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Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

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ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil 19% very short, 39% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 65% planted, 43% 2005, 47% avg. Corn 40% emerged, na 2005, 17% avg. Soybeans 6% planted, na 2005, na avg. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 7% poor, 27% fair, 63% good, 3% excellent. Pasture condition 12% very poor, 21% poor, 38% fair, 25% good, 4% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 38% fair, 53% good, 5% excellent. Little rainfall of any significance has occurred since early March. Windy conditions over the last week have hampered growers' ability to spray fields located in more sensitive areas. Winter grazing is short and some producers are still supplementing with hay.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures for the State were mostly above normal for the week ending April 16. Precipitation was reported at 5 of the 22 reporting stations. Kingman received the most precipitation at 0.22 inches and Canyon De Chelly received the least at 0.04 inches. All of the reporting stations are at below normal precipitation for the year to date. Alfalfa condition remains mostly fair to good. Range and pasture conditions are very poor to poor.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for field work 7.0. Soil: 9% Very Short, 50% Short, 41% Adequate. Corn 91% planted, 72% previous week, 68% previous year, 73% 5 Year Average; 61% emerged, 33% previous week, 42% previous year, 39% 5 Year Average. Soybeans 14% planted, 6% previous week, 7% previous year, 5% 5 Year Average. Sorghum 40% planted, 16% previous week, 17% previous year, 29% 5 Year Average. Cotton: 8% planted, 0% previous week, 1% previous year, 1% 5 Year Average. Rice: 46% planted, 15% previous week, 12% previous year, 28% 5 Year Average; 6% emerged, 0% previous week, 2% previous year, 4% 5 Year Average; Winter Wheat: 43% Headed, 15% Previous Week, 16% Previous Year, 15% 5 Year Average. b Hay-Alfalfa: 0% Very Poor, 0% Poor, 67% Fair, 33% Good, 0% Excellent; Hay-Other: 0% Very Poor, 7% Poor, 59% Fair, 32% Good, 2% Excellent; Pasture and Range: 4% Very Poor, 17% Poor, 46% Fair, 31% Good, 2% Excellent; Winter wheat: 0% Very Poor, 4% Poor, 26% Fair, 51% Good, 19% Excellent. Warm and dry conditions were prevalent throughout most of the week. There were some scattered showers but not enough to keep farmers from field work. More rain is needed to help with seed germination and the crops already emerged. Windy conditions last week stalled some herbicide applications as well as decreased soil moisture on tilled land. LIVESTOCK: Livestock remained in mostly good condition. Cattlemen continued to fertilize pastures along with tending to herds. Hay crops and pastures were both in need of rain. Hay crops and pastures were in mostly fair to good condition.

CALIFORNIA: Rainfall continued to delay most fieldwork. Winter wheat, oats, barley continued to head. Some oat heads were beginning to open in Fresno County. Lodging was reported in some grain fields. Alfalfa fields were ready to be cut, but growers were still waiting for drier conditions. Many alfalfa, oat, wheat, and forage crop fields located along the San Joaquin River were damaged by flooding. Cotton, rice planting continued to be delayed by the wet conditions and cool temperatures. Corn planting was also delayed. Sugar beets in Fresno County were making good progress. Sweet potato field fumigations continued in Merced County. Despite rainfall, field work was ongoing. Fungicide and herbicide applications continued in grape and stone fruit orchards. Some stone fruits were thinned and treated for worm control and brown rot.

Grape vines continued to leaf out and were treated for Phomopsis. Cherry orchards continued to be treated for thrips between rainstorms. A light cherry crop is expected. Orchards on the east side of Fresno County were still blooming, and harvest was expected to be two weeks later than usual. Plum trees continued to leaf out. Fungicides were applied to prunes and apricots. Apple, pear and fig trees were blooming, pomegranates continued to leaf out. Nectarine and peach bloom was complete, and cherry and prune bloom were almost complete in Merced County. Grapevine nursery stock budding continued, and approximately 300 acres of Merced County wine grapes were impacted by recent floods. Portions of Tulare County stone fruit orchards experienced hail damage, and weather related injury was still being assessed. The thinning of nectarines, early apricots began, and apples were starting to leaf out. Almonds were past petal fall and trees were beginning to leaf out, form nuts. Fungicide applications were made to control shothole disease. Pistachio trees were leafing out. Walnut orchards were pruned in Tulare County, and catkins were seen in many blocks. Grounds were too wet for planting in some counties. Fungicide applications were ongoing in broccoli and lettuce fields. Harvesting continued for asparagus, spring broccoli, lettuce, and processed spinach. Transplant tomato and onions were showing good growth with some herbicide applications being applied. Planting of fresh market and processing tomatoes resumed where field conditions allowed. Harvest of cool season Asian vegetables such as cauliflower, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, napa cabbage, sugar and snow pea leaf continued. Rain continued much of the week in central and northern California with a couple of days of sunny and warmer weather. Foothill pastures were saturated in the northern area after 33 days of rain in the past 47 days. The forecast for sunny and warmer weather in the week ahead was very welcome news. Stocker cattle have yet to enter the optimal gain period due to high moisture in the grass and rainy weather. A few cattlemen have been supplementing with hay and others have been supplementing for grass tetany. Spring calving of beef cows was winding down. Muddy conditions were not favorable for milk production in the central and northern areas, particularly at dairies without free stall barns. However, those dairies with free-stall barns, which includes many larger dairies, were faring better due to mild temperatures and longer days. In central California, ewes, lambs were grazing on foothill pastures. New crop lamb movement has been delayed in some areas due to ample grass, poor market conditions. A few more producers were retaining ownership, shipped lambs to feedlots out-of-state. Most beehives have been removed from orchards in the central area. Bees were in prune orchards in the Sacramento Valley.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil 13% very short, 31% short, 55% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 17% very short, 44% short, 39% adequate, 0% surplus. Temperatures remained well above average across Colorado last week with some areas 10 to 15 degrees above normal. Moisture was scarce across the State with most areas receiving little, if any, measurable precipitation. Spring wheat 25% seeded, 44% 2005, 32% avg; 12% emerged, 17% 2005, 11% avg. Spring barley 37% seeded, 51% 2005, 45% avg; 15% emerged, 25% 2006, 16% avg.; condition 5% poor, 54% fair, 41% good. Dry onions 60% planted, 76% 2005, 66% avg. Winter wheat 34% jointed, 27% 2005, 18% avg.; condition 6% very poor, 16% poor, 33% fair, 36% good, 9% excellent. Summer potato 24% planted, 19% 2005, 27% avg. Sugarbeets 38% planted, 47% 2005, 41% avg. Cows calved 73% 2006, 79% 2005, 76% avg. Ewes lambed 75% 2006, 75% 2005, 73% avg.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 37% very short, 40% short, 23% adequate. Subsoil 30% very short, 30% short, 40%

adequate. Corn 8% planted, 6% 2005, 6% avg. Barley condition 13% very poor, 10% poor, 32% fair, 35% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat condition 12% very poor, 9% poor, 28% fair, 41% good, 10% excellent. Pasture condition 15% very poor, 8% poor, 33% fair, 37% good, 7% excellent. Strawberries bloomed 33%, 5% 2005, 11% avg. Apples 33% bloomed, 6% 2005, 21% avg. Peaches 57% bloomed, 73% 2005, 51% avg. Sweet corn 8% planted, 16% 2005, 9% avg. Green peas 76% planted, 36% 2005, 50% avg. Potatoes 77 planted%, 23% 2005, 32% avg. Hay supplies 17% very short, 32% short, 51% adequate. Continued dry weather is causing concern for the growers.

FLORIDA: Topsoil 50% very short, 20% short, 30% adequate. Subsoil 45% very short, 45% short, 10% adequate. Rainfall range: none most localities; Homestead 2.00 in.; West Palm Beach, about 1.25 in.; Ft. Lauderdale, around 0.75 in.; Tampa, around 0.33 in.; Orlando, about 0.25 in. Temperature average: major cities, within 1 or 2 deg. of normal. Daytime highs: 70s, 80s; Orlando, Tallahassee at least one high in 90s. Nighttime lows: 50s, 60s; several localities at least one low in 40s. Dry weather persisted over most of State. Significant rains only on extreme southern tip of Peninsula at beginning of week; mostly traces on a few central, southeastern coastal localities. Wildfire potential high; Division of Forestry fought significant fire near Panama City during week. Dry, hard soils prevent peanut, cotton land preparation, planting. Washington County: some growers returned corn seed due to dry soils; considering planting other rotation crops. Topsoil, subsoil moisture mostly very short to short, statewide. Adequate soil moisture, a few Panhandle, central, southern Peninsula counties. Dade County, a few spots of surplus moisture; early week rainfall caused standing water in a few fields. Surplus moisture, less than half percent, statewide. Vegetable harvesting slowed slightly; producers observed spring holiday weekend. Tomato transplanting wound down, Quincy area; growers virtually finished. Watermelon picking, southern areas, gained momentum as more acreage reached maturity. Dry weather lowering disease incidence, vegetables, especially northern Peninsula, Panhandle. Other vegetables, non citrus fruits: snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes. Temperatures citrus areas, moderately cool at night; mid to high 80s days. No significant rainfall. Below average rainfall past several weeks spawned dry conditions, causing growers to irrigate on a regular basis. Final applications of pesticides, limited hedging, discing, chopping, mowing cover crops. Bloom has ended, with trees forming fruit for next seasons' crop. Valencia harvest in full swing, maturity levels still lagging. Majority of remaining Grapefruit going to processing. Honey tangerine utilization running about 150,000 boxes a week, primarily for fresh market; Temple harvest is winding down for season. Panhandle: late season grazing of winter forages, clovers severely reduced by drought. Permanent pasture grass not growing either, supplemental hay being fed. North: burn restrictions in place due to dry conditions. Cattle, pasture mostly poor. Central: pasture, cattle mostly fair. Southwest: pasture very poor to fair, mostly poor due to drought. Statewide: cattle very poor to good, mostly fair. Pasture Feed: 10% very poor, 55% poor, 34% fair, 1% good. Cattle Condition: 15% poor, 70% fair, 15% good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 6.5. Soil 12% very short, 42% short, 45% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 3% poor, 46% fair, 48% good, 3% excellent; 65% emerged, 46% 2005, 61% avg. Sorghum 75% fair, 23% good, 2% excellent; 3% planted, 10% 2005, 6% avg. Wheat 93% jointing, 92% 2005, 95% avg; 77% boot, 71% 2005, 80% avg. Pasture 6% very poor, 17% poor, 41% fair, 34% good, 2% excellent. Apples 8% poor, 24% fair, 48% good, 20% excellent; 47% blooming, 48% 2005, 59% avg. Hay 4% very poor, 19% poor, 43% fair, 32% good, 2% excellent. Onions 3% poor, 10% fair, 45% good, 42% excellent; 10% harvested, 0% 2005, 4% avg. Peaches 1% poor, 48% fair, 51% good; 98% blooming, 90% 2005, 97% avg. Tobacco 2% poor, 39% fair, 59% good; 53% transplanted, 23% 2005, 55% avg. Watermelons 1% very poor, 4% poor, 36% fair, 55% good, 4% excellent; 67% planted, 55% 2005, 68% avg. Dry conditions prevailed over the State during the past week. Temperatures during the first part of the week were near normal, while temperatures toward the end of the week and weekend were well above normal. Soil moisture conditions 12% very short, 42% short, 45% adequate, 1% surplus. Lack of rain continued to be a concern for growers. Growers were very active in setting out tobacco, treating tobacco transplants in the greenhouse. Small grains were in good condition, while some growers were spraying wheat with fungicides. Corn planting was active. Onion harvesting was in full swing. Corn that has come up was reported in good condition. Feeding of hay was active. Some early soybeans were being

planted. The vegetable crop was in good condition. Activities Included: Preparing land for planting peanuts, cotton and soybeans. Pasture weed control, routine care of poultry and livestock.

HAWAII: Pleasant weather conditions prevailed during the week ending April 16, 2006. Sunny to partly cloudy skies with breezy trade winds persisted throughout the State. Scattered light to moderate showers during evenings, early mornings fell mainly over windward, mountain sections of the State. Drier but stronger than normal trade winds was established towards the weekend. Plenty of sunshine during the week improved crop growth, development. Increased irrigation was needed for some drier fields.

IDAHO: Days Suitable for fieldwork 2.3. Topsoil 1% short, 37% adequate, 62% surplus. Oats 20% planted, 41% 2005, 33% average. Onions 42% planted, 100% 2005, 93% average. Potatoes 4% planted, 3% 2005, 6% average. Dry peas 11% planted, 58% 2005, 32% average. Hay, roughage supply 14% very short, 13% short, 72% adequate, 1% surplus. Lambing 94%, 94% 2005, 94% average. Calving 96%, 94% 2005, 94% average. Irrigation water supply 2% fair, 29% good, 69% excellent. Over half a foot of snow, high winds were reported in southeastern and lower panhandle sites in Idaho.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Topsoil 7% very short, 11% short, 69% adequate, 13% surplus. Oats 71% planted, 88% 2005, 73% 5-year average. Alfalfa condition 1% poor, 16% fair, 65% good, 18% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 61% good, 13% excellent. Warm temperatures returned to the state last week, as all areas of the state averaged 11 to 14 degrees above normal. The warmer weather, the below normal precipitation for the week allowed farmers to begin catching up on any needed fieldwork after being cold, damp the previous week. Some farmers had just started to plant corn. Alfalfa and pastures looked better due to the warmer temperatures and recent rainfall.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil 0% very short, 3% short, 60% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 71% adequate, 21% surplus. A considerable amount of field work was accomplished early in the week with some operations beginning to plant corn. Corn 3% planted, 11% 2005, 6% avg. Field work has been halted in many areas by rain late in the week, weekend. Seeding of oats continues. Winter wheat 31% jointed, 37% 2005, 38% avg.; 78% good to excellent compared with 70% last year at this time. Hay supplies 1% very short, 7% short, 80% adequate, 12% surplus. Pastures 1% very poor, 5% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 9% excellent. Temperatures ranged from 8° to 13° above normal with the high of 88°. Precipitation averaged from 0 to 2.66 inches. Some central areas of the state received strong wind, large hail. Livestock remain in mostly good condition. Activities Included: Soil preparation, applying fertilizer, preparing planting equipment, hauling grain to market, hauling, applying manure, spraying, cleaning ditches, and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Topsoil 4% very short, 11% short, 70% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil 9% very short, 24% short, 56% adequate, 11% surplus. Weather good for Plants and Animals. Spring tillage, anhydrous application continued to progress last week. Most oat, CRP seeding reports were in Northern Iowa, corn planters were beginning to roll in the central, southern tiers of counties. There were reports of soggy spots in fields requiring farmers to work around the low areas. Some producers report having much of their corn planted while other producers are holding back to avoid compacting the soil. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate and slightly wetter than last year. Oats seedings 55% complete with only 5% emerged, well behind last year's progress of 85% seeded, 28% emerged. The five-year average is 12 percent emerged. Corn planting was beginning around the state with 3% planted compared to 5% last year, for the five-year average. Primary seeded preparations were 46 percent complete compared to 64% last year, 55% for the five-year average. Fertilizer applications, at 70%, remain 11 percentage points behind last year but 3 percentage points ahead of the five-year average. Pasture, range condition is normal for this time of year rating 8% very poor, 9% poor, 35% fair, 40% good, 8% excellent. Pastures are greening up and becoming firmer. Weather has been good for spring calves and sheep. Only a few complaints about the unseasonably high temperatures as stress factors were received.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Topsoil 9% very short, 42% short, 49% adequate. Subsoil 21% very short, 44% short, 35% adequate. Spraying of wheat, corn planting were the major activities. Corn 23% planted, 20% 2005, 19% avg. Oats 87% planted, 78% 2005, 86% avg. Wheat 74% jointing, 67% 2005, 47% avg.; 6% headed, condition 7% very poor, 16% poor, 39% fair, 34% good, 4% excellent; wind damage was 78% none, 14% light, 6% moderate, 2% severe, freeze damage was 89% none, 9% light, 2% moderate, insect infestation 69% none, 21% light, 9% moderate, 1% severe. Wheat disease infestation 83% none, 16% light, 1% moderate. Pasture feed 11% very poor, 18% poor, 42% fair, 28% good, 1% excellent. Producers are waiting for pastures to green up before moving cattle to them. Hay, forage supplies 4% very short, 18% short, 76% adequate, 2% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 91% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 11% very short, 26% short, 63% adequate.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Topsoil 1% very short, 14% short, 74% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 17% short, 71% adequate, 9% surplus. For the week temperatures averaged 66°, which was 10° above normal. Precipitation statewide was 0.16 in., 0.82 in. below normal. Corn 29% planted, 18% 2005, 30% avg. Tobacco 86% seeded, 83% 2005, 88% avg.; 68% emerged, 62% 2005, 62% avg. Average height of alfalfa hay 9 inches. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 14% fair, 61% good, 23% excellent. Barley condition 14% fair, 49% good, 37% excellent. Tobacco transplants condition 2% poor, 19% fair, 63% good, 16% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 32% fair, 51% good, 9% excellent.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Soil 28% very short, 45% short, 27% adequate, 0% surplus. Spring plowing 83% plowed, 73% last week, 72% 2005, 73% avg. Corn 0% very poor, 3% poor, 35% fair, 62% good, 0% excellent; 96% planted, 92% last week, 97% in 2005, 93% avg; 86% emerged, 60% last week, 63% in 2005, 72% avg. Soybeans 8% planted, 0% last week, 6% in 2005, 4% avg. Sorghum 28% emerged, 0% last week, 9% in 2005, 4% avg. Wheat 0% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 70% good, 6% excellent; 90% headed, 81% last week, 60% in 2005, 67% avg. Hay 1st cutting 9%, 4% last week, 2% in 2005, 3% avg. Sugarcane 14% very poor, 27% poor, 48% fair, 11% good, 0% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 17% poor, 37% fair, 43% good, 1% excellent. Vegetable 7% very poor, 18% poor, 35% fair, 40% good, 0% excellent. Range, pasture 11% very poor, 21% poor, 34% fair, 33% good, 1% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 28% very short, 39% short, 33% adequate. Subsoil 10% very short, 48% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 10% planted, 7% 2005, 6% avg. Barley condition 1% very poor, 9% poor, 19% fair, 64% good, 7% excellent; 8% headed, 0% 2005, 3% avg. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 12% poor, 17% fair, 66% good, 2% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 14% poor, 40% fair, 40% good, 5% excellent. Strawberries 22% bloomed, 23% 2005, 28% avg. Peaches 48% bloomed, 14% 2005, 33% avg. Watermelons 28% planted, 6% 2005, 4% avg. Cucumbers 26% planted, 1% 2005, 3% avg. Sweet corn 19% planted, 8% 2005, 11% avg. Green peas 36% planted, 41% 2005, 52% avg. Potatoes 41% planted, 45% 2005, 38% avg. Tomatoes 33% planted, 19% 2005, 14% avg. Cantaloups 15% planted, 5% 2005, 5% avg. Hay supplies 9% very short, 17% short, 72% adequate, 2% surplus.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Subsoil 1% very short, 6% short, 75% adequate, 18% surplus. Potatoes 8% planted, 9% 2005. Barley 17% planted, 21% 2005, 11% avg. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.11 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 0.70 inches in the southeast Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 8 degrees above normal in the east central Lower Peninsula to 12 degrees above normal in the western Upper Peninsula, west central Lower Peninsula. Rains throughout the week slowed fieldwork, planting progress. Operators were planting sugarbeets, oats, barley, vegetables, potatoes. There were reports from the northwest Lower Peninsula that the apples were at green tip stage, cherries were at side green stage. In the southwest, fruit buds were swelling quickly. Apricots, plums were blooming. There were some reports of winter damage to the peach trees, but not enough to prevent a full crop. Asparagus started to emerge, but plants were still a few weeks away from harvest. Activities: Pruning, hauling manure, fieldwork, planting, lambing and calving.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.0. Topsoil 0% very short, 3% short, 64% adequate, 33% surplus. Subsoil 0% very short, 3% short, 67% adequate, 30% surplus. Corn 3% land prepared, 3% 2005, 6% avg. Soybeans 0% land prepared, 1% 2005, 2% avg. Approximate date full-scale fieldwork expected to begin is April 20, 2006. Warm dry weather has allowed producers to begin fieldwork in some areas of the state, according to UDSA-NASS Minnesota Field Office. Small grain plantings were under way in areas with light sandy soils, while heavy soils and low spots are still muddy or filled with standing water. Fertilizers, manure were being applied in drier areas of the state. Producers in the Red River Valley, the major wheat area of the state, have yet to begin planting due to flooding. In the far northern counties, producers were still waiting for ground frost to dissipate.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.5. Soil 17% very short, 45% short, 34% adequate, 4% surplus. Corn 92% planted, 61% 2005, 77% avg.; 72% emerged, 47% 2005, 57% avg.; 33% fair, 58% good, 9% excellent. Cotton 11% planted, NA 2005, 3% avg. Rice 44% planted, 10% 2005, 18% avg.; 7% emerged, 3% 2005, 6% avg. Sorghum 29% planted, 8% 2005, 17% avg.; 6% emerged, NA 2005, 7% avg. Soybeans 61% planted, 14% 2005 23% avg.; 34% emerged, 7% 2005, 12% avg.; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 23% fair, 61% good, 15% excellent. Wheat 98% jointing, 95% 2005, 90% avg.; 61% heading, 34% 2005, 34% avg.; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 38% fair, 40% good, 21% excellent. Hay 5% (Harvested Cool) 4% 2005, 11% avg. Watermelons 48% planted, 56% 2005, 58% avg. Blueberries 7% fair, 66% good, 27% excellent. Cattle 2% very poor, 15% poor, 38% fair, 32% good, 13% excellent. Pasture 3% very poor, 21% poor, 39% fair, 33% good, 4% excellent. Dry conditions during the week allowed fieldwork and planting activities to rapidly continue, but are causing concern for farmers across the state. Emergence rates are good thus far, but additional rain will be crucial to further development. Hay supplies are dwindling and grass growth is beginning to feel the pressure from the lack of rain.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Topsoil 14% very short, 41% short, 44% adequate, 1% surplus. Farmers made considerable progress with tillage, planting during the continued dry weather of the past week. Rain is needed soon for normal germination, growth of new crops. Farmers in the southwest have had to control a large aphid population in wheat by spraying, while dry weather and mosaic rust are also hindering prospects for the crop in that area. Pasture condition 11% very poor, 23% poor, 45% fair, 19% good, 2% excellent. Pastures in the southwest district are rated distinctly poorer than other areas, with 90 percent poor or very poor. Rainfall averaged 0.14 inch, with the a majority of counties in the northern half of the State receiving little or no rain. The largest amounts of precipitation were recorded in the northwest district, which averaged 0.46 inch.

MONTANA: Days suitable for field work 4.0. Topsoil 13% surplus, 2% 2005, 69% adequate, 53% 2005, 14% short, 33% 2005, 4% very short, 12% last year. Subsoil moisture 5% surplus, 1% 2005, 58% adequate, 22% 2005, 27% short, 39% 2006, 10% very short, 38% last year. Montana experienced light to moderate precipitation for the week ending April 16th, 2006. Culbertson was the hot spot last week at 82 degrees. Wisdom experienced the low temperature for the state, at 18 degrees. Cooke City received the most moisture last week with 1.05 inches. Winter wheat condition is 1% very poor, 2% 2005, 5% poor, 7% 2005, 34% fair, 32% 2005, 46% good, 45% 2005, 14% excellent, 14% 2005. Spring stages are 2% still dormant, 2% 2005, 18% greening, 17% 2005, 80% green and growing, 81% 2005, 9% planted, 15% last year. Durum wheat 2% planted, 6% last year. Barley 12% planted, 22% last year. Oats 7% planted, 12% last year. Ranchers are providing supplemental feed to 77% of cattle, calves, 83% 2005, 80% of sheep, lambs, 80% last year. Livestock grazing is 84% open, 83% 2005, 6% difficult, 7% 2005, 10% closed, 10% last year. Calving is 84% complete, 80% 2005, lambing 61% complete, 66% last year. Range, pasture feed conditions 8% excellent, 2% 2005, 37% good, 12% 2005, 42% fair, 33% 2005, 10% poor, 34% 2005, 3% very poor, 19% last year. Field tillage work in progress is 61% not started, 40% 2005, 25% just started, 27% 2005, 14% well underway, 33% last year.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Topsoil 4% very short, 19% short, 74% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 14% very short, 34% short, 51% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperatures averaged thirteen degrees above normal. Precipitation was limited to the northeast with a

few showers in the east central part of the state. Wheat jointed 13%, 19% 2004, 9% avg. Oats 73% planted, 85% 2004, 62% avg.; 14% emerged, 33% 2004, 19% avg. Sugar beets 21% planted, 21% 2004. Alfalfa conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 28% fair, 55% good, 15% excellent. Pasture, range conditions 1 % very poor, 6% poor, 33% fair, 54% good, 6% excellent. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 12% fair, 71% good, 15% excellent; calving 89% complete; calf losses average to below average. Other producer activities included spring fieldwork.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: Early in the week, warm temperatures, sun prevailed throughout the region. On Thursday and into Friday, rain showers arrived in southern New England, northern regions received rain over the weekend. The recent warm temperatures, sun allowed some farmers to work the fields in southern New England. Activities Included: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, performing general maintenance, and continuing to make preparations for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 6.0. Topsoil 5% very short, 70% short, 25% adequate. Temperatures were near or above normal across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: Planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, equipment repair, feeding stored hay to livestock. Harvest of spinach began in the central and south. Condition of small grains, hay crops were poor to good. Peach and apple trees are in bloom in some southern localities.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for field work 6.9. Topsoil 74% very short, 20% short, 6% adequate. It was a warm week in New Mexico as storm systems mainly passed to the north of the state, producing only windy conditions, spotty showers. Temperatures for the week averaged about 9° above normal. A few afternoon readings hit 90° in the east and south, Carlsbad topped out at 95 on the 14th. Red River was once again the "precipitation winner," with .49 inches for the week. All other totals reported were less than one quarter inch. Wind damage was 32% light, 7% moderate. More grass fires were reported with Guadalupe county losing approximately 6,000 acres. Farmers spent the week irrigating, fertilizing, cultivating. Alfalfa 14% poor, 29% fair, 29% good, 28% excellent. The 1st alfalfa cutting was 13% complete. Winter wheat conditions 55% very poor, 12% poor, 28% fair, 5% good. Wheat pastures used for grazing increased to 17%. Cotton 12% planted. Corn 2% planted. Lettuce, onions, chile were all in fair to excellent condition. Most of our chile has been planted, with 93% complete. Ranchers continue to feed livestock, fight loco weed. Cattle 2% very poor, 28% poor, 38% fair, 31% good, 1% excellent. Sheep 15% very poor, 25% poor, 47% fair, 13% good. Range conditions 30% very poor, 33% poor, 25% fair, and 12% good.

NEW YORK: Spring fieldwork gained momentum as warm, dry weather permitted easy access to fields. Temperatures averaged up to 10° above normal, rainfall averaged below normal across the state. Growing degree accumulations since April 1 are above normal in all locations. Maple syrup making continued in full swing. Warm days, cold nights resulted in good sap flows. Orange County onion planting advanced at a rapid pace. Planting was underway in the northern growing regions. Moisture would benefit recently planted fields. Grape buds were swelling on Long Island. Activities Included: Tending livestock, manure spreading, spring pruning in orchards, mending damaged fencing, machinery repair and maintenance.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 6.3. Soil 29% very short, 43% short, 27% adequate, 1% surplus. Dry conditions persist due to the lack of rainfall across the State. Farmers are growing more concerned as the soil moisture levels continue to decline. Activities Included: Planting cabbage, sorghum, and corn.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil 3% very short, 14% short, 72% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 15% short, 69% adequate, 13% surplus. Planting of small grains, dry edible peas, canola began across the state. Warm, dry conditions allowed producers to begin seeding, which

was behind last year, average. Starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 17, 3 days later than last year. Durum wheat 2% planted, 5% 2005, 3% average. Canola 1% planted, 4% 2005, 2% average. Dry edible peas 2% planted, 4% 2005, average not available. Hay, forage supplies 0% very short, 3% short, 87% adequate, 10% surplus. Grain, concentrate supplies 0% very short, 1% short, 90% adequate, 9% surplus. Calving 74% complete. Lambing 85% complete. Shearing 94% complete. Pasture and ranges were 53% still dormant, 47% growing.

OHIO: Days suitable for field work 4.4. Topsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 78% adequate, 14% surplus. Winter wheat 23% jointed, 19% 2005, 18% avg. Corn 2% planted, 8% 2005, 3% avg. Oats 44% planted, 43% 2005, 31% avg.; 5% emerged, 3% 2005, 7% avg. Potatoes 8% planted, 22% 2005, 11% avg. Apples in green tip, beyond 59%, 57% 2005, 59% avg.; 6% in full bloom, 3% 2005, 5% avg. Peaches in green tip, beyond 56%, 58% 2005, 56% avg. Peaches 17% in full bloom, 10% 2005, 15% avg. Apple condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 12% fair, 65% good, 20% excellent. Hay condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 33% fair, 51% good, 14% excellent. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 64% good, 17% excellent. Pasture condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 51% good, 13% excellent. Peach condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 64% good, 21% excellent. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 64% good, 17% excellent. Rainfall during the past week was behind normal in five of the 10 climate regions, but the State overall was still slightly above normal. Temperature wise the State was about 10° above normal for the week and about 12° warmer than the previous week. The warmer temperatures, lighter rainfall allowed producers to continue spring field activities. Most producers took advantage of weather conditions, got into the fields to continue top-dressing wheat, apply herbicides, spreading manure, repair, install drainage tile, clean up storm debris, haul grain, prepare equipment for planting. Producers were also able to apply anhydrous ammonia, plant some corn, soybeans in some localities, over seed hay, pasture land. The State's vegetable growers have begun greenhouse planting of tomatoes, vegetables, and melons.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil 44% very short, 42% short, 14% adequate. Subsoil 55% very short, 35% short, 10% adequate. Wheat jointing 92% this week, 79% last week, 92% last year, 83% average. Rye 25% very poor, 32% poor, 40% fair, 3% good; jointing 48% this week, 40% last week, 94% last year, 38% average. Oats 54% very poor, 24% poor, 19% fair, 3% good; planted 92% this week, 85% last week, 100% last year, 97% avg.; jointing 32% this week, 23% last week, 40% last year, 43% average. Corn seedbed prepared 84% this week, 73% last week, 85% last year, 80% avg.; 36% planted this week, 32% last week, 36% last year, 34% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 48% this week, 32% last week, 39% last year, 38% average. Soybeans seedbed prepared 59% this week, 40% last week, 46% last year, 48% avg.; 10% planted this week, 4% last week, 7% average. Peanuts 43% seedbed prepared this week, 33% last week, 58% last year, 59% average; planted 2% this week, 1% average. Cotton 66% seedbed prepared this week, 54% last week, 66% last year, 72% avg.; 3% planted this week, 1% average. Alfalfa 8% very poor, 27% poor, 44% fair, 21% good. Livestock 8% very poor, 42% poor, 38% fair, 12% good; Pasture, range 23% very poor, 30% poor, 38% fair, 9% good. Livestock: Livestock conditions remained mostly poor-to-fair. Marketings were mostly average. Livestock insect activities were none to light as some districts continued to report lice, ticks, flies. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$113.49 per cwt. Prices for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$101.08 per cwt.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Topsoil 2% short, 51% adequate, 47% surplus. Subsoil 5% short, 62% adequate, 33% surplus. Barley 52% planted, 81% 2005, 74% avg.; 28% emerged, 52% 2005, 43% avg. Spring wheat 59% planted, 85% 2005, 85% avg.; 28% emerged, 50% 2005, 53% avg. Winter wheat 35% fair, 62% good, 3% excellent. Range, pasture 1% very poor, 16% poor, 30% fair, 43% good, 10% excellent. Wet cool conditions continued across the State. All weather stations reported at least some precipitation last week. Detroit Lake, Florence, Crescent City, Astoria, Tillamook all reported over two inches of precipitation whereas Baker City, Redmond reported only receiving four one-hundredths of an inch. Some precipitation was reported in the form of unusually late snow. High temperatures ranged from 72 in Ontario to only 57 in Lakeview. Low temperatures ranged from 24 in Worden to 43 in B&O. Some areas reported field work activities, but most were very limited. Nearly all spring preparation activities were behind normal. This included spraying, fertilizing in addition to tillage, planting. The window for

planting some crops will quickly disappear if drier conditions do not start to arrive in the near future. Crops that were planted, along with the hay crops, showed some growth, but again warmer temperatures are needed for things to really get going well. The weather continued to delay field activities for vegetable growers. Many areas reported Farmers markets open, producers of greenhouse-grown vegetables were providing shallots, carrots, onions, various lettuce crops. Most Willamette Valley tree fruits continued in various stages of bloom. Orchard crops in Benton County just finished flowering, as did Lane County prunes/plums, peaches. Apricots were a near freeze out. Recent rains have produced marginal bee activity, which may cause problems for pollination, fruit set. There were quick & intermittent hail storms on Sunday, April 16th which may cause additional problems. Berries began to leaf out, were showing good color. Hazelnut growers continued to spray for Eastern Filbert Blight. Cool, unsettled conditions continued in Hood River County, slowing bloom development. In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pears were near full bloom (WSU stages 7); Red Delicious apples were at tight cluster to first pink (WSU stage 4 & 5); Bing cherries were at first white to first bloom (WSU stage 6 & 7); Pinot Noir grapes were at budswell to wool stage (Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2 & 3). Wasco County trees were in full bloom. Planting of new trees was active all week as growers are rotating in newer cherry varieties. Plums, pears, apples, peaches, continued in bloom in southern Oregon. Growers sprayed for moths, scab, mites in-between rainstorms. Nurseries were still very busy shipping plant material to the east coast. Operations were digging, balling smaller plants, shrubs, moving container plants. Greenhouses were very busy with flower, vegetable starts, shipping early plant material to retail outlets. Local plant sales were underway, drew large crowds to purchase plants. Annual tulip festival was underway with the tulip blooms around 3 weeks behind schedule with the wet weather. Pasture, rangeland growth began to pick up in some areas, but warmer temperatures were needed throughout the State. Adequate moisture existed, in most areas, but rangeland, many pastures are well behind normal growth for this time of year. There were some good reports of ponds, which were dry last year, nearly full this spring. Once warmer dry weather starts, pasture grasses should really take off. Producers were turning livestock out where conditions allowed. Supplemental feeding continued across the State. Livestock were reported in good condition, but some cattle producers attributed losing calves to the wet cool condition.s

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Soil 15% very short, 29% short, 55% adequate, 1% surplus. Spring plowing 63% complete, 43% 2005, 31% avg. Winter crop conditions 3% poor, 27% fair, 62% good, 8% excellent. Oats 52% planted, 45% 2005, 26% avg. Oats 14% emerged, 8% 2005, 6% avg.; condition 15% fair, 76% good, 9% excellent. Pasture conditions 18% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair, 34% good, 5% excellent. Activities Included: Plowing, hauling, spreading manure, lime, repairing fences, farm equipment, planting corn, sorghum, oats, and potatoes.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 6.3. Soil 21% very short, 52% short, 27% adequate. Dry conditions persisted for most of the week across South Carolina. The State received little to no rain during the week, allowing farmers to get in the field, but adding stress to crop growth. Barley 28% headed, 27% 2005, 30% avg.; 1% turned color, 1% 2005, 1% avg.; 10% poor, 47% fair, 43% good. Corn 78% planted, 66% 2005, 70% avg.; 45% emerged, 44% 2005, 44% avg.; 3% poor, 60% fair, 37% good. Soybeans 1% planted, 3% 2005, 3% avg. Oats 40% headed, 36% 2005, 46% avg.; 2% turned color, 3% 2005, 3% avg.; 9% poor, 48% fair, 42% good, 1% excellent. Rye 50% headed, 52% 2005, 55% avg.; 2% turned color, 3% 2005, 4% avg.; 4% poor, 48% fair, 47% good, 1% excellent. Sorghum 12% planted, 16% 2005, 14% avg. Cotton 4% planted, 3% 2005, 4% avg. Winter wheat 35% headed, 32% 2005, 41% avg.; 8% poor, 47% fair, 43% good, 2% excellent. Tobacco 40% transplanted, 36% 2005, 38% avg.; 7% poor, 67% fair, 26% good. Grain hay 10% harvested, 9% 2005, 11% avg. Peaches 1% very poor, 9% poor, 59% fair, 26% good, 5% excellent. Apples 40% fair, 60% good. Snap beans 55% planted, 51% 2005, 55% avg.; 50% fair, 50% good. Cucumbers 50% planted, 63% 2005, 74% avg.; 50% fair, 50% good. Watermelons 65% planted, 59% 2005, 68% avg.; 50% fair, 50% good. Tomatoes 77% planted, 66% 2005, 79% avg.; 20% fair, 55% good, 25% excellent. Cantaloupes 58% planted, 50% 2005, 59% avg.; 50% fair, 50% good. Livestock 2% poor, 35% fair, 58% good, 5% excellent. Pastures 1% very poor, 20% poor, 52% fair, 26% good, 1% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil 4% very short, 9% short, 76% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 10% very short, 17% short, 66% adequate, 7% surplus. Feed supplies 1% very short, 4% short, 90% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies 14% very short, 13% short, 68% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat breaking dormancy 94%, 99% 2005, 82% avg. Barley 14% seeded, 35% 2005, 24% avg. Oats 32% seeded, 55% 2005, 33% avg. Spring wheat 35% seeded, 65% 2005, 40% avg. Cattle condition 7% fair, 75% good, 18% excellent. Sheep condition 1% poor, 9% fair, 70% good, 20% excellent. Range, pasture 1% very poor, 12% poor, 34% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. Calving 72% are complete. Lambing 73% are complete. Cattle moved to pasture 13% complete. Calf deaths 22% below avg.; 73% avg.; 5% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths 23% below avg.; 76% avg.; 1% above average. Last week's mild weather, with temperatures well above normal, provided excellent drying conditions for several areas of the state, helping fields to dry to an appropriate level for fieldwork to continue. Progress was made in fertilizing, small grain seeding, as well as preparation for row crop planting. Activities Included: Routine chores, caring for livestock, cleaning cattle lots, fencing, calving and lambing.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 3% very short, 22% short, 71% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 23% short, 71% adequate, 3% surplus. Wheat 93% jointed, 81% 2005, 81% avg.; 5% headed, 4% 2005, 5% avg.; top dressed 97%, 94% 2005, 98% avg.; 1% very poor, 5% poor, 19% fair, 57% good, 18% excellent. Apples 94% budding and beyond, 84% 2005, 87% avg.; 70% blooming and beyond, 54% 2005, 62% avg.; 10% poor, 23% fair, 61% good, 6% excellent. Peaches 95% budding and beyond, 94% 2005, 97% avg.; 93% blooming and beyond, 80% 2005, 83% avg.; 4% very poor, 4% poor, 15% fair, 57% good, 20% excellent. Pastures 2% very poor, 10% poor, 38% fair, 43% good, 7% excellent. As of Sunday, virtually all of the State's winter wheat had been topped dressed with only a few acres left to be completed. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair-to-good with some reporters citing excellent growth, but others reporting the need for rainfall. Activities Included: Applying herbicides to corn, fertilizing hay, pastures, greenhouse tobacco. Temperatures across the State last week averaged about 10° above normal with average highs ranging from the upper 70s to low 80s and average lows generally in the 50s. Rainfall averaged well below normal across the entire State.

TEXAS: Agricultural Summary: Most of the State was dry, virtually all areas needed rain. The Trans-Pecos, Low Plains had the most widespread precipitation, but they generally totaled less than 0.10 inches, with isolated areas receiving up to 0.50 inches. Growers in the Plains, where dry, windy conditions contributed to isolated wildfires, continued preparing land for planting. Summer grasses continued to green-up across the State, but their growth further depleted soil moisture. Ranchers in most areas continued supplemental feeding of cattle, especially in South Texas, thinned herds. Small Grains: Much of the wheat in the Plains, Cross Timbers has been grazed, cut for hay or silage, or turned in for insurance. Disease problems were reported in some irrigated wheat in the Northern High Plains. Wheat condition was mostly rated very poor to poor. Oats condition statewide was mostly rated very poor to poor. Cotton: Producers in the Plains continued to prepare for planting, applied herbicides. Planting continued in the Blacklands, was winding down in the Coastal Bend. Some farmers in the Blacklands planted seed deeper than normal to reach moisture, others waited to plant because of the dry soil. Corn: Growers continued planting in the High Plains. Farmers sprayed fields in the Blacklands for weeds; corn in this area stood at about 6 to 10 inches in height, was reported to be in good condition with mostly good stands. Nearly all corn had been planted in areas of South Central Texas, but seed had germinated only in irrigated fields, where there was recent precipitation. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to good. Sorghum: Growers continued to prepare fields for planting in the High Plains. Planting was underway in the Low Plains, where farmers hoped for rain to get the crop up. In the Blacklands, sorghum conditions ranged from good stands to slow growth. Producers continued to plant in South Central Texas, the Coastal Bend despite the dry conditions. Wilt was reported in the Coastal Bend, indicative of depleted soil moisture. The condition was mostly rated good to fair statewide. Rice: Producers continued planting, flooding fields in the Upper Coast. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide. Soybeans: Planting continued in the Blacklands, North East, Upper Coast. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated good to fair. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans In the Rio Grande Valley, growers harvested spring onions, sugarcane, vegetables, citrus under hot, dry conditions. Spinach harvest neared completion. In the San

Antonio-Winter Garden, producers harvested carrots, cabbages and irrigated onions and watermelons. Watermelons made good growth in North East Texas under the warm conditions. Pecans began to break bud in the Trans Pecos, Southern High Plains. Farmers applied zinc to pecan trees, irrigated orchards in the Edwards Plateau. Peach conditions were mixed in the North East, as some trees were damaged by the freeze two weeks ago. Trees were thinned somewhat by the freeze in the Trans Pecos. Livestock, Range, Pasture Report: Most areas reported continued supplemental feeding. Pastures that received rain two weeks ago dried out, hay was in short supply and expensive. Pond, lake levels in North East Texas began to drop again, low pond levels were reported in South Central Texas. The South Central region saw high fly populations that hurt cattle gains. Despite the poor conditions, cattle in most areas, except South Texas, were rated fair to good. In South Texas, ranchers fed prickly pear as an emergency feed, but even that was stressed by the drought. Producers in the South, in the Coastal Bend cut deeply into herds due to the dry conditions, scarcity of hay. Ranchers across the state worked spring calves. Producers in the Edwards Plateau were busy shipping lambs and shearing.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 5. Subsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 86% adequate, 12% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 0% very short, 1% short, 93% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 57% good, 8% excellent; freeze damage 75% none, 12% light, 11% moderate, 2% severe. Spring wheat 24% planted, 48% 2005, 67% avg.; 15% emerged, 6% 2005, 33% avg. Barley 22% planted, 40% 2005, 62% avg.; 7% emerged, 5% 2005, 28% avg. Oats 24% planted, 36% 2005, 43% avg.; 6% emerged, 3% 2005, 19% avg. Corn 0% planted, 0% 2005, 2% avg. Alfalfa height 3%, 3% 2005, 3% avg. Cows calved 84%, 85% 2005, 81% avg. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 74% good, 16% excellent. Sheep condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 8% fair, 85% good, 7% excellent. Range, pasture 0% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 64% good, 21% excellent. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 0% short, 94% adequate, 6% surplus. Sheared on farm 69%, 67% 2005, 71% avg. Sheep sheared on range 58%, 43% 2005, 55% avg. Ewes lamb on farm 86%, 85% 2005, 79% avg. Ewes lamb on range 40%, 43% 2005, 47% avg. Apples full bloom or past 16%, 49% 2005, 31% avg. Apricots full bloom or past 74%, 75% 2005, 92% avg. Sweet cherries full bloom or past 40%, 44% 2005, 59% avg. Tart cherries full bloom or past 40%, 48% 2005, 56% avg. Peaches full bloom or past 31%, 81% 2005, 70% avg. Pears full bloom or past 19%, 87% 2005, 66% avg. Farm activity continued this week with more than a few good days. Cattle producers are in the final stages of calving, sheep producers around the state are off to a good start. This week, many producers were able to get on some of their fields while still having to avoid wet areas. Box Elder reports that the apricots, peaches, sweet cherries have begun blooming in the county. Onion planting is still slow, but farmers were able to get some acreage planted this week. Corn planting should likely begin in the next couple weeks if the grounds continue to dry. Cache valley is experiencing record levels of snow fall in watersheds for this time of the year. Water logged areas still remain around the state. Livestock continues to have a positive outlook through the state. Sheep shearing operations are slowly progressing in response to the damp weather.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 32% very short, 47% short, 21% adequate. Subsoil 27% very short, 54% short, 18% adequate, 1% surplus. Dry conditions are improving after some much needed rain fell across the Commonwealth this week. Average rainfall for the week was 0.33 inches, the average temperature was 59 degrees. Hail was reported in some areas as most areas of the state received some rainfall. Small grain stands are short, starting to head. Some small grain producers are concerned that the dry conditions will adversely impact yields. Hay continues to be a concern for livestock producers. Many have already fed most of the stored hay because pastures have been slow to grow. Tobacco transplants in greenhouses are progressing well. Corn planting continues, with some corn emerging nicely. Vegetable producers are preparing raised beds to plant peppers, tomatoes, melons. It was reported that Virginia's peach crop suffered some damage from late frost. The strawberry crop is beginning to ripen, is expected to do very well. Activities Included: Preparing fields to plant cotton, full-season soybean, applying fertilizers, lime, and other field preparations.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for field work 3.50. Topsoil 72% adequate, 28% surplus. Winter wheat conditions were fair to excellent, with plenty of moisture, but the wheat could use some sunshine. Shellfish growers initiated seed planting of oysters, clams and continued

harvesting. Fruit is in good condition. However, fruit blooming, including apples, raspberries, strawberries, cherries are lagging behind due to cool weather. Some orchardists began applying frost protection, asparagus producers continued harvesting. Range, pasture conditions 2% poor, 39% fair, 57% good, 2% excellent. The decline in conditions was due to the excessive moisture, cold weather. Spring calving and lambing continued. Pastures continued to green up but were still too wet to use. Ranchers were supplemental feeding as hay stocks continued to decline.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for field work 5.0. Topsoil 1% very short, 20% short, 74% adequate, 5% surplus compared with 1% very short, 17% short, 72% adequate, 10% surplus last year. Intended acreage prepared for spring 56% planting, 47% 2005, 46% 5-yr avg. Hay, roughage supplies 1% very short, 24% short, 74% adequate, 1% surplus compared with 1% very short, 6% short, 78% adequate, 15% surplus in 2005. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 4% short, 94% adequate compared to 4% short, 95% adequate and 1% surplus this time last year. Apple conditions 8% poor, 33% fair, 50% good, 9% excellent. Peach conditions 7% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 7% excellent. Hay 1% very poor, 21% poor, 32% fair, 44% good, 2% excellent. Winter Wheat conditions 2% poor, 30% fair and 68% good; 1% headed, 2005 and 5-yr avg not available. Oats 40% planted, 39% 2005, 37% 5-yr avg.; 26% emerged, 6% 2005, 11% 5-yr avg. Corn 5% planted, 8% 2005, 6% 5-yr avg. Cattle, calves 2% poor, 23% fair, 71% good, 4% excellent. Calving 86% complete, compared to 85% last year, 87% for the 5-year average. Sheep, lambs 1% poor, 18% fair, 78% good, 3% excellent. Lambing 94% complete, compared to 85% last year, 87% for the 5-year average. Activities Included: Plowing, calving, lambing, feeding, fence rebuilding and maintenance of equipment.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Soil 1% very short, 14% short, 74% adequate, 11% surplus. Warm temperatures encouraged many producers to start fieldwork. However, rain at the end of the week stopped activity in many areas. High temperatures reached the upper 70s and mid-80s during the week. Temperatures ranged from 12 to 15^o above normal. Average low temperatures were in the 40s across the state. Rainfall totals last week ranged from 0.01 in Eau Claire to 1.74 inches in La Crosse. Green Bay is the only reporting station with below normal precipitation since March 1. Oats 14% planted, 29% below average last year's, 18% 5-yr avg. Oat seeding started in northern counties during the week. Producers in central, southern counties were able to plant where they could find dry fields. There was a report of emerged oats in the southwest corner of the state. Spring tillage 9% complete, compared to last year's 20%, 12% 5-year average. Finding dry fields continues to be a problem for many producers, as progress remains below the average pace. Farmers were able to complete some tillage on lighter soils. Alfalfa and winter wheat look good with the recent rain, warm weather. Most areas are not reporting any significant winterkill damage at this point. Alfalfa seeding continued during the week. Manure, fertilizer were being applied in many areas of the state last week. Potatoes were being planted in the central counties. Sweet corn was planted on a few areas last week. There were reports of fruit trees being pruned in the southwest part of the state. Corn planting started in few areas of southern Wisconsin. The corn planting pace is expected to increase this week.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil 6% very short, 41% short, 51% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 16% very short, 43% short, 40% adequate, 1% surplus. Temperatures during the week ending Friday, April 14th, were above normal across the State. Averages ranged from 2.8^o above normal in Afton to 10.1^o above normal in Cheyenne and Redbird. The high temperature was 85^o in Torrington, the low was 21 in Big Piney. There was little or no precipitation except in the southwest. The most precipitation was reported in Afton with 0.39 inches, Evanston with 0.24 inches, and Rock Springs with 0.15 inches. Few other areas received even a trace Stock water supplies 4% very short, 16% short, 79% adequate, 1% surplus. Barley 60% planted, 67% 2005, 62% 5-yr avg.; 22% emerged, 13% 2005, 15% 5-year average. Oats 19% planted, 32% 2005, 22% 5-year average. Spring wheat 16% planted, 20% 2005, 25% 5-year average. Sugarbeets 51% planted, 39% 2005, 27% 5-year average. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 24% fair, 74% good. Spring calves born 77%, 75% 2005, 76% 5-year average. Farm flock ewes lambing 74%, 82% 2005, 5-year average 80%. Farm flock sheep shorn 73%, 84% 2005, 80% 5-year average. Range flock ewes lambing 22%, 2005 21%, 5-year average 20%. Range flock sheep shorn 34%, 46% 2005, 46% 5-year average. Calf, lamb losses light to mostly normal.

Range, pasture conditions 3% very poor, 9% poor, 48% fair, 40% good.
Livestock condition 1% poor, 14% fair, 73% good, and 12% excellent.