ALABAMA: Warm weather swept through the central part of Alabama this month, causing strong storms and tornado watches. The northern and southern parts of Alabama experienced atypical rain patterns. Abnormally dry and milder conditions occurred in east-central and northern Alabama, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released February 17, 2009. Wheat experienced fair to good conditions. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System noticed some early blooming that occurred throughout the state of Alabama for peaches. This blooming was noticed on peaches less than 500 chill hours, which is a very rare occurrence. In addition, blueberries are revealing visible budding. Farmers are feeding hay sparingly as the cold and rainy weather moves in and out, while anticipating new pasture growth. Brandon Dillard of Geneva County projects good growth potential for wheat. Tim Reed of Franklin County stated that wheat is behind in growth from last year, but is in good shape. Willie Durr, of Houston County, stated that even though the recent cold weather is a concern, vegetable crops, such as collards and other cold crops, are beginning to plant.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State were varied throughout the month of February with above normal temperatures the first and last weeks. Precipitation in the form of rain or snow had fallen throughout the month. Three of the twenty-two reporting stations finished the month with above normal precipitation. Crop conditions improved slightly for February. Alfalfa condition improved to mostly good to excellent for the month. Durum wheat and barley emergence occurred on at least three quarters of the acreage during February. Range and pasture conditions improved to be mostly fair to good across the State. Alfalfa harvesting continued for Arizona. The winter vegetable harvest continued throughout February along with the citrus harvest.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures were warmer than normal during the first part of February, reaching as high as 13 degrees above normal in West Memphis and Blytheville for the week ending February 15. By February 22, El Dorado, Eudora, and Monticello had high temperatures reaching 80 degrees or above. During the last two weeks of the month, temperatures cooled down and were closer to normal, with some parts of Arkansas receiving snow and other wintry precipitation. February was relatively dry for Arkansas as nearly all weather stations were below normal precipitation for most of the month, with the exception of the series of thunderstorms that traveled across the state on February 10 and 11 that brought over three inches of rain to Batesville, Clarksville, and Jonesboro. By the end of the month, producers were able to get into the fields and apply fertilizer to winter wheat and pastures. Winter wheat was in mostly fair to good condition, with some jointing being reported. Field activities for the spring row crop season included applying bermudagrass herbicides and preparing for corn and rice plantings. Livestock were in fair to good condition as producers continued to feed hay while still repairing fences and clearing debris from the late January ice storm.

CALIFORNIA: Field work was in progress with ground preparation, cultivation, irrigation and weed control as weather permitted. Recent rainfall was welcomed and continued to promote vegetative growth in field crops. Irrigation was shut off in some areas due to the rain. Herbicide sprays were applied to grain fields. Wheat crops in many areas of the state were in excellent condition due to the rain. Lodging problems emerged in early sown wheat fields in Tulare County. Cotton fields were being prepared in Fresno County. Rice growers were reshaping berms, fertilizing, and irrigating in preparation for spring planting. Sweet potato hotbeds were being planted. Orchard site preparation such has pruning, spraying, and tree planting was winding down. Grape pruning and tying continued. Bee hives were placed to assist pollination for cherry trees. Kiwi harvest continued. Raspberry and strawberry nursery stock digging was completed. Drought began to threaten orchards in the San Joaquin Valley. Pruning, tree planting, and disking continued in almond, walnut, and pistachio orchards in preparation for bloom. Dormant spraying was almost complete. The almond bloom prevailed through wet conditions with most orchards blooming in the San Joaquin Valley. Most blooming occurred in the Sonora variety. Bee hives were set out to assist pollination. Bloom was expected to progress slowly given the wet, cold weather and cloudy conditions. Early variety nectarines and apricots were in bloom. Other stone fruit varieties were pushing buds. Citrus harvest continued for lemons, Murcott mandarins, Minneola tangolos, Navel and Cara Cara oranges, and Pummelo and Melo Gold grapefruits. Size and color on Navels were for the most part good. Some Navels showed drying due to over-maturity. Wet conditions hampered citrus harvest activities. Picking of Valencia oranges was expected to begin soon in parts of Kern County. Forecasted reductions in water deliveries due to the drought remained a concern for citrus growers. Field preparation for spring planting and harvesting of winter vegetables slowed due to wet conditions. Rain encouraged the growth of winter vegetables. Garlic, green onions, cabbage and spring lettuce plantings also grew well. Broccoli was harvested for processing. Carrot and radicchio harvest continued. The harvest continued more slowly for farmers' market crops such as basil, beets, carrots, collard greens, daikon, dill, gailon, kale, leeks, lemongrass, mustard greens, green onions, potatoes, radishes, saluyot (okra leaf), spinach, winter squashes, Swiss chard, and many varieties of herbs. As field conditions improved, plastic was applied to berms in preparation for squash planting and cantaloupe, tomato, and onion fields were prepared. Lemongrass fields were covered. The asparagus harvest began. Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland improved markedly with recent rains, with visible greening in many areas. However, more precipitation was needed for adequate grazing conditions.

Supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients continued. Dairy herds were reduced in response to market conditions. Spring Lambs were being born. Sheep, lambs and cattle were grazing on idle land and harvested alfalfa fields. Some sheep were moved off wet new alfalfa to avoid crown damage. Some beef cow calving was reported. Movement of honeybees into the state slowed, hives were staged in orchards for pollination.

COLORADO: Most of Colorado received well below normal amounts of precipitation. The extreme northeast corner of the state received some moisture in February, but the Front Range and the southeastern counties remain very dry. Temperatures
were above average for most of the state during February. Livestock producers are benefiting from the unseasonably warm temperatures which have facilitated feeding as well as calving and lambing operations. Currently, the mountain snowpack is above average at 109%.

**DELAWARE:** February was cold. Hay and feed supplies are adequate. Winter wheat and barley are in mostly fair to good condition. Farmers are attending meetings, repairing equipment, getting ready for spring planting.

**FLORIDA:** Growers prepared for spring planting. Gadsden, Madison, Lafayette counties. Potato planting continued. St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler counties. Variance reported due for sugarcane due to January frost. End of February, preparing fields for soybeans, cotton, peanuts. Crops assessed, reported damaged or lost due to cool weather last month. Flagler County approximately 20% of cabbage damaged, wrapped up planting by mid February. Hillsborough County strawberries in fair to good condition with heavy movement through market. Lee County damaged tomato plants plowed under; greens, peppers, radishes survived freeze with little damage. Fort Meyers minor damage to greens, cabbage. Gadsden County planting pushed back to due to recent freezes. Watermelon fields in final preparation, Alachua County. Cabbage harvesting continued, St. Johns County; preparations for spring vegetables continued. Citrus grower’s reports indicated some fruit, tree damage similar to January. Preventive measures taken to lessen impact to citrus crop. Many trees sprouted new small shoots, forming new leaves on trees. With exception of weaker trees, no areas budged during month. All citrus areas abnormally dry, need rain. Weekly processing of early-season oranges stayed between 5 to 6 million boxes until last week of month. Grapefruit harvest about 1 million boxes weekly. Tangerines, tangolos picked in small quantities. Most pasture in February very poor to good, lower than January. Pasture condition low due to cold, freezing temperatures; drought; seasonal dormancy of permanent pasture. Month ‘s end, winter grain forage recovering from hard freeze. Southwest, pasture greening up. Protein supplements, hay being fed. Cattle condition mostly poor to good, down from January average conditions.

**GEORGIA:** The state received rain on Friday and Saturday prior to the cold front. Sunday brought snow to the northern half of the state. Cold weather was suppressed winter grazing significantly in some areas. Wheat topdressing is near completion. Low temperatures have harmed some early rabbit-eye blueberries. Vegetable growers were laying plastic for March planting and transplanting. Heavy hay feeding continues for livestock.

**HAWAII:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Most banana and papaya orchards were in fair condition. Increased fruit scarring from leaf scraping due to high winds. Cool temperatures slowed fruit development. Harvesting was light. Further leaf shredding caused by high winds to banana plants. Head cabbage crop was in fair to good condition. Insect pressure was light. High winds resulted in an increase in damage to crops susceptible to the wind. Skies were intermittently partly cloudy to cloudy, clearing by Sunday. Precipitation was light to moderate, mostly over windward locations. Soil moisture levels adequate in most areas, although winds were accelerating drying of the soil. Winds were breezy to windy for much of the week. Overall, temperatures were cool to warm during the day and cool during the evening and early-morning hours. Dry, low humidity, air mass from the north producing chilly days.

**IDAHO:** Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 7% short, 81% adequate, 12% surplus. Calving complete 39%, 42% 2008, 41% avg. Lambing complete 51%, 49% 2008, 40% avg. Hay and roughage supply 0% very short, 27% short, 68% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter Wheat condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 19% fair, 78% good, 3% excellent.

**ILLINOIS:** Temperatures during the month of February averaged 31.4 degrees, 1.2 degrees above normal across the state. Warm temperatures were prevalent during the first half of the month, but colder conditions reappeared towards the end of February. Some wheat producers are concerned about winter kill, due to the low temperatures and lack of snow cover. statewide precipitation averaged 2.44 inches during the month, 0.51 inch below normal. Topsoil moisture 80% adequate, 20% surplus. Winter wheat conditions stood 8% poor, 37% fair, 51% good, and 4% excellent.

**INDIANA:** Weather during February was slightly warmer and wetter than normal. The average state temperature was 31.2o which was 0.8o above normal. Total precipitation averaged 2.81 inches which was 0.53 inches above normal. Northern areas received heavier amounts of precipitation with some flooding and erosion problems being reported. The winter wheat crop is reported to be in mostly good condition. However, there are concerns in some northern areas over potential damage from standing water and ice. Many of the winter wheat fields were topdressed with nitrogen during the month. Some fertilizer and manure were spread when soils were frozen enough to support equipment. Many producers have been visiting their local FSA offices to sign up for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Livestock are in mostly good condition with early calving and lambing taking place. Hay supplies remain mostly adequate but good quality hay is becoming limited. Other activities included preparing spring tillage and planting equipment, pricing inputs, tax preparation, financial planning, spreading fertilizer and manure, moving grain to market and taking care of livestock.

**IOWA:** Average depth of snow cover at the end of February 1 inch, last year 7 inches. Average depth of frost penetration 15 inches, last year 15 inches. Soil moisture availability rated 2% short, 79% adequate, and 19% surplus. Grain movement rated 32% none, 39% light, 25% moderate, and 4% heavy. Availability of hay and roughage supplies rated 9% short, 79% adequate, and 12% surplus. Quality of hay and roughage supplies rated 10% poor, 48% fair, and 42% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing rated 41% none, 29% limited, 24% moderate, and 6% extensive. Hog and pig losses rated at 13% below average, 81% average, and 6% above average. Cattle and calf losses rated 15% below average, 78% average, and 7% above average. Several days of above normal temperatures quickly melted most of the snow that was piled up at the beginning of February. Grain movement resumed as snow drifts melted around grain bins, although lower prices discouraged sales. Livestock feeding requirements diminished due to greater availability of corn stubble. Tax work, machinery maintenance and repair, and daily chores kept farmers busy during the month.

**KANSAS:** Days suitable for field work in February was 18. Topsoil moisture 26% very short, 40% short, 33% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 30% short, 60% adequate, and 2% surplus. Wheat condition was rated 3% very poor, 12% poor, 35% fair, 45% good, and 5% excellent. Wind damage to wheat was rated 85% no damage, 13% light damage, 2% moderate damage. Freeze damage was rated 91% no damage, 8% light damage, 1% moderate damage. Overall winterkill was rated as 87% none and 12% light and 1% moderate. Range and pasture condition is rated 9% very poor, 18% poor, 41% fair, 28% good, and 4% excellent. Feed grain supplies 7% short, 88% adequate, and 5% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 9% short, 83% adequate, and 8% surplus. Stock water supplies are 3% very short, 13% short, 81% adequate, and 3% surplus.

**KENTUCKY:** The Commonwealth welcomed a relatively tame week of weather during the first week of February while attempting to recover from the winter storm that hit the state 2 weeks earlier. Temperatures increased significantly towards the end of the week, but the beginning of the week continued the cold trend as below normal temperatures were reported for the 4th straight week. Temperatures for the period averaged 29 degrees across the state which was 4 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged from 44 in the West to 43 in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.20 inches statewide which was 0.63 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 0.02 inches, Central 0.11 inches, Bluegrass 0.20 inches and East
MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Soil moisture 2%
very short, 6% short, 56% adequate, 36% surplus. Feed Grain 15% short, 83% adequate, 2% surplus. Wheat 4% jointing, NA 2008, NA avg. Although some producers described February as dry, a few producers received a surprise at the end of the month in the form of snow. Farmers are preparing for the season, but the precipitation last week delayed fieldwork. Fertilizer applications are being applied to winter wheat, ryegrass, and fescue.

MISSOURI: February was warmer than normal with normal precipitation. Precipitation averaged 1.84 inches compared to the 30 year February average of 1.9 inches. The precipitation ranged from 0.83 inches of precipitation in the Northwest District to 2.51 inches of precipitation in the South-central District for February. Average temperatures were 2.5 degrees to 5 degrees above normal. The condition of the wheat crop ranges from poor to good. The majority of the wheat is in good condition but increases in poor and fair conditions were noticed since January. In the North-central District, some of the wheat was being plowed up.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 20% last year, 15% short, 46% last year, 78% adequate, 33% last year, 5% surplus, 1% last year. Subsoil moisture 14% very short, 33% last year, 24% short, 43% last year, 60% adequate, 23% last year, 2% surplus, 1% last year. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% last year, 4% poor, 13% last year, 36% fair, 49% last year, 55% good, 32% last year, 4% excellent, 3% last year. Winter wheat wind damage 65% none, 67% last year, 27% light, 25% last year, 6% moderate, 6% last year, 2% heavy, 2% last year. Winter wheat drought damage 63% none, 49% last year, 30% light, 10% last year, 6% moderate, 14% last year, 1% heavy, 2% last year. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 7% very poor, 68% last year, 24% poor, 14% last year, 30% fair, 13% last year, 27% good, 4% last year, 12% excellent, 1% last year. Most of the state received below normal moisture for the month ending February 28th. Swan Lake received the most monthly accumulated precipitation with 2.59 inches. Temperatures during the month of February were mostly above normal. Highs ranged from 40s to 60s and lows ranged from negative teens to positive teens. Grass Range, Roundup, and Hardin shared the high temperature of 64 degrees, and Wisdom had the low temperature of minus 19 degrees. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 94%, 96% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 96%, 96% last year. Livestock grazing 28% open, 62% last year, 45% difficult, 22% last year, 27% closed, 16% last year. Calving completed 20%, 26% last year. Lambing completed 9%, 17% last year.
NEW ENGLAND: New England experienced above average average temperatures throughout the month of February with a few locations seeing record highs. Average high temperatures ranged from the high-20s to low-40s, with record highs being as much as twenty degrees above average. Low temperatures ranged from the low-teens to mid-20’s. Snowfall totals ranged from 3.4 to 25.4 inches and were 0.2 to 1.8 inches below average. The first week of February saw a mixture of snow and rain across the region. Below average temperatures at the beginning of the week brought snow, while a warm front at the end of the week saw light rain. High temperatures ranged from the mid-20’s to mid-40’s with record high temperatures on February 8 in the south. Temperatures remained above average second week of February with more light rain mid-week. Highs ranged from the upper-30’s to upper-50’s. But lows in the north dipped into the teens by the end of the week. New England experienced more precipitation over the last two weeks of February seeing light rain in the south and light snow in the north with accumulations of an inch or less. Temperatures were lower compared to the previous weeks, but remained above average overall. Highs ranged from the low-30’s to mid-40’s, and lows ranged from mid-teens to upper-20’s. Impact from the ice storm of Dec. 11 and 12 continues to ripple across the Massachusetts economy, and painfully so in the maple sugar industry. Maple producers are still clearing debris, re-establishing pipeline. Despite the tree damage, weather may still be the key to whether the coming sugar season is profitable for the state’s maple producers. Cold temperatures at night and warm temperatures during the day are necessary for the sap to rise.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were variable for the first week of February in most localities. High and low temperatures ranged from 69 degrees to 12 degrees. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in some localities. Morris and Sussex counties received significant amounts of snowfall. 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: Precipitation fell the first two weeks of February over much of the state with 0.68 in Tucumcari, 0.42 in Farmington, 0.30 in Chama and Quemado, and approximately 0.20 in Gallup, Grants, Ruidoso and Deming with lesser amounts over other parts of the state. The precipitation caused near to below normal temperatures over most of the state. Strong winds were around the last days over much of the state with little precipitation except in the Northern Central areas. The third week, an upper level low pressure system pushed into the central Rockies bringing breezy to windy conditions throughout most areas of the state and some snow over the higher elevations over the central, northern and northwest mountains. A cold front pushed into the eastern plains dropping temperatures over the eastern half of the state. The temperatures were little above normal during the week. Temperatures remained 5-20 degrees above normal the last week of the month. Conditions stayed dry and windy with continual critical fire weather conditions across the eastern part of the state. Friday night a cold front moved across the state cooling temperatures down on Saturday. Traces of precipitation were reported in north and northwest NM. Farmers spent the month cleaning ditches and preparing for spring planting. Ranchers were busy supplemental feeding and getting ready for spring.

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 5.1. Soil moisture 4% very short, 15% short, 71% adequate, 10% surplus. Activities during the month included land preparations and field applications, planting Irish potatoes and cabbage, and tending to livestock. Most of North Carolina received rain during the last week of February, ranging from no rain in several cities to 2.3 inches in Hatteras (precipitation totals are for February 22 through February 28 at 7 pm). Temperatures were slightly below normal for the week.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth was 16.9 inches on March 1. Hay and forage supplies 12% very short, 34% short, 52% adequate, 2% surplus. Snow cover protection for alfalfa 2% poor, 46% adequate, 52% excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat 4% poor, 42% adequate, 54% excellent. Cattle conditions 1% very poor, 7% poor, 34% fair, 53% good, 5% excellent. Two percent of cattle/calves obtained feed from pasture and ranges. Calving was 9% complete. Sheep conditions 1% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 61% good, 6% excellent. One percent of sheep/lambs obtained feed from pasture and ranges. Lambing was 15% complete. Shearing was 39% complete. County and secondary roads 69% open, 21% difficult, 10% closed. Thirty-seven percent were drifted, 24% icy, 39% dry. Colder than normal temperatures and above normal precipitation were experienced throughout most of the state during February. Heavy snow continued to hamper ranching activities. Outlook for spring moisture in some western counties looks positive. Reporters commented that colder temperatures are straining both livestock and their feed supplies. Activities marketing grain, seed cleaning, calving, and lambing.

OHIO: The February 2009 average temperature for Ohio was 30.6 degrees, 0.75 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the state averaged 2.05 inches, 0.21 inches below normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that field conditions are good to excellent and snow covered, although in some parts of the state, the snow cover is decreasing. The plants are currently dormant, but most achieved decent growth in the fall. There were a few reports of minor flood damage. Livestock are in good condition. Hay inventories are adequate for livestock; however some farmers have required additional shipments of hay.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 55% very short, 29% short, 16% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 37% very short, 39% short, 24% adequate, 0% surplus. Wheat 13% very poor, 29% poor, 35% fair, 19% good, 4% excellent; grazed 27% this month, 25% last year, 40% average. Rye 10% very poor, 26% poor, 31% fair, 28% good, 5% excellent; grazed 55% this month, 55% last year, 68% average. Oats 18% very poor, 29% poor, 42% fair, 11% good, 0% excellent; grazed 10% this month, 8% last year, 20% average. Livestock 2% very poor, 11% poor, 42% fair, 42% good, 3% excellent. Pasture & Range 13% very poor, 27% poor, 40% fair, 19% good, 1% excellent. Livestock remained in mostly good to fair condition. Livestock marketinges were average. Many cattle producers continued to provide hay to their herds, due to lack of pasture land.

OREGON: Most stations reported temperatures and precipitation slightly below average this February. Although off to a good start, snow pack levels have fallen below average. Grass in Sherman County is beginning to emerge, which is helping with grazing. Vineyard and orchards are continuing to prune and apply fungicide and oil sprays. Roughly three inches of winter wheat has emerged in the Willamette Valley and livestock producers throughout the State are beginning the calving season.

PENNSYLVANIA: Principal farm activities for the month of February included machinery and fence repairs, spreading manure, milking cows, pruning trees, doing taxes, vacationing, and preparing for the next growing season. February was a very dry month, with a total of 0.65 inches of total precipitation. This is 2.23 inches below normal. The average temperature for the month was 34.2 degrees, which is 1.4 degrees above normal. The average high and low temperatures were 43.3 and 25 degrees respectively. There were many mornings with fog and reduced visibility.

SOUTH CAROLINA: After an overcast start to the month, unsettled weather arrived on Tuesday with strong winds, cold rains and falling temperatures. On Wednesday, a second, upper-level feature brought snow showers to locations as far south as Mt. Pleasant. Portions of Chesterfield County received up to 3 inches of snow. Stinging wind chill values accompanied the cold, dry air. On Thursday morning, all of South Carolina reported sub-
freezing temperatures. Loris recorded a high temperature of only 35 degrees. A southwesterly surface wind helped to quickly modify the cold conditions on Friday with unseasonably mild weather reported through the weekend. A long awaited spring-like day was observed on Sunday with the mercury climbing into the middle 70's. Lake Bowen, in Spartanburg County, rebounded from a nine-degree minimum temperature on Thursday morning to a 75 degree high temperature on Sunday afternoon. The state average temperature for the week was three degrees below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 79 degrees at the University of South Carolina in Columbia on February 9. The lowest official temperature reported was 27 degrees at Cedar Creek on February 13. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.74 inches at Table Rock ending at 7:00 a.m. on February 12. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.2 inches. The third week began with sunny, cool conditions giving way to mid-week warming and the season's first round of thunderstorms. Wednesday's evening storms produced one-inch hail at Pickens. Pockets of heavy rain fell across the central counties. Camden measured 2.86 inches of rain during the event. Leftover warm temperatures near the coast were swept eastward on Thursday as cold air overspread the state on west winds. Minimum temperatures on both Friday and Saturday mornings ranged from the upper teens to the middle 20's. A second cold boundary entered the state on Saturday with a few reports of light rains Sunday morning. The state average temperature for the week was three degrees below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 70 degrees at Allendale on February 19. The lowest official temperature reported was 17 degrees at Cedar Creek on February 21. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.79 inches at Johnston ending at 7:00 a.m. on February 19. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.9 inches. The last week of the month started with temperatures well below average. A warm front followed warming daily highs in the low 70's in many Midlands, and Coast-al areas. The system also brought widespread rainfall to the entire state, which was particularly in needed in the Upstate.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Average snow depth (inches) 6.3. Winter wheat snow cover 36% poor, 57% adequate, 7% excellent. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 7% poor, 38% fair, 46% good, 8% excellent. Alfalfa snow cover 28% poor, 61% adequate, 11% excellent. Feed supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 86% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 2% short, 86% adequate, 6% surplus. Accessible livestock feed 12% very difficult, 83% difficult, 2% inaccessible. Accessible stock water supplies 87% readily, 11% difficult, 2% inaccessible. Cattle death losses 22% below normal, 77% normal, 1% above normal. Calf deaths 17% below average, 82% average, 1% above average. Calving 12% complete. Cattle condition 2% poor, 20% fair, 64% good, 14% excellent. Sheep & lamb deaths 4% below average, 75% average, 21% above average. Lambing 22% complete. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 56% fair, 4% good, 11% excellent. Road conditions county 89% open, 10% difficult, 1% closed. Road conditions township 75% open, 18% difficult, 7% closed. While recent snowfall has provided protection for South Dakota winter crops, a mid-winter thaw left many winter wheat and alfalfa fields without snow cover for weeks in February. Livestock producers were affected by February winter storms, but overall access to grazing, feed and water supplies remains in good shape.

**TENNESSEE:** Temperatures for February carried over from the end of January and generally remained above normal for the first half of the month. Temperatures ended the month at near to below normal levels. Most of the state received below normal precipitation during the month, except for eastern portions of the state which averaged above normal during the week ending February 22. Precipitation came in the form of rain, snow, and winter mixes during the month. Cattle were rated in mostly good-to-fair condition. Pastures were rated in mostly fair-to-poor condition. Hay supplies were rated as 71 percent adequate-to-super. The winter wheat crop was rated in mostly good-to-fair condition.

**TEXAS:** Top soil moisture was mostly very short to short across the state. Wheat condition was mostly very poor to fair. Oat condition was mostly very poor to poor. Range and Pasture condition was mostly very poor to poor statewide. Wheat in the High Plains was helped by earlier rainfall but it continues to struggle due to lack of moisture. Cotton field preparation continued in the Northern Plains. Corn field preparation continued in the Northern High Plains. Corn producers continued to plant in the Blacklands and have begun planting in North East Texas, South Central Texas, and the Upper Coast. Spinach and cabbage harvest continued in South Texas. Supplemental feeding of livestock was on going across most of the state. Range and pasture conditions across the state were dry and in need of rain.

**UTAH:** February storms have contributed to a good moisture situation this spring. Snow packs in the mountains are good at this point. Soil moisture is adequate in most areas of the state due to the abundant snow cover this winter. Some producers are preparing their fields for seasonal plantings, but others are still waiting for the snow to melt. Some farmers are concerned with snow mold. Snow packs on average around Utah seem to be above normal this year. Fertilizer prices are lower this year compared to the last 12 months. Cattle producers are still in the process of calving. Hay supplies are running low and producers need grass on ranges to grow so livestock can graze. No problems of disease have been reported this year.

**VIRGINIA:** Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 38% short, 54% adequate, 4% surplus. Beef cattle forage obtained from pastures 8%; 12% 2008. Milk cow forage obtained from pastures 3%; 12% 2008. Sheep forage obtained from pastures 6%; 23% 2008. Pasture 10% very poor, 21% poor, 43% fair, 25% good, 1% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 7% excellent. Small grain and winter crops 4% very poor, 11% poor, 42% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent. Precipitation throughout most of February remained relatively low. At the end of the month, a significant rain/snow event brought welcomed precipitation across the state. Temperatures were normal to slightly above normal during most of the month, but became well below normal at month’s end. Producers in some areas of the state have started fertilizing small grains, while others were preparing to fertilize their small grains. Farmers were making plans for the spring planting season, and were buying seed and fertilizer. Other farm activities included attending meetings, doing taxes, and repairing machinery.

**WASHINGTON:** Snow covering winter wheat was slowly melting. Winter snow conditions were more severe this year. The overall condition of winter wheat remains unknown at this point. Early reports are mixed. It appears that if the crop germinated prior to the snows, it’s going to have a better chance. Fruit trees are still dormant. Orchard pruning is on going. Apple growers were stymied in their efforts to ship apples to Asia during the Chinese New Year. Heavy snow storms caused the closure if I-90, preventing trucks from the east side to be able to make port in time. Asian buyers bought elsewhere. On the eastern side, cows are dropping calves. During the cold in February, some cows had trouble keeping on. Hay prices were much more moderate this year.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil moisture 12% short, 80% adequate and 8% surplus compared with 3% short, 64% adequate and 33%...
surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 2% very short, 10% short, 77% adequate and 11% surplus. Feed grain supplies were 7% short and 93% adequate. Winter Wheat conditions were 8% poor, 43% fair and 49% good. Cattle and calves were 2% poor, 33% fair, 63% good and 2% excellent. Calving was 31% complete, compared to 33% last year. Sheep and lambs were 40% fair, 59% good and 1% excellent. Lambing was 41% complete, compared to 33% last year. Farming activities included general farm maintenance when the weather permits, pruning fruit trees, calving, lambing, feeding livestock and planning for the 2009 crop season.

WISCONSIN: February temperatures for the state of Wisconsin ranged from 0 to 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 29 to 35 degrees, and average low temperatures ranged from 10 to 20 degrees. Precipitation ranged from 0.57 inches in Eau Claire to 2.31 inches in Milwaukee. We were unable to get complete snowfall totals for February, but Madison and Milwaukee both received less snow than the previous month. The entire state, minus a slight portion of the southern-most part of the state, have snow cover.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 9% very short, 21% short, 69% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 16% very short, 29% short, 55% adequate. Average depth of snow 1 inch. Winter wheat condition 46% fair, 54% good. Winter wheat wind damage 31% none, 62% light, 7% moderate. Winter wheat freeze damage 86% none, 6% light, 8% moderate. Spring calves born 15%. Farm flock ewes lambed 16%. Calf losses 46% light, 54% normal. Lamb losses 47% light, 47% normal, 6% heavy. Cattle condition 2% poor, 17% fair, 80% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 12% fair, 86% good, 2% excellent. Spring grazing prospects 8% very poor, 3% poor, 45% fair, 42% good, 2% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 12% short, 87% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 7% short, 91% adequate, 2% surplus. Range producers were in need of more moisture. Snow packs were reported at below normal levels. For some producers, the mild winter has reduced the amount of feed required. Thus, there was a fair amount of surplus hay in some areas. Activities calving, lambing, feeding livestock.