**ALABAMA:** The arrival of spring in Alabama brought with it several severe storm systems. Most areas of the state received some much-needed rainfall during the past month. The U.S. Drought Monitor for February 26, 2008, showed a drastic decrease of nearly 27 percent in the amount of exceptional (D4) drought in the state from one month ago. Just over 20 percent of the state was considered to be drought-free. In addition to the welcomed rainfall, the storm systems spurred on budding with bud break expected to begin soon. Early nectarine harvest continued for Arizona with sheeping off wrapping up for the upcoming season. Farmers were gearing up for the spring planting of vegetable crops. Eggplant and Oriental vegetables were being planted in greenhouses. Winter vegetables, including asparagus, were harvested in Imperial and Riverside counties. Cool temperatures continued to slow rangeland growth after recent rains. Hay and supplemental feeding of cattle continued in some areas. Milk production continued at a high level due to the mild temperatures. Calving and kidding continued on some operations. Sheep and lambs continued grazing alfalfa fields and retired farmland. Movement of bee hives into almond and stone fruit orchards continued.

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures across the State were mostly below normal for the month of February. Precipitation in the form of rain or snow had fallen throughout the month. Ten of the twenty-two weather stations have above normal precipitation for the year. Crop conditions remained relatively unchanged for February. Alfalfa condition remained mostly poor to good for the month. Small grain planting wrapped up toward the end of the month. Range and pasture conditions continued to improve with the precipitation that had fallen across the state. Alfalfa harvesting continued for Arizona with sheeping off wrapping up for the year. The winter vegetable harvest continued throughout February along with the citrus harvest.

**ARKANSAS:** The month started with above normal temperatures across the state. Towards the middle of the month, temperatures began to shift and the month ended with below normal temperatures. February rainfall totaled ranged from 0.18 inch in Arkadelphia to 10.92 inches in Flippin, with a number of severe weather events throughout the month. Tornadoes from Atkins to Mountain Home on February 5 racked havoc on farmers and ranchers. Numerous cattle, including more than 200 in Izard County, broilers, horses, and other livestock were lost. Barns, farm buildings, and equipment were severely damaged or destroyed. Scattered debris across pastures caused some producers to move livestock to other pastures. In other areas of Arkansas, field work was limited due to fields being wet. The work that was done on drier soils included spraying of fertilizer and herbicides on winter wheat fields and preparation for spring planting. Farmers were also planning their crop strategies for the upcoming season. Winter vegetables, including asparagus, were harvested in Imperial and Riverside counties. Cool temperatures continued to slow rangeland growth after recent rains. Hay and supplemental feeding of cattle continued in some areas. Milk production continued at a high level due to the mild temperatures. Calving and kidding continued on some operations. Sheep and lambs continued grazing alfalfa fields and retired farmland. Movement of bee hives into almond and stone fruit orchards continued.

**CALIFORNIA:** Rain in February improved the growth of oats, barley, wheat and winter forage. Dry land grains emerged after rains early in the month and were growing well. Herbs were applied to fields. Ground preparation for grain and silage corn experienced some delay due to the wet conditions. Some wheat flooded in Colusa County. Alfalfa fields broke dormancy later in February and were growing well with the warm weather. Sugar beets continued to grow well in February and were fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control insects, weeds and diseases. Pre-irrigation of cotton fields was ongoing in Fresno and Tulare Counties. Potatoes continued to be harvested and sweet potato hot bed planting began. At the beginning of February excess rain delayed orchard and vineyard activities and caused damage in some strawberry fields in the south. By mid-month activities resumed and vineyard pruning was mostly complete by the end of the month. New blueberry bushes were planted. Cherry blocks were budding with bud break expected to begin soon. Early nectarine varieties began to bloom in Tulare County. Dormant sprays and pre-emergent herbicides were applied to some stone fruits orchards as weather permitted. Almond, pistachio and walnut groves were pruned, with dormant sprays still being applied in some areas. Almond trees were budding through out February and bloom began in some orchards by the end of the month. Soggy soils delayed the picking of oranges, mandarins, lemons, grapefruit and pummelos during the first week of February, but harvest was underway the rest of the month. Hail damage was seen in some citrus groves. Warmer weather later in the month increased rind puff and fruit drop in Navel orange orchards. Vegetable fields were since thinned, irrigated, and treated to control weeds, insects, and mildew. Harvest continued for farmers market crops such as amaranth, Asian pumpkins, basil, bok choy, beets, broccoli, head and napa cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celeriac, cilantro, choy sum, dandelion, dill, dandelion, leaf lettuce, lemon grass, mint, mustard and collard greens, kale, parsley, green onions, radishes, spinach, natarabagas, tatsoi, tongo ho, yam leaf, yams and yu choy. Early planted beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, garlic, onion and lettuce crops were growing well. In Tulare County growers were gearing up for the spring planting of vegetable crops. Eggplant and Oriental vegetables were being planted in greenhouses. Winter vegetables, including asparagus, were harvested in Imperial and Riverside counties. Cool temperatures continued to slow rangeland growth after recent rains. Hay and supplemental feeding of cattle continued in some areas. Milk production continued at a high level due to the mild temperatures. Calving and kidding continued on some operations. Sheep and lambs continued grazing alfalfa fields and retired farmland. Movement of bee hives into almond and stone fruit orchards continued.

**COLORADO:** Colorado experienced fluctuating weather patterns throughout February. Conditions were characterized by a two-week cycle. The first week had below average temperatures and above normal snowfall amounts. This was followed by warmer, dryer conditions the next week. Livestock producers have enjoyed the intermittent warm temperatures which have facilitated feeding as well as calving and lambing operations. Farmers and ranchers are also busy preparing for spring field work. Statewide, the mountain snowpack is 128% of the average for this time of year. Currently, the northern regions have slightly above average amounts (108%-124%), while the southern regions are well above average snowpack (131%-150%). The Eastern Plains experienced dry conditions with limited or no snow cover throughout most of the month.

**DELAWARE:** Winter has been mild which has been beneficial to livestock. Hay supplies are 30% very short, 50% short, 20% adequate. Winter wheat is in good to excellent condition. Farmers are attending meetings, repairing equipment, getting ready for spring planting.

**FLORIDA:** Potato planting continued, majority of acreage completed by end of month. Winter wheat planted by mid-February in good condition. Sugarcane harvest in good condition, Everglades region. Freeze damage reported caused decline in volume, quality of remaining winter crops, southern Florida. Demand for strawberries good, in full bloom throughout month. Farmers prepared to plant watermelon, Sumter County, mid-February. Cabbage harvest gained momentum end of month. Vegetables marketed during February Cabbage, broccoli, collards, kale, peppers, beans, cucumbers, celery, endive, escarole, eggplant, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, radishes, strawberries. Weekly harvest amounts of early-mid oranges, mid-5
milllion boxes most of month, with harvest expected near completion by mid-March. Grapefruit harvest stayed under a million boxes per week until late in month when processing harvest increased. Most packinghouses finished Navel orange, Sunburst tangerine harvest, transitioned to Temple orange, Honey tangerine. Grove care included irrigating, pruning, growing healthy trees, hedging and topping. Varieties harvested early, midseason, Navel, Temple oranges; grapefruit; tangelo; Sunburst, Honey tangerines. Beginning February, Panhandle, north pasture very poor to good, most poor due to drought, cold. Small grain winter forage tall enough for grazing. Stock ponds low. Central most pasture fair, some improved following rain end of January. Southwestern most pasture very poor to fair, eastwide cattle condition very poor to excellent, most good. Month’s end, pasture very poor to good, most in fair condition due to drought, cold. Panhandle, north pasture condition poor to fair, winter forage rapidly depleted, pasture overgrown, hay supply short. Heavy rain some locations put water in stock ponds. Cattle condition very poor to good, most fair. Central most pasture condition poor due to lingering effects of drought, later improved with regular rains, warm weather. Cattle condition mostly fair. Southwest pasture poor to good, most poor. Eastwide cattle condition mostly poor to fair. GEORGIA: Other than a few brief cold spells, February proved to be a warm month for Georgia. Daytime temperatures averaged 70’s for much of the month. The state continued to receive frequent rainfall improving drought conditions at least temporarily. Although the state needs more rain to achieve sufficient subsoil moisture levels, topsoil moisture was mostly adequate in February. Farmers, in some areas, were hampered by a surplus of topsoil moisture and had to wait for drier field conditions before carrying out fieldwork. On the other hand, pastures in north Georgia were suffering from dry weather, but were starting to show some improvement toward the end of the month. Small grains producers applied fertilizer and nitrogen to their crops. Wheat was in mostly good condition. Wide fluctuations in temperature had fruit growers worried about their crops. Low temperatures hurt some early rabbiteye blueberries. Other activities included planting pine trees and blueberries, clipping tobacco plants in greenhouses, mowing stalks and harrowing, burning pastures and hayfields, spreading lime and poultry litter, general farm work and repairs, feeding hay to livestock, and the routine care of poultry and livestock. HAWAII: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Soil moisture was adequate. Banana orchards were in fair to good condition. Disease remained isolated in parts of the Big Island. Trees also continued to recover from previous wind damage. Papaya fields were in fair to good condition. There were reports of some fields being infected with ringspot virus. Flowering remained active. Spraying for insect and disease control continued. Most vegetable crops made favorable progress during the last week. Irrigation was necessary to provide normal crop growth. The effectiveness of spraying for insect and disease control increased due to calm weather conditions. After a few light to trace amount of rain early in the week, days turned mostly sunny and dry. Winds became light which allowed for relatively warm temperatures during the day. Cleyakies at night increased heat loss and resulted in relatively cool nights. IDAHO: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 6% short, 85% adequate, 9% surplus. Calving complete 50%, 36% 2006, 38% avg. Lambing complete 43%, 45% 2006, 45% avg. Hay and roughage supply 15% very short, 43% short, 42% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 11% fair, 82% good, 7% excellent. Some areas of the state report that the winter wheat is still under snow cover. Livestock are reported to be in good condition. Power County reported that warmer daytime temperatures have provided mud and standing water making winter calving and feeding operations more difficult. ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 44% adequate, 53% surplus. Temperatures across Illinois for the month of February were 5.2 degrees below average. Cold temperatures and precipitation were prevalent across the state with snow and ice covering fields throughout the month. Producers are reporting the possibility of flooding, especially after temperatures in the 70’s were received on March 2nd. Precipitation for the month averaged 2.49 inches above normal. Ponds are starting to form in some fields. Livestock and hay supplies are doing well. Producers are tending to livestock. As of March 2nd the condition of the wheat crop was 2% poor, 17% fair, 56% good, 22% excellent. INDIANA: Temperatures during February were below normal with a state average of 27.7o which was 2.80 below normal. Total precipitation averaged 4.79 inches which was 2.51 inches above normal. This was the 5th wettest February on record. The wettest February was in 1909 which had 5.74 inches of precipitation. The winter wheat crop is reported to be in mostly good condition. However, some damage has been reported due to standing water and ice. Some top dressing has been done when weather and soil conditions permitted. Livestock condition mostly good with some concern due to wet conditions. Temperatures being reported from the cold temperatures and excess rain and snow. Hay supplies are short in many areas and prices are high. Calving and lambing continues on many livestock farms. Other activities included; tax preparation, financial planning, pricing inputs, spreading fertilizer and manure, moving grain to market, preparing equipment for spring planting, and taking care of livestock. Livestock and hay supplies are doing well. Producers are tending to livestock. As of March 2nd the condition of the wheat crop was 2% poor, 17% fair, 56% good, 22% excellent. KANSAS: Agricultural Summary. The State of Kansas experienced normal temperatures for the month of February. Most of the State received moderate precipitation throughout the month in the form of snow or rain. Topsoil moisture was rated at 4% very short, 12% short, 62% adequate, at 22% adequate. Field activities increased due to calmer weather and increased effectiveness of spraying for insect and disease control. Field Crop Report wheat condition rated 5% very poor, 16% poor, 37% fair, 35% good, and 7% excellent. Wind damage to the wheat crop was 85% no damage, 9% with light damage, 4% with moderate damage, and 2% with severe wind damage. Freeze damage to wheat has been rated at 87% with no damage, 10% with light damage, and 3% has moderate freeze damage. Overall winterkill to the 2008 wheat crop was rated at 81% with no winterkill, 16% with light winterkill, and 3% with moderate winterkill. Wheat acreage lost to winterkill is estimated at 4%. Feed supplies report feed grain supplies were rated 1% very short, 10% short, 86% adequate, and 3% surplus. Hay and forage supplies were rated 1% very short, 18% short, 78% adequate, and 3% surplus. KENTUCKY: The first week of February proved to be warm and wet in the Bluegrass State with above normal temperatures and rainfall for the second straight week. An unseasonably warm air mass raised temperatures to record levels throughout much of the state. The air mass also set the stage for extreme severe weather on Tuesday and Wednesday in which heavy rain and high winds were accompanied by numerous destructive tornadoes. Temperatures for the period averaged 47 degrees across the state which was 15 degrees above normal and 10 degrees higher than the previous week. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.70 in. statewide which was 0.87 in. above normal. Below normal temperatures and above normal rainfall were experienced the second week. A widespread winter storm at the beginning of the week was the primary weather maker for the state. The system produced a wintry mix of freezing rain, sleet and snow throughout the Commonwealth. Temperatures remained cold much of the week with below normal temperatures registering for the fourth week of the past seven weeks. Even with this, high temperatures did rebound into the 60’s to near 70 at the end of the week. Temperatures for the week averaged 35 degrees across the state which was 1 degree below normal. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.44 in. statewide which was 0.56 in. above normal. Below normal temperatures and rainfall occurred the third week of February. The majority of precipitation in the Bluegrass State fell as a winter mix of sleet, snow and rain. The winter weather system also aided in maintaining a cold air mass over the region which resulted in below normal temperatures for the second straight week. Extreme high temperatures reached the mid 60’s at the beginning of the period while extreme lows dropped into the single digits across northerly sections of the state. Temperatures for the week averaged 33 degrees across the state which was 9.4 degrees below normal and 3 degrees colder than the previous week. Rainfall for the period totaled .73 in. statewide which was below normal ...
was 0.20 in. below normal. Below normal temperatures and below normal precipitation were the norms for the fourth week of the month. The week was cold with almost daily threats of light, yet measurable precipitation. This was the second week with below normal precipitation and the third week with below normal temperatures. February could be described by the frequent precipitation events, severe storms and tornadoes, and mostly cold temperatures.

Temperatures for the period averaged 36 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees below normal and 4 degrees warmer than the previous week. Precipitation for the period totaled 0.52 in. statewide which was 0.27 in. from normal. Producers continued to haul some grain and livestock to market. Grain to sell on the farm is in short supply. As many farmers’ hay supplies continue to dwindle, they must make difficult decisions whether to purchase hay to feed their cattle if available and/or start to sell cattle due to lack of feed. Farmers continue to attend various commodity meetings. Many farmers continue making planting decisions and are looking at the upcoming crop season. Costs of inputs are being weighed against anticipated selling prices of finished commodities.

**LOUISIANA:** Louisiana has received a total of 10.64 inches of rain during January and February, which was 0.43 inches short of the state average of 11.07 inches. Land preparation was well underway for spring planting. Producers were also getting equipment ready for the upcoming season. Strawberry producers continued harvesting and selling their crop. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures and feeding hay.

**MARYLAND:** Winter has been mild which has been beneficial to livestock. Hay supplies are 50% very short, 45% short, 5% adequate. Feed supplies are characterized by the frequent precipitation and alfalfa crops because of the warm spells with rain then freezing temperatures, causing a layer of ice under the snow in most areas. One farmer said, “Deep snow cover on wheat makes assessment difficult if not impractical.” As far as livestock is concerned, there is a shortage of forage and conditions do not seem to be improving in the near future. A reporter stated, “Cattle have suffered with vast temperature fluctuations and high winds.” February has been generally cold and very snowy. Deep snow cover has protected wheat even on fields that normally have a lot of wind exposure. Soil moisture has been more than replenished from the dry conditions last summer.

**MINNESOTA:**

**PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY**

**FEBRUARY, 2008.** Temperatures during February averaged from 7.6 degrees below normal in the Northwest District to 4.5 degrees below normal in the East Central District. Temperature extremes included a low of -40 degrees at International Falls and a high of 49 degrees at Choteau. Snow cover ranged from zero inches in Yellow Medicine County to 21.3 inches in Pelican Rapids. Highs were mostly in the 40s to 50s, and low temperatures ranged from the negative 20s to the positive 20s during the month. Plentiful snow had the low of minus 21 degrees, and Choteau had the high temperature of 63 degrees. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 96%, 97% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 96%, 97% last year. Wheat conditions remained near last month and rated 46% last year, 2% last year, 49% fair, 64% last year, 32% good, 28% last year, 3% excellent, 6% last year. Wheat winter condition 3% very poor, 0% last year, 13% poor, 2% last year, 49% fair, 64% last year, 32% good, 28% last year, 3% excellent, 6% last year. Winter wheat condition 67% none, 39% last year, 4% mild, 52% last year, 8% moderate, 8% last year, 2% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat freeze and drought damage 48% none, 50% last year, 35% light, 48% last year, 14% moderate, 3% last year, 2% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat protective moisture for snow cover 68% very poor, 23% last year, 14% poor, 9% last year, 13% fair, 50% last year, 4% good, 14% last year, 1% excellent, 4% last year. For the month ending February 29th, the state received light to moderate snow across the majority of the state except for an area in the northeast. In the southwest soils were reaching the lower forties. Activities included calving, hauling grain, paperwork, and equipment maintenance.

**NEVADA:** Early and late February storm systems brought rain and/or snow to most northern Nevada locations bolstering mountain snowpack and providing much needed moisture for grazing lands across the state. In the east, feed supplies were impacted as producers increased rations to maintain the livestock throughout the relatively cool, wet month. Native grasses on winter grazing lands are short due to severe drought conditions in 2007, which also necessitates supplemental feeding; however, livestock are rated in generally fair to good condition. In the central, valley locations received rain in addition to mountain snows and supplemental cattle feeding is also ongoing. Alfalfa and small grain growing regions did not report any greening in February, with the crops rated in fair to good condition. Other farm and ranch activities included equipment maintenance, early calving, fence repair, crop and livestock marketing, industry meetings.

**NEW ENGLAND:** February was marked by temperatures of one to two degrees above the normal monthly average with precipitation totals half an inch to nearly six inches above average. Average high temperatures ranged from the upper 20s in northern Maine to the low 40s while low temperatures ranged from the single digits in northern Maine to the upper 20s in the upper 20s. On February 1 New England experienced a spell of below normal temperatures and the third week with below normal precipitation. This was the second week with below normal precipitation and the third week with below normal temperatures. February could be described by the frequent precipitation events, severe storms and tornadoes, and mostly cold temperatures.

Temperatures for the period averaged 36 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees below normal and 4 degrees warmer than the previous week. Precipitation for the period totaled 0.52 in. statewide which was 0.27 in. from normal. Producers continued to haul some grain and livestock to market. Grain to sell on the farm is in short supply. As many farmers’ hay supplies continue to dwindle, they must make difficult decisions whether to purchase hay to feed their cattle if available and/or start to sell cattle due to lack of feed. Farmers continue to attend various commodity meetings. Many farmers continue making planting decisions and are looking at the upcoming crop season. Costs of inputs are being weighed against anticipated selling prices of finished commodities.
the south. Widespread rain and snow entered New England on February 13. Southern areas saw rainfall totals ranging from 1.86 to 2.74 inches while areas in the north saw rain mixed with snow. Snowfall totals ranged from 3.8 to 8.1 inches. Above average temperatures were felt on February 18 where highs ranged from the upper 40s in parts of the north to the low 70s in the south. Temperatures in February 22 areas of the south accumulated anywhere from 3.2 to 9.1 inches of snow, while northern areas saw lesser totals between 2.0 and 5.1 inches. Temperatures were below average with lows in the negative single digits in the north and mid-teens in the south. Southern areas experienced rain totaling anywhere from 0.30 to 0.76 inches with traces of snow on February 19 and February 22 while areas in the north accumulated 6.2 to 11.6 inches of snow. February ended with below average temperatures where some of the northern most areas experienced record breaking low temperatures in the negative teens and 20s.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were up to 30 degrees above normal the first week of February in most state localities. During mid-February temperatures became variable, falling to below normal and rising to above normal again, across most of the state. Temperatures continued to be variable for the remainder of February in most areas. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in many areas during the month. Total precipitation for the month was above normal in most localities. The Atlantic City weather station reported a little over 1.5 inches of snow on February 22, 2008. 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. Other activities included greenhouse work, equipment repair, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: Farm activities during the month of February included ground preparation for spring planting, as well as fertilizing and irrigation of fields. Ranching activities included supplemental feeding and calving. The week started windy on Monday with dry weather and a warming trend through the latter part of the week. A cold front moved into the northeast part of the state on Sunday, dropping temperatures well below normal, as well as some snow.

NEW YORK: Snowfall during February was moderate while temperatures were in the 20’s and 30’s most of the month. Major activities included caring for livestock, spreading manure, grading and packing potatoes, onions, apples and cabbage. Winter meetings and trade shows were well attended.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 4.5 the last week of the month, compared to 4.7 days for the last week of January. Soil moisture 6% very short, 18% short, 68% adequate, and 8% surplus. Activities during the month included tending to livestock, spring planting preparations and general farm maintenance. North Carolina received rain throughout the month of February, with monthly totals ranging from 2.37 to 6.07 inches. The recent rains have helped the drought situation, but most of the state is still classified as being in an exceptional drought. Temperatures were above normal for the month with average temperatures ranging from 33 to 53 degrees.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow cover was 3.6 inches on March 2. Hay and forage seed 7% very short, 6% short, 82% adequate, 10% surplus. Snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 70% poor, 26% adequate, 4% excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat was rated 52% poor, 38% adequate, 10% excellent. Cattle conditions were rated 1% poor, 15% fair, 70% good, 14% excellent. Seventy percent of cattle/calves obtained feed from pasture and ranges. Calving was 9% complete. Sheep conditions were rated 2% poor, 14% fair, 66% good, 18% excellent. Lambing was 16% percent complete. Shearing was 33% complete. Four percent of sheep/rams obtained feed from pastures and ranges. County and secondary roads were rated 89% open, 9% difficult, 2% closed. Ten percent were drifted, 15% icy, 1% muddy, 54% dry. Cold front temperature swept across the state with near normal precipitation during February. Limited snowfall amounts were received in the western part of the state as producers remain concerned about winter crop protection. Reporters also noted western areas need more moisture to provide adequate runoff for crops.

OHIO: The February 2008 average temperature for Ohio was 28.2 degrees, 1.9 degrees below normal. Precipitation averaged 4.93 inches, 2.26 inches above normal. Winter wheat producers counties report that winter wheat field conditions are in good to excellent condition, most report excellent growing season last fall. There was good snow cover throughout February, up to 6 inches in most winter wheat growing areas. Cattle are in good to excellent condition. Producers report hay inventories for livestock are low, many have had to purchase hay from outside source.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 11% very short, 17% short, 65% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture 12% very short, 19% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Wheat 9% very poor, 14% poor, 33% fair, 39% good, 5% excellent. Rye 5% very poor, 6% poor, 15% fair, 73% good, 1% excellent. Oats 17% very poor, 6% poor, 55% fair, 13% good, 7% excellent. Barley 7% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 22% good, 1% excellent. Sorghum 1% very poor, 5% poor, 39% fair, 37% good, 4% excellent. Livestock remained in mostly good to fair condition. Livestock marketings were average. Temperatures continued to fluctuate from one extreme to the other making it tough on cattle operators. With an abundant amount of hay on hand, many cattle producers continued to provide hay to their herds.

OREGON: High temperatures during the month of January ranged from 43 degrees in Burns up to 68 degrees in Redmond. Low temperatures ranged from -3 degrees recorded in Lakeview, up to 32 degrees recorded in Bandon. Monthly average temperatures for the State varied mostly from the high 20’s to the mid 40’s. Conditions dried up considerably from last month. Total precipitation, including rain or melted snow/ice, ranged from a high of 7.42 inches recorded at the Detroit Lake weather station to a low of 0.04 inches in Redmond with 23 of the 42 stations reporting less than one inch of precipitation received. The stations receiving the highest snowfall during January were Crater Lake with 50.5 inches and Government Camp with 46.0 inches. The Marion Forks Fish Hatchery station also received above 40.0 inches of snowfall and 26 of the 50 snowfall weather stations received more than 1.0 inch. Snow depth at the Crater Lake and Government Camp weather stations was recorded at 107.0 and 79.0 inches respectively. With the good snow pack received this winter, there’s a lot of water available for the State this summer. According to the ODA Story of the Week for the week of February 13th, researchers are looking into the possibility of using annual ryegrass straw as a biofuel source. Lane County was provided a $250,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, with contributions from the Oregon Seed Council and Oregon State University researchers. The feasibility study is a result of growing concerns from citizens about the smoke from burning ryegrass fields, rising oil prices and the push for new energy efficient technology, and the desire by the grass seed industry to find value in what otherwise would be waste. Researchers are optimistic and, according to the article, a demonstration project will be developed if the study, which got underway two weeks ago, can furnish enough encouraging results. Agricultural activity at the beginning of February was minimal, with heavy precipitation limiting field work. Snow has been more persistent this year, and by mid and late February, the south-central and eastern portions of the State were still reporting little activity due to snow on the ground. In other areas, clear and mild conditions are allowing farmers to get some early spraying and spring seeding done, as the weather holds. Most cow/calf producers are calving out heifers in Harney County. Some areas are reporting letting cattle out for early grazing as hay supplies continue to dwindle. In general, farmers are gearing up for the spring work ahead. Planting continues on orchards and greenhouses continue with spring plant starts as weather permits.

PENNSYLVANIA: Principal farm activities for the month of February included milking cows, tax preparation, and planning for this year’s crop season. Seed dealers have been delivering their seeds in preparation for the start of planting. Conditions reported show that wheat and barley look good at this point and that there was no damage to fruit. It was another cold and wet February in 2008. The temperatures remained normal for February. The coldest day of the month with a low of nine degrees occurred on February 11th. The warmest day with a high of 66 degrees happened on the 6th. This was the second wettest February on record with 5.77 inches of liquid precipitation. The large quantity of rainfall led to soggy conditions for livestock. Moderate snow accumulation from this storm varied in many parts of the state. The Central region of the state received around 2 inches, while northern Pennsylvania received more than 5 inches of snow. High winds have been reported up to 54 mph. Overall, the weather in the month of February seemed to be normal.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Spring-like conditions were reported early during the first week of February with passing light showers and afternoon temperatures around 80 degrees. In the darkness of Tuesday morning, the Charleston Harbor was closed to traffic due to dense fog and visibility rated at zero. Areas of rain and lightning clap of thunder were observed Wednesday. Clearing followed into the weekend with dry, high pressure dominating the weather. Near cloudless blue skies were noted Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, both
Greer and Columbia recorded west winds gusting to 39 mph. The high winds contributed to increased wildfire counts and acres burned. The state average temperature for the period was twelve degrees above normal. The highest official temperature reported was 82 degrees at Jamestown, Columbia, Pritchardville, and Cades on February 5. The state average rainfall for the period was less than one inch on the easternmost counties during Sunday evening along a boundary of colder air. Near midnight, areas of heavy rain were spreading eastward into the Midlands. The state average temperature for the week was six degrees above normal. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.55 inches at Georgetown ending at 7:00 a.m. on February 13. The state average rainfall for the week was slightly above normal. During the third week early in the morning hours on Monday, thunderstorms winds at North Myrtle Beach gusted to 43 mph from the southwest. Winds also gusted to 43 mph under clearing skies Tuesday at Columbia. Mild weather followed mid-week with afternoon high temperatures near 70 degrees. A nearly stationary boundary provided an avenue for wet weather for most of the state Thursday into Friday. A brief period of mixed precipitation was reported at 9:00 a.m. Friday at both Greer and Rock Hill. Edisto Beach was soaked with 1.88 inches of rain during the two-day event. Warming was observed Saturday before clouds, sprinkles, and colder conditions returned on Sunday. The state average low temperatures for the week was two degrees below normal. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.05 inches at Sandy Run in Calhoun County ending at 7:00 a.m. on February 18. The state average rainfall for the week was 1.8 inches. During the last week of the month, a sharp cold front swept through the state with thundershowers and strong winds during the day on Tuesday. Florence recorded west winds gusting to 46 mph. Winter cold was observed Thursday morning with all of South Carolina reporting temperatures at or below freezing. Daytime high temperatures only managed to reach near 50 degrees. A slow warming period began on Friday and continued through the weekend. Afternoon high temperatures on both Saturday and Sunday ranged into the low 60s. The state average temperature for the period was one degree below normal. The lowest official temperature reported was 14 degrees at Johnston on February 28. The state average rainfall for the week was 0.4 inches. Rainfall totals for the month have brought coastal areas to or near normal precipitation levels for this time of year. Inland areas are still below normal. Surface and ground water levels continue to improve. Small grains and winter grain growth continue to look good in most areas. Farmers are beginning to disk land in preparation for the upcoming crop season.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth (inches) 1.4. Winter wheat snow cover 85% poor, 12% adequate, 3% excellent. Winter wheat 2% very short, 1% poor, 42% fair, 24% good, 25% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover 69% poor, 24% adequate, 7% excellent. Feed supplies 2% very short, 8% short, 83% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 14% very short, 13% short, 69% adequate, 4% surplus. Accessible livestock feed supplies 97% readily available, 3% difficult. Accessible stock water supplies 89% readily available, 9% difficult, 2% inaccessible. Cattle death losses 26% below normal, 71% normal, 3% above normal. Cattle condition 1% poor, 13% fair, 68% good, 18% excellent. Calf deaths 25% below average, 73% average, 2% above average. Calving 17% complete. Sheep condition 1% poor, 9% fair, 68% good, 22% excellent. Sheep, lamb deaths 18% below average, 80% average, 2% above average. Lambing 23% complete. Road conditions—township 100% open. Road conditions—county 97% open, 3% difficult. Lack of precipitation and cold temperatures has caused concern for some South Dakota winter crops and upcoming spring soil moisture conditions. However, the lack of severe weather in February has meant that normal growing and lambing activities have been able to go forward with few problems.

UTAH: February brought normal precipitation and storms. Continued moisture is still needed for the upcoming growing season. Snow packs for this winter have been excellent. Farmers and ranchers are very optimistic about the coming season. The snow pack on the Bear River Drainage is just a little above 100% and the farmers on the Bear River Canal system anticipate full irrigation water this summer. Winter wheat producers are spreading graphite on their fields to reduce the chance of snow mold. There is very little spring wheat seed available so they do not want to lose the crop. Tooele County reports wheat seed is difficult to find and farmers are still concerned about the level of snow mold that they will find once the snow melts away. Emery County reports that weather conditions have been very favorable for moisture with many good winter storms and much moisture. Uintah County enjoyed a few days of temperatures above freezing and snow has begun to melt. Box Elder reports that livestock producers have been calving and so far they have done quite well with just a few losses which is normal. Producers who need to buy hay are finding supplies extremely tight and prices very high. Emery County reports that calving and lambing are in full swing. There have been a few reports of stranded animals and some death loss to animals. Uintah feed supplies are tight but will be adequate if winter does not persist too long.

WASHINGTON: Winter Snows are Melting and Some Tillage Work has Begun. On the eastern side, snows have begun to recede at lower elevations. Some spring tillage work had been reported in Grant, Klickitat, and Adams Counties. Early reports indicated wheat was doing well. Winter run-off appears to be nominal at this point with snow pack going into the fields. Calving had begun in Douglas, Okanogan and Chelan Counties. Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties reported new born calf deaths resulting from cows and calves being unable to get away from predators. No reports of fruit tree damage in Yakima County.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 3% short, 64% adequate and 33% surplus compared with 73% adequate, 27% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 12% very short, 50% short, 38% adequate. Feed grain supplies were 4% very short, 65% short, 31% adequate. Winter wheat conditions were 2% poor, 23% fair, 75% good. Cattle and calves 1% very poor, 8% poor, 27% fair, 60% good, 4% excellent. Calving was 33% complete, compared to 40% last year. Sheep and lambs were 1% very poor, 8% poor, 27% fair, 53% good, 4% excellent. Calving was 33% complete, compared to 40% last year. Farming activities included preparing farm equipment for spring usage, cleaning barns, pruning fruit trees and transporting hay.

WISCONSIN: February temperatures for the state of Wisconsin ranged from 3 to 8 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures were in the 20s. Average low temperatures ranged from 2 to 16 degrees. Precipitation ranged from 0.85 inches in La Crosse to 3.31 inches in Madison. All areas have had above average precipitation since December 1, 2007. The 2007-2008 winter has been the snowiest on record in Madison. The snow pack is now 26 inches on record on February 28. Central areas of the state had the most cover, with as much as 20 to 30 inches in some areas.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 29% short, 55% adequate, 4% surplus. Sub soil moisture 33% very short, 26% short, 38% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 5% very short, 27% short, 68% adequate. Water depth of snow cover 2.3 inches. Winter wheat condition 17% fair, 83% good. Winter wheat wind damage 67% none, 30% light, 3% moderate. Winter wheat freeze
damage 87% none, 11% light, 2% moderate. Cattle condition 2% poor, 33% fair, 63% good, 2% excellent. Calves born 22%, 18% 2007, 20% avg. Calf losses 22% light, 78% normal. Sheep conditions 2% poor, 32% fair, 63% good, 3% excellent. Farm flock lambed 25%, 30% 2007, 27% avg. Farm flock shorn 30%, 30% 2007, 31% avg. Lamb losses 15% light, 85% normal. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 37% short, 60% adequate.