

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

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ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Topsoil 2% very short, 10% short, 75% adequate, 13% surplus. Corn 34% planted, 13% 2001, 33% avg. Winter wheat 15% headed, 12% 2001, 21% avg.; 1% poor, 24% fair, 71% good, 4% excellent. Pasture, range feed 2% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, 8% excellent. Livestock feed 1% very poor, 8% poor, 23% fair, 51% good, 17% excellent. Farmers applied fungicides in peach orchards. Vegetable producers planted cool season crops. Dry, sunny weather allowed farmers to continue with farm activities. Rains are needed in some areas

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures throughout the state were well above average for the week with slight precipitation reported. Continued lack of moisture is the reason for mostly poor range, pasture feeds. The spring 2002 cotton crop is 19% planted, down from 2001 rate of 23%, slightly ahead of the 5 - yr avg of 18%.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7 Soil 0% very short, 0% short, 46% adequate, 54% surplus. Sorghum 4% planted, 11% 2000, 8% 5 yr. avg. Corn 14% planted, 54% 2000, 42% 5 yr. avg. Wheat 0% headed, 1% 2000, 10% 5 yr. avg. Wheat 4% very poor, 21% poor 35% fair, 34% good, 6% excellent. Other Hay 1% very poor, 4% poor, 59% fair, 34% good, 2% excellent. Pasture, range 1% very poor, 35% poor, 38% fair, 24% good, 2% excellent. *FIELD CROP* : Planting corn, sorghum. Fertilizer is being applied to wheat, hay, pastures. Cotton, rice field preparation began on a limited basis. Row crop planting is extremely limited due to excessive rainfall. Commercial tomatoes are being bedded, plastic laid. *LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, RANGE*: Cattle were in good condition. Cattle producers were working cattle, weaning calves. 1/Many reports are received on Friday, may not reflect conditional changes due to weekend weather.

CALIFORNIA: Cotton planting was underway, as warmer days, nights helped soil temperatures reach acceptable levels. Many growers incorporated insecticides at planting to protect the young plants. Alfalfa hay, seed crops were thriving; alfalfa hay was cut, windrowed, dried, baled. Other alfalfa fields were green chopped. Wheat, barley, oats showed good seed head development in response to warmer temperatures. Irrigation, fertilization continued in many small grain, fields. A few fields of oats were cut for hay or green chopped. Dryland wheat, oats needed water. Lodging caused by recent storms was still evident in a few grain fields. Warm weather aided growth, development of sugar beets. Sugar beet fields were irrigated, cultivated, treated for mildew, insect control. Grain, silage corn planting continued. Previously planted corn was growing well, gaining height rapidly; more recently planted corn was showing good emergence. Rice fields were being prepared for planting. Activities: Weed control, cultivation, irrigation continued in orchards, vineyards. Warm weather boosted fruit size, aided development of all tree fruit varieties. Most apricot, freestone peach, nectarine, plum trees had set fruit. Thinning of stone fruit was active. Apple, pear blossoming continued. Olive orchards were pruned. Grape growers irrigated, cultivated, applied herbicides, fungicides in vineyards. New shoots on grapevines were growing rapidly. Honeybee colonies were moved into citrus groves, as bloom was underway. Navel, valencia

orange harvesting continued. Grapefruit picking was ongoing in the desert, in the San Joaquin Valley. Lemons were also being picked in the San Joaquin Valley, the coastal areas. The harvest of minneola tangelos neared completion. Some strawberry fields were being harvested. Nut growers were performing seasonal cultural activities such as pruning, irrigating, spraying trees. Most almond orchards were fully leafed and developing well. Walnut and pecan trees continued to leaf. Brush removal and shredding continued. Recent rain, warm weather stimulated growth, development of vegetables. Broccoli, cauliflower were also making good progress. Some growers continued the use of hot caps to protect young plants. Watermelon planting was in progress in the west side districts of Fresno County; growers used transplants to get plants to get a quick start. Cantaloupes, mixed melons were planted with seed or transplants. Fresh market and processing tomato planting continued using mostly transplants; some fields were treated for early aphid pressure, darkling ground beetles. Lettuce, garlic, onions, tomatoes, other vegetable fields were showing excellent progress. Sweet corn planting was underway. Picking of zucchini, yellow squash is expected to begin in two weeks, provided temperatures remain stable. Warmer weather dramatically improved asparagus production. An overabundance of asparagus in the Stockton Delta area has even led to discing of some of the crop. The lettuce harvest continued at a steady pace. The following vegetables were also harvested: basil, cabbage, carrots, celery, cilantro, green onions, mustard greens, collard greens, leeks, daikon, mint, parsley, radishes, radicchio, turnips, squash. Winter pasture feeds varied by location. Pastures were drying rapidly in south central state; some cattle were to start shipping next week. Foothill pastures were still in good condition in north central, northern state; cattle were not expected to start shipping until sometime in May. In central state, new crop lambs were being shipped to market or to further feeding. Most old crop lambs in the Imperial Valley have been shipped. Milk production was at optimal levels due to mild temperatures.

COLORADO: Days suitable for field work 6.5. Topsoil 28% very short, 43% short, 29% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil 32% very short 47% short, 21% adequate, 0% surplus. Temperatures continued to be unseasonable warm with no significant moisture reported. Planting progress made large gains due to the favorable conditions. Spring barley 29% planted, 18% 2001, 35% avg.; 2% emerged, 2% 2001, 6% avg. Dry onions 40% planted, 32% 2001, 56% avg.; 10% poor, 90% good. Sugar beets 28% planted, 10% 2001, 23% avg. Summer potatoes 30% planted, 1% 2001, 10% avg. Spring wheat 18% planted, 14% 2001, 26% avg.; 1% emerged, 6% 2001, 7% avg. Winter wheat 1% pastured, 7% 2001, 8% avg.; 6% jointed, 1% 2001, 8% avg.; 9% very poor, 25% poor, 47% fair, 18% good, 1% excellent. Cows 62% calved, 64% 2001, 68% avg. Ewes 56% lambled, 59% 2001, 56% avg.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil 3% very short, 27% short, 67% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 43% very short, 37% short, 20% adequate. Barley 18% poor, 34% fair, 45% good, 3% excellent. Winter Wheat 18% poor, 37% fair, 43% good, 2% excellent. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 15% poor, 32% fair, 47% good, 3% excellent. Corn 3% planted, 3% 2001, 3% avg. Strawberries 2% bloomed, 9% 2001, 20% avg. Apples 9% bloomed, 19% avg. Peaches 35% bloomed, 9% 2001, 54% avg. Sweet corn 4% planted, 6% 2001, 5% avg. Green peas 39% planted, 23% 2001, 30% avg. Potatoes 41% planted, 14% 2001, 30% avg. Snap beans 5% planted, 9% 2001, 3% avg. Hay supplies 10% very short, 33% short, 57% adequate. Mid-week

thunderstorms came through the middle, southern part of the state, bringing generally less than half an inch of rain, causing some limited wind damage. Overall a cool, windy week, with some freezing temperatures Cabbage transplanting, sweet corn planting continue, as well as field preparation. Bio-security is heightened on poultry farms due to Avian Influenza outbreaks in nearby states.

FLORIDA: Topsoil 2% very short, 43% short, 55% adequate. Subsoil 3% very short, 44% short, 53% adequate. Rainfall range: from traces at Daytona Beach to almost 1.25 in., Jacksonville. Temperature average: 1 to 4° above normal. Daytime highs: 70s, 80s. Nighttime lows: 40s, 50s, 60s. Tobacco transplanting, corn planting very active, northern Peninsula areas. Growers continue peanut, cotton land preparation for planting, to begin in one to two weeks. Sugarcane harvesting almost done, several mills closed. Dry conditions providing excellent vegetable harvesting weather. Strawberry picking nearly complete. Vegetables available: Tomatoes, peppers, blueberries, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, squash, sweet corn. Rain most citrus areas, accumulations were from a trace to over two inches, some irrigation discontinued. Abundant new growth, new crop fruit making good progress. Valencia harvest very active all areas. Grapefruit movement continues to the packers and processors. Temple, Honey tangerine harvest slowing. Caretakers cutting cover crops, spraying, hedging, topping, pushing out dead trees. Pasture feed 90% fair, 10% good. Cattle 10% poor, 75% fair, 15% good. Panhandle, north: pasture in fair condition. Warm season, pastures greening, slight grass growth beginning. However, grass growth hampered by drought. Summer forage land preparation underway. West central: pasture feed poor due to drought. Statewide, most cattle in fair condition.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 6.0. Soil 5% very short, 27% short, 62% adequate, 6% surplus. Soil moisture levels were short to adequate. Corn 2% poor, 35% fair, 60% good, 3% excellent; 63% emerged, 36% 2001, 40% avg. Hay 3% very poor, 14% poor, 39% fair, 41% good, 3% excellent. Sorghum 5% planted, 1% 2001, 3% avg. Tobacco 2% poor, 40% fair, 55% good, 3% excellent; 59% transplanted, 19% 2001, 44% avg. Wheat 89% jointing, 82% 2001, 89% avg.; 69% boot, 57% 2001, 65% avg. Onions 7% poor, 21% fair, 72% good; 1% harvested, 0% 2001, 1% avg. Watermelons 3% poor, 54% fair, 41% good 2% excellent; 62% planted, 33% 2001, 56% avg. Apples 14% poor, 13% fair, 53% good, 20% excellent; 20% blooming, 5% 2001, 31% avg. Peaches 1% poor, 2% fair, 80% good, 17% excellent; 98% blooming, 90% 2001, 94% avg. Most of state received near normal to slightly below normal temperatures throughout the week. In many counties, temperatures improved overall crop, planting conditions. Tobacco transplanting, corn planting were active in many parts of the state. In some counties, cold weather caused the loss of peach, apple blooms. Growers applied herbicides to pastures, hayfields. Small grain conditions improved. Growers were preparing land for cotton, peanuts. Counties also reported that pasture, hayfield conditions continued to improve. Activities: Spraying pecan trees, spreading poultry litter on pastures, the routine care of livestock, poultry.

HAWAII: A surface high pressure in the central Pacific maintained variable weather conditions throughout the State during the past week. East state banana orchards were making fair to good progress with less disease incidence due to less rainfall. Warmer, drier weather favored orchard growth in lower Puna papaya fields. Ginger root planting, field preparations remained active in East state fields

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Topsoil 2% very short, 35% short, 54% adequate, 9% surplus. Irrigation water supply 5% very poor, 18% poor, 69% fair, 7% good, 1% excellent. Fields are beginning to dry out, allowing more fieldwork. Potatoes 2% planted, 3% 2001, 3% avg. Sugarbeets 1% emerged, 5% 2001, 4% avg. Dry Peas 3% planted, 9% 2001, 9% avg. Oats 16% planted, 5% 2001, 6% avg. Onions 78% planted, 56% 2001, 65% avg.; 5% emerged, 21% 2001, 8% avg. Hay, roughage supply 3% very short, 21% short, 72% adequate, 4% surplus. Calving 89% complete. Lambing 81% complete. Activities: Preparing irrigation systems, fertilizing, planting small grains, onions, sugarbeets

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.7. Topsoil 11% short, 59% adequate, 30% surplus. Oats 39% planted, 37% 2001, 40% avg. Alfalfa

1% poor, 31% fair, 62% good, 6% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 6% poor, 35% fair, 52% good, 6% excellent. Snow, rain, some hail in the northern portion of the state limited fieldwork, soggy, cold conditions in the southern areas also limited fieldwork. Farmers in the northern, southern portions of the state were limited to machinery preparations or repairs, transporting grain as road conditions allowed. Districts in the central portion of the state reported that while enduring some rains, farmers enjoyed milder temperatures, greening pastures, budding fruit trees, were able to get into the fields, plow, apply fertilizers

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 0.9. Topsoil 1% short, 38% adequate, 61% surplus. Subsoil 4% short, 60% adequate, 36% surplus. Cool, wet week. Temperatures averaged 3° to 10° below normal. Precipitation averaged 0.01 to 1.35 inches. Wet field conditions prevented fieldwork during most of the week. Rain most areas, snow, ice some regions. Spreading fertilizer, lime took place on some farms. Mint planting is underway, northern areas. Winter wheat 57% good to excellent compared with 69% 2001. Wheat 7% jointed, 14% 2001, 18% avg. Wheat growth, development slow. Hay supplies 1% very short, 7% short, 80% adequate, 12% surplus. Pastures 1% very poor, 11% poor, 37% fair, 46% good, 5% excellent. Pasture, forage crop growth slow. Livestock are in mostly good condition, under some stress. Feedlots are muddy. Calving, lambing active. Activities: Preparing equipment, hauling manure, moving grain to market, top dressing wheat, building fence, purchasing supplies, ditching, clearing fence rows, taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 14% very short, 37% short, 47% adequate, 2% surplus. Oat plantings progressed to 34% complete, compared to the 5-yr avg of 31%. Precipitation totals were below normal for the fourth consecutive week. Temperatures were also well below normal.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil 33% very short, 50% short, 17% adequate. Subsoil 34% very short, 49% short, 17% adequate. Some good rains late in week. Wheat 15% very poor, 28% poor, 37% fair, 19% good, 1% excellent. Wheat has come out of dormancy, but has grown very little because of dry conditions. Damage from wind, freeze damage has been light. Wheat 14% jointed, 8% 2001, 36% avg. Oats 88% planted, 60% 2001, 80% avg. Corn planting 4%, 2% 2001, 2% avg. Pasture feed 10% very poor, 31% poor, 41% fair, 18% good. Dry windy conditions have prevented burning in many areas. Hauling water to cattle necessary some areas. Stockmen concerned about grazing potential of dry pastures. Stock water supplies 11% very short, 40% short, 49% adequate. Hay, forage supplies 2% very short, 19% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 6% short, 92% adequate, 2% surplus.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Topsoil 2% short, 61% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 6% short, 64% adequate, 29% surplus. For the week, temperatures averaged 47°, 5° below normal. Rainfall Statewide was 0.09 inches, 0.89 inches below normal. Corn acres 3% planted. A second week of cool, damp conditions hampered farmers planting efforts. Tobacco transplants 72% seeded, 41% emerged. Fruit trees budding or in 39% bloom. Scattered reports of frost damage to peaches has been reported. Wheat avg height 8.5 inches. Wheat 2% poor, 19% fair, 58% good, 21% excellent. Barley 29% fair, 69% good, 2% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 10% poor, 31% fair, 46% good, 12% excellent. Activities: Fertilizing fields, fixing fences, preparing equipment for corn planting.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Soil 3% short, 58% adequate, 39% surplus. Corn 66% planted, 43% last week, 64% 2001, 75% avg.; 51% emerged, 20% last week, 42% 2001, 55% avg. Producers planted where soil moisture would allow. Rice 25% emerged, 16% last week, 21% 2001, 26% avg. Spring plowing 47% plowing, 39% last week, 39% 2001, 59% avg. Sugarcane 1% very poor, 19% poor, 48% fair, 27% good, 5% excellent. Continued to spray, cultivate fields. Wheat 3% very poor, 8% poor, 34% fair, 46% good, 9% excellent; 20% headed, 14% last week, 30% 2001, 62% avg. Livestock 1% very poor, 7% poor, 40% fair, 47% good, 5% excellent. Spring calving, culling cows. Vegetables 14% poor, 42% fair, 37% good, 7% excellent. Range, pasture 2% very poor, 14% poor, 43% fair, 37% good, 4% excellent. Cattlemen were fertilizing pastures, cutting hay

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil 4% very short, 44% short, 51% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 38% very short, 46% short, 16% adequate. Barley 1% very poor, 4% poor, 13% fair, 73% good, 9% excellent. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 69% good, 9% excellent. Pasture feed 4% very poor, 21% poor, 38% fair, 35% good, 2% excellent. Corn 4% Planted, 1% 2001, 3% avg. Strawberries 10% bloomed, 11% 2001, 16% avg. Apples 3% bloomed, 3% 2001, 17% avg. Peaches 25% bloomed, 6% 2001, 38% avg. Sweet corn 7% planted, 7% 2001, 7% avg. Green peas 42% planted, 35% 2001, 42% avg. Potatoes 41% planted, 2% 2001, 43% avg. Watermelons 3% planted, 1% 2001. Cucumbers 1% planted, 1% 2001. Tomatoes 7% planted, 8% 2001, 4% avg. Cantaloupes 2% planted, 3% 2001, 1% avg. Hay supplies 11% very short, 19% short, 69% adequate, 1% surplus. Dry weather continues to be the big story, Frequent rains over the past couple of weeks have helped tremendously. Fluctuating temperatures have been hard on crops.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Weather conditions for most of the week were cool with some rain. Temperatures ranged from 5 to 8° below normal in the State. Average rainfall amounts ranged from 0.19 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 0.77 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula. Planting of sugarbeets got underway. Mild winter weather has most fruit crops in good condition.

MINNESOTA: There has been no fieldwork yet this spring. Heavy, wet snow fell to a depth of 4 inches or more across West Central through East Central state April 1 and 2. Air temperatures slowly rose to seasonal normals of 40s to 50s by the end of the week, and snow cover nearly disappeared over major agricultural areas of the state. However, soil temperatures remain low as a lingering effect of the extended stretch of colder than normal weather. Ice is out of most lakes in the southern third of the state. Much of the northern third of the state is expected to have lake ice for a couple more weeks, but over much of this region there has been little or no snow cover. The season total snowfall in many northern areas was insufficient to produce the snow-melt ponds which are normal this time of year, this brings concern that early season dryness may damage forages, pastures

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Soil 3% short, 50% adequate, 47% surplus. Rice 1% planted, 12% 2001, 8% avg. Wheat 61% jointing, 73% 2001, 83% avg.; 6% heading, 7% 2001, 21% avg.; 2% very poor, 19% poor, 42% fair, 30% good, 7% excellent. Blueberries 4% poor, 26% fair, 65% good, 5% excellent. Hay 6% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, 12% excellent. Cattle 6% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 11% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 8% poor, 33% fair, 48% good, 10% excellent. Some producers across the State are hoping for more sunny days so they can continue corn planting, other fieldwork

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1, varying from 3.1 days in the southwest, southeast districts, to 5 days or more in all other districts. Topsoil 6% very short, 21% short, 59% adequate, 14% surplus. The southeast district is the wettest area with 52% surplus. Forty-five percent of the ground intended for spring crops has been worked (excluding no-till), compared with 33% 2001, 47% avg. Corn planting is most advanced in the southwest, est-central districts with 58%, respectively. The northeast, east-central, south-central districts are least advanced with 2% or less planted. Cool weather has slowed growth of winter wheat, pastures. Livestock 1% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. Pastures 3% very poor, 18% poor, 54% fair, 23% good, 2% excellent. Rainfall for the week averaged 0.50 inch with heaviest amounts in the south-central district at 1.48 inches

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.9. Topsoil 26% very short, 39% short, 33% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 50% very short, 35% short, 15% adequate, 0% surplus. Topsoil, subsoil conditions continue to be worse than 2001, compared to normal. Snowfall, cold night time temperatures has caused fields to be muddy or still trying to thaw out. Many areas of the state had temperatures below zero with Plenty wood, in the northeast corner of the state, reaching 14 below zero. At the end of last week, Field work is progressing very slowly with only 3% well underway, 7% just started, 90% have not started. 2001, 7% well underway, 18% just started, 74% not started. Five year average 9%

underway, 22% just started, 69% not started. Very little seeding has been done with less than 1% of the spring wheat, oats planted. Barley seeding 3% complete compared 4% 2001, 5% average. There were no reports of sugar beet planting. Winter wheat crop progress has been very slow due to the conditions. Winter wheat was observed to be 85% dormant, 15% greening, 0% green, growing at the end of last week, slightly higher than last week. Last year, 42% dormant, 51% greening, 8% green, growing; 5 yr avg.; 21% dormant, 52% greening, 28% green, growing. Producers in areas that had little snow cover on winter wheat fields, had below zero temperatures are afraid some fields may be dead. Cold temperatures during the week caused some livestock loss, frostbite on calves ears. Calving progressed rapidly during the past week. Calving 69% complete, lambing 43% complete. This compares with 69%, 53%, respectively 2001. More pasture land was opened up to grazing due to melting snow, but little grass is available. Livestock feed is reported to be short in some areas of the state. Livestock receiving supplemental feed was rated 96% for cattle, calves, 96% for sheep, lambs

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil, subsoil moisture supplies adequate to short. Spring tillage, fertilizer applications were underway. Wheat, pasture growth slow due to dry, cool conditions. Cattle, calves 1% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 67% good, 17% excellent. Calving 79% complete with calf losses average to below average

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: Above normal temperatures continued for the week. Maple sugaring activities winding down in the south. Northern areas still active with cool nights and warm days promoting good sap flow. Other outside activities still limited to tending livestock, assisting with spring calving, performing general maintenance. Manure spreading, applying fertilizer continued in southern areas of state.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Topsoil 100% adequate. Last week brought scattered showers, blustery conditions across much of the state. Morning temperatures were well below freezing in many areas on Friday, with snow flurries reported in a few localities. Producers covered tender vegetable, fruit crops under plastic in some areas due to a late frost. Activities: Plowing, field preparation, top dressing pastures, spraying. Winter wheat, barley were reported in mostly good condition. Producers reported oat, alfalfa seedings have begun to emerge. Vegetable producers tended greenhouse seedlings, began transplanting lettuce, cabbage in some locations. Producers continued to make good progress harvesting leeks, cilantro, overwintered spinach in some areas. Orchard operators continued pruning apple, peach trees. Producers reported that the late frost caused damage to apple, peach trees in some localities. A few berry producers reported strawberries in early bloom.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Topsoil 60% very short, 33% short, 7% adequate. A slow-moving storm brought some rainfall, high elevation snowfall to some areas late in the week, but other areas remained dry. Much of the heavier precipitation fell in a 75-mile wide band from north of Gallup to near Albuquerque to Tucumcari. Temperatures for the week were near normal in the Plains but well above normal elsewhere, with a statewide average 5° above normal. Farmers in the southern part of the state spent the week planting, irrigating crops, while in the northern areas farmers cleaned ditches, pre-watered, started breaking ground. Crop planting included chile at 72%, corn at 5%, and cotton, which was ahead of normal at 20%. Alfalfa was looking good with over half of the crop in fair to excellent condition. Total wheat was in mostly very poor to good condition. Lettuce, onions were in fair to excellent condition. Ranchers are severely hurting for rain; drought conditions are causing ranchers to have to feed much heavier than normal and if not already hauling water, they are getting ready to. Activities: Calving, culling, some branding. Pasture, range feed 27% very poor, 48% poor, 23% fair, 2% good.

NEW YORK: April began with slightly below normal temperatures, snow in many areas of the state. Moisture over the past two weeks lessened drought conditions but most areas lag normal precipitation since last Fall

by around 5 inches. Onion planting in southern regions was placed on hold waiting for rains to reduce risk of wind problems. Limited tillage activities began, so did early grain seeding. Maple syrup season continues with high prospects for a good crop. Caring for livestock, spreading manure, orchard maintenance, machinery repair continue to be major activities

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.3 compared to last week's 4.0. Soil 2% very short, 9% short, 69% adequate, 20% surplus. Significant rain fell across the eastern half state the last weekend in March easing moisture concerns for major agriculture producing areas. Activities: Land preparation, planting corn, Irish potatoes, cabbage. Potato, cabbage planting are nearly finished. Early disease pressure in wheat, such as powdery mildew, has been reported in some areas due to below normal temperatures combined with wet weather. Additionally, minor freeze damage in small grains have been reported sporadically across the State.

NORTH DAKOTA: Heavy, wet snow fell across much of the state last week and below normal temperatures further delayed the start of fieldwork. The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 20th compared to April 29 last year and the five year average of April 24. No planting progress had started for any crops. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated as 4 % very short, 29 % short, 62 % adequate and 5 % surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 3 % very short, 30 % short, 64 % adequate and 3 % surplus. Hay supplies were 0 % very short, 3 % short, 88 % adequate and 9 % surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 0 % very short, 1 % short, 90 % adequate and 9 % surplus. Calving was 59 % complete while lambing was 70 % complete. Shearing was 80 % complete. Cattle conditions were rated 0 % very poor, 1 % poor, 18 % fair, 68 % good and 13 % excellent. Calf conditions were rated 0 % very poor, 0 % poor, 16 % fair, 69 % good and 15 % excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 0 % very poor, 1 % poor, 14 % fair, 73 % good and 12 % excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 0 % very poor, 1 % poor, 12 % fair, 74 % good and 13 % excellent. Pasture conditions were 100 percent still dormant.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.3. Topsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 53% adequate, 45% surplus. Corn 1% planted. Oats 11% planted, 33% 2001, 30% avg.; 1% emerged, 2% 2001 3% avg. Potatoes 2% planted, 5% 2001, 5% avg. Tobacco beds 24% seeded, 47% 2001, 5% beds having plants up, 25% 2001. Winter wheat 6% jointed. Apples 1% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 59% good, 6% excellent. Hay 2% very poor, 5% poor, 42% fair, 45% good, 6% excellent. Livestock 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 69% good, 9% excellent. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 10% poor, 39% fair, 43% good, 5% excellent. Peaches 1% very poor, 4% poor, 38% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Winter Wheat 3% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 50% good, 9% excellent. Field activities throughout the state were hampered last week due to snow, heavy rains. Soils are too wet to do much field work unless on high ground or well drained soil. Some fertilizer, lime applications in areas of the state where fields are not too wet for equipment. Preparing equipment for field work, cleaning fence rows, building fences, cleaning, maintenance on grain storage facilities, culling dairy cows, hauling manure. Finishing cabbage planting, completing sweet corn planting under plastic in Meigs county. Lambing, calving are going very well. Producers are stating that the livestock is doing well but pastures are being torn up due to wet conditions. Cattle, calves are on hay, dry grain until pastures dry up.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Topsoil 33% very short, 23% short, 39% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 42% very short, 24% short, 29% adequate, 5% surplus. Wheat 55% jointing, 30% last week, 41% 2001, 76% avg. Rye 16% very poor, 26% poor, 43% fair, 14% good, 1% excellent. Oats 18% very poor, 30% poor, 34% fair, 16% good, 2% excellent; 96% planted, 95% last week, 94% 2001, 98% avg.; 19% jointing, 6% last week, 13% 2001, 44% avg. Sorghum 28% seedbed prepared, 20% last week, 31% 2001, 26% avg. Soybeans 27% seedbed prepared, 22% last week, 36% 2001, 39% avg. Peanuts 44% seedbed prepared, 35% last week, 55% 2001, 39% avg. Livestock 4% very poor, 18% poor, 43% fair, 32% good, 3% excellent; Pasture, range 28% very poor, 28% poor, 22% fair, 18% good, 4% excellent; Cattle auctions reported marketings picking up from the previous week, but still lighter than average. The price received for feeder steers less than 800 pounds

was up slightly, averaged \$84.00 per cwt. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds was also up, averaged \$77.10 per cwt

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork: 6. Topsoil 18% very short, 23% short, 55% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 18% very short, 19% short, 58% adequate, 5% surplus. Barley 65% planted, 55% previous week, 70% 2001, 67% 5 yr. avg.; 35% emerged, 20% previous week. 29% very poor, 10% poor, 24% fair, 33% good, 4% excellent. Spring wheat 81% planted, 65% previous week, 78% 2001, 29% emerged, 12% previous week, 24% 2001. Winter wheat 21% very poor, 10% poor, 22% fair, 40% good, 7% excellent. Range, pasture 19% very poor, 9% poor, 28% fair, 38% good, 6% excellent. Activities: Growers planting, fertilizing, spaying for weeds across state. Most areas east of Cascades need more spring rains to have an average crop. In Morrow, Gilliam counties previous years of drought has left no deep moisture in soil. Winter wheat showing signs of stress, spring wheat could make a below average crop with above normal rainfall. Sunshine, warmer temperatures kicked planting, other spring activities in high gear in northeast part of state. In Klamath County irrigation water turned on, planting of spring crops got underway. In Willamette Valley, new grass crops continued to be planted. Nurseries working 16 hour days to ship products to eastern markets. Bareroot digging about done, balled, burlapped digging, movement of container plants in full swing. Tulip growers having open houses to view tulips blooming in fields. Retail nurseries starting to get busy with nice weather last week. Christmas tree growers planting new seedlings. Fruit tree spraying continued in Willamette Valley; trees into popcorn stage. Strawberries greening up, crane berries showing considerable growth. Blueberries in early bloom. Blackberries, raspberries, currents, gooseberries leafing out. Buds started to show on grapes. Plums, peaches in full bloom. Pears, cherries showing white flowers. Some pre-pink showing on apples. Hazelnuts leafing out. In Yamhill County, Eastern Filbert Blight spraying continued, herbicides applied to orchard floor. Scab sprays applied on apples, pears. D'Anjou & Bartlett pears in lower Hood River Valley at first white to full white. Southern coast cranberry beds still showing dormant reddish color on surface, but foliage green underneath; bud development variable. Vegetables: In Willamette Valley, vegetable growers preparing their fields for planting, rhubarb plants showed good growth, almost ready for harvest. Clatsop County producers selling at local farmers markets; mostly peas, beans. Fields being prepared for truck gardening in Josephine, Jackson counties; onions, peas, cabbage, radishes, carrots planted. Eastern state growers planting onions, carrots. Livestock conditions fair to good. Range, pastures feeds in fair condition. Spring regrowth has been good but there will need to be more rain for further development. Most areas reporting turning out of cattle onto pasture, some areas still supplemental feeding. Calves, lambing season winding down. Sheep doing good.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Soil 3% very short, 19% short, 63% adequate, 15% surplus. Spring 28% plowing, 10% 2001, 22% avg. Barley 14% heading, 2001, avg n/a. Wheat 1% poor, 27% fair, 61% good, 11% excellent. Oats 17% planted, 4% 2001, 16% avg.; 5% emerged, 2001 n/a, 3% avg. Oat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 68% fair, 29% good. Tobacco 73% planted, 44% 2001, 73% avg. Pasture feeds 9% very poor, 25% poor, 44% fair, 21% good, 1% excellent. Activities: Spring plowing; planting oats, tobacco; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; ordering supplies; storing equipment; cleaning barns; spreading lime, fertilizers; hauling, spreading manure; caring for livestock; pruning fruit trees; spraying herbicides; preparing, finishing income taxes.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 5.9. Soil 5% very short, 28% short, 67% adequate. Corn 76% planted, 42% 2001, 61% avg.; 18% fair, 80% good, 2% excellent. Sorghum 7% planted, 3% 2001, 5% avg. Winter Wheat 29% headed, 12% 2001, 20% avg.; 2% poor, 34% fair, 54% good, 10% excellent. Barley 10% headed, 5% 2001, 7% avg.; 14% fair, 86% good. Pastures 10% poor, 24% fair, 65% good, 1% excellent. Rye 38% headed, 17% 2001, 31% avg.; 41% fair, 57% good, 2% excellent. Oats 34% headed, 12% 2001, 26% avg.; 6% poor, 30% fair, 60% good, 4% excellent. Tobacco 13% transplanted, 8% 2001, 12% avg. Grain hay 12% harvested, 9% 2001, 14% avg. Peaches 18% fair, 82% good. Apples 49% fair, 51% good. Snap beans 45% planted, 42% 2001, 40% avg.; 2% fair, 98% good. Cucumbers 57% planted, 36% 2001, 47% avg.; 21% fair, 79% good. Watermelons 58% planted, 51% 2001, 58% avg.; 62% fair, 38% good. Tomatoes 62% planted, 69% 2001, 51% avg.; 12% fair, 88% good. Cantaloups 43% planted, 36%

2001, 37% avg.; 26% fair, 74% good. Livestock 6% poor, 24% fair, 54% good, 16% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for field work 1.7. Topsoil 6% very short, 26% short, 64% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 8% very short, 28% short, 62% adequate, 2% surplus. Feed supplies 1% very short, 8% short, 82% adequate, 9% surplus. Stock water supplies 6% very short, 12% short, 80% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter rye 11% poor, 36% fair, 52% good, 1% excellent. Cattle 2% poor, 12% fair, 68% good, 18% excellent. Sheep 1% poor, 12% fair, 70% good, 17% excellent. Range, pasture 8% very poor, 12% poor, 32% fair, 45% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat 14% breaking dormancy. Winter Rye 2% breaking dormancy. Calving 45% complete. Cattle moved to pasture 1% complete. Lambing 59% complete. Sheep, lamb deaths 26% below avg.; 70% avg.; 4% above avg. Calf deaths 26% below avg.; 69% avg.; 5% above avg. Average expected date to start spring field work is April 16. Percent of winter wheat acreage hit by winter kill 19% complete. Percent of winter rye acreage hit by winter kill 15% complete. Little has been reported in the way of spring field activity due to cold temperatures, wet field conditions. Producers are anticipating little to no fieldwork for at least one more week. Activities: Newborn calves, lambs, hauling grain, seed, spreading fertilizer, mending fences, preparing farm machinery for spring planting season.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 77% adequate, 23% surplus. Wheat 48% jointed, 56% 2001, 68% avg.; 90% top-dressed, 92% 2001, 86% avg.; 5% poor, 19% fair, 62% good, 14% excellent. Apples 80% budding or beyond, 70% 2001, 82% avg.; 39% blooming or beyond, 26% 2001, 49% avg. Peaches 94% budding or beyond, 89% 2001, 95% avg.; 68% blooming or beyond, 61% 2001, 79% avg. Pastures 3% poor, 35% fair, 52% good, 10% excellent. Last week's continued cool weather resulted in further delays of the State's early spring activities. Temperatures averaged 4 to 7° below normal statewide with the exception of the Southeast part where temperatures were near normal. Planting corn, fertilizing, spraying pastures, wheat have all been slowed due to the prolonged cool, wet conditions. Pasture growth, development was also interrupted by last week's cold snaps. Nurseries were busy digging, lining out plants. The apple, peach crops experienced some light freeze damage last week. Rains have helped boost pond, lake levels

TEXAS: Agricultural Summary: Temperatures were variable across the state during the week. Freezing temperatures were reported in some locations of the Plains, many other areas were mostly cloudy, cool. Additional rainfall was received in several areas during early week as a result of a Pacific weather front. Later in the week many areas received severe storms, some tornadoes, heavy rainfall. However no widespread damage was reported. In areas where previous rains had fallen soil moisture was mostly adequate for spring planting to continue. Growth, development continued for small grains in areas where rains fell but in areas that remained dry, wheat, oats continued to suffer from moisture stress. In a few areas of the High Plains some wheat was considered a total loss. In some locations crop insurance adjusters were evaluating wheat fields to estimate potential yield loss. Irrigation remained necessary on some emerging crops in the drier southern locations, some pre-watering continued in areas of the Plains with poor soil moisture. Supplemental feeding was diminishing in many areas where earlier rainfall had increased pasture recovery. However in some very dry areas supplemental feeding was still necessary. Herd reduction was still active in these drier areas. Crawfish have become a nuisance in some wetter locations, control measures were being considered. Field Crops Report: Small Grains: Growth, development continued in most areas as the result of adequate soil moisture. However some areas continued to suffer, abandonment or plow-up remained active in some of these locations. Dryland wheat was in poor condition in some areas of the Plains. Emergence of spring oats continued in areas where soil moisture was adequate. Wheat 47% of normal compared with 63% 2001. Corn: Land preparation made some progress in areas of the Plains, but planting was slow as some drying out was needed as the result of earlier rainfall. Emergence, growth of earlier planted corn was slow in many areas as the result of cool, cloudy conditions. Insect populations remained active in some locations. Corn 67% of normal compared with 65% 2001. Cotton: Land preparation continued in areas where possible. Planting was active in some south central locations, however a few areas will require drying before planting can resume. Pre-watering continued in some areas where

soil moisture was low. Emergence of earlier planted cotton was mostly favorable, however in some locations emergence was slow, sporadic as soil moisture was uneven. Treatment for insect populations was necessary in some southern locations. Sorghum: Land preparation, planting continued but was slow in areas where earlier rainfall was heavy. Some previously dry areas that were waiting on rainfall before planting could begin. Emergence was generally satisfactory on earlier planted sorghum. Sorghum 61% of normal compared with 83% 2001. Peanuts: Land preparation moved ahead in many locations but some areas progressed slowly due to moisture shortages. Planting will begin soon in central, southern locations, however there was still some uncertainty over farm bill issues. Soybeans: Land preparation, planting continued, however drying out was needed in many areas before planting could resume. Some areas received too much rain, not enough sunlight; emerged beans were in poor shape as a result. Rice: Planting was nearing completion in some areas. Rains were needed to adequately germinate the crop, rainfall in late week should be beneficial. A few locations remained too wet for planting. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit, Pecans In the Rio Grande Valley harvesting continued for cabbage, carrots, onions, some remaining greens. Harvest of late season oranges, grapefruit continued. Melon crops were progressing well. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden planting continued for watermelons, cantaloupes, cucumbers. Harvest for carrots, cabbage continued in some locations. In areas land preparation in some areas remained on hold, however planting in many truck gardens was active. Earlier planted melons were making good progress. In the High Plains land preparation continued, but remained slow in some areas due to short soil moisture. Onions made good progress, emergence in earlier planted chili peppers was adequate in the Trans Pecos region. Pecans: Bud break continued to move northward as temperatures warmed, day length increased. Some irrigation was active, however recent rains eliminated the need to irrigate in many areas of Central, state. Peaches: Blooming, fruit setting continued to move northward. Many orchards escaped damage from late freezes, a good crop was expected. However, some orchards were damaged by hail during late week. Range, Livestock: Range, pasture feeds continued to improve in many areas with the benefit of earlier rains. Some pastures in portions of Central, state were extremely boggy, trampling from livestock was somewhat of a problem for a few producers. In some other areas conditions remained dry, producers continued to reduce the size of their herds. Supplemental feeding declined in the areas where rainfall has increased pasture recovery, however supplemental feeding remained necessary in the drier locations. Burning prickly pears to aid in supplement requirements increased in some of the driest locations. In a few areas the majority of cattle herds have been liquidated. Shearing of sheep, goats was underway in some areas.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 7. Topsoil 10% very short, 39% short, 48% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 5% very short, 35% short, 58% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat 7% very poor, 14% poor, 44% fair, 34% good, 1% excellent; freeze damage 60% none, 24% light, 10% moderate, 6% severe. Spring wheat 39% planted, 46% 2001, 54% avg.; 22% emerged, 22% 2001, 18% avg. Barley 30% planted, 39% 2001, 51% avg.; 11% emerged, 22% 2001, 17% avg.; 49% freeze damage none, 30% light, 18% moderate, 3% severe. Oats 15% planted, 29% 2001, 19% avg. Cows 71% calved, 67% 2001, 64% avg. Cattle, Calf 1% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 8% excellent. Sheep sheared 65% on farm, 54% 2001, 49% avg.; 42% on range, 42% 2001, 28% avg. Ewes lambled 64% on farm, 56% 2001, 60% avg.; 37% on range, 31% 2001, 24%. Sheep 3% poor, 32% fair, 56% good, 9% excellent. Apricots full bloom or past 86%, 63% 2001, 88% avg. Peaches full bloom or past 9%, 4% avg. Range, pasture feed 4% very poor, 23% poor, 49% fair, 23% good, 1% excellent. Activities: Spring planting, shearing sheep, lambing, calving. Many counties are already experiencing problems due to the lack of water. Winter wheat, rangeland have been hurt by the dry weather, some farmers will not plant because of the short supply of irrigation water.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.3. Topsoil 4% very short, 25% short, 68% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 36% very short, 33% short, 30% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture 9% very poor, 26% poor, 44% fair, 20% good, 1% excellent. Livestock 5% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 7% excellent. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 9% poor, 33% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent, 2% headed, NA 2001, NA 5-yr avg. Barley 3% very poor, 12% poor, 39% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. Other Hay 6% very poor, 16% poor, 49% fair, 28% good, 1% excellent. Alfalfa Hay 9% poor, 37% fair, 53% good, 1% excellent. Tobacco Greenhouse 6% fair, 63% good, 31%

excellent. Tobacco Plantbeds 23% fair, 60% Good, 17% excellent. Cotton 0% planted. Apples 7% poor, 81% fair, 12% good. Peaches 14% very poor, 19% poor, 44% fair, 22% good, 1% excellent. Corn 13% planted, 3% 2001, 8% 5-yr avg. Summer Potatoes 20% fair, 80% good, 92% planted, 97% 2001, 90% 5-yr avg. This week in the Commonwealth, some areas experienced some much needed rainfall while other parts of the state saw no precipitation. There was some cold injury to small grains, fruit trees. Several farmers experienced problems with aphids in their orchard grass, alfalfa. Mites have also been spotted in some of the small grains. Corn planting got underway in most of the Commonwealth, while in some areas, it was in full swing. Cool weather, windy conditions slowed down pasture growth in some areas, causing farmers to continue feeding hay. Activities: Continued land preparation for planting, fertilization on small grains, herbicide applications.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 6.3. Topsoil 0% very short, 9% short, 87% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 0% very short, 10% short, 88% adequate, 2% surplus. The highest temperature in the state was 75° in Vancouver. The lowest temperature in the state was 21° in Ellensburg. Ground temperatures remained on the cold side, but seeding of spring cereals was underway. Wheat, barley remained predominately in fair or good conditions. Range, pasture feeds 2% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 55% good, 2% excellent

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 2% very short, 18% short, 66% adequate, 14% surplus, compared to 4% short, 82% adequate, 14% surplus in 2001. Intended acreage prepared for spring 33% planting, 25% 2001, 43% 5-yr avg. Corn 5% planted, 0% 2001, 2% 5-yr avg. Oats 20% planted, 2% 2001, 24% 5-yr avg.; 5% emerged, 0% 2001, 6% 5-yr avg. Wheat 6% very poor, 31% poor, 46% fair, 17% good. Tobacco beds 53% seeded, 23% last week, 77% 2001, 76% 5-yr avg.; 37% emerged, 13% 2001, 20% 5-yr avg. Hay 7% very poor 14% poor, 38% fair, 40% good, 1% excellent. Apple n 7% very poor, 18% poor, 41% fair, 27% good, 7% excellent. Peach 8% very poor, 34% poor, 50% fair, 8% good. Cattle, calves 1% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 77% good, 3% excellent; Percent 74% calved, 66% last week, 77% 2001, 80% 5-yr avg. Sheep, Lambs 1% poor, 37% fair, 60% good, 2% excellent; Percent 75% lambed, 71% last week, 76% 2001, 82% 5-yr avg. Hay, roughage supplies 3% very short, 9% short, 84% adequate, 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 5% very short, 7% short, 88% adequate. Activities: Field preparation, planting, fertilizing, feeding livestock, general maintenance. The week was highlighted by temperature variations, limited rainfall, snow of varying depth Friday night, Saturday morning. Drought, near drought conditions remain a concern in some areas.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.0. Soil 2% very short, 13% short, 65% adequate, 20% surplus. Much like 2001, State's 2002 growing season is starting very slowly; temperatures were about 10° below normal across the state. The short, very short soil moisture was reported mainly in the southern part of the state. The northern third of the state is still snow covered. Many reports stated that the ground is still frozen. The main activity in the north is maple sap. Scattered locations in the southern part of the state have started spring tillage. The main field activities in this area were manure spreading, fertilizer application, but there were a few reports of oats being planted in the southwest part of the state.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Topsoil 26% very short, 47% short, 27% adequate. Subsoil 37% very short, 47% short, 16% adequate. Winter wheat 4% very poor, 7% poor, 25% fair, 64% good, wind damage 32% none, 54% light, 10% moderate, 4% severe. Severe wind damage was reported in Natrona, Goshen counties. Winter wheat freeze damage 83% none, 13% light, 4% moderate. Moderate freeze damage was reported in Campbell, Crook, Natrona counties. Barley 30% planted, 42% 2001, 50% avg. Spring wheat 8% planted, 8% 2001, 17% avg. Oats 2% planted, 3% 2001, 11% avg. Sugarbeets 3% planted, 7% 2001, 8% avg. Pasture, range 24% very poor, 21% poor, 47% fair, 8% good. Spring seeding behind normal. More warm weather, moisture needed to jump start the 2002 crop year. Producers begin to cultivate fields as temperatures warm. Snow water equivalents from mountain snow pack ranges by basin from 59%-79% of normal