent; 55% headed. 21% 2005, 38% avg. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 9% poor, 22% fair, 64% good, 3% excellent; 25% headed, 4% 2005, 10% avg. Pasture condition 10% poor, 37% fair, 46% good, 7% excellent. Strawberries 57% bloomed, 81% 2005, 64% avg. Summer hay 1st cutting 10%, 0% 2005, 10% avg. Alfalfa hay 1st cutting 0%, 0% 2005, 2% avg. Apples 53% bloomed, 45% 2005, 67% avg. Peaches 79% bloomed, 64% 2005, 83% avg. Watermelons 43% planted, 11% 2005, 11% avg. Cucumbers 33% planted, 33%, 8% 2005, 11% avg. Lima beans (Processed) planted 7%, 0% 2005, 1% avg. Snap beans 11% planted, 5% 2005, 9% avg. Sweet corn 25% planted, 24% 2005; 27% avg. Green peas 99% planted, 71% 2005, 83% avg. Potatoes 98% planted, 75% 2005, 78% avg. Tomatoes planted 100% 2005, 95% 2005, 32% avg. Cantaloupes 20% planted, 15% 2005, 17% avg. Hay supplies 9% very short, 14% short, 75% adequate, 2% surplus. Minimal rainfall this week is again causing concern with producers. Small grains are beginning to head, but the crop is short from poor rainfall all spring.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Soil 4% very short, 24% short, 62% adequate, 10% surplus. Spring plowing 93% plowed, 90% last week, 94% in 2005, 52% avg. Corn 0% very short, 2% poor, 21% fair, 65% good, 12% excellent; 100% emerged, 98% last week, 98% in 2005, 98% avg. Soybeans 34% emerged, 23% last week, 17% in 2005, 14% avg. Sorghum 57% emerged, 54 last week, 41% in 2005, 33% avg. Rice 0% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 70% good, 4% excellent. Cotton 37% emerged, 21% last week, 18% in 2005, 17% avg. Hay 1st cutting 34%, 18% last week, 7% in 2005, 14% avg. Wheat 2% very poor, 13% poor, 24% fair, 52% good, 9% excellent; 100% headed, 96% last week, 96% in 2005, 96% avg; 76% turning color, 42% last week, 13% in 2005, 22% avg. Sugarcane 3% very poor, 14% poor, 49% fair, 28% good, 6% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 10% poor, 36% fair, 47% good, 5% excellent. Vegetable 2% very poor, 12% poor, 37% fair, 47% good, 2% excellent. Range and pasture 7% very poor, 16% poor, 38% fair, 37% good, 2% excellent.
MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Soil 2% very short, 24% short, 60% adequate, 14% surplus. Corn 99% planted, 92% 2005, 96% avg.; 93% emerged, 81% 2005, 85% avg.; 2% poor, 19% fair, 66% good, 13% excellent. Cotton 57% planted, 37% 2005, 38% avg.; 33% emerged, 14% 2005, 15% avg.; 8% poor, 12% fair, 24% good, 3% excellent. Sorghum 83% planted, 76% 2005, 60% avg.; 64% emerged, 42% 2005, 36% avg. Soybeans 87% planted, 60% 2005 58% avg.; 74% emerged, 35% 2005, 38% avg.; 12% fair, 78% good, 10% excellent. Wheat 100% jointing, 99% 2005, 99% avg.; 95% heading, 87% 2005, 85% avg.; 2% poor, 31% fair, 52% good, 15% excellent. Hay 27% (Harvested Cool) 26% 2005, 33% avg. Watermelons 64% planted, 83% 2005, 71% avg. Blueberries 1% poor, 35% fair, 56% good, 8% excellent. Cattle 1% very poor, 10% poor, 32% fair, 45% good, 12% excellent. Pasture 3% very poor, 6% poor, 36% fair, 4% good, 6% excellent. Rain that arrived last week was welcomed by most farm operators. Cooler temperatures slowed the emergence of row crops and plantings were delayed by rain throughout the state. Pastures have responded well to the much-needed rain.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.6. Topsoil 3% very short, 14% short, 73% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil 12% very short, 38% short, 48% adequate, 13% surplus. Much needed rain fell in May helping early planted field crops and starting a recovery in pastures. Especially heavy totals fell in the southwest district, where it was needed most after several months of severe dryness. Planting progress remains well ahead of normal for most crops, especially in corn and rice. The moisture has stabilized the wheat crop condition and will help later maturing areas. However, poor yields are expected in the southwest, where the crop has already matured too far to be helped by the rain. In the Bootheel, barley yellow dwarf virus is infecting localized areas of wheat, while bean leaf beetles are showing up in some early planted soybeans. The rain was too late to help early grass hay yields, thus, hay supply is still a concern. Stock water supply also remains a concern, as the soaking rain produced little runoff to fill ponds. State-wide, stock water supply averages 12% very short, 27% short, 58% adequate, and 3% surplus. Pasture condition 13% very poor, 25% poor, 36% fair, 22% good, 4% excellent, a slight improvement over last week, with a more marked recovery expected over the next week. Rainfall averaged 2.48 inches for the week. The lightest total fell in the east-central district at 1.41 inches. The heaviest tota was recorded in the southwest district, which averaged 4.77 inches and had localized totals of better than 7 inches.

MONTANA: Days suitable for field work 5.0. Topsoil 11% surplus, 4% year, 76% adequate, 61% last year, 13% short, 26% last year, 0% very short, 9% last year. Subsoil 7% surplus, 1% last year, 62% adequate, 30% last year, 25% short, 37% last year, 6% very short, 32% last year. Montana received light rain last week. Precipitation of 3.09 inches for the month of April was set in Butte, breaking the 1922 record of 2.87 inches. West Glacier received the most moisture last week at 0.41 inches. Thompson Falls was the state hotspot last week at 80 degrees. Cascade experienced the low temperature last week of 7 degrees. Topsoil moisture adequate, surplus, at 87 percent, decreased slightly from last week’s 91 percent, but is still ahead of last year’s 65 percent. Subsoil moisture adequate and surplus, at 69 percent, is well ahead of last year’s 31 percent, and is just behind last week’s 72 percent. Winter wheat condition is 1% very poor, 1% last year, 4% poor, 5% last year, 22% fair, 29% last year, 56% good, 44% last year, 17% excellent, 21% last year. Winter wheat spring stages are 0% still dormant, 0% last year, 4% green, 4% last year, 36% green and growing, 96% last year. Spring wheat is 35% planted, 55% last year, and 15% emerged, 9% last year. Durum wheat is 12% planted, 33% last year. Barley is 46% planted, 52% last year, and 5% emerged, 9% last year. Oats are 24% planted, 45% last year, and 3% emerged, 9% last year. Ranchers are providing supplemental feed to 58% of cattle and calves, 65% last year, and 62% of sheep and lambs, 67% last year. Livestock grazing is 91% open, 87% last year, 5% difficult, 6% last year, 4% closed, 7% last year. Calving is 92% complete, 91% last year, and lambing is 77% complete, 74% last year. Range and pasture feed conditions are 13% excellent, 2% very poor, 13% last year, 43% good, 13% last year, 36% fair, 41% last year, 6% poor, 28% last year, and 2% very poor, 16% last year. Field tillage work in progress is 25% not started, 13% last year, 20% just started, 22% last year, 55% well underway, 65% last year.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Topsoil 3% very short, 22% short, 72% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 15% very short, 26% short, 58% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperatures for the week averaged 4 to 8° below normal. Freezing temperatures during the week raised concerns for wheat in the joint stage. The eastern third of the state saw the most precipitation with some reports of 3 inches. Moisture accumulations over the southwest during April averaged less than 40 percent of normal. Wheat 38% jointed, 58% 2005, 38% avg. Oats 96% planted, 94% 2005, 89% emerged, 64% 2005, 56% avg. Sugar beets 86% planted, 55% 2005. Alfalfa conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 57% good, 20% excellent. Pasture, range conditions 1% very poor, 6% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 8% excellent. Cattle and calves conditions rated mostly good. Call losses were average to below average. Activities Included: Applying fertilizer and chemicals, planting corn, working ground, and preparing to move livestock to pasture.

NEVADA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Rains early in the week gave way to much higher temperatures later in the week. Reno recorded .60 inch of rain, but most areas recorded only .01 inch or a trace. Exceptionally high snowpack heightened flood potential across the North. Flooding was occurring in the Humboldt and Owyyeh watersheds as snow melt accelerated. Temperatures were averaging several degrees above normal statewide at the end of the week. Field preparations and spring grain planting was in full swing as the wet weather finally ended. Weed control became necessary as fields were greening. Range, pasture growth accelerated as temperatures rose. Livestock were beginning to move into public grazing lands. Some stock were being moved to higher ground due to lowland flooding. Calving, lambing advanced, were nearing completion. Fence repair was common. Activities: Calving, lambing, branding, grain planting, weed spraying, fertilizing fields, and dragging meadows.

NEW ENGLAND: Days suitable for field work: 6.0. Topsoil 8% very short, 33% short, 57% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 29% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture condition 10% very poor, 12% poor, 32% fair, 38% good, 8% excellent. Maine Potatoes 0% planted, 0% 2005, 0% average. Rhode Island Potatoes 25% planted, 20% 2005, 20% average; condition good. Massachusetts Potatoes 45% planted, 15% 2005, 20% average; condition good. Maine Oats 0% planted, 0% 2005, 0% average. Maine Barley 0% planted, 0% 2005, 0% average. Field Corn 5% planted, 0% 2005, 0% average; condition fair/good. Sweet Corn 5% planted, 5% 2005, 10% average; condition fair/good. First Crop Hay condition fair/good. Apples: Bud Stage to Early Bloom, condition good. Peaches: Early Bloom to Full Bloom, condition good. Pears: Bud Stage to Full Bloom, condition good. Strawberries: Dormant to Early Bloom, condition good/fair. Massachusetts Cranberries: Dormant to Bud Stage, condition good. Highbush Blueberries: Bud Stage, condition good/fair. Maine Wild Blueberries: Dormant, condition good. Light rain and windy conditions hindered outside activities at the beginning of the week. By mid-week, clear skies and warm days provided ideal conditions for farmers to continue preparing and planting fields. During the week, cold nights brought frost to low lying areas. Activities Included: Planting sweet corn, early vegetables, potatoes, spreading manure, fertilizer, lime, plowing, harrowing fields, pruning trees, fertilizing orchards, working in the greenhouses, and fencing.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 5.4. Topsoil 5% short, 95% adequate. Temperatures averaged below normal for the week across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. There was a report of localized frost two nights during the week in the northern district. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: Planting greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, topdressing fertilizer, and spraying herbicide. Asparagus harvest began in the north, and continued in the south. Harvest of lettuce started in the south. Early tomatoes, sweet corn are under plastic. Arugula, green onion, leeks, Swiss chard were harvested in the south. Winter wheat began to head. Condition of small grains and hay crops were fair to good.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for field work 6.8. Topsoil 55% very short, 37% short, 8% adequate. The first slow-moving storm system in months drifted across New Mexico Thursday and Friday, producing some of the highest rainfall totals in weeks for some locations. Some light snow fell at higher elevations of the north. Even so, Tucumcari (67°) and Clayton (62°) were the only sites to measure over half an inch of
strawberries is still to be determined. Livestock operators have moved livestock on to pasture fields. Activities besides planting included: Farm equipment maintenance, repair, spreading fertilizer, lime, knitting in manure, hauling grain, cleaning out bins, and tillage.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Topsoil 43% very short, 29% short, 22% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 53% very short, 35% short, 12% adequate. Wheat soft dough 28% this week, 10% last week, 14% last year, 9% average. Rye 38% very poor, 45% poor, 17% fair; jointing 99% this week, 60% last week, 99% last year, 39% avg.; headed 83% this week, 35% last week, 93% last year, 38% avg.; soft dough 45% this week, 17% last week, 20% last year, 8% average. Oats 65% very poor, 10% fair, 10% excellent this week, 60% last week, 74% last year, 75% avg.; headed 37% this week, 21% last week, 28% avg.; soft dough 17% this week, 6% last week, N/A last year, N/A average. Corn seedbed prepared 98% this week, 89% last week, 98% last year, 93% average; planted 53% this week, 45% last week, 60% last year, 64% avg.; emerged 41% this week, 29% last week, 34% last year, 34% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 56% this week, 51% last week, 55% last year, 51% average. Soybeans seedbed prepared 70% this week, 64% last week, 61% last year, 65% avg.; planted 26% this week, 18% last week, 18% last year, 22% average; Peanuts seedbed prepared 77% this week, 52% last week, 84% last year, 83% average. Cotton seedbed prepared 90% this week, 74% last week, 80% last year, 85% average; Alfalfa 13% very poor, 30% poor, 41% fair, 15% good, 1% excellent; 1st cutting 34% this week, 16% last week, 42% last year, 14% average; 1st Cutting 12% this week, 12% last week, 20% last year, 14% average; Watermelon planted 45% this week, 25% last week, 33% last year, 40% average. Livestock 8% very poor, 43% poor, 36% fair, 13% good; Pasture & Range 27% very poor, 32% poor, 31% fair, 10% good. Livestock: Livestock were in mostly fair to poor condition. Marketings were mostly average. Livestock insect activities were light to none. Death loss of cattle was mostly average. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged $105.31 per cwt. Prices for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged $97.13 per cwt. For most of the State, last week’s rains helped being to replenish dry livestock ponds. However, although the rains were a good start, more rain was still needed.

Oregon: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil 8% short, 77% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil 7% short, 75% adequate, 18% surplus. Barley 84% planted, 88% 2005, 84% avg.; 55% emerged, 76% 2005, 62% avg. Barley 19% fair, 77% good, 4% excellent. Spring wheat 78% planted, 92% 2005, 94% avg.; 48% emerged, 72% 2005, 75% avg. Spring wheat 29% very good, 31% excellent, 40% fair, 16% good, 4% excellent. Range & pasture 7% poor, 29% fair, 43% good, 21% excellent. Warm, dry conditions prevailed across the State last week. High temperatures ranged from 87 degrees in Medford to 58 degrees in Bandon. Low temperatures were mixed; there were 26 stations that reported low temperatures in the thirties, 12 stations in the twenties, five stations in the forties. Out of the 43 weather stations, 19 stations reported precipitation last week. Portland, Echo, Wood, Baker City were the only stations that reported receiving rainfall more than one day last week. No weather stations reported more than inch of rainfall during the reference week. Producers across Oregon welcomed last week’s warm, dry weather. Improved field conditions allowed for seeding, tillage, spraying in most areas. Wind slowed spraying in some parts of the northeast. The warmer weather also promoted crop development in most areas. Seven percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition. Spring planting progress was still lagging behind average. By April 30, 70 percent of the spring wheat had been planted, compared to the five-year average of 94 percent. The weather was favorable for vegetable growers last week. Early seed crops were starting to bloom. Home gardeners were beginning to harvest rhubarb in Wasco County. Growers were a little behind schedule planting cool season vegetables in Douglas County. Dry & warm weather in the Willamette Valley this past week helped berries, fruit trees blossom. Excellent to superb pollination weather conditions were reported across most Western Oregon Counties. Orchard work has resumed in Douglas County. In Jackson County grape vines begin to show growth development. Apples, pears are pollinating well in Marion County. Warm weather conditions also provided for good pollination in Mid Columbia counties. Some protection against frost early in the week was helpful in Hood River County due to low temperatures at night. Cooler spring weather has slowed growth in some orchards in Sherman County. Pollination weather in Wasco County was almost perfect this past week. Cherries were able to withstand morning frosts with minimal
very poor, 4% poor, 48% fair, 42% good. Peaches 1% very poor, 9% good; 13% turned color, 12% 2005, 17% avg.; 11% poor, 48% fair, 40% good, 89% avg.; 21% turned color, 21% 2005, 21% avg.; 5% poor, 47% fair, 52% good, 7% excellent. Pastures 1% very poor, 9% poor, 47% fair, 43% good. 2005, 8% avg.  Oats 92% headed, 81% 2005, 87% avg.; 10% turned color, 18% 2005; 19% very poor, 9% poor, 47% fair, 43% good. Peanuts 12% planted, 15% 2005, 16% avg.  Rye 92% headed, 89% 2005, 95% avg.; 21% turned color, 21% 2005, 21% avg.; 5% poor, 47% fair, 48% good. Sorghum 33% planted, 36% 2005, 36% avg.; 100% good. Cotton 17% planted, 11% 2005, 13% avg. Sweet Potatoes 5% planted, 7% 2005, 12% avg. 12% planted, 11% 2005, 13% avg. 13% turned color, 12% 2005, 17% avg.; 11% poor, 48% fair, 40% good, 1% excellent. Tobacco 90% transplanted, 81% 2005, 85% avg.; 2% poor, 43% fair, 55% good. Grain hay 27% harvested, 30% 2005, 34% avg.; 6% very poor, 4% poor, 48% fair, 42% good. Peaches 1% very poor, 9% poor, 46% fair, 37% good, 7% excellent. Apples 20% fair, 80% good. Snap beans 86% planted, 86% 2005, 63% avg.; 30% fair, 70% good. Cucumbers 96% planted, 94% 2005, 96% avg.; 20% fair, 60% good, 20% excellent. Watermelons 91% planted, 85% 2005, 88% avg.; 46% fair, 51% good, 3% very good. Tomatoes 99% planted, 96% 2005, 96% avg.; 12% fair, 74% good, 14% excellent. Cantaloupes 88% planted, 79% 2005, 81% avg.; 41% fair, 59% good. Livestock 2% poor, 27% fair, 65% good, 6% excellent. Pastures 2% very poor, 11% poor, 50% fair, 35% good, 2% excellent.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 5.4. Soil 7% very short, 24% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Crop conditions improved as the State received rainfall that ranged from as little as three tenths of an inch in Columbia, Augusta to as much as one, a half inches in Myrtle Beach. Barley 74% headed, 66% 2005, 72% avg.; 10% turned color, 11% 2005, 13% avg.; 6% poor, 48% fair, 45% good, 1% excellent. Corn 99% planted, 96% 2005, 92% avg.; 84% emerged, 83% 2005, 79% avg.; 1% poor, 32% fair, 6% excellent. Activities included: Plowing, hauling, spreading manure, lime, spraying pesticides, repairing fences, farm equipment, planting corn, oats, tobacco beds, and potatoes.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 77% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil 5% very short, 19% short, 65% adequate, 11% surplus. Feed supplies 2% very short, 4% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies 8% very short, 13% short, 72% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter wheat boot 16%, 16% 2005, 5% avg. Cattle condition 1% poor, 9% fair, 69% good, 2% excellent. Sheep condition 12% fair, 68% good, 20% excellent. Range, pasture 1% very poor, 8% poor, 30% fair, 50% good, 11% excellent. Calving 85% complete. Lambing 82% complete. Cattle moved to pasture 24% complete. Calf deaths 19% below avg.; 73% avg.; 8% above average. Sheep lambs 15% below avg.; 68% avg.; 17% above average. Weather patterns varied last week, bringing scattered showers to many areas in the west, while the eastern side of the state received more precipitation, keeping many farmers and ranchers out of fields. While some fields dried up quickly, allowing fieldwork to advance, others remain wet as producers feel another week of dry weather will be necessary before fieldwork continues. Livestock remain stressed as storms during the previous weeks have caused calf and lamb deaths to rise, while range and pastures and stock water supplies have benefited from recent precipitation. Activities Included: Caring for livestock, calving, lambing, moving cattle to grazing, fertilizing, small grain seeding, and preparing for and planting of row crops.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Topsoil e 85% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 16% short, 76% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter wheat 82% headed, 55% 2005, 55% avg.; 2% very poor, 4% poor, 15% fair, 56% good, 23% excellent. Apples 95% blooming, beyond, 89% 2005, 93% avg. Pastures 5% poor, 28% fair, 55% good, 12% excellent. Hay 1% very poor, 6% poor, 36% fair, 48% good, 9% excellent. After citing the need for more rain last week, the State's farmers got their wish in the form of scattered showers, thunderstorms. Several fronts to the north, west of the State brought rainy weather to most areas last week benefiting pastures, recently planted crops, but slowing fieldwork. This was especially true for planting activities, which were delayed by wet field conditions. Winter wheat continued its rapid development, was about a week ahead of the normal schedule. A few farmers were able to get a first cutting of hay last week. Pastures improved from the previous week. Temperatures last week averaged 1 to 2 degrees above normal across the entire State. Precipitation averaged slightly below normal for middle and eastern sections of the State, but slightly above normal across western sections.

TEXAS: Agricultural Summary: Severe weather thundered through the state once again. Strong winds, hail cut a swath across many areas. In the hardest hit locations, dangerous straight line winds, baseball sized hail caused extensive structure and crop damage. The rain associated with these storms was more than welcomed. Precipitation totals ranging from ½ to over 3 inches were realized across the Edwards Plateau, Blacklands, and eastern portions of the Upper Coast, Central and East Texas. The Panhandle and South Plains reported rainfall amounts of a trace to over ½ inch. Scattered showers dumped over 2 inches of rain in some locations of South Texas. Trace amounts of rain fell across the Rio Grande Valley, Coastal Bend with some isolated locations receiving up to ½ inch. Cooler temperatures in many areas replaced the intense heat of the previous week. A light freeze was experienced across the Panhandle and temperatures fell below normal throughout the state. The lower thermometer readings decreased the evaporation rate of soil moisture. The increased precipitation was very beneficial to summer crops and pastures. For those regions that missed the rain, conditions remained extremely dry. Fields in southern regions were especially in need of moisture as crop stands continued to show drought stress. Supplemental feeding is expected in some locations of South Texas. Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 77% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil 5% very short, 19% short, 65% adequate, 11% surplus. Feed supplies 2% very short, 4% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies 8% very short, 13% short, 72% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter wheat boot 16%, 16% 2005, 5% avg. Cattle condition 1% poor, 9% fair, 69% good, 2% excellent. Sheep condition 12% fair, 68% good, 20% excellent. Range, pasture 1% very poor, 8% poor, 30% fair, 50% good, 11% excellent. Calving 85% complete. Lambing 82% complete. Cattle moved to pasture 24% complete. Calf deaths 19% below avg.; 73% avg.; 8% above average. Sheep lambs 15% below avg.; 68% avg.; 17% above average. Weather patterns varied last week, bringing scattered showers to many areas in the west, while the eastern side of the state received more precipitation, keeping many farmers and ranchers out of fields. While some fields dried up quickly, allowing fieldwork to advance, others remain wet as producers feel another week of dry weather will be necessary before fieldwork continues. Livestock remain stressed as storms during the previous weeks have caused calf and lamb deaths to rise, while range and pastures and stock water supplies have benefited from recent precipitation. Activities Included: Caring for livestock, calving, lambing, moving cattle to grazing, fertilizing, small grain seeding, and preparing for and planting of row crops.
to storm damage. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide. Soybeans: Planting was expected to begin on the Panhandle shortly. The increased precipitation on the Blacklands and Upper Coast was well received. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to good. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans In the Rio Grande Valley, growers continued to cut sugarcane and pick Valencia oranges under hot and dry conditions. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden, cabbage, carrots and potatoes were being harvested. Onions were under heavy irrigation. Green beans are beginning to be planted in the Climax area. Alfalfa and small grain were being cut. Producers kept an eye out for pecan nut casebearer infestations. Some producers were spraying. Irrigation was ongoing in many orchards. Peaches on the Edwards Plateau were hit hard by hail storms. Some orchards reported a total loss for the season while others should show a decrease in production. Livestock, Range and Pasture Report: Pastures were responding favorably to the increased moisture. Grazing conditions improved as the most part but were still bad across southern regions. In many cases, cattle were grazing on undesirable weeds such as huisache for lack of adequate forage. Producers were fertilizing pastures and hay fields. Growers were making their first hay cutting in some regions. Cattle body conditions were rated at generally fair. Herd liquidation continued in the driest locations as the cost of feed and housing water required cut backs. Spring calving and lambing were wrapping up. Sheep and angora goat shearing was ongoing as was lamb and kid marketing.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 7. Subsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 90% adequate, 8% surplus. Irrigation Water Supplies 0% very short, 1% short, 99% adequate, 8% surplus. Wheat planted 42%; 5% 2005, 85% average; Alaska height 7%, 6% 2005, 8% average. Oats Calved 93%, 93% 2005, 92% average. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 72% good, 18% excellent. Sheep Condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 12% fair, 80% good, 8% excellent. Stock Pasture Supplies 0% very short, 0% short, 95% adequate, 5% surplus. Sheep Sheared On Farm 85%, 81% 2005, 89% average. Sheep Sheared On Range 77%, 67% 2005, 78% average. Sweet Cherries full Bloom Or Past 92%, 89% 2005, 95% average. Tart Cherries full Bloom Or Past 92%, 90% 2005, 95% average. Peaches, Full Bloom Or Past 94%, 97% 2005, 95% average. Pears, Full Bloom Or Past 92%, 94% 2005, 86% average. Spring rains this year have provided ample moisture for all pastures and ranges. Lambing was about 50% complete, but below last year’s mark of 67 percent. Producers around the state were elated at the amount of farm activity this week. All 7 days were great for field work. Activities Included: Fertilizing, corn planting, alfalfa planting, vegetable planting. On the downside, Mormon crickets are hatching in the west took advantage of the weather and began making haylage. Availability of hay continued to be scarce. Livestock producers Availability of hay continued to be scarce. Livestock producers in the west took advantage of the weather and began making haylage. Some dairy producers were busy emptying lagoons and applying liquid manure to forage crops.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for field work 6.30. Topsoil 1% short, 94% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat and spring wheat were in mostly fair to excellent condition with slight improvement from the previous week due to the weather. Some farmers in Douglas county are deciding whether to re-plant winter wheat due to snow mold damage and Garfield county reported yellow dwarf virus in winter wheat which causes stunting and poor plant health. Fruit continued to bloom. Cabbage was bolted and beet seed and spinach were planted. Christmas tree growers applied phosphates to pastures and little winterkill was reported. 2005, 93% fair, 66% good, 3% excellent. Pasture growth increased with the good weather and producers continued to release cattle to spring pastures. Availability of hay continued to be scarce. Livestock producers Availability of hay continued to be scarce. Livestock producers in the west took advantage of the weather and began making haylage. Some dairy producers were busy emptying lagoons and applying liquid manure to forage crops.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for field work 5.0. Topsoil 3% very short, 17% short, 76% adequate, 4% surplus compared with 3% short, 68% adequate, 29% surplus last year. Intended acreage prepared for spring planting 76%, 71% 2005, 65% 5-yr avg. Hay, roughage supplies 2% very short, 18% short, 78% adequate, 2% surplus compared with 3% short, 83% adequate, 14% surplus 2005. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 4% short, 94% adequate compared to 2% short, 97% 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 8% very poor, 9% poor, 31% fair, 50% good, 2% excellent. Wheat conditions 13% very poor, 15% poor, 65% fair, 84% good, 7% excellent. Barley received 2%; 2005, 8% 5-yr avg. Oats 49% planted, 69% 2005, 59% 5-yr avg.; 28% emerged, 43% 2005, 29% 5-yr avg. Corn 29% planted, 29% in 2005, 27% 5-yr avg. Corn emerged 1%, 1% in 2005, 5-yr avg not available. Soybeans were 4% planted, 0% in 2005, 4% 5-yr avg. Cattle and calves 1% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 76% good and 5% excellent. Calving was 93% complete, compared to 91% last year and 91% for the 5-year average. Sheep and lambs 1% poor, 11% fair, 82% good and 6% excellent. Lambing was 98% complete, compared to 90% last year and 93% for the 5-year average. Activities Included: Applying fertilizer to fields, planting corn, vegetables, fence maintenance and preparing cattle for pasture.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Soil 6% very short, 30% short, 55% adequate, 9% surplus. Good weather and field conditions allowed corn planting to intensify last week. Planting progress of 31% is the highest percentage recorded for April 30. Last year’s percentage is the second highest. Temperatures reached the 70s during the week, while average high temperatures were in the 50s and 60s. Average low temperatures were in the 30s. Average daily temperature was 83°F above normal. Moisture levels were improved by weekend rain showers that spread across much of the state. Fieldwork stopped during the weekend, but the slow rain was welcomed by many producers. Corn 31% planted, compared to last year’s 23% 15% 5-year average. Field conditions were good in most areas, as corn planting progressed at a rapid rate. There were reports that some farmers were able to finish planting during the week. Northern growers still have some concerns about soil temperatures. Soybean planters were moving across a few fields last week. Farmers took advantage of field conditions, pushing planting progress levels ahead of previous years. Soybeans 4% planted, compared to last year’s 2%, 5-year average of 1 percent. Oats planted 80% complete, above last year’s average of 66% and the 5-year average of 52 percent. Similar to other crops, oat planting progress is ahead of normal. Progress is expected to slow over the coming weeks as farmers focus on planting corn and soybeans. Oats emerged was reported at 27% complete, higher than last year’s 25%, 17% 5-year average. Spring tillage 53% complete, compared to last year’s 49% 5-year average of 37 percent. Conditions during most of the week were ideal for spring tillage. Rain during the weekend stopped most progress, but will settle the dust. Winter wheat conditions are rated as good to excellent with only minor winterkill damage. Winter wheat conditions 1% very poor, 2% poor, 9% fair, 57% good, 31% excellent. Freeze damage to winter wheat 80% none, 18% light, 2% moderate. Pasture feed conditions 2% very poor, 10% poor, 30% fair, 44% good, 14% excellent. Potato planting was slowing down in central areas of the state. Sweet corn, peas, carrots, and beets were planted in central and eastern areas. Fruit trees were starting to bloom in eastern counties.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil 18% very short, 33% short, 41% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil 11% very short, 41% short, 47% adequate, 1% surplus. Additional rain, seasonable temperatures across the Commonwealth this week have helped crops bounce back from the dry early spring conditions. Rainfall across the state was generally below normal, except the southwestern region received about ½ inch above normal. Temperatures varied across the state averaging 58° which was near normal for the week. Pasture, small grain crops are improving with the recent moisture. Grazing conditions have improved, but grass is still short in many pastures. Some tomatoes have been planted, a good strawberry crop is in full bloom and producing. Corn, cotton growth is slow due to the cool temperatures, but emerging corn looks good. Corn planting continues as well as preparations for soybean and bean plantings. Vegetable transplanting has also begun. Activities Included: Working cattle, mending fences, fertilizing hay, pasture fields, and spraying cover crops with herbicide.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 3% very short, 40% short, 57% adequate. Subsoil 18% very short, 41% short, 40% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperatures during the week ending Friday, April
28th, were below normal across the State with exceptions in the West. Averages ranged from 4.6° below normal in Dillinger to 4.9° above normal in Jackson. The high temperature was 83 in Torrington and Wheatland while the low was 16 in Dillinger. Precipitation was below normal with exceptions in the East where stations recorded over 0.40 inches of precipitation. The most precipitation was reported in Newcastle with 0.80 inches, Sundance with 0.75 inches, and Dillinger with 0.75 inches. A few stations in the southwest reported only a trace to no precipitation at all. Stock water supplies 3% very short, 28% short, 67% adequate, and 2% surplus. Barley 71% planted, 76% 2005, 79% 5-year average. Barley 45% emerged, 27% 2005, 39% 5-year average. Oats 41% planted, 53% 2005, 45% 5-year avg.; 19% emerged, 20% 2005, 5-year 16% average. Spring wheat 29% planted, 43% 2005, 48% 5-year avg.; 10% emerged, 10% 2005, 14% 5-year average. Winter wheat 9% jointed, 2% 2005, 7% 5-year average. Corn 12% planted, 2% 2005, 13% 5-year average. Sugar beets 84% planted, 82% 2005, 73% 5-year average. Sugar beets 8% emerged, 6% 2005, 9% 5-year average. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 26% fair, and 72% good. Spring calves born 88%, 88% 2005, 88% 5-year average. Farm flock ewes lambed 87%, 2005 91%, 5-year average 90%. Farm flock sheep shorn 91%, 2005 94%, 5-year average 91%. Range flock ewes lambed 30%, 32% 2005, 31% 5-year average. Range flock sheep shorn 58%, 71% 2005, 69% 5-year average. Calf, lamb losses mostly normal. Condition of all livestock fair to mostly good. Range and pasture conditions 1% very poor, 9% poor, 45% fair, and 45% good.