ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.6. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 14% short, 81% adequate, and 4% surplus. Soybeans dropping leaves 91%, 83% last week, 89% 2011, and 90% five-year average; harvested 27%, 17% last week, 35% 2011, and 45% five-year average; condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 59% good, and 17% excellent. Winter wheat planted 11%, 8% last week, 27% 2011, and 10% five-year average; emerged 2%, 11% 2011, and 2% five-year average. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 60% good, and 8% excellent. The week’s average mean temperatures ranged from 57.5 F in Hamilton to 66.6 F in Mobile; total precipitation ranged from 0.02 inches in Selma to 2.26 inches in Bessemer. A few showers and thunderstorms delayed field activities early in the week, but weather conditions improved during the latter half of the week. Soybeans harvest was progressing nicely. Additionally, winter grazing has benefited from excellent rains and great temperatures. Jackson County still has a small acreage of late planted corn to be harvested.

ARIZONA: Temperatures were mostly above average across the State for the week ending October 21, ranging from 2 degree below normal at Parker to 10 degrees above normal at Prescott. The highest temperature of the week was 98 degrees at Coolidge and Yuma. The lowest reading was 24 degrees at the Grand Canyon. No precipitation was recorded at any of the weather stations. Twelve of the 21 weather stations, Safford and Yuma, have received normal to above normal precipitation to date. Alfalfa conditions were mostly fair to excellent. Harvesting occurred on over three-fourths of the alfalfa acreage across the State. Soil moisture remains sufficient for maintaining existing forage. Stock tanks are short on water in a few areas. Rangeland conditions vary widely from very poor to good, depending on location.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 20% short, 67% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 12% very short, 31% short, 53% adequate, 4% surplus. Soybeans 99% yellowing, 98% 2011, 97% avg.; 96% shedding, 88% 2011, 89% avg.; 92% mature, 78% 2011, 78% avg. The major farming activities for the week included harvesting remaining crops and hay, planting wheat, and making land preparations for 2013. Livestock were in fair condition. Pasture and range conditions were mostly poor to good.

CALIFORNIA: At the start of the week high pressure aloft brought most of California dry and mild weather. The exception was scattered light showers along the far north coastal region. On Tuesday a cold front brushed Northern California. This system produced some heavy showers along the north coast, and scattered lighter rains in the mountains of the far northern counties, but had little effect on the rest of the state, where warm and dry conditions prevailed. By Wednesday, a surface high pressure system moving in behind that cold front settled over the Great Basin, generating strong gusts and winds especially across the western Sacramento Valley and Sacramento River Delta, and even reaching into Southern California, bringing very dry conditions to these areas. Southern California saw relief from the extremely dry conditions later in the week, as the remnants of hurricane Paul moved up into the area from Mexico. This system resulted in higher humidity across the Southland and even produced showers by Saturday. In the North, a couple of weak frontal systems brushed by, resulting in a gradual cooling trend through the weekend. Cotton harvest was in full-swing. Over half of the crop has been harvested and harvested fields were being cleared. Alfalfa continued to be cut, raked and baled across the state. Producers continued to plant their winter small grain crops, however, the majority of producers were waiting for precipitation before planting the majority of their crops. Black-eyed beans harvest continued. Persimmon harvest was underway across the state. Pomegranate harvest was in full swing; the cooler temperatures were improving the color of Wonderful pomegranates. Kiwi harvest was picking up speed. Fig harvest continued. Apples and pears continued to be picked and packed. Raisin grape harvest was nearly complete; this year there were no weather complications at harvest. Late variety table grapes continued to be harvested and exported. Wine grape harvest continued throughout the state. Peach, nectarine and fresh plum harvests continued to wind down. Olives continue to be harvested in the San Joaquin Valley; olive harvest should begin soon in theSacramento Valley. Valencia oranges continued to be packed and exported. Tangerine harvest is continued, with good internal maturity. Tangerines were being treated to increase external orange color. Lemons were picked and packed. Almond harvest was almost over; post-harvest activities were ongoing. Walnut harvest continued. Pistachio harvest was nearing end. Tulare County reported the melon harvest is complete, pumpkin harvest continued with good supply for Halloween. In Fresno County, sweet corn was growing well and being harvested; fields were being treated for Lepidoptera pressure. Onion and processing tomatoes continued to be harvested. Harvest of fresh market tomatoes, carrots, bell peppers, cucumbers, garlic and green beans continued. Fall broccoli continued to be planted; pumpkins were growing well. Transplanted crops of eggplant, cucumber, squash, and green beans were developing well. Harvesting of cantaloupe, honeydew and watermelon continued. Summer vegetables such as beets, bittersmell, chards, choys, daikon, eggplant, herbs, kales, lemon grass, chili peppers, tomatillos, squash and zucchini were harvested. Stanislaus County reported broccoli, beans, tomatoes and honeydew being harvested; cantaloupe harvest was winding down. Harvest is near completion for squash and pumpkins; tomato and cantaloupe fields were disked after harvest. In Sutter County, the last fresh honeydew melons were harvested and packed. Rangeland and non-irrigated pasture continued to be reported as mostly poor to very poor condition. Cattle and sheep continued to be moved down from higher elevation range. Cattle and sheep grazed idle fields, dry land grain and alfalfa fields. Supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients to cattle continued. California’s fire season typically peaks in the fall months. In response to a summer with over 1,300 more fires than last year, nearly twenty percent more fires than average and record setting above average temperatures for the past two months, CalFire warned of continued high fire danger. Cooling temperatures stimulated milk production.

COLORADO: Days suitable for field work 6.7 days. Topsoil moisture 40% very short, 39% short, 21% adequate. Subsoil moisture 62% very short, 32% short, 8% adequate. Sugarbeets 63% harvested, 44% 2011, 53% avg.; condition 4% poor, 16% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. Dry onions harvested 97%, 97% 2011, 98% avg. Dry beans harvested 99%, 89% 2011, 88% avg.; Sunflowers condition 48% very poor, 24% poor, 16% fair, 12% good. Winter wheat condition 5% very poor, 20% poor, 41% fair, 33% good, 1% excellent. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 11% poor, 40% fair, 45% good, 2% excellent. Colorado received little to no precipitation last week continuing the dry conditions. High winds were reported in the eastern part of the State causing some crop damage.

DELWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 47% short, 45% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 49% short, 48% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay supplies 2% very short, 24% short, 69% adequate, 5% surplus. Other Hay Third Cutting 100%, 96% 2011, 92% avg. Other Hay Fourth Cutting 55%, 58% 2011, 49% avg. Alfalfa Hay Fifth Cutting 45%, 0% 2011, 20% avg. Soybeans condition 2% very poor, 10% poor, 26% fair, 28% good, 34% excellent. Corn harvested for grain 96%, 87% 2011, 83% avg. Soybeans Turning Color 100%, 98% 2011, 91% avg. Soybeans Dropping Leaves 93%, 92% 2011, 84% avg. Soybeans Harvested
FLORIDA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 11% short, 62% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 8% short, 63% adequate, 28% surplus. Panhandle, dry conditions favorable to peanut, cotton harvesting after delays from rain in early October. Santa Rosa County, very little cotton, soybeans picked. Sugarcane harvest continued, south Florida may cut in coastal areas of Bradford County, no growth to cut due to lack of rainfall. Highlands and Seminole counties, a lot of hay on ground ready to be baled. Suwannee and Columbia counties, planting winter forage. Vegetables should see less disease pressure with drier conditions. Tomato harvested, Gadsden County. Strawberry planting was in full swing, Hillsborough County. Carrots marketed: tomato, beans, corn, cucumbers, okra, and watermelon, some light eggplants. Seven processors, 33 packinghouses open. Application of fall miticide and herbicide, young tree care, general grove maintenance, and harvesting of grapefruit, Fallglo tangerines, and oranges were primary grove activities. 

IOWA: There were 5 days suitable for fieldwork statewide during the past week. Topsoil moisture levels improved to 31 percent very short, 38 percent short, 29 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture improved and is now rated 60 percent very short, 34 percent short, 6 percent adequate. Grain movement slowed a bit, with 31 percent of the State seeing moderate to heavy grain movement from farm to elevator. Alfalfa fourth cutting 81%, 81% 2011, 90% avg. Soybean dropping leaves 96%, 95% 2011, 95% avg.; condition 30% very poor, 31% poor, 26% fair, 9% good, 2% excellent. Wheat condition 2% very poor, 9% poor, 49% fair, 28% good, 18% excellent. Corn condition 21% very short, 29% short, 49% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 37% very short, 36% short, 27% adequate, 0% surplus. Stock water supplies 40% very short, 29% short, 31% adequate, 0% surplus. Continued dry, windy and warm weather last week provided Kansas farmers the opportunity to start wrapping up wheat plantings and to prepare for winter. Winter wheat acreage last week to reach 91 percent complete by the end of the week. The State's wheat acreage last week to reach 91 percent complete by the end of the week. Prairie wheat is a little ahead of both last year and the 5-year average pace, and farmers have been happy with soil conditions and emergence at this point. Cattle operations were busy weaning calves and checking winter forage supplies. Pastures have improved greatly this fall which has decreased the feeding of an already tight hay supply.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil moisture 35% very short, 30% short, 35% adequate. Subsoil moisture 51% very short, 35% short, 16% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter Wheat Planted 20%, 16% 2011, 12% avg. Precipitation estimates for the state ranged from no rain up to 1.4 inches. Average high temperatures ranged from the high 50's to the low 60's. Average low temperatures ranged from the high 60's to the low 70's. Topsoil moisture 26% very short, 52% short, 22% adequate. Very dry weather conditions persisted throughout the week. Precipitation fell in light showers, occurring primarily on windward areas. Daytime high temperatures were in the mid to upper eighties in most areas. The average weekly total rainfall across the state was 0.34 inch. Drought conditions increased slightly this week and approximately 78 percent of the state was rated in some stage of drought (abnormally dry though extreme). Irrigation is needed in many areas to maintain crop progress and condition. For the time, irrigation reservoirs remain adequately full and continue to provide water in areas where available.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 3. Topsoil moisture 41% Very Short, 40% Short, 17% Adequate, 2% Surplus. Subsoil moisture 55% Very Short, 34% Short, 13% Good, 1% Surplus. Snow depth was 15% 2011, 20% 2011, 22% avg. Precipitation from scattered showers was recorded at all reporting stations. Weekly totals ranged from 0.05 inch at Preston to 2.10 inches recorded at Wheaton.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Soil moisture 8% short, 76% adequate, 16% surplus. Hay-warm season hay harvested 100%, 100% 2011, 100% avg. Sorghum harvested 100%, 100% 2011, 91% avg. Soybeans turning color 0%, 10% 2011, 100% 2011, 100% avg. Soybeans dropping leaves 100%, 100% 2011, 99% avg. Sweet potatoes harvested 70%, 87% 2011, 76% avg. Winter wheat planted 18%, 41% 2011, 21% avg. Winter wheat emerged 8%, 36% 2011, 11% avg. Livestock condition 6% poor, 17% fair, 69% good, 8% excellent. Mississippi had stormy weather Wednesday when a tornado that touched down in Tallahatchie, Scott, Coahoma, Grenada, and Sharkey counties. There were reports of downed trees in pastures and cotton on the ground after the storm passed through. Despite this, cotton harvest has progressed well.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Precipitation 0.45 inch. Temperatures were to 1 to 3 degrees above average. Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 28% short, 54% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture supply 44% very short, 37% short, 19% adequate. Supply of hay and other roughages 54% very short, 31% short, 15% adequate. Stock water supplies 44% very short, 34% short, 22% adequate.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6, 6.1 last year. Topsoil moisture 35% very short, 30% short, 4% adequate, 4% very short; 22% adequate, 44% last year; 1% surplus; 2% last year. Subsoil moisture 50% very short, 12% last year; 35% short, 39% last year; 15% adequate, 47% last year; 0% surplus, 2% last year. Corn for grain harvested 41%, 12% last year. Corn for silage harvested 97%, 93% last year. Corn condition 5% very poor, 0% last year; 12% poor, 3% last year; 29% fair, 35% last year; 40% good, 46% last year; 14% excellent, 16% last year. Potatoes harvested 90%, 82% last year. Sugar beets harvested 78%, 57% last year. Sugarbeets condition 5% very poor, 0% last year; 5% poor, 9% last year; 26% fair, 43% last year; 57% good, 37% last year; 7% excellent, 11% last year. Livestock moved from summer ranges — cattle and calves 76%, 66% last year. Livestock moved from summer ranges — sheep and lambs 82%, 72% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed — cattle 30%, 6% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed — sheep 44%, 8% last year. Much of Montana saw a continued mid autumn cooling trend with areas of precipitation for the week ending October 21. West Glacier received the largest amount of precipitation for the week with 0.38 inches of moisture and most other stations saw 0.02 to 1.11 inches of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the lower 60s to lower 70s, with the state-wide high temperature of 74 degrees recorded in Albion, Glendive, and Jordan. A majority of stations reported lows in the lower teens to mid 30s. The coldest reported low was 0 degrees was recorded in West Yellowstone followed by Wisdom with 12 degrees.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil moisture 69% very short, 26% short, 5% adequate. Subsoil moisture 77% very short, 20% short, 3% adequate. Dry beans harvested 91%, 99% 2011, 98% avg. Proso millet harvested 93%, 94% 2011, 88% avg. High winds caused lodging in unharvested corn and soybean fields and slowed field activities at midweek. Fire danger was high due to the dry, windy conditions with losses reported to structures, crops, and machinery in western counties. Increased field losses were also reported due to the high winds. Statewide, soybean harvest was nearly three weeks ahead of average. Cornbean harvest was ahead of average. Winter wheat seeding was near completion. Emergence of the winter wheat crop has been slow and over two weeks behind average. Sorghum harvest neared two-thirds complete. Sugar beet harvest progressed in western counties. Some fall field work was being done. Producers continue to move cattle to stalks, dry lots, or sale barns due to the above-normal Lower Peninsula. Precipitation ranged from 0.62 to 0.90 inches Upper Peninsula and 0.55 to 1.70 inches Lower Peninsula.

NEVADA: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Moderate temperatures dominated the week’s weather. Temperatures continued to cool as the growing season approaches the end. Weekly average temperatures were 4 to 8 degrees above normal. Las Vegas temperature hit 87 degrees. Overnight lows ranged from 58 degrees in Las Vegas to 19 degrees in the region. Genes & Activities included amount of precipitation. Scattered rains interrupted some field work. Pasture and range conditions remained in poor to very poor condition. Irrigated crops were in generally good condition. Fourth cutting of alfalfa was underway in some areas. Onion and potato harvest continued. Fields were being prepared for fall seeded crops. Calves are being sorted and shipping. Rainfall increased in the eastern border counties of the state with highest amounts recorded in the Northeast District. Some isolated pockets received near 1 inch of precipitation.

NEW ENGLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil moisture 71% adequate, 29% surplus. Subsoil moisture 80% adequate, 20% surplus. Pasture condition 35% poor, 37% fair, 26% good, 2% excellent. Maine Potatoes 95% harvested, 99% 2011, 95% avg. Massachusetts Potatoes 85% harvested, 90% 2011, 95% avg. Rhode Island Potatoes 80% harvested, 75% 2011, 90% avg. Field Corn 85% harvested, 85% 2011, 95% avg. Second Crop Hay 99% harvested, 95% 2011, 99% avg. Third Crop Hay 90% harvested, 80% 2011, 90% avg. Apples 95% harvested, 90% 2011, 90% avg. Pears 99% harvested, 95% 2011, 95% avg. Massachusetts Cranberries 60% harvested, 85% 2011, 85% avg. Cranberries. October 21 was warmer than normal with average weekly temperatures ranging from 5 degrees above normal in Maine to 7 degrees above normal in New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Widespread rain showers continued during the week, bringing between 0.2 to 2.9 inches of precipitation across. Apple harvesting continued and it has been a healthy pick-your-own season. Milk production was average and livestock condition was good.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 6. Topsoil moisture was 10% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 10% short, 80% adequate, 10% surplus. Temperatures reached highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 30s across the Garden State. Field corn and soybeans were harvested across the state. Farmers switched to harvesting corn to allow soybeans chance to dry out before harvest again. Sugarbeet harvest slowed. Piling did not begin as planned due to warmer than ideal soil conditions. Piling is expected to begin late this week. Dry bean harvest nearly complete. Winter wheat planting continued. Emergence aided by slow, steady rains received last week.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Topsoil moisture 59% very short, 38% short and 3% adequate. Wind damage 17% light, 3% moderate and 2% severe; 85% cotton damaged and 70% sorghum. No hail damage reported this week. Alfalfa 7% very poor, 12% poor, 13% fair, 66% good and 2% excellent; 74% 6th cutting complete and 33% 7th cutting underway. Cotton 9% very poor, 33% very poor, 26% poor, 15% fair, 13% good and 11% excellent; 90% bolls opening and 8% harvested. Corn 2% very poor, 8% poor, 41% fair, 40% good and 9% excellent; 80% mature; 95% Silage harvested. Irrigated Sorghum 2% poor, 93% fair and 5% good; 100% coloring; 60% mature; 8% Harvested grain. Dryland Sorghum 35% very poor, 63% poor and 2% fair; 40% coloring; 20% mature and 5% harvested for grain. Total Sorghum 81% turning color. Total Winter wheat 1% very poor, 37% poor, 42% fair, 19% good and 1% excellent; 99% planted; 75% emerged. Peanut 15% very poor, 45% poor and 40% fair, 40% harvested. Lettuce 30% very poor, 5% poor, 10% fair, 50% good and 5% excellent; 8% harvested. Chile 10% poor, 25% fair, 62% good and 3% excellent; 22% harvested red. Apples 30% fair and 70% good; 92% harvested. Pecans 1% very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 50% good and 30% excellent. Cattle condition 36% very poor, 29% poor, 27% fair, and 8% good. Sheep condition 27% very poor, 29% poor, 30% fair and 14% good. High pressure dominated the weather over the region at the start of the week. On Wednesday a cold front moved into the area bringing cooler
temperatures into Thursday. Friday high pressure was again in place over the region with sunny skies and afternoon high temperatures rebounding nicely into the mid to upper 70s to low 80s.

NEW YORK: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Soil moisture 4% very short, 5% short, 74% adequate, 17% surplus. Haycrop 12% poor, 45% fair, 35% good, 8% excellent. Potatoes 95% harvested, 87% last year, 89% avg. Dry beans 62% harvested, 63% last year, 71% avg. Corn 13% poor, 31% fair, 52% good, 4% excellent. Grain corn 29% harvested, 17% last year, 22% avg. Corn silage 94% harvested, 87% last year, 90% avg. Soybeans 52% harvested, 25% last year, 36% avg. Soybeans 8% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 7% excellent. Apples 94% harvested, 75% last year, 78 avg. Apples 51% poor, 25% fair, 21% good, 11% 3% excellent. Grapes 96% harvested, 89% last year, 86% avg. Grapes 35% poor, 18% fair, 26% good, 21% excellent. The average rainfall for the state was above normal. Temperatures ranged from 79 to 26 degrees. The average temperature was above normal.

NORTH CAROLINA: There were 5.5 days suitable for field work during the week ending October 21, 2012. Corn, soybeans, peanuts, cotton and sweet potatoes. Corn for silage chopped 96% this week, 94% last week, 92% last year, 94% average. Potatoes dug 94% this week, 86% last week, 99% last year, 97% avg. Soybeans dug 73% very short, 44% short, 23% fair, 33% adequate. Widespread precipitation slowed harvest of late season crops. Although fieldwork was hindered, rain restored topsoil moisture supplies in many areas where shortages had earlier been reported. Live stock producers were busy weaning calves and moving hay into winter feeding areas.

OHIO: Days suitable for field work 5.1. Top soil moisture 7% very short, 22% short, 63% adequate, and 8% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 54% good, 9% excellent. Fall & winter apples harvested 89%, 82% 2011, 82% avg.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.5. Topsoil moisture 27% very short, 42% short, 31% adequate. Subsoil moisture 54% very short, 31% short, 15% adequate. Canola condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 44% fair, 50% good, 2% excellent; planted 96% this week, 89% last week, 90% last year, n/a average; emerged 75% this week, 52% last week, 57% last year, n/a average. Rye condition 2% very poor, 4% poor, 38% fair, 52% good, 4% excellent; emerged 86% this week, 75% last week, 57% last year, 79% average. Oats seedbed prepared 73% last year, 73% last year, 78% average; planted 43% this week, 32% last week, 36% last year, 41% average; emerged 30% this week, 15% last week, 18% last year, 27% average. Corn harvested 95% this week, 91% last week, 93% last year, 90% average. Sorghum coloring 97% this week, 93% last week, 91% last year, 95% avg. Soybeans condition 26% very poor, 18% poor, 26% fair, 10% good, 1% 3% excellent; planted 63% this week, 50% last week, 48% last year, 60% average; harvested 29% this week, 18% last week, 19% last year, 29% average. Peanuts mature 91% this week, 84% last week, 77% last year, 89% avg; dug 58% this week, 39% last week, 37% last year, 50% average. Alfalfa 4th cutting 68% this week, 66% last week, 12% last year, 82% average. Other hay 2nd cutting 70% this week, 66% last week, 56% last year, 80% average. Livestock condition 3% very poor, 14% poor, 45% fair, 32% good, 6% excellent. As planting of small grains continued, little moisture was available. Warm and windy conditions dried up moisture from the previous week. Wind gusts of 10 to 15 miles per hour were recorded at Mesick or higher were recorded at many locations across north central Oklahoma on Thursday afternoon. The resulting dust storm blew away topsoil and closed I-35 for several hours. Almost no rain was recorded in Oklahoma this past week and precipitation for the period since September 1st was below normal in all districts.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.9. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 29% short, 59% adequate. Subsoil moisture 25% very short, 32% short, 40% adequate. Winter Wheat Planted 66%, 76%, 2011, 80% average; Emerged 26%, 31% 2011, 40% average. Corn Condition 25% fair, 75% good. Corn Harvested 71%, N/A 2011, N/A average. Oregon remained cool & rainy, with most stations reporting high temperatures in the upper 60’s to low 70’s & measurable precipitation. Most areas had both above average precipitation & temperatures. South central Oregon was an exception with some stations reporting these above & some below average for this time of year. Lorella had the highest record temperature at 78 degrees, below its normal high for this time of year. All stations in central & eastern Oregon reported below freezing overnight temperatures. Christmas Valley & Lakeview both had the lowest recorded temperature at 13 degrees. The continued rainfall throughout Oregon lifted burn bans in some areas & improved overall soil conditions for fall planting. Detroit Lake recorded receiving 5.09 inches of rain, above its normal precipitation for this time of year, 89% of average. Umatilla County received the first measurable rain in almost 80 days, which was very welcomed. The additional moisture allowed farmers to get out & seed the rest of their winter wheat, & aided already seeded wheat that was dusted in. Corn harvest continued, but was slowed down by rain. Union & Baker counties also received much needed rainfall, which slowed sugarbeet & sunflower harvest early in the week. Chance of rain over the weekend could delay harvest. Most winter wheat has been planted with some fields emerged. Malheur potato harvest was done with possible exception of straggler fields. Corn & sugar beet harvests are the focus now. North central grain crop seedling rushed into high gear, as encouraged by weekend weather. Wasco County was now at 90% complete with Sherman County 92 percent complete. Some land was being saved for spring planting & many acres of CRP were still being prepared for both fall & spring seeding. Changes to barley crop insurance programs boosted acres, but messed up seed plants that were scrambling to find barley seed, while being left with lots of unwanted spring wheat taking up limited storage space. Generally takes 3 years to switch from one crop to another, based on predicted needs. Klamath County potato harvest continued. In the Willamette Valley, fall grain seeded in dust & then it rained & seeding continued in moist soil. Some ryegrass for seed also still to be planted. Some central producers have started harvest activities for the week including barley harvesters were scrambling to harvest crop during the dry days; still need about 10 days for the harvest for late falling nuts. Southern Oregon tree fruit & vineyard harvest was near completion. Willamette Valley grapes were also near harvest end, with prediction of great vintage. The wine grapes that were still on the vines when the rains hit have benefited from the rain by dropping the bunches and helping the grapes a bit, now if they can get them harvested before it goes too far the other direction. Walnut harvest still to come. Rain disrupted Hood River harvest for late season apples & upper Valley pear growers that were trying to finish up winter pear harvest. Malheur County onion harvest done. Vegetables, including broccoli, leeks, red, brown, sprouts, etc., corn, squash, kale, & peas, were growing well with the much needed rain in southern Oregon. However, tomatoes & other warm season vegetables were barely hanging on due to frost & cold damage. Cauliflower & broccoli were being picked & heading to cannery & processors in Washington County. Plenty of pumpkins are still waiting in fields for the public’s arrival & purchase. Nurseries & greenhouses were burning ripped out arboretum & other shrubs, digging, & burlap & baling larger trees. Lake County livestock producers were trucking cattle to winter pastures. Coos & Curry counties’ cattle were mostly off the grounds & were being gathered off the hills. Willamette Valley pastures were greening up with buffalo & cattle feeding on fall grasses.
morning low temperature at Saluda cooled to 41 degrees. A sunny Barnwell recorded a mild 76 degrees on Tuesday afternoon. The state was divided on Wednesday with clouds over the eastern half and sunshine into the mountains. Warmer air pushed north on Thursday, helping Hartsville, Columbia and Hardenville to reach 82 degrees. Overnight low in the teens could produce a chance of showers and storms bringing local amounts of rainfall.

ALEXANDRIA: Sheeps Condition 6% poor, 26% fair, 65% good, 3% excellent. Stock and lambs moved From Summer Range 83%, 79% 2011, 79% avg. calves condition 7% poor, 30% fair, 57% good, 6% excellent. Sheep moved From Summer Range 88%, 76% 2011, 78% avg. Cattle and condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 52% good, 5% excellent. 85% avg. Corn harvested (grain) 57%, 9% 2011, 29% avg. Corn Next Year 73%, 89% 2011, 85% avg. Corn mature 96%, 73% 2011, 74% avg. Winter wheat and oats seeding was in full swing around the state. Most areas measured under a 10th of an inch of rain. It dried up quickly and did not seem to slow field work in the County. Beaver County reports grain corn drying out well. Box Elder County farmers have been busy wrapping up the corn harvest, plowing, planting and chopping 4th crop hay. Many dry land farmers have planted their wheat into dry soil. Farmers were busy this week harvesting grain corn, preparing soil and planting fall wheat, or cutting and green chopping remaining alfalfa fields for the year. Grain corn harvest is still progressing with a good amount of acres harvested this week. Moisture levels are ranging from 18.0 percent to 35 percent depending on the planting dates and varieties. Several corn producers are putting the help of the moisture lost in bins. In bins Beaver County reports livestock are looking good coming off range lands. Box Elder County reports ranchers are busy weaning calves and bringing cows and calves home from summer range. The calves’ weights range from 40 to 100 lbs lighter than normal this year because of poorer range conditions, and many cows are thinner than normal. Most ranchers report they will need to supplement their typical winter feed with hay to help cows recover. Livestock producers are busy trying to keep their animals in feed and they are weaning calves and preparing them for shipping. Producers normally vaccinate calves prior to shipping. Sheep producers have sorted off lambs and either sold the lambs, or left them on 10th of an inch of rain. Older kids on irrigated crop residue preparing for breeding in November. Winter range from permits may not be available due to drought conditions. Cache County cattlemen are selling their calves now. Prices are reported as being quite good and weights are better than most anticipated.

TEXAS: Much of the state received rainfall last week. Large portions of Southeast Texas and the Upper Coast recorded up to one inch of precipitation for the week while other areas observed scattered showers. Winter wheat and oats seeding was in full swing around the state. Some producers were watering recently established fields while others benefited from timely rains. Emerging small grains were generally making good growth and livestock were grazing on some fields. Armyworm pressure was reported in areas of North and Central Texas, prompting producers to scout fields. Cotton harvest continued to wind down in East and South Texas. Many producers were destroying cotton stalks and preparing fields for small grains seeding. In the Plains and West Texas, cotton growers in full swing frost helped boills to open in some areas. Some dry land cotton was being zeroed out and destroyed due to lack of precipitation. High Plains producers continued to harvest corn, sorghum, and sunflowers. Soybean harvest continued in the Plains and North Texas while peanut harvest was underway in the Plains and South Texas. Pecans continued to mature as harvest of early varieties was underway in some areas. Many producers were expecting a good crop, though some reported lower quality due to hot, dry conditions during the summer. In South Texas, cabbage planting continued and earlier planted cabbage fields made good progress. Spinach planting was starting to wind down in south Texas to prepare for fall crops. Half of the state’s winter wheat was up while fall tillage operations were in full swing. Columbia County experienced some nice rains that helped to increase topsoil moisture. In Adams County dry beans, potatoes, and onion harvest was near completion. In Lincoln County producers were finishing up planting their fall crops. In Thurston County Christmas tree growers were putting the finishing touches on trees to be harvested this year. In Yakima County early morning frosts terminated the annual crop production of summer squash, cucumber,
pepper and tomato as producers rushed to bring in the wine grape varieties and winter squash crop. Due to the extended dry conditions there was larger-than-expected Red Delicious apple crop along with some remaining Jonagolds and Golden Delicious apples. In Grant County potato harvest was winding down as high moisture corn came to an end and dry corn harvest was in full swing. Range and pasture conditions were 11 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 0 percent excellent. In Pend Oreille County cattle were moved from fall pastures to home for the winter. Hay supplies still remain fairly tight with good prices for quality hay. In Stevens County calves were being moved to the market. In Thurston County livestock producers reported excellent demand for hay since forage growth in pastures has not yet responded to the rain. Dairy producers took advantage of dry weather in the middle of the week to make a final cutting of green chop.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for field work was 6. Topsoil moisture was 3% very short, 23% short, 73% adequate and 1% surplus compared to 3% short, 84% adequate and 13% surplus last year. Corn conditions were 18% fair, 76% good, and 6% excellent. Corn was 96% mature, 77% in 2011, 5-year avg. comparison data not available. Corn harvested for grain was 36%, 29% in 2011, and 47% 5-year avg. Soybean conditions were 23% fair, 74% good, and 3% excellent. Soybeans were 57% harvested, 30% in 2011, and 48% 5-year avg. Winter wheat was 77% planted, 73% in 2011, and 75% 5-year avg. Winter wheat was 49% emerged, 33% in 2011, and 34% 5-year avg. Hay third cutting was 90%, 88% in 2011, and 84% 5-year avg. Apples were 95% harvested, 81% in 2011, and 83% 5-year avg. Cattle and calves were 1% poor, 15% fair, 80% good, and 4% excellent. Sheep and lambs were 1% poor, 12% fair, 84% good, and 3% excellent. Farming activities included harvesting apples, corn for grain, and soybeans, sowing cover crops, and preparing for winter.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil moisture 21% very short, 34% short, 41% adequate, and 4% surplus. Fifth cutting hay 74% this week, 66% last week, n.a. last year, n.a. average. Fall tillage complete 37% this week, 29% last week, 29% last year, 26% average. Soaking rains continued for much of Wisconsin this week, with seasonal temperatures reported. Rains were heavy in spots, but thirsty soils absorbed the moisture well in most areas. Soil moistures improved on average, with only 55 percent short to very short statewide this week, compared to 79 percent last week. Some reporters in eastern and central Wisconsin noted that the ground is now too wet for fieldwork. Moisture bypassed the Northwest District, however, where soil moisture was 93 percent short to very short. Rains slowed harvest and tillage for most, but reportedly benefited fall-planted crops, hay stands and trees. Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 3 degrees below to 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 57 to 60 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 36 to 44 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.05 inches in Eau Claire to 2.64 inches Green Bay.

WYOMING: Days suitable for field work 6.1. Topsoil moisture 49% very short, 41% short, 10% adequate. Winter wheat emerged 95%, 96% 2011, 97% avg; condition 7% very poor, 28% poor, 36% fair, and 29% good. Corn mature 96%, 97% 2011, 87% avg; harvested 45%, 37% 2011, 25% avg; condition 9% very poor, 14% poor, 32% fair, 35% good, 10% excellent. Corn harvested for silage 99%, 98% 2011, 96% avg. Dry beans combined 97%, 94% 2011, 88% avg. Sugar beets harvested 80%, 52% 2011, 48% avg. Crop insect infestation 20% light, 3% moderate, 1% severe. Livestock condition 7% poor, 45% fair, 45% good, 3% excellent. Cattle moved from summer pasture 93%. Sheep moved from summer pasture 86%. Hay and roughage supplies were 10% very short, 45% short, 44% adequate, 1% surplus. Farm activities included harvesting corn, dry beans, sugar beets, alfalfa, moving cattle and sheep from summer pastures, and tending to livestock. High temperatures ranged from 51 degrees at Lake Yellowstone to 78 degrees in Worland, Fort Laramie and Torrington. Low temperatures ranged from 13 degrees in Jeffrey City to 33 degrees in Torrington. Average temperatures ranged from 36 degrees in Lake Yellowstone to 54 degrees in Torrington. Temperatures were above normal at all stations ranging from 3 degrees in Lake Yellowstone and Worland to 11 degrees above normal in Buford. Twenty-eight out of the 33 stations reported some precipitation. Jackson Hole received the most at 0.48 inch, followed by Big Horn at 0.47 and Sundance at 0.46. Seventeen of the 33 stations are 5 inches or more behind normal precipitation levels for the year. Campbell County reported producers are still planting winter wheat. The county desperately needs precipitation. Some producers are having problems with dust pneumonia in livestock. Lincoln County reported limited precipitation last week. Uinta County also reported some precipitation received, livestock are home from summer pastures and are being fed. The lamp crop has been shipped and the calf crop is in process of being shipped. Goshen County reported approximately 15 percent of the bean crop were hit by frost and will not be combined.