

# Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

Released May 11, 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:** Days suitable for fieldwork was 5.6. Topsoil 2% very short, 13% short, 80% adequate, 5% surplus. Corn 96% planted, 90% 2003, 92% avg.; 56% emerged, 76% 2003, 78% avg. Soybeans 28% planted, 9% 2003, 12% avg. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 7% poor, 30% fair, 58% good, 3% excellent. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 11% poor, 29% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 6% poor, 20% fair, 59% good, 13% excellent. The state received much needed rains. Farmers are planting rapidly under clear skies. Growers are keeping no-till crops checked for insect damage to seedling plants. Farmers are busy harvesting the first cutting of hay, completing row crop planting.

**ALASKA:** Days suitable for fieldwork last week 5.0. Topsoil 5% short, 75% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil 100% adequate. Planting was underway in the Mat-Su Valley, while the Delta Junction area was waiting for fields to dry out after several days of rain. Fieldwork progress was reported as zero to 5 days behind normal. Hay supplies 5% short, 85% adequate, 10% surplus. Condition of livestock 15% fair, 70% good, 15% excellent.

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures for the State were above normal for the second week of May. Small grains heading is well underway. There was 94% Durum Wheat, 92% Winter Wheat, 92% Barley, 85% Other Small Grains headed. Alfalfa conditions remain good to excellent. Cotton 72% percent, 2003 69% 80% 5-yr avg. No precipitation was reported at any of the 17 reporting stations.

**ARKANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Soil 0% very short, 6% short, 81% adequate, 13% surplus. Corn 98% planted, 99% 2003, 98% 5-yr avg.; 93% emerged, 95% 2003, 90% 5-yr avg.; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 54% good, 12% excellent. Soybeans 38% planted, 29% 2003, 24% 5-yr avg.; 25% emerged, 16% 2003, 11% 5-yr avg. Sorghum 69% planted, 80% 2003, 78% 5-yr avg.; 49% emerged, 59% 2003, 59% 5-yr avg. Cotton: 46% planted, 47% 2003, 51% 5-yr avg. Rice 88% planted, 90% 2003, 83% 5-yr avg.; 72% emerged, 71% 2003, 59% 5-yr avg.; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 30% fair, 50% good, 15% excellent; Wheat 96% headed, 92% 2003, 97% 5-yr avg.; 1% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 52% good, 9% excellent. Hay-Other condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 64% good, 10% excellent; Hay-Alfalfa condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 29% fair, 64% good, 5% excellent. Pasture, Range feed 0% very poor, 2% poor, 26% fair, 59% good, 13% excellent. Warm dry weather allowed for excellent field, crop progress along with improved hay, pasture feeds this week. Corn planting is near completion. Producers are focusing on planting soybeans, cotton. Some eastern counties are still waiting for flood waters to subside in order to assess damage to rice, make replanting decisions. The wheat crop has remained in good condition. Fruit, vegetable production is well underway. Producers are harvesting strawberries, planting green beans. The tomato crop is setting fruit. Livestock are reported to be in good condition. Producers have begun harvesting cool season hay, report that yields are good to better than expected. Poultry producers are cleaning out houses.

**CALIFORNIA:** Small grain crops benefitted from warm weather that accelerated growth, seed head development. Pre-harvest field preparations were underway in many locations as plants continued to dry

out, mature. Overall, winter wheat fields were reported to be in good condition. Many fields of winter wheat had already turned golden in color as a result of relatively high temperatures. Corn planting was ongoing in a number of fields. New plantings continued to emerge, show signs of vigorous growth. Cultivation, irrigation, herbicide applications took place in many areas. Rice fields continued to be prepared for planting. Activities: Flooding, draining water from fields, fertilizer, herbicide applications, cultivation. Some earlier planted fields had emerged and were treated with herbicides. Cotton planting was nearly complete in most growing regions. Newly emerged plantings of cotton showed excellent growth, development as fields were cultivated, irrigated, treated with herbicides. Alfalfa, oats, winter forage were harvested for hay, silage, greenchop. Second, third cuttings of alfalfa fields were reported to be of good quality. Newly emerged plantings of alfalfa were irrigated, showing rapid growth. Sugar beet harvesting was underway in a number of fields. Excellent growth was observed in new plantings, as irrigation continued in many fields. Planting of dry beans, safflower, sunflower, vineseed continued in some areas. Potato harvesting continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Bloom and lush canopy growth in grape vineyards was widespread due to ideal weather conditions. Cultural activities such as irrigation, cultivation, and sulfur, gibbapplications continued in many vineyards. Suckering, leaf removal, and applications of growth regulating hormones were ongoing in some areas. Kiwifruit vines were blooming, setting fruit. Grape, kiwifruit bloom was as much as two weeks ahead of normal in many locations due to the high temperatures. Pomegranate orchards were blooming. The pace of stone fruit harvesting increased. Among the varieties picked, packed were Poppy apricots, Brooks, Tulare cherries, Earliglo, May Fire nectarines, Queen Crest, Spring Crest peaches, Red Beaut plums. Fruit thinning, pest control treatments, cultivation, irrigation continued in many orchards. Blueberry picking continued in the Central Valley. Strawberries continued to be harvested for commercial sales, for sales at roadside stands. Navel orange harvesting neared completion, Valencia harvest continued. Pack-outs were being affected by puff, drying of large fruit. The lemon harvest neared completion in the Central Valley. Citrus petal fall was complete with growers expecting a heavy crop next season. Irrigation activities continued due to the warm weather. Pesticide applications for thrips, mites, hedging, topping of mature groves were also underway in many citrus orchards. Olive, avocado orchards were in full bloom. Almond, walnut, pistachio orchards showed steady crop development with good nut size. Heavily laden branches were observed in almond, pistachio orchards. Growers were reporting a light fruit set in Serr, Chico variety walnut orchards. Irrigation continued in many nut orchards. Unseasonably warm weather continued to promote good summer vegetable growth. Vegetable fields were irrigated, cultivated, fertilized. Some pest control measures were applied where needed. Planting of fresh market, processing tomatoes, sweet corn, melons continued. Planting bell pepper transplants continued. Planting of freezer lima beans began in the San Joaquin Valley. Blooms were evident in many melon, squash fields in Fresno County. Garlic for fresh market, processing usage was growing steadily. Harvesting of lettuce, asparagus continued. Red onion, eggplant, some early summer squash were harvested. The following vegetables were also harvested: beets, bittermelon leaf, cactus pads, chayote leaf, cucumbers, daikon, fava beans, fennel, gailon, green beans, green onions, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, ong choy, parsley, radicchio, saluyot, snow peas, spinach, sugar peas, Swiss chard, tong ho, turnips, zucchini. Feeder cattle continued to ship to market or summer pastures from dry foothill pastures in the state. A few beef cows

remained on dry pastures where there was sufficient grass. Feeder cattle weight gains on pasture were disappointing in some central state locations. In some areas, rains came late, ended earlier than normal for the winter pasture season. Stock ewes were grazing on various pastures in central, northern state. Beehives were moved into a few west side melon, squash fields in the central area..

---

**COLORADO:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.5. Topsoil 6% very short, 40% short, 53% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 38% very short, 44% short, 18% adequate, 0% surplus. The state experienced warmer than normal temperatures this week. The warm, dry weather caused field crops to progress rapidly. Spring barley 92% seeded, 88% 2003, 91% avg.; 54% emerged, 63% 2003, 67% avg.; condition 4% poor, 29% fair, 46% good, 21% excellent. Dry onions 98% planted, 99% 2003, 99% avg.; condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 28% fair, 48% good, 15% excellent. Summer potatoes 65% planted, 75% 2003, 81% avg.; 20% emerged, 33% 2003, 22% avg.; condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 34% fair, 49% good, 15% excellent. Fall potatoes 36% planted, 36% 2003, 38% avg. Sugar beets 97% planted, 86% 2003, 92% avg.; 35% up to stand, 46% 2003, 30% avg. Spring wheat 75% planted, 80% 2003, 80% avg.; 45% emerged, 44% 2003, 51% avg.; condition 5% poor, 27% fair, 60% good, 8% excellent.

---

**DELAWARE:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Topsoil 79% adequate, 21% surplus. Subsoil 88% adequate, 12% surplus. Field corn 65% planted, 42% 2003, d 52% avg.; 25% emerged, 16% 2003, 23% avg. Soybeans 5% planted, 10% 2003, 7% avg. Sorghum 7% planted, 11% 2003, 8% avg. Barley condition 2% very poor, 5% poor, 13% fair, 63% good, d 17% excellent; 91% headed, 55% 2003, 79% avg. Winter wheat condition 3% poor, 12% fair, 61% good, 24% excellent; 45% headed, 16% 2003, 38% avg. Pasture feed 2% poor, 10% fair, 77% good, 11% excellent. Strawberries 81% bloomed, 73% 2003, 75% avg. Other hay 1st cutting 15%, 14% 2003, 18% avg. Alfalfa hay 1st cutting 8%, 8% 2003, 15% avg. Apples 95% bloomed, 94% 2003, 95% avg. Peaches 99% bloomed, 98% 2003, 96% avg. Watermelons 25% planted, 17% 2003, 16% avg. Cucumbers 17% planted, 17% 2003, 12% avg. Snap beans 40%, 32% 2003, 35% avg. Sweet Corn 23% planted, 42% 2003, 42% avg. Potatoes 97% planted, 82% 2003, 91% avg. Tomatoes 28% planted, 25% 2003, 30% avg. Cantaloups 27%, 17% 2003, 19% avg. Hay supplies 26% very short, 53% short, 21% adequate. State farmers experienced several warm days without much rain which allowed them to make good progress with planting field corn, watermelons, cantaloups, snap beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers. Winter wheat is in good condition with over half of the fields headed. Barley is in good condition with over 90% of the crop headed, a few fields beginning to turn color. Farmers are finishing up planting potatoes, starting to plant full season soybeans, harvest their first cut of hay.

---

**FLORIDA:** Topsoil 10% very short, 30% short, 59% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 10% very short, 35% short, 54% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperature 2° below, Pensacola, to 3° above normal, Daytona Beach, West Palm Beach. Daytime highs: 70s, 80s; several localities recorded at least one high in 90s. Nighttime lows: 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s. Rainfall range: mostly traces, Live Oak, Marianna, to over 2.50 in. Tallahassee; Jacksonville, Pensacola, Balm received over 2.00 in.; other localities reported about 0.25 to 1.50 in. Storms early in the week gave way to dry conditions during rest of week. Peanuts 20% planted, 21% 2003, 30% 5-yr avg. Cotton, peanut planting active Panhandle, northern Peninsula after soils dried from early week rains. Moisture boosted corn growth, most fields in good condition. Most tobacco fields transplanted, Taylor County. Haymaking active Panhandle. Some spots of very short moisture in Santa Rosa, St. Lucie, Charlotte, Broward counties. A few locations, Seminole County have surplus moisture. Dry conditions mid-week until end depleted soil moisture most areas. Vegetable harvesting increasing as producers satisfy Memorial Day demand. Vegetables, non-citrus fruit available: snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, cantaloups, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, tomatoes, watermelons. Citrus areas had variable temperatures, lows in 50s, highs in 80s: welcome rainfall, varying amounts, irrigation reduced. Trees in excellent condition, harvest complete on early-mids, near weekly peak on Valencias, grapefruit declining harvest, tangerines declining, Temples complete. Pasture feed 10% poor, 70% fair, 20% good. Cattle condition 5% poor, 45% fair, 50% good. Panhandle, north: pasture feed ranges from very poor to good, in fair shape; cooler than normal temperatures in 40s midweek slowed

growth; forages emerging following last week's rain; feeding of supplemental hay to livestock active. South: cattle condition poor to good, most cattle in good condition. Pasture feed low due to drought. Statewide: cattle in fair to good condition

---

**GEORGIA:** Days suitable for field work 5.9. Soil 7% very short, 41% short, 50% adequate, 2% surplus. Corn 7% poor, 36% fair, 49% good, 8% excellent. Cotton 7% poor, 43% fair, 48% good, 2% excellent. Hay 5% very poor, 16% poor, 50% fair, 27% good, 2% excellent. Sorghum 4% poor, 30% fair, 66% good; 22% planted, 28% 2003, 33% avg. Soybeans 10% emerged, 4% 2003, 6% avg. Tobacco 2% very poor, 14% poor, 48% fair, 32% good, 4% excellent. Wheat 1% harvested for grain, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Onions 6% very poor, 14% poor, 32% fair, 40% good, 8% excellent; 52% harvested, 28% 2003, 44% avg. Watermelons 1% very poor, 10% poor, 52% fair, 33% good, 4% excellent; 96% planted, 95% 2003, 96% avg. Apples 27% fair, 64% good, 9% excellent. Peaches 4% poor, 33% fair, 63% good; 4% harvested, 1% 2003, 2% avg. Rain helped revive pastures, hayfields last week. County Extension Agents reported as much as four inches of rain in some areas. However, more rain was needed. Low humidity, high winds, warm temperatures dried soils quickly in some areas of west, central state. Hay feeding continued due to slow grass growth. TSWV appeared in tobacco. Cotton, peanut planting progressed nicely. Corn, small grain conditions improved, slightly. Blackberry, blueberry crops appeared in good condition. The state's strawberry harvest neared completion. Growers applied pre-pollination sprays to pecans. Activities: Harvesting hay in southeast state, the routine care of livestock, poultry, irrigating tobacco, corn, vegetables

---

**HAWAII:** The weakening high pressure system north of the State diminished trade winds, produced variable weather throughout the past week. Light showers occurred mostly in windward, mountain areas. Bananas and papayas orchards were in generally fair to good condition with the light showers, dry, sunny weather. Vegetable crops were in mostly fair to good condition despite increasing disease incidence in some fields.

---

**IDAHO:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.80. Topsoil 4% very short, 38% short, 58% adequate. No precipitation was reported for most of the state. Nearly all of the grains have been planted. Crop emergence has been seen in throughout the state. Winter wheat jointed 48%, 53% 2003, 48% avg. Spring wheat jointed 2%, 2% 2003, 6% avg. Barley jointed 3%, 3% 2003, 6% avg. Oats 81% planted, 69% 2003, 66% avg.; 56% emerged, 46% 2003, 38% avg. Onions 100% emerged, 94% 2003, 94% avg. Dry peas 100% planted, 42% 2003, 67% avg.; 91% emerged, 14% 2003, 32% avg. Lentils 99% planted, 29% 2003, 55% avg.; 85% emerged, 0% 2003, 12% avg. Field corn 57% planted, 28% 2003, 42% avg. Dry beans 30% planted, 7% 2003, 6% avg. Potatoes 66% planted, 48% 2003, 52% avg.; 7% emerged, 1% 2003, 4% avg. Sugarbeets 91% emerged, 81% 2003, 68% avg. Irrigation water supply 5% very poor, 19% poor, 42% fair, 34% good. Hay, Roughage supply 13% short, 73% adequate, 14% surplus. Activities: Spreading fertilizer, seedbed preparation, applying herbicide to barley, planting peas, corn, potatoes.

---

**ILLINOIS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 1% very short, 19% short, 75% adequate, 5% surplus. Soybeans 3% emerged, 1% 2003, 5% avg. Winter Wheat 3% filled, 5% 2003, 4% avg. Oats 3% headed, 1% 2003, 2% avg.; 1% poor, 21% fair, 71% good, 7% excellent. Alfalfa 15% 1st crop, 1% 2003, 5% avg.; 1% poor, 12% fair, 62% good, 24% excellent. Red Clover 13% cut, 1% 2003, 3% avg.; 1% poor, 13% fair, 74% good, 12% excellent. As corn planting comes to an end, farmers are switching over to soybean planting. Statewide, all crops remain ahead of schedule based on past years. The recent rainfalls, warm temperatures are promoting excellent development of winter wheat. Windy conditions last week hampered some spraying of herbicides. Activities: Spring tillage, cutting, baling hay, tending livestock, machinery maintenance, hauling grain.

---

**INDIANA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil 3% very short, 14% short, 71% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil 4% very short, 17% short, 71% adequate, 8% surplus. Showers, wet soils slowed field activities in some regions last week. Topsoil still dry, some northern, central areas. Planting of corn, soybeans made good progress. Field activities in full swing. Corn planting far ahead of last year, the average pace. Soybean

planting 8 days ahead of average, 4 days behind the record pace set in 2001. Stand of emerged corn look good. Planting corn, soybeans, tillage of soils, spreading fertilizer, spraying chemicals were major activities. Windy weather this spring has hindered spraying of chemicals. Temperatures averaged 4° below to 3° above normal for the week. Precipitation averaged 0.01 to 1.37 inches. Winter wheat looks good most areas. Winter wheat 94% jointed, 91% 2003, 97% avg. Baling of alfalfa, grass hay underway, southern areas. Tobacco plants 1% set, 2% 2003, 1% avg. Pastures 1% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, 14% excellent. Livestock in mostly good condition. Spring calving continued. Activities: Repairing equipment, hauling grain to market, installing drainage systems, selling livestock, purchasing supplies, hauling manure, taking care of livestock.

---

**IOWA:** Agricultural Summary: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 5% very short, 25% short, 68% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 5% very short, 24% short, 69% adequate, 2% surplus. Planting progress continued ahead of normal throughout the state, although rains slowed some farmers at the end of the week. High winds impeded spraying of herbicides while there were reports of corn being rotary hoed to break up the soil crust. Soybean planting continued in most areas; however, some farmers waited until adequate moisture arrived. Field Crops Report: Oat 93% emergence, 77% last week, 83% 5-yr avg.; 5% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, 9% excellent. Corn 94% planting, 74% previous week, 71% 5-yr avg.; 36% emergence, 9% last week, 18% 5-yr avg. Soybean 51% planting, 21% 5-yr avg. 4% emergence. Primary seedbed 94%, fertilizer applications 98% complete. Livestock, Pasture, Range Report: Livestock conditions were reported as good, with no major problems noted. Pasture, range feed improved slightly from last week 1% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, 8% excellent.

---

**KANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil 9% very short, 33% short, 53% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 26% very short, 30% short, 41% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture in the western third of the State remains low. Winter wheat 98% jointed, 97% 2003, 95% avg. Sunflowers 7% planted, 2% 2003, 3% avg. Alfalfa 1st cutting 23%, 10% 2003, 9% avg. Mostly sunny weather allowed corn planting, alfalfa cutting to make good progress. Temperatures were near freezing early in the week while temperatures were near record highs later in the week. The wheat crop could use more precipitation after last week's hot weather. Range, pasture feeds 14% very poor, 23% poor, 28% fair, 31% good, 4% excellent. Feed grain supplies are 2% very short, 12% short, 84% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay, forage supplies 2% very short, 16% short, 75% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 12% very short, 18% short, 68% adequate, 2% surplus. Cattle continue to be moved to pastures.

---

**KENTUCKY:** Days suitable for fieldwork totaled 4.4. Topsoil 1% very short, 4% short, 79% adequate, 16% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 6% short, 77% adequate, 16% surplus. Temperatures averaged 64°, 1° above normal. Precipitation totaled 0.16 in. statewide, 0.90 in. below normal. Corn 89% planted, 71% 2003, 73% avg.; 68% emerged, 59% 2003, 57% avg.; 2% very poor, 4% poor, 20% fair, 53% good, 21% excellent. Soybean 15% planted, 5% 2003, 13% avg. Tobacco transplants less than 2 in. 26%, 2 to 4 in. 41%, larger than 4 in. 33%. Burley tobacco acreage set 5%, 4% 2003, 7% avg. Dark tobacco acreage set 8%, 1% 2003, 6% avg. Winter wheat 75% headed, 77% 2003, 80% avg.; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 54% good, 28% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 55% good, 23% excellent. Hay crops 1% very poor, 3% poor, 19% fair, 55% good, 22% excellent. Farmers reported 96% had adequate tobacco plants for setting, anticipated short supplies in northern, eastern areas.

---

**LOUISIANA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Soil 1% very short, 8% short, 77% adequate, 14% surplus. Corn 1% poor, 18% fair, 64% good, 17% excellent. Cotton 58% emerged, 34% last week, 37% 2003, 48% avg. Hay 1st cutting 16%, 9% last week, 29% 2003, 37% avg. Sorghum 67% emerged, 44% last week, 41% 2003, 49% avg. Soybeans 45% emerged, 33% last week, 20% 2003, 28% avg. Spring plowing 94% plowed, 93% last week, 96% 2003, 94% avg. Sugarcane 3% poor, 37% fair, 45% good, 15% excellent. Sweet potatoes 7% planted, 3% last week, 6% 2003, 7% avg. Wheat 4% poor, 17% fair, 71% good, 8% excellent; 100% headed, 99% last week, 99% 2003, 99% avg.; 55% turning color, 28% last week, 50% 2003, 76% avg. Livestock 1% very

poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 58% good, 8% excellent. Vegetable 7% poor, 35% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent.

---

**MARYLAND:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.3. Topsoil 2% short, 90% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil 89% adequate, 11% surplus. Field corn 61% planted, 47% 2003, 52% avg.; 25% emerged, 17% 2003, 19% avg. Soybeans 5% planted, 4% 2003, 6% avg. Sorghum 15% planted, 9% 2003, 4% avg. Barley condition 5% poor, 14% fair, 45% good, 36% excellent; 86% headed, 60% 2003, 81% avg. Winter wheat condition 3% poor, 17% fair, 54% good, 26% excellent; 34% headed, 15% 2003, 40% avg. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 4% poor, 15% fair, 49% good, 30% excellent. Strawberries 93% bloomed, 85% 2003, 84% avg. Other Hay 1st cutting 13%, 10% 2003, 13% avg. Alfalfa Hay 1st cutting 6%, 11% 2003, 12% avg. Apples 99% bloomed, 95% 2003, 93% avg. Peaches 97% bloomed, 98% 2003, 97% avg. Watermelons 27% planted, 27% 2003, 27% avg. Cucumbers 17% planted, 12% 2003, 21% avg. Lima Beans 11% planted, 14% 2003, 7% avg. Snap beans 30% planted, 13% 2003, 18% avg. Sweet corn 50% planted, 37% 2003, 48% avg. Potatoes 99% planted, 84% 2003, 94% avg. Tomatoes 44% planted, 44% 2003, 45% avg. Cantaloups 39% planted, 34% 2003, 40% avg. Hay supplies 16% very short, 31% short, 53% adequate. State farmers made good planting progress last week with field corn, sorghum, watermelons, cantaloups, snap beans, cucumbers, sweet corn. Warm temperatures, lots of sunshine allowed farmers to finish up planting potatoes, start planting soybeans, cutting hay. Winter wheat is in good condition, about half of the fields have headed. Barley is in good condition, most of the fields have headed, are starting to turn color. A small amount of tobacco was planted last week, a few fields of strawberries, green peas were harvested.

---

**MICHIGAN:** Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Subsoil 3% very short, 23% short, 57% adequate, 17% surplus. Soybeans 0% emerged, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Barley 67% planted, 46% 2003, 70% avg.; 48% emerged, 7% 2003, 49% avg. Oats 87% planted, 75% 2003, 82% avg.; 64% emerged, 30% 2003, 55% avg. Potatoes 32% planted, 4% emerged. Asparagus 17% harvested. The week brought a variety of conditions to State. Primary vegetable, fruit growing districts hit with a frost early week that dropped temperatures to below freezing for several hours. All weather reporting stations except one recorded minimum temperatures below freezing during week. The cold temperatures adversely affected sugarbeets, limited emergence, development of many other crops. A farmer in Thumb reported snow flurries. Growers northern half of Lower Peninsula faced continued cold, wet conditions that limited planting progress. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.12 inches western Upper Peninsula to 4.53 inches west central Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 4° below normal east central Lower Peninsula to normal southwest Lower Peninsula. Continuous rainfall across State kept field conditions wet, cool temperatures delayed crop emergence. In northern districts, corn planting continued in less than ideal conditions. In southern part of State, emergence is very slow due to prolonged cool weather, planting is on schedule. Most corn planted, sprayed for weeds. Alfalfa seedings at a standstill. Wheat had started to show effects of being cold and wet for too long. Wheat fields being scouted, some diseases found, treatments made. Overall, wheat looked excellent at this time; cool temperatures, lack of rain have slowed growth. Wheat at Feekes' stage 6. In Thumb, sugarbeet stands thinned out by a hard frost, some fields being replanted. Planting of soybeans continued. Hay growing at a rapid pace. Temperatures fell into mid to upper twenties on two consecutive nights, May 2 and May 3, caused light to moderate damage to some fruit crops all regions except northwest. Damage varied widely according to fruit crop development. Temperatures rose to above normal by weekend. Concurrent wet conditions increased potential for bacterial, fungal disease infections. Anti-fungal, anti-bacterial materials applied. Insecticides to control plum curculio stone fruit used. Fruit development is at or slightly ahead of average. Apples late pink stage Grand Rapids area, full bloom southwest, southeast Tart cherries early bloom west central; bloom ended southwest. Sweet cherries bloom west central region, yet to bloom northwest. Peaches shuck southwest, early petal fall southeast. Strawberry flower clusters emerged from crowns. Grapes southwest suffered 10 to 20% shoot death on average from frosts. Blueberries early pink bud stage west central, early bloom southwest. Some winter damage to all varieties Ottawa, Allegan counties. Pruning done to eliminate dieback. Frost hit asparagus crop early week several districts. In west central, where much of crop is located, growers estimated that harvest reduced by one to three pickings with a loss of 10 to 25% of total crop. Harvest halted until new spears emerge. Farmers continued to report

some wind damage to vegetable crops, to their respective small grain cover crops. Carrots, at first true leaf for first plantings, adversely affected by wind west central, may require replanting. Spinach for processing escaped relatively unscathed. Sweet corn planting continued. Most growers on their second planting. In southeast, much of cabbage crop planted, tomato planting had started and pepper planting will begin soon. Early lettuce had been seeded, transplanted southeast. In southwest, many onion plantings emerged, some at early flag stage, radish planting in district well underway.

---

**MINNESOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.5. Topsoil 18% very short, 45% short, 36% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 99% ground prepared, 92% 2003, 78% avg. Soybeans 66% ground prepared, 43% 2003, 41% avg.; 0% emerged, 0% 2003, 1% avg. Green peas 68% planted, 52% 2003, 51% avg. Potatoes 77% planted, 61% 2003, 49% avg. Canola 20% planted, 51% 2003, 25% avg. Dry Beans 18% planted, 8% 2003, 8% avg. Sweet Corn 29% planted, 18% 2003, 22% avg. Sunflowers 12% planted, 11% 2003, 8% avg. Pasture feed 5% very poor, 21% poor, 47% fair, 25% good, 2% excellent. Alfalfa 5% very poor, 14% poor, 43% fair, 32% good, 6% excellent. Oats 1% very poor, 6% poor, 36% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Dry conditions throughout the state this past week allowed producers to move forward with spring plantings at a rapid pace. Although planting conditions were great, farmers continue to look for rain.

---

**MISSISSIPPI:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Soil 6% very short, 23% short, 68% adequate, 3% surplus. Corn 99% planted, 99% 2003, 99% avg.; 96% emerged, 96% 2003, 94% avg.; 2% poor, 21% fair, 61% good, 16% excellent. Cotton 79% planted, 70% 2003, 65% avg.; 54% emerged, 51% 2003, 41% avg. Rice 93% planted, 80% 2003, 80% avg.; 74% emerged, 56% 2003, 54% avg.; 26% fair, 69% good, 5% excellent. Sorghum 93% planted, 81% 2003, 79% avg.; 75% emerged, 64% 2003, 59% avg.; 30% fair, 68% good, 2% excellent. Soybeans 89% planted, 72% 2003, 61% avg.; 77% emerged, 57% 2003, 44% avg.; 3% poor, 24% fair, 60% good, 13% excellent. Wheat 99% heading, 99% 2003, 99% avg.; 4% poor, 36% fair, 43% good, 17% excellent. Hay 47% harvested (cool season), 59% 2003, 53% avg.; 1% poor, 34% fair, 56% good, 9% excellent. Watermelons 84% planted, 93% 2003, 86% avg.; 72% fair, 25% good, 3% excellent. Cattle 3% very poor, 5% poor, 21% fair, 59% good, 12% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 6% poor, 37% fair, 50% good, 6% excellent. Excellent weather conditions throughout the State allowed row crop planting to progress at a rapid rate.

---

**MISSOURI:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Topsoil 2% very short, 13% short, 78% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil 6% very short, 13% short, 79% adequate, 2% surplus. Corn planting ranges from 85% east-central district, to virtual completion in the northwest district, the southern third of the State. Recent warmer weather has been good for crop growth. Sorghum planting ranges from 8% or less in north-central, central, east-central districts to 68% southeast. Soybean planting is most advanced in the northwest district at 57%, while all other districts vary from 5% in the south-central district to 28% north-central, east-central districts. Several dry days in the Bootheel helped cotton planting nearly catch up to normal. Winter wheat heading is most advanced in the southeast, south-central districts at 92% or more, while the northwest district is least advanced at 17% headed. Pastures 1% very poor, 7% poor, 23% fair, 53% good, 16% excellent. Rainfall averaged 0.08 inch, ranging by area from 0.21 inch in the northwest district, 0.16 inch northeast, to less than 0.10 inch in all other districts.

---

**MONTANA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil 42% very short, 39% short, 19% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil at 44% very short, 37% short, 18% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat conditions 14% very poor, 27% poor, 38% fair, 18% good, 3% excellent; progress 7% boot stage. Barley 90% seeded, 59% 2003, 66% 5-yr avg.; 59% emergence, 30% 2003, 29% 5-yr avg. Oat 78% seedings, 35% 2003, 50% 5-yr avg.; 32% emergence, 12% 2003, 20% 5-yr avg. Spring wheat 83% seeded, 60% 2003, 64% 5-yr avg.; 43% emergence, 20% 2003, 24% 5-yr avg. Durum wheat 62% seeded, 27% 2003, 10% 5-yr avg.; 15% emergence 8% 2003. Sugar beets 98% planted, 95% 2003, 93% 5-yr avg.; 44% emergence, 51% 2003, 52% 5-yr avg. Corn 41% planted, 41% 2003, 39% 5-yr avg.; 5% emergence, 11% 2003, 7% 5-yr avg. Dry beans 36% planted, 31% 2003, 32% 5-yr avg.; 1% emergence, 8% 2003, 4% 5-yr avg. Livestock grazing 85% open, 6% difficult, 9% closed, with pasture feeds 23% very poor, 32% poor, 28% fair, 16% good, 1% excellent. Currently, 55% of the

cattle and 53% of the sheep are receiving supplemental feed compared to last year when 49% of cattle and 47% of sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Calving, lambing are at 96% and 86% complete, compared to 95% and 79% last year.

---

**NEBRASKA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.5. Topsoil 17% very short, 41% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 39% very short, 40% short, 21% adequate, 0% surplus. Temperatures averaged from 5 to 13° above normals for the week. Precipitation was very light over the western half of the state while over 1 inch was received in isolated areas of the south central, northeast. Corn 85 % planted, 42% 2003, 56% avg. Wheat 82% jointed, 68% 2003, 58% avg. Oats 99% planting , 95% 2003, 96% avg.; 82% emerged, 83% 2003, 83% avg. Sugar beets 99% planted. Alfalfa condition 4% very poor, 11% poor, 34% fair, 43% good, 8% excellent; 1<sup>st</sup> cutting 2% harvested. Activities: Planting, and spring fieldwork.

---

**NEVADA:** Temperatures continued to average much higher than normal, accelerating mountain snow melt. Water content of the snow pack was about 50% of normal for the State as a whole. No precipitation was received. Afternoon breezes were common. First cutting of alfalfa hay was progressing northward ahead of normal due to the warm weather. Some alfalfa fields in the Lovelock area were showing signs of earlier freeze damage. Corn planting got underway. Wheat, barley condition rated mostly good to excellent. Rangeland forage growth was accelerated. Weed spraying continued. Flood irrigation was underway where surface water supplies were adequate. Calving was approaching seasonal completion. Branding was active as stock were being moved to Summer range. Lambing was well along. Grasshopper, Mormon cricket infestations were on the rise in the North. Activities: Calving, lambing, hay harvest, corn planting, ditch cleaning, irrigation.

---

**NEW ENGLAND:** Days suitable for field work 5.6. Topsoil 3% very short, 5% short, 74% adequate, 18% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 4% short, 81% adequate, 12% surplus. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 8% poor, 37% fair, 43% good, 11% excellent. Maine Potatoes 5% planted, 0% 2003, 10% avg.; condition fair. Rhode Island Potatoes 25% planted, 25% 2003, 55% avg.; condition good. Massachusetts Potatoes 20% planted, 55% 2003, 55% avg.; condition fair. Maine Oats 15% planted, 0% 2003, 15% avg.; condition fair. Maine Barley 15% planted, 0% 2003, 20% avg.; condition fair. Field Corn 10% planted, 10% 2003, 15% avg.; condition good/fair. Sweet Corn 15% planted, 20% 2003, 20% avg.; condition good/fair. First Crop Hay: condition good/fair. Apples: Bud Stage to Early Bloom; condition fair/good. Peaches: Bud Stage to Early Bloom; condition fair/poor. Pears: Early Bloom to Full Bloom; condition good. Strawberries: Dormant to Bud Stage; condition fair/good. Massachusetts Cranberries: Bud Stage; condition fair/poor. Highbush Blueberries: Bud Stage to Early Bloom; condition fair/good. Maine Wild Blueberries: Bud Stage. Temperatures were cool, breezy during the week with scattered showers mixed in throughout the six-State region. Light snow fell in Northern New Hampshire and Vermont locations on Tuesday. Cooler temperatures hampered planting in some locations as soil temperatures haven't warmed up enough to begin planting. Activities: Planting early vegetables, sweet corn, potatoes; spreading manure; preparing seed beds for planting; applying fertilizer; disk, pruning, plowing, fixing fences.

---

**NEW JERSEY:** Days suitable for field work were 5.6. Soil 92% adequate, 8% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures ranged from 10° below normal to 10° above normal across the state for the week. Irrigation water supplies 96% adequate, 4% surplus. Farmers were busy fertilizing, cultivating, plowing, planting where field conditions allowed. Small grain crops were rated in good condition; and in some southern localities barley was mostly percent headed out. Some wheat fields began to form heads. Soybean planting began in some areas where conditions allowed. Field corn began to emerge in the southern district. Alfalfa, other hay fields were rated in good condition. Sweet corn planting under plastic cover continued in the northern, central districts. Growers in southern locations began to cut plastic covering off of sweet corn seedlings. Transplanting of cucumbers, peppers began across the state; tomato transplanting commenced in the northern, central districts. Snap bean planting began across the state. Cantaloupe transplanting started in some southern localities. Cabbage transplanting neared completion in the south. Lettuce planting continued in the north; while harvest of Boston, leaf

lettuce began in southern areas. Transplanting of eggplant started in some localities in the north, south. Escarole planting neared completion across the state. Pea planting was winding up in the north, while pea plants in southern areas were in bloom. Asparagus, spinach harvest was active across the state. There was a report that some new plantings of spinach in the central region were off color due to excessive rain. In some central localities, zucchini planting was nearing the end. Transplanting of leeks, lettuces, green onions, arugula, summer squash, parsley, zucchini continued in southern areas of the state. Vegetables were reported as being in mostly good condition. Planting of Irish potatoes was nearing a close across the state with vines reported in good condition. Peaches, apples were rated in good to excellent condition. Apple blossom drop began in the north. Peaches were in shuck stage in the north. Strawberry plants reached full bloom in the north. Irrigation was used on cranberry plants to combat frost. Blueberries were rated in good condition. Pasture feed was rated in fair to good condition.

---

**NEW MEXICO:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil 9% very short, 50% short, 41% adequate. It was a dry, warm week in the state, with only two locations reporting any measurable precipitation (Clovis with .23" and Las Vegas with .05"). Temperatures were generally 5 to 10° above normal across the state. Afternoon readings climbed into the 90's at most of the lower elevation stations in the east and south. Farmers spent the week irrigating, planting corn, cotton, harvesting alfalfa. There was 26% light wind damage, 5% moderate. Alfalfa conditions were 1% poor, 56% fair, 32% good, and 11% excellent with the first cutting in full swing, progress listed at 59% complete. Cotton was listed in fair to excellent condition with 62% of the crop planted. Corn was in mostly fair to good condition with 63% planted, slightly behind the five year average, 28% emerged. Winter wheat conditions 5% very poor, 11% poor, 42% fair, 32% good, 10% excellent, 55% headed. Lettuce harvest began this week, was 20% complete with the crop in mostly fair to excellent condition. Onion condition was listed in fair to excellent condition. Chile conditions 7% poor, 48% fair, 31% good, 14% excellent with planting complete this week. Apples were listed in mostly poor to fair condition with 100% average fruit set. Ranchers spent the week branding late calves, finishing up shearing sheep, maintaining herds, waters. Cattle conditions 10% poor, 53% fair, 36% good, 1% excellent. Sheep conditions 1% very poor, 10% poor, 56% fair, 31% good, 2% excellent. Range, pasture feeds 14% very poor, 24% poor, 46% fair, 15% good, 1% excellent.

---

**NEW YORK:** Days suitable for fieldwork 3.6. Topsoil 2% short, 63% adequate, 35% surplus. Pasture feeds 2% poor, 25% fair, 49% good, 24% excellent. The week started out unusually warm allowing planting activities to continue in areas with well-drained fields. Toward the end of the week temperatures became considerably cooler, further delaying planting activities in those fields that had not yet dried form previous rainfalls. Most fieldwork for the week included hay, corn, other small grain seeding, as well as oat planting in fields with suitable moisture content. Soybean drilling slowed due to cooler temperatures. In Clinton County, an increased percentage of farmers reported that alfalfa winterkill had become a very serious threat. In other areas of the state, farmers reported relatively little winterkill but a lack in nitrogen application to wheat. Fruit producers throughout the state were busy spraying for both disease, insect protection. Apples, peaches, tart cherries were at full bloom in the Lake Ontario, Wayne County regions. In the Finger Lakes region, grape vines were at bud burst, while in Chautauqua County most vineyards were just entering the 1-2 inch growth stage of development. Vegetable planting for the week consisted of onion, cabbage planting in the Madison County region, as weather permitted, some sweet corn, pea planting. No problems were reported with livestock. Activities: Spreading manure, tilling fields, mending fences.

---

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Soil 1% very short, 10% short, 70% adequate, 19% surplus. Activities: Disease, pest scouting, land preparation for planting, general farm maintenance. Much of the State experienced a cold start to the week accompanied by heavy rainfall on Sunday. The wet conditions delayed fieldwork for a few days, but the precipitation was greatly needed for crop progress. Planting of peanuts, soybeans, sweetpotatoes, burley tobacco is well under way.

---

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil 14% very short, 40% short, 45% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 14% very short,

33% short, 52% adequate, 1% surplus. Above normal daytime temperatures, dry conditions continued last week as planting stayed well ahead of the five-year (1999-2003) average. Dry, windy conditions continued to stress germinating, emerged crops. Durum wheat 46% planted, 26% 2003, 20% avg.; 20% emerged, 12% 2003, 7% avg. Canola 59% planted, 34% 2003, 34% avg.; 9% emerged, 10% 2003, 9% avg. Potatoes 43% planted, 24% 2003, 30% avg.; 4% emerged, 4% 2003, 2% avg. Flaxseed 39% planted, 18% 2003, 19% avg.; 5% emerged, 4% 2003, 4% avg. Sunflower 4% planted, 2% 2003, 1% avg. Dry Edible Beans 3% planted, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Sugarbeets 22% emerged, 23% 2003, 19% avg. Stockwater supplies 3% very short, 19% short, 77% adequate, 1% surplus. Calving 95% complete, lambing 95% complete. Pastures, ranges 89% growing, 11% still dormant. Range, Pasture Feeds 9% very poor, 32% poor, 38% fair, 21% good, 0% excellent.

---

**OHIO:** Days suitable for field work 3.0. Topsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 64% adequate, 34% surplus. Corn 62% planted, 85% 2003, 62% avg.; 22% emerged, 27% 2003, 19% avg. Oats 84% planted, 100% 2003, 92% avg.; 56% emerged, 73% 2003, 72% avg. Potatoes 57% planted, 67% 2003, 60% avg. Soybeans 28% planted, 45% 2003, 35% avg.; 4% emerged, 6% 2003, 10% avg. Winter wheat 89% jointed, 87% 2003, 90% avg.; 3% headed, 3% 2003, 3% avg. Hay conditions 0% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 55% good, 16% excellent. Livestock conditions 1% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 63% good, 18% excellent. Pasture feeds 1% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 56% good, 16% excellent. Winter wheat conditions 1% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 55% good, 21% excellent. The state was hit by another frost this past Tuesday but temperatures rebounded with highs in the eighties later in the week. Excessive precipitation is keeping many farmers out of the fields, but in drier areas it was business as usual. Producers planted corn, oats, soybeans in drier locations. Fruit growers checked apples, peaches, strawberries for damage from Tuesday night's frost. Vegetable producers planted sweet corn, peppers, set tomatoes.

---

**OKLAHOMA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil 6% very short, 33% short, 59% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 8% very short, 27% short, 62% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter Wheat 33% soft dough, 13% last week, 27% 2003, 23% avg. Oats 3% very poor, 10% poor, 43% fair, 43% good, 1% excellent; 92% jointing, 83% last week, 85% 2003, 88% avg.; 53% headed, 39% last week, 49% 2003, 54% avg.; 16% soft dough, n/a last week, 11% 2003 14% avg. Rye 3% very poor, 9% poor, 22% fair, 25% good, 11% excellent; 46% soft dough, 26% last week, n/a 2003, n/a avg. Corn 75% planted, 54% last week, 64% 2003, 86% avg.; 55% emerged, 37% last week, 38% 2003, 46% avg. Sorghum 52% seedbed prepared, 45% last week, 50% 2003, 60% avg.; 7% emerged, n/a last week, 5% 2003, 7% avg. Soybeans 77% seedbed prepared, 70% last week, 67% 2003, 75% avg.; 30% planted, 19% last week, 27% 2003, 32% avg.; 10% emerged, n/a last week, 11% 2003, 15% avg. Peanuts 95% seedbed prepared, 87% last week, 87% 2003, 84% avg.; 10% emerged, n/a last week, 11% 2003, 6% avg. Cotton 95% seedbed prepared, 86% last week, 92% 2003, 91% avg.; 7% emerged, n/a last week, 6% 2003, 6% avg. Alfalfa Hay 5% poor, 20% fair, 58% good, 17% excellent; 74% 1st cutting, 41% last week, 62% 2003 54% avg. Other Hay 1% very poor, 4% poor, 34% fair, 50% good, 11% excellent; 30% 1st cutting, 20% last week, 22% 2003, 23% avg. Watermelons 53% planted, 38% last week, 72% 2003, 66% avg. Livestock 3% poor, 22% fair, 57% good, 18% excellent; Pasture, Range 2% very poor, 9% poor, 30% fair, 47% good, 12% excellent. Livestock: Livestock conditions stayed consistent with last week. Livestock insect activity was 82% percent light to moderate. Four percent reported heavy activity and 16% reported no insect activity. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$105.88 per cwt., up \$3.37 from last week. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds was \$98.86 cwt., an increase of \$3.08 from last week. This is the highest prices have been since December 2003.

---

**OREGON:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.5. Topsoil 5% very short, 34% short, 60% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 7% very short, 36% short, 55% adequate, 2% surplus. Barley 88% planted, 85% previous week, 71% 2003, 88% 5- yr avg.; 65% emerged, 63% previous week, 50% 2003; 4% poor, 35% fair, 41% good, 20% excellent. Spring wheat 97% planted, 95% previous week, 91% 2003, 96% 5- yr avg. Spring wheat 85% emerged, 80% previous week, 66% 2003. Winter wheat 11% headed, 2% previous week, 5% 5- yr avg.; 1% very poor, 10% poor, 41% fair, 42% good, 6% excellent. Range, Pasture 5% very poor, 10% poor,

37% fair, 40% good, 8% excellent. Activities: Cooler weather was found in some counties across the State; other counties stayed hot, dry. Showers in Clackamas, Marion counties helped moisture levels somewhat, but overall were not enough to offset lack of spring rainfall. Drought conditions in Coos, Curry counties continued into fourth consecutive year, causing some concern for agriculture, forestry officials. Josephine County had some measurable precipitation by week's end. State still in need of solid, consistent precipitation. Gilliam County experienced some hail, almost an inch in diameter. Harney County had some frost-like conditions beginning of week, warmer nights by week's end. Drought areas in Sherman County are expanding. Ontario recorded 107 growing degree days (base 50), highest over the week. Spring wheat, barley planting nearly complete. Above average temperatures, below average precipitation this spring have pushed crop development well ahead of last year. Winter wheat just starting to produce heads in some areas. Reports indicate grain, hay crops still look good in many areas, but most of State would welcome additional rain. In eastern state, some first cutting alfalfa done. In western state, some clover, alfalfa hay being harvested. There were a few cases of stem rust reported in Marion County. Willamette Valley vegetable planting progressing on schedule. Washington County potatoes, sweet corn emerging. Potatoes being planted in central state, winding down in Baker County. Potatoes about twenty percent planted in Klamath County, were emerging, along with onions, in Umatilla County. Josephine County truck gardeners preparing soil for tomatoes, corn, beans, squash, pumpkins. Strawberries continued in full bloom throughout Willamette Valley; picking expected to be early this year. Raspberries, blackberries, caneberries also in bloom. Hazelnuts showing, cherries noticeable on trees. Hood River County fruit development continued well ahead of schedule. Favorable weather allowed fruit growers to catch up on springtime mowing, spraying. Wasco County sweet cherry development continues to remain about ten days ahead of last year. Southern coast cranberry beds in hook, early stages. First brood blackhead fireworm larvae were still active. Cranberry girdler moths began to emerge. Symptoms of Lophodermium twig blight were present in some beds. Nursery sales to eastern United States winding down. However, greenhouses still shipping lots of plants to retail markets for the home gardener. Farmers markets doing excellent business selling plants to shoppers. Easter lily growers doing routine field operations on southern state coast. Pastures in western state reported in good condition, holding up well to early season grazing. Rangeland in eastern state continues to be reported in fair condition. Conditions are dry, most rangeland will need additional spring precipitation to avoid drying up early. Livestock producers reported that ponds in some areas are low for this time of year. Livestock were reported in good condition. Producers busy with branding, spring working of herds. Most cattle now turned out across the State.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Days suitable for field work 4.0. Soil 74% adequate, 26% surplus. Spring 78% plowing, 69% 2003, 74% avg. Corn 54% planted, 37% 2003, 42% avg.; 12% emerged, 7% 2003, 10% avg.; 2% poor, 21% fair, 68% good, 9% excellent. Barley 55% heading, 46% 2003, 60% avg. Winter wheat 8% heading, 15% 2003, 17% avg.; 3% poor, 11% fair, 71% good, 15% excellent. Oats 82% planted, 84% 2003, 83% avg.; 48% emerged, 51% 2003, 55% avg.; 2% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 67% good, 7% excellent. Soybeans 5% planted, 10% 2003, 11% avg. Potatoes 58% planted, 33% 2003, 42% avg. Peach crop condition 73% good, 27% excellent. Apple crop condition 26% fair, 65% good, 9% excellent. Pasture feeds 3% poor, 20% fair, 51% good, 26% excellent. Activities: Spring tillage; planting spring crops; spreading fertilizer, manure; repairing fences, machinery; turning livestock out to pasture for the summer.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for field work 5.8. Soil 4% very short, 37% short, 57% adequate, 2% surplus. Corn 99% planted, 86% 2003, 97% avg.; 96% emerged, 75% 2003, 90% avg.; 2% poor, 40% fair, 53% good, 5% excellent. Peanuts 35% planted, 18% 2003, 39% avg.; 74% fair, 26% good. Sorghum 55% planted, 46% 2003, 51% avg.; 50% fair, 50% good. Cotton 38%, planted, 20% 2003, 33% avg.; 1% poor, 37% fair, 62% good. Winter wheat 96% headed, 95% 2003, 98% avg.; 28% turning color, 18% 2003, 41% avg.; 1% very poor, 6% poor, 53% fair, 39% good, 1% excellent. Sweetpotatoes 20% planted, 22% 2003, 29% avg. Barley 85% headed, 90% 2003, 89% avg.; 35% turning color, 9% 2003, 36% avg.; 33% fair, 62% good, 5% excellent. Pastures 15% poor, 41% fair, 42% good, 2% excellent. Rye 93% headed, 90% 2003, 96% avg.; 44% turning color, 20% 2003, 44% avg.; 8% poor, 76% fair, 16% good. Oats 92% headed, 89% 2003, 96% avg.; 40% turning color,

15% 2003, 44% avg.; 4% very poor, 12% poor, 63% fair, 21% good. Soybeans 17% planted, 10% 2003, 14% avg. Tobacco 98% transplanted, 98% 2003, 99% avg.; 3% poor, 33% fair, 58% good, 6% excellent. Grain Hay 59% harvested, 49% 2003, 57% avg; 2% very poor, 13% poor, 36% fair, 46% good, 3% excellent. Peaches 2% very poor, 7% poor, 14% fair, 31% good, 46% excellent. Snapbeans 96% planted, 96% 2003, 91% avg.; 2% poor, 2% fair, 95% good, 1% excellent. Cucumbers 99% planted, 100% 2003, 99% avg.; 2% poor, 7% fair, 91% good. Watermelons 92% planted, 92% 2003, 95% avg.; 4% poor, 52% fair, 44% good. Tomatoes 99% planted, 100% 2003, 98% avg.; 14% fair, 76% good, 10% excellent. Cantaloups 89% planted, 90% 2003, 90% avg.; 8% poor, 65% fair, 27% good. Livestock 3% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, 10% excellent.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.5. Topsoil 29% very short, 43% short, 28% adequate. Subsoil moisture 44% very short, 31% short, 25% adequate. Feed supplies 11% very short, 26% short, 61% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 34% very short, 32% short, 34% adequate. Spring wheat 7% very poor, 11% poor, 34% fair, 41% good, 7% excellent. Barley 3% very poor, 9% poor, 39% fair, 45% good, 4% excellent. Oats 2% very poor, 7% poor, 45% fair, 41% good, 5% excellent. Winter Wheat boot 17%, 22% 2003, 20% avg. Sunflower planted 2%, 1% 2003, 1% avg. Cattle condition 3% poor, 23% fair, 61% good, 13% excellent. Sheep condition 7% poor, 16% fair, 62% good, 15% excellent. Calving 91% complete. Lambing 89% complete. Cattle moved to pasture 40% complete. Producers continue to move ahead with spring planting, however, the continued lack of moisture has caused many producers to worry about crop development. Activities: Calving, lambing, fixing fence, fertilizer, chemical applications, planting of row crops.

**TENNESSEE:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 10% short, 79% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 10% short 79% adequate, 11% surplus. Wheat 96% headed, 80% 2003, 90% avg.; 1% poor, 18% fair, 56% good, 25% excellent. Tobacco 11% transplanted, 4% 2003, 9% avg. Alfalfa hay 28% harvested, 8% 2003, 21% avg.; 1% poor, 18% fair, 61% good, 20% excellent. Other hay 16% harvested, 6% 2003, 12% avg.; 3% poor, 22% fair, 62% good, 13% excellent. Pastures 3% poor, 19% fair, 60% good, 18% excellent. Producers took advantage of the good curing weather to cut, bale hay last week. Activities: Transplanting tobacco, harvesting strawberries, applying fungicides, insecticides to crops. Some tobacco diseases, including stem rot, have been seen in a few greenhouses across the middle part of the State. Pastures, hay fields have benefitted from the recent moisture. Livestock producers are actively working cattle. Temperatures averaged above normal in the Western half of the State last week, near normal in the East, while rainfall amounts averaged well below normal.

**TEXAS:** Agricultural Summary: A warmer, drier trend prevailed for most of the week. However, by the weekend, rain showers, storms occurred across some parts of the state. Storms in the Southern Plains, Edwards Plateau were accompanied by strong winds. Areas receiving rainfall during the later part of the week included areas of the Trans-Pecos, most central areas extending from the Red River to the Gulf Coast, east of a line from Kerrville to Laredo. Much of East State did not receive rain. Producers across the state were able to take advantage of drier conditions, proceed with planting row crops, other field activities. In the wettest areas of South and East State, some relief from the saturated fields occurred before the weekend. Haying, baling of small grains, other forage crops continued in the Plains, other areas. Cattle continued to graze wheat pastures not cut for hay or intended for grain. Livestock condition was rated mostly good to excellent throughout the state, with most pastures, rangelands providing improved forage. Small Grains: Wheat acreage intended for grain continued to make good progress across the state. In the Plains, winter wheat was maturing more quickly, more fields were heading out. Harvest of wheat, oats for hay or silage continued. Some producers sprayed for rust, powdery mildew problems. Armyworms were also noticed in a few fields, but no widespread damage was reported. Acreage in southern areas was nearing maturity. Wheat condition 66% normal, 49% 2003. Corn: Planting activities in the Plains made good progress during the week. Good soil moisture, weather conditions continued to assist with emergence. In some of the wettest areas, yellowing, development problems were occurring from too much moisture. Treatment for weeds, cultivation was active on some acreage. Corn condition 87% normal, 75% 2003. Cotton: Many producers in the

Plains had completed planting preparations. Planting activities were beginning to gain momentum in the Plains, but some producers were waiting for more moisture to begin planting. In other areas, planting activities resumed early in the week. Some acreage in coastal areas was in need of improved growing conditions. Some fields were showing stress from a lack of thermal heat units, sunshine for more than 3 or 4 days at a time, cool temperatures. Sorghum: Generally, planted sorghum fields were making good to excellent progress in most areas, except where fields remained saturated. Some areas with too much soil moisture reported yellowing in some fields. Sorghum condition 87% normal, 72% 2003. Peanuts: Heavy planting activity occurred before weekend precipitation fell in the Plains. Land preparation continued in South State. Rice: Dry days were welcomed by producers who still had to complete planting. Rice condition 87% normal, 84% 2003. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit, Pecans Pecans: Zinc application continued. Growers began spraying for casebearer moth in some areas. Some trees damaged by the April hailstorm were re-leafing. The higher soil moisture this Spring has been beneficial for most Pecan acreage across the state. In the Rio Grande Valley, harvest continued for onions, citrus, sugarcane, cabbage, potatoes. In South State, watermelon harvest has not started due to a late planted crop, excess moisture, disease problems in some fields. Early watermelons were being harvested in the Lower Valley. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden, Onion harvest began with good to excellent yields. Cabbage harvest was nearing completion. In the Trans-Pecos region, conditions were good for developing onions, melons, pecans. Fall onions were bulbing. Chile fields were all planted, starting to emerge. Alfalfa was re-sprouting for the second cutting. Grapes were doing well, Pecans were pollinating. Range, Livestock: Pastures continued to improve with warmer temperatures, sunshine. Livestock remained in good to excellent condition, with supplemental feeding at a minimum. More rainfall for the Plains, Trans-Pecos was needed to continue the improvement of rangeland, pastures. Sheep shearing, lamb marking was nearing completion. Spring calving continued, working of cattle and branding was still active.

**UTAH:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Subsoil 8% very short, 39% short, 53% adequate, 0% surplus. Irrigation Water Supplies 16% very short, 36% short, 48% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 21% poor, 24% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. Spring wheat 98% planted, 100% 2003, 98% avg.; 76% emerged, 91% 2003, 85% avg.; 0% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 53% good, 9% excellent. Barley 95% planted, 100% 2003, 95% avg.; 74% emerged, 90% 2003, 82% avg.; condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 70% good, 13% excellent. Oats 84% planted, 88% 2003, 78% avg.; 55% emerged, 64% 2003, 55% avg. Corn 44% planted, 39% 2003, 39% avg. Alfalfa height 14%, 10% 2003, 10% avg. Cows Calved 94%, 98% 2003, 99% avg. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 19% fair, 63% good, 17% excellent. Sheep Condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 17% fair, 68% good, 15% excellent. Stock Water Supplies 4% very short, 32% short, 64% adequate, 0% surplus. Sheared On Farm 95%, 99% 2003, 99% avg. Sheep Sheared On Range 83%, 87% 2003, 93% avg. Ewes Lamb On Farm 98%, 99% 2003, 99% avg. Ewes Lamb On Range 75%, 84% 2003, 85% avg. The state experienced unseasonably warm temperatures last week, causing increased concerns over lack of water. Box Elder county reported that first cutting alfalfa has started in some areas. Warm, dry temperatures have more counties reporting signs of Mormon Crickets, grasshoppers. Some reports of wind damage to newly planted grain and alfalfa, with some reports of acreage being replanted. Alfalfa height is being reported at 14 inches. Livestock were in good condition. Producers continued lambing, calving activities as well as shearing sheep. Branding activities were winding down, most producers are ready for the move to spring range land. Range, pasture feeds were causing some concern. After receiving much needed moisture, warm, dry, windy conditions caused some signs of early stress. Moisture is needed to extend this years growth, aid in the health of perennial range land that has been stressed in the last few years.

**VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil 2% very short, 11% short, 76% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short 8% short, 83% adequate, 7% surplus. It was a typical week for the state, as scattered rain showers drifted across the State this week. Most areas experienced under one inch of rain, the average temperature high ranged between 80 and 90°. The warm weather, timely showers allowed for good progress in the field crops. However, despite the recent rainfall, a rapid return to atypical dry conditions persist in several counties. Earlier in the week, some regions reported light frost. This frost caused some damage

to apple orchards, hay fields. Overall, farmers are optimistic; grain prices are up, crop conditions look good. Activities: Spraying orchards, vineyards, fertilizing small grains, scouting for diseases, preparing land for soybeans, cotton, peanuts, strawberry producers running "u-pick" operations.

**WASHINGTON:** Days suitable for fieldwork was 6.4. Topsoil moisture was 7% very short, 35% short, 56% adequate, and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 5% very short, 28% short, 65% adequate, and 2% surplus. Irrigation water supply was 7% short, and 93% adequate. The highest temperature in the state was 84 degrees in Pasco. The lowest temperature in the state was 28 degrees in Deer Park. Winter wheat condition was 2% very poor, 7% poor, 38% fair, 48% good, and 5% excellent with 7% headed. Spring wheat condition was 5% poor, 51% fair, 39% good, and 5% excellent. Spring wheat was 100% planted and 91% emerged. Barley conditions were 5% poor, 51% fair, 36% good, and 8% excellent. Barley was 100% planted and 92% emerged. Grass harvest, green chop cutting, and silage bagging continued. Christmas tree growers started spraying for infestations of Swiss Needle Cast and Cooley Spruce Fall Adelgids. Potato conditions were 7% fair and 93% good. Potatoes were 98% planted and 56% emerged. Corn conditions were 100% good. Corn was 84% planted and 28% emerged. Dry peas were 99% planted. Dry edible bean condition was 42% fair and 58% good. Dry edible beans were 97% planted. Processing green peas were 99% planted. Alfalfa Hay first cutting was 8% complete. Hay and other roughage supplies were 3% short, 96% adequate and 1% surplus. Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 5% poor, 34% fair, 51% good, and 2% excellent. Cattle were out on pasture or range. Production of longline shell for oyster seeding continued, along with oyster harvest operations. Shellfish growers continued harrowing of oyster beds, transplanting stock to fattening grounds, and planting seed clams on gravel substrate. Green peas, blueberries, and wild flowers bloomed. Raspberry and cranberry growers continued weed control and early fertilization applications. Cover and thinning sprays were applied to fruit. Some asparagus harvest continued. However, due to a large windstorm two weeks ago many asparagus harvesters were at a stand-still last week due to damaged crop.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for field work 6.0. Topsoil 5% short, 90% adequate, 5% surplus, 2003 58% adequate, 42% surplus. Intended acreage prepared for spring 78% planting, 71% in 2003, 75% 5-yr avg. Hay, roughage supplies 3% very short, 6% short, 83% adequate, 8% surplus, 2003 13% very short, 32% short, 55% adequate. Feed grain supplies 5% short, 95% adequate, 2003 2% very short, 15% short, 83% adequate. Corn 40% planted, 20% in 2003, 39% 5-yr avg.; 10% emerged, 7% in 2003. Oats 60% planted, 72% 2003, 77% 5-yr avg.; 35% emerged, 60% 2003, 47% 5-yr avg. Soybeans 17% planted, 4% 2003, 18% 5-yr. avg. Tobacco beds 100% seeded, 100% 2003. Tobacco beds 97% emerged, 90% 2003, 93% 5-yr avg. Winter wheat conditions 15% fair, 75% good, 10% excellent; 12% headed, 5% 2003, 16% 5-yr. avg. Hay conditions 5% poor, 35% fair, 55% good, 5% excellent. Apples 25% fair, 75% good. Peaches 20% fair, 80% good. Cattle, calves 2% poor, 25% fair, 65% good, 8% excellent. Calving 98% complete, 94% 2003, 94% 5-yr avg. Sheep, lambs 30% fair, 60% good, 10% excellent. Lambing 97% complete, 95% 2003, 96% 5-yr avg. Activities: Fertilizing, liming, planting fields. Repairing fence, finishing up calving, lambing, tending to livestock.

**WISCONSIN:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Soil 6% very short, 26% short, 60% adequate, 8% surplus. Spring planting in full swing. Farmers were busy with spring tillage, planting this past week. The dry weather made field conditions good for the tractors to be out in full force. Most farmers are working hard at planting soybeans, finishing no-till corn planting. In some areas, spring tillage is almost complete. Rain is needed to get the crops started in some of the dryer areas, most of the state could use warmer temperatures. Average temperatures were 2 to 6° below normal, with temperatures ranging from the high 70's to the high 20's. Traces of rain were seen in some parts of the state, while some parts received 1.4 inches. Year to date precipitation is still below normal in most parts of the state.

**WYOMING:** Days suitable for field work 6.9. Topsoil 25% very short, 43% short, 32% adequate. Barley 88% planted, 86% 2003, 86% 5-yr avg.; 65% emerged, 2003 60%, 59% 5-yr avg.; 2% very poor, 5% poor,

27% fair, 66% good. Oats 78% planted, 66% 2003, 59% 5-yr avg.; 53% emerged, 38% 2003, 27% 5-yr avg. Spring wheat 90% planted, 74% 2003, 58% 5-yr avg.; 60% emerged, 32% 2003, 26% 5-yr avg. Winter wheat 57% jointed, 54% 2003, 26% 5-yr avg.; 6% boot, 4% 2003, 5-yr avg.; 4% very poor, 24% poor, 53% fair, 19% good. Sugarbeets 25% planted, 87%, 89% 2003, 91% 5-yr avg. Sugarbeets 50% emerged, 2003, 36% 5-yr avg. Corn 53% planted, 40% 2003, 39% 5-yr avg.; 8% emerged, 1% 2003, 4% 5-yr avg. Irrigation water 23% very short, 32% short, 45% adequate. Spring calves born 94%, 94% 2003, 95% 5-yr avg. Farm flock ewes lambled 95%, 95% 2003, 95% 5-yr avg. Farm flock sheep shorn 97%, 96% 2003, 95% 5-yr avg. Range flock ewes lambled 38%, 42% 2003, 47% 5-yr avg. Range flock sheep shorn 88%, 88% 2003, 82% 5-yr avg. Calf, lamb losses remained mostly normal to light. Range, pasture feed 22% very poor, 26% poor, 33% fair, 19% good. Temperatures were nearly all above normal, set record highs in many areas. Temperatures ranged from 0.6° below normal in Deaver to 11.6° above normal in Lander. The highest temperature was 92° in Redbird, Torrington, Wheatland, the lowest temperature 17° in Saratoga. Precipitation was light or none with all stations reporting below normal amounts. Most stations reported a trace or less for the week. The most precipitation fell in Gillette with 0.21 inch, Douglas with 0.13 inch, Afton with 0.11 inch.