Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin
State Stories

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ALABAMA: The arrival of spring in Alabama has brought with it several severe thunderstorms. Areas of the state were destroyed as some of the worst tornadic activity spawned destructive twisters across numerous counties last week. Poultry houses were damaged, thousands of birds were killed. Cattle farmers spent the week removing trees from fence lines, and making repairs. Many horse owners have purchased alfalfa hay this year due to the shortage of grass hay, are encouraged to carefully inspect the hay for blister beetles which, if ingested, can fatally poison horses. Fruit trees throughout the state have received sufficient chill hours for normal to near normal flower and vegetative bud development. Before flower buds open, producers will apply copper sprays to help control bacterial spot. Fertilization will soon be complete.

ARIZONA: Temperatures were below normal across the State for the week ending March 4. Precipitation was reported at 2 of the 22 reporting stations. Durum wheat and barley emergence has occurred on virtually all of the acreage, although there are some unusually late seeding still underway. Melon crop thinning, planting, or field preparation for planting is underway in various localities. Cotton planting is in its second week in the Yuma area.

ARKANSAS: February was cool, dry across the majority of Arkansas with precipitation in the southeast being the furthest below normal, up to five inches below in some counties. Arkansas wheat fields were in fair to good condition as farmers continued to apply fertilizer when they could. Rye, other cool season grasses were short to very short, were behind their normal rate of growth for the month of February. Arkansas livestock producers continued to feed hay, those who did not have access to hay, fed alternative feeds such as corn gluten, corn stalks, soybean by products, cotton seed, cotton hulls, peanut hulls, rice mill feed, and dried distillers grain (DDG) to make up for the poor pastures, depleted hay supplies. Livestock conditions in Arkansas ranged from poor to good condition.

CALIFORNIA: Grain crops were showing signs of drought stress, lack of rainfall was taking its toll on winter pastures as the month began. Germination of seed was occurring slowly. Irrigation practices on grain fields were increased in some areas due to the lack of moisture. Rains increased as February progressed, field conditions improved in some areas. Pastures, many of which had been deteriorating, were also on the rebound. Land preparations began for spring cotton planting in the San Joaquin Valley. Sweet potato hilled preparations were also underway. Rice fields were drained in the Sacramento Valley. Winter wheat was beginning to head in some areas. Apricots, nectarines and peaches were blooming. Plum, plumt bloom began the last week of February. Cultural practices in stone fruit orchards were ongoing. These included irrigation, fertilizing, pruning, shredding, applying herbicides and dormant sprays. Picking of citrus continued in areas that were less affected by the January freeze, and packing for the domestic market rose sharply towards the end of the month. Packers were processing damaged fruit into juice. The extent of citrus damage became more evident as the month progressed and warm weather caused damaged fruit to drop. Cultural activities in grape vineyards were pruning, herbicide spraying and trellis system repair. Grape cover crops had emerged, were fertilized and treated for weeds. Strawberry, raspberry nursery stock digging was complete in some areas. Almond bloom began. New almond and pistachio orchards were planted. Fields were prepared for the planting of spring vegetables. Hot house planting of various spring vegetables was gaining speed. The harvest of Asian, various other winter vegetables continued. Some fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew. Cattle were still receiving nutrient supplements because of the poor range conditions. Sheep grazed on retired farmland. Old crop lambs were shipped to market or to Colorado feedlots for feeding. Bee hives were still moving into California from out-of-state and placed into fruit and almond orchards for pollination.

COLORADO: Colorado has experienced stable weather patterns in February with snow in higher elevations which increased snowpack levels close to historic averages throughout the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. The Eastern Plains are still buried from two late December blizzards accompanied by weekly snow showers throughout January. Snow accumulation continues to maintain a level from 10 to 12 inches with snow drifts 1 to 3 feet. Many livestock producers in Southeastern Colorado continue to look for missing livestock or have found several dead animals due to the blizzard conditions. With calving, lambing beginning around the state, death losses are expected to be high in the southeastern corner of the state. Additional losses related to the storms such as disease, weight loss, and higher call mortality are expected. Winter wheat is currently in excellent condition under good snowpack.

DELAWARE: The area received a large amount of snow during the month of February, but so far it’s been a mild winter. Small grains are in good condition. Livestock are in fair condition. Winter activities include snow removal, feeding livestock, working on farm equipment. Farming activities include spreading manure, going to winter meetings, and repairing equipment.

FLORIDA: Cold fronts swept Florida, caused temperatures to plunge to freezing, near freezing, caused significant rainfall, most areas beginning of month. Cold temperatures caused some spotty leaf burn on beans, potatoes, squash, sweet corn. Heavy rains, wind-borne sand in some fields knocked off some blooms, bruised fruit which will negatively impact future tomato yields. Heavy rain, Hastings area flooded some potato fields with some seed uncovered, producers drained fields, covered seed back up when the mud dried. After storms, some cabbage, mixed vegetables, recent potato plantings showed damage from heavy rains, Immokalee. Some radish plantings flooded by rain. By mid-month, frosts, freezes hit most areas hard. Producers provided cold protection to most crops as temperatures dipped to freezing. Cold temperatures caused significant damage to some corn, lettuce, endive, escarole, snap bean acreage, Belleglade, Homestead; caused frost burn on some lower leaves of tomatoes, Immokalee. Some older tomato plants at fruit-set stage expected to have up to 10% loss in yield due to misshapen fruit not
meeting grade. Throughout month producers marketed snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes. Sugarcane harvesting, some leaves damaged due to freeze, most of mature cane unaffected, producers expected to process the cane. Soil moisture remained mostly short to adequate throughout February. Citrus escaped serious damage from two cold snaps during the month. Early in month temperatures dropped to low to mid 30s, all citrus areas. Strong winds produced tornadoes, heavy rain, northern citrus area. Storms skirted upper part of citrus region, touching northern-most groves. Two weeks later, temperatures dropped below freezing. Cold pockets between 27 and 32 degrees, some citrus areas, duration not long enough to cause severe damage to groves. Freeze-burned “flush” reported to minor extent, could affect next year’s crop. Cold weather beneficial in holding back early bloom. Cool weather helped mature some of later varieties of tangerines. Warmer weather continued to end of month. Rainfall plentiful in north, inadequate on east coast, in south. Growers ran drip irrigation, pumped water into grove middles to keep trees hydrated. Harvest of early, midseason oranges at peak early in month, dropped off each succeeding week. Valencia harvesting started, 3rd week. Grapefruit harvest increased for processing, reaching 1.5 million boxes during second week. Navel orange, Sunburst tangerine, Tangelo harvest decreased during month, relatively done for season. Growers, caretakers heavily into hedging, thinning, applying pesticides, preparing trees for next year’s crop. Throughout February, pasture very poor to good, mostly fair due to drought, cold. Condition very poor. Cold, freezing temperatures retarded grass growth, Panhandle, North. Stock ponds very low. Drought holding back grass growth, central, southwestern areas. Poor forage causing some loss of cow weight. Cattle very poor to good, most in fair condition.

GEORGIA: Variable temperatures, rainfall characterized the month of February, according to the USDA, NASS, Georgia Field Office. Average high temperatures ranged from the 40’s to mid-70’s; lows ranged from the 20’s to 50’s. Most areas of the state received about a day’s worth of measurable precipitation each week. Soil moisture conditions were consistently good. The water levels of ponds and streams continued to rise, all but erasing the existing deficit. Small grains were in good condition. Cold temperatures helped slow growth which had been well ahead of schedule. Growers of small grains continued to top-dress their fields. Hay feeding to livestock continued this month. The lack of hay, a long winter had livestock producers scrambling for options to provide forage for their animals. Cold weather resulted in some frost, freeze damage to highbush blueberries. Field preparation work for spring crops was conducted this month. Activities Included; Mowing cotton stalks, pruning in commercial vineyards, applying lime to pastures, hayfields, mending fences, worming beef cattle and goats, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

HAWAII: Weather conditions were fair to good for agriculture during the week ending Sunday, March 4. Trade winds were moderately strong for most of the week, but slackened to gentle trades by the weekend. Light to moderate showers were carried in by the trades, mainly limited to the windward areas of the island of Maui. The southern end of the state experienced heavy showers Tuesday night with some areas receiving over 2 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. Many crops made fair to good progress during the week. Banana, papaya harvesting will be active. Trees bruised by previous periods of gusty winds were able to make good progress. Disease remains a problem in some fields. Head cabbage fields were in mostly good condition. Sweet corn is in improved condition due to sunnier skies and longer daylight hours.

IDAHO: Topsoil 0% very short, 7% short, 74% adequate, 19% surplus. Winter Wheat Condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 7% fair, 86% good, 6% excellent. Hay, roughage supply 1% very short, 20% short, 79% adequate, 0% surplus. Lambing 53% complete. Calving 42% complete. Farmers, ranchers are preparing taxes, repairing machinery, and attending seminars.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil 2% short, 60% adequate, 38% surplus. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 8% poor, 35% fair, 49% good, 7% excellent. Harsh winter weather was experienced around the state during February as conditions were very cold and windy along with above normal precipitation. Temperatures averaged nearly nine degrees below normal for the month. Also, northern, central districts received nearly 2 inches of precipitation during the month, while the two southern districts received over 3 inches of moisture. All of this moisture, along with melting snow, has caused some localized flooding as many rivers and creeks have been overwhelmed with too much runoff. However, this has helped to refill ponds and lakes. Topsoil conditions were considerably more moist than a month ago. Livestock were bothered by the extreme cold weather and lots that have become very muddy. There were some reports where the wheat does not look too good, but that could change once the fertilizer kicks in and the sun shines some more.

INDIANA: February was very cold with heavy snow accumulation in many areas of the state. In fact, this was the fifth coldest February on record behind 1978, 1979, 1895 and then 1905. The state average temperature was 19.9° which was 10.5° below normal. Total precipitation averaged 2.55 inches which was 35% above average. High winds occurred February 13th which resulted in closed roads and power outages over many portions of the state. Condition of the winter wheat crop is questionable in some areas of the state as extreme temperatures, ice, standing water are causes of concern. The amount of winter kill can not be determined until warmer temperatures allow the crop to break dormancy. Farmers hauled a considerable amount of corn and soybeans to market when road conditions, loading sites around grain bins permitted. Early in the month, dry fertilizer, manure were spread on frozen fields. Very little other field work could be done. Livestock were under stress with the deep snow and extremely cold temperatures. Higher than normal death loss was reported on livestock operations that had begun early calving and lambing. Hay supplies remain adequate, but sales have been brisk with the cold, winter weather. Activities Included: Snow removal, preparing tillage, planting, equipment, financial planning, tax preparations, attending meetings, reviewing leases with landlords, paying inputs, hauling manure, and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Soil 1% very short, 7% short, 76% adequate, 16% surplus. Snow cover 9 inches. Frost penetration 13 inches. Early February was extremely cold. A heavy ice-storm, high winds came across the state the last weekend of the month causing major power outages. Many farmers relied on generators to feed, water their livestock. Death losses were up considerably from recent years, the full effect of the month ending storm is not yet known. Activities: Calving, lambing, moving snow and other winter business.

KANSAS: Topsoil 2% very short, 4% short, 80% adequate, 14% surplus. The State experienced above normal temperatures throughout most of the month. SHOWERS were light, scattered with areas in the northeastern part of the State receiving slightly higher amounts. Most areas of the State received moderate amounts of precipitation in the form of snow, rain the second, third weeks of the month. Temperatures varied from week to week, falling below average during the third week but climbing back to above average the last week of February. Wheat condition 2% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 49% good, 15% excellent. Wheat and damage was 84% none, 14% light, 2% moderate, freeze damage was 75% none, 20% light, 5% moderate, and 2% severe. Some reporters in the western third of the State indicated much of the wheat crop was still under snow cover, making it difficult to ascertain damage, condition. Feed grain supplies 3% very short, 15% short, 81% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay, forage supplies were 22% very short, 36% short, and 42% adequate. Reporters indicated the wet conditions, cooler temperatures have made calving difficult for some producers and feed supplies in the western parts of the State remain in short supply.

KENTUCKY: Much below normal temperatures and below normal precipitation made February the 11th Coldest and 26th Driest February in the Past 112 Years. After an extended cold spell mild temperatures during the final week helped to keep this month from the “Top Ten” list of coldest February’s. Temperatures in the single digits and low teens were common which contrasted with a max temperature of 72 degrees at Paducah on February 28th. Additionally, very moist conditions continued in west, central, bluegrass areas for the entire month. Yet, southeastern sections of the state moved into the Moderate hydrologic drought stage. The west received twice as much liquid precipitation as the eastern section of the State. Snow events were also common with locations west and north receiving 4 to 15 in. of snow. Temperatures for February 2007 averaged 29.7 degrees, 7.7 degrees below normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 2.30 in., 1.45 in. below normal. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.55 in. at Buckhorn Lake to a high of 3.89 in. at Cape Girardeau. The first three days of the month were very cold with below normal precipitation. There were, however, several light snow events and flurries.
were frequent with snow covering the ground in most sections of the State by the weekend. Temperatures averaged 23 degrees, 10 degrees below normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.08 in. statewide which was 0.73 in. below normal. Arctic air, bitter cold wind chill temperatures and several snow events dominated Bluegrass weather for the first full week of the month. The week started with a major winter storm moving through the State providing light rain/snow for most locations and 3 to 6 in. for north, eastern sections. Temperatures averaged 21 degrees, 11 degrees below normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.06 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.00 in. at Bardstown to a high of 0.36 in. at Covington. Temperatures started the second full week of February in the 40s, but returned to very cold conditions into the weekend. A clipper system moving southeast out of the northern Plains brought a light snow event to Kentucky for the weekend. The arctic air mass fully entrenched over the area enabled the snowfall to quickly accumulate. Snowfall amounts ranged from 1 to 4 in. with southern sections receiving below an inch. Temperatures averaged 26 degrees, 10 degrees below normal. Extreme high temperatures were in the mid and upper 40s and extreme low temperatures were in the single digits. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 1.14 in., 0.26 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.18 in. at Somerset to a high of 2.13 in. at Cape Girardeau. The eastern section of the State continued the below normal moisture trend from the past several weeks. The third full week started out cold with lows in the teens, but warmed into the 40s and 50s, with some 60s in the west for the remainder of the week. Two precipitation events occurred; the first was early midweek and the second late in the week. The last event, spread three quarters to 2 in. of rain across the State. Temperatures averaged 43 degrees which was 5 degrees above normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.96 in. statewide which was 0.08 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.14 in. at Huntington to a high of 1.81 in. at Covington. Mild temperatures during the last few days of the month were accompanied by limited precipitation to end the month. Cold temperatures stressed livestock the first half of the month while frequent precipitation and muddy conditions provided further stress into the latter half of February. Producers continued to provide extra grain and hay to their cattle. Farmers continued hauling tobacco to receiving stations and auction markets. Greenhouses began preparing trays for tobacco seeding. Farmers accessed their small grain and hay fields for winter kill. Soil moisture was very moist across Kentucky except for the southeast which became increasingly dry as the month progressed.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Soil 2% short, 76% adequate, 22% surplus. Spring plowing 15% plowed, 8% 2006, 7% avg. Sugarcane 6% very poor, 23% poor, 30% fair, 30% good, 11% excellent. Wheat 7% poor, 32% fair, 53% good, 8% excellent. Livestock 9% poor, 43% fair, 42% good, 6% excellent. Vegetable 4% very poor, 24% poor, 53% fair, 16% good, 5% excellent. Range, pasture 23% poor, 45% fair, 25% good, 5% excellent.

MARYLAND: The area received a significant snow in February, but in general it’s been a mild winter. Small grains are in good condition. Livestock are in fair condition. Winter activities include snow removal, feeding livestock, working on farm equipment. Farmers are purchasing feed, fertilizer, chemicals and are finalizing decisions on what to plant.

MICHIGAN: Temperatures were generally normal to below normal across the State. For the 4 week period ending March 1, 2007, precipitation ranged from 0.61 inches in the northwest Lower Peninsula to 2.66 inches for the western Upper Peninsula. Most areas reported sufficient snow cover, but some areas ended the month with fields under a sheet of ice. A reporter in central Michigan mentioned that, “We have a bit of concern about wheat. Some fields have ice under the snow, which may cause some winter survival problems.” Another reporter in the Thumb region mentioned that, “The snow cover kept the frost from going down into the soil, reducing some of the compaction we experienced last fall with the wet harvest.” Activities Included: Attending farm meetings, hauling crops to market, trimming fruit trees, caring for livestock, limited lambing and calving, and preparing taxes.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures during February averaged 8.9 degrees across the state, 7.4 degrees colder than normal. Average temperature in the Northwest District was 3.2 degrees, 8.0 degrees colder than normal. Temperature extremes included a low of -34 degrees at Itasca, and a high of 54 degrees at Lamberton. Precipitation averaged from 0.13 inch above normal in the Northeast District to 1.28 inches above normal in the

South Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 2.46 inches was recorded in Preston. The month ended with frost ranging from 16 to 43 inches in Minnesota soils. Snow cover reports ranged from 10 to 20 inches with some over two feet. Livestock conditions were generally good. Calving has started with some losses reported in early February due to extreme temperatures. Feed supplies were generally adequate with some indication of decreasing supply.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil 3% very short, 7% short, 55% adequate, 35% surplus. Hay supply 76% short, 23% adequate, 1% surplus. Feed Grain 34% short, 64% adequate, 2% surplus. As the spring weather gains momentum, producers throughout the state are looking ahead to the new crop. Some have begun planting corn, with full planting activities planned as soon as soil temperatures reach favorable levels. Both herbicide, Nitrogen fertilizer applications have been applied to winter wheat, greatly improving its overall condition. Cow producers are equally anxious for warmer weather, as hay supplies are dwindling, and many are relying heavily on winter grazing, grain feeds to sustain them until spring. Recent rains and mild temperatures have improved conditions for ryegrass pastures in many areas of the state.

MISSOURI: February temperatures were below normal for much of the month. Precipitation was above normal, averaging 2.27 inches compared with a 30-year average of 1.93. Much of the precipitation fell in the last week of the month, when northern areas received moderate to heavy snow, while the southern two-thirds of the state saw soaking rains. The wettest areas were the south-central, southeast districts, where many counties received 3 to 5 inches of rain. Prospects for the winter wheat crop appear to have improved from last month, when producers feared winterkill from extreme cold, lack of snow cover. Reporters in northern areas rate the crop in mostly good condition. More variable conditions exist in southern areas, where reports range from fair to excellent. Meanwhile, farmers are nearing the start of corn planting season in the southernmost parts of the state.

MONTANA: Topsoil 3% very short, 10% last year, 22% short, 38% last year, 72% adequate, 50% last year, 3% surplus, 2% last year. Subsoil 10% very short, 21% last year, 39% short, 44% last year, 50% adequate, 34% last year, 1% surplus, 1% last year. Montana received moderate to heavy precipitation during the month of February. Swan Lake received a total of 3.12 inches, the highest amount in the state. Grass Range, Millegan, Sweet Grass, Townsend, and Valentine set new highs for February precipitation. West Yellowstone had the low temperature for the month at minus 36 degrees, Roundup, Hardin, and Rapelje reached 64 degrees. The protectiveness of snow cover has improved due to higher levels of snowfall for the month. Damage to winter wheat from wind, freeze, drought has decreased. Winter wheat is still dormant across the state, a bit behind last year’s progress. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 2% fair, 4% good, 5% last year, 28% good, 32% last year, 6% excellent, 6% last year. Winter wheat wind damage is 39% none, 42% last year, 52% light, 44% last year, 8% moderate, 12% last year, 1% heavy, 2% last year. Winter wheat freeze, drought damage is 49% none, 49% last year, 48% light, 26% last year, 3% moderate, 24% last year, 0% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover is 23% very poor, 58% last year, 9% poor, 25% last year, 50% fair, 5% last year, 14% good, 12% last year, 4% excellent, 0% last year. Winter wheat spring stages is 100% still dormant, 96% last year, 0% greening, 4% last year, 0% greening, growing, 0% last year. The availability of open range for livestock has decreased due to adequate monthly snowfall. A large percentage of livestock are still receiving supplemental feed. Livestock grazing is 52% open, 65% last year, 27% difficult, 14% last year, 21% closed, 21% last year. Calving is 26% complete, 29% last year, lambing 9%, 19% last year. Ranchers are providing supplemental feed to 97% of cattle and calves, 97% last year, and 96% of sheep and lambs, 96% last year.

NEBRASKA: Wheat conditions improved from last month 2% very poor, 7% 32 fair, 54%, 5% excellent. This is well above last year’s condition of 42% good; or excellent. Hay, forage supplies 9% very short, 34% short, 57% adequate, 0% surplus, below year ago levels. Cattle, calves conditions 1% very poor, 10% poor, 26% fair, 56% good; 7% excellent, well below year ago levels. Calving has progressed to 28% complete with calf losses reported as 2% below avg.; 85 avg.; 13 above average. At the end of February, snow depth varied from east to west. The Northeast District had reports of over five inches of snow cover, while
the Northwest, South Central Districts reported none. February precipitation was above average for the eastern two thirds of the state with the exception of a few counties in the South Central District. For the month of February 2006, below normal temperatures combined with a number of snow storms made livestock care difficult, increased forage demands. At the end of the month snow depth averaged four to six inches across much of the eastern third of the state, while soils were bare across the Panhandle and parts of central Nebraska. Soil temperatures were ten degrees below last year levels, with warmer conditions to dry feedlots deep in mud. The harsh winter conditions made calving difficult with some areas reporting above normal losses. The lack of precipitation across the Panhandle has producers concerned about low soil moisture conditions with blowing soils noted in some counties.

NEVADA: The weather was mild early in the month, but stormy weather arrived later in the month. Snow levels fall to the valley floors of northern Nevada late in the month. Accumulated mountain snow pack improved, but remained well below normal in the Sierra, northern Nevada watersheds. Southern Nevada remained very dry. Calving was underway throughout the month. Seasonal greening was beginning in southern regions. Fall seeded crops were overwintering well. Activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock care, fence repairs, crop and livestock marketing, industry meetings.

NEW ENGLAND: Most of New England saw colder, drier than normal conditions prevail throughout February. During the first half of the month, steady cold temperatures were the norm, with daytime highs in southern states ranging from the low 20s to the upper 30s, while in the north, highs ranged from the low teens to the freezing mark. Nighttime lows remained in the teens in the south, the single digits in central areas, and below zero in far northern areas. Warmer conditions arrived by February 21 and stayed for the remainder of the month. Daytime temperatures during the last week of the month ranged from the upper 20s to the upper 30s and low 40s in the south. With only low minor storm systems passing through the region during the month, total water equivalent precipitation for February remained well below normal in most areas of the region except northern Vermont. The first snowstorm of February arrived between February 2nd and 3rd. Southern areas reported receiving up to 2.5 inches of snow, while areas further north received up to five inches. On February 14, a major storm system brought a mixture of snow and freezing rain to the region. Burlington, Vermont reported receiving over 25 inches of snow from the storm, while most central and northern areas received between eight and twelve inches. In southern states, snow accumulations from this storm remained low as the precipitation changed over to mostly rain; however, these areas received between 1.5 and 5 inches of additional snow on February 26 in a storm that stayed mostly to the south. Farmers kept busy during February tending livestock, working in greenhouses, preparing for the spring planting season. Some maple sugar producers started boiling sap during February.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were up to 18 degrees below normal the first week of February in most state localities. During the rest of February, temperatures were near to below normal in most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in many areas during the month. Total precipitation for the month was below normal in most localities. The Atlantic City weather station reported trace amounts of snow during February. There was no measurable snowfall for the month in many parts of the state. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: Greenhouse work, equipment repair, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: The first week of February continued to be cold. Temperatures averaged 7 degrees below normal with a slow moving storm system bringing rain, snow to New Mexico. The next week brought temperatures generally 5 degrees above normal. The week was mostly dry with light precipitation late in the week in the northwest quarter of the state. The third week brought a minor storm system that produced scattered showers, very cold arctic air. With the temperatures a few degrees above normal, another minor storm system passed through the state. The big news was the first major wind event of the season that brought wind gusts from 40-60 miles per hour. Farmers were diskimg and preparing their fields for planting. They were irrigating pecan trees, lettuce and onions as well as planting oats. Ranchers were hauling feed and water.

NEW YORK: Snowfall during February was moderate while temperatures dropped into the single digits, were rarely above 30 degrees for most of the month. The western part of the state received substantial lake effect snow during February. Activities: Tending livestock, spreading manure, machinery repair, maintenance, grading and packing onions, apples, potatoes, and cabbage, maintaining facilities in winter, and attending winter meetings.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 3.9. Soil 1% short, 65% adequate, 34% surplus. Activities: Included: Feeding livestock, spreading fertilizer, equipment repair, general farm maintenance. Below normal temperatures were experienced throughout the month of February with lows ranging from 6 to 20 degrees. Most of the State received below normal precipitation amounts for the month.

NORTH DAKOTA: The first half of the month brought extreme cold, dry weather across the state, while the last week experienced significant snowfall, milder temperatures. The heavy snowfall for the eastern half of the state at the end of the month provided excellent snow cover for alfalfa, winter wheat. Average snow cover was 11.0 inches on March 4. Hay, forage supplies 3% very short, 11% short, 81% adequate, 5% surplus. Snow cover protection for alfalfa 52%-poor, 49%-adequate, 1%-excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat rated 23% poor, 47%-adequate, 30%-excellent. Cattle conditions 1%-poor, 18%-fair, 68%-good, 13%-excellent. Sheep conditions 1%-very poor, 2%-poor, 19%-fair, 64%-good, 14%-excellent. Calving was 12%-complete with lambing 18%-complete. Shearing was 42%-complete. Percent of feed obtained from pasture, range was 8% for cattle and 6% for lambs. County, secondary roads 71% open, 22%-difficult, 7%-closed. Twenty-seven percent of the roads were drifted, 26%-icy, 6%-muddy, 41%-dry.

OHIO: The February 2007 average temperature for Ohio was 19.1 degrees, 10.8 degrees below normal. Precipitation for the state averaged 2.32 inches, 0.07 inches above normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that field conditions are poor to good, because of late planting of winter wheat last fall, the first two weeks of February were extremely cold. Reporters indicate that this year a much larger percentage of winter wheat will be plowed over and/or replanted with other crops because of the poor winter wheat conditions. Cattle, livestock are in good condition. Feed and hay inventories are adequate for livestock.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil 8% very short, 27% short, 63% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 19% very short, 36% short, 45% adequate. Wheat 4% very poor, 10% poor, 28% fair, 46% good, 12% excellent. Rye 4% very poor, 7% poor, 32% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Oats 1% very poor, 6% poor, 52% fair, 38% good, 3% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 46% fair, 49% good. Pasture, Range 21% very poor, 36% poor, 28% fair, 14% good, 1% excellent. Livestock marketing were average for the month of February. The milder weather has reduced the need for supplemental feeding for livestock but hay supplies remained limited. Death loss for newborn calves continued to be a problem this past month as cows were more stressed than normal due to bitter cold conditions. Many producers were moving cattle off wheat pastures.

OREGON: High temperatures during the month of February ranged from 51 degrees in Agency Lake up to 71 degrees in Bandon. Low temperatures ranged from -1 degrees in Christmas Valley up to 43 degrees also recorded in Bandon. Christmas Valley reported 27 days under 32 degrees, while Bandon obviously did not report any. Monthly average temperatures for the State varied mostly from the mid 30's to the mid 40's. Total precipitation, including rain or melted snowice, ranged from a high of 16.38 inches in Florence to only 0.16 inches recorded in Redmond. Redmond also had the least amount of precipitation days of 01.
inch or more with 4, whereas Astoria/Clatsop reported 25 days of receiving at least 0.1 inches of precipitation. The stations at Crater Lake, Howard Prairie received by far the most snowfall with 84.5 and 48 inches, respectively. Howard Prairie also had the greatest daily snowfall receiving 22 inches in the span of 24 hours. As of March 1, only a quarter (41/165) of the basins that reported data had a current snowpack of 100% of average or more, according to the Oregon Snow Survey Program. High precipitation lately has kept farmers out of the wet fields. Some growers are purchasing seed and many producers are preparing for the upcoming planting season.

PENNSYLVANIA: Principal farm activities for the month of February Included: Milking cows, tax preparation, and planning for this year’s crop season. February started where January left off with extremely low temperatures. The coldest days of the month were February 5th and 6th, with a temperature of 6 degrees both days. An abundance of precipitation fell throughout the month, which maintained soggy conditions for some livestock. The rain, however, changed to snow in mid-February, which ended the spell of mild winter weather. For the first time since mid-December, cooler-than-normal weather prevailed. Heavier snow arrived ending the spell of mild winter weather. For the first time since mid-December, cooler-than-normal weather prevailed. Heavier snow arrived across Pennsylvania on February 13-14. Snow accumulation differed in many parts of the state. The Central region of the state received 6-11 inches, while northern Pennsylvania received more than 13 inches of snow on the ground. High winds have been reported throughout the state. Several areas of the state were without power and heat after extremely high winds blew over utility poles. These winds were reported up to 60 mph and higher. On February 20th, temperatures spiked to 49 degrees, which was the warmest day of the month. Overall, the month of February was dominated by the winter weather. Pennsylvania’s average temperatures dropped 6 degrees below normal.

SOUTH CAROLINA: February began with chilling temperatures, registering eight degrees below normal at the end of the first week. Wintry mix combined with a slow, soaking rain to further improve soil moisture conditions. For the week, the statewide average rainfall was 1.1 inches. Cold weather with clear skies was observed to begin the second week of the month, as a Tuesday morning freeze was reported statewide. By midweek, however, temperatures reached near 70 degrees due to a mild air front. Although temperatures were warmer than the previous week, the statewide average remained four degrees below normal. No measurable precipitation was observed for the week. Much like its predecessor, the third week recorded an average temperature that was five degrees below normal. The month ended with afternoon temperatures reaching well into the 60’s, finishing the final week in February three degrees above normal. The statewide average rainfall was identical to a week earlier at 0.7”. Respondents continue to indicate that rainfall over the winter months has left subsoil moisture in excellent shape as planting season approaches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth (inches) 10.3. Calving 14% complete. Lambing 23% complete. Feed supplies 14% very short, 21% short, 63% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 19% very short, 27% short, 53% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat 3% very poor, 8% poor, 45% fair, 37% good, 7% excellent. Cattle condition 2% poor, 29% fair, 50% good, 16% excellent. Sheep condition 21% fair, 50% good, 21% excellent. Accessible livestock feed supplies 78% readily, 19% difficult, 3% inaccessible. Accessible stock water supplies 81% readily, 15% difficult, 4% inaccessible. Road conditions—county 92% open, 7% difficult, 1% closed. Road conditions—township 83% open, 13% difficult, 4% closed. Cattle death losses 15% below normal, 82% normal, 3% above normal. Alfalfa snow cover 28% poor, 54% adequate, 18% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover 57% poor, 40% adequate, 3% excellent. Calf deaths 11% below average, 86% average, 3% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths 14% below average, 83% average, 3% above average. Average February temperatures were below normal. Recent snow storms have helped precipitation, but the western part of the state is still short of moisture. The colder temperatures have require some extra feed for livestock.

TENNESSEE: Temperatures across the State were generally below normal during February, except for a warm spell during the last week. Precipitation totals across the State were below normal for the entire month with a combination of scattered rain, snow, wintry mixes reported. The winter wheat crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition with only light damage in some areas due to insects, disease, or severe weather. Wheat growers were busy making fertilizer, herbicides applications. Cattle were rated in mostly fair-to-good condition with some herds stressed by hay shortages. Hay stocks were rated as mostly short to adequate. Some cattlemen were supplementing hay with high fiber grain mixes, by-products, other feed alternatives. Pastures were rated in mostly fair condition with farmers using the mostly dry weather to fertilize.

TEXAS: Conditions remained mostly mild, dry across the state throughout the week, as limited areas only received traces of rainfall. Sunny conditions were good for crop development, yet some producers were waiting for rain before continuing field activities. Over the last two weeks, there have been numerous reports of high winds across the state. Topsoil moisture continued to decline due to high winds, and some producers continued to re-prepare fields due to the effects of these high winds. Some producers reported small improvements in range and pastures due to warmer temperatures, but supplemental feeding still continued. Small Grains: Wheat conditions improved in the Northern High Plains, some producers are even considering pulling cattle off fields early in order to increase yield potential. Also in the Northern High Plains, producers applied top dressing fertilizers and insecticides to winter wheat. Wheat progressed in the Southern High Plains due to warmer temperatures. Producers in the Low Plains were as high winds were detrimental to wheat crops. Rainfall is still needed for wheat pastures in the Blacklands. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly fair to good while oat condition was mostly fair to poor. Cotton: Producers in the Northern Low Plains continued land preparations for planting. Corn: Some producers in the Blacklands have begun planting with others anticipating to begin next week. Some producers in South Central Texas continued to plant corn, but many are still waiting due to minimal rainfall. Commercial Vegetables and Fruit: Harvest of cabbage, spinach continued in the Edwards Plateau. In South Texas, warmer temperatures have provided good growing conditions for cabbage, spinach fields that continued to be harvested. Preparations for onion harvest began in the Lower Valley. Pecans: Pecan trees remained dormant in the Trans-Pecos area. Livestock, Range, Pasture Report: Supplemental feeding continued across most areas of the state with hay in short supply. Some producers in the Northern High Plains moved cattle off wheat fields with the anticipation of saving some wheat for grain, silage, or haying purposes. Stock tanks for livestock water were low in the Northern Low Plains. Lice infestation was a problem in the Cross Timbers. Some pastures in the Blacklands began to “green-up,” but increased moisture is still needed. Hard rains are still needed in both the Cross Timbers, Blacklands in order to fill stock tanks. Producers in North East Texas continued to experience pasture growth due to warmer temperatures. Pasture growth was slowed in South Central Texas due to the combination of dry weather and a short freeze. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to poor.

UTAH: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

VIRGINIA: Soil moisture has been adequate throughout the month. The Commonwealth experienced unseasonably cold temperatures, with little precipitation. Most areas experienced dry conditions in spite of the occasional snow, rainfall. Small grains are reported to be in very good condition. Some yellowing of wheat, barley has been observed. Hay supplies are beginning to run short for many producers who had to start feeding earlier in the fall. Lambing, calving started with larger than normal lamb deaths due to the weather. Activities Included: Plowing snow, seeding tobacco, greenhouses, preparing for spring planting and attending meetings.

WASHINGTON: Cold temperatures across the state continued slowing pasture growth. Winter wheat remained dormant, in good condition. High moisture levels had dryland wheat producers looking optimistic. Spring wheat planting began in Whitman County, fieldwork for early potatoes, green peas was underway. Christmas tree plantings were delayed by wet conditions, orchardists were busy pruning. Skagit County reported hybrid
cabbage seed crop damage due to freezing temperatures. Calving began, colder than normal temperatures caused some problems for cattle producers in the southeastern part of the state. Hay was also reported to be in short supply for that area.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil 73% adequate, 27% surplus compared with 19% short, 77% adequate, 4% surplus last year. Hay, roughage supplies 2% very short, 16% short, 79% adequate, 3% surplus. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 9% short, 89% adequate. Winter wheat conditions 2% poor, 45% fair, 50% good; 3% excellent. Cattle, calves 5% poor, 26% fair, 65% good; 4% excellent. Calving 40% complete, compared to 31% last year. Sheep, lambs 3% poor, 14% fair, 79% good; 4% excellent. Lambing 48% complete, compared to 31% last year. Activities included: Calving, lambing, preparing for spring planting and feeding livestock.

**WISCONSIN:** Temperatures averaged 5 to 9 degrees below normal for the month of February. Average low temperatures were in the single digits to low teens. Average high temperatures were in the low twenties during the month. Northern parts of the state received 0.78 to 1.50 inches of precipitation. Precipitation in southern areas was between 1.60 and 1.80 inches. Most of the state has had slightly below normal precipitation for the year. Snow cover was reported across most of the state, with slightly more in the North and West.

**WYOMING:** Topsoil 19% very short, 45% short, 36% adequate. Subsoil 37% very short, 48% short, 14% adequate, 1% surplus. Average depth of snowcover: 1.0 inches. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 62% fair, 33% good; wind damage 39% none, 53% light, 7% moderate, 1% severe; freeze damage 62% none, 36% light, 1% moderate, 1% severe. Spring calves born 19%, 25% 2006, 23% avg. Farm flock: ewes lamb 31%, 34% 2006, 29% avg.; sheep shorn 30%, 38% 2006, 34% avg. Spring grazing prospects 14% very poor, 22% poor, 33% fair, 31% good. Hay, roughage supply 11% very short, 56% short, 33% adequate. Stock water supply 19% very short, 28% short, 53% adequate. Livestock in fair to mostly good condition. Calf, lamb losses due to unfavorable weather were light to mostly normal. The most recent Snow Precipitation Update reported the SWE (snow water equivalent) below average across all basins in Wyoming. Averages ranged from 73% of normal in the Wind River, Shoshone River Basins to 91% of normal in the Powder-Tongue Basin. Activities: Limited fieldwork; maintaining equipment; supplemental feeding; calving and lambing.