Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin
State Stories

ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil moisture 47% very short, 34% short, 19% adequate, 0% surplus. Soybeans 91% harvested, 90% 2006, 76% avg. Pasture condition 52% very poor, 28% poor, 17% fair, 3% good, 0% excellent. Livestock condition 43% very poor, 17% poor, 26% fair, 14% good, 0% excellent. Temperatures were mostly above normal during the past week. Most weather stations reported receiving rainfall with accumulations that ranged from 0.18 inches to 1.59 inches. Producers were busy wrapping up their harvest of cotton, peanuts, and soybeans.

AKLASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures were above normal across the State for the week ending November 18, ranging from degrees above normal to 14 degrees above normal. Precipitation was reported at 8 of the 22 reporting stations. There are two stations with above normal precipitation for the year to date. Alfalfa harvest continues in Arizona with over half of the State’s acreage active. The cotton harvest is 70 percent complete across the State.

ARIZONA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 29% short, 65% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 29% short, 62% adequate 1% surplus. Soybeans 96% harvested, 94% 2006, 90% avg. Winter wheat 90% planted, 86% 2006, 82% avg. Within the past seven days, winter wheat producers planted an additional 15% of the crop. Winter wheat planted was eight percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. By the end of the week, winter wheat was rated at 63 percent good to excellent, a drop of 10 percentage points from the previous week in this same category. Last week marked the end of cotton harvest in Arkansas, and finished 9 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average and last year’s pace. Soybean harvest was nearing completion and was six percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Throughout the week, livestock producers worked cattle, sold calves and culled cows. Livestock was rated in mostly good condition last week.

CALIFORNIA: Rice harvest has ended across the state. Many alfalfa fields had gone into dormancy, with a few being harvested in Tulare County. Cotton harvest was nearing completion with shredding of cotton stalks still in progress. Oat, winter wheat, winter forage planting continued. Herbicides continued to be applied to small grain fields. Corn silage and corn grain harvests were nearly complete, several fields of sorghum were maturing for late season cutting. Fall potatoes, sweet potatoes continued to be harvested. Lettuce seed production was nearly finished. A few table grape varieties were still being picked in California, but for the most part grape harvest had ended. The quince, jujube harvests were still underway in Fresno County. Hachiya and Fuyu persimmons were also being harvested. Quince, pomegranate, and kiwi harvest had ended in Tulare County. Strawberries continued to grow well. Navel orange maturity was progressing normally, sugar content, color were good. Early Becks, Bonanzas, Fukumotos, T.F. varieties were being picked in Tulare County. Mandarin, Chandler pummelos, Meyer, Eureka lemons were also being picked. Olive harvest was coming to a close. Almond, walnut, pecan, pistachio harvests were complete in Tulare County. Picking of some nut varieties was still taking place in other areas of California. Pruning, fertilization and weed control were taking place in nut orchards. Fresh market tomatoes were treated to control insects, mildew, weeds. Growers continued to prepare grounds for carrot, lettuce planting while beds were being shaped for 2008 processing tomatoes. Transplanted broccoli crops were growing well. Harvest continued for fall carrots, picking cucumbers, freezer lima beans, parsley, radishes, spinach. Garlic, onion, fresh market tomato harvests were winding down. Asparagus, bell pepper, and squash harvest were nearly complete with some melon fields plowed under. Sweet corn harvest was virtually complete. Fall vegetable harvest of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, romaine lettuce was in full swing. Harvest of amaranth, basil, bittersweet melons, bok choy, cassava, cilantro, choy sum, Indian beans, dill, daikon, leaf lettuce, lemon grass, lobok, long beans, mint, moqua, collard and mustard greens, eggplant, kale, okra, tatsuoi, long ho, winter radicchio, yu choy continued. Foothill pastures remained dry. Cattle continued to receive supplemental feed or nutrients in many areas. While new grass has started in some northern areas, it was lacking growth due to limited rain. Fall calving was winding down. Milk production remained at a high level due to mild weather. Stock ewes, some new lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields, retired farmland, harvested safflower fields. Fall lambing continued. A growing number of feeder lambs were grazing on bermuda grass, alfalfa pastures in the Imperial Valley. Bees continued to be moved to winter staging areas.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Top soil moisture 23% very short, 41% short, 35% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 14% very short, 47% short, 38% adequate, 1% surplus. Alfalfa 4th cutting 100%, 99% 2006, 98% avg. Sugarbeets 98% harvested, 96% 2006, 99% avg. Precipitation was once again extremely scarce across Colorado last week. Most areas reported little or no rainfall received. Average temperatures were significantly above normal.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 2% short, 92% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 13% short, 74% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay supplies 20% very short, 59% short, 18% adequate, 3% surplus. Other hay 4th cutting 85%, 65% 2006, 71% avg. Alfalfa hay 5th cutting 61%, 40% 2006, 46% avg. Pasture condition 11% very poor, 18% poor, 40% fair, 30% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat 90% planted, 86% 2006, 86% avg.; 63% emerged, 80% 2006, 75% avg.; condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 82% good, 4% excellent. Barley condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 81% good, 4% excellent. Soybeans 77% harvested, 77% 2006, 70% avg. Rain and drizzle fell the week of November 11, resulting in 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork. The rain improved soil moisture and pasture. Harvest of soybeans and hay and planting of small grains continues to run ahead of schedule due to the dry conditions we have experienced throughout the fall.

FLORIDA: Topsoil moisture 10% very short, 40% short, 49% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 35% short, 55% adequate. Peanuts 96% harvested, 99% yr, 99% 5-yr avg. Dry weather prevented some winter wheat planting, soils dry, Jefferson County cotton picking continued; pecan harvest underway. Panhandle, northern Peninsula nurseries digging field-grown deciduous plants now entering dormancy after freezing temperatures. Washington County cotton picking continued, low yields reported due to hardlock, bolls too close to ground for harvesting; peanut harvest to finish within next 10 days. Some peanut fields damaged during freeze. Soil moisture short to adequate, Panhandle, several areas very short. Very short soil moisture Big Bend area, parts of northern Peninsula. Mostly adequate soil moisture southern Peninsula. Elsewhere, soil moisture short to adequate. Spots with surplus soil moisture Jackson, Osceola. Areas with very short moisture Santa Rosa, Washington, Gadsden, Jefferson, Suwannee, Marion, Osceola, Polk. Clear weather allowed vegetable harvest to proceed; growers trying to satisfy holiday demand. Crops marketed snap beans, Chinese cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole, endive, lettuce, okra, peppers, radish, squash, tomatoes. Plant City, Dover, light amount of strawberries. In spite of dry weather, irrigated citrus groves in relatively good condition due to good maintenance, increased irrigation. Limited grove activity mowing, spraying, fertilizing, young tree care. Various methods used to control greening. Most growers training scouts to look for greening, remove trees affected with disease. Almost all major packinghouses opened,

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running fruit. About two thirds of processing plants open; remaining plants opening following Thanksgiving. Most fundraising programs started, will continue through Thanksgiving. Harvested varieties Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines; early, Ambersweet, Navel oranges, grapefruit, few tangelos. Pasteur feed 1% very poor, 29% poor, 35% fair, 35% good. Cattle condition 20% poor, 30% fair, 45% good, 5% excellent. Panhandle, north pasture condition very poor to good, most good. Winter forage planted in September, early October withering, drying from drought, hard freezes. Grass growth of permanent pastures also stopped by cold. Hay production below normal. Winter small grain forage weak, supplemental hay cost high. Some locations need rain before planting small grain forage. Cattle condition fair to good. Central pasture condition poor to fair, most good. First frost on November 16, cattle producers feeding supplemental hay. Freeze not severe, but damaged grass in low-lying areas. No rain, pasture turning brown. Rain needed for planting winter forage. Cattle condition poor to excellent, most good. Southwest pasture condition poor to good. Statewide cattle condition mostly good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Topsoil moisture 45% very short, 39% short, 16% adequate, 0% surplus. Soybeans 4% very poor, 12% poor, 41% fair, 36% good, 7% excellent; 64% harvested, 61% 2006, 57% avg. Cotton 10% very poor, 14% poor, 37% fair, 30% good, 9% excellent. Quickset allowed farmers to catch-up on farming activities that were delayed or disrupted by the hurricanes that occurred in the month.

HAWAII: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Soil moisture was at adequate levels in most areas. Banana orchards were in fair to good condition. Disease continued to be present in most Big Island fields. Papaya orchards were in fair to mostly good condition. Vegetables were in mostly good condition. Ginger root plantings were in mostly good condition. Seasonal harvesting of the ginger root crop is expected to be in full-swing next month. Weather conditions were beneficial for crops. Higher pressure to move windward winds over most of the week. Days were mostly sunny. Showers were generally light and concentrated in windward areas. Winds were variable, but mostly in the light to moderate range. The favorable weather conditions allowed farmers to catch-up on farming activities that were delayed or interrupted by the hurricanes that occurred in the month.

IDAHO: Days suitable for field work 6.1. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 34% short, 60% adequate, 2% surplus. Field corn 86% harvested for grain, 92% 2006, 80% avg. Major agricultural activities included harvesting corn for grain, preparing equipment for winter, and shipping livestock. Livestock are in good condition.

ILLINOIS: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.9. Topsoil moisture 8% very short, 24% short, 65% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 21% very short, 32% short, 47% adequate. Corn 98% harvested, 84% 2006, 93% avg. Moisture content of harvested corn is averaging about 15%. Winter wheat 99% emerged, 84% 2006, 93% avg.; condition 2% poor, 15% fair, 67% good, 16% excellent. Winter wheat condition continued to improve slightly. Average temperature was 3 degrees above normal with a high of 70 degrees and a low of 20 degrees. Precipitation averaged from 0.18 to 1.82 inches. Rain showers in many areas temporarily slowed field work during the week. Farmers biggest concerns for the 2008 cropping season are rising input costs and rental agreements. Other activities included applying ammonium ammonia, working on field tile, spreading fertilizer and lime, moving grain to market, doing fall tillage, cleaning and storing equipment, hauling manure, stripping tobacco and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 17% short, 76% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 80% adequate, 12% surplus. Corn 97% harvested. Soybean harvest is virtually complete with some fields remaining to be harvested in the southern third of the state. Livestock conditions remain good.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil moisture 20% very short, 44% short, 36% adequate. Subsoil moisture 15% very short, 35% short, 50% adequate. Winter wheat pastured was at 5%. Frost rain supplies 2% very short, 4% short, 87% adequate, 7% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 3% very short, 8% short, 83% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies 4% very short, 17% short, 78% adequate, 1% surplus. Harvesting of cotton, sorghum, and sunflowers were the main field activities. Reports of dry conditions negatively affecting the winter wheat have been reported across the State.

KENTUCKY: Generally dry weather was beneficial to farmers as they were completing their soybean harvest. Corn harvesting was complete. Days with favorable humidity levels helped tobacco go in and out of case. Farmers were stripping tobacco and taking it to market. The dry fall hurt tobacco as it dried very fast resulting in a generally poorly cured crop with a light color. Farmers continued to plant their remaining winter wheat acreage. Soil moisture levels were favorable for winter wheat germination and good growth prior to the advent of winter weather.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Soil moisture 12% very short, 36% short, 49% adequate, 1% surplus. Pecans 71% harvested, 50% 2006, 58% avg. Sycamore 50% harvested, 39% 2006, 49% avg.; 4% poor, 18% fair, 54% good, 24% excellent. Sweet potatoes 98% harvested, 90% 2006, 91% avg. Winter wheat 57% planted, 21% 2006, 46% avg. Livestock 10% poor, 36% fair, 51% good, 3% excellent. Vegetables 9% very poor, 22% poor, 47% fair, 22% good. Range and pasture 12% very poor, 22% poor, 58% fair, 15% good, 4% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 32% short, 68% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 36% short, 55% adequate, 0% surplus. Hay supplies 30% very short, 47% short, 20% adequate, 3% surplus. Other hay 4th cutting 75%, 70% 2006, 85% avg. Alfalfa hay 5th cutting 64%, 87% 2006, 54% avg. Pasture condition 6% very poor, 32% poor, 33% fair, 25% good, 4% excellent. Winter wheat 94% planted, 89% 2006, 86% avg.; 82% emerged, 69% 2006, 68% avg.; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 49% fair, 39% good, 11% excellent. Barley condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 49% fair, 45% good, 4% excellent. Soybeans 80% harvested, 81% 2006, 73% avg. Rain and drizzle fell the week of November 11, resulting in 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork. The rain improved pastures conditions, although slowed the harvest of hay and soybeans. However, harvest of soybeans and planting of small grains continues to run ahead of the five-year average due to dry conditions we have experienced throughout the fall.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 18% short, 78% adequate, 3% surplus. Sugarbeets 8% very short, 25% short, 64% adequate, 3% surplus. Sugar beets 98% harvested, 95% 2006, 98% avg. Hay Hay 4th cutting 87%, 94% 2006, 99% avg. Precipitation varied from none central Lower Peninsula to 0.20 inches southeastern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from no departure from normal in the northeast and southwest to 1 degree above normal western and southeastern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from no departure from normal in the northeast and southwest to 1 degree above normal western and southeastern Lower Peninsula.
while vegetable producers are harvesting leafy vegetables.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 38% short, 44% adequate, 1% surplus. Fall tillage 74% complete, 66% 2006, 57% avg. Pasture condition 23% very poor, 24% poor, 34% fair, 18% good, 1% excellent. Row crop harvest and wheat seeding are nearing completion. Some later planted wheat is struggling to emerge due to dryness. Many areas are short of hay and livestock water heading into winter. Temperatures averaged 5 to 8 degrees above normal. Rainfall averaged 0.46 inches. Activities corn, soybean, sorghum, harvest; winter wheat planting; fall tillage; fertilizer application; supplemental livestock feeding; fall grazing.

MONDAY: Many producers have left corn from the silage harvest. Cooler temperatures have resulted in more livestock getting brought in from pasture. Temperatures were near normal and getting colder towards the end of the week. Precipitation was near normal with occasional heavy rains in some areas.

NEW JERSEY: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

rhubarb, horseradish and raspberry plants for resale, cleaning, and forage for grazing. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good/excellent. Last week began partly cloudy with below average high temperatures slightly below normal. Reported rainfall averaged from .05 inch to 1.03 inches. Average temperatures ranged from 37 to 55 degrees.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for field work 6.8. Topsoil moisture 9% very short, 30% short, 59% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 26% short, 63% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 97% harvested; 92% 2006, 92% average. Sorghum 98% harvested, 95% 2006, 95% average. Winter wheat conditions 1% very poor, 5% poor, 46% fair, 50% good, 4% excellent. Temperatures averaged eight degrees above normal across the state. Precipitation was absent across the majority of the state with only traces in a few districts.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: Days suitable for field work 5.4. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 1% short, 89% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 1% short, 89% adequate, 10% surplus. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 51% fair, 46% good, 0% excellent. Massachusetts Cranberries 99% harvested, 99% 2006, 100% average; Fruit Size average/below average; condition good/excellent. Last week began partly cloudy with below average high and low temperatures, varying from the upper teens to upper 40s across the region. Lightning was seen last week throughout the region on Monday. Temperatures varied from average to above average levels and heavier rains were experienced across New England. Rainfall totals were between 0.11 and 0.92 inches. Wednesday was above average with mostly cloudy skies. More rain moved through New England on Thursday totaling many areas of the state 2.10 inches. The highest rains were seen in northern New Hampshire and Vermont. High temperatures dipped below average on Friday while the low temperatures remained average. The northern states experienced light rain and even some light snow fall. The weekend was partly cloudy with below average temperatures ranging from the upper teens to the mid 40s. Farm activities included harvesting cranberries and fall season vegetables, combining grain corn, harvesting strawberry, rhubarb, horseradish and raspberry plants for resale, cleaning equipment, soil testing, liming and spreading manure.

NEW JERSEY: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil moisture 34% very short, 34% short, 22% adequate. Wind damage 8% light, 5% moderate. Freeze damage 13% light, 17% moderate, 7% severe. Alfalfa condition 1% poor, 18% fair, 59% good, 22% excellent, 7th cutting complete 80%. Cotton 75% harvested. Corn for grain 95% harvested. Dry sorghum for grain 97% harvested. Total sorghum for grain 100% harvested. Irrigated winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 35% fair, 40% good, 2% excellent. Sorghum moisture 0% very short, 24% poor, 27% fair, 16% good, 9% excellent. Red Chile 90% harvested. Onions condition 100% excellent. Pecan production condition 4% very poor, 40% poor, 56% good, 56% excellent. Cotton condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 29% good, 37% excellent. Sheep condition 7% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 22% good, 27% excellent. Range and pasture condition 6% very poor, 18% poor, 45% fair, 26% good, 5% excellent. Farmers spent the week harvesting and working on winter projects such as leveling and upgrading irrigation. Ranchers spent the week shipping cattle. A warm and dry trend continued the week of November 12th through the 18th, indicative of the La Nina pattern in place. The weekly average temperatures for almost all sites statewide were substantially warmer than normal. Only a few locations reported precipitation this past week with minimal rainfall amounts.

NEW YORK: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Soil moisture 2% very short, 15% short, 69% adequate, 14% surplus. Pasture condition 4% very poor, 24% poor, 47% fair, 24% good, 1% excellent. Rainy weather has kept farmers out of the fields in St. Lawrence and Clinton Counties. Many producers have left corn from the silage harvest. Cooler temperatures have resulted in more livestock getting brought in from pasture. Temperatures were near normal and getting colder towards the end of the week. Precipitation was near normal with occasional heavy rains in some areas.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 5.9. Soil moisture 27% very short, 41% short, 32% adequate, 0% surplus. Activities during the week included the harvesting of cotton, sweetpotatoes, and soybeans. Other activities included the planting of small grains. North Carolina received some rain throughout the state with average temperatures slightly below normal. Reported rainfall averaged from .05 inch to 1.03 inches. Average temperatures ranged from 37 to 55 degrees.

NORTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil moisture 15% very short, 38% short, 46% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 16% very short, 41% short, 42% adequate, 1% surplus. Stockwater supplies 7% very short, 23% short, 67% adequate, 3% surplus. Row crop harvest was virtually complete by week’s end. Farmers were able to commence fall tillage and fertilizer work, but were wrapping up those activities at week’s end.

OHIO: Days suitable for field work 4.0. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 15% short, 72% adequate, 9% surplus. Corn 95% harvested for grain, 77% 2006, 87% avg. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 12% fair, 62% good, 25% excellent. Farmers took advantage of 4 days suitable for field work to harvest grain corn. Other field activities included fall tillage on corn and soybean stubble fields, fertilizer application, herbicide application, grain hauling, manure disposal, and excavation work.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil moisture 27% very short, 42% short, 30% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 17% very short, 31% short, 52% adequate. Rye condition 10% very poor, 11% poor, 35% fair, 40% good, 4% excellent; 94% emerged this week, 93% last week, 100% last year, 99% average. Oats condition 17% very poor, 14% poor, 49% fair, 13% good, 7% excellent; seedbed prepared 92% this week, 90% last week, 100% last year, 95% average; 78% planted this week, 75% last week, 77% last year, 65% average; 60% emerged this week, 55% last week, 71% last year, 62% average. Soybeans mature 90% this week, 85% last week, 100% last year, 99% average; 76% harvested this week, 63% last week, 92% last year, 86% average. Alfalfa condition 7% very poor, 13% poor, 39% fair, 34% good, 7% excellent; 5th cutting this week, 85% last week, 86% last year, 86% average; 6th cutting 49% last week, 20% last year, 24% average. Other hay condition 5% very poor, 11% poor, 33% fair, 45% good, 6% excellent; 2nd cutting 93% this week, 92% last week, 83% last year, 96% average. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 31% fair, 55% good, 11% excellent. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 9% poor, 37% fair, 43% good, 9% excellent. Livestock The shortage of rainfall has many cattle producers concerned with pasture conditions and the availability of wheat pasture and forage for grazing. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged $109 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged $100 per cwt. Pasture and range conditions also remained mostly in the good to fair range.
stations reported warmer than average temperatures, nearly all except south central stations reported more precipitation than average. Field Crops; Field work was limited due to the cool, windy, wet conditions. Strong winds swept through the State last week causing damage in eastern areas to trees, buildings. Some western areas were without power for a little while. Crops were not damaged but were generally not in very good to fair condition. Vegetables; Fall vegetable harvest is at or very near completion throughout the State. Late fall squash were done just in time as this past week brought heavy rains, strong winds that halted outside work. A few greenhouse tomatoes were still reported to be available. Fruits, Nuts; Most all fruits were already harvested Statewide; although there were a few late winter pears, apples, wine grapes being picked. Hazelnut harvest was complete. Some lime applications were applied to orchards. Nurseries, Greenhouses; Greenhouses were still working with last fall, holiday plants last week. Nurseries continued digging, burlapping trees for shipment, processing others for transplanting, placement in new landscapes. Livestock, Range, pasture The rains this past week have left pastures wet across much of the State. Growth is slow due to the cool temperatures. Cattle were moving to winter pastureland, some were on supplemental feed. Fall calving, round up continued.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3. Soil moisture 2% very short, 30% short, 57% adequate, 11% surplus. Fall 85% plowing, 84% 2006, 83% avg. Corn 87% harvested, 82% 2006, 86% avg. Barley 96% emerged, 100% 2006, 99% avg. Winter wheat 92% emerged, 88% 2006, 87% avg.; crop condition 31% fair, 59% good, 10% excellent. Soybeans 88% harvested, 76% 2006, 75% avg. Alfalfa 4th cutting complete 93%, 100% 2006, 97% avg. Oats made 11% very poor, 11% poor, 19% fair, 53% good, 6% excellent. Pasture conditions 21% very poor, 22% poor, 33% fair, 22% good, 2% excellent. Principal farm activities included fall plowing, filling silos, mowing pastures, repairing equipment, making hay, liming fields, planting wheat and barley, and harvesting soybeans.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Soil moisture 53% very short, 41% short, 6% adequate, 0% surplus. Soybeans 26% very poor, 22% poor, 45% fair, 7% good, 0% excellent; 100% leaves turning color, 100% 2006, 100% avg.; 99% leaves dropped, 99% 2006, 97% avg.; 88% mature, 95% 2006, 89% avg.; 42% harvested, 46% 2006, 47% avg. Winter wheat 22% very poor, 4% poor, 67% fair, 5% good, 0% excellent; 35% planted, 42% 2006, 49% avg.; 15% emerged, 28% 2006, 37% avg. Pasture condition 30% very poor, 36% poor, 29% fair, 5% good, 0% excellent. Oats 21% very poor, 8% poor, 65% fair, 6% good, 0% excellent; 58% planted, 69% 2006, 75% avg.; 31% emerged, 58% 2006, 61% avg. Livestock condition 4% very poor, 23% poor, 40% fair, 33% good, 0% excellent. Winter grazings 18% very poor, 11% poor, 59% fair, 12% good, 0% excellent. Freeze damage 92% none, 4% light, 4% moderate, 0% heavy, 0% severe. Sorghum 99% harvested, 100% 2006, 99% avg. Sweet potatoes 97% harvested, 99% 2006, 99% avg. Apples 100% harvested, 100% 2006, 100% avg. Winter wheat 9% very poor, 12% poor, 83% fair, 4% good; 98% emerged, 78% 2006, 76% avg. Scattered rainfall last week did little to alleviate South Carolina’s drought. Portions of the Low Country did not have any rain, and have not had any measurable rain in over three weeks. Many farm ponds are very low, and smaller stream beds have no flowing water. The one day of drizzle did nothing to help soil moisture. Sunny weather for most of the week has the cotton harvest nearly completed in many counties. Overall yields are the worst since the 2002 drought. Oat planting continues, but remains behind normal due to the lack of soil moisture. Peanut harvest is done for this year. Soybean harvest was at a rapid pace last week, being delayed by only a day in areas that received rain. Yields along the coast have been widely varied depending on how much moisture each field has been able to get throughout the season. Inland production has generally been very poor. Sweet potato harvest is just about complete. Attractive winter wheat prices are causing some farmers to seed in dry soils in hopes that rain will soon fall to emerge the crop. Others are still waiting for a good rain before they plant any more small grains. Many livestock producers were having to scramble to find additional hay. Livestock conditions 4% very poor, 23% poor, 40% fair, and 33% good. Pasture conditions are such that there has been very little fall grazing. The State’s small apple harvest has been picked. The State average temperature for the period was near normal. State average rainfall was 0.1 inch.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 15% short, 72% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 14% short, 68% adequate, 7% surplus. Feed supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 82% adequate, 11% surplus. Stock water supplies 14% very short, 13% short, 65% adequate, 8% surplus. Cattle condition 1% poor, 9% fair, 70% good, 20% excellent. Sheep condition 1% poor, 9% fair, 69% good, 21% excellent. Mostly warm and dry conditions continue to assist harvest progress. Livestock production continues to increase for feed and the continual price decline for cattle.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Soil moisture 5% very short, 7% short, 55% adequate, 33% surplus. Much needed rain came to the Palouse last week, field work done for the winter. Rainfall is still lagging for the crop year and additional rain would be welcomed. Most of Whitman County wheat is up, but conditions only appear to be fair, due to the dry fall. Christmas tree growers in Snohomish, Thurston, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties reported brisk sales of trees. Large orders were being filled for California markets and the day after Thanksgiving sales. At this point, there appears to be no shortage of Christmas trees of any kind. In the
Yakima Valley, apple harvest wrapped up with the last picking of Pink Ladies. Chelan County reported their fruit harvest was complete. Skagit County reported most fall-seeded seed crops had been planted and doing well. Range, pasture conditions 13% very poor, 19% poor, 14% fair, 42% good, 12% excellent. Through out the state, hay supplies were tight and cattle growers were upping the feed as winter settles in the Pacific Northwest. Pacific County reported oyster growers continued harvest operations in preparation for the holiday season. Strong prices have been a welcome change for producers.

WEST VIRGINIA:  Days suitable for field work 5. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 52% short, 46% adequate compared with 52% adequate, 48% surplus last year. Corn 81% harvested, 76% 2006, 83% 5-yr avg. Soybeans 74% harvested, 67% 2006, 77% 5-yr avg. Winter wheat conditions 1% very poor, 11% poor, 22% fair, 66% good, 79% emerged, 72% 2006, 86% 5-yr avg. Apples 96% harvested, 97% 2006, 5-yr avg not available. Cattle and calves 1% very poor, 18% poor, 39% fair, 41% good, 1% excellent. Sheep and lambs 1% very poor, 8% poor, 36% fair, 55% good. Farming activities included harvesting soybeans, corn, apples, applying fertilizer, plowing fields, weaning calves, planting wheat, feeding livestock and preparing for the winter season.

WISCONSIN:  Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 11% short, 81% adequate, 4% surplus. Corn 92% harvested. Fall tillage was 68% complete. Overall, the weather this fall has been very conducive for harvesting and fall tillage. Precipitation totals were low for the fourth week in a row across the state. Temperatures were 3 to 5 degrees above normal last week. Average temperatures were in the high 30s to low 40s. With low temperatures in the low to mid 20s, most areas received a killing frost.

WYOMING:  Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil moisture 23% very short, 37% short, 40% adequate. Hay, roughage 3% very short, 16% short, 79% adequate, 2% surplus. 2008 Winter wheat condition 9% fair, 67% good, 24% excellent. Corn 84% harvested, 81% 2006, 77% avg.