

# Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

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**ALABAMA:** North, Central; The weather has been cold, wet with little growth on winter pasture for the last month. Farmers allowed livestock to graze fescue pastures, thereby, feeding a little less hay, grain than this time last year. In other fields, farmers fed hay, feed supplements to livestock. South; Grazing is not doing well. Rain has helped but cold weather is hurting growth. Cool-season forages have experienced difficult growing conditions this winter with high rust pressure in some areas. rainfall. Grazing conditions have been less than desirable for most producers. Farmers are gearing up for another farming year. Activities: Chopping stalks, feeding cows, soil testing.

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**ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

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**ARIZONA:** Temperatures for the State were well below normal for the week. Cotton harvested was complete. Small Grains plantings are near completions, while emerging is well underway. Alfalfa conditions remain good to excellent, with harvest progressing at a normal rate. Precipitation was reported at 13 of the 17 reporting stations. Precipitation ranged from 0.01 inches at Douglas, Prescott to 0.30 inches at Canyon De Chelly.

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**ARKANSAS:** As a result of excess rainfall, winter wheat is in fair condition. Cattle are in excellent condition for this time of year. Pasture supply is more than adequate, is also in excellent condition. Both cattle, pastures have been reported to be in the best condition in years. January temperatures were above normal. The average temperature for the month of January was 40.2°, 3.8 ° above normal. The highest temperature for the month was 75°, the lowest was 19°. There were 8 days with high temperatures above 60°, only one day with low temperatures less than 20°. Temperatures averaged above normal on 19 days during the month. Precipitation during the month totaled 3.48 inches, 0.11 inches above normal. The nearly 2 inches of rainfall that fell near the end of the month was the most for any single day since September 2003, the most for any day in January since 1999.

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**CALIFORNIA:** Early January rainfall greatly aided the development of planted crops, but also hindered field activity. Later in the month, cooler temperatures, overcast days slowed the growth of small grains. Herbicides for weed control were applied in alfalfa, grain fields. Shredding, discing of harvested cotton fields was completed. Field preparations for spring planting of corn, cotton took place late in the month. Planting of winter wheat was finished in most areas by mid-January. Wheat, oats, barley, winter forage showed steady growth. Planted sugar beets exhibited vigorous growth. Hazing, other measures were taken to protect the young plants from birds. Potato harvesting continued. Pruning, tying, brush shredding continued in grape vineyards, with rainfall delaying activity at times. Pre-emergent herbicides and dormant sprays were applied in orchards, vineyards. Foliar fertilizer, scale treatments were applied to cherry trees in the San Joaquin Valley. Orchard and vineyard removal continued. Brush, stumps from orchard, vineyard removal were piled for burning or recycling. Strawberry fields were weeded. Bareroot, strawberry stock digging, trimming of strawberry plants continued. Foliar nutrient treatments were applied in some citrus orchards. Rainfall early in the month slowed Navel orange harvesting somewhat, which helped keep supplies in line with demand. Ice marks

became visible in many Navel orchards, though internal frost damage to fruit was minimal. Lemon harvesting continued. Grapefruit, tangerines, Satsumas, Clementines, pummelos were also harvested. Olive trees were pruned in many locations. Avocado maturity was advancing, with Zutanos, Hass varieties being packed. Cultural activities continued in many tree nut orchards as weather permitted. Field work included pruning, brush shredding, cultivation, soil amendments, weed control treatments, cover crop planting. Dormant sprays were being applied to control diseases, over wintering insect pests. Pecans were harvested in the Central Valley. New almond orchards were planted where older orchards or vineyards had been removed. Spring vegetable planting continued through most of January. Fields of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, garlic exhibited good growth. Cultivation to control weeds continued in a number of fields. Red onion planting was completed. Hothouse-grown tomatoes were blooming. Around the middle of January, winter rains, wet soil conditions were hindering ground preparation for spring planting of both cucumber and squash. Carrot planting continued in Kern County. Cole crops were being harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. Napa cabbage, bok choy, mustard greens were harvested for shipment to wholesale markets. Specialty crops harvested for farmer's markets included beets, sugar cane, gai choy, kale, green onions, radishes, spinach, tatsoi, turnips. Rangeland, pasture feeds were varied, but continued to improve throughout January, due to rainfall and good soil moisture. However, foggy, overcast conditions slowed grass growth at times. Cattle were moved to lower pastures in the southern San Joaquin Valley. By mid-January, minimal supplemental feed was being given to cattle. In Central state, stock ewes, lambs grazed in fallow pastures, alfalfa fields, some broccoli fields. Lambs grazed on alfalfa in the southern desert area. Bees were moved into place in preparation for almond pollination.

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**COLORADO:** Temperatures were generally above average statewide for the month of January with the exception of the Western Slope. Growing regions saw virtually no precipitation until the end of the month when light to moderate snow fell on much of the state. Current snowpack levels are below average statewide. Irrigation water availability remains a top concern to growers along the Front Range, Eastern Plains. Winter wheat condition is still variable across the state ranging from poor along, south of the I-70 corridor to good in the northern region. Activities: Continue to center around feed, care of livestock, preparation for the upcoming calving, lambing season.

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**DELAWARE:** Cold temperatures, windy weather conditions are beginning to dry out vegetation. Small grains are in fair condition. Livestock, poultry in good condition. Good quality hay for horses is in short supply, hay supply for cows is fair. Activities: Repairs to equipment, attending conferences, visiting FSA offices, planning for the next crop season

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**FLORIDA:** Dry, cool conditions persisted during most of January. Some grove caretakers irrigated citrus trees during the month to maintain growth, encourage fruit development. Pasture condition in the Panhandle, the northern, central Peninsula declined from good to mostly fair throughout the month because of the dry, cool weather. Livestock

producers fed hay, other supplemental feeds to keep animals healthy when pastures could not provide enough food. Southwestern grazing, cattle condition, Statewide, remained fair to good throughout the month. At the beginning of the month, strawberry producers around Plant City kept nighttime surveillance as temperatures plunged to near freezing levels due to an Arctic cold air mass covering the State. Moderate frost on the ground was reported on several mornings in northern locations, to a lesser degree in central locations, especially near the end of the month. No frost in the trees or damage or loss of any kind was reported for the citrus crop. Sugarcane harvesting in the Everglades remained steady during the month. Tomato picking was virtually finished in the Palmetto-Ruskin region by mid-month as Miami-Dade County producers increased harvesting. Tomato picking in the Immokalee area was steady throughout most of the month. Some grove caretakers started fertilizing citrus trees in anticipation of new spring growth. Potato producers started planting in the Hastings area about mid-month. However, a lack of contracts for chipping potatoes limited the planting of processing types. Tobacco plant beds progressed normally in northern areas. Row crop producers were preparing land for planting at the end of the month. Significant rains fell in most areas during the last week of the month with some vegetable planting, harvesting curtailed for a few days. The early, mid season orange harvest peaked near mid-month with the weekly harvest reaching over nine million boxes during two weeks. Navel orange picking decreased, shipments were cut short by crystallization in larger sizes which decreased the value for fresh utilization. Small amounts of Valencia oranges were starting to be harvested during late January, primarily for fresh shipments. Grapefruit harvesting for fresh shipments increased during the month with harvest for processing increasing near the end of the month. As the harvest of Sunburst tangerines decreased, the picking of Honey tangerines increased with excellent fruit sizes, color picked during the month. Tangelo harvesting neared completion, Temple harvest for fresh and processing usage remained heavy during the month.

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**GEORGIA:** Warm temperatures in early January were followed by much colder temperatures for the rest of the month. Cold temperatures slowed grain growth. Rain was needed for small grains, winter grazing. Hay feeding continued to increase due to declining pasture conditions. Much needed rain fell the latter part of the month. Rain brought temporary relief to the moisture deficit. However, more rain was needed to replenish topsoil, subsoil, farm ponds. Rain, cold temperatures limited field work. Growers began preparing for planting spring crops. Greenhouse tobacco transplants appeared in good condition. Wheat planting neared completion. Row crop producers took soil samples, limed fields. Activities: Cotton stalk shredding, harrowing fields, harvesting vegetables, the routine care of livestock, poultry.

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**HAWAII:** The returning trade winds brought variable weather to the State during the past week. Windward areas received showers while leeward sections were sunny, dry. Banana orchards were in mostly fair to good condition despite increased disease infection, some leaf damage by strong winds. Papaya orchards were in fair condition due to wet weather. Vegetable crops were in mostly fair condition.

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**IDAHO:** Topsoil 2% short, 83% adequate, 15% surplus. Winter Wheat condition 25% fair, 72% good, 3% excellent. Hay, Roughage supply 2% short, 91% adequate, 7% surplus. Lambing complete 10%. Calving complete 7%. Soil moisture has recharged due to timely winter snows, rains. If the inclement weather continues, hay supplies could become short

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**ILLINOIS:** Topsoil 1% very short, 10% short, 75% adequate, 14% surplus. January ended with extremely cold temperatures, a good snowcover across most of the state. Wheat producers are concerned that early in the month their crop may have received damage prior to the snow that fell later in the month. The snowcover that currently exists did protect the crop from the subzero temperatures which occurred across the state the last week of the month. Condition of the winter wheat crop as of February 1 2% poor, 26% fair, 58% good, 14% excellent. Topsoil moisture levels declined slightly during the month with the driest areas reported across northern state. Last week farmers were busy working on machinery, caring for livestock, hauling grain, completing paperwork for the farm program sign-up.

**INDIANA:** Soil moisture in the central, southern regions is in good shape with the northern areas drier, especially in the northwestern region. Temperatures averaged 2.1° below normal for the state during January. Coldest weather, snow arrived during the last week of the month. Precipitation was mostly rain early in the month, causing some flooding, ponding in fields, along river bottoms. Snow, ice hindered most outside activities. Precipitation averaged 3.60 inches compared with 2.44 inches for normal. Fieldwork is now at a standstill as snow covers most of the state. Farmers are spending most of their time hauling manure, taking care of livestock, working on taxes. Applying fertilizer in fields dry enough, or frozen, occurred during January. Farmers were hauling grain to market, also planning, budgeting for the spring workload. Winter wheat appears to be in mostly good condition. Tobacco sales, stripping continued. Hay supplies are mostly adequate, but prices are high in some areas. Livestock are in fair to mostly good condition, but under some stress from the recent very cold temperatures. Feed usage has increased the last couple of weeks. Cattle producers still concerned about the market. Calving season has started in the south. Lambing continues. Activities: Attending meetings, signing up at FSA offices, cleaning ditches, tile work, spreading lime, purchasing supplies, cleaning up, repairing equipment, taking care of livestock.

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**IOWA:** Soil 13% very short, 38% short, 48% adequate, 1% surplus. The beginning of January was marked by relatively mild temperatures, but recent extreme cold, high winds have caused stress on livestock as well as increased feed usage. At the end of January, the average depth of snow cover across state was 5 inches, compared to 2 inches last month and 1 inch at the same time last year. Shortness of soil moisture remained a concern. Field Crops Report: Grain movement from farm to elevator 19% none, 40% light, 35% moderate, 6% heavy. Livestock, Pasture, Range Report: Hog, pig losses in January were lower than last year at 14% below avg.; 83% avg.; 3% above average. Cattle, calf losses were similar to last year at 16% below avg.; 80% avg.; 4% above average.

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**KANSAS:** Topsoil 19% very short, 36% short, 38% adequate, 7% surplus. Precipitation varied throughout the State, with the central, eastern districts receiving the most. Wheat condition 9% very poor, 18% poor, 31% fair, 38% good, 4% excellent. Wheat wind damage is 70% none, 22% light, 6% moderate, 2% severe. Wheat freeze damage is 69% none, 21% light, 8% moderate, 2% severe. Feed grain supplies 3% very short, 14% short, 80% adequate, 3% surplus. Hay, forage 3% very short, 16% short, 77% adequate, 4% surplus. Calving continues across much of the State

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**KENTUCKY:** January began warm, wet. Several storm systems crossed the State bringing heavy rainfall amounts which caused flood watches to be issued. High temperatures were at record levels by weeks end. Another cold front late on the weekend brought more rain, colder temperatures. Temperatures for the period averaged 50°, 18° above normal. Extreme highs lower 70's, extreme lows middle 20's. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 1.87 in. statewide which was 1.05 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.49 in. at London to a high of 3.20 in. at Covington. The first full week of the month brought below normal temperatures, near normal precipitation. A front provided arctic air for the first part of the week. Another system moved through late on the 8th, dropping 2-4 in. of snowfall across the eastern third of state. Temperatures rose above normal to end the week. Due to the heavy rains the previous last week, there were flood warnings along the Ohio River from Cincinnati westward to the Mississippi River. The river caused flooding of most low lying areas. Temperatures averaged 27°, 4° below normal. Extreme highs upper 60's, extreme lows in the single digits. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.76 in. statewide which was +0.04 in. from normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.21 in. at Mayfield to a high of 1.43 in. at Quicksand. Temperatures at the beginning of the second full week were above normal as highs reached the 50's for most of the State through midweek. A weak front moved through after midweek bringing some light showers to the east, colder temperatures to the whole State. There was a slight warm up again late in the work week ahead of a storm system that brought rain, mixed precipitation, snow showers over the weekend. The storm system set up a significant cool down for the next week. Temperatures 37°, 5° above normal. Extreme high temperatures mid to upper 50's, extreme low temperatures mid to upper teens. Rainfall totaled 0.79 in. statewide, 0.07 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.34 in. at Covington to a high of

1.28 in. at London. It was a pretty quiet week weatherwise as conditions were generally dry, cool for the third full week. Some of the lowest temperatures of the winter season were observed the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> as lows dipped into the single digits. There was a healthy winter storm across the Commonwealth over the weekend bringing between 0.5-1.0 in. of precipitation. Areas to the south received rain, while areas in central state faced freezing rain, icing, areas to the north received snow. Temperatures began to warm up Sunday night allowing for melting to begin. This is the first week of the new year that precipitation has been below normal, despite all the rain, ice, sleet, snow received over the weekend. Temperatures averaged 28<sup>o</sup>, 4<sup>o</sup> below normal. Extreme highs lower 50's, extreme lows single digits. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.51 in. statewide which was 0.21 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.27 in. at London to a high of 0.91 in. at Princeton.

Temperatures were very erratic the last week of January. Most of the snow, ice melted on as highs south of a warm front hit the middle 60's. The warmer weather did not stick around as a cold front on the 27th kept highs in the middle 20's. Cold temperatures hung around for the remainder of the week bringing lows on morning of 31<sup>st</sup> well below zero. Livestock cold stress was also an issue for a couple of days as wind chills fell below -10<sup>o</sup>. Temperatures averaged 27<sup>o</sup>, 5<sup>o</sup> below normal. Extreme highs were in the middle 60's. Extreme lows were in the negative teens. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.35 in. statewide, 0.40 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.06 in. at Mayfield to a high of 1.26 in. at Hardinsburg. Livestock remained in mostly good condition throughout the month, despite of the wet conditions, extreme temperature fluctuation, wind chills. Winter wheat remains in mostly good condition. Farmers continued moving grain, tobacco to market. Burley tobacco auction sales resumed sales on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Total Belt-wide auction sales through January totaled 59.5 million lbs, averaging \$196.15 per cwt. Total contract sales totaled 199.2 million lbs., averaging \$198.67 per cwt. Total burley belt sales totaled 258.7 million lbs., averaging \$198.09 per cwt. Resales totaled 1,693,125 pounds so far this season. The Burley Cooperatives received 60.7% of the auction sales for the season-to-date. The auction markets scheduled a two-week recess that began after sales on January 22, and will resume on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one markets remain open for at least one more auction.

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**LOUISIANA:** Field crop producers were preparing for spring planting as field conditions continued to dry out. The state averaged 4.87 inches of rain over the last 4 weeks. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures, feeding hay. Strawberry producers took precautions (including covering) to avoid any major freeze damage as temperatures dropped into the lower 20s in the central, southern parishes during January. Crawfish producers continued putting out traps as harvesting was just getting started. Activities: Repairing, cleaning equipment

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**MARYLAND:** Extreme cold temperatures, snow have increased feed requirements for livestock. Livestock, poultry in good condition despite the cold weather. Hay supply is adequate, but good quality hay is in short supply. Small grains are generally in fair condition. Activities: Stripping tobacco, repairing equipment, attending conferences, planning for the next crop season

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**MICHIGAN:** January brought frigid air, snow across the State. Temperatures were below normal for much of the month. Winter wheat, hay appear to be overwintering well due to heavy snow cover in all areas of the State. Fruit winter hardiness has been good because temperatures were consistently cold in January. Apple trimming was the main activity in early January before snow made the task difficult. Feed supplies were adequate except for dry hay in the northern Lower, Upper Peninsulas, where it was in short supply. Livestock remained in good condition. Calving is expected to get underway on most operations in mid-March or April.

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**MINNESOTA:** Depleted topsoil, subsoil moisture, winter injury to alfalfa, have been concerns due to minimal snow coverage earlier in the season. Good winter conditions prevailed on farms this past month. Mild temperatures were received during the first half of the month, with below normal temperatures, wide spread snow falls during the second half.

Livestock feed supplies are adequate at the present time, livestock conditions have been favorable.

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**MISSISSIPPI:** Soil 6% short, 66% adequate, 28% surplus. Hay supply 5% short, 81% adequate, 14% surplus. Feed Grain 4% short, 94% adequate, 2% surplus. Despite slightly cooler than normal temperatures throughout December, early January, warmer than average mid-January temperatures proved to be favorable for winter forages. Statewide rainfall has been typical for this time of year, with producers hoping for residual moisture for the upcoming crop season. Cattle are in good condition, both hay, ryegrass supplies continue to remain sufficient. Many producers are already making plans for the 2004 growing season.

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**MISSOURI:** Livestock required more care, heavier feeding during the recent snow, cold weather. Hay supplies are adequate in most areas with the exception of a few counties along the western edge of the State where some shortages are expected due to earlier feeding requirements in late summer and fall. Winter wheat is in fair to good condition with no major problems reported. Rain of the past month will provide needed moisture reserves for wheat, pastures when spring growth resumes, recent snow has provided protection from cold weather across much of the State. Farmers are doing taxes, planning for the new crop year

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**MONTANA:** During the month of January, weather conditions in state have been very cold with sub zero temperatures, snow falling throughout the state. Soil 11% very short, 30% short, 55% adequate, 4% surplus compared to 2003 25% very short, 46% short, 26% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 34% very short, 43% short, 22% adequate, 1% surplus compared to 2003 during which subsoil moisture 45% very short, 39% short, 16% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat 5% very poor, 13% poor, 46% fair, 33% good, 3% excellent. This year's winter wheat crop conditions are above last year's crop because of less wind, freeze or drought damage. Wind damage to the winter wheat 29% none, 40% light, 19% moderate, 12% heavy. Freeze, drought damage 31% none, 37% light, 28% moderate, 4% heavy. Snow cover for winter wheat 6% very poor, 9% poor, 26% fair, 41% good, 18% excellent. Snow fall has closed much of the pastures available for grazing. Livestock grazing 16% open, 31% difficult, 53% closed, compared to 2003, when 81% open, 15% difficult, 4% closed. Currently, all the cattle, sheep are receiving supplemental feed. Calving, lambing 4% and 2% completed respectively, will be well underway during February.

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**NEBRASKA:** January temperatures averaged above normals the second, third weeks but below normals the first, last weeks of the month. Snow depth at the end of January averaged 4.9 inches. Wheat 9% very poor, 19% poor, 41% fair, 31% good, 0 excellent. Hay, forage supplies were mostly adequate. Cattle were in mostly good condition with calving underway. Snow cover restricted stalk field grazing potential in the eastern two-thirds of the state. Producer activities included livestock care, tax work

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**NEVADA:** January began with a wet storm system moving across the State, but precipitation was somewhat limited for the remainder of the month. Precipitation totals for the month predominately well below normal with some stations reporting only half their normal. Temperatures were near normal over most of the State, but were much colder in the east. January was the coldest on record for Elko. Snow accumulations in western, central watersheds were 10% or more above normal, while the eastern State snow pack was 84% of normal. Some early calving, lambing was beginning. Limited marketing of bred cows, heavy calves took place. Hay marketing, shipping continued. Potato processing remained active. Fall seeded grains, garlic were in generally good condition. Winter livestock feeding was common. Activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock care, fence repairs, crop, livestock marketing, industry meetings

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**NEW ENGLAND:** Arctic cold temperatures blasted the six state region during January. During the first two weeks of the year New Englanders experienced some of the coldest weather in decades. Snow fell in some areas at the end of the month. Farmers kept busy tending livestock, moving apples, potatoes out of storage

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**NEW JERSEY:** Temperatures were above normal the first week of January across most of the state. Temperatures fell to below normal by the second week of January, remained there through the end of the month. There were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state for the month of January. There was a mixture of ice, snow, in varying amounts, across most of the state the last week of January. Activities: Maintaining farm structures, caring for livestock

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**NEW MEXICO:** As supplemental feeding continues to be heavy, ranchers have cut herd numbers down drastically. The pecan harvest is close to completion. Fields being grazed are not lasting due to the drought situation, small grain growth has been slightly stunted due to cold night temperatures. Some farmers are preparing fields for the 2004 crop, while others are holding off.

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**NEW YORK.** Extremely cold weather, heavy snowfall during the month made outside chores difficult. Snow removal was a major activity. Other major activities for the month included tending livestock, grading, packing onions, apples, cabbage; attending meetings and trade shows, machinery maintenance.

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**NORTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for field work 2. Soil 0% very short, 3% short, 65% adequate, 32% surplus. The last week of January brought an ice storm which covered most of the State. The storm produced below normal temperatures with lows ranging from 8 to 28°. Conditions halted or limited the ability to work outside for several days. The month of January also experienced below normal precipitation levels. Small grain crop conditions are currently rated good with only small percentages rated poor. Winter wheat seedings for the 2004 crop in state are estimated at the 650,000 acres, up 23% from 2003. A timely soybean harvest, a period of dry fall weather allowed for the increase in planted wheat acreage. Activities: Tending livestock, cleaning up from any damage caused by the ice storm.

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**NORTH DAKOTA:** Arctic cold temperatures during January replaced mild December weather. Below normal temperatures, bitter wind chill were experienced throughout the state. Average snow cover was 14.0 inches on February 1. This compares to 2.7 inches a year ago. County, secondary roads 70% open, 22% difficult, 8% closed. Snow cover protection for alfalfa 1% poor, 57% adequate, 42% excellent. Cattle conditions 0% very poor, 4% poor, 26% fair, 61% good, 9% excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 0% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 68% good, 7% excellent. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 10% short, 83% adequate, 6% surplus. Reporters noted grain movement has been hampered by very cold temperatures, snow drifted roads, railcar shortages.

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**OHIO:** January was 3.8° below normal across the state of state, with temperatures averaging 22.7° across the state. Precipitation averaged 3.57 inches, 1.04 above normal for the month of January. Winter wheat is reported to be in good to excellent condition. Beef cattle are doing well, with no major problems reported.

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**OKLAHOMA:** Topsoil 16% very short, 28% short, 52% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 24% very short, 33% short, 42% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter Wheat 12% very poor, 18% poor, 30% fair, 34% good, 6% excellent. Rye 10% very poor, 15% poor, 29% fair, 41% good, 5% excellent. Oats 17% very poor, 26% poor, 37% fair, 17% good, 3% excellent. Wheat Grazed 46% 2004, 58% 2003, 38% avg. Rye Grazed

69% 2004, 82% 2003, 36% avg. Oats Grazed 29% 2004, 44% 2003, 33% avg. Livestock 2% very poor, 8% poor, 36% fair, 41% good, 13% excellent; Pasture, Range 11% very poor, 29% poor, 42% fair, 15% good, 3% excellent. Livestock: Livestock ranged from mostly good to fair condition. Livestock condition 13% excellent, 41% good, 36% fair, 8% poor, 2% very poor. The milder weather has helped livestock conditions. Many cattlemen have supplemented with hay this month. The death loss of cattle has continued to be light due to the mild winter conditions. Hay supplies were rated as mostly average

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**OREGON:** Activities: Winter care of livestock ongoing across state, supplemental feeding continued. Shipments of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, corn, dry onions continued. Nurseries continued shipping, preparations for the upcoming season. Mountain snowpack levels are above average in most of the State, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Klamath Basin levels reaching 18% above average, other basin levels in northwest, north central state standing at more than 10% above average. The increased snowpack may not be enough to offset water shortages, however, in south, southeast state, where irrigation reservoir levels range from 16 to 50% of normal. A livestock feed assistance program, in conjunction with the State Department of Agriculture (ODA), the State Cattlemen's Association (OCA), is ongoing in Harney, Malheur counties, designed to provide relief to ranchers from heavy drought conditions. The program will use excess stocks of nonfat dry milk as a protein source in livestock feed. The ODA, the State Association of Nurseries (OAN) are working to prevent importation of plant species at risk for sudden oak death.

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**PENNSYLVANIA:** Much of the Commonwealth received significant rainfall at the beginning of year. The temperature dropped, remained at or near the 20's for a majority of January. Much state received significant snowfall, accumulation during the middle of the month, this continued for the remainder of January. Activities: Feeding, caring for livestock, preparing for the spring activities, hunting, attending organizational meetings, conventions, Farm Shows.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA:** The weather for the month began with periods of mild conditions being observed throughout the state. There were several reports of 70° temperatures ranging from the midlands to the coast. The few showers that did fall during this period were light, scattered. Despite the warm, mild conditions, there were several cold fronts that provided frost, morning temperatures in the 20's in the upstate counties. By the end of the third week, sleet, freezing rain began to fall covering the upper, central portions of the state. As the ice accumulated, it did not take long for conditions to cripple the state. Most businesses, schools in the midlands were closed Monday, part of the day Tuesday of the following week. While some businesses, schools were open Wednesday, power outages continued to plague some areas. The week ended with overcast skies, cool temperatures. The average statewide rainfall for the month of January was well below an inch. Activities: Feeding hay to livestock, tending to winter grazing pastures. Some farmers are busy servicing their equipment for the upcoming crop year while some have already started preparing land for planting. The majority of the small grains are in mostly good condition.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Soil temperatures averaged 3.3° cooler than normal. The month of January brought an average of 0.30 inch of precipitation from snowfall, above-average temperatures statewide. The average snow depth for the state was 4.2 inches. Many producers remain concerned over the lack of snow cover. Winter wheat 10% very poor, 22% poor, 38% fair, 26% good, 4% excellent. Mild weather in the beginning of the month allowed many producers to utilize field residue for grazing. Cattle, sheep remain in mostly fair to excellent condition. Activities: Marketing grain, calving, tending to livestock, repairing machinery. In general, county, township roads are open for travel, with little or no difficulty.

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**TENNESSEE:** Temperatures during January averaged slightly below normal, while precipitation totals were near normal. The beginning of the month brought unseasonably warm temperatures with only moderate rainfall. An arctic high pressure system dominated the weather towards the middle of the month resulting in cold, dry conditions. At month's end temperatures, rainfall were both below normal. Winter wheat was rated in good condition due to the relatively normal temperatures thus far through the winter months. Livestock were reported in mostly good condition, hay stocks were reported in adequate supply.

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**TEXAS:** Conditions during the month varied from extremely cold, windy to very mild and wet. Early in January, nighttime temperatures reached freezing or below freezing, from the Panhandle south to the Coastal Bend. Days were mild at times between the series of cold fronts. Hard freezing temperatures frequented parts of the state extending from the Panhandle to Central areas during the month. Most areas of the state received from trace amounts to over 5 inches of precipitation. Areas of the Upper Coast, parts of Central, East State received the most moisture. Areas of the Plains received some snow, sparse amounts rainfall. Despite the rain during the month, areas west of a line from Laredo to North of Fort Worth were low on top soil moisture for a majority of the acreage. Persistent high winds in the Plains, West State dried up much of the moisture received during the middle of the month. Counties along the Upper Coast, East State received more than adequate moisture, were contending with wet fields, muddy pastures by month's end. January precipitation improved the condition of some small grain fields and winter pastures. However, the extremely dry, cold weather across the Plains worsened the prospects of the wheat acreage. Greenbugs, aphids were being treated on some fields. Harvest was complete for cotton, peanuts, sorghum, pecans. Preparations for Spring planting were ongoing, with much less field activity in the Northern Plains. Winter vegetable crops were progressing well. Timber harvesting, pine tree planting were active in East State. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. The Spring calving, lambing, kidding season has begun

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**UTAH:** January has been dry, cold, which is in stark contrast to December. Concerns over continued drought have caused some thought for shorter season crops, leaving some roplandidle. Most ranchers are supplementing feeding their winter range animals. Hay stocks are being used up to offset poor range conditions. Producers have started calving, are trying to protect the new born animals from the cold weather.

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**VIRGINIA:** Pasture 5% very poor, 18% poor, 34% fair, 36% good, 7% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 32% fair, 55% good, 8% excellent. Small grain, winter grazing crops 5% very poor, 16% poor, 38% fair, 34% good, 7% excellent. January started off cold, dry and ended cold and wet. The cold temperatures hampered pasture growth, the ice hindered grazing. Farmers were forced to feed more than the normal rations of hay, silage, grain to their livestock. Hay supplies were adequate but quality was below average. The small grain crops were stunted due to late planting, inadequate topsoil moisture, cold temperatures. Farmers hope that the snow cover will help recuperate the small grains. State's fruit orchard were doing well. The snow has insulated the trees from the harmful cold temperatures. Orchard workers have spent their time on rodent control, catching up on delayed pruning. While some farmers were unable to apply lime due to wet fields, others were able to apply lime on frozen fields. Activities: Farmers attending producer meetings, preparing taxes, fixing fences, maintaining farm equipment, ordering seeds, fertilizer, trapping muskrats, beavers. January was a cold month for state. The colder parts of state experienced wind chill, nighttime temperatures in the teens. Most of state was covered in a snow storm that came at the end of January. The western parts of state experience up to 8 inches of snow, while the other regions experienced up to 4 inches of rain.

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**WASHINGTON:** Large amounts of snow blanketed the state during the first part of the month. Warmer temperatures near the end of the month allowed for a large amount of snow melt, with little runoff being reported in most Eastern counties. This should help recharge moisture levels for spring crops. Local livestock owners were kept busy, feeding

additional hay to sustain cattle during cold temperatures. Asotin County reported having some calving losses during the cold weather. In Yakima county, damage to fruit was associated with nectarine, peach flower bud tissue. Otherwise damage levels do not indicate a reduction in crops. Cherry, apple growers in Benton are pruning hard to make up for lost time. Most grape growers are reporting some damage as a result of late December, early January freezes, but will wait until most cold weather is past to make damage assessments and then prune. Winter wheat was protected throughout the month due to adequate snow cover in most areas

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**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil 55% adequate, 45% surplus, 3% short, 80% adequate, 17% surplus last year. Winter wheat 15% fair, 83% good, 2% excellent. Cattle, calves 2% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 10% excellent. Sheep, lambs 2% poor, 18% fair, 75% good, 5% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 15% short, 80% adequate, 5% surplus. Feed grain supplies 5% short, 95% adequate. Activities: Feeding, caring for livestock. Insuring adequate water supplies are available. Lambing, calving have begun

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**WISCONSIN:** Temperatures averaged 1 to 4<sup>0</sup> below normal for the month of January. Temperatures ranged from lows of 10 - 20<sup>0</sup> below zero to highs in the mid-40's. Precipitation was mainly in the form of snow, varied across the state. Northern parts of the state received as much as 1.25 inches, while much of southern state reported as little as 0.25 to 0.5 inches. Even with the below normal precipitation, snow cover is greater this year compared to last year across much of the state.

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**WYOMING:** Topsoil 20% very short, 40% short, 36% adequate, 4% surplus. Last year at this time, 85% of the State was rated short or very short. Subsoil 26% very short, 44% short, 30% adequate. Last year at this time, 94% of the State was rated short or very short. Average depth of snow cover 3.90 inches. Winter wheat 17% poor, 69% fair, 14% good. This compares 43% good as of January 5, 27% good 2003 at this time. Winter wheat wind damage 40% none, 25% light, 29% moderate, 6% severe, freeze damage 88% none, 11% light, 1% moderate. Spring calves born 5%. Cattle condition 80% good to excellent. Farm flock sheep shorn 5%, farm flock ewes lambed 6%. Sheep condition 76% good to excellent. Stock water supplies 18% very short, 25% short, 57% adequate. Hay, roughage supplies 5% short, 94% adequate, 1% surplus, better than last year at this time when only 39% of the State had adequate supplies. Temperatures averaged below normal in northern, western areas, above normal in the southeast for the month. Precipitation during the month averaged below normal for almost all of the State