ALABAMA: The month of February began with freezing temperatures and a winter storm in the state’s northern region. This winter storm brought a dusting of snow, which melted away when temperatures reached above freezing the next day. The end of the month brought a significant warming trend to most of the state with temperatures climbing above 70°F. Unfortunately, the influx of warmer temperatures brought severe storms to most of the state. However, according to The US Drought Monitor released February 22, 2011, the entire state of Alabama still is listed with abnormally dry to severe drought conditions. This same time last year, Alabama was drought free. Corn planting started in February 2011 along the Gulf Coast regions. Other regions of the state, which will begin planting corn in March-May, have begun field preparations. The cattle and calf inventory is down 4% in the state from last year, and prices for cattle and calves remain relatively high. These higher prices are enticing producers to move lighter weight cattle off their farms.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State were mostly below normal in February. They were above normal only for the third week of the month. The temperature extremes for February were a high of 82 degrees in Marana and Tucson and a low of 9 below zero at St. John’s. Precipitation in the form of rain or snow was recorded in all of the 22 weather stations in February. Kingman is the only reporting station with below normal precipitation for the year. Alfalfa harvesting was tempered and sheepping off remained active on the alfalfa fields in central and western areas of the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures during the month of February were either extremely below or above normal and ranged from as low as 15 degrees below normal to as high as 18 degrees above normal. Low temperatures for the month ranged from -18 degrees to 48 degrees. High temperatures ranged from 45 to 83 degrees. The month of February did bring some precipitation to the state, but by the end of February the entire state was still ranged from abnormally dry to extreme drought. There were several weather events during the month. The first week of February brought three winter storms and frigid temperatures. The heaviest 24 hour snow accumulation for February 9, 2011 was in Siloam Springs, Arkansas with 24.5 inches. Mild weather soon moved into the state and remained throughout the last week of February. The month ended with two severe weather systems. Two EF1 tornadoes were confirmed on February 24. Severe thunderstorms moved through the state February 27-28. Between weather events some winter wheat producers were applying nitrogen and herbicide applications to crop. Winter wheat was in mostly fair to good condition by month’s end. Other producers were able to do some pre-plant tillage and apply burndown herbicides. Farmers also worked on getting their equipment ready. Livestock producers were still dealing with tight hay supplies and low pond and stream levels. Some livestock producers were applying fertilizer to their pastures early in hopes of encouraging growth on the cool season grasses. Tomato producers began planting their tomato seeds for this year’s crop.

CALIFORNIA: Dryland grain crops continued to benefit from rain showers which moved through the State. Cooler temperatures slowed plant growth. Aerial herbicide applications continued on small grain fields. Alfalfa fields continued to come out of dormancy. Fields in drier areas received irrigation. Cotton beds were formed. Sugar beet development continued in Fresno County. Early season herbicide applications were near completion in the San Joaquin Valley.

Preparation for spring planting continued as conditions allowed with plowing, disking, planting, and spraying in fields. The navel orange, mandarin and lemon harvests continued in the San Joaquin Valley, along with early varieties of Valencia oranges being picked for export markets. Lemons and grapefruit were also picked in the desert region, with lemons being picked in the coastal regions as well. The navel orange harvest continued at a quickened pace to limit fruit losses due to rind breakdown. Budding in stone fruit trees was ongoing as blooming continued in early-variety fruit trees and began in later varieties. Early grape varieties showed bud break and strawberry plants showed good growth in the San Joaquin Valley. Beehives continued to be placed in orchards. Irrigation was applied to almond orchards across the Central Valley to limit the effects of freezing temperatures on almond buds. Full bloom was reached in most early varieties as blooming continued in all varieties. Bloom sprays were also ongoing in blooming almond orchards. Pruning and spraying in pistachio and walnut orchards continued as field conditions allowed.

Carrots, onions and cabbage were growing and being harvested in Kern County. Tulare County reported early summer vegetables being germinated in greenhouses. In Fresno County, good conditions with warmer days early in the week resulted in a steady harvest of broccoli and lettuce, while fresh market onions were planted and can field fumigated. Merced County reported the completion of the radicchio harvest. Rainfall has been sufficient causing above normal growth to grazing land, and dairies have been dying; however, cows suffered cold conditions during the wet stretch. Supplemental feeding of livestock has been cut back. Cattle and sheep grazed on idle farmland, rangeland and semi-dormant alfalfa fields. Lambing continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Beehives continued to be placed in orchards, though placement in almond orchards for pollination was complete in Merced County.

COLORADO: Colorado received above normal amounts of precipitation during the first half of February. There was a weak precipitation measured for the last week of the month. Temperatures across the State were below average for the first half of the month, but by the end of the month, temperatures were above average. Currently, the mountain snowpack in the northern regions are 125% of average with the majority in the North Platte River basin at 135%. The southern areas are 95% of average. Overall, it is currently 116% of average. The winter wheat growing areas experienced mainly dry conditions with limited snowfall during the month and the crop remains in mostly poor to fair condition. The soil moisture in these areas remain short to very short.

DELAWARE: Topsoil moisture 99% adequate and 1% surplus. Saturated moisture 50% short, 49% adequate and 1% surplus. Hay supplies 50% short and 50% adequate. Pasture was mostly poor. Winter wheat condition 17% fair and 83% excellent. Barley condition 18% poor, 73% fair, and 9% good, 100% planted, 100% emerged. Winter wheat 100% planted, 100% emerged. Recent cold and snowy weather have prevented any crop related activities. Snow geese continue to hamper small grain fields and despite recent precipitation rain is still needed.

FLORIDA: Early February, sugarcane growers harvested fields quickly to mitigate losses from prior freezes. Warm weather following freezes caused some sugar to ferment in sugarcane stocks. Growers replenished seed cane that was lost due to freezes in December, January. End of month, sugarcane harvesting completed, Everglades region. Strawberry harvesting active, Plant City. Field preparation underway for watermelons, Swannnee County, early February. Mid-month, harvesting of cabbage, bell peppers, eggplant still down with no shipment movement. End of February, mold in cabbage fields, Putnam County. Light supplies of snap beans, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, radishes, tomatoes, strawberries marketed. Vegetable shipments below normal for month. Murcott tangerines harvesting continued, Sunburst almost finished. Navel oranges harvest winding down, Valencia harvesting began. Grapefruit and early and midseason oranges harvest continued. Almost all processing plants opened. Early and midseason oranges and grapefruit make up majority of fruit going to plants. Heavy irrigation, harvesting dominated grove activities. Pasture condition beginning of February mostly poor, improved to

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mostly fair by month’s end. Pasture in northern counties included small grain forage. Cattle condition fair to good beginning of month, mostly fair during month, ended month mostly fair to good. Drought, freezing temperatures limited forage growth. Hay, supplements feeding active. Hay supplies low. Panhandle, northern areas, cool season forages producing well by month’s end, though these crops were damaged by very short due to lack of moisture last fall. However, a protective layer of snow has been on the ground during periods of the coldest conditions reduced hay yields last summer. Other activities included preparing for spring planting, fertilizing, spreading lime, testing soil, completing rental contracts, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

GEORGIA: The month of February started with temperatures below normal and ended with temperatures above normal, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Georgia Field Office. Precipitation continued to be below normal for the month. Statewide, soil temperatures are averaging from the mid 50’s to lower 60’s. Topsoil condition rates very good, 34% short, 60% adequate and 2% surplus. So far this year the amount of chill hours for fruit is nearly double the amount needed for blueberries and peaches. With the recent warm weather, both blueberries and peaches are at risk if Georgia has a late frost. The cold weather has delayed growth of small grains. The use of hay and supplemental feed has increased. Range and pasture conditions 6% very poor, 26% poor, 48% fair, 19% good and 1% excellent. Other activities included preparing for spring planting, fertilizing, spreading lime, testing soil, completing rental contracts, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

HAWAII: Conditions for agriculture were fair to good during the month of February. While there were threats of heavy rain and flooding during the month, little to no damage occurred with what little rain did fall. This lack of rains was welcomed in areas such as Waianae on Oahu. However rains from previous month to mid month led to low areas of Oahu led to basil downy mildew. Other than that there were no exceptional weather related events affecting agriculture. See below for week by week summary.

IDAHO: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 2% short, 64% adequate, 34% surplus. Calving completed 41%, 42% 2010, 38% avg. Lambing completed 30%, 27% 2010, 37% avg. Hay and roughage supply 1% very short, 41% short, 57% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 65% good, 13% excellent.

ILINOIS: Topsoil moisture 2% short, 58% adequate, and 40% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 15% poor, 46% fair, 32% good, 4% excellent. Last month, statewide temperatures continued to be below normal while precipitation was above normal throughout the state. Much of the state was hit with heavy snow early in the month with total snowfall for the month ranging from less than 6 inches to more than 24 inches. Much of the wheat crop had been blanketed by snow for the first half of the month and still remains dormant. February also marked the beginning on calving season for many cattle operations throughout the state. Temperatures averaged 29.2 degrees, 0.8 degrees colder than normal. Statewide precipitation averaged 1.89 inches, 0.88 inches above normal.

INDIANA: The state experienced near normal temperatures and heavy precipitation during February. The state average temperature was 30.1o which was only 0.1o below normal. An average of 3.16 inches of precipitation fell across the state which was 142 percent of normal. Temperatures were also above normal for the second straight week, due to the warm moist southerly flow. Temperatures for the period totaled 35 degrees across the state which was near normal and no change to the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 39 in the West to 45 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 21 degrees in the West to 29 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.94 inches statewide which was 0.07 inches above normal and 108% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.89 inches, Central 1.05 inches, Bluegrass 1.28 inches and East 0.54 inches, which was -0.05, 0.10, 0.53 and -0.29 inches respectively from normal. The second week of February was the coldest of the month with temperatures falling to comfortably below normal. The week started off just a bit below normal; however by Thursday and Friday lows were dipping down to the negatives in several locations. Conditions changed rapidly across the Commonwealth by the end of the weekend, with highs in the 50s and low 60s on Sunday. Light precipitation could be seen across the state all through the middle of the week, but overall it was below normal. Most of the precipitation came as snowfall. Latest U.S. Drought Monitor has around 40% of the state abnormally dry and about 8% still in severe drought. Temperatures for the period averaged 28 degrees across the state which was 8 degrees cooler than normal and 8 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 39 in the West to 40 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 13 degrees in the West to 20 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.45 inches statewide which was 0.44 inches below normal and 50% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.51 inches, Central 0.56 inches, Bluegrass 0.38 inches and East 0.33 inches, which was 0.05, 0.39, 0.39 and 0.52 inches below normal. The third week of February was warm. High temperatures were above normal most days, and multiple locations even reached the 70s. The Commonwealth did not receive much precipitation during the week. The majority of the state did not even receive a tenth of an inch of rainfall. This leaves around 42% of the state abnormally dry, while about 8% is still in severe drought. Temperatures for the period averaged 50 degrees across the state which was 12 degrees warmer than normal and 22 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures for the period averaged from 62 in the West to 60 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 36 degrees in the West to 38 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.08 inches statewide which was 0.65 inches below normal and 9% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.06 inches, Central 0.12 inches, Bluegrass 0.05 inches and East 0.08 inches, which was 0.96, 0.86, 0.73 and 0.77 inches below normal. The Commonwealth finally received its first wet week during the last week of the month which was the first time since late last November that the state received over an inch of normal precipitation. Western and central parts of the state got the most rainfall, while eastern parts of the state got the least. Temperatures were also above normal for the second straight week, due to the warm moist southerly flow. Temperatures for the period averaged 46 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees warmer than normal and 4 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 53 in the West to 57 in the East. Low

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 9. Topsoil moisture 20% very short, 23% short, 49% adequate, 8% surplus. Winter wheat condition 17% very poor, 23% poor, 35% fair, 23% good, 2% excellent; wind damage 78% none, 18% light, 3% moderate, 1% severe; freeze damage 75% none, 17% light, 7% moderate, 1% severe. Range and pasture condition 1% very short, 22% short, 77% adequate, 1% excellent. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 4% short, 87% adequate, 8% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 2% very short, 8% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies 4% very short, 15% short, 75% adequate, 2% surplus. Kansas experienced a mix of winter and spring weather during February. The western counties continue to be very dry, receiving only limited moisture during the month, while the eastern counties received rain and snow totals that were above normal. Precipitation amounts varied during February from just 0.07 inch at Johnson in the southwest to 4.33 inches at Pittsburg in the southeast. Temperatures varied widely across the State during February with highs in the 70s and lows in the single digits. Snow fell from zero at Concordia to 23 below zero at Wilmore. Overall, temperatures were below average for nearly all stations. Producers have been limited in their field work but did get some tillage and fertilizer applications done. The lack of moisture and snow cover this winter has many farmers concerned for their winter wheat crop as February closes and spring driving west. There have also been reports of beef cows being lost due to breaking through ice on ponds and that the sub-zero temperatures have caused an increase in death loss in calves and cattle.
temperatures averaged from 27 degrees in the West to 39 degrees in the East. Precipitation (lq. eq.) for the period totaled 2.85 inches statewide which was 1.87 inches above normal and 292% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 3.27 inches, Central 3.11 inches, Bluegrass 2.92 inches and East 2.08 inches, which was 2.17, 2.12 and 1.17 inches above normal. Farmers were kept busy tending to their livestock and performing routine equipment maintenance. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state. Farmers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2011 crop season. Costs of inputs and rental agreements are being weighed against anticipated prices.

LOUISIANA: The state averaged 2.77 inches of rain over the last four weeks. State rainfall for the year was 3.58 inches behind the norm year-to-date at 6.81 inches. Field crop producers prepared fields for spring planting and have already started planting corn as daytime temps for late February have averaged from the high 70s to mid 80s. Strawberries producers took precautions to avoid any major freeze damage as night temperatures continued to dip into the high 20s and low to mid 30s during early February. Livestock producers continued to feed hay. Crawfish producers continued to put out traps.

MARYLAND: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 84% adequate and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture 16% short, 80% adequate and, 4% surplus. Hay supports 13% exist to 90% from 1968-1977 annual average. Pasture was mostly fair. Wheat condition 2% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair 38% good, and 29% excellent. Barley condition 3% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 36% good, and 29% excellent; 100% planted, 100% emerged. Wheat 100% planted, 100% emerged. Recent cold and snow prevented hay crop related activities. Snow geese continue to hamper small grain fields and despite recent precipitation rain is still needed.

MICHIGAN: Precipitation for the four weeks ended varied from 0.43 inches to 0.63 inches in the Upper Peninsula and 0.57 inches to 2.60 inches in the Lower Peninsula. February gave us some very cold weeks and a few warm days. Field activities included pruning orchards, manure hauling, and machinery repair. The warming trend in mid February melted some snow cover and allowed some thawing of the ground.

MINNESOTA: Precipitation and temperature summary for February, 2011. Temperatures during February fell well below average levels during the second week but rebounded with temperature averaging 8 to 12 degrees above average during the third week. These warm temperature reduced snow cover levels statewide. However, the widespread snow storm that occurred on February 20-21 was one of the heaviest ever for February across many parts of the state. Many places in central and southern Minnesota saw 8 to 12 inches, with the highest totals in the southwestern and central central Minnesota through the Twin Cities and into west central Wisconsin. Madison in west central Minnesota in Lac Qui Parle County saw the most snow with 20 inches. Portions of the southwest Twin City Metro area also saw up to 19 inches. The average February temperature reported by most observers in Minnesota is close to the 30-year normal despite some cold readings during the month.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Soil moisture 0% very short, 13% short, 76% adequate, 11% surplus. Wheat 100%, emerged, 13% jointing. The beginning of February was cool with some snow in the upper half of the state. Halfway through the month got much warmer with highs in the 70’s and 80’s. Aerial applications of burndown chemicals and fertilizer have been applied for the last two or three weeks. Storms the night of February 24 provided moisture needed to activate many residual herbicides in numerous farmers’ burndown applications and fertilizer applied on wheat. Strong winds from the same storm caused damage to homes and buildings in the lower delta area.

MISSOURI: February was warmer than normal Statewide and cooler than normal over the northern two-thirds of the State while warmer than normal in the southern third. A blizzard affected much of Missouri north of I-44 February 1st and 2nd. Snowfall of 12 to 20 inches was common with the northwest district receiving 5 to 10 inches. Precipitation averaged 3.77 inches throughout the State compared with the February 30-year average of 1.50 inches. The northwest district averaged the least precipitation with 1.50 inches, while the Bootheel averaged the most with 6.60 inches. Pemiscott County received 8.36 inches of precipitation in February. Temperatures were 1 to 4 degrees below normal across the State except for the southern third which was 1 to 2 degrees above average. The condition of the dormant winter wheat crop ranges from poor to excellent with the majority rated good. The rain and snow has improved the wheat condition in portions of that State.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 4% last year; 7% short, 16% last year; 73% adequate, 77% last year; 19% surplus, 3% last year. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 9% last year; 10% short, 28% last year; 82% adequate, 62% last year; 4% surplus, 1% last year. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 2% last year; 4% poor, 8% last year; 25% fair, 48% last year; 56% good, 37% last year; 15% excellent, 5% last year. Winter wheat condition 72% none, 82% last year; 74% light, 13% last year; 3% moderate, 4% last year; 1% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat freeze and drought damage 77% none, 77% last year; 19% light, 19% last year; 4% moderate, 3% last year, 0% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat protection stresses of snow cover 0% very poor, 6% last year; 3% poor, 8% last year; 18% fair, 25% last year; 65% good, 46% last year; 14% excellent 13% last year. Livestock producers have been busy during February tending livestock, preparing for spring planting and have already started planting corn as daytime temps for late February have averaged from the high 70s to mid 80s. Strawberries producers took precautions to avoid any major freeze damage as night temperatures continued to dip into the high 20s and low to mid 30s during early February. Livestock producers continued to feed hay. Crawfish producers continued to put out traps.

NEBRASKA: Wheat conditions 1% very poor, 12% poor, 47% fair, 37% good, 3% excellent. Hay and forage 0% very short, 6% short, 92% adequate, and 2% surplus. Cattle and Calves condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 1% fair, 7% average, and 9% excellent. Calfing progress 25% complete. For the month of February 2011 temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees below normal for the eastern half of the state and to 6 to 10 degrees below normal for the western half. Precipitation in the central and southeastern counties was below normal while the remainder of state received above normal precipitation, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Precipitation was light during January across the Central District with less than .15 inch recorded. Elsewhere, one half to one and a half inches were received. At the end of the month, snow depth was limited across the central third of the State, while the northern and southern counties averaged one to two inches of snow cover. Hauling grain to market, preparation for spring planting and livestock care were the main activities during the month. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels. Producers have been feeding cattle due to cold conditions with most feed supplies adequate. Cattle are in good condition with about one quarter of cows having calves.

NEVADA: February storm systems brought rain and snow to most Nevada locations improving mountain snowpacks. Temperatures ranged from 4.8 degrees below normal to 0.1 degrees above normal. Las Vegas recorded the monthly high at 71 degrees. Ely recorded the lowest temperature of the month at -10 degrees. Reno and Winnemucca recorded the most precipitation with 1.35 inches. Nevada snowpacks are 116 to 175 percent of average. Supplemental feeding of range livestock continued. Winter wheat is in good condition. Other farm and ranch activities included equipment maintenance, calving and lambing, crop and livestock marketing, industry meetings.

NEW ENGLAND: Experienced fluctuating temperatures during February. Average temperatures in the first and second weeks of the month, with highs in the 20s and 30s, rose into the mid and upper 40s during the third week. Temperatures dropped again during the fourth week, with high temperatures again ranging mostly in the 20s and 30s. The month’s average lows ranged from -2 to 25 degrees. Significant snow accumulated during the first and second days of the month, with measurements reaching over 10 inches in some areas. Wind swept into the region during the second week with some wind gusts in the 40 to 50 mile per hour range. More pleasant, sunny conditions existed during February 14 through February 18 giving some snow an opportunity to melt. The swift wind returned the weekend of February 19. The end of the month brought sunshine to the southern New England States and a large accumulation of snow in the north. Farmers kept busy during February tending livestock, working in greenhouses, moving potatoes and apples out of storage, and preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were mostly below normal for the first two weeks of February and variable the remainder of the month. Temperatures ranged from highs in the 70s to lows around 10 degrees. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities. South Jersey received snowfall of up to 3.7 inches from a storm in late February. Agricultural producers continued repairing machinery, feeding stored hay to livestock, and attending educational meetings.

NEW MEXICO: February began as a strong cold front moved
across the state bringing several inches of snow in the lower terrain and higher amounts in the mountains. Cold arctic air dropped temperatures below zero. Temperatures were 15 to 20 degrees below normal. A vigorous upper level storm system moved into the state the second week from the northwest, bringing snow and colder temperatures. Two disturbances crossed the state, the third week, bringing wind and rain, with snow in the higher elevations of the northwest half of the state. The month ended with temperatures above normal across most of the state. Central New Mexico saw temperatures in the upper thirties to low forties. The southern half of the state had temperatures in the upper forties to mid fifties. Growers were transplanting onions and ground preparation was taking place for chile.

NEW YORK: Storm systems moved across the state producing wind, snow and rain. Temperatures varied widely for the month with highs in New York City reaching the upper 60s and lows in Syracuse falling below zero. 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 6.0, compared to 3.5 for the week ending January 30. Soil moisture 8% very short, 35% short, 54% adequate and 3% surplus. The state received below normal precipitation during the last week of February, with some areas receiving 0.2 inches or more. Snowfall totals for the second week of February were above normal, ranging from 44 to 56 degrees. Producers have started preparing land for planting of vegetables and others crops, but dry weather and winds have limited activity.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth was 15.6 on February 27. Hay and forage supplies 1% very short, 8% short, 81% adequate, 10% surplus. Snow cover condition for alfalfa 1% very poor, 41% fair, 58% excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat 1% poor, 46% adequate, 53% excellent. Calving and lambing were 7% complete and 21% complete, respectively. Shearing was 28% complete. Thirteen percent of feed was obtained from pastures and ranges for cattle and calves. Six percent of feed was obtained from pastures and ranges for beef cattle. Cattle condition 3% poor, 77% fair, 3% good, 8% excellent. Sheep condition 2% poor, 20% fair, 69% good, 9% excellent. Road conditions were rated 66% open, 24% difficult, 10% closed. Forty percent were drifted, 20% icy, 40% dry. All through overall temperatures were below normal for February, mild temperatures during the middle and monthly melt temperatures across the state. Though the brief thaw lowered average snow depths to below last year’s values, many producers were beginning preparations for spring flooding.

OHIO: The February 2011 average temperature for Ohio was 29.6 degrees, 0.2 degrees below normal. Precipitation for the state averaged 3.46 inches. Rainfall during the month of February was 0.17 inches above normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that the wheat crop is in fair to good condition. The winter wheat crop was planted on time and most emergence and germination was normal, however dry conditions delayed progress in some areas. There was good snow cover throughout the month of February which provided for good protection to the crop. Heavy rains combined with snow melt at the end of the month could cause lasting flood damage to some of the crop – especially plants in low-lying areas. Cattle are in good condition. Hay inventories are adequate for wintering livestock, agents report that there are no anticipated feed shortage issues for wintering livestock.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 43% very short, 35% short, 21% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 47% very short, 34% short, 18% adequate, 1% surplus. Wheat 8% very poor, 34% poor, 39% fair, 17% good, 2% excellent; grazed 35% this month, 46% last year, 34% average. Rye 8% very poor, 28% poor, 46% fair, 16% good, 2% excellent; grazed 62% this month, 77% last year, 63% average. Oats 5% very poor, 51% poor, 33% fair, 11% good, 2% excellent; grazed 14% this month, 23% last year, 13% average. Livestock 1% very poor, 10% poor, 42% fair, 42% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and range 15% very poor, 29% poor, 43% fair, 12% good, 1% excellent. Livestock Conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range with 11 percent rated poor to very poor. The drought greatly affected the available grazing forage and as pond levels have dropped some stocker operations to sell cattle early. The blizzard conditions and extreme cold that persisted resulted in livestock losses for some operators.

OREGON: Total snowfall varied from 0.1 inches of snow in lower elevations to 66.0 inches of snow in higher elevations. Precipitation, slightly below normal, ranged between 0.1 inches of rain to 7.76 inches of rain this past month. Temperatures throughout the State were slightly below average and varied from -24 degrees in the lows to 68 degrees in the highs. Fall wheat crops were looking good. Fall calves, lambs, and kids were looking good in Jackson County. Wallowa County received adequate amount of snow the last two weeks of the month, which provided snow cover for fall wheat crops. Orchard and vineyard pruning continued in Jackson County. Temperatures were below normal with above normal precipitation levels in Josephine County.

PENNSYLVANIA: Winter weather conditions and precipitation remained prevalent throughout northern Pennsylvania in the month of February. Principal farm activities were limited due to inclement weather systems passing through the state. For the most part farmers were only able to order and receive spring planting materials and continue preparations on equipment to prepare for spring farming. Weather for the month of February has been mixed at best, with snow, rain, and slightly warmer temperatures. The Harrisburg area received 6.5 inches of snow or ice throughout February. The average high temperature was 42.6 degrees and the average low was 23.6 degrees. February 18th was the warmest day of the month, with a high at 69 degrees. The lowest temperature of the month was 9 degrees, which happened on February 11th. The average temperature for the month was 33.5 degrees, which is 0.1 degrees below normal.

SOUTH CAROLINA: February began with cool, cloudy weather over much of the State. Clouds gave way to rainfall for most counties followed by a cold front that saw freezing rain in some areas. Periods of frozen precipitation continued throughout the end of the first week of February, with most of the mixture falling in the Upstate. Rainfall for the week was the heaviest weekly total since December of 2009. The end of the first week brought clearer weather and rising temperatures for the weekend. On average, the State received 2.8 inches of rainfall in the period, and the temperature was two degrees above normal. As the second week began, cold weather returned over much of the State, with ground around an inch of snow fall observed throughout Newberry County on February 10. Light snow was also reported mid-week in northern coastal areas. Milder temperatures returned at the end of the week, with the Clemson and Columbia Metro AP reporting 65 degree temperatures on Sunday, February 13. On average, the temperature was four degrees below normal, with rainfall measuring 0.1 inches for the period. The third week of February brought cold weather, with a high of 69 degrees observed across the State. The average temperature for the period was a warm eight degrees above normal. The last week in February continued the trend of warmer temperatures with highs in the Lowcountry as warm as 78 degrees on Monday, February 21. Columbia even saw temperatures as high as 81 degrees. The Upstate was the only area not seeing unusually warm temperatures due to a cold front near the North Carolina border. Early flowering of bulbs and ornamental trees was evident for much of the State. The State average temperature for the period was ten degrees above normal. The average rainfall for the period in the State was 0.1 inches.
up to 1.5 inches of rainfall while the rest of the state received little to no moisture. Small Grains. In areas of the Plains, spring wheat field preparation was active. Winter wheat made progress due to warmer temperatures in areas of the Plains, the Cross Timbers, the Blacklands, and the Edwards Plateau, however, it showed signs of stress due to the earlier freezes and recent dry conditions. In areas of South Texas, winter wheat and oats were also in need of moisture. Row Crops. In parts of the Blacklands, corn field preparation and planting were delayed due to rain showers. Corn field preparation and planting made good progress due to warmer weather and improved soil moisture in the southern part of the state. Sorghum planting was underway in areas of the central and southern part of the state. Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report. In North East Texas, potato and onion planting were active while other spring vegetable garden preparation continued. Irrigation increased on recently planted spinach and cabbage in South Texas due to soil moisture loss from high winds. Spinach planting was in progress in the Pacific Coast. Tobacco was in the preparation of the field activities as farmers sprayed their small grains for weeds and some producers applied nitrogen. Preparation for tobacco greenhouses to be seeded is underway. Many farmers are putting in seed and fertilizer orders.

WASHINGTON: February seemed to follow in January’s mild footsteps for the majority of the month. Although a strong winter blast hit the state during the fourth week of February. The care of livestock increased with the winter weather by providing supplemental feed and sheltering the most at risk including new born calves. The majority of calves born in February were born into fair weather conditions. Hay supplies across the state remain adequate despite the spike in use at the end of the month. The biggest concern this month was within tree fruit and vineyards. The damages from the November’s extreme cold were finally able to be seen and many counties including Chelan, Franklin, Yakima, and Walla Walla’s Counties were reporting possible extreme losses for this year’s crop. It was too early to access anymore damages from the end of February winter storm. Producers with and without winter wheat snow cover continued to rate their wheat in good condition. Although some eastern counties began to prepare for an outbreak of striped rust. Lincoln County reached 100 days of snow cover on the wheat which leaves that door open for mold issues. Christmas tree growers in Grays Harbor County expressed concern that there may be damage to newly planted seedlings.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 10% short, 59% adequate and 29% surplus compared with 72% adequate and 28% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies 6% very short, 21% short, 62% adequate and 11% surplus compared with 6% very short, 16% short, 76% adequate and 5% surplus last year. Feeder grain supplies were 2% very short, 23% short and 75% adequate compared with 7% short and 93% adequate last year. Winter Wheat conditions were 4% very poor, 11% poor, 23% fair and 62% good. Cattle and calves were 4% poor, 32% fair, 59% good and 5% excellent. Calving was 39% complete compared to 23% last year. Sheep and lambs were 3% poor, 34% fair, 59% good and 4% excellent. Lambing was 41% complete compared to 35% last year. Farming activities included feeding hay and taking care of livestock, cleaning out ponds, pruning dormant fruit trees, calving, lambing and kidding.

WISCONSIN: February temperatures for the state of Wisconsin ranged from 0 to 2 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 18 to 27 low temperatures. Snow cover on the wheat which leaves that door open for mold issues. Average depth of snow cover 4.7 inches. Winter wheat condition 43% fair, 56% good, 1% excellent; wind damage 57% none, 42% light, 1% moderate, freeze damage 93% none, 7% light. Spring calve born 9% Farm flock ewes lambed 23%. Farm flock sheep shorn 24%. Calf losses 41% light, 59% normal. Lamb losses 48% light, 51% normal, 1% heavy. Cattle condition 1% poor, 12% fair, 86% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 88% good. Range and pasture spring grazing prospects 40% fair, 58% good, 2% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 94% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 4% very short, 16% short, 79% adequate, 1% surplus. Average temperatures in February, across the state, were below normal. Campbell and Weston Counties reported their producers are feeding more hay than usual due to the cold temperatures and snow cover, raising concerns for hay supplies this spring and increased costs of production. Converse and Uinta Counties also reported uncharacteristically cold temperatures throughout the month; however the snow pack in both areas remains positive for the coming spring. The winter wheat in Platte County was reported to be mostly in good condition, but will still need some spring moisture. The NRCS SNOWETL site, as of February 28th, showed a snow water equivalent statewide average of 114%, well above the average of 73% this time last year. The current average ranges from 98% in the Shoshone drainage basin to 136% of average in the Upper Bear River drainage basin. Activities feeding livestock, shearing farm flocks, lambing and calving.