ALABAMA: Alabama was reported as being free of exceptional drought conditions for the first time since May 29, 2007, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on March 25, 2008. A little over 21 percent of the state was considered to be drought free. However, year-to-date precipitation totals provided by the Agricultural Weather Information Service showed most of the state already below normal, with deficits greater than 7 inches at one weather reporting station in the Appalachian Foothills. The state’s peach crop had reached full bloom in most varieties, while some lower chill varieties were already at petal fall. Bloom density varied tremendously among varieties. Last year’s drought stress, combined with damaging temperatures earlier this year, caused some trees to lose 20 to 40 percent of their blooms. A freeze on March 25 was responsible for as little as 5 percent to as much as 90 percent flower damage depending on the tree cultivar and location across an area. Producers were busy working on general equipment maintenance, preparing fields for planting, and planting cotton.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State were mostly above normal for the month of March. Little to no precipitation fell throughout the month. By the end of the month, only three of the twenty-two weather stations had above normal precipitation for the year. Crop conditions remained relatively unchanged for March. Alfalfa condition remained mostly fair to excellent for the month. Small grain emergence was complete by the end of the month. Cotton planting was underway. Range, pasture conditions continued to improve with the precipitation that had fallen across the State in the previous month. Alfalfa harvesting continued for Arizona. The winter vegetable harvest continued throughout March along with the citrus harvest.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fall, 30. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 40% adequate, 52% surplus. Subsoil moisture 48% adequate, 52% surplus. Corn 24% planted, 45% 2007, 38% avg.; 3% emerged, n/a 2007, n/a avg. Rice 2% planted, 3% 2007, 4% avg. Sorghum 1% planted, 12% 2007, 4% avg. Wheat 0% headed, 1% 2007, 0% avg.; 2% very poor, 12% poor, 44% fair, 36% good, 6% excellent. Excessive rainfall during March has delayed planting of crops. Producers have just begun planting rice. Winter wheat was in mostly fair to good condition with reports of potential crop losses due to flooding. Producers were waiting for fields to dry to assess the damage done to the wheat crop. Some producers were still able to fertilize wheat fields in areas where rainfall was light. Cattle were in good condition despite some reports of cattle losses and problems with livestock feeding due to flooding and overall wet conditions. In some locations, the warm season grasses are beginning to emerge from dormancy.

CALIFORNIA: Herbicide applications to small grain fields were ending. Winter forage fields were cut for silage throughout the month. Alfalfa fields were growing well. The first cutting began mid-month and alfalfa weevil spraying was almost complete by the end of the month. Sugar beets, mustard for seed and safflower grew well. Cotton planting, rice field preparation and oat harvest began. Stone fruit trees began blooming and leafing out. Strawberry vines began leafing out mid-month and cultural activities continued in vineyards during the month. Kiwi fruit pruning ended and new kiwi fruit vines were being planted. Harvest was difficult in citrus groves in the beginning of the month due to excess moisture. Harvesting of mandarins, minneolas, pummelos, lemons, grapefruits, and Valencia and Navel oranges took place. Almond orchards bloomed throughout March and ended the month in the petal fall stage. Walnut and pistachio orchards began blooming and leafing out. Growers continued to harvest broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, Romaine lettuce, asparagus, amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets, head and napa cabbage, celeriac, cilantro, choy sum, daikon, dandelion, dill, endives, leaf lettuce, lemon grass, mint, mustard and collard greens, kale, parsley, green onions, radishes, rutabagas, tatsoi, tong ho, yam leaf, yams, and yu choy. Grasslands grew well and cattle weight gains continued to improve. Sheep and lambs continued to graze in alfalfa fields and returns to farmyard and shearing began. Bees remained active in stone fruit, nut and pear orchards with almond pollination wrapping up by the end of the month.

COLORADO: Temperatures were well-above average across Colorado throughout the month of March. Some areas in the State reported temperatures 7 degrees above normal for the first half of the year. Precipitation levels fluctuated from week to week and were slightly below-average for the month Statewide, the mountain snowpack is 122% of the average for this time of year, which is down 4% from February’s 126%. Currently, the northern regions have mountain snowpack slightly above average amounts (105%-122%), while the southern regions are well above average (128%-148%). The Eastern Plains experienced dry conditions with limited or no snow cover throughout most of the month. Winter wheat broke dormancy in fair to good condition. Producers are planting spring crops on schedule under good conditions.

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

FLORIDA: March cool temperatures resulted several freeze, frost reports. Storms early March, little rain overall. Showers negatively affected late planted winter wheat. Cold, Flagler County, caused damage to cabbage, potato crop. Damage reports on potatoes widespread, ranged minimal to significant depending on location, growth stage. Sumter County some freeze damage, blueberries, watermelons, squash. Sugarcane harvest continued, Lake Okeechobee. Hay, very short supply, Gadsden County. Washington County growers prepared land to plant peanuts, cotton. Some growers, Jefferson County, not planting cotton, corn due to high fuel, fertilizer costs. Winds, late March damaged some crops, central, southern Peninsula. Harvesting winter crops ended, spring planting continued. Vegetables marketed snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, mixed greens, okra, onions, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, snap beans, strawberries, tomatoes, zucchini. Citrus areas weekly rainfall helpful for spring flush of new growth, bloom. Well-cared-for groves reported excellent condition. Grove maintenance in full swing with spraying, mowing, hedging, topping, fertilizing. Growers, caretakers, field personnel reported new growth flush, uniform bloom on both oranges, grapefruit. Grapefruit sizes small, pack-out amounts declining. Fresh export sales for grapefruit, tangerines slowing. Varieties harvested early, midseason, Temple oranges, increasing amounts of Valencia oranges, grapefruit, Honey tangerines. Pasture condition poor to good, mostly fair. Beginning of month, Panhandle, north summer forage growth began following rain. Central heavy frost March 9 set back forage growth. Southeast pasture condition poor to excellent, most fair. Month’s end, Panhandle, north pasture condition very poor to good, most fair. Some pastures flooded. Warmer weather, adequate rain, favorable to pasture conditions; nighttime temperatures near freezing slowed forage growth. Permanent summer grasses greening. Cattle condition mostly fair. Central pasture condition very poor to good, most poor; cattle condition mostly fair. Southwest pasture condition very poor to good, most poor. Scattered showers kept pastures green, seasonal fertilization limited by extremely high fertilizer prices. Cattle condition fair to good.

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dependent on supplemental feed. Statewide cattle condition mostly fair.

GEORGIA: March weather was highly variable. Conditions fluctuated between sunny and warm, and cold and windy. The state received some beneficial rains during the month and topsoil moisture was mostly adequate. However, a significant rain deficit still existed due to the long-standing drought. Much more rain was needed to reach normal subsoil moisture levels and prevent the soil from drying out quickly. Small grains were in good condition. No major insect or disease problems were reported. Pastures improved with frequent rain showers, yet some livestock producers still had to supplement feeding with hay. Hay supplies were getting short in some areas. Planting got underway for corn and fresh market vegetables where the soil temperatures were high enough. Wet field conditions delayed fieldwork at the beginning of the month. A frost at the end of the month damaged blooming plants around the state, particularly peaches and vegetables. The extent of the damage has not been determined yet. Other activities included applying pre-emergence herbicides, spraying for grass growth, and spraying for dormant citrus. Weeds have been a concern in many fields. Some fields experienced near daily showers which were beneficial. Fruit gaps were noticed in a few fields. Most vegetables were in fair to good condition. Irrigation was moderate to heavy and steady in most areas. Insects and diseases were generally controlled and no major damage was noticed in a few fields. Most fields were in fair to good condition.

HAWAI'I: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Soil moisture was adequate. Banana orchards remained in fair to good condition. Warmer temperatures and a mix of sunshine and showers aided crop progress. Papaya fields were in fair to good condition. Some fields experienced near daily showers which were beneficial. Fruit gaps were noticed in a few fields. Most vegetables were in fair to good condition. Irrigation was moderate to heavy and steady in most areas. Insects and diseases were generally controlled and no major damage was noticed in a few fields. Most fields were in fair to good condition.

IDAHO: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 88% adequate, 9% surplus. Onions 48% planted. Oats15% planted. Dry peas 1% planted. Calving complete 80%, 81% 2006; 82% avg. Lambing complete 76%, 80% 2006, 81% avg. Hay and roughage supply 16% very short, 47% short, 17% adequate, 7% surplus. Grass hay supply 7% planted. Spring wheat 7% planted. Barley 3% planted. Temperatures during March were colder than normal. Many of the fields in North Idaho and East Idaho remain snow covered. Cold weather has delayed grass growth, straining livestock producers who must continue to feed hay. People in areas with low elevation snowpack and considerable amounts of snow have noted limited pasture growth and muddy conditions. Some early variety potatoes have been planted in Southwest Idaho.

ILLINOIS: Statewide precipitation averaged 1.1 inch above normal so far during March and ranged from 1.1 inches below normal in the Northwest to 5.9 inches above normal in the Southeast. Topsoil moisture levels 1% very short, 1% short, 46% adequate, 43% surplus. Stand 7% planted. Spring wheat 7% planted. Barley 3% planted. Barley and oats were planted. Temperatures during March were colder than normal. Many of the fields in North and Central Illinois received precipitation totals that were two to three times the normal for the month. A late season snow storm blanket areas of Northern Illinois around the middle and the end of month. Temperatures averaged 2.9 degrees below normal so far during March. Winter wheat is generally doing well in most areas of the state as the condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 30% fair, 57% good and 7% excellent. Oats planted has reached 4 percent, which is below the five-year average of 16 percent. Wet and cold weather has affected near the entire state during the month causing fieldwork delays and stress for cattle in soggy feedlots and pastures. Farmers are hopeful for warmer and drier weather to arrive so spring planting can get underway.

INDIANA: As of March 28th the state average temperature for the month was 37.8o which was below the low of 36.0o in January. Total precipitation averaged 6.18 inches which was 3.27 inches above normal. By region precipitation averaged 2.9 inches in the north, 5.5 inches in the central region and 10.0 inches in the south. Many fields still have standing water or are completely under water in southern portions of the state. Very little winter wheat capable was planted this spring due to saturated soils. The winter wheat crop is reported to be in excellent to good condition as it begins to break dormancy. However, some damage has been reported due to standing water. Top dressing of nitrogen still needs to be done on many of the wheat acres. Livestock are in mostly good condition with some stress being reported from the cold, wet conditions. Feedlots and pastures are very muddy making feeding difficult. The supply of hay is short in many areas and is being trucked in from out of state. Calving and lambing continues on many livestock farms with a slightly higher than normal calving rate. There has been an included purchasing inputs, spreading fertilizer and manure, moving grain to market, preparing equipment for spring planting and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Summary for month of March. Soil moisture availability 0% very short, 3% short, 64% adequate, 33% surplus. Snow cover 2 inches. Frost by the end of the month. The winter wheat crop was reported to be in mostly good condition. Very little field work has been accomplished thus far due to wet conditions. The winter wheat crop is reported to be in mostly good condition. Activities moving grain to elevator, calving, lambing and other winter business.

KANSAS: Days suitable for field work 4.8. Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 16% short, 68% adequate, and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 14% short, 83% adequate, and 1% surplus. Alfalfa 2.5% planted, 98% 2006, 2007, 95% avg. Wheat 11% planted, 90% 2007, 93% avg. Range, pasture condition 6% very poor, 16% poor, 36% fair, 39% good, and 8% excellent. Seed damage to wheat crop 88% none, 9% light, 2% moderate, and 1% severe. Freeze damage to wheat 89% none, 10% light, and 1% moderate. Winterkill on wheat crop 86% no winterkill, 11% light, 2% moderate, and 1% severe. Wheat crop acreage lost to winterkill is 4%. Insect infestation of wheat 91% none, 8% light, and 1% moderate. Disease infestation 86% none, 13% light, and 1% moderate. Oats 87% planted, 63% 2007, 63% avg. Range, pasture condition 6% very poor, 16% poor, 36% fair, 39% good, and 3% excellent. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 13% short, 83% adequate, and 3% surplus. Alfalfa 78% planted, 82% 2007, 84% avg. Snow 1% very short, 18% short, 76% adequate, and 3% surplus. Stock water 3% very short, 10% short, 81% adequate, and 6% surplus. Livestock activities primarily involved calving and lambing around the state. Primary farm activity involved fertilizing pastures, top dressing wheat, beginning weed control, seeding oats, preparing to seed corn, and burning pastures.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.7. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 43% adequate, 56% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 3% short, 50% adequate, 45% surplus. Tobacco transplants 56% seeded. Roughage requirements livestock getting from pastures 18%. Farms with livestock on winter feed 91%. Winter hay supply still on hand 10%. Fall seed supplies 1% very poor, 10% a winter kill, and 89% seeds. Acreage for Barley lost to winterkill 1%. Alfalfa winter damage loss 10%. Red Clover winter damage loss 9%. Nitrogen fertilizer supplies available 95%. Wheat condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 60% good, and 19% excellent. Barley condition 9% fair, 78% good, and 13% excellent. Pasture condition 14% very poor, 25% poor, 42% fair, 18% good, and 11% excellent. Adequate cow power and near average temperatures aided in planting preparation.

LOUISIANA: Producers were dealing with wet conditions at the beginning of March. Land preparation and spring planting for the 2008 crop year started off slow due to the wet conditions and were behind last year and our five-year average. Field crop producers were getting efficiency ready. Hay supplies were adequate. Alfalfa were planting as weather permitted. Strawberry producers continued harvesting and selling their crop. Crawfish producers were busy harvesting. Livestock producers were busy with spring calving and fertilizing pastures.

MARYLAND: Winter has been mild which has been beneficial to livestock. Hay supplies are very short to short. Feed supplies are short to adequate. Small grain crops are in good to excellent condition. Farmers are attending meetings, repairing equipment, getting ready for spring planting.

MICHIGAN: The precipitation for the past four weeks ending March 31 varied from 1.34 inches northeastern Lower Peninsula to 2.47 inches southeastern Lower Peninsula. Normal weather conditions have been experienced across the State recently and the average temperature has been close to normal for the past month. Significant snow cover was still present on the winter wheat crop in some areas. The crop was in fair to good condition. One reporter said, "Considering the recent rain activity and snow showers, there has been little field activity because the ground has been too soft. The corn has been up to 6 inches of prominent snow cover in the Upper Peninsula." With regards to livestock, many farmers are concerned about the feed rations for animals. Another reporter stated, "Even though they have not experienced feed problems in the area, the increasing cost of hay prices was a major concern for dairy producers. Fruit producers were doing dormant spraying of their trees in preparation for the beginning of the season."
MINNESOTA: Temperatures during March 1-30 averaged from 4.8 degrees below normal in the Southeast District to 3.2 degrees below normal in the South Central District. Temperature extremes included a low of -28 degrees at International Falls and a high of 56 degrees at Olivia, Lambertson, Redwood Falls. Precipitation averaged from 1.17 inches below normal in the South Central District to 0.30 inches above normal in the Northwest District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 1.60 inches was recorded in Rosemount. Even with the addition of March snowfall in many areas of the state, the overall accumulated levels are decreasing. As of March 27, snow depth ranged from zero inches in much of the southern part of the state to 8 inches in the Northeast corner, according to the State Climatology Office. Ground frost is still prevalent but is slowly beginning to thaw. Livestock conditions continue to be good with reports of hay stocks being reduced. While many crop producers are securing inputs, rising input costs continue to be a big concern among both crop and livestock producers.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Soil moisture 2% very short, 12% short, 69% adequate, 17% surplus. Ground frost 0% very short, 27% short, 72% adequate, 1% surplus. Adequate weather conditions across the state have allowed planting activities for corn, soybeans, and spring melons to begin. Ground preparations for cotton and peanuts are underway and blueberries are in full bloom. Applications of herbicide and nitrogen on winter wheat have been completed with little winter damage reported. Infestation reported. Increased prices on fuel, feed, and fertilizer have prevented some producers from fully administering routine spring management practices.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.8. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 0% short, 53% adequate, 47% surplus. Spring tillage 13% complete. 44% last year. 1% wet, 1% dry. 26% very poor, 33% poor, 11% fair, 20% good, 0% very good, 5% last year. Wheat conditions declined from last month and rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 10% fair, 37% good, 36% excellent. 51% last year. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 0% last year, 11% poor, 3% last year, 51% fair, 26% last year, 31% good, 59% last year, 3% excellent, 12% last year. Winter wheat wind damage 37% none, 55% last year, 37% light, 41% last year, 24% moderate, 4% last year, 2% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat freeze and drought damage 38% none, 63% last year, 44% light, 36% last year, 20% moderate, 2% good, 5% excellent, 2% last year, 1% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 47% very poor, 85% last year, 22% poor, 5% last year, 20% fair, 2% last year, 9% good, 7% last year, 2% excellent, 1% last year. Winter wheat spring stages 71% still dormant, 18% last year, 28% growing. 44% last year, 38% growing. 38% last year. For the month ending March 30th, the state received light to moderate precipitation. Swan Lake received the most accumulated moisture for the month at 2.82 inches. Highs were mostly in the 50s to 60s, and low temperatures ranged from the negative 20s to the positive teens during the month. Wisdom had the low of minus 19 degrees, and Huntley had the high temperature of 70 degrees. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 96%, 90% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 96%, 91% last year. Livestock grazing 69% open, 74% last year, 15% difficult, 12% last year, 16% closed, 14% last year. Calving 53% complete, 59% last year, lambing 40% complete, 37% last year.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 29% very short, 5% last year, 41% short, 20% last year, 29% adequate, 67% last year, 1% surplus, 8% last year. Subsoil moisture 30% very short, 10% last year, 46% short, 36% last year, 23% adequate, 51% last year, 1% surplus, 3% last year. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 0% last year, 11% poor, 3% last year, 51% fair, 26% last year, 31% good, 59% last year, 3% excellent, 12% last year. Winter wheat wind damage 37% none, 55% last year, 37% light, 41% last year, 24% moderate, 4% last year, 2% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat freeze and drought damage 38% none, 63% last year, 44% light, 36% last year, 20% moderate, 2% good, 5% excellent, 2% last year, 1% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 47% very poor, 85% last year, 22% poor, 5% last year, 20% fair, 2% last year, 9% good, 7% last year, 2% excellent, 1% last year. Winter wheat spring stages 71% still dormant, 18% last year, 28% growing. 44% last year, 38% growing. 38% last year. For the month ending March 30th, the state received light to moderate precipitation. Yakima received the most accumulated moisture for the month at 2.82 inches. Highs were mostly in the 50s to 60s, and low temperatures ranged from the negative 20s to the positive teens during the month. Wisdom had the low of minus 19 degrees, and Huntley had the high temperature of 70 degrees. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 96%, 90% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 96%, 91% last year. Livestock grazing 69% open, 74% last year, 15% difficult, 12% last year, 16% closed, 14% last year. Calving 53% complete, 59% last year, lambing 40% complete, 37% last year.

NEVADA: High pressure asserted itself over Nevada and most of the state during early March. Temperature conditions were warmer than normal in the central and southern regions and colder than normal in the northern regions. A storm system passed through near the middle of the month, bringing some precipitation, only to again be replaced by high pressure. Monthly and seasonal precipitation totals were well below normal. The warmer temperatures had forages greening in central and southern regions. Dry weather promoted fieldwork and crop development. Onions were being seeded and fields were being prepared for grain planting. Calving was ongoing and lambing got underway. Main farm and ranch activities field preparation, equipment maintenance, calving, lambing, ditch burning, weed control.

NEW ENGLAND: High temperatures across New England during March were three to five degrees below normal to average. Lows were mainly average. Highs ranged from the low 30s in the north to the upper 40s in the south, while lows ranged from the single digits in the north to the low 30s in the south. Precipitation totals across the region were one inch to nearly six inches above average. On March 1, New England experienced widespread wet conditions. Areas of the south saw light rain to a wintry mix while the north saw mostly snow. Snowfall totals ranged from 1.0 inches on coastal Massachussets to 10.5 inches in Northern Maine. March 4 and March 5 brought rain to the region where areas picked up 0.24 to 1.35 inches of rain between the two days. Additional wet conditions were widespread across the state for March 5 which brought additional precipitation. Snowfall totals were 3.8 inches on March 5 and 4.2 inches on March 6 in the south and the upper 30s to low 40s in the north. Areas picked up between 1.63 and 2.80 inches of rain while the extreme North accumulated up to 4.6 inches of snow. More rain moved through the area on March 19 and March 20 where areas saw anywhere from 0.4 to 1.75 inches between the two days. Northern areas saw a trace to 10.6 inches of snow. The week of March 23 began with below average temperatures in the negative single digits in the north to the upper teens in the south. Temperatures were above average by March 26 ranging from the mid 40s to the mid 50s. March 28 brought wintry conditions to the area where northern areas accumulated between 0.01 to 0.2 inches of snow. Southern areas saw rainfall totals between 0.16 and 0.51 inches. March ended with partly cloudy skies across New England and below average temperature ranging in the mid 30s to low 40s. New England maple sugar producers kept busy collecting and boiling sap during the month. Other farm activities included nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, and preparing for the spring planting season. Snow cover prohibited field entry in northern areas.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were variable during March, ranging from below normal to almost to normal in the Northeast District. The state experienced widespread wet conditions. Monthly and seasonal precipitation totals were well below normal. The warmer temperatures had forages greening in central and southern regions and colder than normal in the northern regions. A storm system passed through near the middle of the month, bringing some precipitation, only to again be replaced by high pressure. Monthly and seasonal precipitation totals were well below normal. The warmer temperatures had forages greening in central and southern regions. Dry weather promoted fieldwork and crop development. Onions were being seeded and fields were being prepared for grain planting. Calving was ongoing and lambing got underway. Main farm and ranch activities field preparation, equipment maintenance, calving, lambing, ditch burning, weed control.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8 for the last week of March. Topsoil 44% very short, 37% short, 18% adequate, 1% surplus. Activities for the month included planting chile and onions, as well as preparing fields and irrigation systems for other spring planting. Ranchers spent the month supplemental feeding, hauling water and helping with calving. Water was released from the Elephant Butte Reservoir into the Rio Grande for irrigation purposes. Most of the state experienced little precipitation and windy conditions during the month. For the last week, temperatures were well above normal with breezy to windy afternoons.

NEW YORK: Cold, snowy weather dominated most of March. Toward the end of the month warmer daytime temperatures provided excellent planting conditions. The month of March brought rainfall into the state reaching the upper 40s. Primary activities included spraying, planting, and finalizing plans for the upcoming season.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Soil moisture 2% very short, 18% short, 77% adequate, 3% surplus. Activities included; the planting of Irish potatoes and cabbage, spreading of

where farmers were seeding oats. Calving continued to make good progress with normal calf losses reported. Soil temperatures were above freezing across the entire state with some areas in the south experiencing temperatures reaching the upper 40s. Primary activities included spraying, planting, and finalizing plans for the upcoming season.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Soil moisture 2% very short, 18% short, 77% adequate, 3% surplus. Activities included; the planting of Irish potatoes and cabbage, spreading of
fertilizer, and other spring planting preparations. North Carolina received little rain with the largest rainfall amount reported in Hayesville and Greenville, with 0.60 of an inch. Most stations reported temperatures below normal for the week with average temperatures ranging from 37 to 56 degrees.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Average snow cover was 0.5 inches on March 30. Hay and forage stands 7% short, 82% adequate, 11% surplus. Pastures and ranges remained 100% dormant. Grain and concentrate supply 1% very short, 10% short, 82% adequate, 7% surplus. Cow conditions 1% poor, 12% fair, 71% good, 16% excellent. Calving was 45% complete. Calf conditions 13% fair, 68% good, 19% excellent. Sheep conditions 2% poor, 12% fair, 69% good, 17% excellent. Lambing was 52% complete. Lambing conditions 1% poor, 10% fair, 72% good, 17% excellent. Shearing was 63% complete. County and secondary roads 96% open, 3% difficult, 1% closed. One percent were drifted, 3% icy, 11% muddy, 85% dry. Mild weather, particularly in the western part of the state, produced favorable calving conditions during March. Pasture and range conditions were good to very good. As conditions allowed, spraying was being done on fritbers and row crops. Christmas tree growers in the north Willamette Valley were digging out old trees and re-planting in hopes of reaching a better market. Nursery producers were moving bare-root trees out of fields at the beginning of the month but most activity decreased by month’s end due to warm and soggy conditions. Due to current market reports indicated spring wheat plantings were increasing. Hay supplies were short and prices continued to be at an all-time high as most pastures were off to a very slow start. Some rangeland pastures in southern Oregon still had snow on them by the end of the month. Plenty of living ground were on wintering ground with a lot of spring break done. Overall, livestock were looking good throughout most of the State.

**OHIO:** The March 2008 average temperature for Ohio was 36.1 degrees, 2.7 degrees below normal. Precipitation averaged 6.4 inches, 3.74 inches above normal. The majority of counties located in the Southeast, South Central, and Southwest districts reported heavier than normal rains and flooding during the week of March 16-22. Winter wheat field conditions are still in good to excellent condition, crop weather report producers indicating an excellent growing season last fall. Cattle are in good to excellent condition. Producers report hay inventories for livestock are low, many have had to purchase hay from outside sources.

**OKLAHOMA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Topsoil moisture 11% very short, 14% short, 63% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 20% short, 60% adequate, 9% surplus. Wheat condition 8% very poor, 13% poor, 30% fair, 43% good, 6% excellent; jointing 50% this week, 38% last week, 70% last year, 66% average. Rye condition 4% very poor, 11% poor, 21% fair, 60% good, 4% excellent; jointing 72% this week, 69% last week, 82% last year, 56% average. Oats condition 6% very poor, 11% poor, 44% fair, 31% good, 8% excellent; jointing 21% this week, 12% last week, 23% last year, 17% average. Corn condition 88% very good, 12% good, 60% very good, 36% excellent, 3% very good, 56% average; planted 14% this week, 6% last week, 27% last year, 18% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 23% this week, 21% last week, 25% last year, 22% average. Soybeans seedbed prepared 37% this week, 35% last week, 28% last year, 30% average. Peanut seedbed prepared 33% this week, 27% last week, 39% last year, 26% average. Cotton seedbed prepared 50% this week, 42% last week, 33% last year, 43% average. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 40% fair, 46% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and range condition 3% very poor, 15% poor, 39% fair, 38% good, 7% excellent. Livestock. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged $105 per cwt. Prices for feeder steers 800-1000 pounds averaged $95 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. In the Panhandle district, cattle producers may have to seek feed alternatives, such as emergency haying, and some may also have to reduce their herds if extremely dry conditions continue. Average livestock marketings were reported last week.

**OREGON:** High temperatures during the month of March ranged from 50 degrees at the Agency Lake station up to 70 degrees in Roseburg. Low temperatures ranged from 7 degrees recorded in Government Camp with 32.0 inches. The Odell Lake station also received plenty of snowfall with 29.5 inches and 17 of the 50 snowfall weather stations received more than 1.0 inch. With the good snow pack received this winter, there should be a good supply of flood irrigation water for summer crops. The month began with warmer temperatures, which allowed pastures to begin greening up and early flowering plants to bloom. However, after the warm front moved out, cold and wet conditions prevailed throughout much of March and much of the State. These conditions slowed grass growth and crop development. Soils were too wet for vegetable growers to begin seeding. Peaches, cherries, plums, and apricots were in full bloom, but freezing night-time temperatures may have damaged some peach and apricot trees and pollination prospects were not looking good. In the central portion of the state, the hard freezes from earlier in the year resulted in some seed crop losses. However, in Douglas County, where grass conditions remained very good, livestock conditions were reported as very good for most of the month. As conditions allowed, spraying was being done on fritbers and row crops. Christmas tree growers in the north Willamette Valley were digging out old trees and re-planting in hopes of reaching a better market. Nursery producers were moving bare-root trees out of fields at the beginning of the month but most activity decreased by month’s end due to warm and soggy conditions. Due to current market reports indicated spring wheat plantings were increasing. Hay supplies were short and prices continued to be at an all-time high as most pastures were off to a very slow start. Some rangeland pastures in southern Oregon still had snow on them by the end of the month. Plenty of living ground were on wintering ground with a lot of spring break done. Overall, livestock were looking good throughout most of the State.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Soil moisture 3% very short, 17% short, 78% adequate, 2% surplus. Corn 0% very poor, 0% poor, 58% fair, 42% good, 0% excellent. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 0% poor, 37% fair, 52% good, 11% excellent. Pasture condition 0% very poor, 15% poor, 59% fair, 24% good, 2% excellent. Oats 0% very poor, 5% poor, 38% fair, 50% good, 7% excellent. Snapbeans, fresh 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 100% good, 0% excellent. Cucumbers, fresh 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 50% good, 50% excellent. Watermelons 0% very poor, 0% poor, 40% fair, 60% good, 0% excellent. Tomatoes, fresh 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 100% good, 0% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover 67% poor, 29% adequate, 4% excellent. Alfalfa snow cover 67% poor, 29% adequate, 4% excellent. Feed supplies 1% very short, 12% short, 80% adequate, 7% surplus. Wheat and barley are beginning to green up.
surplus. Stock water supplies 14% very short, 15% short, 66% adequate, 5% surplus. Accessible livestock feed supplies 98% readily, 2% difficult. Accessible stock water supplies 90% readily, 10% difficult. Range and pasture 8% very poor, 15% poor, 41% fair, 32% good, 4% excellent. Cattle deaths 21% below normal, 79% normal. Calf deaths 20% below average, 75% average, 5% above average. Cattle moved to pasture 2% complete. Calving 40% complete. Cattle condition 1% poor, 15% fair, 68% good, 16% excellent. Sheep, lamb deaths 24% below average, 75% average, 1% above average. Lambing 63% complete. Sheep condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 66% good, 22% excellent. Road conditions–township 98% open, 2% difficult. Road conditions–county 100% open. With much of the state dealing with snow cover and cooler soil temperatures, there have not been many opportunities for early spring fieldwork in South Dakota.

**TENNESSEE:** Temperatures across the State during the first week of March were well below normal bringing snow to some of the western and middle regions of the State. Temperatures averaged either slightly above or below normal for the remainder of the month. Precipitation amounts throughout the month continued to fair, well above normal for the western portion of the State, and below normal for the East. Most farm work for March involved the care of livestock, small grain and forage crop fertilization, pasture renovation, forage crop weed control, and early tillage for row crops. The winter wheat crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition with most farmers continuing fertilizer and pesticide applications. Early corn planting got has begun. Pastures continued to offer virtually no grazing, and hay stocks remain mostly very short to short. Cattle were rated in mostly fair-to-good condition, although some livestock are showing poorer body conditions from either lack of hay or pasture.

**TEXAS:** Most of the state received much needed rainfall for the month of March after being faced with dry conditions in February. Small grains continued to benefit from the mild temperatures and moisture. Cotton field preparation continued in the Panhandle, while planting continued in the Lower Valley and Coastal Bend. Corn planting was underway in the Big Country, West Texas, and North Eastern Texas. Sorghum planting was wrapping up in the Coastal Bend. Range and pasture conditions showed some improvement due to the rainfall, but supplemental feeding of livestock continued.

**UTAH:** March storms have contributed to a good moisture situation this spring. Snow pack in the mountains is good at this point. Snow water content for the Ben Rafeal River Drainages is right at normal. Soil moisture is adequate in most areas of the state due to the abundant snow cover this winter. Many producers have been able to get out into the fields and are beginning to plow and prepare for planting in Emery County. Farther north in Duchesne County, field work is a little farther behind with snow still covering some areas. A few fields of winter wheat had to be re-seeded because of snow mold in Weber County. Overall, ground work is beginning to take place for the new crop year. Down south in Iron County pasture and ranges are beginning to grow. Most farm flock sheep have lambed out in Dughehsne County. Cattle producers there and in counties throughout the State are still in the process of calving. Hay supplies are running low and producers need grass on ranges to grow so livestock can graze.

**VIRGINIA:** March was a relatively dry month across the Commonwealth. Topsoil moisture was adequate throughout the month. Small grains looked good; most farmers are finishing up with nitrogen applications. Soybean and corn producers are preparing land and equipment for the planting season. Maple Syrup production has concluded with average yields for the year. Lambing and calving continues with no major problems. Other activities this month included pasture fertilization, fencing and seed procurement.

**WASHINGTON:** Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Topsoil 2% short, 61% adequate, and 37% surplus. Wind, rain and snow across the State brought field work to a standstill. Grain producers in the Colville Valley were thinking that saturated soils may delay seeding this spring. Many farmers were ready but forced to wait on the sidelines due to the wet field conditions and snow brought by late winter storms. Douglas and Chelan counties reported half the winter wheat crop was still snow covered prior to the past week’s snow storms. Christmas tree growers in the North County were very pleased with the low snowfall. Cattle deaths 24% below average, 75% average, 1% above average. Lambing 63% complete. Sheep condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 66% good, 22% excellent. Road conditions–township 98% open, 2% difficult. Road conditions–county 100% open. With much of the state dealing with snow cover and cooler soil temperatures, there have not been many opportunities for early spring fieldwork in South Dakota.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 69% adequate, 28% surplus compared with 6% short, 68% adequate, 26% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies 18% very short, 44% short, 38% adequate. Feed grain supplies 7% very short, 29% short, 64% adequate. Winter wheat conditions 2% poor, 16% fair, 82% good. Cattle and calves 2% very poor, 9% poor, 26% fair, 61% good, 2% excellent. Calving was 60% complete, compared to 62% last year. Sheep and lambs 1% very poor, 15% poor, 28% fair, 54% good, and 2% excellent. Lambing was 69% complete, compared to 71% last year. Farming activities included preparing fields when the weather permits, spreading lime, pruning fruit trees, lambing, calving and preparing farm equipment for spring usage.

**WISCONSIN:** Temperatures for the state of Wisconsin ranged from 1 to 13 degrees below normal for the month of March. Average high temperatures were in the high 20s to the low 40s. Average low temperatures ranged from single digits to the high 20s. Precipitation ranged from 0 inches in La Crosse to 1.78 inches in Milwaukee. The 2007-2008 winter has been the snowiest on record in Madison. The northern half of the state had snow cover on March 31. North central areas of the state had the most cover, ranging from 8 to 30 inches. A very productive maple syrup season is nearing completion.

**WYOMING:** Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 30% short, 56% adequate, 2% surplus. Sub soil moisture 33% very short, 23% short, 42% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 27% short, 70% adequate. Average depth of snow coverage 2.20 inches. Barley 32% planted, 22% 2007, 36% avg. Oats 0% planted, 4% 2007, 5% avg. Sugarbeets 0% planted, 0% 2007, 1% avg. Spring wheat 0% planted, 6% 2007, 6% avg. Winter wheat condition 17% fair, 83% good. Winter wheat wind damage 64% none, 33% light, 3% moderate. Winter wheat freeze damage 86% none, 12% light, 2% moderate. Cattle condition 2% poor, 26% fair, 70% good, 2% excellent. Calves condition 13% fair, 84% good, 4% excellent. Calves born 50%, 59% 2007, 55% avg. Calf losses 22% light, 78% normal. Sheep conditions 2% poor, 22% fair, 73% good, 3% excellent. Lamb conditions 18% fair, 77% good, 5% excellent. Farm flock lamb 52%, 60% 2007, 59% avg. Farm flock shorn 40%, 58% 2007, 61% avg. Lamb losses 15% light, 85% normal. Range flock lamb 3%, 8% 2007, 8% avg. Range flock shorn 7%, 18% 2007, 21% avg. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 23% poor, 31% fair, 43% good, 1% excellent.