

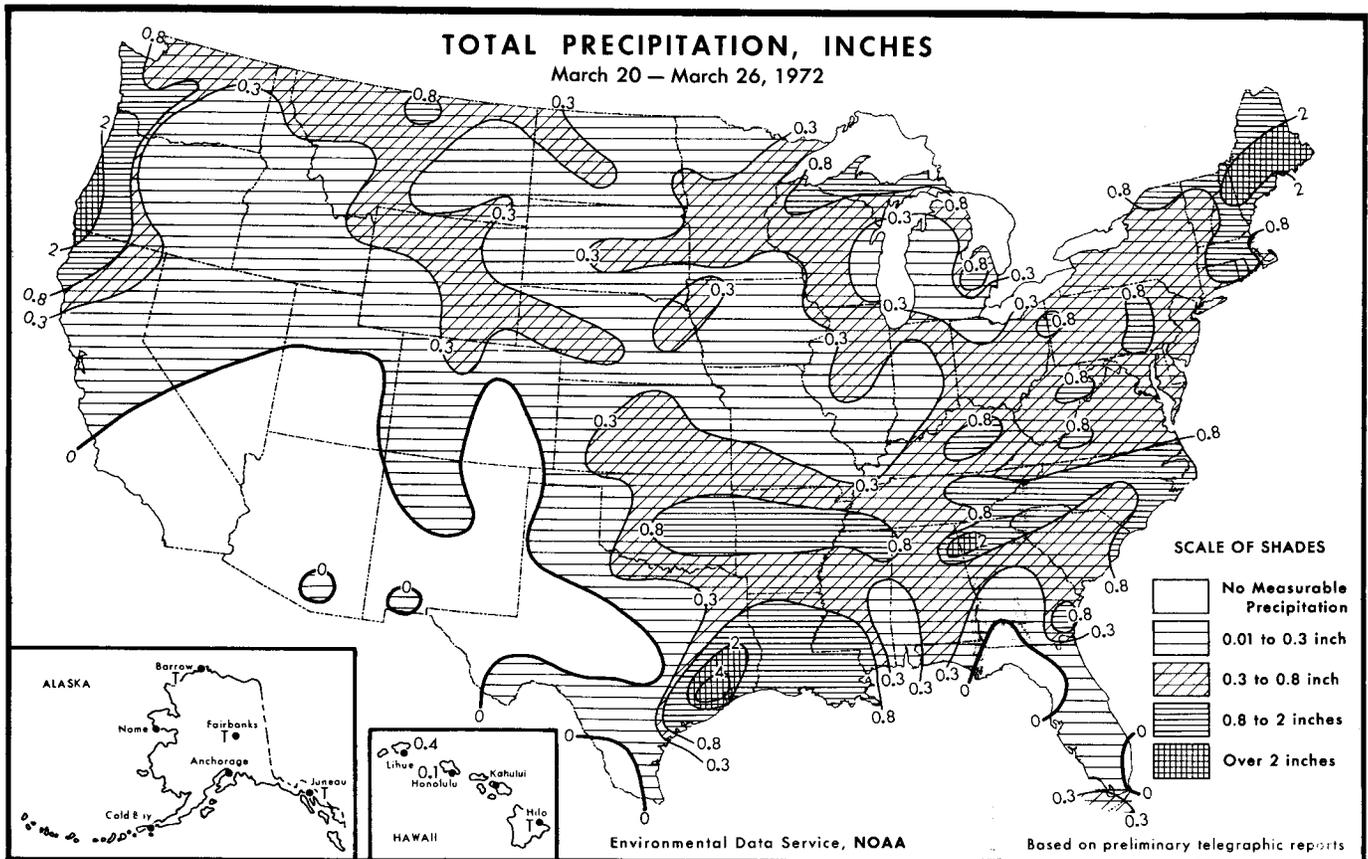
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NATIONAL WEATHER SUMMARY

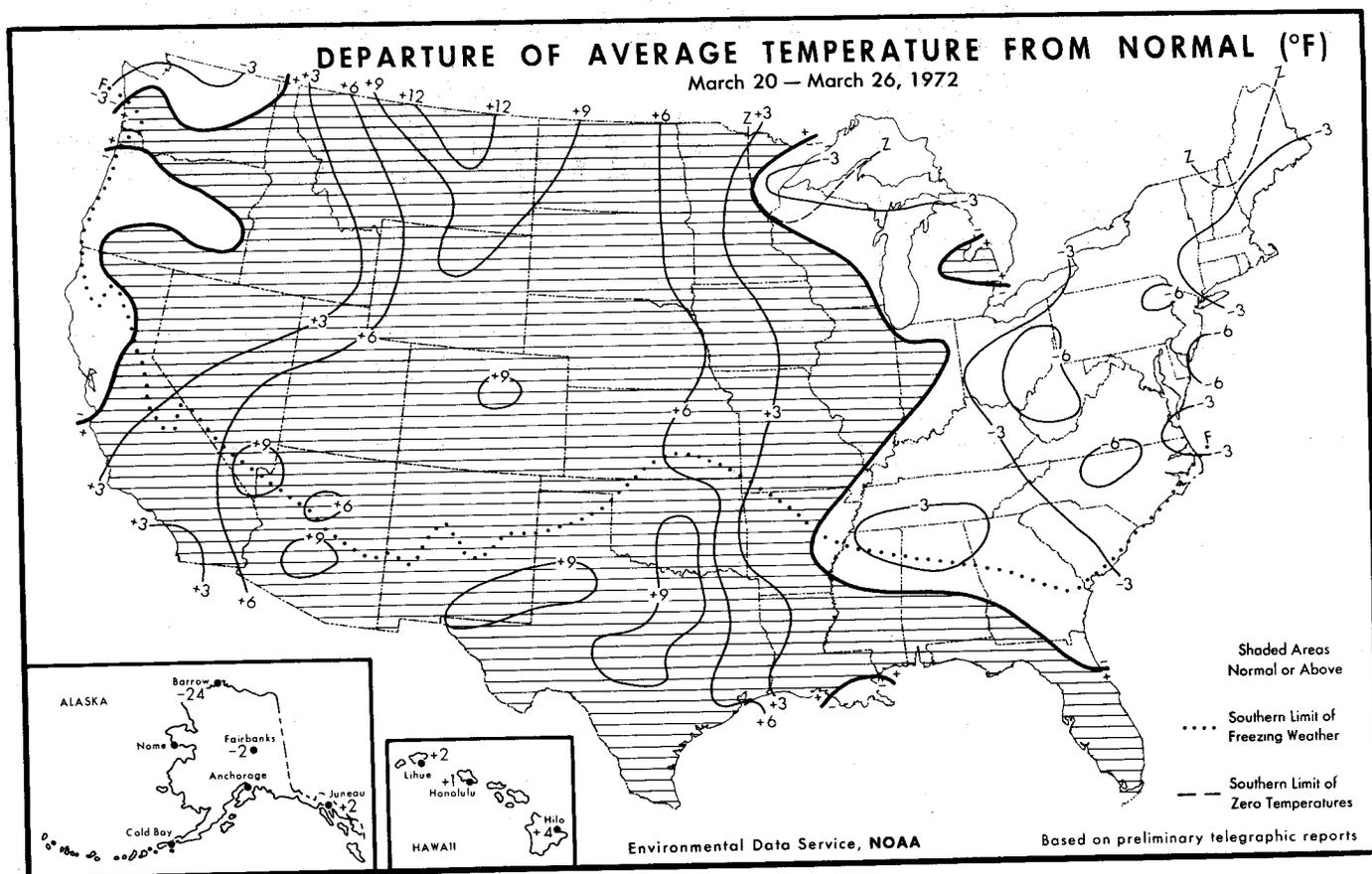
HIGHLIGHTS: Winter lags in the North. Although temperatures averaged above normal over the northern Great Plains, heavy snow delayed high-way travel and made livestock care more difficult. Duststorms whipped the Southwest.

PRECIPITATION: Light rain dampened the Pacific Northwest and the Florida Peninsula Monday. Rains also fell over mid-America from the Dakotas and Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Severe local thunderstorms broke out ahead of a cold front in eastern Oklahoma and eastern Texas. One especially heavy thunderstorm dumped several inches of rain at Houston in the late afternoon and early evening. One station in the Houston vicinity reported a 24-hour fall of 7.47 inches measured Tuesday morning. As the front moved eastward it brought wet and

windy weather to much of the East. Numerous thunderstorms, some with hail, occurred. Winds at Willowick, Ohio, near Cleveland, gusted to 70 m.p.h. Light snow fell in Upper Michigan and nearby portions of Wisconsin.

As the front moved eastward, the rains slackened in the Southeast but wet and windy weather continued in the Northeast. Snow flurries swirled across the Great Lakes with local squalls, blowing, and drifting. Six inches of snow fell at Caribou, Maine, Wednesday afternoon. Snow also fell in the Appalachians. Thomas, W. Va., measured 7 inches of new snow Thursday morning. Hail fell about noon Thursday and snow flurries were seen in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area in the late afternoon.

A weekend storm dumped heavy snow in portions of the northern Great Plains from Montana



to the Great Lakes. Six to nine inches of snow fell in spots in Montana. The gusty winds piled the snow in 2 foot drifts in the foothills in the north-central part of the State. Rain and drizzle fell in South Dakota and southern Minnesota with glaze slicking the highways in some areas. Strong winds kicked up the dust and sand in the Southwest Sunday afternoon. The dust storms were especially severe in the deserts.

The north-central snow belt merged with a rain pattern that extended from the middle Mississippi River Valley to the middle Atlantic coast. Thunderstorms dampened the middle Mississippi, the Ohio, and the Tennessee River Valleys. Another storm in the Southeast dumped locally heavy snow in the mountains in western North Carolina Saturday afternoon before moving out over the Atlantic Ocean.

Most of the area from southern California to New Mexico has received no rain or only light sprinkles since late in December.

TEMPERATURE: Southerly winds helped bring a warming trend to the northern and central Atlantic coastal States early in the week. Maximums reached the 50's over Pennsylvania and western New York on Wednesday afternoon. Warming also occurred in the central Rocky Mountains on the back side of a High that was centered over the

Great Plains. Maximums in the Rockies were generally in the 60's and 70's by Wednesday. A few small areas failed to warm to 32° Wednesday afternoon. The Red River of the North Valley, Upper Michigan and nearby portions of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and northern New England. Northerly winds kept afternoon temperatures in the 30's and 40's from the Great Lakes to the Ohio River. Maximums reached the 90's at spots in the southwestern Deserts, the 80's over parts of Oklahoma, most of Texas, and parts of Florida. Northerly wind late Thursday and on Friday cooled much of the East. The temperature at Charlotte, N.C., plunged to 26° and Columbia, S.C., registered 28° Friday morning.

A weekend warming trend pushed temperatures into the 80's as far north as western Kansas Sunday afternoon when Russell and Dodge City registered 86°. Cooling occurred in the Far West and the Deep South. Austin, Nev., recorded 15° Sunday morning and the freezing temperatures covered northern Georgia and the Carolinas except along the coast.

Temperatures averaged below normal over the Pacific Northwest and over most of the area east of the Mississippi River. Eastern Montana averaged 9° to 14° warmer than normal.

L. W. Dye

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: Light rain Great Plains.
 * Fieldwork off to fast start in many States. *
 Corn planting began as far north as Kansas. *
 Strawberry picking increased.

SMALL GRAINS: Light rainshowers improved the topsoil moisture situation on the Great Plains. It was poor improvement in some localities as less than one-quarter (1/4) of an inch fell in many areas. Topsoil moisture is rated 82 percent short in Oklahoma and 60 percent in Nebraska. Fall-seeded wheat made good growth, thus reducing the probability of soil erosion. However, some soil blowing was noted in western Kansas wheatfields. Grain growers from Texas to Nebraska would rejoice if a good steady rain hit the area. Fall-planted grains are in good shape on the Northern Plains. A weekend snow and rainstorm built up topsoil moisture for spring growth. Winter wheat is greening in Montana. The grain crop in the Pacific Northwest looks good. Very little reseeded is expected in Oregon. Wheat and barley are starting to head around Yuma, Arizona -- growers are less fortunate in New Mexico where rain is needed badly to make the crop.

In the Southeastern States fall-sown grains are in good shape. Warm weather favored growth in Alabama, especially in fields where nitrogen was applied earlier. Some local areas of both Alabama and Georgia are infected by rust.

Dry soils continue to promote early spring planting. Some oats were seeded as far North as Nebraska and Maryland. Oats and barley seeding made good progress in Kansas -- 76 percent of the oats are in, compared with only 28 percent last year. Kansas spring barley is 56 percent seeded, versus 13 percent in 1971. Northern growers are anxiously waiting for fields to dry.

OTHER CROPS: Southern farmers took advantage of good weather to get in the fields. Many were plowing and disking or applying chemicals and fertilizer. Progress is well ahead of normal due to rather limited early 1972 rainfall. Moving North, some fieldwork progress was made in southern Corn Belt areas. Late March finds northern Corn Belt farmers anxious to get started with spring work, but snow, frozen soils, or mud keep tractors idle. Warm dry weather aided spring progress in the West -- but eastern Washington fields were too wet for working.

Corn planting got underway in the Deep South. Louisiana growers have nearly 5 percent of their acreage in. A few fields were planted in southern Alabama. Oklahoma growers have 7 percent of the crop in. Planting started as far north as Kansas, where growers planted a few early fields. Warm, dry weather kept cotton planters rolling from California to Texas. Texas growers have 10 percent of the crop in --

the crop is making good progress in the Coastal Bend and Lower Rio Grande Valley, but some replanting was necessary due to earlier heavy rains. Tobacco growers were busy seeding plant beds in Kentucky and Tennessee. Potato planting got underway in the Arkansas Valley of Colorado. The Texas sorghum crop is 30 percent planted. Moisture shortages resulted in poor germination in some central and southern areas of the State. Planting continued in Arizona. The 1st cutting of alfalfa was taken off in Arizona and California.

Fruits and Nuts: Freezing temperatures nipped some peach orchards in North and South Carolina. Wind and cold temperatures also damaged orchards in northern Utah. Idaho fruit growers are concerned that freezing weather could cause bud and bloom damage. Colorado peaches are in the full bloom stage, the earliest blooming date on record.

Florida citrus growers are nearing the full bloom stage. Picking of early and mid-season oranges is finishing in Florida. Valencia orange picking began in California. More rain is needed in both States, as growers are forced to start irrigating dry groves.

Vegetables: Some vegetables were seeded as far North as Maryland. Tomato transplanting was active in Alabama, Louisiana and South Carolina. A shortage of cabbage plants prolonged the end of transplanting in North Carolina.

Florida cabbage and celery are in full volume -- sweet corn and tomato supplies are increasing. Texas onion pulling is increasing and many packing sheds are operating. Lettuce cutting continued in Arizona and California. Artichoke picking was active in the Castroville area of California. Spring weather brings an increase in strawberries -- picking increased in both southern California and Louisiana.

PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK: Ranchers in the Southwest are becoming increasingly concerned as drying conditions prevail. Pastures are declining and ranchers are being forced to increase supplemental feeding. Many are starting to haul water to their herds. Light rains gave pastures a boost on the Great Plains, but more rain is needed to spark grass growth. Rain is also needed in western Arkansas.

Snow and freezing rain from Montana to Minnesota over the weekend created additional work for farmers and ranchers. The regular winter feed ration is still being fed to herds in the North. Feed supplies should be adequate until pastures are ready for grazing. Supplemental feeding is declining in the South as livestock depend more on pastures for their roughage intake.

Steve J. Pscodna
 Agricultural Statistician

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, MARCH 26, 1972

States and Stations	Temperature °F		Precipitation Inches		States and Stations	Temperature °F		Precipitation Inches		States and Stations	Temperature °F		Precipitation Inches	
	Average	Departure*	Total	Departure*		Average	Departure*	Total	Departure*		Average	Departure*	Total	Departure*
ALA,Birmingham . . .	54	- 3	.7	-.7	New Orleans	62	- 1	1.1	-.2	OKLA,Okla. City . . .	59	+ 9	1.1	+ .6
Mobile	63	+ 1	.1	-1.6	Shreveport	62	+ 4	.8	-.2	Tulsa	58	+ 8	.9	+ .2
Montgomery	59	+ 1	.4	-1.0	MAINE,Caribou	21	- 5	1.8	+1.2	OREG,Astoria	46	+ 1	1.3	-.5
ALASKA,Anchorage . . .	---	---	---	---	Portland	33	- 1	1.6	+ .5	Burns	38	- 1	.1	-.1
Barrow	-24	-11	T	0	MD,Baltimore	42	- 4	.5	-.4	Medford	46	+ 1	1.1	+ .8
Fairbanks	10	- 2	T	-.1	MASS,Boston	39	- 1	.5	-.5	Pendleton	46	+ 1	T	-.3
Juneau	34	+ 2	T	-.7	Chatham	38	---	.3	---	Portland	47	- 0	1.2	+ .4
Nome	---	---	---	---	MICH,Alpena	25	- 3	.6	+ .1	Salem	45	- 1	1.4	+ .5
ARIZ,Flagstaff	42	+ 5	T	-.3	Detroit	35	- 2	.2	-.4	PA,Allentown	36	- 4	.4	-.5
Phoenix	72	+11	T	-.1	Flint	35	+ 2	1.0	+ .5	Erie	31	- 4	.5	-.2
Tucson	67	+ 7	.1	0	Grand Rapids	35	0	.2	-.3	Harrisburg	39	- 3	1.0	+ .2
Winslow	54	+ 7	0	-.1	Houghton Lake	28	- 1	.2	-.2	Philadelphia	39	- 5	.4	-.5
Yuma	71	+ 6	0	0	Lansing	34	- 1	.2	-.4	Pittsburgh	35	- 5	.5	-.3
ARK,Port Smith	55	+ 2	1.3	+ .5	Marquette	26	- 4	.9	+ .4	Scranton	33	- 6	.5	-.2
Little Rock	54	0	.9	-.2	Muskegon	34	- 1	.2	-.3	R.I,Providence	38	- 1	1.0	0
CALIF,Bakersfield	56	- 2	0	-.2	S.Ste,Marie	23	- 4	.8	+ .4	S.C,Charleston	---	---	---	---
Eureka	48	- 1	1.3	+ .3	MINN,Duluth	20	- 4	.7	+ .3	Columbia	53	- 3	.5	-.5
Fresno	59	+ 3	0	-.4	Internatl Falls	26	+ 3	.1	-.2	Greenville	51	- 2	1.3	+ .2
Los Angeles	64	+ 4	0	-.3	Minneapolis	33	+ 2	.7	+ .3	S.DAK,Aberdeen	38	+ 6	.3	0
Red Bluff	53	- 2	.3	-.2	Rochester	33	+ 2	.1	-.3	Huron	38	+ 6	.5	+ .2
San Diego	61	+ 1	0	-.3	St. Cloud	31	+ 2	.7	+ .4	Rapid City	41	+ 8	T	-.3
San Francisco	52	- 2	.2	-.3	MISS,Jackson	59	+ 1	.1	-1.1	Sioux Falls	37	+ 4	.1	-.3
Stockton	56	+ 1	T	-.5	Meridian	60	+ 1	.1	-1.3	TENN,Chattanooga	48	- 5	.6	-.7
COLO,Denver	47	+ 9	T	-.4	MO,Columbia	46	+ 2	.2	-.5	Knoxville	50	- 2	.9	-.1
Grand Junction	50	+ 7	T	-.2	Kansas City	49	+ 3	.1	-.6	Memphis	51	- 3	1.0	-.2
Pueblo	50	+ 8	T	-.2	St. Louis	47	+ 2	.1	-.7	Nashville	50	- 1	.4	-.8
CONN,Bridgeport	39	- 1	.6	-.4	Springfield	48	+ 2	.5	-.3	TEX,Abilene	65	+ 8	0	-.3
Hartford	38	- 1	.9	+ .1	MONT,Billings	44	+ 8	.1	-.2	Amarillo	57	+ 8	T	-.2
D.C,Washington	43	- 4	.3	-.4	Glasgow	42	+12	.3	+ .2	Austin	70	+ 9	T	-.5
FLA,Apalachicola	65	+ 3	0	-.7	Great Falls	39	+ 7	.6	+ .4	Beaumont	66	+ 3	2.1	+1.3
Ft. Myers	71	+ 2	.3	-.3	Havre	43	+14	.9	+ .7	Brownsville	76	+ 7	T	-.3
Jacksonville	63	- 1	.3	-.5	Helena	38	+ 5	.1	-.1	Corpus Christi	74	+ 7	.1	-.2
Key West	75	+ 2	.3	-.1	Kalispell	39	+ 5	.6	+ .4	Dallas	67	+ 9	.3	-.4
Lakeland	68	0	T	-.2	Miles City	45	+11	.3	+ .1	Del Rio	73	+ 8	.3	0
Miami	72	+ 1	T	-.5	Missoula	39	+ 3	.3	+ .1	El Paso	65	+ 9	T	-.1
Orlando	69	+ 2	.1	-.7	NEBR,Grand Island	45	+ 6	.2	-.2	Fort Worth	67	+ 9	.1	-.5
Tallahassee	63	+ 1	T	-1.2	Lincoln	47	+ 7	.2	-.2	Galveston	70	+ 8	.8	+ .1
Tampa	67	0	T	-.8	Norfolk	42	+ 6	.4	0	Houston	66	+ 5	7.5	+6.9
GA,Atlanta	52	- 1	.4	-.8	North Platte	43	+ 6	.2	-.2	Lubbock	62	+10	T	-.2
Augusta	55	- 2	.5	-.4	Omaha	43	+ 6	.2	-.2	Midland	65	+ 8	0	-.1
Macon	57	- 2	.2	-.9	Valentine	40	+ 6	.3	0	San Angelo	68	+ 9	T	-.2
Savannah	60	0	.5	-.5	NEV,Ely	41	+ 6	0	-.2	San Antonio	71	+ 8	T	-.4
HAWAII,Hilo	75	+ 4	T	-3.5	Las Vegas	65	+ 9	0	-.1	Victoria	72	+ 7	1.0	+ .4
Honolulu	74	+ 1	T	-.5	Reno	44	+ 1	T	-.1	Waco	68	+ 8	T	-.6
Kahului	---	---	---	---	Winnemucca	41	+ 2	.3	+ .1	Wichita Falls	63	+ 7	.4	0
Lihue	73	+ 2	.4	-.6	N.H,Concord	32	- 3	1.2	+ .4	UTAH,Blanding	49	+ 8	0	-.2
IDAHO,Boise	45	+ 1	.1	-.2	N.J,Atlantic City	37	- 6	.3	-.6	Salt Lake City	48	+ 6	.1	-.3
Lewiston	45	+ 1	.2	-.1	Trenton	39	- 4	.4	-.5	VT,Burlington	27	- 3	.6	+ .1
Pocatello	40	+ 2	.1	-.2	N.MEX,Albuquerque	55	+ 7	.1	0	VA,Lynchburg	43	- 5	.5	-.5
ILL,Cairo	49	- 1	.1	-1.1	Roswell	62	+10	0	-.1	Norfolk	48	- 2	.5	-.2
Chicago	39	0	.4	-.3	N.Y,Albany	34	- 2	.7	0	Richmond	45	- 5	.3	-.5
Moline	40	+ 2	.2	-.4	Binghamton	30	- 4	.4	-.3	Roanoke	42	- 5	.8	0
Peoria	40	0	.6	-.1	Buffalo	31	- 3	.7	0	WASH,Colville	39	- 1	.3	+ .1
Rockford	38	+ 1	.3	-.1	New York	38	- 5	.4	-.6	Omak	40	- 3	.6	+ .4
Springfield	43	+ 1	.3	-.5	Rochester	32	- 3	.4	-.3	Quillayute	41	- 3	1.9	-.5
IND,Evansville	46	- 1	.2	-.9	Syracuse	31	- 4	.6	-.3	Seattle-Tacoma	44	0	.6	-.2
Fort Wayne	39	0	.7	0	N.C,Asheville	46	- 2	1.3	+ .4	Spokane	42	+ 2	.2	-.1
Indianapolis	41	0	.2	-.7	Charlotte	47	- 5	.9	-.1	Walla Walla	47	0	.4	0
South Bend	36	- 1	.4	-.3	Greensboro	43	- 7	.9	+ .1	Yakima	43	0	.1	0
IOWA,Burlington	42	+ 2	.2	-.5	Hatteras	51	- 2	.8	0	W.VA,Beckley	36	- 6	.6	-.5
Des Moines	41	+ 4	.2	-.3	Raleigh	46	- 6	1.1	+ .3	Charleston	39	- 7	.5	-.5
Dubuque	36	+ 1	.4	-.3	Wilmington	51	- 5	1.2	+ .3	Huntington	41	- 6	.4	-.6
Sioux City	42	+ 6	.4	0	N.DAK,Bismarck	38	+ 8	.6	+ .4	Parkersburg	39	- 6	.4	-.5
KANS,Concordia	48	+ 6	.8	+ .4	Fargo	33	+ 5	.4	+ .2	WIS,Green Bay	30	- 1	.2	-.1
Dodge City	52	+ 8	.4	+ .1	Williston	37	+10	.5	+ .3	La Crosse	34	0	.5	0
Goodland	46	+ 8	.1	-.2	OHIO,Akron-Canton	32	- 8	.6	-.2	Madison	34	+ 2	.3	-.2
Topeka	49	+ 5	.2	-.3	Cincinnati	40	- 3	.9	0	Milwaukee	33	- 1	.1	-.4
Wichita	52	+ 5	.4	-.1	Cleveland	35	- 2	.5	-.3	WYO,Casper	42	+ 8	.7	+ .4
KY,Lexington	41	- 5	.9	-.2	Columbus	37	- 4	.6	-.2	Cheyenne	41	+ 7	.3	0
Louisville	45	- 1	.5	-.5	Dayton	37	- 4	.5	-.3	Lander	42	+ 8	.1	-.2
LA,Baton Rouge	64	+ 2	2.0	+ .5	Toledo	37	- 1	.1	-.5	Sheridan	44	+ 11	.4	0
Lake Charles	65	+ 2	.8	-.1	Youngstown	32	- 6	.9	+ .1	P.R. San Juan	79	+ 3	1.6	+1.1

* Departures are from 30-year means (1931-60). Based on preliminary reports

CONDENSED STATE SUMMARIES

These summaries provide brief descriptions of condition and activities important on a national scale. Detailed reports of crop and weather conditions during the growing season are contained in State issues of Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletins published by field offices of the Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A. in cooperation with NOAA Climatologists.

ALABAMA: Partly sunny and warm early period with scattered light showers Tuesday. Fair and mild midweek, then rain and much cooler Friday and Saturday. Partly sunny and much warmer Sunday with rain extreme north Sunday night. Average temperatures near normal. Rainfall moderate north and light central and south. Farmers generally made good headway with fieldwork. Planting corn and vegetables underway extreme south. Light rains, however, slowed farming activities during latter part period. Warm temperatures favored good growth small grains, especially where nitrogen applied earlier. Disease damage small grains generally light; however, many south Alabama wheatfields hit by rust. Late spring potatoes made good progress with about 3/4 acreage up to stand. Setting tomatoes neared completion Geneva and Houston Counties. Live-stock remained mostly fair condition as cattlemen continue light supplemental feeding.

ARIZONA: No snow. Temperatures much above normal again this week. Skies mostly clear and no significant precipitation. Field preparation and planting cotton continue. Early-planted fields up to good stands. Plantings just underway south-east. Heading wheat and barley progressing normally Yuma. Some later fields do not look favorable central area. Planting grain sorghum continues central and Yuma. Sugar beets making satisfactory development. Baling and cubing alfalfa hay underway Yuma and central areas. Spring lettuce harvest underway Salt River Valley and central areas. Harvesting winter lettuce Yuma. Cantaloupes making good progress Yuma. Valencia oranges, Kinnow, mandarins, and grapefruit being harvested Salt River Valley and Yuma areas. Insect controls being applied as needed. Range conditions continue steady decline and rated poor. Soil moisture and stockwater nearing critical levels. Increased supplemental feeding and water hauling.

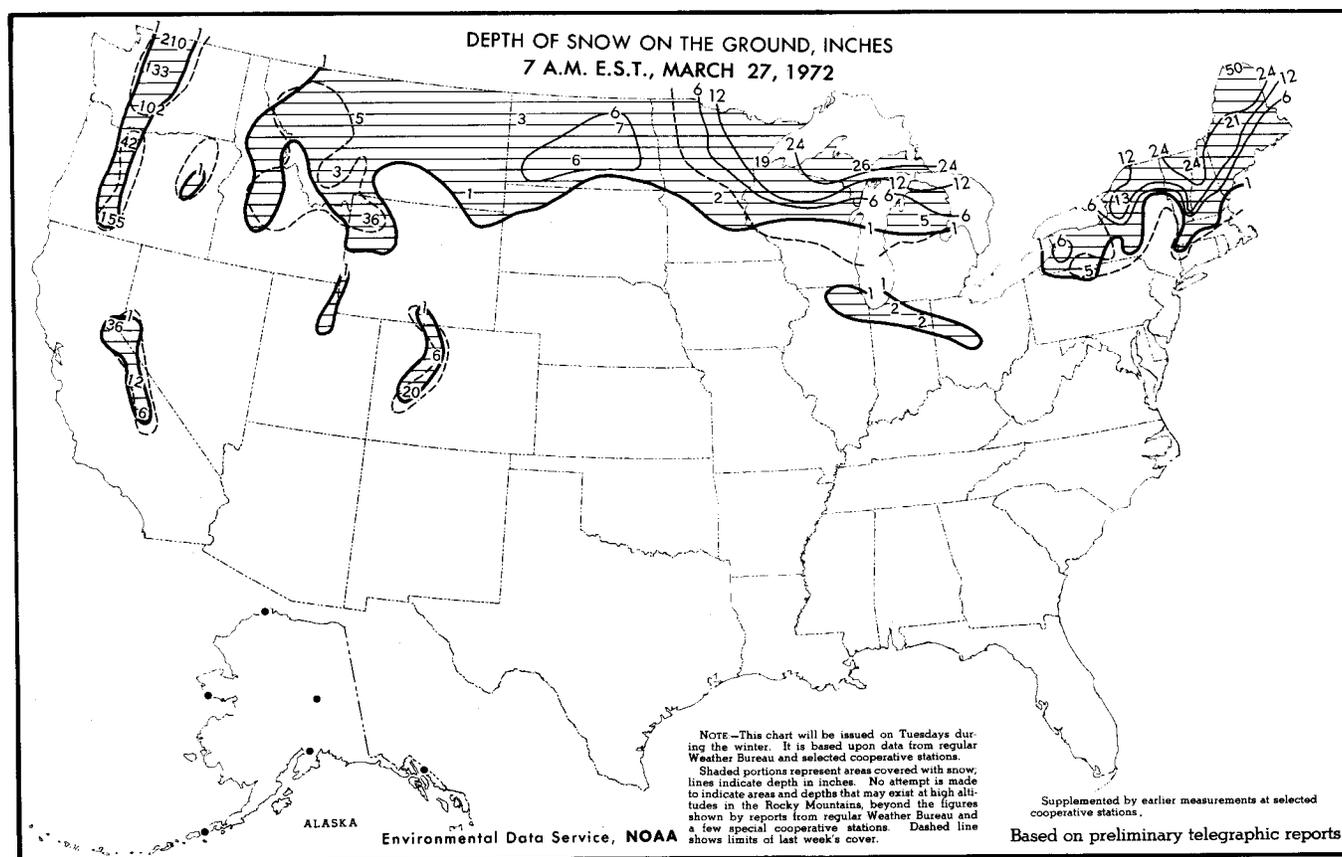
ARKANSAS: Mean temperatures ranged from 4° above normal in southwest to 3° below normal in southeast. General cooling trend through week. Highest 84° at Texarkana on 23d. Lowest 29° at Calico Rock and Batesville on 26th. Showers early in week and on weekend with heaviest amounts of 1.00 inch or more in northern half of State with Augusta reporting largest total of 2.05 inches. Across southern half of State, precipitation totals less than 1.00 inch with Camden reporting smallest total 0.25 inch. Continued good progress with fieldwork until late period. No planting major crops reported. Progress land preparation well ahead normal due limited rainfall early months 1972. Fairly general shower activity late week. More rain needed for optimum growth small grains and pastures. Growth mostly below normal due dry weather. Livestock situation mostly favorable. Grazing increasing, but still limited--particularly western sections. Fruit trees blooming, notably peaches.

CALIFORNIA: Warm week 2° to 6° above northern half of State and south coast and up to 10° more high Desert and Owens Valley. Much colder weekend brought minimums to middle and upper 20's Salinas and San Joaquin Valley. Preliminary San Francisco-Stockton areas northward total near 0.10

inch that area increasing to 1.00 inch or more Sierra, North Coast, and Cascades. Dryland grain condition deteriorating. Some fields being disked or sheeped off. Irrigated grain good. Cotton planting increasing San Joaquin Valley. Alfalfa cutting active Imperial Valley. First cutting started San Joaquin Valley. Cooler weather slows development fruit-nut crops. Most crops bloomed. Harvests navel oranges, lemons, grapefruit, tangerines moderate. Quality good. Valencia orange harvest beginning. Avocados heavy bloom. Artichokes Castroville active. Asparagus Delta active; Yolo increasing. Salinas broccoli and cauliflower moderate volume. Santa Maria light to moderate volume. Southern California cabbage light decrease. Oxnard, Orange celery decrease slightly. Blythe lettuce peak. Southern California strawberries increasing. Market tomato transplanting Madera. Strong winds hastened grass maturity. Drying evident west and southern slopes. Light to heavy rain last week increased forage growth north coast. Early movement stock off range reported San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast, Southern California. Sheep shearing nearly complete southern areas. Early lambs moving market lighter weight. Supplemental feeding decreasing north, increasing south. Permanent pastures requiring more extensive irrigation.

COLORADO: Continued warm with some day-to-day variation. Cold wave moving into State at end of period. Frequent high winds. Light rain or snow west and northeast. Little or none southeast. Moderately heavy snow northern mountains. Extensive seedbed preparation statewide. Lack of moisture causing deterioration fall grains. Wind damage light. Adequate growth evident. Considerable cutworm damage northeast and east-central areas. Condition winter rye and winter wheat good. Winter barley fair. Subsoil moisture short to adequate. Topsoil moisture short to very short. Substantial irrigation prior to planting. Spring barley and oats 39% and 36% seeded. Limited beet acreage seeded. Late summer potato planting underway Arkansas Valley. Peaches reached full bloom past week--earliest date on record. Apples in bud swell stage. Condition range and pastures fair. Supplemental feeding necessary. Sheep shearing underway western slope.

FLORIDA: Continued warm except turning cooler Sunday. Daytime highs in low and mid-80's. Rainfall averaged 0.20 to 0.50 inch, mostly as showers on 21st and 22d. Greatest rainfall lower east coast with Ft. Lauderdale reporting 2.05 inches. Rust appearing in wheat. Land preparation active--some planting corn, peanuts, and tobacco. Sugarcane growing well. Harvest about complete. Low moisture restricting grass growth. Temporary pastures declining. Supplemental feeding keeps most cattle and calves in good condition. Citrus grove condition good. More rain needed. Irrigation in use drier groves. Peak bloom near. Grapefruit weeks away. Early and mid-orange harvest all but complete. Cabbage, celery, potatoes in full steady volume. Sweet corn, tomatoes good volume and increasing. Spring beans, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers seasonal increase. Escarole, endive, lettuce supplies expected decline early April. Other leafy greens, carrots, radishes, squash, parsley good supply.



GEORGIA: Rain heavy in north decreasing to light most of central and south. Precipitation as thunderstorms, showers Tuesday night and as snow extreme north and light rain rest of State Saturday. Snow came on anniversary of last year's destructive ice and sleet storm. Six inches of snow fell at Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest mountain, and 3.5 inches fell at Clayton. Flurries occurred as far south as Athens and Atlanta. Warm first half of week, cool last half. Coldest Sunday with mid-20's extreme north and 30's elsewhere. Averages ranged near normal. Soil moisture adequate. Small grains, pasture, and tobacco plant beds in fair to good condition. Tobacco transplanting active and other spring planting beginning. Land preparation active. Topdressing of grain active to complete throughout State.

HAWAII: Weather partly cloudy with scattered light showers. Crop progress improving with warmer weather. Of the 20 sugar mills, 19 operating by mid-March. Pineapple harvesting increasing seasonally. Supplies vegetables and fruits adequate. Insect and diseases prevalent, but kept under control by spraying. Pasture and cattle fair to good.

IDAHO: Temperatures averaged 3° to 10° above normal, 6th consecutive week with above-normal temperatures. Precipitation variable from mostly heavy north and portions of southwest to light or moderate elsewhere. Grangeville and Lewiston, north, recorded heaviest amounts with 1.07 inches and 0.70 inch, respectively. In southwest, Boise 0.58 inch and Emmett 0.59 inch. Snow depths increased northeast mountains but decreased else-

where. Cool nights saved most problems with flooding. Ground preparation and seeding generally progressing well. Some areas still have wet topsoil due to recent rains making fieldwork difficult. Winter wheat making good progress. Some weed spraying being done north. Fruit growers concerned that freezing weather could cause bud and bloom damage.

ILLINOIS: No significant rain until weekend. Amounts ranged from 0.10 to 0.50 inch. Heaviest in central areas. Considerable cloudiness. Near normal temperatures ranged from 20's on 23d to 70's in central and south on the 20th. Soil moisture adequate throughout State. Snow fell in north. Winter wheat, other small grains and legumes continue good. Livestock good. Main activities include machinery maintenance for spring fieldwork and regular farm chores. Fieldwork still limited by rainy weather.

INDIANA: Light precipitation Tuesday and Sunday. Totals ranged from 0.30 to 0.90 inch. Near normal temperatures which declined from near 70° on 21st to 20's on 26th. Some springlike weather allowed limited plowing, planting, and fertilizer spreading. Where conditions less favorable, farmers prepared equipment for new season.

IOWA: Week began sunny and warmer, followed by showers Tuesday and Wednesday. Mostly cool and cloudy thereafter.

KANSAS: Light to moderate precipitation most of State. Generally 0.05 to 0.35 inch western 1/3 and 0.10 to 0.75 inch elsewhere. Weather much of south-central and western 1/3 has been dry for

some time. Weekly mean temperatures averaged above seasonal for 6th consecutive week, generally 3° to 10° above normal. Temperatures varied widely but no unusual readings. Winds 26th caused some blowing dust west. Oats and barley seeding made good progress. Oats seeding 76% complete, 28% last year, average 51%. Spring barley seeding 56% complete, compared with 13% last year and average 35%. Fieldwork for row crops considerable progress, but limited somewhat by light rain. Few early corn fields planted. Wheat good to excellent north and west, with light rains improving surface moisture some localities. Light soil blowing in wheat-fields western areas. Wild mustard showing up some thin stands wheat. Brown mites, cut worms, soil born mosaic causing minor problems scattered wheat-fields. Livestock favored by mild weather. Supplementary feeding lightened by early-season grass growth and by wheat still being grazed. Some bloat loss cattle on wheat reported.

KENTUCKY: Unseasonably mild to warm first 2 days, maxima in 70's, then 60's. Below normal to much below normal balance, maxima in 30's parts of State on 23d to 25th. Precipitation light west, moderate east, and heavy balance, ranging from 0.11 to 2.30 inches. Heavy rain with thunder-showers on 21st, some light snow portion of State daily 22d to 25th. Sunny first and last days week, mostly cloudy balance. Fieldwork becoming active as soils dry. Seeding tobacco beds well underway. Pastures and winter grains generally green, some growth. Soil moisture ample. Livestock condition good. Few thin animals where little supplemental feed used.

LOUISIANA: Temperatures averaged near normal northeast and between 2° to 4° above normal other areas. Dry air midweek, unusually large daily temperature ranges. Extremes: 84° at Curtis and Shreveport Thursday; 38° Ashland, also Thursday. Thundershowers early in week and again Friday left weekly rain total from 0.20 to 1.50 inches north; 0.50 inch to greater than 2.50 inches south. Greatest 1-day rain total 2.44 in Jeanerette measured 8 a.m. Tuesday. Fieldwork sporadic due showers. Soil moisture adequate to surplus. Some fertilizer and herbicides put down and fields rowed up for planting. Earliest corn and rice fields planted. Rice 5% planted, corn nearly 5%. Sugarcane showing good stand--some very grassy. Wheat and oats fair to good. Irish potatoes fair to good stands, rapid growth. Strawberry harvest increasing; quality good. Tomatoes being transplanted south. Pasture feed average. Small grains and rye grass providing good grazing. Seeding permanent grasses and fertilizing pastures active.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: Temperatures, cold 1st day and last 4 days, averaged 3° to 6° below normal. Extremes: 70°, 13°. Widespread hail, mostly pea size or less and strong winds accompanied thunderstorms on 22d. Rainfall mostly 0.60 inch or less. Snowfall in Garrett County area, 3 to 7 inches on 23d and 24th. Field activity increased as soils dried. Plowing, disking, and fertilizer spreading chief jobs. Some seeding spring oats and early vegetables. Seeding tobacco beds practically done. Pruning and other orchard work making good progress.

MICHIGAN: Seasonal as period began, turning much colder north late in period. Temperatures averaged 7° below normal west to 2° below normal east Upper Peninsula; Lower Michigan, normal to 4° below normal. Precipitation about 1.00 inch near Lake Superior; 0.75 inch near Lake Huron, 0.25 inch remainder to State except 1.00 inch at Flint.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures generally 2° to 5° above normal for State except about 4° below normal in Lake Superior area. Extremes: 58°, -6°. Precipitation generally 0.50 to near 1.00 inch across central district and southern and northern districts generally less than 0.30 inch. Snow depth 6 to 19 inches fanning out from Grand Rapids northeast. Rest of State generally 2 to 3 inches except the southern 1/3 of State which has remains of scattered drifts.

MISSISSIPPI: Temperatures averaged near normal most locations. Daily extremes: 33° and 85°. Rain on 1 to 3 days throughout State with most totals under 0.25 inch. On 18th, hail up to golf ball or larger size in southern 1/3 of State. Over weekend: Showers on 1 or 2 days; temperatures cooler with a low of 27° Sunday at Tupelo, warmer this morning. Farmers took advantage of warm sunny weather to get in fields and prepare seedbeds and apply chemicals and fertilizer. Average 4.2 days suitable fieldwork. Plowing about 42% complete. Soil moisture mostly adequate. Wheat and oats about 40% jointed.

MISSOURI: Warm pleasant early in week gave way to cool damp weather over weekend. Temperatures averaged near normal northeast to 4° above normal southwest. Precipitation was light averaging 0.10 inch northeast to 0.75 inch southwest. Average 3 days suitable fieldwork. Plowing 52% completed, oats 46% planted. Wheat fair to good condition; pastures fair, soil moisture adequate.

MONTANA: Warm and dry through Thursday, strong cooling with heavy precipitation weekend. Four to 11 inches of snowfall common central and north-central divisions during weekend. For the week, however, temperatures averaged 3° to 14° above normal. Field tillage work just starting most areas. Winter wheat greening in fairly good condition. Wind damage remains light. Ninety percent range livestock receiving supplemental feed. Hay supplies short, but mild weather helps stretch supplies. Calving 40% complete, lambing and shearing 30% complete. Death losses newborn calves and lambs below normal.

NEBRASKA: Sixth consecutive week of above-normal temperatures. Intermittent showers and snows with scattered stations receiving 0.50 to 0.75 inch. Topsoil moisture supplies improved, but 60% State still reported short. Soil erosion problems reduced, but additional moisture needed many areas. Farmers busy with field operations such as stalk shredding, disking, plowing, and fertilizing. Small acreage oats seeded. Winter wheat condition mostly good to fair. New growth evident as fields are greening. Livestock conditions mostly good.

NEVADA: Week began warm and ended cold with below-freezing temperatures all divisions except extreme south. Fruit and flower blossoms damaged by freeze. Over all weekly average was 3° to 6° above average. Precipitation spotty and light north. None south. Seedbed preparation continues as planting small grains begins. Irrigating underway. Winter wheat making good spring growth. Good progress with calving and lambing. Stock and irrigation water supplies adequate.

NEW ENGLAND: Week slightly cool, with mean temperatures averaging from near normal to 4° below normal. Rather mild first half but cold weekend. Almost daily precipitation in north

but weekend dry in south. Major precipitation on 22d; 22d and 23d in north, with storm totals to 3.50 inches locally in southern Maine. Some sleet and glaze in north. Precipitation for week mostly 0.50 to 1.50 inches but much heavier in southern Maine. Locally to 4.00 inches. No major run maple sap to date. Some minor runs during middle of week. Weather still too cold.

NEW JERSEY: Mild Tuesday and Wednesday and cool rest of week with temperatures averaging below normal. Temperatures ranged from around 20° to near 60° mark. Rain Tuesday and Wednesday averaged about 0.40 inch most of State with storm totals from 0.20 to 0.60 inch. Fruit tree pruning active. Cool wet weather delayed early preparation and planting most areas. Some lettuce and peas have been planted in South Jersey. Pastures are beginning to green. Lime and fertilizer have been spread where conditions permit.

NEW MEXICO: A few showers in north-central, mostly light, on Wednesday. Few traces of rain in south on weekend. Temperatures continued much above seasonal for 6th week. Average temperatures ranged from 7° to 14° above normal. Warmest in midweek. Soil moisture very short to short. Winter wheat-barley poor to good. Moisture needed for crop to make. Some alfalfa cuttings early if frost holds off. Land preparation active. Spring lettuce good. Fall onions fair to good. Ranges poor to fair. Ranchers concerned as drying conditions prevail. Livestock fair to good. Supplemental feeding continuing. Calving, lambing active.

NEW YORK: Temperatures much below normal latter half of week following mild trend through 22d. Maximums mid-40's to mid-50's on 21st and 22d cooling to 20's and 30's Upstate from 24th to 26th. Lowest minimums 0° to +5° northern half and central interior on 20th with teens to low 20's widespread Upstate on weekend. Precipitation from midweek. Storm total 0.80 to 1.20 inches St. Lawrence Valley and 0.50 to 0.90 inch eastern 1/3 as lightest amount 0.20 to 0.40 inch Finger Lakes and Long Island. New snowfall 4 to 8 inches midweek in northern half as light snow continued through 26th. Snow cover 12 to 20 inches Adirondacks, St. Lawrence Valley and east of Lake Ontario and ground mostly bare southern half of State.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures ranged from 20's to 70's, averaging near normal. Rain 22d averaged 1.00 inch. Rain and snow 25th, precipitation averaging 0.50 inch. Snow accumulating 1 to 6 inches on ground except mostly rain eastern Coastal Plain. Soil moisture increased, mostly adequate to surplus. Small grains mostly good. Pasture growth generally fair to good. Roughage and feed grains short few areas. Tobacco bed seeding past peak mountains. Plants up Piedmont, well advanced Coastal Plain -- condition mostly good. Commercial Irish potato plantings virtually complete. Cabbage transplanting mostly complete; late due short plant supplies. Freeze damage peaches commercial Sandhills, extent unknown.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures averaged 3° above normal southeast to 10° above normal northwest. Light showers first of week followed by partly cloudy weather. Red River crested at Fargo Thursday with only minor flooding. Snowstorm on weekend with accumulations 2 to 7 inches. Snow returned over weekend creating additional livestock work for farmers and ranchers. Calving and lambing underway and some sickness could

result from cooler temperatures and wet snowy conditions. Mud and snow making country roads difficult to travel. Winter feeding livestock continues.

OHIO: Temperatures on 20th and 21st were 10° to 20° above normal. Temperatures for rest of week were generally 5° to 15° below normal. On 21st to 24th, moderate precipitation across State. On 21st and 22d most locations reported 0.50 to 1.00 inch precipitation. On 23d and 24th, 2 to 4 inches new snow in northeast. Fieldwork making some progress. Fields not frozen are muddy. Machinery maintenance and livestock chores major activities.

OKLAHOMA: Rainfall varied from near 0.10 inch Panhandle and west-central to over 1.00 inch east-central and southeast. Temperatures averaged 4° to 11° above normal. Light showers improved surface moisture slightly, still rated 82% short. Subsoil moisture decended slightly, rated 31% short, 69% adequate. Wheat made good growth -- (2/3 jointing.) Condition rated 18% fair, 81% good, 1% excellent. Year ago 40% crop rated poor. Crop showing moisture stress some western localities. Spraying for green bugs becoming widespread. Condition spring-seeded oats and barley fair to good. About 7% corn crop planted. Fruit trees full bloom most areas, good fruit set. Alfalfa weevil causing extensive damage some fields. Livestock making good gains wheat pastures, feeding continues. Native grasses beginning to make some growth, but rain needed.

OREGON: Mild week with daily rains west of Cascades and 1 to 3 days variable showers on east side first and last of week. Temperatures averaged 3° to 9° above normal. Minima 20° to 31° east, 35° to 40° west side and some north-central. Maxima 57° to 78°. Some snow showers west side and Cascades at close. Precipitation east side totaled mostly 0.10 to 0.40 inch, west side 1.20 to 2.90 inches. Planting early potatoes eastern Oregon progressing well. Seeding green peas slow due wet soils. Fall-seeded grains look good with little reseeded expected. Cherry orchard pruning underway northeast. Livestock good. Hay and feed supplies remain adequate with some carryover expected.

PENNSYLVANIA: Fair, mild early in week. Maxima in 40's and 50's most areas Monday and Tuesday, except near 70° southwest Tuesday. Cold front moved through State Wednesday, accompanied by showers and thunderstorms. Much colder air behind front brought considerable cloudiness and snow flurries to all areas. Three to 6 inches of snow higher elevations of west and north. Flurries continued mountain areas into Saturday. Otherwise, latter part of week fair and cold; maxima in upper 20's to mid-40's, minima in teens and 20's in coldest valleys. Weekly temperatures 4° to 8° below normal. Total precipitation 0.50 to 0.75 inch west, 0.25 to 0.50 inch central, 0.50 to 1.00 inch east, except near 0.25 inch southeast corner.

PUERTO RICO: Rainfall averaged 1.72 inches or 1.19 inches above normal. Highest total 5.24 inches eastern mountains. Good rains of 3.00 to 5.00 inches also in central and western interior. Significant rains of 1.00 to 2.00 inches in southern divisions eased agricultural drought of previous weeks. Dry areas of less than 1.00 inch in northwest southwest and parts of eastern interior. Temperatures averaged 76° on coast and 71° interior divisions with mean

departure of 1.7 degrees below normal. Highest maximum 92°, lowest minimum 50°. Sugarcane harvesting and grinding operations progressed normal, except some delay southern slopes. Fall crop benefitted by rains as planting operations continued. Coffee good crop development. Tobacco good progress harvesting and drying operations, except parts western interior where rains delayed fieldwork. Pastures good to excellent all zones, some improvement south slopes due rainshowers. Previous agricultural drought this area eased by light rains. However, more rains needed to bring pasture conditions back to normal. Some planting delays western interior zones due rain. Harvesting operations made good progress with all crop varieties.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Rain middle of week with amounts of 0.50 to 1.00 inch. Snow in northwest at end of week. Otherwise mostly sunny with temperatures averaging 2° above normal. Soil moisture adequate. Limited damage to peaches as result of cold temperatures and snow. Transplanting some tobacco plants, some plants becoming too large. Beaufort area spring vegetables being planted. Tomato plant setting very active. Squash good stand. Cucumbers coming up.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Weekly temperatures averaged from near normal in east to 6° above normal in west. Extremes ranged from 16° at Rapid City on 27th to 70° at Edgemont on 20th. Precipitation fell mostly as general rain beginning of week and rain mixed with snow end of week with totals ranging from less than 0.10 inch portions of west to about 1.00 inch portions of south and east. Snowfall ranged from trace to about 4 inches with heaviest amounts northwest. Cool damp weather late week slow nearly fieldwork some areas. Condition livestock remains generally normal. Last minute preparation for spring plowing and seeding small grains underway. General condition fall-seeded grains good. Caring for livestock including lambing and calving and preparation for seeding small grains main farm activities.

TENNESSEE: Average temperatures ranged from near normal in west to 5° below normal in east. Cooling trend dropped temperatures from mild to cold during last half of week. Temperature extremes: 79° at Nashville Monday and 18° at Tri-City Airport near Bristol Sunday morning. Precipitation light showers most areas. Weekly amounts generally less than 0.75 inch. Heaviest showers portions of east over weekend totaled about 0.50 inch. Snowfall of 1 to 2 inches in mountains on 25th, melted rapidly during the day. Farmers made good progress fieldwork. Plowing and tobacco bed seeding main activities. Farmers able to work in fields 2.5 days. Small grains and pastures continue fair to good condition. Livestock good condition.

TEXAS: Torrential rains of 5.00 to 8.00 inches fell in southeast Texas on Monday, March 20. Serious flooding occurred in metropolitan Houston area. Moderate to locally heavy showers in North-Central and East Texas Thursday and Friday followed by stormy weather including some hail in these sections Sunday. Little or no precipitation elsewhere. Temperatures continued mild. Planting cotton, corn, sorghum continues fair to excellent. Short moisture supplies central and southern areas resulted in poor germination and spotty stands sorghum, corn. Most cotton and sorghum Coastal Bend and Lower Rio Grande Valley show very good progress. Some

replanting necessary as result recent heavy rains. Preplant irrigation underway High and Low Plains. Percent planted major crops: cotton 10, 6 last year; corn 35, 30 last year; sorghum 30, 22 last year; peanuts 4, 1 last year; rice 13, 41 last year; sugar beets 43, 19 last year. Onion harvest activity increasing Lower Valley with many packing sheds operating. Cabbage and carrot harvest continues. Light supplies greens, broccoli still available. Lettuce harvest becoming active Winter Garden. Spinach harvest continues moderately active. Grape fruit and valencia orange harvest continues active. Citrus harvest showing heavy uniform bloom set.

UTAH: Scattered light rain northwest forepart period. Rain and snow latter part and over weekend. Accumulated moisture generally light, but locally moderate. Still no measureable precipitation extreme south and east. Now 90 days without measureable at Zions National Park. Considerable wind associated with weekend storms, and temperatures dropped to very low values. Extensive damage to orchards expected, as temperatures dropped to 15° to 20° most fruit growing areas northern Utah. Extent damage will not be known for some time, however, much above normal temperatures during February and March had advanced most crops, including apricots, cherries, peaches, pears, and apples, 2 to 3 weeks ahead normal. Range and farm calving well along. Farm flock lambing nearly completed. No range lambing started yet. Some shearing started. Care and feeding dairy cattle, poultry flocks, beef cattle and sheep on winter range lands and valley farms continues major activity. Marketing potatoes and apples from storage nearly completed.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures above normal at beginning becoming below normal at midweek. Showers at midweek followed by snow flurries in mountains. Totals ranged from 0.25 to 1.50 inches. Plowed and applied lime and fertilizer. Wheat and barley good. Spring oats planted. Sprayed weeds in small grains and pastures. Early alfalfa growth good; local heavy alfalfa weevil infestation. Tobacco plant beds very good. Seeded burley beds. Set cabbage. Irish potato planting near completion. Peach trees blooming southeast and in pink northern Tidewater.

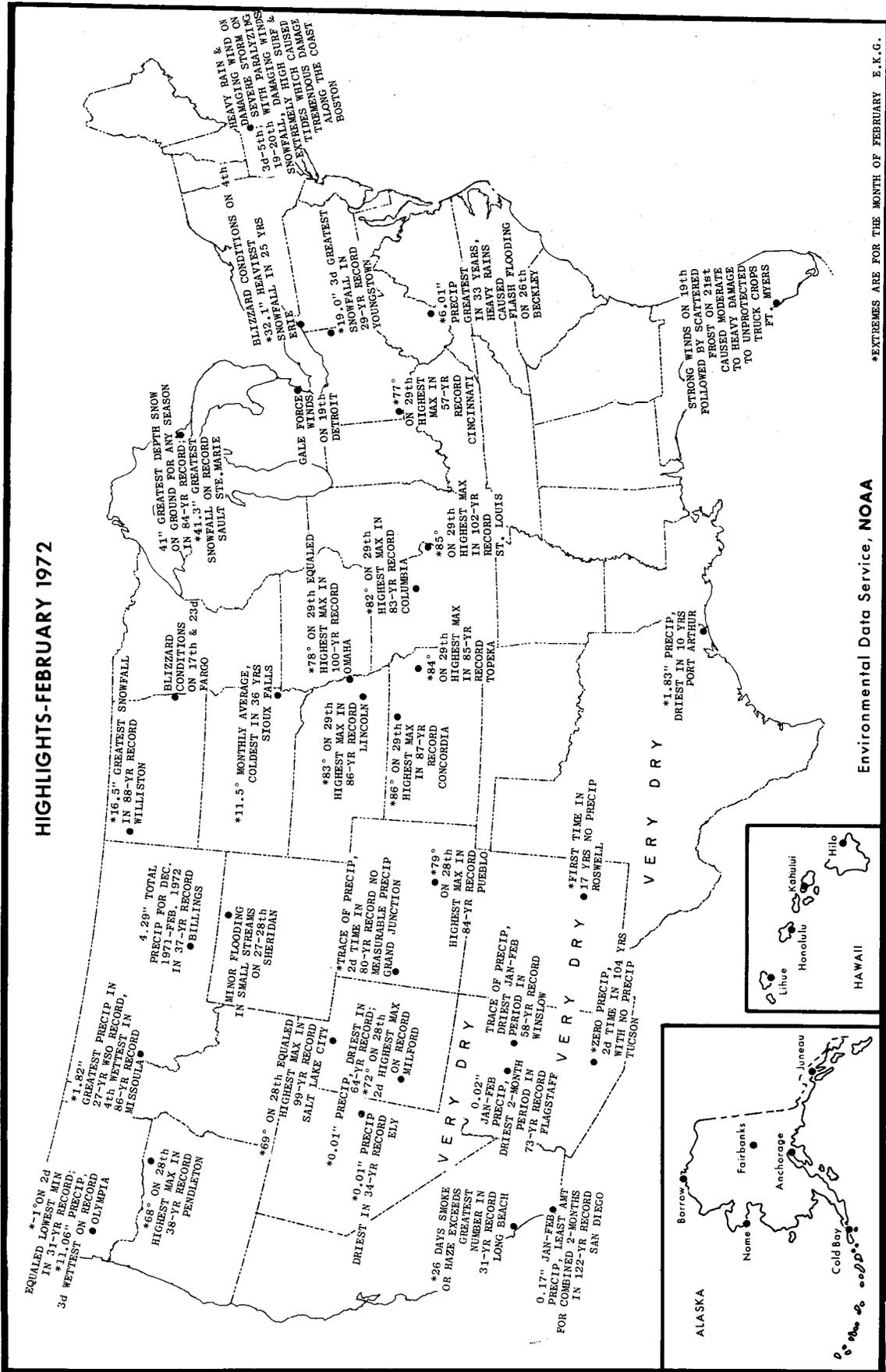
WASHINGTON: Western Washington: Average temperatures 2° above normal. Some precipitation every day. Farmers busy preparing soil in better-drained fields, but many other wet fields must wait for drying weather. Harvest daffodils and forced rhubarb continued. Pastures and hay crops show some growth, but most pastures too wet for grazing. Some young animals being pastured. Most animals still on winter rations, but feed supplies getting short several counties. Eastern Washington: Temperatures mostly above normal with some precipitation occurring last of week. Fields peas, potatoes, sugar beets, onions, small grains, and mint roots planted. Fruit tree pruning and spraying continued in spite muddy floors some orchards. Fruit tree growth ahead normal with apricots full bloom early orchards and budding of other fruits earlier than normal. In easternmost counties, fields too wet for much fieldwork. In other areas, seeding spring grains as much as 65% complete. Livestock good condition.

WEST VIRGINIA: Cold windy week. Mildest March 20 to 22 with light rain showers. Blustery cold northwest winds with light snow flurries March 23 - 24. Up to 7-inch snowdepths in northern mountains. Cold and sunny over weekend, March 25 and 26. Supplemental feeding livestock increased due colder weather, but feed supplies in good supply. Preparation land for spring planting continued where weather permitted. Soil moisture adequate most areas.

WISCONSIN: Mild springlike weather early in period. Mostly sunny and cool latter part. Rain showers northwest Monday and entire State Tuesday. Most amounts less than 0.50 inch though some 1.00 inch totals locally north. Snow cover gone south half while 10 to 25 inches dense snow remains North Woods. Frost slowly leaving ground. Soil moisture mostly surplus.

WYOMING: Another warm week with moderate moisture most areas. Alva most water with 1.00 inch. Temperatures averaged 8° to 19° above normal. 4-week departures are +9° to +14°. Maxima were mostly mid-50's to upper 60's west of Divide and Upper Platte Drainage, high 60's to mid-70's elsewhere. Minima were mostly 10° to 20° west of Divide, 20's east. Temperature extremes: 75° at Torrington and Worland and 8° at Bondurant. Fieldwork making good progress. Spring calving and lambing making normal progress with about normal death losses. Feed and stockwater supplies adequate.

HIGHLIGHTS-FEBRUARY 1972



*EXTREMES ARE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY E. K. G.

Environmental Data Service, NOAA

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