ALABAMA: The month of March produced warmer weather despite sufficient amounts of moisture still on the ground. The US Drought Monitor released March 25 indicated the state to be 100 percent free from drought, compared to 100 percent 3 months ago, and 27.3 percent one year ago. Bobby Boozer, Research Horticulturist at the Chilton Research & Extension Center, stated that potential repeat of last spring has growers anxious about seeing high levels of bacterial spot infection on peaches again this season. As a result, copper applications have been made several times already to this season’s peach trees. Leonard Kuykendall, Regional Extension Agent for Autauga County, mentioned wheat is the only crop currently growing in the area. It has looked bad all winter due to late planting and the cold and wet winter. Since nitrogen applications have been applied the wheat looks better, however yield prospects were below average. The rain delayed corn planting that finally got started this week. Darrell Rankins, Professor in Animal Sciences at Auburn University, commented in comparison to last year spring forage growth is behind. Overall, the cow herd is in thin condition because forage is still slow.

ARIZONA: The month of March continues to maintain moisture from the previous month across all areas of Arizona. All 22 weather stations had precipitation in the form of rain or melting snow and all weather stations except Grand Canyon have above normal precipitation levels to date for 2010. Temperatures fluctuated as much as 8 degrees above normal to 9 degrees below normal throughout the month. Small grain heading is at least 50 percent complete. Alfalfa harvesting is active on over two-thirds of the State. Cotton planting is underway in the western part of the state (Yuma County). Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures during the month of March varied from week to week, ranging from 8 degrees below normal to as high as 8 degrees above normal. Much started out very, mild weather followed by severe storms on March 10. This storm system produced 5 tornadoes, hail, and very strong winds. The third week of March brought a spring snow storm to portions of western Arkansas, with localized totals ranging from 6 to over 12 inches of snow. Most of the state received only rain from this system. Mild temperatures immediately followed, allowing the snow to melt rapidly. The last week of March brought breezy conditions to much of the state, with normal temperatures. At the end of the week, a line of showers and thunderstorms moved through the state producing some hail and strong winds. Field work throughout the state occurred during the month of March, weather permitting. Some corn and rice plantings had occurred, with some corn emergence. Hay stocks were still depleted in many areas of the state. Producers were spraying and fertilizing their pastures in preparation for grazing. Livestock were in mostly fair to good condition.

CALIFORNIA: Winter wheat, oat, rye, and barley fields continued to progress. Early fields have started to head out. Dryland crops have continued to benefit from recent rainfall. As conditions allowed, field preparation for spring planting was carried out. Weed control continued in winter wheat, rye, and oat fields, as well as alfalfa fields. Cotton beds were maintained through cultivation and herbicide application. Corn and bean fields were also prepared for planting. Garbanzo beans have started to grow. Rice fields were drained and pre-plant herbicides were applied. Rice straw was being burned when conditions allowed. Potatoes were growing and leafing out. Alfalfa fields continued to grow well. Alfalfa was cut for hay and green chipped for silage. Winter wheat was also cut for silage. Irrigation districts began to turn on their water, which allowed field irrigation to start for grain and alfalfa fields. Fields were prepared for safflower planting. Sunflower field preparation and planting also took place. Widespread bloom continued for plum, prune, peach, cherry and other early varieties of stone fruit across the Central Valley. Fungicide sprays were applied to blooming stone fruit trees. Pruning of orchards and vineyards was approaching completion, while citrus trees were being topped. Picking of tangerines, navel oranges, grapefruit, and lemons continued, while harvesting of Valencia oranges began in the San Joaquin Valley. Strawberry and blueberry plantings began blooming, and out-of-state raspberry bushes arrived for planting. Strawberry fields were setting fruit in the San Joaquin Valley. Herbicide sprays were applied in Central Valley grape vineyards, and warmer temperatures aided budding of wine grape vineyards along the Central Coast. Widespread bloom continued in almond orchards, in addition to considerable petal fall occurring. Almond development has appeared healthy throughout the bloom. Some brown rot has been observed in almond orchards, which occurred due to wet weather earlier in the season. Most growers applied their second and third protective sprays to limit the impact of spring diseases. Walnut blight applications began as growers prepare for the upcoming walnut bloom. Pest traps were placed in almond orchards and irrigation started in areas where the winter moisture was less abundant. In Tulare County, harvesting of field spinach began. Squash was planted under plastic hot caps and fields were being prepared for summer vegetables. Processing tomatoes were being transplanted in Colusa County. Fieldwork, pre-plant herbicide treatments and ground preparation continued in Sutter County. Most of the winter carrots, lettuce, broccoli and cauliflower in Imperial County had been harvested. The carrot harvest was also coming to an end. Potatoes, carrots and leaf lettuce were being harvested in Kern County. Melons and tomatoes were planted. In San Joaquin County, the asparagus harvest was progressing well with excellent yields. The winter vegetable harvest in Fresno County progressed, but was winding down as some spring vegetables started to emerge. Beets, cabbage, cauliflower, green onions, herbs and turnips continued to be harvested. Spring broccoli plants were growing well. Asparagus spears were emerging in some fields, while harvest was beginning in others. Fall planted garlic and onion crops continued to grow well and were treated for weeds. Tomatoes and carrots planted from seed were growing nicely. Spring lettuce was maturing well and fields were weeded, thinned and treated for pests. Early planted sweet corn had also emerged. Bed preparation continued for melons, when soil conditions were suitable. Seedbed processing tomatoes were beginning to germinate and emerge, and growers continued to prepare subsequent fields for planting or transplanting. Asparagus harvests continued in Merced County and farmers began to plant watermelon fields. The radicchio harvest was completed. In preparation for the upcoming tomato season in Stanislaus County, tomato transplants were started in greenhouses. In Monterey County the harvest of cauliflower and broccoli continued. Range conditions continued to improve with the warm weather and rains promoting vigorous growth. The central valley and foothill ranges continued to show marked improvement. Irrigated pasture was in good condition. Supplemental feeding continued to decline and cattle weight gains were reported to be improving given the flush of green grasses. Cattle and sheep grazed retired farmland and semi-dormant alfalfa hay, where field conditions permitted. Early in the month cool wet weather hindered pollination activity. Warm weather later in the month improved pollination activity. Bee hives were being moved between alfalfa fields, almond, blueberry, plum and cherry orchards as the bloom season progressed. Dairy and feedlots dried out from wet weather early in the month.

COLORADO: Most of Colorado received normal amounts of precipitation and average temperatures in March. Soil moisture supplies are mostly adequate going into planting season. Currently, the mountain snowpack is below average at 89% statewide. The winter wheat crop remains in mostly good to excellent condition coming out of dormancy. Pasture and range condition is in mostly good to fair condition showing improvement from the time last year. Calving and lambing continue under mild conditions.

DELWARE: Hay supplies are rated adequate. Livestock are in

W ashington, D. C.

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good condition despite wet fields. Cold and wet conditions limited early planting and tillage of peas and corn. However, the occasional sunny days throughout the month allowed for farmers to do some spring groundwork and planting.

**FLORIDA:** Throughout March, majority of soil moisture adequate. Wet conditions hampered field work. Northern region leasing of fertilizer in some fields, continued saturation did not permit additional applications. Hastings area flooded potato fields replanted. Compared to previous year, increased soil moisture reduced expected wheat acreage. Cotton, peanut farmers prepared fields not overly saturated. Cold, wet weather slowed crop growth. Winter forage, small grains, winter grasses, not productive due to weather conditions. South sugarcane harvest nearly completed at end of month. Freezing temperatures may have damaged sugarcane; extended cold temperatures minimized sucrose loss. Rice planting delayed due to rain. Miami-Dade County beans, other specialty crops planted. Cold weather affected vegetable growth. Volusia County watermelons showing little growth due to weather in first week of March. Production in coastal areas below normal for cabbage, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, radishes, tomatoes. Cabbage demand difficult to meet for Saint Patrick's holiday. Beginning of March, growers laid plastic and drip irrigation systems to prepare for spring vegetables planting. Highlands County cucumbers, watermelon, snap beans planted. Disease a concern for regions with abundant amounts of rain. Floriculture, Nursery crop damage yet to be fully assessed. Heavy, soaking rains benefited citrus crop. Harvesting of Murcott tangerines continued, Navel oranges almost finished, Valencia had begun. Citrus bloom full and widespread in southern counties, with more buds, fewer open flowers in more northern areas. Almost all processing is open. Early moneasa orange finished. Valencia oranges, grapefruit are majority of fruit going to plants. Grove activities included harvesting, mowing, pesticide application, psyllid treatment, fertilization application, brush removal. Pasture condition mostly poor to fair. Beginning of March, hay feeding active to supplement forage. Winter forage growth slow due to cold temperatures, wet weather. Many pastures grazed down. Small grain pasture top-dressed when field conditions permitted. Standing water, some central areas. Statewide cattle condition very poor to excellent, most fair to good. Mid-month, forage recovering, but unable to supply enough for feed need. Panhandle, north pasture severely overgrazed, grass standing by cold weather. Central, southern pastures greening up. Some pasture very poor due to standing water, frost. Ranchers feeding hay, supplements. Statewide condition very poor to excellent, most fair. Month’s end, winter forage growth varied depending local weather conditions. Some locations increased cool forage production. Most central season forage approaching maturity. Hay, supplement feeding continued. Central pasture condition very poor to good, most poor to fair. Permanent pasture greening up. Statewide cattle condition very poor to excellent, most fair to good.

**GEORGIA:** Temperatures ranged from highs in the Mid 70's to lows in the upper 20's. More rain kept soils wet in many areas, slowing planting progress most of the month. Rainfall during the second week caused more flooding of small streets and1.74 inches. In contrast, the Northwest and South Central Districts with 1.99 inches, followed by Saline with 1.79 inches and Clay with 1.74 inches. Cherokee County led the State with 40% adequate, and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture supply 1% short, 3% short, 65% adequate, 31% surplus. Wheat breaking dormancy 88%; jointed 8%, 12% 2009, 17% avg; condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, and 12% excellent; Wind damage 86% no damage, 12% light damage, and 2% moderate damage; Freeze damage 85% no damage, 13% light damage, 2% moderate damage; Insect infestation 97% none, 3% light; Disease infestation 95% none, 5% light. Range and pasture condition 2% very poor, 20% poor, 29% fair, 55% good and 6% excellent. Feed grain supplies 3% short, 88% adequate, and 9% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 1% very short, 10% short, 81% adequate, and 8% surplus. Stock water supplies 2% short, 81% adequate, and 17% surplus. Temperatures last week continued to be below normal across Kansas with the exception of the northwest. Many areas received additional heaviest amounts of snow in the southwest, north central and southeast. Cherokee County led the State with 1.99 inches, followed by Saline with 1.79 inches and Clay with 1.74 inches. In contrast, the Northwest and South Central Districts received almost no moisture. With the continued cool and wet weather throughout the winter, the winter wheat crop is still lagging behind. However, only advancing 2 percent. Field activities primarily involved top dressing fertilizer and spraying herbicide when fields were dry enough, along with limited field preparation for corn planting. Calving is drawing to a close in many areas, but cattlemen are still having difficulty with muddy pens and feedlots.

**KENTUCKY:** The first week of March received below normal
temperatures and below normal precipitation. This marked the sixth straight week which averaged just over 5 degrees below normal, but it was also the driest week of the year to date. Temperatures for the period averaged 36 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged from 50 in the West to 44 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 32 in the West to 26 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. eqv.) for the period totaled 0.00 inches statewide which was 1.03 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.00 inches, Central 0.00 inches, Bluegrass 0.00 inches and East 0.02 inches, which was 1.12, 1.06, 0.98 and 0.95 inches respectively below normal. After six straight weeks with below normal temperatures, the second week of March experienced some warm weather. The week started off with clear skies and highs in the 70s in some locations. Temperatures for the period averaged 52 degrees across the state which was 8 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged from 59 in the West to 61 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 45 degrees in the West to 41 degrees in the East. By mid week a weather system brought some rainfall which continued as scattered throughout the week. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.85 inches statewide which was 0.19 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 0.59 inches, Central 0.61 inches, Bluegrass 0.83 inches and East 0.95 inches, which was 0.13, 0.45, 0.16 and 0.01 inches respectively below normal. The Commonwealth experienced warmer than normal temperatures once again during the third week of March. The western part of the state received some heavy rainfall on Sunday. This provided just above normal rainfall levels for western portions of the state, however central and eastern parts of the state were still below normal. Temperatures for the period averaged 51 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees above normal and 1 degree cooler than the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 60 in the West to 61 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 41 degrees in the West to 39 degrees in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.43 inches statewide which was 0.61 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 1.14 inches, Central 0.46 inches, Bluegrass 0.05 inches and East 0.07 inches, which was +0.02, -0.60, -0.94 and -0.90 inches respectively from normal. After five straight weeks with below normal precipitation the Commonwealth finally received above normal rainfall during the last week of March. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.31 inches statewide which was 0.28 inches above normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 1.89 inches, Central 1.18 inches, Bluegrass 1.05 inches and East 1.14 inches, which was 0.77, 0.13, 0.05 and 0.17 inches respectively above normal. Temperatures for the period averaged 49 degrees across the state which was 0 degrees from normal and 2 degrees cooler than the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 59 in the West to 58 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 40 degrees in the West to 37 degrees in the East. Farmers were busy preparing routine equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season. Producers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2010 crop season. Costs of inputs are being weighed against anticipated selling prices.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Soil moisture 1% short, 5% adequate, 56% surplus. Crops—corn 20% 2009, 35% avg.; 2% emerged, 16% 2009, 17% avg. Winter Wheat 12% joining 49% 2009, 37% avg.; 2% very poor, 12% poor, 35% fair, 44% good, 7% excellent. Watermelons 38% planted, 37% 2009, 19% avg. Blueberries 1% very poor, 1% poor, 12% fair, 83% good, 3% excellent. Cattle 3% very poor, 21% poor, 39% fair, 32% good, 5% excellent. Pasture 11% very poor, 18% poor, 45% fair, 22% good, 6% excellent. The previous week allowed farmers a few days to work in their fields between rain showers. Soggy soils are still delaying work, but planting has begun for several crops. As warmer weather finally arrives in Mississippi, ryegrass is responding favorably and farmers are hopeful to fully begin the planting season this week.

MISSOURI: March temperatures and precipitation were near normal. Precipitation averaged 3.33 inches compared to the March 30-year average of 3.48 inches. The southeast district reported the most precipitation with 5.14 inches, while the northeast district reported the least precipitation at 2.21 inches. Temperatures across the State ranged from 3 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal. As of March 28, topsoil moisture supply was 38 percent adequate and 62 percent surplus. The condition of the winter wheat crop was 10 percent very poor, 16% poor, 45% fair, 25% good, and 1% excellent. Corn planting has begun in the south central and southeast districts, which reported 1 and 2 percent complete, respectively. Pasture condition was 5% very poor, 23% poor, 34% fair, 11% good, and 1% excellent.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 4% last year, short, 11% last year, 68% adequate, 74% last year, 8% surplus, 11% last year. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 8% last year, 25% last year, 18% last year, 64% adequate, 70% last year, 4% surplus, 4% last year. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 1% last year, 7% poor, 3% last year, 53% fair, 40% last year, 34% good, 52% last year, 3% excellent, 4% last year. Winter wheat yield damage 77% none, 62% last year, 18% light, 33% last year, 5% moderate, 4% last year, 0% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat freeze and drought damage 75% none, 53% last year, 21% light, 37% last year, 3% moderate, 9% last year, 1% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat, protective snow cover 38% very poor, 24% last year, 17% poor, 43% last year, 21% fair, 25% last year, 20% good, 6% last year, 4% excellent, 2% last year. Winter wheat spring stages 65% still dormant, 82% last year, 29% greening, 17% last year, 6% greening and growing, 1% last year. Most of Montana received below normal moisture for the month ending March 28th. Neihart received the most monthly precipitation with 1.29 inches. Temperatures during March were above normal in most of the state. Highs ranged from the mid 50s to the mid 70s, and lows ranged from negative single digits to positive low 20s. Hardin and Huntley shared the monthly high temperature of 75 degrees, and Wisdom had the monthly low temperature of minus 9 degrees. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 94%, 90% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 94%, 93% last year. Livestock grazing 67% open, 40% last year, 25% difficult, 41% last year, 8% closed, 19% last year. Calving completed 45%, 52% last year. Lambing completed 27%, 30% last year.

MONTANA: Livestock condition 1% poor, 15% fair, 57% good, 6% excellent; below year ago levels. Calving progressed to 57% last year, 8% closed, 19% last year. Calving completed 45%, 52% last year. Lambing completed 27%, 30% last year.

NEBRASKA: Hay harvests are rated adequate. Livestock are in good condition despite wet fields. Field crop producers prepared fields for spring planting and planted sorghum, rice, and corn. Strawberries producers continued to harvest strawberries. Citrus producers scouted for insects and vegetable producers planted spring crops. Sugarcane producers were busy off-barring sugarcane. Livestock producers continued to feed hay. Cattlemen remained busy with calving. Crawfish producers continued to put out traps with limited catches due to cooler weather.

LOUISIANA: The state averaged 2.38 inches of rain over the last four weeks, remaining slightly behind the norm. Field crop producers prepared fields for spring planting and planted sorghum, rice, and corn. Strawberries producers continued to harvest strawberries. Citrus producers scouted for insects and vegetable producers planted spring crops. Sugarcane producers were busy off-barring sugarcane. Livestock producers continued to feed hay. Cattlemen remained busy with calving. Crawfish producers continued to put out traps with limited catches due to cooler weather.

MARYLAND: Hay harvests are rated adequate. Livestock are in good condition despite wet fields. Cold and wet conditions limited early planting and tillage of peas and corn. However, the occasional sunny days throughout the month allowed for farmers to do some spring groundwork and planting.

MICHIGAN: The precipitation for the past four weeks ending March 28 varied from 0.03 inch in northwest Lower Peninsula to 2.60 inches in southeastern Lower Peninsula. Average temperature for the month of March was from 4.0 degree above normal in south central Lower Peninsula to 5.0 degrees above normal in western Upper Peninsula. Overall, March’s weather was dry and mild. There was light fruit damage caused by freezing temperatures late in the week. Growers started planting sugar beets on March 18. Field activities for the month were hauling manure, and spreading fertilizer.

MINNESOTA: Livestock condition 1% poor, 15% fair, 57% good, 27% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 8% short, 86% adequate, 5% surplus. Temperatures for March have been averaging warmer than normal. In early March, many observers saw their first temperature readings of 40 degrees F or higher since December 1st of last year. Areas with deeper snow cover (SW, WC, and NW) remained in the 30s F. The alternating freeze/thaw cycles due to daytime and nighttime temperature fluctuations were helping to gradually discharge some of the snow cover around the state and accelerated the runoff flows into southern and western Minnesota watersheds. As March progressed, the spring snow melt flooding dominated precipitation. Field crews were relatively short-lived in many places. Livestock condition was generally good. Sun and wind helped dry out areas and improve calving conditions. Corn harvest resumes for the remaining corn and some field work has begun.

NEVADA: March weather alternated between cool and warm temperatures. Light snowstorms quickly passed through the region and melted rapidly. Pahrump recorded a record snowfall for the month of
March with 2 inches falling on the 9th breaking the old record set in 1917. Most Nevada snowpacks are 75 to 89 percent of average. The eastern Nevada snow pack is currently 113 percent of average. Supplemental feeding of range livestock continued. Winter wheat is in good condition. Other farm and ranch activities included: equipment maintenance, spring calving, fence repairs, crop and livestock marketing.

NEW ENGLAND: New England experienced significant rainfall and above average temperatures throughout the month of March, with average high temperatures ranging from 41.5 degrees in northern Maine to 55.0 degrees in southern Connecticut. Low temperature averages ranged from 29.0 degrees to 36.0 degrees. Most area snowfall totals were insignificant, with the exception of northernmost latitudes reporting a few inches. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.94 in northern Maine to nearly ten inches in coastal Massachusetts. The first week of March saw above average temperatures throughout New England. Light precipitation in the form of rain and snow fell in most locations during March 1 - 4. A few days of rain continued during the following week, with high temperatures ranging from the upper 30s to the upper 50s. Sunny, dry climate marked the first days of this week, until a severe rainstorm crossed New England, resulting in flooding rains and strong winds during March 13 - 15 to all but northern latitudes. This storm caused tree damage, power outages, and major flooding to the affected region as 1.2 to 7.0 inches of rain fell during the storm. The third week of March saw spring-like temperatures and sunny weather throughout New England. Daytime temperatures occasionally broke records and ranged from the low 50s to the low 70s. Temperatures cooled at the start of the fourth week and a major rainstorm brought much-needed rain to New England during the week. Most area precipitation reported during March 22 - 23 ranged from 0.5 to 3.4 inches. A strong cold front moved in the area on March 26, resulting in February-like temperatures with highs ranging from the mid-30s to upper-40s. Maple syrup production suffered due to nighttime temperatures being unseasonably warm during the month, causing maple trees to begin budding, thus decreasing sap flow. Some sugar producers decided to pull their taps due to this issue. Farm activities included nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, and preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were above normal for much of March in most locations. High and low temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to the high-20s. There were no major amounts of precipitation in all districts with rainfall of up to 10 inches in some areas. Farmers continued field preparations for spring crops when weather permitted. Other farm activities included greenhouse work, repairing machinery, and livestock care.

NEW MEXICO: First week of March. A few snow showers fell early in the week, mainly across the northern mountains and the eastern plains of New Mexico. A storm system crossed the state, bringing rain, thunderstorms, and mainly mountain snow showers. Average temperatures for the week were generally at or slightly below normal. Second week of March. Winter storms continued to bring precipitation. Precipitation amounts were low during New Mexico during the week. Most areas received precipitation, except in the southwest corner of the state where conditions remained dry. Third week of March. Another storm system impacted New Mexico with showers, thunderstorms and mountain snow. Some snow showers were around 10 to 14 inches in the east side of the central mountain chain and over the Abiquiu area and into the Northern Mountains, around 2 inches in the Albuquerque Foothills. Last week of March. Average temperatures this week were in the mid to upper thirties in the northern half of the state. Central New Mexico saw average temperatures in the low to mid forties. The southern half of the state had average temperatures in the upper forties to mid fifties.

NEW YORK: Unseasonably warm weather hindered normal maple syrup production. Temperatures reached into the high 60's for a few days during the month. Major activities included caring for livestock, spreading manure, grading and packing potatoes, onions, apples and cabbage. Winter meetings and trade shows were well attended.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 4.0 the week ending March 28, the same as previous week. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 1% short, 66% adequate and 33% surplus. Warmer temperatures in March allowed farmers to get in fields. The state received scattered showers during the last week of March, with amounts reaching up to 2.98 inches in Goldsboro. Average temperatures during the final week of March were about normal, ranging from 45 to 57 degrees.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth was 0.60 inches on March 28. Hay and Forage supplies were rated 6% short, 85% adequate, 9% surplus. Pastures and ranges remained 100% dormant. Grain and Concentrate supplies were rated 4% short, 88% adequate, and 8% surplus. Corn 84% harvested, neither previous year nor average available. Cow condition 2% poor, 15% fair, 75% good, and 8% excellent. Calving was 30% complete. Calf condition 1% poor, 13% fair, 78% good, 8% excellent. Twelve percent of cattle/calf/ovines obtained feed from pasture and ranges. Sheep condition 3% poor, 18% fair, 74% good, and 5% excellent. Lambing was 48% complete. Lamb condition 2% poor, 20% fair, 73% good, and 5% excellent, with 1% in good condition. Snowfall was 65% complete. Five percent of sheep/rams/ovals obtained feed from pasture and ranges. County and secondary roads were rated 89% open, 6% difficult, 5% closed. One percent were drifted, 21% muddy, and 78% dry. Above normal temperatures were reported throughout the state during March. Though some counties in eastern North Dakota experienced above normal temperatures for the month, the eastern area were very small compared to last year. Main activities for March included marketing grain, harvesting corn, calving and lambing.

OHIO: The March 2010 average temperature for Ohio was 41.9 degrees, 3.1 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the state averaged 2.66 inches, 0.08 inch below normal. Winter wheat producers report the wheat crop is in good condition. Much of the crop was planted late; however, those late plantings received good snow cover and are in better condition than anticipated. Fields are wet, but very little loss due to flooding is expected. Cattle are in good to excellent condition. There has been very little stress on livestock due to favorable weather and good feed supplies.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 71% adequate, 21% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 12% short, 68% adequate, 16% surplus. Wheat condition 1% very poor 3% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, 14% excellent; jointing 48% this month, 60% last year, 56% average. Rye condition 3% very poor, 5% poor, 30% fair, 60% good, 7% excellent; headed 35% this month, 44% last year, 42% average. Oats condition 2% very poor 6% poor, 52% fair, 35% good 5% excellent; 95% planted this month, 92% last year, 93% average; jointing 11% this month, 10% last year, 14% average. Corn seedbed prepared 41% this month, 69% last year, 57% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 14% this month 24% last year, 23% average. Soybean seedbed prepared 31% last year, 30% average. Peanuts seedbed prepared 42% this month, 42% last year, 30% average. Cotton 30% emerged this month, 61% last year, 45% average. Livestock condition 3% very poor, 11% poor, 34% fair, 46% good, 6% excellent. Pasture and range condition 7% very poor, 21% poor, 37% fair, 32% good, 2% excellent.

OREGON: Spring is here, with fruit crops blooming early. Cherries, pears, peaches were blooming, apples were pushed in Linn, Benton Counties. Farmers markets will soon be starting up. Fertilizer was applied to hay fields in Josephine County where weather permitted, but some farmers were prevented by standing water. Early warm weather has given growers a good start with little sign of freeze damage. In Southwestern Oregon, livestock were already using pasture buttressed with some supplemental feeding. There are lots of baby lambs, new calves on the ground, good pig litters this year. In much of the State, eyes are on snowpack levels needed for summer irrigation. They are below normal levels across Oregon, but farmers are particularly worried in Klamath County and a number of areas neighboring Klamath. Cold and moist weather availability ranges from lower than normal to none at all. Some ranchers are stocking up on hay. Daytime temperatures were warmer this month, but most areas still fell below freezing at night. All but one station reported at least one night below freezing, but eighteen out of forty-two stations had less than a week of sub-freezing nighttime temperatures. High temperatures ranged from 74 degrees in Medford, Roseburg AP, down to 62 degrees in Parkdale Meso. Low temperatures ranged from 4 degrees in Christmas Valley, up to 33 degrees in Astoria/Clatsop. Eighteen stations reported more than ten days with below freezing temperatures for the month of March. However, there are two remaining days in March not included in the monthly total, so additional rain may diminish the departure from normal precipitation.

PENNSYLVANIA: Farmers are continuing to prepare for the upcoming season. Principal farm activities for the month of March included hauling and spreading manure, applying chemicals and fertilizers, machinery maintenance, and planting. When the weather permitted, farmers were able to seed alfalfa, oats, and tobacco. March brought a mixture of weather conditions. Temperatures this month were highly variable. The average temperature for the month was 47.1 degrees which is 5.9 degrees above normal. High temperatures reached the 70s with the highest temperature at 74 degrees on the 21st. This month also included many wet and windy days. The total precipitation for the month was 3.22 inches which was comprised of mostly rainfall and very little snow.

SOUTH CAROLINA: The first week of March arrived with continuing cold weather. On Tuesday, wintry precipitation began to develop Upstate as low pressure moved eastward along the Gulf of Mexico. Snow showers expanded into central South Carolina during the day.
and into the evening hours. Mostly sunny skies followed for Wednesday as high pressure became parked over the region. Frosty mornings accompanied sub-freezing temperatures into the weekend. On Friday morning, Sandy Springs reported a low of 22 degrees and Bennettsville noted 25 degrees. The usual cold location of Cedar Creek recorded 20 degrees on Saturday. Blue skies allowed almost twelve available hours of sunshine combined to offer Saturday afternoon high temperatures up in the 60’s. Although parts of the state observed periods over ofcast skies Sunday, several locations reported 40-degree temperature rises from the morning low to the afternoon high. The state average temperature for March 1 – March 7 was 10 degrees below normal. For the second week of March, most of the state shared in the 70-degree mild temperatures on Monday. The season’s warmest weather occurred on Tuesday with Columbia and Charleston recording 77 degrees and Florence 76 degrees. It was the highest temperature in four months for those sites. On Wednesday, a nearly stationary boundary separated the cold air from the south. Rain showers developed during the day and spread eastward. Heavy rains formed in thunderstorm clusters near the coast on Thursday with Charleston City measuring 1.93 inches. The unsettled weather continued Friday with isolated showers rotating southeastward and small hail reported over Charleston County within a late night storm. Mostly sunny, windy conditions were observed Saturday. Passing sprinkles joined the alternating hours of clouds and sunshine on Sunday. The state average temperature for the seven day period was 1 degree above normal. For the third week of March, Dillon, Camden, Cades and Manning all reported a high temperature of 69 degrees on Monday, the area of highest pressure. A warm front moved the state’s clouds northward Tuesday afternoon, and by Wednesday morning light showers were drifting northward into Aiken County. Gray skies limited any sunshine warmth. Occasional showers fell over much of eastern South Carolina and continued through Thursday. Thursday’s highest temperature of 70 degrees occurred at Clemson AP due to a nearly full day of sunshine. A few of the usual cold sites observed frost on Friday morning. Pelion recorded a minimum temperature of 34 degrees. The season’s warmest weather arrived on Saturday, the first day of spring. Cloudy, cool conditions with periods of rain were observed on Sunday. The state average temperature for the seven day period was 1 degree below normal. For the fourth week of March 12 and ending March 28, late season cold returned on Monday following the passing of a cold front. On Tuesday morning, Hunts Bridge recorded a low temperature of 29 degrees. A slow warming trend began Wednesday for much of the state. Tree pollen was beginning to appear on exposed surfaces across the Midlands. The Columbia Metro AP and downtown Columbia Owens AP both reported a 77-degree high temperature on Thursday. The interaction between building warmth to the south and weak boundaries entering from the north produced a few light showers within the partly sunny conditions though Friday. On Saturday morning, Table Rock and Chesnee dropped to 32 degrees. Seasonal weather was observed over the weekend ahead of a cold front that moved through South Carolina Saturday evening. Passing showers and increasing winds evolved into severe thunderstorms that included hail and tornadoes on Sunday night. Golf ball-sized hail fell over parts of Pickens, Greenville, Abbeville, York and Cherokee counties. Preliminary surveys indicated tomato paths within McCormick, Edgefield, Lexington and Fairfield counties. The state average temperature for the seven day period was near normal.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 66% adequate, 33% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 81% adequate, 16% surplus. Winter wheat breaking dormancy 45%. Winter wheat 7% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, 7% excellent. Corn harvested 97%. Feed supplies 2% very short, 11% short, 84% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 4% short, 75% adequate, 19% surplus. Accessible livestock feed supplies 79% readily, 18% difficult, 3% inaccessible. Accessible stock water supplies 90% readily, 9% difficult, 1% inaccessible. Range and pasture 6% very poor, 5% poor, 31% fair, 51% good, 7% excellent. Cattle death losses 2% below normal, 92% normal, 6% above normal. Calf deaths 3% below average, 87% average, 10% above average. Calving 38% complete. Cattle moved to pasture 3% complete. Cattle condition 3% poor, 25% fair, 65% good, 7% excellent. Sheep, lamb deaths 4% below average, 92% average, 4% above average. Lambing 59% complete. Sheep condition 1% poor, 17% fair, 3% good, 5% excellent, 70% open, 16% difficult, 5% closed. Road conditions-county 94% open, 5% difficult, 1% closed. Melting snow and wet conditions, and in some cases flooding, has kept producers busy throughout the month of March. Some reports mentioned the closed roads due to being under water or washed out. Activities for the month included calving and lambing, preparing equipment for fieldwork, tending to livestock, and dealing with high water issues.

TENNESSEE: Temperatures ranged from 8 degrees below normal to 6 degrees above. Precipitation was mostly lower than normal. Farm activities included fertilizer application and preparing fields for planting. The winter wheat crop improved, and was rated at month’s end in fair-to-good condition. Cattle and pastures were also rated in fair-to-good condition. Hay supplies were adequate.

TEXAS: Agricultural Summary. Precipitation was steady during March with 0.01 to 2.5 inches of rainfall across much of the State but the Trans-Pecos receiving less than 0.25 of an inch. Increasingly warm temperatures were observed during the month of March with some light freezes and snow covering fields in the beginning to optimal planting conditions towards the end. Small grains progressed due to adequate moisture, winter wheat were reported to be in good condition for the month. Corn planting was delayed due to the excessive rainfalls in the Blackblands but a few fields in the Upper Coast had planting activity. Spring planting preparation was active across much of the State. A recent freeze caused minor damage to some vegetable crops, peach and other fruit trees in the Cross Timbers but the severity is still undetermined. Harvest and harvest activities were very good, and harvesting of cabbage was active in South Texas. A late winter storm in the Northern High Plains had some effect on cattle condition but minimal death losses were reported. However, livestock in the Northern Low Plains were in fair to excellent condition and some supplemental feeding was being provided. Most report very few problems; the calves also enjoyed success in lambing. Morgan and Utah Counties reported that livestock producers have seen a successful calving season thus far. Farmers are forced to spread poison wheat on their lands in an effort to control the burgeoning vole populations. Weber, Utah, Morgan, and Salt Lake Counties reported that herbicide and fertilizer applications were being made to alfalfa fields. Small grains were being planted. Millard and Beaver Counties reported that producers have been slow to get into the fields due to weekly storms, and below average temperatures. Some producers have been able to plant a variety of spring crops in between storms. Duchesne and Uintah Counties reported that the snow had melted by mid-month, which allowed farmers to begin field work. For producers in the Trans-Pecos, which would help reduce the risk of drought. Emery and Grand Counties reported that major field work has just gotten under way. Valley snowpack is below normal. Winter seeded annual crops are in good shape due to the moisture they received throughout winter. Apricots have just recently started blooming. San Juan County reports that many fields are still snow covered. There is some concern about winterkill and snow mold on the winter wheat, due to lingering snow cover. There should be a good amount of runoff in San Juan and Grand Counties. Garfield, Kane, Wayne, Sevier, and Platte Counties reported that snow had been melting and farmers are doing an amazing job of calving and lambing, preparing equipment for fieldwork, tending to livestock, and dealing with high water issues.

UTAH: Weather-wise March brought a variety of weather to Utah. Temperatures went back and forth with some warmer days and then more cold days. There were several snow storms but mostly in the mountains. The snow mainly melted by the end of the month. There were also some days of valley rainfall. Although Southern Utah received more precipitation this winter than Northern Utah, there is sufficient water storage in the reservoirs for irrigation this summer throughout the state. With some milder days crop producers have been able begin field preparation and planting. Box Elder and Cache Counties reported no new signs of winter wheat winterkill. Fieldwork is being done in preparation for spring planting. Some spring barley, wheat, and onions have already been planted. Soil conditions are very dry for this early in the season. Irrigators are concerned about the snowpack, because it is below average so far this year. There have been some reports of meadow vole damage in fields and yards, resulting from several winter warm periods. Farmers have been forced to spread poison wheat on their lands in an effort to control of the burgeoning vole populations. Weber, Utah, Morgan, and Salt Lake Counties reported that herbicide and fertilizer applications were being made to alfalfa fields. Small grains were being planted. Millard and Beaver Counties reported that producers have been slow to get into the fields due to weekly storms, and below average temperatures. Some producers have been able to plant a variety of spring crops in between storms. Duchesne and Uintah Counties reported that the snow had melted by mid-month, which allowed farmers to begin field work. For producers in the Trans-Pecos, which would help reduce the risk of drought. Emery and Grand Counties reported that major field work has just gotten under way. Valley snowpack is below normal. Winter seeded annual crops are in good shape due to the moisture they received throughout winter. Apricots have just recently started blooming. San Juan County reports that many fields are still snow covered. There is some concern about winterkill and snow mold on the winter wheat, due to lingering snow cover. There should be a good amount of runoff in San Juan and Grand Counties. Garfield, Kane, Wayne, Sevier, and Platte Counties reported that snow had been melting and farmers are doing an amazing job of calving and lambing, preparing equipment for fieldwork, tending to livestock, and dealing with high water issues.

VIRGINIA: Livestock 1% very poor, 6% poor, 42% fair, 44% good.
7% excellent. Pasture 4% very poor, 21% poor, 34% fair, 34% good, 7% excellent. Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops 6% very poor, 15% poor, 40% fair, 35% good, 4% excellent. Beef Cattle Forage Obtained from Pastures 19%; 10% 2009. Milk Cow Forage Obtained from Pastures 5%; 5% 2009. Sheep Forage Obtained from Pastures 13%; 10% 2009. Weather patterns throughout the month of March have been conducive for early growth. Wheat and barley field conditions have appeared to be improving. Pasture and small grains have responded well to the temperate weather and have greened up nicely. Growers are gearing up for corn planting with anticipation of consistent spring weather conditions. There has been an increase in spring field work with applications of nitrogen and lime, and some spreading of liquid manure to ease pressure on full manure storage structures. Producers continue to feed livestock and repair fences for turn-out time. Although weather has improved, wet fields continue to interfere with field preparation in some areas. Indications of delayed fertilization of winter grains and forages appear to be evident. Strawberry development has been delayed about two weeks due to the cold weather.

WASHINGTON: A very mild winter gave way to a very early spring as farmers began tilling and planting earlier than many had ever done before. Winter wheat conditions were mostly good, with some replanting occurring in the east central part of the State. Wheat in Whitman and especially Walla Walla County looked good. By month’s end, over 50 percent of spring wheat had been planted, while potato planting was in excess of 20 percent. Dry and processing pea planting was well ahead of the years previous and five year average marks. Cattle calving conditions were excellent and hay was reported to be in surplus supplies. The overriding concern at this point is the lack of snow pack and the almost inevitable drought conditions likely to follow.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 1% short, 65% adequate and 34% surplus compared with 11% very short, 11% short, 77% adequate and 1% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 5% very short, 18% short, 74% adequate, and 3% surplus compared with 3% very short, 12% short, 83% adequate and 2% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 8% short, 91% adequate and 1% surplus compared to 3% very short, 8% short and 89% adequate last year. Wheat conditions were 17% fair, 81% good and 2% excellent. Cattle and calves were 6% poor, 34% fair, 57% good and 3% excellent. Calving was 66% complete compared to 64% last year.

Sheep and lambs were 8% poor, 23% fair, 67% good and 2% excellent. Lambing was 77% complete compared to 73% last year. Farming activities included: spreading lime and fertilizer on pastures, calving, lambing, repairing fences, top dressing small grains, pruning fruit trees, and making plans for spring vaccinations and parasite control.

WISCONSIN: March precipitation in Wisconsin ranged from 0.31 inches in Green Bay (1.51 inches below normal) to 0.83 inches in Milwaukee (1.43 inches below normal). Few areas received snowfall for March with snowfall averaging 4.7 to 8.6 inches below normal. Snowfall totals for the month ranged from 0.0 inches in Green Bay, La Crosse, and Eau Claire to 1.8 inches in Madison. March temperatures for the state of Wisconsin were not available at the time of this report.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 18% short, 79% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 21% short, 74% adequate. Average depth of snow cover 0.8 inches. Barley progress 26% planted. Spring wheat progress 6% planted. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 6% fair, 91% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat wind damage 59% none, 34% light, 7% moderate. Winter wheat freeze damage 65% none, 29% light, 6% moderate. Spring calves born 38%. Farm flock ewes lambed 40%. Farm flock sheep shorn 40%. Range flock ewes lambed 12%. Range flock sheep shorn 34%. Calf losses 26% light, 74% normal. Lamb losses 30% light, 70% normal. Cattle conditions 1% poor, 23% fair, 76% good. Calves conditions 15% fair, 84% good, 1% excellent. Sheep conditions 1% poor, 17% fair, 82% good. Lambs conditions 10% fair, 90% good. Range and pasture condition 9% very poor, 12% poor, 28% fair, 50% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 11% short, 88% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 6% short, 91% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter weather has varied across the state during March with only a few counties receiving moisture. This has made for nice lambing and calving conditions. However, it is a double edge sword with the current prospects for rangeland forage production looking poor. Needless to say, drought conditions remain a concern as winds begin to pick up and snowpack remains below normal for the majority of the state. Activities calving and lambing; sheering of sheep; small grain planting beginning in some areas.