The month of March brought several rain showers, some of which turned severe causing damage in some parts of the state. Despite their severity, these storms brought 3 to 12 inches of much needed rain to most parts of the state. The US Drought Monitor released March 15, 2011, showed portions of the state free of drought thanks to the rainfall. The Crop Moisture Index for the week ending March 12, 2011, showed all of Alabama either abnormally moist or wet. Temperatures fluctuated from very deep in the 30's to much warmer temperatures by the end of the month. Warmer than normal weather has peach trees blossoming ahead of schedule throughout central Alabama. Cucumbers have yet to be planted as contracts still are being secured, but field work is well underway for vegetables grown in the state. Corn planting is ongoing in Districts 1 and 10 thanks to warmer temperatures, while the remaining districts in the state soon will start planting crops. Market prices for cattle remain high thus pushing lighter-weight cattle to market.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Spring arrived early for the month of March. The first three weeks of the month observed high temperatures mostly in the 70's and 80's. The nights remained mostly cool with temperatures mostly in the 30's. The final week of March observed a cold front that arrived from the north bringing much cooler conditions along with scattered showers. Much needed rainfall fell during the first two weeks of March. Dryer conditions returned to the state during that third week. Breezy conditions were also observed throughout much of the state during the month. The strong winds along with the above normal temperatures made for dry conditions. There were several counties in the state that declared "burn-bans" due to the dry conditions. Field work throughout the state occurred during the month of March, weather permitting. Some corn and rice plantings had occurred, with some corn emergence in a few areas of the state. Producers were spraying and fertilizing their pastures in preparation for grazing. Livestock were in mostly fair to good condition.

ARKANSAS: Spring arrived early for the month of March. The first three weeks of the month observed high temperatures mostly in the 70's and 80's. The nights remained mostly cool with temperatures mostly in the 30's. The final week of March observed a cold front that arrived from the north bringing much cooler conditions along with scattered showers. Much needed rainfall fell during the first two weeks of March. Dryer conditions returned to the state during that third week. Breezy conditions were also observed throughout much of the state during the month. The strong winds along with the above normal temperatures made for dry conditions. There were several counties in the state that declared "burn-bans" due to the dry conditions. Field work throughout the state occurred during the month of March, weather permitting. Some corn and rice plantings had occurred, with some corn emergence in a few areas of the state. Producers were spraying and fertilizing their pastures in preparation for grazing. Livestock were in mostly fair to good condition.

CALIFORNIA: A very active weather pattern brought widespread heavy rain and mountain snow, strong winds, thunderstorms and even tornadoes to California this week. Monday saw the remains of one powerful Pacific storm system exiting the State through the southeastern end. Heavy rains were recorded in Southern California as a result, while the north had residual light rains. There was a brief respite on Tuesday, in between storm systems. On Wednesday, a strong cold front pushed through Northern California bringing heavy precipitation. In the cool, unstable atmosphere behind the cold front, numerous thunderstorms developed, and a few small tornadoes were spawned in the Central Sacramento Valley. Vigorous weather systems continued to hit the State through Saturday, resulting in unusually high precipitation amounts across California. River levels ran high, and a generous overflow ran through the Sacramento River bypass system into the Delta. Several flood warnings were posted along major rivers across Northern California. Sunday was a relatively calm day as the last of the organized storm systems moved out of California, with only light precipitation reported across the State. Field work was delayed due to heavy rainfall in many areas. Wheat fields were progressing. Winter wheat experienced some lodging due to the recent rain and wind in Tulare County. Winter forage development continued, along with barley and oat crops. The recent heavy rains have helped alfalfa fields grow. Broadleaf and grass control continued in alfalfa fields. Irrigation took place in areas not affected by rain. Dry land crops progressed in areas with sufficient soil moisture. Herbicide applications recommenced on small grain fields as weather permitted. Drainage work was ongoing in rice fields. Preparation in cotton and dry bean fields continued. Corn seed arrived in preparation for spring planting. Some spring field work continued with tillage and row crop control where conditions allowed. The Navel orange, Valencia orange, grapefruit, mandarin, and lemon harvests continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Picking of lemons and grapefruit was ongoing in the desert region, with some lemons being picked in the coastal regions as well. Citrus plants were being shipped across the country from Tulare County nurseries. Pre-emergent herbicides were applied in Napa County grape vineyards along with ongoing pruning. Shoot elongation was showing in most grape varieties. Blooming continued in stone fruit with some concern for mold and mildew. Cherry and prune orchards were almost in full bloom. Strawberry plants were maturing and showing good development. Olive trees continued to be pruned. The almond bloom continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Bees continued to be positioned in late blooming almond orchards and fungicide applications were ongoing as weather allowed. Some damage was reported from wind and spotty hail. Blight sprays and field preparations continued for walnuts. Processing tomatoes were being planted with drip irrigation occurring in some fields. Field preparations for lettuce planting were underway in Fresno County. Carrots, cabbages, and some organic vegetables were being harvested in Kern County. Early squash were under hot caps and bloom was expected in the upcoming weeks in Tulare County. Broccoli and other winter vegetables harvest, though hampered by wet conditions, continued in Fresno County. Asparagus harvest was still underway in the San Joaquin Valley. Rangeland conditions continued to advance due to the heavy spring rains. Central Valley and foothill rangeland and pasture were reported to be in very good to excellent condition. Supplemental feeding of livestock declined due to the quality of the rangeland. Cattle weight gains continued to improve as a consequence of the flourishing vegetation. Sheep and cattle continued to graze retired farmland. Milk production was tempered by unseasonably cool and wet conditions in the piedmont dairy region.

COLORADO: Most of Colorado received below average precipitation during the month of March. Temperatures across the State were above average for the month with high winds and wildfires being reported in the eastern part of the state toward the end of March. Currently, the mountain snowpack in the northern regions are 122% of average with the majority in the North Platte River basin at 132%. The southern areas are 88% of average with the snowpack in the San Luis Valley dropping to 80% of normal. Overall, mountain snowpack for Colorado is currently 111% of average. The planting of spring barley, spring wheat, dry onions, and summer potatoes have started with winter wheat coming out of dormancy in the growing areas. Winter wheat growth is limited by dry, windy conditions and the crop has been rated in mostly fair to poor condition as of March 27, 2011. The soil moisture in these areas remains short to very short.

DELWARE: Topsoil moisture 74% adequate and 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% short, 50% adequate and, 40% surplus. Hay supplies 5% very short, 35% short and 60% adequate. Pasture was mostly good. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 77% good and 7% excellent; 100% planted, 100% emerged. Barley condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 77% good and 7% excellent; 100% planted, 100% emerged. Small grains have broken

Released April 1, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories" call Julie Schmidt at (202) 720-7621, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.
dormancy and are growing fairly well. Due to recent rainfall, wet conditions are damaging some fields and making herbicide and fertilizer applications difficult. Farmers are preparing for the spring planting season which is only a few weeks away.

**FLORIDA:** Early March cold temperatures resulted in several freeze reports. Sugarcane harvesting completed early. Warm, windy weather dried out soils, pastures, field preparations, plantings in schedule for field corn, cotton, peanuts, rice. Some vegetable planting delayed due to colder temperatures. Planting active for watermelons, snap beans. Cooler temperatures slowed growth of tomatoes. Cabbage harvesting interrupted due to wet fields. Strawberry supplies heavy. Late month increased supplies of lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, celery, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries. Light supplies of sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, tomatoes. Citrus bloom heavy, widespread. Harvesting of early, midseason oranges nearing completion. Grapefruit, Valencia oranges harvesting continued. Almost all processing plants opened, although many halted production until Valencia maturity reached desired levels. Valencia oranges, grapefruit were majority of fruit going to plants. Heavy irrigation, harvesting dominated grove activities. Beginning of March pasture very poor to excellent, most in fair condition due to drought, cold nighttime temperatures. Permanent/summer grass insufficient to support cattle. Hay, supplement feeding continued through month. Some Panhandle, north locations; pasture benefited from rain. Small grain forage headed out, slowed forage production. Central areas; pasture condition poor to very good, most poor. Permanent/summer grasses greened as temperatures warmed. Southwest; pasture poor to excellent condition, most poor to fair. Mid-month central, southwest areas; small grain forage planted, pastures greened. Month’s end Statewide pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent, most fair. Condition improved by warmer temperatures, soil moisture. However, drought primary limiting factor. Some small pasture grass, small grain forage planted. Cattle condition mostly fair to good.

**GEORGIA:** For the month of March temperatures were above normal ranging from 1 degree above normal to 5+ degrees above normal, according the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Georgia Field Office. Precipitation continued to be below normal for the bottom two thirds of the State; however the northern third of the State received more rainfall than normal. Topsoil conditions as of the last week of the month were rated at 0% very short, 25% short, 53% adequate, and 19% surplus. Winter wheat condition in most of the state was good to excellent. Winter wheat condition at 3% very short, 0% short, 5% adequate and 8% surplus. Peach blooming for the month is consistent with the State’s 5-year averages. Planting for corn, sorghum, tobacco, and watermelons are also in line with their 5-year averages.

**HAWAII:** Conditions for agriculture were fair during the month of March. Heavy rains fell during the latter portion of the first week of the month. Windy weather conditions prevailed during March. There were no exceptional weather related events affecting agriculture.

**IDAHO:** Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 2% short, 94% adequate, 4% surplus. Calving complete 73%, 80% 2010, 77% avg. Lambing complete 69%, 70% 2010, 74% avg. Hay and roughage supply 3% very short, 43% short, 52% adequate, and 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 13% fair, 72% good, 11% excellent.

**ILLINOIS:** Temperatures were only slightly above normal this month across the state. Average temperature was 41.5 degrees. The norm for the same time period is 40.1 degrees. Precipitation was about 6 percent above normal for the state, though some areas were below average. Precipitation was 2.75 inches, which is 0.16 inches above normal. Snow remained on the ground in some areas, but wheat has begun to break dormancy. Greening can be seen in some areas, though wheat is off to a slow start this season. Corn has been planted in isolated areas and 4 percent of the oats have been seeded. Topsoil moisture 4 percent short, 19 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Winter wheat conditions at 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

**INDIANA:** The state experienced slightly warmer and wetter weather than normal during March. The state average temperature was 41.9o which was 1.9o above normal. An average of 3.50 inches of precipitation fell across the state which was 120 percent of normal. The winter wheat crop is beginning to green up and is reported to be mostly in good condition. However, a few fields do have a poor plant population due to dry soil conditions at planting time. Several wheat fields were top dressed with nitrogen during March. Very little tillage work has been done so far this spring because of wet soil conditions. A limited amount of ammonia was applied on well drained fields. Many calves and lambs were born during March with very few health issues reported. PRRS was a problem for several swine operations around the state. Hay supplies are mostly adequate but are getting short in some areas. Other activities included taking delivery of inputs for 2011 crops, preparing planting equipment, clearing fence rows, installing and repairing drainage tile, spreading fertilizer and manure, hauling grain to market and feeding hay to livestock.

**IOWA:** Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 75% adequate, and 22% surplus. Grain movement for the state was 24% none, 36% light, 32% moderate, and 8% heavy. Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 16% short, 79% adequate and 5% surplus. Hog and pig losses were 18% below average, 81% average, and 1% above average. Cattle and calf losses were 23% below average, 75% average, and 2% above average. Iowa witnessed a wide variety of weather in March. Some areas saw temperatures reaching over 80 degrees, but areas also saw temperatures below zero. In addition to snow the state experienced severe weather in the form of tornados and hail.

**KANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 15.4. Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 21% short, 53% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 19% very short, 25% short, 53% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat jointed 13%, 8% 2010, 13% avg.; condition 13% very poor, 22% poor, 34% fair, 77% good, 2% excellent. Winter wheat condition, 12% very light, 2% moderate; wind damage 81% none, 16% light, 2% moderate, 1% severe; freeze damage 84% none, 13% light, 3% moderate; insect infestation 94% none, 6% light; disease infestation 91% none, 9% light. Range and pasture condition 10% very poor, 19% poor, 38% fair, 31% good, 2% excellent. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 88% adequate, 6% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 2% very short, 9% short, 84% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies 3% very short, 13% short, 80% adequate, 4% surplus. High winds combined with warmer temperatures and a lack of precipitation last week continue to worsen the already dry conditions over most of Kansas. There was very little Disch -Irrigation in March with rains and grass fires in several areas, while locations in the Southeast and East Central Districts did receive some precipitation. Only 6 of the 52 reporting stations had greater than half an inch of moisture, led by Columbus with 1.47 inches, Pittsburg with 0.98 inch, and Howard with 0.72 inch, all in the Southeast District. Thirty-two stations reported receiving no less than 0.01 inch of rainfall for the week. Winter wheat temperatures were above average across Kansas. Highs reached the upper 70’s and 80’s across Kansas, while lows ranged from the teens to low 30’s. Fieldwork last week included preparing fields for row crop planting, applying fertilizer and chemicals, and burning of CRP and pasture when wind conditions allowed. The warm temperatures last week speeded the melting of the winter snow. High winds, as jointing advanced 8 points, but the crop remains in need of spring moisture. Spring calving continues to move along without any major problems, as a few ranchers are already turning some cattle out to graze.

**KENTUCKY:** The Commonwealth experienced another wet week during the first week in March as two different systems dumped widespread rainfall on the state. Temperatures were also above normal as the southerly flow that brought in moisture also brought in warmer than normal air. Drought conditions in the western part of the state were lessened by the heavy rainfall. Temperatures for the period averaged 48 degrees across the state which is 4 degrees warmer than normal and 2 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 59 in the West to 59 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 37 degrees in the West to 38 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 2.64 inches statewide which was 1.67 inches above normal and 272% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division; West 2.24 inches, Central 2.83 inches, Bluegrass 2.48 inches and East 3.00 inches, which was 1.18, 1.81, 2.62 and 2.06 inches above normal. For the period March 7-13, Kentucky received above normal precipitation for the third straight week. Rainfall came from yet another strong low pressure system that brought in ample moisture from the Gulf. Temperatures averaged 46 degrees for the week, which made this the 4th week in a row with above normal temperatures. This past week’s rainfall and the previous 2 have erased any drought conditions across the state, and crop moisture indices are extremely wet all across the state. Temperatures for the period averaged 46 degrees across the state which was 1 degree warmer than normal and 2 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 55 in the West to 56 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 39 degrees in the West to 35 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.75 inches statewide which was 0.77 inches above normal and 178% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division; West 1.19 inches, Central 1.76 inches, Bluegrass 1.89 inches and East 1.48 inches, which was 0.83, 0.73, 0.99 and 0.51 inches above normal. The third week in March experienced above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Temperatures were the warmest late in the week, with highs in the 70’s and even 80s in some locations. This was also the first drier than normal week since mid February. Despite being just below normal for the week, the rainfall early this week and from
previous 3 weeks was enough to end all drought conditions across the Commonwealth. Temperatures for the period averaged 55 degrees across the state which was 8 degrees warmer than normal and 10 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 64 in the West to 63 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 47 degrees in the West to 44 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equv.) for the period totaled 0.74 inches statewide which was 0.28 inches below normal and 73% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.95 inches, Central 0.61 inches, Bluegrass 0.80 inches and East 0.59 inches, which was 0.13, 0.46, 0.13 and 0.41 inches below normal. The last full week in March was also the first week of spring. Highs for the first week of the year were in the 60s across 80s across the Commonwealth. However, by mid week a strong cold front moved through the state. This brought scattered showers and strong to severe thunderstorms, and much colder temperatures later in the week. Temperatures for the period averaged 52 degrees across the state which was 3 degrees warmer than normal and 2 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 59 in the West to 58 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 46 degrees in the West to 44 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equv.) for the period totaled 0.47 inches statewide which was 0.57 inches below normal and 45% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.51 inches, Central 0.29 inches and East 0.61 inches, which was 0.56, 0.62, 0.68 and 0.41 inches below normal. Producers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2011 crop season. Costs of inputs are being weighed against anticipated selling prices. Tobacco growers are waiting for word on contracts. Farmers were busy performing equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season.

LOUISIANA: The state averaged 2.40 inches of rain over the last four weeks. Producers have been busy this March preparing fields for planting. As of the Weekly Crop Weather Report released on 03/28/2011 approximately 70% of spring plowing has been completed. Corn, sorghum, and rice have been planted in many areas with corn starting to emerge across the state. Wheat across the state has started to head. Strawberry 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. Cattleman remained busy with calving. Crayfish producers have reported an improvement in size of crawfish in their catches.

MARYLAND: Topsoil moisture 79% adequate and 21% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 91% adequate and, 8% surplus. Hay supplies 12% very short, 42% short and 46% adequate. Pasture was mostly fair. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 3% poor, 9% fair, 68% good and 17% excellent; 100% planted, 10% emerged. Barley condition 8% very poor, 9% poor, 11% fair, 54% good, and 18% excellent; 100% planted, 100% emerged. Small grains have broken dormancy and are growing fairly well. Due to recent rainfall, wet conditions slowed or prevented field crop seeding during the month. Average temperatures for the month got warmer moving from north to south across the state. Highest temperatures for the month were in the 70’s and 80’s. Precipitation for the four weeks ended ranged from 1.21 inches to 1.25 inches in the Upper Peninsula and 1.24 inches to 3.30 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Field activities included manure hauling, some topdressing on wheat, and preparing machinery for spring tillage. Maple season is in full swing. No sugar beets have been planted yet. Temperatures in late March were well below normal, and spring was put on hold by a late winter storm that produced rain, ice, and snow across the state.

MINNESOTA: Precipitation and temperature summary for March, 2011. Temperatures during March were 3.5 degrees below average. By mid-March some areas saw the first stretch of 50 degree weather since November 2010. Marchers began to get the result of the colder temperatures. Precipitation over March 22-23 began as rain and gave way to sleet and eventually snow. Portions of the northern Twin City Metro area saw between 6-12 inches. Late March was predominantly cool and dry, with sunshine gradually melting the fresh snow. This combination of the melting snow and heavy rains has elevated the spring flood threats in the state’s watersheds. The cold weather has slowed our snow melt, lowering the projected crests in many spots. Flooding is still occurring or expected in many areas.

MISSISSIPP: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Soil moisture 5% very short, 22% short, 70% adequate and 3% surplus. Corn 46% planted, 22% 2010, 36% avg; 3% emerged, 2% 2010, 15% avg. Winter wheat 80% jointing 11% 2010, 34% avg, 2% heading, NA 2010, NA avg; 2% very poor, 5% poor, 22% fair, 51% good, 20% excellent. Watermelons 27% planted, 33% 2010, 24% avg. Blueberries 2% very poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 85% good, 0% excellent. Cattle 3% very poor, 7% poor, 34% fair, 44% good, 12% excellent. Pasture 0% very poor, 11% poor, 25% fair, 57% good, 7% excellent. Mississippi corn planting is in full swing. Growers have also planted some soybeans as well as rice acreage.

MISSOURI: March was warmer than normal across the state. Precipitation averaged 4 inches across the state compared to the 30-year average of 4.5 inches. Warm temperatures dried fields, but rain and snow across the state prevented field work in many areas. However, some field prep has been possible in northern Missouri with some soils working and good conditions to apply anhydrous and dry fertilizer as well as completing some diskng. Planting began for potatoes and rice in southeastern Missouri. At the end of the month winter wheat condition was rated 3 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Pasture condition ranged from 2 percent very poor, 49 percent fair, 10 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. With overall precipitation less than average state-wide topsoil moisture supply is rated 3 percent short, 57 percent adequate, and 40 percent surplus.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 5% last year; 3% short, 19% last year; 68% adequate, 68% last year; 29% surplus, 8% last year. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% last year; 8% short, 28% last year; 80% adequate, 64% last year; 11% surplus, 4% last year. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 2% last year; 3% poor, 7% last year; 33% fair, 53% last year; 60% good, 34% last year; 4% excellent, 4% last year. Winter wheat wind damage 89% none, 77% last year; 29% light, 18% last year; 1% moderate, 5% last year; 1% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat frost damage and drought damage 71% none, 78% last year; 26% light, 21% last year; 3% moderate, 3% last year; 0% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 8% very poor, 38% last year; 29% poor, 17% last year; 26% fair, 21% last year; 36% good, 20% last year; 1% excellent, 4% last year. Winter wheat showeth 4% still dorminant, 65% last year; 8% last year; 0% green and growing, 6% last year. Livestock grazing 18% open, 67% last year; 33% difficult, 25% last year; 49% closed, 8% last year. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 95%, 94% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 92%, 94% last year. Calving complete 44%, 45% last year. Lambing complete 31%, 27% last year. The weather in Montana was much more like March 27th, with below average precipitation across 56 percent of the State, and 27 percent receiving at least 150 percent of normal. West Glacier received the most monthly accumulated precipitation with 2.91 inches. Temperatures during March were below normal for most of the state. Highs ranged from the low 60s to the mid 70s, and lows ranged from the low 20s to mid 30s. Montana still has the lowest spot in the State with the monthly high temperature of 65 degrees, and Opheim had the monthly low temperature of minus 18 degrees.

NEBRASKA: Wheat conditions 3% very poor, 14% poor, 43% fair, 36% good, 4% excellent. Hay and forage supplies rated 0% very short, 4% short, 92% adequate, and 4% surplus. Cattle and Calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 17% fair, 73% good, and 9% excellent. Calving progress 60% complete. Calf loss this spring 12% below average, 86% average, 2% above average. For the month of March 2011, temperatures and precipitation were below normal across much of the state. Precipitation was light during March across the southern half of the state with less than 0.50 inches received. Rains in the northern half received 0.5 to 1 inch and one half inches was received. More precipitation was received in the north than fell over the south. Some late season snow fell across the state at the end of the month. Temperatures averaged 1 degree below normal for the month. Temperatures averaged below normal at the beginning and end of the month and above normal for the third week of the month. Average temperatures for the month got warmer moving from north to south across the state. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 36 to 46 degrees. The coolest soils were in the North Central and North East districts and got warmer moving south and west across the state. Hauling grain to market, fertilizer application, planting preparation, and livestock care were the main activities during the month. Producers have been feeding cattle due to cold conditions with most feed supplies adequate. Cattle are in good condition with over half of cows having calved. Calf losses have been averaged out or below for most of the state.

NEVADA: Several storms crossed the State during March bringing rain and snow. Temperatures ranged from 2.0 degrees below normal to 1.8 degrees above normal. Las Vegas recorded the monthly high at 82 degrees. Winnemucca recorded the lowest temperature of the month at 8 degrees. Winnemucca recorded the most precipitation with 1.99 inches. All weather stations recorded some precipitation. Nevada snowpacks are 123 to 152 percent of average. Consistent wet conditions slowed or prevented field crop seeding during the month. 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: The first week in March was typical with...
temperatures hovering around the mid-30s and 40s for the most part with some wind. The first weekend brought mild temperatures in the 40s, 50s, and some temperatures creeping into the 60s in southern States. Rain and snow fluctuated back and forth during the next week with daytime temperatures staying above freezing. The highlight of March was St. Patrick’s Day Thursday when they with sunny conditions in the 60s and some 70s in southern States. Even northern States were able to enjoy temperatures ranging from upper 40s through 60s. The chill returned during the fourth week of March with the week’s average high temperatures in the 30s and 40s and nighttime lows in the 20s and 30s. Some maple producers admitted that they were behind on tapping because of the lingering snow on the ground, but they have been reaping the benefits of the temperature fluctuations which help the trees to produce sap. Farm activities included nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, and preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were variable the first week of March, ranging from ten below normal to sixteen above normal, in many state localities. Temperatures were usually above normal across most of the state during the next two weeks of March. The end of March saw below normal temperatures across most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most districts during the month. On some days, there was over an inch of rainfall in a 24 hour period. As soil conditions permitted, farmers continued preparing fields for planting. Other activities included working greenhouses, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: First week of March. A weak system brought rain and snow showers across the northern plains. Elsewhere across the state weather was generally dry and windy. The beginning of March the state was a few degrees above normal with just a few degrees below normal over the west. Highest precipitation was reported at Tucumcari and Roy. Second week of March. Temperatures across the state were above normal. Precipitation was sparse. Third week of March. New record high temperatures across the state, as very dry and windy conditions continued. Last week of March. Temperatures early in the week were cooler, as gusty winds continued. An upper level disturbance late in the week brought snow showers to the northern mountains. Ranchers were supplemental feeding livestock as forage crops were still dormant. Dry conditions have affected alfalfa in Eddy county where fire danger is extreme. Some pecan buds were damaged with cold fronts moving in.

NEW YORK: Storm systems moved across the state producing wind, snow and rain. Temperatures varied widely for the month with highs in the 60s and lows in the teens. Major activities included caring for livestock, tapping trees and boiling maple syrup, and grading and packing potatoes, onions, apples and cabbage. Winter meetings and trade shows were well attended.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 5.0, compared to 6.0 for the week ending February 27. Soil moisture 4% very short, 18% short, 72% adequate and 6% surplus. The state received below normal precipitation and above normal average temperatures during the last full week of March. Weekly rains over the last few weeks, coupled with warmer weather, has helped conditions. In most areas, soils are in fair to good condition. Middle rainfall for the period was 1.1 inches. Many areas of inland South Carolina received some rain during the last week, with the exception of Florence on March 1, with frosty weather also observed in areas surrounding Dillon, Hartsville, and Pelion. Some farmers reported not being able to get into the fields at all because of high soil moisture and returning snows. Fruit tree pruning was still the major activity for the month. Weather for the month of March has been mixed at best, the area received 5.77 inches of rain this month. The Harrisburg area received 1.1 inches of snow or ice throughout March. The average high temperature was 50.4 degrees and the average low was 32.2 degrees. March 18th was the warmest day of the month, with a high at 76 degrees. The lowest temperature of the month was 19 degrees, which happened on March 19th. The average temperature for the month was 41.3 degrees, which is 0.3 degrees above normal.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth was 12.2 inches on March 27. Hay and forage supplies were 2% very short, 9% short, 80% adequate, 9% surplus. Grains and Concentrate supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 87% adequate, 6% surplus. Calving and lambing were 33% complete and 47% complete, respectively. Shearing was 62% complete. Cow condition 2% poor, 22% fair, 67% good, 9% excellent. Lamb condition 2% poor, 21% fair, 68% good, 9% excellent. Pastures and ranges were 100% still dormant. Road conditions were rated 66% open, 23% difficult, 11% closed. Twenty-five percent were drifted, 24% icy, 13% muddy, 38% dry. Cold weather and spring flood potential were on the minds of growers in many areas, as the snow continued its slow melt. Below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation created challenges for ranchers across the state.

OHIO: The March 2011 average temperature for Ohio was 40.2 degrees, 1.6 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the state averaged 4.19 inches, 1.64 inches above normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that the wheat crop is in good condition. The winter wheat crop was planted on time and most emersion and germination was normal; however some conditions delayed progress in some areas. There was good snow cover throughout most of the winter which provided for good protection to the crop. Heavy rains from last month failed to cause lasting flood damage. Growers are now beginning to top dress with nitrogen. Cattle are in good to excellent condition. Hay inventories are adequate for livestock, and agents report that there are no anticipated feed shortage issues anticipated before the first cuttings of hay this year.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil moisture 54% very short, 31% short, 14% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 52% very short, 33% short, 14% adequate 1% surplus. Wheat condition 11% very poor, 35% poor, 33% fair, 17% good, 4% excellent; jointing 58% this week, 40% last week, 46% last year, 52% average. Rye condition 8% very poor, 26% poor, 45% fair, 18% good, 3% excellent; jointing 74% this week, 48% last week, 54% last year, 51% average. Oats condition 19% very poor, 44% poor, 28% fair, 7% good, 2% excellent; 86% planted this week, 83% last week, 93% last year, 90% last year; jointing 73% this year, 73% last year, n/a average. Corn seedbed prepared 66% this week, 45% last week, 40% last year, 53% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 40% this week, 11% last week, 14% last year, 21% average. Soybeans seedbed prepared 26% this week, 13% last week, 11% last year, 25% average. Peanuts seedbed prepared 40% this week, 22% last week, 42% last year; averaging 29% condition 2% good, 44% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and range condition 13% very poor, 33% poor, 42% fair, 11% good, 1% excellent. Livestock. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged $139 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged $125 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. Low pond levels are a concern for livestock producers as the drought continues.

OREGON: Total snowfall varied from 0 inches of snow in lower elevations to 136.8 inches of snow down in Crater Lake. Government Camp received 37.5 inches of total snowfall in March. Precipitation in Oregon showed March was a pretty wet month, with 37 out of 42 stations recording above normal precipitation. The state average temperature for the month was 41.3 degrees, which is 0.3 degrees above normal. Most of the fall crops still had some snow cover in Wallowa County. The rain has delayed most agricultural work this point in the season. In Coos County, the wet weather has made farmers unable to work the ground to plant early crops. Livestock are mainly dealing with sticky mud.

PENNSYLVANIA: Fluctuating temperatures coupled with the plentiful precipitation caused for some varied experiences throughout the state for the month of March. Principal farm activities were delayed due to intermittent wet and dry conditions. A few areas reported 50-70% frost damage. Some farmers reported not being able to get into the fields at all because of high soil moisture and returning snows. Fruit tree pruning was still the major activity for the month. Weather for the month of March has been mixed at best, the area received 5.77 inches of rain this month. The Harrisburg area received 1.1 inches of snow or ice throughout March. Rain and snow fluctuated back and forth during the next week with daytime temperatures ranging from 40s, 50s, and some temperatures creeping into the 60s in southern States. Even northern States were able to enjoy temperatures ranging from upper 40s to upper 50s. Rainfall for the period was 1.1 inches. Many areas of inland South Carolina reported frost on Monday, March 7 and Tuesday, March 8. Rain with occasional thunderstorms began developing late Wednesday through Thursday, March 10. Charleston saw temperatures hovering around the mid-30s and some 70s for the period. Temperatures throughout the State were slightly below average with the lowest average temperature at 34 degrees and the highest average temperature at 48 degrees. Most of the fall crops still had some snow cover in Wallowa County. The rain has delayed most agricultural work this point in the season. In Coos County, the wet weather has made farmers unable to work the ground to plant early crops. Livestock are mainly dealing with sticky mud.
Lake Greenwood reported 1.98 inches of rain for the weekend. Cooler temperatures followed the severe weather with Orangeburg dropping 15 degrees to a high of 71 on Sunday. The State average temperature for the period was six degrees above normal, with rainfall averages measuring 0.2 inch. The first full day of Spring brought warm temperatures on Monday, March 20. By Tuesday, the State was experiencing the warmest statewide day since October 2010. High winds swept into the State on Wednesday and prevailed into Thursday, causing wildfire counts to increase along coastal plain areas. Rains moved into the State on Saturday which developed into evening thunderstorms. Strong thunderstorms continued Sunday with tennis-ball sized hail reported. Some manure spreading and soil injection was able to be completed. In some areas of the Coastal Bend and the Lower Valley the snow melts quickly after a storm. Little field work has been done due to the wet weather. Farmers across the state are anxious to get into the fields to begin spring planting but in most areas the wet weather has not allowed it. In Box Elder County onion producers are worried they would have little to harvest by April 1st. So far no reports have been received of onions being planted. The wet weather has also prevented much of the fertilizer and herbicide applications that need to be performed in early spring. Some manure spreading has been taking place but it has been limited due to wet field conditions. Dry farmers are excited for the moisture but they are reporting some damage to winter wheat due to snow mold. Many of the fields in the Blue Creek / Pocatello Valley areas have had continuous snow cover since just after Thanksgiving. Winter Wheat fields in the Bear River Valley are starting to green up and most of them look good to very good. No field work is being done yet in Cache County. On Tuesday, March 22nd, moderate snowfall occurred in Garfield and Kane Counties. Growers in Davis County have planted about 10 percent of their spring grains and a recent break in the weather allowed them to begin preparations for more planting but much cold weather is forecast. There are concerns about the potential for spring flooding due to the above normal snow pack. Spring grain planting has also been delayed in Utah County. The snow has started to melt in the majority of Duchesne County and farmers are starting to do some field work. Snow is still on the ground in many parts of Summit County; Garfield and Kane Counties continue to see winter weather in the form of moderate cold. Livestock producers in the state are lambing and calf raising. Box Elder County livestock producers report that calving has generally gone well with normal calf losses due to weather events. They are concerned with the wet and muddy conditions that persist throughout the county could cause many cases of scours. Calving is mostly complete with no serious reports of calf loss. Cache County livestock producers are wishing for warmer, dry weather to help new calves and lambs get started. Most Utah County producers have quite a few calves on the ground and some lambs are being born through the county. Garfield and Kane County purebred producers have finished calving and are starting the breeding season. Many commercial producers are in the beginning or middle of calving. Not many reported losses from disease or scours.

WASHINGTON: March brought a brighter outlook for winter wheat for much of the State. Even though rust has still been spotted in Adams, Garfield, and Walla Walla Counties it has become less of a concern than in February. Spring wheat and potato planting was underway in several eastern counties. In the Yakima Valley, tree fruit producers were delaying sprays and wrapping up pruning operations. Hop growers have cultivated and planted ground cover between the plant rows for weed control. There was above average precipitation for Washington during March. This resulted in severe muddy fields from central Washington to the coast. Most of these fields were not dry enough for field activity, although some manure spreading and soil injection was able to be completed. In Lincoln County, moisture levels in the stubble ground are the best in 5

Stock tank and ponds levels remained low in most areas of the state and were in need of rainfall. The risk of wildfires continued to be high on rangeland and pastures across the state due to high winds and dry conditions. Cool and warm season grasses across the state progressed slowly due to cooler night temperatures and drought conditions. During the first half of the month, they were being worked in areas of the Plains and East Texas. Warm season grasses in the northern part of the state progressed well due to favorable temperatures; however, warm season grasses in the southern part of the state were in need of moisture.
years. The influx of precipitation in March was good for water supplies, but delayed pasture growth. Cattle in Klickitat County and surrounding areas continued eating hay, causing hay supplies to become noticeably tighter. In Whatcom County, fungicide sprays were being applied to raspberries, and tying and pruning continued. Damage from a February arctic blast remains unknown until the berry plants leaf out and produce buds.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 3% short, 78% adequate and 19% surplus compared with 1% short, 65% adequate and 34% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 3% very short, 23% short, 62% adequate and 12% surplus compared with 5% very short, 18% short, 74% adequate and 3% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 4% very short, 13% short and 83% adequate compared with 8% short, 91% adequate and 1% surplus last year. Winter Wheat conditions were 4% very poor, 9% poor, 32% percent fair, 53% good and 2% excellent. Cattle and calves were 5% poor, 29% fair, 61% good and 5% excellent. Calving was 70% complete, compared to 66% last year. Farm flock ewes lambed 45%. Farm flock sheep shorn 39%. Range flock ewes lambed 5%. Range flock sheep shorn 18%. Calf losses 32% light, 66% normal, 2% heavy. Lamb losses 29% light, 65% normal, 6% heavy. Cattle condition 1% poor, 16% fair, 82% good, 1% excellent. Calf condition 10% fair, 89% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 6% fair, 94% good. Stock water supplies 4% short, 92% adequate, 4% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 19% short, 79% adequate, 1% surplus. March temperatures for Wyoming were mixed with most of the State experiencing above normal temperatures. Most of the State had below normal precipitation. Lincoln county reports lots of snow on the ground which is making it tough on lambing and calving with the snow and mud. They also have flooding concerns. Big Horn county reports the continued moisture has delayed field work. Unita county reports scattered snow cover. Converse county reports a need for moisture. Platte county reports farmers busy with field work and planting small grains. The NRCS SNOTEL site, as of March 28, showed a snow water equivalent statewide average of 111%, ranging from 103% of average in the Wind River drainage basin to 136% of average in the Upper North Platte drainage basin. Activities feeding livestock, shearing farm flocks, lambing and calving, field work and planting.

WISCONSIN: March temperatures for Wisconsin ranged from 21 degrees below normal to 22 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 37 to 41 degrees, and average low temperatures ranged from 19 to 28 degrees. March precipitation in Wisconsin ranged from 2.38 inches in Eau Claire (1.08 inches above normal) to 6.00 inches in Green Bay (4.49 inches above normal). Snowfall totals for the month ranged from 3.80 inches in Milwaukee to 22.30 inches in Green Bay. Snow cover was still present in the northern two-thirds of the state, while most of the snow in the southern part of the state had melted.