

# Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

Released March 2, 2004, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories" call Brian T. Young at (202) 720-7621, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

**ALABAMA:** Cool, damp conditions continued into February. There has not been much sunshine or warm weather to help germination of over-seeded pastures. Cool season grasses are not growing yet. Field work has been slow due to cold wet weather. Small grain nitrogen applications began but are behind schedule. Grazing improved, cattle are in fair to good condition for such a poor grazing season. Activities: Winter/spring tillage where weather allowed.

**ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures for the State were slightly below normal for the month of February. Precipitation, to date, has been near or above normal in most parts of the state. Small grains emergence is complete, while heading is just underway. Alfalfa conditions remain good to excellent. Sheep have been grazing on alfalfa fields for winter pasture. Producers in central state shipped broccoli, cabbage, chinese cabbage, head lettuce, mixed greens, parsley, romaine lettuce, spinach. Western state producers shipped broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chinese cabbage, endive, escarole, green onions, head lettuce, leaf lettuce, mixed greens, parsley, romaine lettuce, spinach, spring mix. Citrus producers harvested grapefruit, lemons, minneolas, navels, fairchilds, tangerines in central, western state.

**ARKANSAS:** Winter wheat improved during the month of February. Warmer temperatures allowed the crop to absorb its first nitrogen application. Cattle are in good condition for this time of year. Pasture supply is more than adequate. Hay stocks are above normal for this time of year. February temperatures were below normal. The average temperature for the month was 43.7° 1.9° below normal. The highest temperature for the month was 70° and the lowest was 20°. There were 10 days with high temperatures above 60°, there were no days low temperatures less than 20°. Temperatures averaged below normal on 18 days during the month. Precipitation during the month totaled 4.36 inches, 1.09 inches above normal. The state experienced all four types of precipitation during the month. There was light rain on 14 days during the month, light snow on 4 days, sleet on 3 days, mixed precipitation on 2 days.

**CALIFORNIA:** Adequate soil moisture ensured the steady growth of small grains for most of February. Herbicides for broadleaf weed control were applied to small grain fields. Toward the end of the month, many small grain fields were flooded by rain, high winds flattened plants. Field preparations for planting of cotton, corn, other crops continued as weather conditions allowed. Ripping, cultivation, pre-emergent herbicide treatment were among the preparatory activities taking place. Pre-irrigation of corn, cotton fields was underway in some areas by the second half of February. By mid-month, most wheat plantings had emerged, were in generally good condition. Alfalfa and winter forage planted for dairy fodder, made good progress. Sugar beet fields showed vigorous growth late in the month, the need for hazing activities to protect the young plants from birds was reduced. Planting of sweet potato hotbeds took place in the central area. Harvesting of potatoes continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Around the middle of February, sunny weather encouraged widespread blooming in early variety peach, nectarine, plum

orchards. In the days that followed, cloudy skies, periodic rainfall did not greatly hinder the onset of bloom. However, toward the end of February heavy rainfall, high winds posed a threat to fruit set in blooming stone fruit orchards. Some dormant spraying of insecticides, fungicides continued into late February as weather conditions permitted. Blooming orchards were sprayed to protect against diseases, insects. Pruning, cane tying, brush shredding, cultivation, herbicide applications continued in raisin, wine, table grape vineyards. Some grafting of table grapes commenced late in the month. Orchard, vineyard removal, preparation for the planting of new fruit orchards, vineyards continued. Navel orange picking continued throughout most of the month, until the heavy rains effectively halted most harvesting activity. Puff, crease continued to affect most packouts. Lemons, Mandarins, tangelos were picked as weather conditions allowed. Citrus groves were treated for snails. Hedging, topping continued in citrus, olive groves. In early February, almond buds were swelling, some blooms were in evidence. By mid-month, almond trees were blooming throughout the State. Some almond trees in the San Joaquin Valley were blown over by strong winds late in the month. Orchards were treated to protect blooms from disease, insect infestation. New nut varieties were planted in orchards that had been removed previously. Walnut, pistachio trees were pruned as weather permitted. Precipitation, relatively warm weather prompted good growth in many vegetable fields early in the month. Field preparations for planting continued throughout the month. In many areas, however, activity was hindered by heavy rainfall around the end of February. Bedding, laying of plastic mulch to raise soil temperatures took place in many parts of the State. Planting of tomatoes, melons, squash, cucumbers continued. Harvesting of asparagus was underway in the San Joaquin Valley by mid-February, but was subsequently slowed by wet conditions. Broccoli, radicchio were harvested in Central state. The following vegetables were also harvested: beets, bok choy, cauliflower, cilantro, gai choy, gailon, green onions, lemon grass, leaf lettuce, mustard greens, sugar cane, sugar pea leaf, tatsoi. February rainfall greatly benefitted the State's winter pastures. Pasture feeds were generally good in Northern state, showed steady improvement in the central area. By mid-February, most northern ranches were fully stocked. Both local, out-of-state cattle were being moved onto rangeland in the San Joaquin Valley as more feed became available. Spring calving had begun in a few areas by the middle of the month. Sheep continued to graze on alfalfa, fallow fields in Central state. However, by the second week of February, sheep were beginning to move off alfalfa pastures as the hay season approached. In the southern desert area, lambs were moved to market or to other pastures for further feeding. Bees were placed in almond, other stone fruit orchards in early February, by the second half of the month were active in blooming orchards. However, pollination activity was significantly hindered by the late February rains.

**COLORADO:** Temperatures for state were generally below average statewide during the month of February. The state remained mostly dry with the exception of a snow storm that blanketed the eastern part of the state toward the end of the month. Statewide average snowpack levels are currently 94% of normal. Winter wheat condition is still variable across the Eastern Plains ranging from poor to fair along the I-70 corridor to good in the northern regions. The recent snowfall accumulation should improve the winter wheat condition. Activities: Continue to center around feeding, care of livestock, seeding spring grain crops, onions.

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**DELAWARE:** Avian Influenza was detected in two facilities in state in early February. The disease seems to be contained, no new cases have been reported. Livestock are wintering well and feed supplies are normal. Small grains are a little behind normal due to late planting, wet weather, cold temperatures. Air temperatures were in the 30's and 40's. Precipitation was normal with no large accumulations of rain or snow. Farmers are beginning to top-dress nitrogen on small grain fields. Activities: Top-dressing nitrogen, feeding livestock, poultry, repairing equipment, preparing for spring planting.

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**FLORIDA:** Mostly cool temperatures during February limited forage growth in nearly all localities while disease affected some small grain forage. Significant rains fell over most Panhandle, northern Peninsula localities with abundant rains near the end of the month slowing land preparations for peanut, watermelon planting. The ground was too dry to dig fence post holes in Union County early in the month. Sugarcane harvesting remained mostly on schedule during the month with some activity slowed by abundant rainfall near the end of the month. Southern Peninsula producers dug potatoes for most of the month with rain delaying some potato planting, cabbage cutting around Hastings early in the month. Citrus picking continued with grove caretakers applying fertilizers to trees after harvest to boost bloom development. Some citrus blooms started to show around mid-month. Vegetable: Harvesting was active with snap beans, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes available. Citrus packers, juice processors remained open throughout the month.

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**GEORGIA:** State had a wide range of weather conditions in February. The State experienced rain throughout the month, snow, ice towards the end of the month. Average temperatures were generally below normal across the State. Wet conditions made it hard to top-dress soil for spring plantings. Producers took soil samples, applied lime, nitrogen, fungicides as weather permitted. Mud was a problem on livestock operations. Small grains, tobacco transplants looked good; pasture feeds deteriorated throughout the month.

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**HAWAII:** Dry, sunny weather with light trade winds, light showers prevailed throughout the State until Thursday when a storm system in the west brought heavy rain, strong winds to the islands. Banana, papaya orchards were in mostly fair to good condition depending upon their exposure to the past week's storm. Vegetable crops were in mostly fair to good condition.

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**IDAHO:** Topsoil 1% short, 72% adequate, 27% surplus. Winter Wheat 35% fair, 62% good, 3% excellent. Hay, Roughage supply 10% short, 81% adequate, 9% surplus. Lambing complete 36%. Calving complete 37%. Some counties are still covered in snow. Farmers have started hauling manure, but field work is still very limited. All livestock are in very good shape

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**ILLINOIS:** Topsoil 9% short, 83% adequate, 8% surplus. February ended with average temperatures across most of the state. Wheat producers stated that overall the crop may have some brown spots on top, but the bottom of the wheat is still green, giving them hope about this year's crop. Condition of the winter wheat crop as of February 29 2% poor, 26% fair, 58% good, 14% excellent. Farmers were busy hauling grain, preparing for spring field work, seeding clover and CRP acres, taking care of livestock, filing income taxes.

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**INDIANA:** Snow, ice covered most regions of the state during much of the month limiting most field activities. Temperatures averaged 0.8° below normal during February. Coldest weather, snow prevailed early in the month with warmer temperatures arriving later in the month. Precipitation was light in most areas, consisting mostly in the form of snow. Precipitation averaged 0.84 inches compared with 2.29 inches for normal. Some fertilizer, lime were spread when soils were frozen or dry enough to support heavy equipment. Warmer, spring-like temperatures arrived this past week. Some tillage was underway in the southwestern region of the state. Farmers were busy during February hauling grain to market, preparing taxes, attending workshops, repairing equipment. Planning, budgeting for the spring workload also was a major concern for

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farmers. Winter wheat appears to be in mostly good condition, protected by snow during most of the cold weather period. Wheat starting to green up in the southwestern region. Tobacco sales, stripping continued. Some producers are running out of hay, but supplies are mostly adequate. Hay prices remain high in some areas. Farmers with grain on hand are happy with the higher prices. Livestock are in fair to mostly good condition. Cattle survived the winter in good shape in the southern areas. Feedlots, pastures are muddy. Calving season is underway. Lambing continues. Activities: Cleaning out fence rows, signing up for 2004 DCP at FSA offices, record keeping, cleaning ditches, installing drainage systems, top dressing winter wheat, purchasing supplies, cleaning up, preparing equipment for spring fieldwork, taking care of livestock.

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**IOWA:** Agricultural Summary: Soil 4% very short, 33% short, 56% adequate, 7% surplus. The cold snap of January continued into the first half of February, characterized by frigid temperatures, several snow storms. Stubble field utilization decreased from last month as well as hay availability. During the latter half of February, temperatures warmed up, the snow began to melt. At the end of February, the average depth of snow cover across state was 3 inches, compared to 5 inches last month, 1 inch at the same time last year. Shortness of soil moisture remained a concern. Field Crops Report: Grain movement from farm to elevator 18% none, 33% light, 41% moderate, 8% heavy. Livestock, Pasture, Range Report: Hog, pig losses in February were higher than last year at 13% below avg.; 84% avg.; 3% above average. Cattle, calf losses were lower than last year at 14% below avg.; 80% avg.; 6% above average. Calving is well underway.

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**KANSAS:** Agricultural Summary: Topsoil 18% very short, 22% short, 52% adequate, 8% surplus. Precipitation in the form of snow fell over the northeast portion of the State earlier in the month providing snow cover for up to two weeks. These same areas also received light rain the last week of February. Despite the precipitation, wheat fields, pastures need additional moisture, especially in the western third, the south central parts of the State. Field Crop Report: Wheat 12% very poor, 20% poor, 28% fair, 35% good, 5% excellent. Army cut worm infestations have reached treatable levels in the south central district. Sixty-six percent of the State reported no wind damage to wheat, while 24% reported light wind damage, 7% reported moderate wind damage, 3% reported severe wind damage. Some freeze damage has occurred, with 67% of the wheat having no damage, 21% receiving light damage, 9% receiving moderate damage, 3% receiving severe damage. Pasture, Range Report: Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 13% short, 82% adequate, 3% surplus. Hay, forage supplies 3% very short, 18% short, 74% adequate, 5% surplus. Calving was in full swing across much of the State.

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**KENTUCKY:** With temperatures near normal for the first week of February, the precipitation was the more interesting weather factor. Fronts moving through the Commonwealth early in the week brought significant rains, with the highest totals (more than 4 in.) in the southeast. Just about all areas of the state had more than an inch of rain. Flooding was a problem with several flood warnings issued. Light snow showers moved in at the beginning of the weekend dusting the ground before drier conditions ended the week. The week's precipitation average was the greatest departure above normal so far in 2004. Temperatures averaged 34°, 0° above normal. Extreme highs lower 50's. Extreme lows upper teens. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 2.25 in. statewide, 1.37 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 1.17 in. at Covington to a high of 4.62 in. at London. Cold fronts moved across the State during the second week which dropped temperatures, but did not bring any significant precipitation. The dry weather gave the land time to dry out a bit after the recent flooding. High pressure was the dominant force keeping temperatures cool, the precipitation to the south along the Gulf coast. The week was the driest week to date in 2004. Temperatures averaged 36°, 0° from normal. Extreme highs lower 50's. Extreme lows upper teens. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.03 in. statewide, 0.85 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.00 in. at Bardstown to a high of 0.48 in. at Cumberland Gap. Weak low pressure systems moved through on the evenings of 16<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> bringing isolated rain showers and clouds. The rest of the third week saw sunny skies allowing for highs to climb above normal into the 60's for the end of the work week. Strong winds affected the State on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> as gusts topped the 30mph mark. As the week ended the winds had died down and high pressure resumed control. This was the first week since early

January that temperatures had been above normal. Temperatures averaged 40 degrees, 3 degrees above normal. Extreme highs upper 60's. Extreme lows upper teens. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.04 in. statewide, 0.84 in. from normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.00 in. at Bowling Green to a high of 0.19 in. at London. The month ended dry with only light precipitation at the beginning of the final week. Cooler temperatures were followed by a warming trend that provided weekend temperatures in the 60's. Temperatures for the week averaged in the low to mid 40's. Soil moisture was mostly adequate, but was becoming dry in many areas as a result of three weeks of below normal precipitation. Near normal temperatures and lighter precipitation limited livestock stress during much of the month. Producers continued to provide extra grain and hay to their cattle. The near normal temperatures limited any fruit bud development, and early growth of small grains and pastures. The 2003-2004 Burley tobacco marketing season came to a close on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Burley Belt contract sales totaled 2208264238 pounds which returned \$198.61. Total Belt Auction sales totaled 64,210,014 pounds and returned \$195.82. All sales totaled 272,474,252 pounds and returned \$197.95. Last year after 38 auction days (the same as this year), 82,756,000 pounds returned \$194.97. Following 51 contract sales days last year, six less than this year, 219,458,000 pounds had averaged \$198.51 per hundred. The Burley Cooperatives accepted 40,214,024 pounds, or 62.6 percent of gross auction sales for the season. This compares with 24,320,596 pounds, or 29.4 percent for the same period a year earlier.

**LOUISIANA:** Extremely wet conditions in many areas slowed producers in making preparations for spring planting. During the week of February 23-29, many areas in our state received more than 3 inches of rain. Other field crop producers were getting equipment ready for the upcoming season. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures, feeding hay. Strawberry producers continued harvesting, selling their crop. Crawfish producers continued harvesting one of the best crops in recent years.

**MARYLAND:** Air temperatures during the month of February were in the 30's and 40's. Precipitation was minimal with no large accumulations of rain or snow. The ground is beginning to dry up enough for farmers to start top-dressing their small grains fields with nitrogen. Small grains appear to be in good condition. Good quality hay is in short supply. Livestock appear to be wintering well. Activities: Making repairs to equipment, feeding livestock, poultry, record keeping, preparing for spring planting.

**MICHIGAN:** February brought a wide variety of weather conditions across the State. Snowfall was heavy in many districts, but it provided excellent protection from the ensuing extremely cold temperatures. As the month drew to a close, temperatures moderated and the snow began melting. The heavy snow cover limited frost depth, so much of the moisture was able to soak in, replenishing soil moisture levels. Activities: Caring for livestock, repairing machinery, marketing grain, cutting, hauling firewood, preparing taxes, planning for the coming growing season, plowing snow. In many areas, the snow was too deep to haul much manure. Some producers reported that calving, lambing began. Livestock conditions were generally reported as good, although many operators had gone through substantial amounts of feed during the cold snap. Hay was in fairly short supply with high prices. The strong demand allowed growers to clean out hay inventories of two or more years old.

**MINNESOTA:** Precipitation averaged above normal throughout the state this past month. Cold temperatures, large amounts of snow were received during the first half of the month, with temperatures becoming more mild during the second half. The snow cover received throughout the state was welcomed to help protect alfalfa stands and provide needed soil moisture. Feed supplies are still said to be in very good supply. Livestock conditions are generally good with the exception of some dairy herds stressed by the below zero temperatures early in the month.

**MISSISSIPPI:** Soil moisture 10% adequate, 90% surplus. Hay supply 19% short, 75% adequate, 6% surplus. Feed Grain 7% short, 91% adequate, 2% surplus. Above average rainfall for February has left farmers anxious to get out into the fields to begin springtime fieldwork. Many are continuing with farm planning, such as attending grower meetings, checking equipment, working on production loans. The excess

precipitation has also caused problems for cattle producers, forcing many to relocate livestock to higher-ground fields, pastures for grazing. In turn, both hay, ryegrass are gradually becoming in short supply.

**MISSOURI:** Farmers are getting ready for the spring planting season. Many farmers in the southeastern counties as well as some in the southwest have begun tillage for spring crops. Winter wheat is in fair to good condition with no major problems reported, as snow cover was available during periods of the coldest temperatures. Much of the crop has been fertilized in recent weeks. Wheat is beginning to come out of dormancy in the southern counties. Rainfall is needed to rebuild soil moisture supplies, stock pond levels, as precipitation during February has been sharply below average. Livestock have adequate hay supplies in most areas.

**MONTANA:** Soil 10% very short, 24% short, 65% adequate, 1% surplus, 2003 23% very short, 44% short, 33% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil 28% very short, 50% short, 21% adequate, 1% surplus, 2003 41% very short, 38% short, 20% adequate, 1% surplus. During the month of February, weather conditions in state have been warmer than normal below normal snow fall throughout the state. Winter wheat 3% very poor, 15% poor, 50% fair, 27% good, 5% excellent; crop conditions are above last year's crop because of ample snow cover, limited wind damage. Wind damage to the winter wheat 44% none, 29% light, 19% moderate, 8% heavy. Freeze, drought damage 45% none, 38% light, 16% moderate, 1% heavy. Snow cover for winter wheat 26% very poor, 15% poor, 25% fair, 21% good, 13% excellent. Snow fall has closed much of the pastures available for grazing. Livestock grazing 28% open, 31% difficult, 41% closed, compared to 2003 34% open, 41% difficult, 25% closed. Currently, all the cattle, sheep are receiving supplemental feed. Calving, lambing are 20% 10% completed respectively.

**NEBRASKA:** February average temperatures ranged from 14° below normals the first two weeks to 11° above normals the last two weeks. Snow depth at the end of February averaged almost 0.4 inches. Wheat 9% very poor, 18% poor, 37% fair, 34% good, 2% excellent. Hay, forage supplies were mostly adequate. Cattle were in mostly good condition with calving 27% complete. Snow cover restricted stalk field grazing potential, necessitated supplemental feeding. Activities: Caring for livestock, marketing grain, preparing for spring planting

**NEVADA:** Leap year February was colder, wetter than normal as a strong Pacific storm passed through the State late in the month. Total precipitation for the month exceeded normal across the State, Las Vegas received almost twice the normal amount of precipitation. Snotel measurements by the Natural Resources Conservation Service show the water content of the snow pack in principal watersheds ranging from 90% to 130% of normal. The only area with below normal snow pack is east-central Elko County. Calving was on the rise during the month, cold temperatures caused some problems, losses. Some additional steers, heifers moved to market as feeding demands increased, hay supplies dwindled. Shipments of newly and previously purchased hay continued. Potato processing continued out of storage stocks. Fall seeded grains, garlic were in good condition. Water supply outlook for the 2004 cropping season was enhanced by the moisture. Activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock care, fence repairs, crop, livestock marketing, industry meetings

**NEW ENGLAND:** Seasonal temperatures prevailed during the month of February. Maple sugar producers were busy preparing for the upcoming season; some have already started tapping trees, boiling. Cool nights, warm days have made ideal conditions for tapping. Activities: During the month included nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, preparing for the spring planting season

**NEW JERSEY:** Temperatures were very variable for the month of February across most of the state, ranging from 13° below normal to 13° above normal. There were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state for the month of February; however, rainfall totals were below normal across most of the state for the month. Activities: Maintaining farm structures, caring for livestock

**NEW MEXICO:** The month of February brought moisture to some areas of the state. A winter storm during the first week delivered some snow to the higher elevations, a similar storm during the second week brought up to a foot of snow in the northern mountains. The third week was fairly dry, but the last week of February brought rainfall to almost the entire state, with the central area generally benefitting the most. Tatum received over two inches, Albuquerque received over an inch. Farmers have been busy planting onions, preparing seed beds, cleaning ditches, pre-irrigating for chile. Ranchers continue to supplement feed, haul water as they prepare for calving season.

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**NEW YORK:** February was colder than normal throughout most of the State. Snowfall was below normal with relatively few snow events. Farmers were busy preparing for the upcoming growing season, attending producer association meetings, repairing machinery, tending livestock, grading, packing potatoes, onions, apples.

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**NORTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for field work 3. Soil 0% very short, 3% short, 56% adequate, 41% surplus. The last week of February brought warmer weather early in the week followed by another cold blast for most of the State. Much of the State received substantial amounts of snow on Thursday, followed by sleet, rain on Friday. Conditions halted or limited the ability to work outside during the latter part of the week. Activities: Plant bed maintenance, greenhouse preparation for seeding, topdressing small grains, tending livestock, general farm maintenance.

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**NORTH DAKOTA:** Below normal temperatures dominated the first half of February, while mild weather the second half started melting the snow cover. Reporters noted grain movement has been hampered by cold weather, snow drifts, railcar shortages. Average snow cover was 10.8 inches on February 29. This compares to 3.0 inches a year ago. County, secondary roads 67% open, 27% difficult, 6% closed. Snow cover protection for alfalfa 13% poor, 59% adequate, 28% excellent. Cattle conditions 0% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, 10% excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 0% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 70% good, 7% excellent. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 13% short, 81% adequate, 5% surplus. Calving 8% complete while lambing 17% complete. Ranchers were glad to see a break in the cold temperatures for the calving, lambing season.

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**OHIO:** February's average temperature across the state was 29.6°, 0.4° below normal. Precipitation averaged 1.40 inches, 0.87 inches below normal for the month of February. Livestock are reported to be in good condition. Winter wheat was rated at good to excellent condition.

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**OKLAHOMA:** Topsoil 8% very short, 23% short, 62% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil 21% very short, 38% short, 40% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter Wheat 9% very poor, 14% poor, 31% fair, 39% good, 7% excellent; Rye 6% very poor, 19% poor, 27% fair, 43% good, 5% excellent; Oats 11% very poor, 28% poor, 35% fair, 22% good, 4% excellent; Wheat grazed 46% 2004, 62% 2003, 43% avg. Rye grazed 74% 2004, 86% 2003, 49% avg. Oats grazed 35% 2004, 45% 2003, 37% avg. Livestock 2% very poor, 7% poor, 33% fair, 44% good, 14% excellent; Pasture, Range 11% very poor, 28% poor, 41% fair, 16% good, 4% excellent. Livestock: Livestock ranged from mostly good to fair condition. Livestock condition 14% excellent, 44% good, 33% fair, 7% poor, 2% very poor. The milder weather has helped livestock conditions. Spring calving has begun. 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, both in-State and out-of-State inspections against plant disease, insect deaths are underway by the State Department of Agriculture (ODA). The State Weed Board recently added butterfly bush to its noxious weed list. Occurrence of snow, wind, ice storms in the Willamette Valley from January did considerable damage to some hazelnut orchards, damaging limbs, even splitting some trees. Mountain snowpack levels continue to be above average in most of the State, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS). Percent of Snow Water Equivalent values range from 100 to near 130% of normal for most State basins.

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**PENNSYLVANIA:** Much of the Commonwealth received precipitation throughout February with an average of 2.15 inches, down slightly from last year, with 2.5 inches of snowfall. Temperatures ranged from 11° for the low, 64° for the high for the month. The average temperature was 34°, slightly higher than normal. Activities: Feeding, caring for livestock, calving, preparing for spring activities, beginning the maple syrup season.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA:** The general weather conditions for the month showed a series of fronts moving through the State bringing the resulting high / low swings in temperature, precipitation. The month ended with one last front bringing considerable snow through the northern, western sections with some reports of 15 to 20 inches accumulated. Despite the winter storms, the month ended with a deficit in annual precipitation of over 2 inches, average temperatures several degrees below normal. Activities: General equipment, farm maintenance as well as livestock feeding, care

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**SOUTH DAKOTA:** The month of February brought some periods of cold, snowy weather for the state, with the majority of the month remaining mild. Temperatures averaged in the lower 20's with the average snow depth for the state at the end of February at 1.90 inches. Statewide, soil temperatures averaged 3.2° warmer than normal. Producers remain concerned over the lack of snow cover, lack of moisture for the upcoming planting season. Winter wheat 13% very poor, 23% poor, 33% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent. The lack of snowfall has had a positive effect on calf, sheep, lamb deaths with the majority of the reporters having average death losses. Calf deaths 23% below avg.; 74% avg.; 3% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths 13% below avg.; 86% avg.; 1% above average. Calving, lambing season started for much of the state, with calving 9% complete, lambing 20% complete. Cattle death losses 23% below normal, 75% normal, 2% above normal. Cattle, sheep remain in mostly fair to excellent condition. Activities: Marketing grain, tending to livestock, calving, lambing, repairing machinery.

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**TENNESSEE:** Temperatures during February ranged slightly below normal to average, while precipitation totals were near normal. The beginning of the month brought cooler temperatures with above normal rainfall. Wintry weather dropped heavy snowfalls in many mid-state areas, especially in the southern portions, toward the middle of the month. At month's end temperatures were near normal, while rainfall amounts stayed below normal. Winter wheat was rated in mostly good condition with farmers starting to top-dress, spray herbicides. Livestock were reported in mostly good condition, hay stocks were reported in adequate-to-surplus supply.

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**TEXAS:** February began with the continuation of drought conditions in the northern, western portions of the State. Other regions started with adequate moisture, ended the month with substantial to surplus amounts of precipitation. Producers on the Panhandle received precipitation in the form of ices, snow, rain throughout the entire month, especially in southern locations. Accumulations of snow for the month ranged from about 2 to 12 inches. A major wind storm blew through the region as well as the Southern Plains, the Trans Pecos. Wind gusts upwards of 65 mph were measured, creating dust storms, close to zero visibility. Soil moisture was further depleted in already drought stricken areas. But by month's end the Panhandle, Southern Plains had received abundant moisture which benefitted small grains, pastures. However, much more would be needed to rebound from months of drought. North Central State experienced rain, snow in the latter half of the month. Accumulations ranged from 2 to 4 inches of moisture. Wheat, oats improved with the excess precipitation, especially in eastern portions of the region. Central State recorded rain, some snow resulting in 2 to 4 inches for the month. Most precipitation in the State was reported in East State, the Upper Coast. Rainfall amounts ranged from 3 inches to 10 inches in some locations. A general 6 inches accumulation occurred across most areas of the region. Isolated storms in South South resulted in some location recording 2 to 4 inches of rain. The Rio Grande Valley, Trans Pecos reported rainfall of generally under 1 inch. Range, Pastures made good progress across the State but needed more moisture to fully recover from the drought in western areas. Excessive rain in east, southeast areas saturated pastures, stressed cattle as they tromped through the mud.

Corn planting in the Coastal Bend, Upper Coast was delayed 2 or 3 weeks because of wet conditions. Rio Grande Valley producers made good progress planting corn and began planting cotton, sorghum. Onions, cabbage progressed well in the Winter Garden, Rio Grande Valley. Citrus, sugarcane harvest continued. Insect pressure was a major problem in some small grain field by month's end

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**UTAH:** Spring thaws in state have begun, making field conditions very muddy. Above average snowfall in central, northern state during December was very welcome but January, most of February saw very little precipitation. The last two weeks brought snow, rain to most areas of the state, but drought concerns are still foremost in most producers minds. State has been experiencing cold weather for most of the year, snow has not been melting causing concern for possible "snow mold." Livestock are doing well, calving has begun. Cold weather has caused some stress for new born calves, but has kept bugs to a minimum.

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**VIRGINIA:** Pasture 5% very poor, 21% poor, 47% fair, 25% good, 2% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 6% excellent. Small grain, winter grazing crops 5% very poor, 18% poor, 39% fair, 33% good, 5% excellent. For the month of February, most of state was snowy, cold. Icy conditions hampered farming activities. Throughout the State, there has been several reports of cattle deaths. These deaths are believed to be linked to feeding poor quality of hay, the harsh winter conditions. As fields dry, farmers have applied lime, fertilizer. In some areas herbicide has been applied, while other farmers wait for better spraying conditions. Tobacco growers, vegetable producers have begun planting seeds in greenhouses. Lambing, spring calving has begun for some of State's farmers. Activities: Farmers pruning orchards, vineyards, preparing taxes, soil sampling, preparing crop fields. State experienced a cold, wet February. Precipitation came in the form of rain, snow. Most areas experienced snow that persisted throughout the month. Warm weather at the end of month created ideal conditions. Farmers are hopeful that the snow melt will help the winter crops. Some areas have experienced excessive wind, causing wind erosion on some fields.

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**WASHINGTON:** February presented mild to warmer temperatures for most of state State. The longer days, warmer temperatures have enabled green-thumbs, farmers alike to get outdoors, prepare for spring. In the western part of the state, some livestock producers were able to take advantage of February's drier days to prepare pastures, hayfields for spring renovation. Precipitation was reported to be lower than normal in most counties, but landscapes of all genres, including berry, fruit trees, started to show new life. Eastern state experienced warmer temperatures, minimal runoff from newly melted snow. In Benton County, growers assessed winter damages in grapes, soft fruit. For the most part, wheat has remained in fair condition with minimal damage, cattle, sheep producers have started concentrating on feeding, calving

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**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil 2% short, 78% adequate, 20% surplus, 33% adequate, 67% surplus last year. Winter wheat 49% fair, 46% good, 5% excellent. Tobacco beds seeded 3%. Cattle, calves 4% poor, 36% fair, 55% good, 5% excellent. Calving 38% complete. Sheep, lambs 2% poor, 47% fair, 49% good, 2% excellent. Lambing 36% complete. Hay, roughage supplies 1% very short, 7% short, 85% adequate, 7% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 88% adequate, 6% surplus. There was some concern over poor hay quality from last year. Activities: Preparing for spring activities such as fixing fence, checking fruit trees. Lambing, calving have been affected by the cold weather in some areas.

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**WISCONSIN:** Temperatures averaged close to normal for the first 3 weeks of February. The last week of February saw a warm up in state, with temperatures reaching the 50's and averaging 5 - 8° above normal across the state. Precipitation was mainly in the form of snow, varied across the state. Southeast parts of the state received as little as 0.25 inches, while much of state reported 1.00 to 1.75 inches. Season to date, northern parts of the state are around 0.50 inches above normal precipitation, while southern parts are 1 to 2 inches below normal.

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**WYOMING:** Topsoil 16% very short, 30% short, 48% adequate, 6% surplus. Last year at this time, 84% of the State was rated short or very short. Subsoil 27% very short, 38% short, 35% adequate. Last year at this time, 91% of the State was rated short or very short. Average depth

of snow cover 7.30 inches, an increase of 3.4 inches from last month. Winter wheat 17% poor, 69% fair, 14% good, unchanged from last month. This compares with 24% good last year at this time. Winter wheat wind damage 50% none, 25% light, 19% moderate, 6% severe. Winter wheat freeze damage 88% none, 11% light, 1% moderate. Spring calves born 22%. Cattle condition 77% good to excellent. Farm flock sheep shorn 25%, farm flock ewes lambed 22%. Sheep condition 71% good to excellent. Spring grazing prospects 1% very poor, 16% poor, 48% fair, 30% good, 5% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 88% adequate, 6% surplus, better than last year at this time when only 46% of the State had adequate supplies. Mostly dry with temperatures below normal in south, above normal in the north. Precipitation during the month averaged below normal for most of the State