Tulare County. Set for prunes, cherries, pears, cling peaches appeared
stone fruit trees were thinned. Prunes were showing a good set in
pomegranates, jujubes, prunes were still blooming in parts of Fresno
taking place in vineyards and orchards. Apples, cherries, pears,
advanced. Grapes were pushing out, vines were leafing. Irrigation was
growth. Cilantro for seed fields were blooming. Sweet potato planting
harvest was underway. Safflower fields remained in various stages of
planting continued. Mustard seed continued in full bloom. Sugar beet
planted corn, cotton emergence continued. Rice field preparation,
the ground. The first cutting of alfalfa continued to wind down. Early
across the state. Dryland grain was being cut for hay as conditions dry
some producers were fertilizing and spraying for weeds. Alfalfa and
hay from pastures 79%. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 8% poor, 33%
very poor, 7% poor, 27% fair, 53% good, 11% excellent. Hay and roughage
supply 54% short, 42% adequate, 4% surplus. A late-season cold front
brought abnormally cool temperatures and a light frost to most areas
across the state during the early part of the past week. Temperatures
recorded during the past week were well below normal for this time of
year. All reporting weather stations received some rainfall during the
past week. The state’s pasture and livestock condition showed signs of
improvement during the past week. Cool weather slowed summer
perennial growth. The high cost of inputs affected application rates as
producers spent time fertilizing pastures.

ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Topsoil moisture 2%
very short, 10% short, 82% adequate, 6% surplus. Corn planted 72%,
81% 2007, 68% avg.; 41% emerged, 56% 2007, 39% avg. Soybeans
5% planted, 7% 2007, 4% avg. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor,
0% poor, 15% fair, 62% good, 22% excellent. Percent of feed obtained
from pastures 79%. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 8% poor, 33% 
very fair, 56% good, 3% excellent. Pasture and range condition 2% very
poor, 7% poor, 27% fair, 53% good, 11% excellent. Hay and roughage
supply 54% short, 42% adequate, 4% surplus. A late-season cold front
brought abnormally cool temperatures and a light frost to most areas
across the state during the early part of the past week. Temperatures
recorded during the past week were well below normal for this time of
year. All reporting weather stations received some rainfall during the
past week. The state’s pasture and livestock condition showed signs of
improvement during the past week. Cool weather slowed summer
perennial growth. The high cost of inputs affected application rates as
producers spent time fertilizing pastures.

ARIZONA: Temperatures were mostly above normal across the
State for the week ending April 20, ranging from 3 degrees below
normal to 7 degrees above normal. No precipitation was reported at
any of the 22 reporting stations. There is only one station with above
normal precipitation for the year to date. Cotton planting was 40 percent
complete, 4 percentage points ahead of the five year average. Small
grain acreage is at least 65 percent headed in the State. Alfalfa harvest
remains active on three-quarters of the State’s acreage. Range and
pasture conditions across the State remain mostly poor to good,
depending on location and elevation.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Topsoil moisture 47%
adequate, 33% surplus. Subsoil moisture 49% adequate, 51% surplus.
Corn 44% planted, 96% 2007, 89% avg.; emerged 26%, 79% 2007,
65% avg. With drier weather, many producers were able to get in the
fields. Corn planted increased 17% but was still far behind last year
and the five year average. Cotton planting began with 5% planted last
week. Rainfall 15%, were 14% from last week, but 29% behind last year and 33% behind the five year average. The rice crop
started to emerge but was 12% behind the five year average and 16%
behind last year. Sorghum planted increased to 7% planted but was
53% behind last year and 36% behind the five year average. Soybean
plantings increased to 5% planted. Winter wheat headed, at 55% behind last year and 27% behind the five year average, increased to
20%. Many winter wheat producers reported mildew and rust, and
stated these issues need to be closely monitored. Cattle were in fair to
good condition. Producers in Arkansas were still repairing fences and
cleaning debris left after storms. Pastures were greening up nicely, and
some producers were fertilizing and spraying for weeds. Alfalfa and
other hay crops were also in fair to good condition.

CALIFORNIA: Winter forage, other small grain harvests continued
across the state. Dryland grain was being cut for hay as conditions dry
the ground. The first cutting of alfalfa continued to wind down. Early
planted corn, cotton emergence continued. Rice field preparation,
planting continued. Mustard seed continued in full bloom. Sugar beet
harvest was underway. Safflower fields remained in various stages of
growth. Cilantro for seed fields were blooming. Sweet potato planting
advanced. Grapes were pushing out, vines were leafing. Irrigation was
taking place in vineyards and orchards. Apples, cherries, pears,
pomegranates, jujubes, prunes were still blooming in parts of Fresno
County. Bloom was ending on cherries, prunes in Tulare County. Many
stone fruit trees were thinned. Prunes were showing a good set in
Tulare County. Set for prunes, cherries, pears, cling peaches appeared
light in Yuba County. Kiwi flower buds were out in Yuba County. Spring
strawberries, boysenberries and blueberries were still blooming.
Picking was underway in some spring strawberry fields. New blueberry
bush planting continued. Mandarins, minneolas, lemons, pummelos,
oranges were harvested. Valencia maturity tests were good. Navel
oranges were showing more rind break down, puff. Citrus bloom
continued. Flower buds were forming on olives. Almond groves
throughout California were in excellent condition. The crop was
developing well; disease pressure remained low given the lack of
rainfall. Growers fertilized, irrigated their groves. Catkins were out on
walnuts. Pistachios were blooming. More acres of almonds, pistachios
were being planted in Kern County. Sweet corn has emerged in Tulare
and Fresno counties. Melon beds were being prepared for spring
planting. Transplanting of bell peppers, tomatoes for fresh, processing
markets, and melons continued. Nearly all caps have been removed
for tomatoes; plants were showing good growth. Early squash has
started to show set. Carrots were being irrigated, cultivated, treated
with herbicides, harvested. Asparagus, broccoli, head lettuce harvests
on the Westside continued. Farmer’s market crops such as amaranth,
basil, bok choy, beets, leeks, kale, greens, radishes, yams were being
harvested. Imperial Valley onion fields will start harvest in a week or
two with sweet corn harvest numbers increasing. In the Central Valley,
planting of fresh market, processing tomatoes and bell peppers
continued. Spinach for the processing market was being harvested. In
Tulare County squash harvest slowed due to cooler weather; quality
remained good. Cucumbers have started to size up. Continued dry
conditions resulted in further decline of rangelands throughout the
state. Supplemental feeding of cattle was still required, cattle weight
gains were reported as average to below average. Calving, lambing,
kidding continued. Sheep were grazing on retired farmland, alfalfa hay
fields, or rangeland. Bees remained active in blooming orchards, or
were in holding areas awaiting placement. Placement of leafcutter
bees near alfalfa seed fields continued.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Topsoil moisture 12%
very short, 32% short, 54% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 13%
very short, 35% short, 48% adequate, 4% surplus. Spring barley
45% seeded, 62% 2007, 54% avg.; 9% emerged, 23% 2007, 21% avg.
Dry onions 72% planted, 74% 2007, 79% avg. Sugarbeets 34%
planted, 35% 2007, 51% avg. Summer potatoes 19% planted, 28%
2007, 31% avg. Spring wheat 34% planted, 44% 2007, 41% avg.; 8%
emerged, 10% 2007, 14% avg. Winter wheat 1% pastured, 5% 2007,
1% avg.; 28% jointed, 29% 2007, 33% avg. Cows calved 82% 2008,
82% 2007, 80% avg. Ewes lambed 78% 2008, 84% 2007, 80% avg.
Most of Colorado received below average amounts of precipitation last
week. The San Luis Valley and Pueblo areas received above average
moisture. Mountain snowpack is down 6 percent from the previous
week to 124 percent of the State average. Temperatures across the
State were above average for this time of year.

DELWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Topsoil moisture 2%
very short, 13% short, 84% adequate 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0%
very short, 20% short, 74% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay supplies 45%
very short, 51% short, 3% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture condition 4%
very poor, 8% poor, 54% fair, 33% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat
3% planted, 0% 2007, 2% avg.; condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 5%
fair, 71% good, 23% excellent. Barley condition 0% very poor, 1%
poor, 4% fair, 70% good, 25% excellent. Corn progress 18% planted,
8% 2007, 9% avg. Barley 51% headed, 0% 2007, 8% avg. Cantaloupes
0% planted, 1% 2007, 1% avg. Cucumbers 1% planted, 0% 2007, 1%
avg. Green peas 89% planted, 60% 2007, 65% avg. Potatoes 78%
planted, 55% 2007, 51% avg. Snap beans 2% planted, 13% 2007,
Florida: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 44% short, 52% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 53% short, 44% adequate. Potato harvest underway, St. Johns County, most fields yielding good crop. Suwannee County, late frost mid-week negatively impacted vegetables. Spring crops harvest continued. Light cantaloupe harvest expected to begin, south Florida. Other vegetables, non-citrus fruit market good, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, greens, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, watermelons. Citrus areas, rainfall adequate; dryer weather expected, most growers continue to irrigate to keep trees, new fruit healthy. Growers applied pesticides, fertilized, chopped, mowed cover crops prior to, following harvesting. Overall, trees look good, lots of new foliage on all trees. 

Georgia: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 23% short, 71% adequate, 3% surplus. Corn 85% planted, 88% 2007, 80% avg.; 67% emerged, 77% 2007, 67% avg.; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 63% good, 2% excellent. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 54% good, 21% excellent; boot 88%, 95% 2007, 86% avg.; headed 59%, 79% 2007, 67% avg. Range and pasture 4% very poor, 11% poor, 42% fair, 42% good, 1% excellent. Hay 3% very poor, 13% poor, 45% fair, 38% good, 1% excellent. Onions 0% very poor, 7% poor, 17% fair, 49% good, 27% excellent. Peaches 5% very poor, 25% poor, 32% fair, 5% good, 5% excellent. Watermelons 0% very poor, 1% poor, 46% fair, 52% good, 1% excellent. Soybeans 1% planted, 1% 2007, 2% avg. Sorghum 17% planted, 10% 2007, 8% avg. Apples blooming 59%, 72% 2007, 65% avg. Onions 7% harvested, 16% 2007, 10% avg. Peanuts 0% planted, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Tobacco transplanting 61%, 58% 2007, 56% avg. Watermelons 83% planted, 84% 2007, 75% avg. Despite the sunny skies, frost was reported in some areas. Soil moisture will become a serious problem for some if the rain doesn’t come. The cool temperature stressed some vegetable crops. Wheat has the potential to be very good crop. Grower activities included cotton planting and irrigating corn. Some ponds were beginning to dry up but the spring fed ponds were maintaining their levels.

Idaho: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 12% short, 75% adequate, 9% surplus. Field corn 2% planted, 20% 2007, 7% avg. Winter wheat 0% jointed, 25% 2007, 12% avg.; boot stage 0%, 3% 2007, 1% avg. Onions 99% planted, 100% 2007, 89% avg.; 15% emerged, 53% 2007, 53% avg. Sugar beets 5% emerged, 32% 2007, 24% avg. Spring wheat 8% emerged, 38% 2007, 26% avg. Barley 7% emerged, 42% 2007, 20% avg. Potatoes 11% planted, 17% 2007, 11% avg. Oats 42% planted, 57% 2007, 44% avg.; 20% emerged, 31% 2007, 20% avg. Dry peas 7% planted, 43% 2007, 41% avg.; 1% emerged, 11% 2007, 12% avg. Lentils 0% planted, 19% 2007, 23% avg. Calving complete 95%, 95% 2007, 96% avg. Lambing complete 94%, 94% 2007, 96% avg. Hay and roughage supply 31% very short, 45% short, 24% surplus. Irrigation water supply 0% very poor, 0% poor, 23% fair, 72% good, 5% excellent. Range and pasture 1% very poor, 9% poor, 50% fair, 38% good, 2% excellent. Cold weather has delayed growth and development of the planted crops. For example, winter wheat was at 25 percent jointed at this time last year and at zero percent this year. Statewide, barley and spring wheat areas are still behind the planting five year average. Winter wheat in North and East Idaho affected the most. Twin Falls extension educator reported that heavy winds have dried top soil and grains are in need of moisture to germinate. The Bonniville extension educator reported that soil temperatures remain cool for this time of year.

Illinois: Day suitable for fieldwork 1.3. Soil moisture 1% very short, 4% short, 42% adequate, 56% and the 5 year average is 13%. Tobacco transplanted 51%, 59% 2007, 56% avg. Onions 7% harvested, 16% 2007, 10% avg. Peanuts 0% planted, 0% 2007, 1% avg. Watermelons 0% planted, 1% 2007, 2% avg. Apples 45% bloomed, 42% 2007, 37% avg. Peaches 98% bloomed, 86% 2007, 70% avg. Strawberries 46% bloomed, 29% 2007, 21% avg.

Kansas: Days suitable for field work 3.1. Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 9% short, 65% adequate, 23% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 13% short, 68% adequate, 14% surplus. Wheat 40% jointed, 82% 2007, 76% avg.; condition 6% very poor, 14% poor, 38% fair, 35% good, 7% excellent. Wind damage to wheat crop 86% none, 10% light, 3% moderate, and 1% severe. Freeze damage to wheat 92% none, 7% light, 1% moderate. Insect infestation of wheat 85% none, 13% light, and 2% moderate. Disease infestation 83% none, 15% light, 2% moderate. Oats 95% planted, 84% 2007, 89% avg. Range and pasture condition 7% very poor, 16% poor, 37% fair, 37% good, 3% excellent. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 12% short, 84% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay and cover supplies 2% very short, 17% short, 77% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 3% very short, 7% short, 78% adequate, 12% surplus. Livestock activities primarily involved calving and lambing around the State. Cattle are being placed on pasture in areas. Primary farm activity involved top dressing of wheat, being placed on pasture in areas. Primary farm activity involved top dressing of wheat, being placed on pasture in areas. Primary farm activity involved top dressing of wheat, being placed on pasture in areas. Primary farm activity involved top dressing of wheat, being placed on pasture in areas. Primary farm activity involved top dressing of wheat, being placed on pasture in areas. Primary farm activity involved top dressing of wheat, being placed on pasture in areas.

Kentucky: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 60% adequate, 39% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% short, 57% adequate, 40% surplus. For 2008, 94% of tobacco plants will be grown in greenhouses compared to 6% in conventional beds. Tobacco plants 64% less than 2 in. tall, 25% 2 to 4 in., 11% taller than 4 in. Pasture condition 5% very poor, 17% poor, 40% fair, 34% good, 4% excellent. Week began dry and cool but ended with light rainfall and cooler temperatures. A light frost was reported on Tuesday morning April
LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Soil moisture 3% very short, 21% short, 68% adequate, 8% surplus. Corn 100% planted, 99% 2007, 98% avg.; 96% emerged, 93% 2007, 86% avg.; 4% poor, 22% fair, 65% good, 9% excellent. Hay 14% first cutting, 10% 2007, 8% avg. Sorghum 31% emerged, 43% 2007, 26% avg. Soybeans 31% planted, 10% 2007, 27% avg. Wheat 64% headed, 31% 2007, 42% avg.; 7% turning color, 5% 2007, 8% avg.; 1% poor, 23% fair, 58% good, 18% excellent. Spring plowing 84% plowed, 88% 2007, 83% avg. Sugarcane 1% very poor, 5% poor, 48% fair, 41% good, 5% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 5% poor, 39% fair, 49% good, 6% excellent. Vegetable 1% very poor, 12% poor, 51% fair, 30% good, 6% excellent. Range and pasture 1% very poor, 11% poor, 41% fair, 40% good, 7% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 12% short, 76% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 34% short, 63% adequate, 3% surplus. Hay supplies 37% very short, 42% short, 19% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture condition 5% very poor, 5% poor, 34% fair, 45% good, 11% excellent. Winter wheat 0% planted, 0% 2007, 1% avg.; condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 7% fair, 58% good, 35% excellent. Barley 49% headed, 0% 2007, 6% avg. condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 9% fair, 59% good, 32% excellent. Corn progress 8% planted, 8% 2007, 9% avg.; Cantaloupes 6% plant. 0% 2007, 8% avg. Cucumbers 10% planted, 1% 2007, 7% avg. Green peas 75% planted, 39% 2007, 52% avg. Potatoes 78% planted, 61% 2007, 46% avg. Snap beans 10% planted, 3% 2007, 3% avg. Sweet corn 22% planted, 11% 2007, 14% avg. Tomatoes 14% planted, 5% 2007, 18% avg. Watermelons 4% planted, 0% 2007, 9% avg. Apricots 28% bloomed, 13% 2007, 20% avg. Peaches 41% bloomed, 34% 2007, 39% avg. Strawberries 50% bloomed, 50% 2007, 37% avg.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 4% short, 63% adequate, 33% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 2% short, 62% adequate, 36% surplus. Range and pasture condition 7% very poor, 10% poor, 37% fair, 41% good, 5% excellent. Oats 21% planted, 25% 2007, 40% avg. Potatoes 11% planted, 8% 2007, 15% avg. Peaches 72% planted, 37% 2007, 43% avg. Cauliflower 6% planted, 0% 2007, 4% avg. Beans and peas 6% planted, 2% 2007, 10% avg. Sweet corn 30% planted, 11% 2007, 14% avg. Tomatoes 14% planted, 5% 2007, 18% avg. Watermelons 4% planted, 0% 2007, 9% avg. Peaches 41% bloomed, 34% 2007, 39% avg. Strawberries 50% bloomed, 50% 2007, 37% avg.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 0.5. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 71% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 12% short, 74% adequate, 13% surplus. Corn 2% ground prepared, 5% 2007, 12% avg. Soybeans 1% ground prepared, 11% 2007, 4% avg. Green peas 1% planted, 8% 2007, 15% avg. Potatoes 1% planted, 6% 2007, 8% avg. Minnesota's 2008 crop season is nearing start-up as producers plan to begin full scale field work on April 26. Early spring snow hampered fieldwork across much of the state leading to below average fieldwork progress. As of April 20, land preparation and plantings for all crops were slightly behind average progression for that date.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.9. Soil moisture 1% very short, 20% short, 64% adequate, 15% surplus. Corn 87% planted, 98% 2007, 91% avg.; 69% emerged, 94% 2007, 78% avg.; 4% very poor, 13% poor, 30% fair, 44% good, 9% excellent. Cotton 1% planted, 5% 2007, 12% avg. Rice 32% planted, 33% 2007, 37% avg.; 4% very poor, 5% poor, 15% 2007, 14% avg. Sorghum 19% planted, 23% 2007, 31% avg.; 5% emerged, 7% 2007, 13% avg. Soybeans 24% planted, 38% 2007, 43% avg.; 7% emerged, 26% 2007, 25% avg. Winter wheat 69% heading, 86% 2007, 66% avg.; 2% very poor, 6% poor, 6% 2007, 14% avg. Barley 72% planted, 8% 2007, 77% avg. Wheat conditions 1% very poor, 5% poor, 39% fair, 45% good, 10% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 72% good, 7% excellent; calves losses rated 8% below average, 90% average, and 2% above average. Temperatures averaged 1-2 degrees above normal in the Panhandle and southwestern Nebraska, while temperatures were near normal in the rest of the state. Temperatures ranged from highs in the mid to upper 80’s in the southwest to lows in the high teens in portions of the eastern part of the state. The Panhandle received very little precipitation, while the Southeast District recorded up to 2 inches of moisture. The first field corn and sweet corn were planted last week; however, the majority of corn producers were still waiting on warmer, dryer conditions. Pastures and rangeland continue to green up and grow slowly. Alfalfa has also been slow to come out of dormancy, due to the cool temperatures.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 12% short, 70% adequate, 16% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 24% short, 65% adequate, 5% surplus. Oats 57% planted, 14% 2007, 78% avg. 2007, 40% avg. Corn 37% planted, 11% 2007, 21% avg. Rice 31% planted, 33% 2007, 37% avg.; 4% very poor, 5% poor, 15% 2007, 14% avg. Wheat conditions 1% very poor, 5% poor, 39% fair, 45% good, 10% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 72% good, 7% excellent; calves losses rated 8% below average, 90% average, and 2% above average. Temperatures averaged 1-2 degrees above normal in the Panhandle and southwestern Nebraska, while temperatures were near normal in the rest of the state. Temperatures ranged from highs in the mid to upper 80’s in the southwest to lows in the high teens in portions of the eastern part of the state. The Panhandle received very little precipitation, while the Southeast District recorded up to 2 inches of moisture. The first field corn and sweet corn were planted last week; however, the majority of corn producers were still waiting on warmer, dryer conditions. Pastures and rangeland continue to green up and grow slowly. Alfalfa has also been slow to come out of dormancy, due to the cool temperatures.

NEVADA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Windsy conditions prevailed throughout the week bringing two days with winds over 150 mph in rural areas. High pressure systems brought cooler conditions, but little precipitation. The week’s temperatures ranged from a low of 11 degrees in Eureka to a high of 93 degrees in Las Vegas. Snow pack continues to melt. Agricultural Summary. Grain planting continues, as onion seeding finishes. Seasonal greening spread and stock were being moved to spring ranges and calving started in the high country. Drought conditions over much of the region may be deepening due to excessive moisture and lack of sunshine. Pasture conditions improved from the previous week; however excess moisture and below normal temperatures continued to slow pasture growth. Temperatures averaged 1 to 7 degrees below normal for the week. State-wide rain fell an average 0.78 inches.

NEW ENGLAND: The past week was very dry. The northern states
experienced sprinkles on Tuesday and Saturday, accumulating between 0.01 and 0.04 inches. Southern states did not receive any rain. The week began with mostly below average temperatures ranging from lows in the 30s to highs in the upper-50s. Partly sunny skies warmed the air for the rest of the week where both high and low temperatures were relatively consistent. Along the Atlantic seaboard, temperatures averaged in the mid-70s. High temperatures were in the upper-70s to low 80s and low temperatures averaged in the mid-40s. Most maple syrup activities came to a halt at week’s end due to the warmer conditions in the northern states. Other general farm activities included working in nurseries and greenhouses, tending livestock, performing general maintenance, moving apples and potatoes out of storage, and continuing to make preparations for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 6.0. Topsoil moisture 30% short, 70% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% short, 90% adequate. There were no measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were variable during the week in most areas of the Garden State. Precipitation full bloom in the north and south New Jersey. Soil preparation for summer crop planting continues. Wheat is being sprayed for cereal rust mites in the central district. Cranberry bogs are being prepared. Other activities included greenhouse work, plowing, fertilizing and tillage.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for field work 6.6. Topsoil moisture 41% very short, 36% short, 15% adequate, 8% surplus. Freeze damage 15% moderate. Freeze damage 17% light, 6% moderate. Alfalfa 4% poor, 26% fair, 70% good, 20% of first cutting complete. Cotton 8% planted. Corn 13% planted. Irrigated winter wheat 11% poor, 42% fair, 43% good, 4% excellent, with 21% headed, 55% grazed. Dry winter wheat 53% very poor, 30% poor, 1% this week, 2% headed, 14% grazed. Total winter wheat 32% very poor, 31% poor, 18% fair, 17% good, 2% excellent, 11% headed, 30% grazed. Lettuce 10% fair, 60% good, 30% excellent. Chile 31% fair, 37% good, 32% excellent, 81% planted. Onions 10% fair, 60% good, 30% excellent. Cattle conditions 2% very poor, 24% poor, 44% fair, 29% good, 1% excellent. Sheep conditions 7% very poor, 19% poor, 38% fair, 36% good. Range and pasture conditions 20% very poor, 50% poor, 27% fair, 3% good. Farmers spent the week planting, irrigating, and fertilizing crops. The first cutting of alfalfa for the season was started. Livestock producers have been busy supplemental feeding, haul water, calving, and moving cattle. A cold front moved across New Mexico on Thursday, April 17th, bringing temperatures to the upper 50s and 60s, except in Capulin and Tucumcari, where 0.41 and 0.66 fell respectively. Temperatures were much warmer through the weekend. Temperatures may have reduced insect populations in some areas.

NEW YORK: Warmer weather continued through the week ending April 20, with high temperatures reaching the 70s. Manure pits were being emptied. Farmers spent the week completing preparations for the spring planting season. Other activities for the week included hauling manure, spreading fertilizer, planting, and plowing ground. Producers were beginning to plant small grains in addition to sweet corn. Planting of peas and onions started in western New York. On Long Island, buds were starting to swell in wine grapes, cranberry bogs are being prepared. Other activities included field tillage, broadcasting clover seed on winter wheat, hauling corn to market, and equipment preparation for planting.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 5.6. Soil moisture 11% very short, 15% short, 78% adequate and 8% surplus. Activities during the week included the planting of corn, managing tobacco transplants, spreading of fertilizer, and other spring planting preparations. Most parts of North Carolina received rain this week with Halifax recording 2.45 inches. However, no precipitation was recorded in western New York. On Long Island, buds were starting to swell in wine grapes in addition to sweet corn. Planting of peas and onions started in south New Jersey. Soil preparation for summer crop planting continues. Wheat is being sprayed for cereal rust mites in the central district. Cranberry bogs are being prepared. Other activities included greenhouse work, plowing, fertilizing and tillage.

OREGON: Days suitable for field work 5.0. Top soil moisture 13% short, 69% adequate, 18% surplus. Sub soil moisture 3% very short, 13% short, 63% adequate, 21% surplus. Winter wheat condition 5% poor, 49% fair, 35% good, 11% excellent. Barley condition 47% fair, 36% good, 17% excellent. Range, pasture condition 2% very poor, 11% poor, 37% fair, 42% good, 7% excellent. Livestock condition 3% very poor, 8% poor, 23% fair, 60% good, 6% excellent; jointing 93% this week, 89% last week, 100% last year, 69% average; headed 35% this week, 8% last week, 64% last year, 36% average. Oats condition 5% very poor, 10% poor, 40% fair, 42% good, 3% excellent; jointing 55% this week, 42% last week, 65% last year, 55% average. Corn seedbed prepared 85% this week, 95% last week, 95% last year, 91% average; planted 36% this week, 29% last week, 62% last year, 44% average emerged 15% this week, 7% last week, 37% last year, 26% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 42% this week, 27% last week, 37% last year, 43% average. Soybeans seedbed prepared 43% this week, 41% last week, 49% last year, 55% average. Peanut seedbed prepared 59% this week, 50% last week, 64% last year, 63% average. Corn seedbed prepared 79% this week, 69% last week, 62% last year, 74% average. Watermelon planted 10% this week, 7% last week, 39% last year, 17% average. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 7% poor, 41% fair, 44% good, 6% excellent. Pasture and range condition 3% very poor, 11% poor, 37% fair, 42% good, 7% excellent. Livestock. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds, averaged $104 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds, averaged $94 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. A late frost on Monday morning and cool temperatures indicated possible frost damage in some areas.
continued. Vegetables. The cold, wet weather has caught up with many vegetable growers, keeping them out of fields, delaying their schedule for this year’s crop. There have been reports that some early pea, onion planting was taking place throughout the Willamette Valley where the ground would allow. Early rhabd was being picked in Washington County. That cold spell was still not over as the heat continued to bud in to the Blacklands facilitated the dying of South Dakota fields accelerating the seeding of small grain and other crop progress.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil moisture 7% short, 72% adequate, 21% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 11% short, 66% adequate, 19% surplus. Wheat 82% jointed, 97% 2007, 96% avg.; 68% 2007, 100% 2008, 99% avg.; 1% very poor, 5% poor, 5% fair, 75% good, 10% excellent. Pastures 2% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. Strawberries 2% very poor, 4% poor, 30% fair, 55% good, 9% excellent. Drier conditions towards the middle of the week helped producers get into their fields. Moderate to severe flood damage to winter wheat has occurred in counties along the supplemental feed stock remained plentiful due to cooler temperatures in Trans-Pecos, the Edwards Plateau and South Central Texas.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 6. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 13% short, 86% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 18% very poor, 25% poor, 25% fair, 30% good, 2% excellent. Spring wheat 70% planted, 89% 2007, 71% avg.; 20% emerged, 57% 2007, 52% avg. Barley 61% planted, 79% 2007, 66% avg.; 16% emerged, 44% 2007, 30% avg. Oats 46% planted, 50% 2007, 49% avg.; 9% emerged, 19% 2007, 17% avg. Corn 1% planted, 17% 2007, 7% avg.; 0% emerged. Cows calved 82%, 87% 2007, 86% avg. Range and pasture 4% very poor, 17% poor, 49% fair, 2% good, 8% excellent. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 5% short, 95% adequate, 0% surplus. Ewes lamb on farm 79%, 89% 2007, 88% avg. Ewes lamb on range 34%, 46% 2007, 49% avg. Apples Full Bloom Or Past 55%, 66% 2007, 61% avg. Apricots Full Bloom OR Past 67%, 98% 2007, 94% avg. Sweet cherries Full Bloom Or Past 57%, 92% 2007, 81% avg. Tart cherries full bloom or past 75%, 99% 2007, 81% avg. Peaches, Full Bloom Or Past 2%, 93% 2007, 86% avg. Pears, Full Bloom Or Past 65%, 69% 2007, 84% avg. Overall conditions were excellent for field work. Lack of precipitation and moisture has been a concern in some areas. Livestock continues to do well. Box Elder reports that the March precipitation was less than half of normal and April precipitation had been virtually non-existent. Recent storms alleviated that precipitation but cause strong warm winds from the south followed by strong cold winds from the north. These winds have dried the soil moisture out and the cold temperatures have kept anything from growing. Winter wheat in the dry land areas should be 8 to 12 inches tall and all tiller evident. Field work continues. Days suitable for field work, 7. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 11% short, 76% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 13% short, 71% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter wheat breaking dormancy 92%, 99% 2007, 99% avg; cantaloupe seeded 17%, 12% 2007, 37% avg.; 1% emerged, 1% 2007, 6% avg. Spring wheat 6% emerged, 7% 2007, 16% avg. Feed supplies 1% very short, 13% short, 80% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies 12% very short, 11% short, 66% adequate, 11% surplus. Range and pasture 5% very poor, 11% poor, 37% fair, 41% good, 6% excellent. Calf deaths 16% below average, 79% average, 5% above average. Cattle moved to pasture 9% complete. Calving 70% complete. Cattle condition 1% poor, 14% fair, 67% good, 18% excellent. Sheep, lamb deaths 28% below average, 71% average, 1% above average. Lambing 82% complete. Sheep condition 1% poor, 12% fair, 66% good, 21% excellent. Warm, dry and windy weather across the state facilitated the drying of South Dakota fields accelerating the seeding of small grain and other crop progress.
Townsend Squirrel is taking over the Milford Flat part of the county and eating up much of the alfalfa. Farmers report that the problem has been very hard to control and are trying some new ways to take care of the problem. Carbon County reports that lack of spring rains is causing some concern for spring grass growth on the range. Moisture in the mountains still looks good but cool spring temperatures have slowed the snow melt. Scofield Reservoir storage will be kept low for much needed repairs. Weber County reports that farmers are 2 weeks behind normal on alfalfa growth, but the warm weather should help the crop progress. Com planting will begin this week. Emery County reports having high winds which are drying out the soil quickly. Major planting activities are in full swing and we should have a good irrigation water year. Morgan County reports that the snow is finally off the ground and tillage has begun. Iron county reports that the cold spring temperatures have delayed emergence of planted grains and stunted the growth of grass on rangeland. Wayne County reports that cool temperatures are holding back the start of alfalfa planting. Elder reports that range conditions are also starting to deteriorate. Cattle producers are branding and doctoring calves while sheep producers with range flocks are just beginning to lamb. Producers are concerned about the summer pasture and livestock prices that seem to be dropping rapidly. Carbon County reports calving and lambing has gone well for the most part. The high price of feed has made it very difficult to keep horses for recreational purposes and the lack of a horse market is making the horse situation even worse. Summit County reports that ranchers are finishing up calving and farm lambing. Pastures and alfalfa fields are starting to green up as well as some weed spraying taking place in the fields. West Virginia: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 1% short, 56% adequate, 43% surplus. Temperatures ranged from 1 degree below to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures were in the mid-50s to 60 degrees across the state. Low averages in the mid to upper 30s for the week. Precipitation ranged from 0.0 inches in Milwaukee to 1.93 inches in LaCrosse. There was a slight amount of oats planted and spring tillage, with oats 3 percent planted and spring tillage 3 percent complete. Wet fields are still delaying spring fieldwork in Wisconsin with a report of 4 inches of snow in one area and continuous unneeded rain in many other areas.