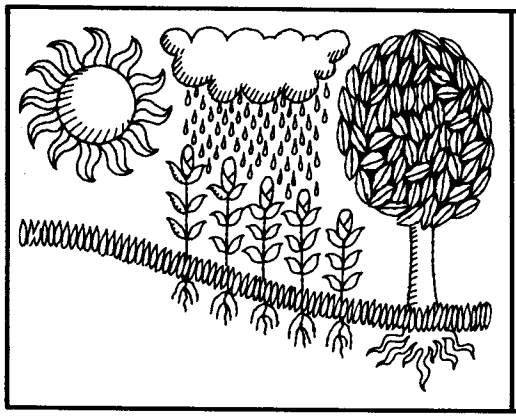

Weekly Weather & Crop Bulletin

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Environmental Data Service

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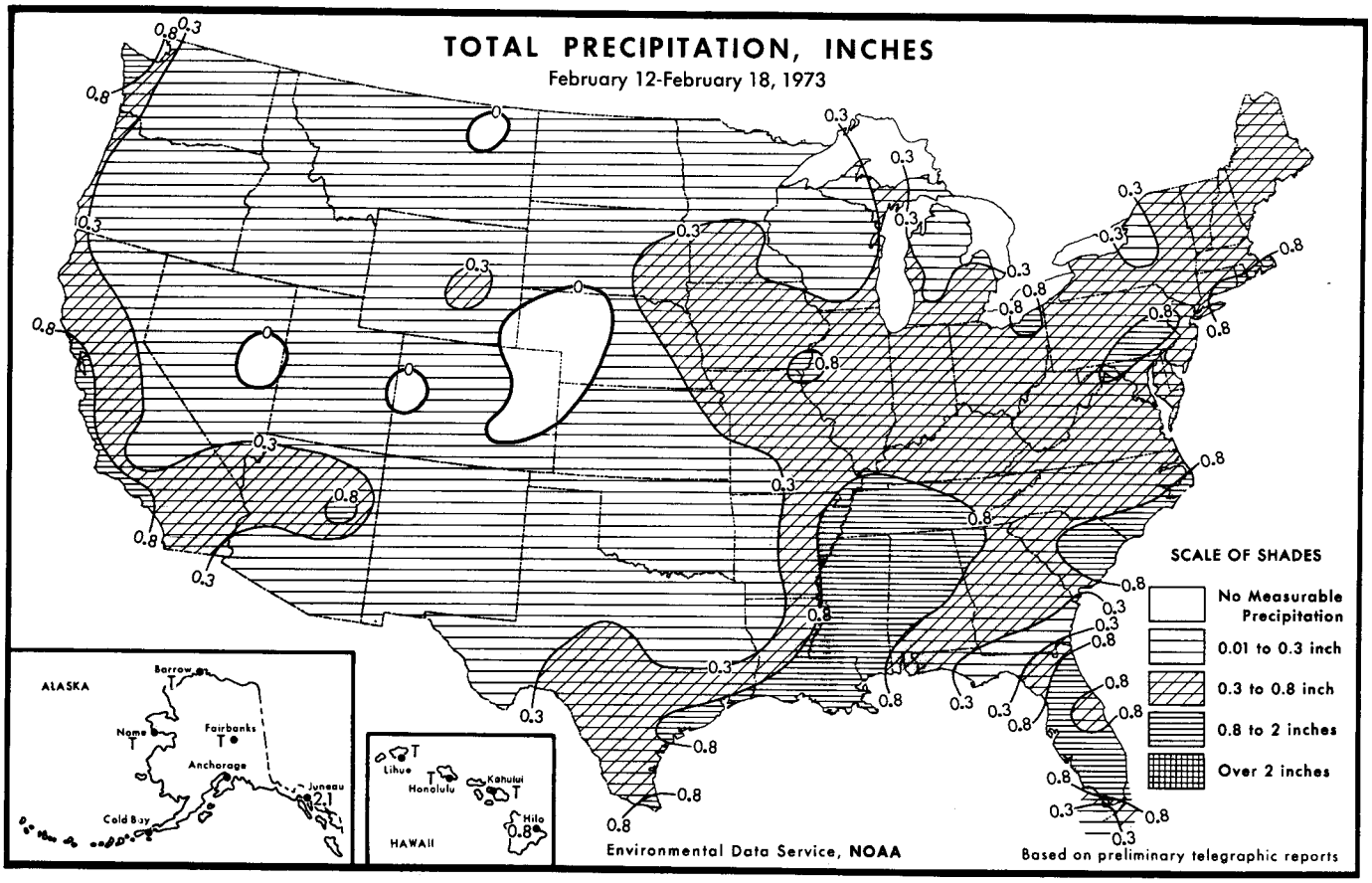
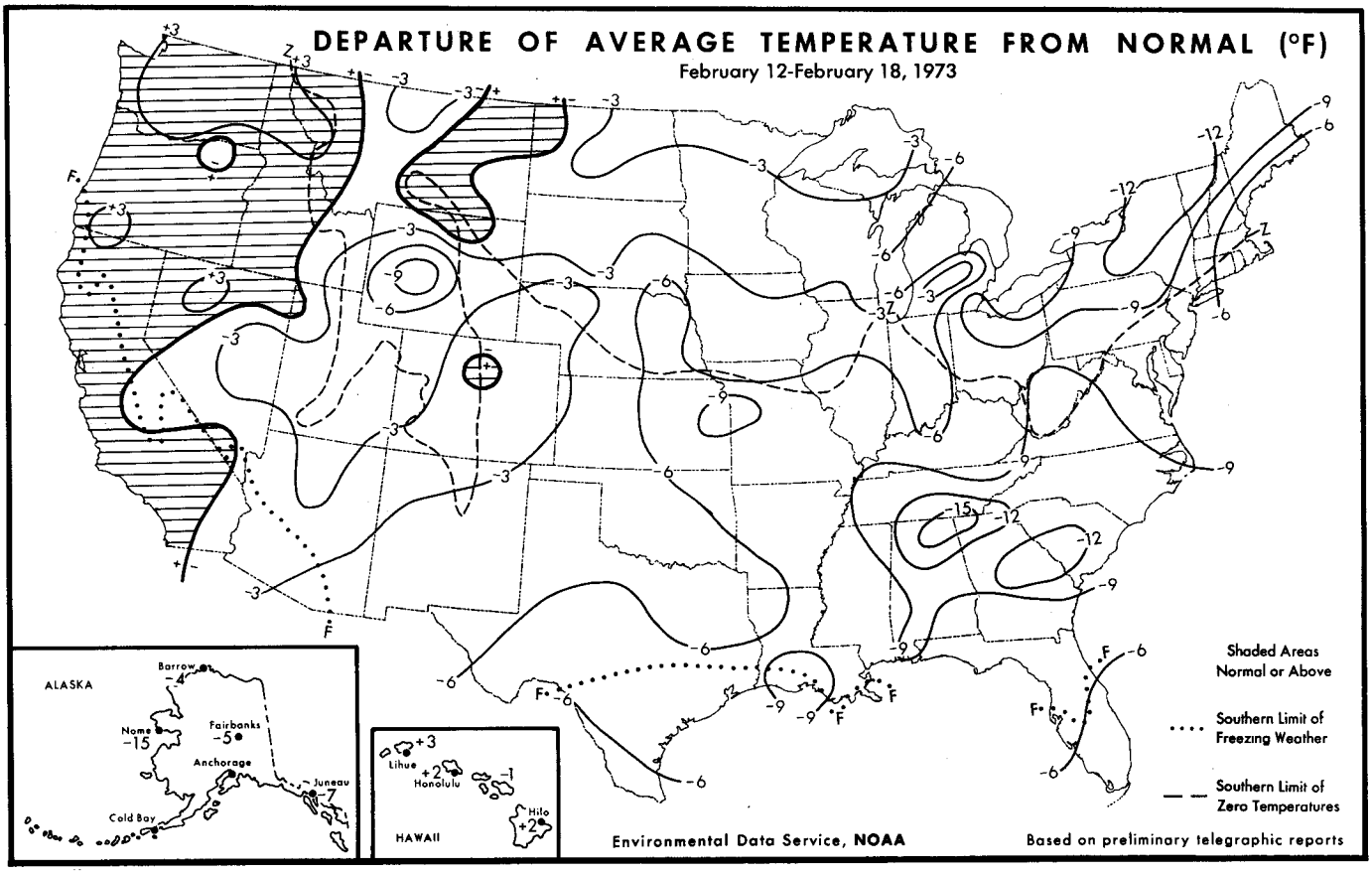


NATIONAL WEATHER SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS: Old man winter continued to plague the southern Rocky Mountains with heavy snow and much of the East with bitter cold.

PRECIPITATION: An intense storm centered over the Colorado Rockies early Monday morning, February 12, dumped heavy snow in the mountains and lighter amounts over the central Great Plains. Many mountain areas in Utah received more than two feet of snow from the storm. A station south of Flagstaff, Ariz., measured 20 inches. Snow depths in the Great Plains reached several inches - 4 inches at Norfolk, Nebr., and 6 inches at Sioux Falls, S. Dakota. As the storm moved northeastward, it dumped 6 to 10 inches of snow from Minnesota to Upper Michigan. Some depth measurements Thursday morning included: Minneapolis, Minn., 9 inches; Duluth, Minn., 13 inches; Eau Claire, Wis., 9 inches; and Houghton, Mich., 25 inches. Northerly winds drifted the snow badly in some localities in the northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi River Valley. The wind and the blowing snow, combined with subzero temperatures to meet all elements of the definition for "blizzard." Highway travel was severely hampered by the strong winds and the drifted snow. Light to moderate rain fell in Missouri and nearby States Monday. Moderate to heavy rain fell over the Deep South Tuesday and Wednesday. A band of freezing rain, or snow and rain mixed, sandwiched between the snow areas on the north and the rain areas on the south, iced the roads, highways, and outdoor objects. In some areas, drizzle and fog reduced visibilities. All elements considered, travel conditions ranged from unpleasant to dangerous.

As the stormy weather spread northeastward at midweek, it brought the same variety of weather that had plagued mid-America earlier in the week -



snow, sleet, and rain, and, in some areas, dangerous mixtures which slowed travel and made the care and feeding of livestock difficult.

As the weekend approached, another storm developed in the southern Rocky Mountains. It dumped heavy snow in the White Mountains of Arizona - 9 inches at Alpine - Saturday. As the storm moved to the southern Great Plains it dropped heavy snow across New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle to western Oklahoma. South Texas, in the warm air, received generous rain. By Saturday evening, snow was falling from northern Texas to the middle Mississippi River Valley and rain was falling along the Gulf of Mexico. Snow fell on scattered areas from the northern Rocky Mountains Sunday while rain continued in Texas and along the Gulf of Mexico. Freezing drizzle slicked the roads over the Upper Mississippi River Valley and rain fell in southern Florida.

TEMPERATURE: A major winter storm dominated the western half of the Nation early in the week. A large High lay over the East. It brought clear sunny weather by day and crisp cool temperatures at night to much of the East. Tallahassee, Fla., registered 20°, Macon, Ga., 11°, and Columbia, S.C., 5°. The snow cover from Columbus, Ga., to Elizabeth City, N.C., reflected solar heat by day and favored radiation at night. These combined with the light winds accounted for the cold temperatures in that part of Nation.

Afternoon temperatures ranged from the 40's to the 60's along the Pacific and from below freezing over North Dakota to 76° at Brownsville, Texas, on Monday, February 12. Mild weather continued in southern Florida. The mercury at North Miami Beach climbed to 86° Thursday afternoon. Arctic air poured southward over the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains putting these areas in the "deep freeze." Fraser, Colo., registered 19° below zero and Big Piney, Wyo., 21° below zero Thursday morning. Subzero weather occurred from northern Pennsylvania to New England on several mornings early and late in the week and only a few degrees above zero at midweek. Saranac Lake, N.Y., recorded -24° Monday morning. Persistent northerly winds maintained a flow of bitter cold air across the Canadian Border into the northern Great Plains. Much of North Dakota remained near or below zero all day Thursday. By Friday morning, subzero weather had spread southward to the central Great Plains and eastward to the Great Lakes. International Falls, Minn., registered 42° below zero. The strong winds added to the discomfort caused by the cold temperatures.

The frigid air pushed southward as the weekend approached, subfreezing weather had returned to northern Florida, and subzero temperatures reached the central Appalachians. Apalachicola, Fla., registered 32° Saturday morning and on Sunday morning the thermometer at Elkins, W.Va., read -13°.

Almost the entire Nation averaged colder than normal. The exceptions included Washington, Oregon, California, western Idaho and extreme western Montana. The Deep South averaged 6° to 15° colder than normal.

L. W. Dye

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: Cold, windy, rainy weather slowed Florida vegetable harvesting. * Texas and Mississippi cotton harvesting completion delayed by wet conditions. * Spring planting of small grains in Kansas and Oklahoma stalled by wet fields.

SMALL GRAINS: Despite cold, wintry weather last week, the condition of winter wheat in the central Great Plains remained good to excellent. Winter wheat in Kansas greened and made limited growth which prompted more cattle to be moved on to wheat pasture in the western area of the State. Top-dressing of wheat and other small grains with nitrogen fertilizer increased in Kansas and also Oklahoma where winter wheat made limited growth under cooler than normal temperatures. Kansas and Oklahoma fields remain too wet for normal spring small grain planting. Wheat and oats in Texas are still recovering from cold, wet weather. In South Dakota, freezing and thawing temperatures are causing concern among wheat growers and the condition of small grain crops is uncertain. Winter wheat in Montana is generally in fair to good condition with fair to poor snow cover and light wind damage. Many Washington wheat growers were busy fertilizing, spraying and reseeding winter wheat under continued warmer than normal weather, but wet fields continued to delay small grain seeding in California.

Small grain crops are in good condition in the upper South Atlantic States, but are only fair in most South Central and lower South Atlantic States. Continued colder than normal temperatures and wet weather have retarded growth of small grains in the South.

COTTON: Wet conditions continued to delay the completion of cotton harvesting in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and California. Most remaining cotton fields in Texas were too wet as harvesting advanced only 2 points to 95 percent completion compared to 100 percent this time last year. Cotton planting began last week on a limited scale in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Rain and excessive soil moisture held cotton harvesting to a standstill in Mississippi at 92 percent complete. Southwest Oklahoma cotton growers were able to make good progress as ground conditions permitted cotton strippers over 3 days of harvesting on remaining acreage. Wet fields are still preventing completion of cotton harvesting in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

OTHER CROPS: Wet fields again frustrated farmers in several North Central and Southern States last week in their attempts to wrap up the corn and soybean harvests. Problems of limited storage space, limitations on drying due to fuel shortages, and railcar shortages continued to plague farmers and grain elevators. Nebraska and Kansas farmers made only limited progress completing the sorghum grain harvest. Wet fields in California delayed sugar beet planting and slowed harvesting of potatoes. Heavy snows and wet conditions along the coast of North Carolina halted tobacco plantbed preparation.

Fruits and Nuts: Weekly rains and adequate soil moisture continue to maintain Florida citrus groves in excellent condition although cold weather has held bloom buds in check. Texas citrus trees remain in excellent condition as the harvest continues strong. Rains in California hindered citrus harvesting; navel orange harvesting in the central valley area was slow with heavy grade-out. Harvesting of valencia oranges in the desert area is increasing while grapefruit harvest was normal. In Arizona, harvest of valencia oranges and Kinnow Mandarins were in full swing in the Yuma and Salt River Valley areas. Orchard pruning continued in Pacific States and increased in the South Atlantic States. In California, early almond, apricot, plum, and freestone peach trees were blooming. Peach trees in many South Texas counties continue to bloom, some damage occurred during the last freeze. Record low temperatures in Michigan may have damaged some fruit tree buds.

Vegetables: Cold, windy, rainy weather early last week slowed Florida vegetable crop progress. Cabbage volume continues moderate, tomatoes light, and celery in moderate to good supply. Most other crops are in seasonal volume with all Florida grown vegetables available except melons. Vegetable harvesting in the Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley is back in full swing following the previous week's cold weather. Many growers in the Texas Coastal Bend are replanting watermelons for the second and third time because freezes killed earlier plantings. Some lettuce in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area was lost from freezing weather the previous week. In California, lettuce harvesting increased in the Imperial Valley, but lettuce plantings are behind schedule in the Salinas area and the San Joaquin Valley. Broccoli and cauliflower supplies are steady in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. Spring lettuce and mixed vegetable harvestin Arizona continued without interruption.

PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK: Colder than normal temperatures prevailed for another week over most of the Nation increasing the strain of livestock and retarding grass growth in the South Atlantic and South Central States. Supplemental feeding continued at a heavy rate while livestock generally remained in fair to good condition in the South and in good condition in the Great Plains and most Western States. Calving and lambing in most States is progressing normally with no unusual death losses with the exception of Colorado and Nebraska.

Arlon M. Scott
Agricultural Statistician

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., Mar. 18, 1973

States and Stations	Temperature °F Average	Temperature °F Departure	Precipitation Inches Total	Precipitation Inches Departure
ALA.Birmingham. . .	37	-12	1.0	- .3
Mobile.	47	- 9	.6	- .5
Montgomery. . . .	41	- 9	.8	- .3
ALASKA.Anchorage. .	---	---	---	----
Barrow.	-23	- 4	T	0
Fairbanks	- 8	- 5	T	- .1
Juneau.	20	- 7	2.1	+1.3
Kodiak.	---	---	---	----
Nome.	- 9	-15	T	- .2
ARIZ.Flagstaff. . .	26	- 4	.7	+ .3
Phoenix	53	- 1	.3	+ .1
Tucson.	49	- 4	.2	0
Winslow	38	0	.9	+ .8
Yuma.	56	- 2	T	- .1
ARK.Fort Smith. . .	36	- 8	T	- .9
Little Rock . . .	38	- 7	.8	- .3
CALIF.Bakersfield .	54	+ 2	.2	- .1
Eureka.	48	0	.5	- .9
Fresno.	49	- 2	.5	- .1
Los Angeles . . .	59	+ 2	1.2	+ .4
Red Bluff	51	+ 1	.4	- .5
San Diego	58	+ 2	.4	- .2
San Francisco . .	53	+ 2	1.4	+ .6
Stockton	50	+ 1	.5	- .1
COLO.Denver	34	+ 3	.1	- .1
Grand Junction. .	29	- 4	T	- .2
Pueblo.	32	- 2	T	- .1
CONN.Bridgeport . .	24	- 7	1.0	+ .2
Hartford.	22	- 6	.6	- .1
D.C.Washington. . .	30	- 8	.5	- .1
FLA.Apalachicola. .	49	- 8	.1	- .9
Daytona Beach . .	55	- 6	.4	----
Ft. Myers	59	- 6	.6	0
Jacksonville. . .	49	- 8	2.0	+1.3
Key West.	66	- 5	T	- .5
Lakeland.	55	- 8	.8	+ .2
Miami	64	- 4	1.0	+ .6
Orlando	56	- 6	.4	- .2
Tallahassee . . .	48	- 8	.2	- .9
Tampa	55	- 8	.9	+ .2
W.Palm Beach. . .	63	- 5	1.1	----
GA.Atlanta.	36	-10	.3	- .8
Augusta	36	-13	.7	- .2
Macon	38	-13	.7	- .4
Savannah.	44	- 9	.2	- .7
HAWAII.Hilo	73	+ 2	.8	-2.4
Honolulu.	74	+ 2	T	- .8
Kahului	71	- 1	T	-1.2
Lihue	74	+ 3	T	-1.3
IDAHO.Boise	37	+ 2	.1	- .2
Lewiston.	38	+ 2	T	- .3
Pocatello	25	- 3	.2	0
ILL.Cairo	32	- 9	.8	- .1
Chicago	25	- 3	.6	+ .2
Moline.	21	- 5	.7	+ .4
Peoria.	22	- 6	.5	+ .1
Rockford.	20	- 5	.5	+ .1
Springfield . . .	25	- 7	.5	0
IND.Evansville. . .	30	- 8	.6	- .2
Ft. Wayne	20	- 8	.5	- .1
Indianapolis. . .	26	- 5	.3	- .2
South Bend. . . .	24	- 3	.2	- .2
IOWA.Burlington . .	23	- 5	.8	+ .5
Des Moines. . . .	20	- 4	.4	+ .1
Dubuque	19	- 3	.3	- .1
Sioux City. . . .	16	- 6	.4	+ .2
KANS.Concordia. . .	25	- 7	.1	- .1
Dodge City. . . .	31	- 4	T	- .2
Goodland.	28	- 3	T	- .1
Topeka.	27	- 7	.3	+ .1
Wichita	30	- 7	T	- .2
KY.Lexington. . . .	29	- 7	.8	0
Louisville. . . .	31	- 5	.6	- .2
La.Baton Rouge. . .	47	- 9	1.3	+ .3
Lake Charles. . .	48	- 9	1.4	+ .3
New Orleans . . .	50	- 7	1.3	+ .3
Shreveport. . . .	46	- 5	.2	- .9
MAINE.Caribou . . .	10	- 2	.8	+ .3
Portland.	20	- 3	.4	- .6
MD.Baltimore. . . .	28	- 8	.6	- .1
MASS.Boston	26	- 4	.7	- .1
Chatham	27	---	1.1	----
MICH.Alpena	11	- 7	.1	- .3
Detroit	18	- 9	.3	- .2
Flint	19	- 3	.4	0
Grand Rapids. . .	15	- 9	.3	- .1
Houghton Lake . .	11	- 8	.2	- .2
Lansing	22	- 2	.5	0
Marquette	18	- 2	.4	0
Muskegon.	18	- 8	.5	0
S. Ste. Marie . .	10	- 6	.1	- .3
MINN.Duluth	8	- 3	.2	0
Internatl Falls .	3	- 4	.1	- .1
Minneapolis . . .	16	0	.4	+ .2
Rochester	14	- 2	.3	+ .1
St. Cloud	12	- 1	.2	0
MISS.Jackson. . . .	43	- 8	1.1	- .1
Meridian.	44	- 7	1.7	+ .4
MO.Columbia	27	- 7	.8	+ .4
Kansas City . . .	27	- 9	.5	+ .2
St. Louis	28	- 7	.4	- .1
Springfield . . .	31	- 6	.1	- .4
MONT.Billings . . .	26	0	.1	0
Glasgow	15	+ 1	T	- .1
Great Falls . . .	24	0	.1	- .1
Havre	12	- 4	.1	0
Helena.	22	- 2	T	- .1
Kalispell	27	+ 2	T	- .2
Miles City. . . .	18	- 2	.3	+ .2
Missoula.	31	+ 6	T	- .2
NEBR.Grand Island .	20	- 6	.2	0
Lincoln	20	- 9	.2	- .1
Norfolk	15	- 8	.3	+ .1
N.Platte.	24	- 4	T	- .1
Omaha	20	- 5	.3	+ .1
Valentine	20	- 3	T	- .1
NEV.Ely	23	- 4	0	- .2
Las Vegas	48	0	.7	+ .6
Reno.	36	0	.1	- .2
Winnemucca. . . .	36	+ 3	T	- .3
N.H.Concord	16	- 6	.5	- .1
N.J.Atlantic City .	28	- 7	.5	- .3
Trenton	27	- 7	.6	- .1
N.MEX.Albuquerque .	35	- 5	T	- .1
Roswell	--	---	---	----
N.Y.Albany.	14	- 9	.6	+ .1
Binghamton. . . .	11	-13	.8	+ .3
Buffalo	15	- 9	.4	- .3
New York.	27	- 6	.7	- .1
Rochester	13	-12	.6	0
Syracuse.	12	-12	.2	- .6
N.C.Asheville . . .	32	- 9	.8	0
Charlotte	34	-11	.5	- .4
Greensboro. . . .	30	-11	.4	- .4
Hatteras.	37	- 9	.9	- .1
Raleigh	32	-11	.2	- .7
Wilmington. . . .	38	-11	1.4	+ .6
N.DAK.Bismarck. . .	11	- 3	.1	0
Fargo	10	- 1	T	- .1
Williston	13	+ 1	.1	0
OHIO.Akron-Canton .	19	-10	.8	+ .2
Cincinnati. . . .	26	- 7	.7	0
Cleveland	20	- 8	1.1	+ .5
Columbus	24	- 7	.6	0
Dayton.	25	- 6	.6	0
Toledo.	17	-10	.5	0
Youngstown. . . .	16	-11	.8	+ .2
OKLA.Okla. City . .	37	- 5	T	- .3
Tulsa	35	- 6	.2	- .2
OREG.Astoria. . . .	44	+ 1	.4	-2.1
Burns	34	+ 4	.2	- .1
Medford	45	+ 4	.1	- .5
Pendleton	34	- 3	T	- .3
Portland.	45	+ 3	.3	- .7
Salem	43	+ 1	.2	-1.2
PA.Allentown. . . .	23	- 6	.8	+ .1
Erie.	15	- 9	.4	- .2
Harrisburg. . . .	26	- 6	1.1	+ .5
Philadelphia. . .	27	- 6	.6	- .1
Pittsburgh. . . .	21	- 8	.7	+ .2
Scranton.	18	-10	.5	0
R.I. Providence . .	24	- 6	1.1	+ .3
S.C. Charleston . .	40	-11	.8	0
Columbia.	36	-12	.9	0
Greenville. . . .	35	-11	.7	- .3
S.D. Aberdeen . . .	14	0	.2	0
Huron	13	- 4	.4	+ .2
Rapid City. . . .	21	- 3	.2	+ .1
Sioux Falls . . .	13	- 6	.4	+ .2
TENN.Chattanooga. .	30	-15	1.7	+ .3
Knoxville	34	- 9	.7	- .5
Memphis	35	- 9	.9	- .3
Nashville	34	- 8	.9	- .2
TEX.Abilene	41	- 7	.3	0
Amarillo.	37	- 5	.1	0
Austin.	48	- 6	.6	- .1
Beaumont.	49	- 7	1.2	+ .1
Brownsville . . .	59	- 5	1.9	+1.5
Corpus Christi. .	54	- 7	.4	0
Dallas.	45	- 5	T	- .7
Del Rio	48	- 6	.3	+ .1
El Paso	48	- 1	.2	+ .1
Fort Worth. . . .	46	- 4	T	- .6
Galveston	50	- 7	.9	0
Houston	48	- 6	1.3	+ .4
Lubbock	38	- 5	.1	- .1
Midland	42	- 6	.1	0
San Angelo. . . .	45	- 6	.3	+ .1
San Antonio . . .	48	- 8	.7	+ .3
Victoria.	52	- 6	1.1	+ .5
Waco.	46	- 6	.3	- .3
Wichita Falls . .	42	- 5	.3	- .1
UTAH.Blanding . . .	30	- 3	.1	- .2
Salt Lake City. .	30	- 3	.4	+ .1
VT.Burlington . . .	5	-12	.6	+ .1
VA.Lynchburg. . . .	29	-10	.5	- .2
Norfolk	34	- 8	.4	- .4
Richmond.	32	- 8	.4	- .3
Roanoke	30	- 9	.5	- .2
WASH.Colville . . .	34	+ 4	.2	- .2
Omak.	31	+ 4	.1	- .2
Quillayute. . . .	43	+ 2	1.4	-1.9
Seattle-Tacoma. .	45	+ 4	.2	- .9
Spokane	35	+ 5	.1	- .4
Walla Walla . . .	36	- 3	.2	- .2
Yakima.	38	+ 4	T	- .2
W.Va.Beckley. . . .	24	-10	.6	- .4
Charleston. . . .	27	-10	.6	- .3
Huntington. . . .	27	-11	.9	+ .1
Parkersburg . . .	26	- 9	.6	- .1
WIS.Green Bay . . .	18	0	.1	- .2
La Crosse	19	- 1	.4	+ .1
Madison	17	- 3	.2	- .1
Milwaukee	20	- 2	.6	+ .3
WYO.Casper.	22	- 5	.4	+ .3
Cheyenne.	28	- 1	T	- .1
Lander.	15	- 9	.2	0
Sheridan.	25	+ 1	.3	+ .1
P.R.San Juan. . . .	78	+ 3	.2	- .5

CONDENSED STATE SUMMARIES

These summaries provide brief descriptions of conditions 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: Rain Tuesday and Tuesday night, heaviest in Tennessee Valley with more than 2.50 inches at Muscle Shoals and Huntsville. Generally good weather rest of week. Coldest Saturday morning with teens north and 20's south. Extremes: 72° at Geneva and Headland Wednesday to 16° at Muscle Shoals Saturday. Week averaged 7° below normal statewide. Rain and low temperatures limited outdoor activities to care and feeding of livestock and poultry. Excessive moisture restricted spring plowing to upland fields. Unmelted snow also delayed fieldwork in several counties. Cold wet weather retarded growth of small grains and winter grazing crops. These crops suffered from freezing temperatures but full extent of damage is not known. Grazing was limited as most fields were too wet. Livestock remained in fair to good condition despite bad weather. Supplies of stored feed declined further as heavy supplemental feeding continued.

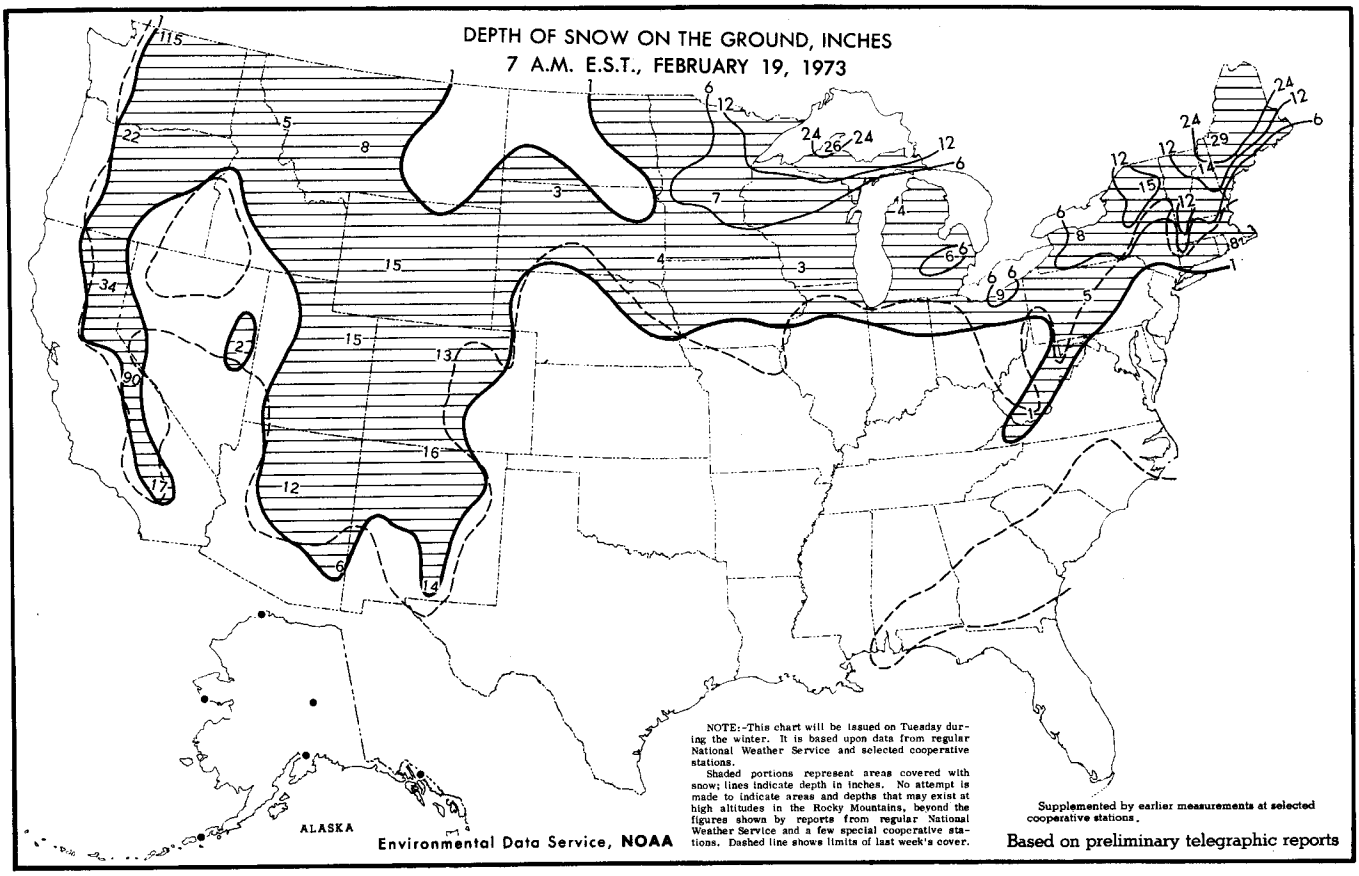
ARIZONA: Temperatures were below normal over most of State, but cloudy skies kept minimums above freezing in Salt River Valley and Yuma area. Showers widespread, snow above about 6,000 feet. Maximum water totals along Mogollon Rim, but most weekly totals were below 1.00 inch. Post harvest operations completed 1972 cotton, field operations full swing for 1973 crop. Small grains good progress, planting active Graham, Cochise Counties. Early-planted safflower good progress. Sugar beets continue good growth, good root development. Lettuce spring harvest good progress Salt River Valley, Pima and Pinal Counties. Mixed vegetable harvest continued, Salt River Valley. Harvest lettuce, mixed vegetables continued Yuma area, field operations cantaloupes continued. Harvest Valencia oranges, Kinnow Mandarins full swing Yuma, Salt River Valley; grapefruit harvest continued limited. Lemon harvest about complete, groves beginning new growth. Ranges received rain, snow past week. Condition of ranges good except northeastern areas, poor to fair. Desert ranges providing grazing, stockwater adequate. Cattle, calves good. Sheep, lambs on winter pastures fair to good; on northern Indian Reservations fair to poor.

ARKANSAS: Weekly mean temperatures 5° to 10° below normal with greatest departures north-central, least in southwest. Highest 76° at Texarkana on 13th. Lowest 8° at Calico Rock on 17th. Mild early in week turning cooler at midweek with most sections having lowest readings on weekend. Precipitation totals ranged from trace to near 0.50 inch in western half of State and from 0.50 inch to just under 1.50 inches in eastern half. Largest weekly total at Clarendon. Most precipitation fell early in week. Wet fields continue to limit fieldwork. Final cotton scrappings and soybean combinings being completed when possible. Small grains and winter pastures growing slowly. Cattle in mostly fair condition; large amounts of supplemental feed being fed. Farm activities mostly routine chores and maintenance.

CALIFORNIA: Another rainy week with locally heavy daily amounts in the south coastal region. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.50 inch in the desert to 3.50 inches on the south coast. Average temperatures slightly above normal most areas. Fieldwork delayed by wet fields most of State. Planting sugarbeets, small grains far behind normal. Alfalfa growth started central valleys, weed control active. Some cotton still standing San Joaquin Valley; fieldwork for new plantings active desert areas. Rains hindered spraying, pruning deciduous fruit trees, citrus harvests. Early almonds, apricot, plum, and freestone peach trees blooming. Navel orange harvest slow, central valley, grade-out heavy, southern California moderate. Harvest Valencias desert increasing, grapefruit normal; lemons, avocados active. Artichokes light volume central coast. Asparagus continues desert area, limited Orange County, few crates Delta and Salinas. Broccoli and cauliflower steady central coast. Carrots steady Imperial, Coachella Valleys. Celery increase Orange, Oxnard; decrease San Diego. Lettuce increased Imperial Valley, plantings behind schedule Salinas and San Joaquin Valley. Potatoes slow northern California, hampered central valley and central coast by wet fields. Strawberries continue San Diego. Range conditions improving, longer days and sunny weather drying soggy ranges. Supplemental feeding decreasing, but still required many areas. Cattle in good condition. Calving, lambing continuing central valley and southern California. Egg production seasonally light. Turkey growers increasing number eggs set. Bees moving into almond orchards in northern San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley.

COLORADO: Typical mid-February week with temperatures averaging generally below normal except along the foothills. Temperatures ranged from 62° at several southeastern stations to -29° at Lake George. Little or no precipitation east of the Continental Divide; scattered light to moderate snow showers in mountains. Greatest new snow amount, 20 inches at Crested Butte. Winter wheat and barley good to excellent condition. Surface soil moisture adequate to surplus. Field activities limited by muddy conditions. Caring and feeding livestock the major farm activities. Crop residue is providing ample forage eastern plains. Livestock condition poor to fair, supplemental feeding continued heavy most areas. Calving continuing local areas, loss of newborn calves continues above normal.

FLORIDA: Temperatures well below normal with widespread rain midweek and again on weekend. Temperatures averaged 5° to 8° below normal throughout State. Rainfall averaged 0.50 to 1.00 inch most of State except only scattered showers in Keys. Weather slowed fieldwork. Sugarcane harvest progressing rapidly. Cool temperatures are preventing grass growth and continuing the need for supplemental feeding. Cattle and calves are fair to good with large percent of new calf crop on the ground. Citrus grove condition excellent, weekly rains continue, soil moisture excellent; bloom buds held in check by cold weather. Vegetable crop progress slowed by cold, windy, rainy weather of February 10 to 12. Harvest activity expected to return to normal this week. Cabbage volume continues moderate, tomatoes light, celery in moderate to good supply. Most other crops furnishing seasonal volume, with all Florida grown commodities available except melons.



GEORGIA: Rain Wednesday, mostly sunny remainder of week. Rainfall totals between 0.50 and 1.00 inch but ranged from 0.25 to 1.50 inches. Cold at beginning of week and from Thursday to Sunday. Mild briefly at midweek. Highs in 40's and 50's most days and lows in teens in extreme north and 20's and 30's in south on 3 to 5 days. Averages ranged from 6° to 12° below normal. Soil moisture remained excessive statewide with fieldwork and land preparation delayed. Small grain condition rated fair all areas. Tobacco beds were fair to good. Peach dormancy accumulation improved. Livestock and poultry condition about normal.

HAWAII: Weather clear with scattered light showers, mainly windward areas. Crop progress continued fair to good with heavy irrigation. Sugarcane harvesting increasing seasonally. Pineapples light. Vegetable and fruit harvestings adequate. Cattle fair to good condition. Most lowland pastures need more rain. Moisture shortage some areas.

IDAHO: Temperatures continued near normal except east where averages were slightly below normal. Lowest temperatures were reported last half of week east. Precipitation occurred midweek and was mostly below normal except above normal upper Snake River plains where totals ranged near 0.50 inch. Most snow depth reports for the week were less than last week. Warm days ideal for calving and lambing operations. Hay movement picking up as areas of shortages and surpluses are equalizing each other. Feed lots continue muddy. Potato marketing at high level.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures started out rather mild early this week with maximum readings in 30's and 40's but then began to cool. The coldest air poured into State Thursday and Friday resulting in weekly average temperatures 3° to 8° below normal. The incoming cool air was accompanied by 0.50 to 1.00 inch of water equivalent precipitation which came in the form of 2 to 6 inches of snow north and mixtures of rain and snow central and south. Winter wheat, other small grains, legumes reported in good condition throughout State. Little winter damage except for reports of some winter wheat damage in southern Illinois due to freezing and thawing. Livestock in good condition, but muddy lots caused some problems. Cattle made good use of stalk fields. Scattered reports of TGE in hogs. Soil moisture 52% adequate, 48% surplus. Main activities were machinery repair, crop planning, income tax preparation, routine farm chores, and fertilizer application.

INDIANA: Temperatures averaged 22° to 31° and were 1° to 7° below normal. Snowfall was over 1 foot deep near Lake Michigan on 14th and 15th, not much elsewhere but rain in south measured 0.50 inch. Temperatures declined from 46° on 14th to -21° at Waterloo on 17th. Soils frozen 2 to 4 inches deep. Field activity picked up near the end of the week as soils became frozen. Harvest of remaining corn fields was scattered and some plowing was accomplished. Livestock care, maintaining machinery, and farm chores occupied farmer's time.

IOWA: A cool week with moderate precipitation. Precipitation 13th through 15th and turning colder 15th. Coldest, -29° at Cherokee on 16th.

KANSAS: Cold wintry weather prevailed last week. Temperatures averaged 3° to 4° below seasonal western 1/3 and much below normal elsewhere. Maxima 30's to 50's most days and minima generally teens to 30's. Precipitation 0.25 to 0.75 inch northeast. Generally under 0.25 inch elsewhere. Wheat greened and made limited growth last week. More cattle moved to wheat pastures, expecially western areas. Surface moisture remained surplus most areas. Nitrogen topdressing spread on frozen wheat fields several mornings last week. Fertilizer also applied to cool season grasses several eastern counties. Oats and barley seeding delayed as fields all areas too wet for this type of operation. Wrapup of sorghum grain, corn, and soybean harvest made limited progress. Supplemental feeding of livestock lessened somewhat as firming soil western and some central areas permitted additional use of wheat pasture. Alternate frozen ground an mud hard on feedlot livestock many sections. Roughage supplies mostly adequate, but heavy usage put stress on some local supplies. Calving and farrowing continued with moderate death loss.

KENTUCKY: Temperatures averaged 5° to 11° below normal. Precipitation ranged 0.50 to 1.00 inch. Temperature averages near to above normal 13th and 14th; below to much below normal balance. Maxima below 32° 16th and 17th, minima in 3° to 10° range on 17th. Mostly sunny 3 days. Cloudy 4 days; rain 13th and 14th; snow 15th and 16th. One to 2 inch snow depth at 7 a.m. on 16th. Farm activity minimal as winter weather prevails. Most fields wet. Limited late harvesting possible during coldest days as soils froze. Feed costs continue to rise sharply. Livestock wintering satisfactory, but at increased cost to farmers.

LOUISIANA: Wintry weather beginning and ending, briefly mild at midweek. Temperatures averaged 5° to 10° below normal. Temperature extremes: 74° at Shreveport and Mamou Wednesday; 23° at Cotton Valley Friday. Precipitation moderate to heavy with front Tuesday and Wednesday. Some light sleet and snow south Saturday. Weekly totals ranged from nearly 0.25 inch to more than 2.00 inches. Greatest 1-day amount, 3.15 inches, measured at Simmesport Wednesday morning. Fieldwork limited due to excess moisture. Some scattered plowing, cotton picking, and field drainage. Irish potato planting further delayed. Strawberry plants in good condition. Winter pastures made little growth, grazing short. Pasture feed below average. Heavy feeding of livestock continued, hay supply short or exhausted. Cattle in fair to good condition.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: A very cold week. Temperatures averaged 8° to 11° below normal. Extremes mostly 50's and 5° to 15° except -10° to 5° in west. Precipitation mostly 0.50 to 1.00 inch. Some snow up to 3 inches in west, elsewhere little or none. Winter wheat and barley condition rated good by 2/3 of reporters and only fair by remainder. Most of fair reports came from southern parts of two States. Topdressing of grain fields with nitrogen fertilizer slowed by soft soils, but some fertilizing was done while ground frozen during past week. Livestock generally good and roughage supplies adequate unless spring pastures are very late.

MICHIGAN: Mild with snow and rain midweek. Clearing, subzero temperatures south on 16th and 17th, with some record daily minimum temperatures. Lowest: Muskegon -14° equals coldest since station opened; Grand Rapids -19°; Traverse City -17°, Houghton Lake -24°. Temperatures averaged 1° to 4° below normal Upper Peninsula 5° to 10° below normal Lower Peninsula, largest departures interior sections. Precipitation 0.25 to 0.50 inch except less than 0.10 inch northeast Lower Peninsula and east Upper Peninsula. Some probable damage to fruit buds due to record low temperatures.

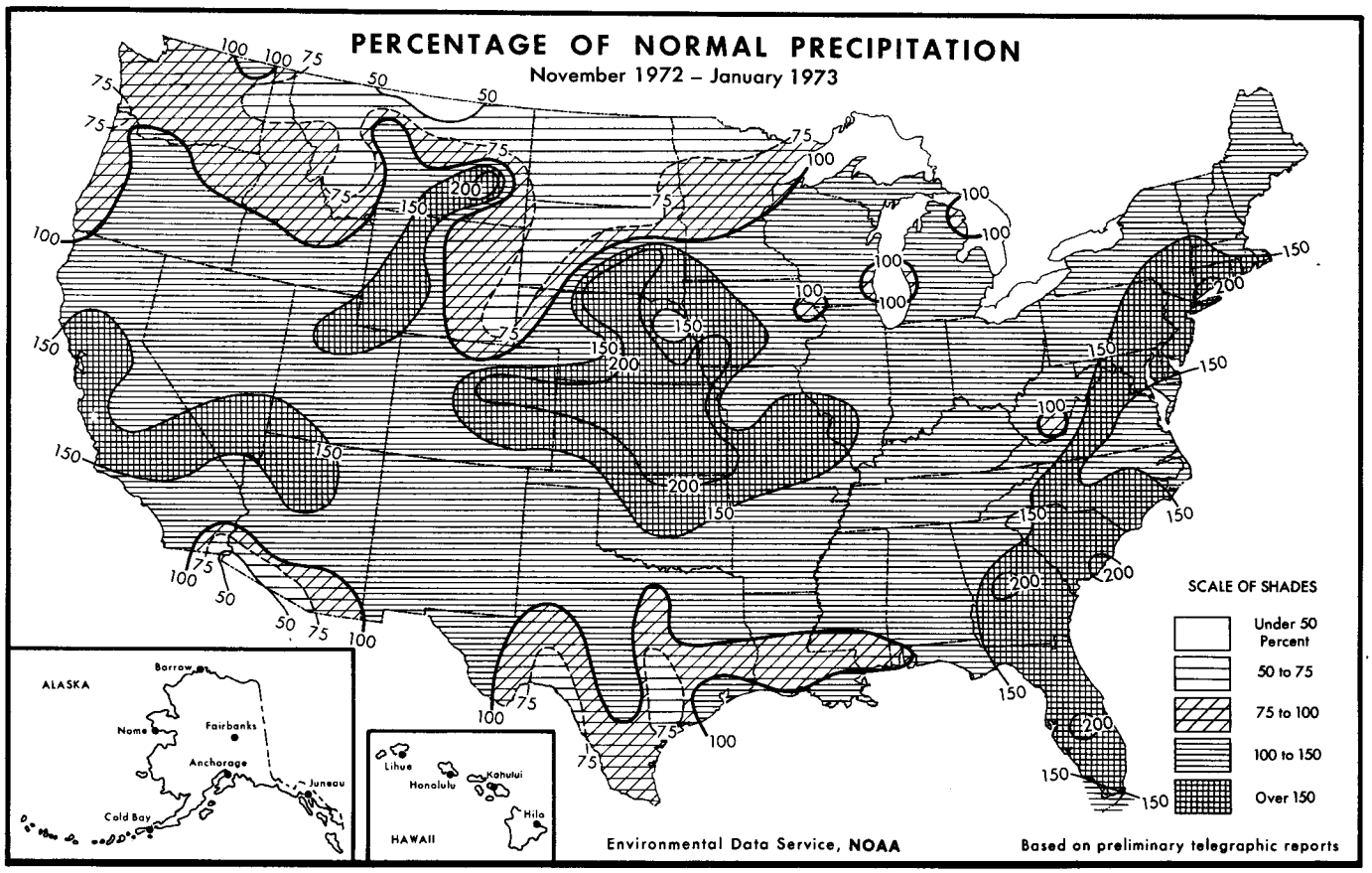
MINNESOTA: Temperatures near normal on a line from Fargo to Minneapolis and 4° below normal across north and southwest parts of State. State averaged 2° below normal. Precipitation generally 0.50 inch water content across southern half of State. Rest of State little to none. Precipitation fell as snow on 13th, 4 to 7 inches. The 7-inch amounts were generally in Marshall, Worthington, and Mankato areas. Snow depth: Western and southern districts vary from none to 5 inches while other districts have more than 6 inches. The northeast district averaged 14 inches.

MISSISSIPPI: Temperatures averaged 8° to 11° below normal with the low of 15° on 11th at several locations. Rain on 1 to 3 days mostly Wednesday with 3.80 inches at Wiggins for greatest 1-day amount. On Wednesday, a tornado near Ocean Springs resulted in man injured. Over weekend temperatures were seasonal with no measurable precipitation. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged slightly less than 1 day, down from a little over 2 days last week. Soil moisture surplus to excessive. Cotton and soybean acreage harvest remains unchanged. plowing at a standstill with 8% completed. This compares with 22% a year earlier. Irish potato seeding increased moderately last week. Hay and roughage and feed grain supplies short to adequate. Wheat and oats in poor to fair condition. Pastures and livestock conditions poor to fair.

MISSOURI: Cool week with temperatures averaging 6° below normal. Cold beginning of week, warmer at midweek and cold again late in week. Moderate to heavy rain over most of State except the Ozarks. Weekly totals over the northeast exceeded 1.00 inch at a few locations.

MONTANA: Mild weather prevailed over Montana past week with temperatures averaging 5° above normal in western division to 5° below normal north-central. Cool over east first part of week with general warming at weekend. Precipitation again generally light. Western division received very little precipitation while scattered areas of central and southeastern portions received around 0.25 inch. Winter wheat condition fair central and southwest, good northwest, fair to good elsewhere. Snow cover protection of winter wheat fair to poor. Wind damage light to moderate north-central and central, generally light elsewhere. Calving, lambing, and shearing 10% complete. Cattle and sheep condition good to excellent north-central, fair to good southwest, good elsewhere. Grazing difficult portions western 1/3, southeast, open elsewhere. Concentrates, hay and roughage supplies mostly adequate.

NEBRASKA: Storm on 12th and 13th. 2 to 5 inches of wind-driven snow fell from south-central into northeast Nebraska. Rain or rain and snow mixed occurred elsewhere. Arctic air arrived on heels of storm. Except far west, temperatures remained quite cold until 17th. Niobrara had State low, -24° on 16th. Cold spell caused average weekly temperatures to range from 3° to 9° subnormal. Weekend saw moderating temperatures most sections. Rain and 1 to 3 inches of snow fell in Panhandle on 18th. Farmers and ranchers con-



PRECIPITATION - NOVEMBER 1972 to JANUARY 1973

Most of the Nation received above-normal precipitation in the 3-month period, November 1972 to January 1973. The main exceptions were the Far Northwest, the northern Great Plains, southern Arizona and the Lower Rio Grande Valley and eastward across southern Louisiana.

November was expecially stormy. Above-normal precipitation occurred from the Far Southwest to Atlantic Ocean. Much of the area received more than 150% of normal precipitation. Most of the area from Washington and Oregon to the Atlantic Ocean received above-normal precipitation in December. It was especially heavy over the northern Great Plains and the Deep South. The central Great Plains and the Florida Peninsula received generous precipitation in December.

L. W. Dye

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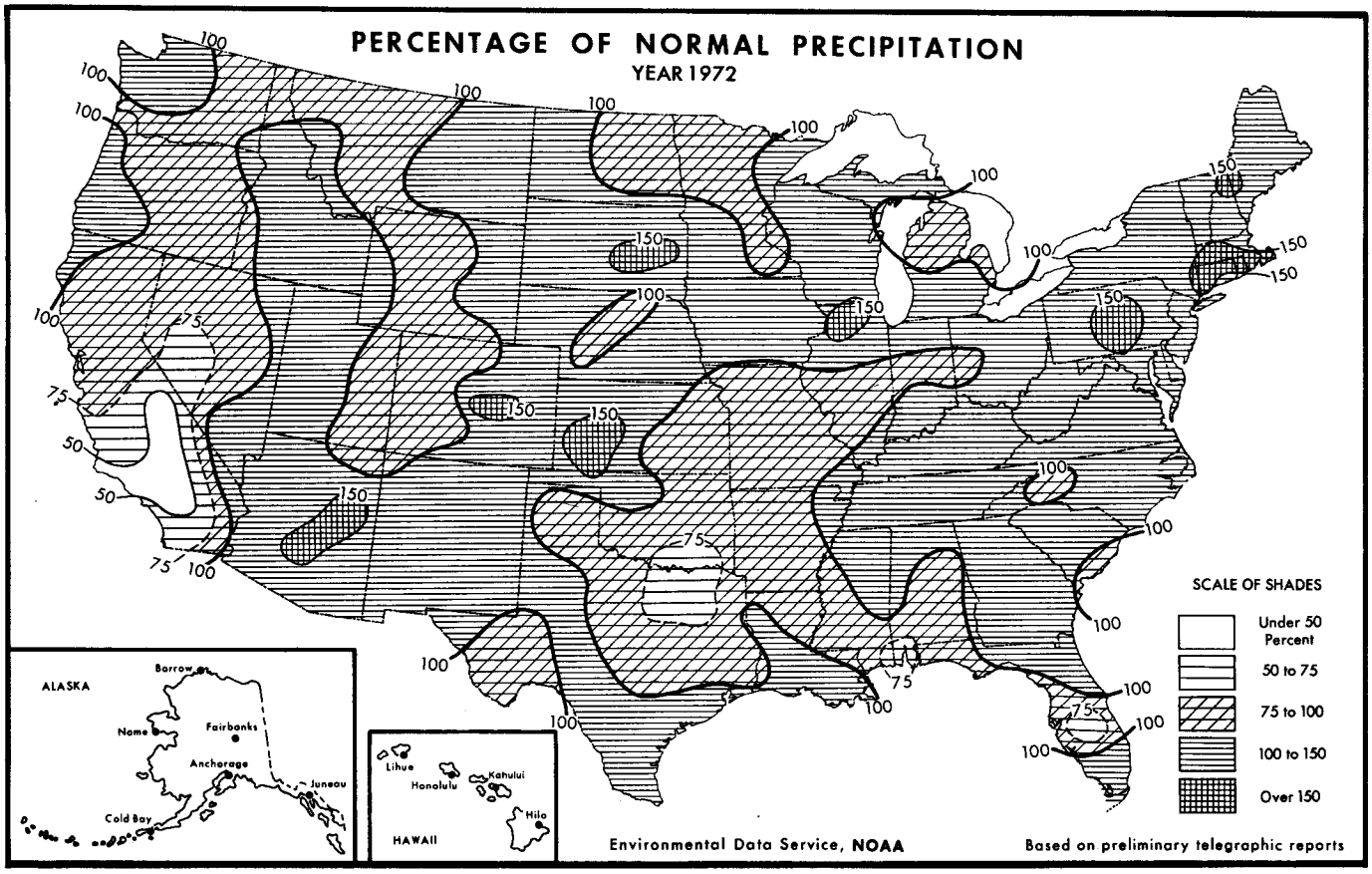
tinue to be plagued by wet and muddy conditions. Attempts made to harvest corn and grain sorghum when fields frozen but progress limited. Corn remains 97% harvested while 93% of grain sorghum is out of field. Local grain dealers shut off purchases of grain due to rail car shortage. Livestock care main concern of most farmers and ranchers. Freezing temperatures brought temporary relief to muddy lot conditions. Slow gains continue, with death losses above average. Weather not suitable for calving and some death losses to newborn calves reported. Most ranchers have adequate feed to see them through winter. Hay is available, but high in price.

NEVADA: Temperatures near normal all divisions. Light to heavy precipitation all divisions from 0.05 inch at Carson City to 1.51 inches at Yucca. Light general snowfall in north and southwest. Mild weather eased winter strain on livestock. Cattle and sheep in generally good condition. Supplemental feeding continues. No unusual death losses, but coyote population appears greater than usual. Farm activity consists mainly of maintenance, seeding, and caring for livestock. Early seedbed preparation for spring wheat and barley under way in local areas. Planting of spring vegetables on limited acreage in Moapa Valley continues on schedule.

NEW ENGLAND: Cold with frequent precipitation. Mild on 14th to 15th with maxima mostly in 30's and 40's but very cold latter half of week. Means mostly 4° to 8° below normal except nearer normal in northern Maine. Frequent but mostly light snow until generally dry on weekend. Snowfall locally up to 10 inches in northwestern Vermont on 15th. Burlington had the largest snowfall of season to date. Cape Cod was hit on 16th with the second heavy snow in a week with locally up to 10 inches. New snow elsewhere mostly 3 to 6 inches. Precipitation totals mostly 0.50 to 1.00 inch.



PRECIPITATION - 1972

The table on page 12 of the February 5, 1973, issue of this Bulletin shows temperature and rainfall data for 1972 for selected stations. The map above shows the percentage of normal precipitation for 1972.

Generous rains fell in the Deep South early in 1972. The winter and spring seasons were especially dry in the Southwest - from California across the southern portion of the Great Basin, the southern Rocky Mountains, northern and western Texas, to Arkansas. Summer rainfall totals were generally less than 4.00 inches west of the Rocky Mountains, from 4.00 to 8.00 inches over the western Great Plains, and more than 8.00 inches over the eastern half of the Nation. Autumn rains were heaviest along the Pacific Ocean and over the eastern half of the Nation. Hurricane Carrie dumped heavy rain over eastern Massachusetts and the central Great Plains received generous rains from thundershowers in September. Tropical Storm Joanne dumped generous rains in the Desert Southwest in October. Another storm deluged the Atlantic Coast in October. November was a stormy month with many parts of the Nation receiving generous amounts of snow or rain. The Deep South received the most rain in December.

L. W. Dye

NEW JERSEY: A very cold week with temperatures averaging mostly from 5° to 9° below normal. Readings varied from the mid-50's on 15th to near zero on 17th. Rain on 15th and 16th and rain and snow mixed on 17th averaged 0.80 inch melted over northern counties and 0.60 inch elsewhere. Snowfall amounts were generally 1 inch or less.

NEW MEXICO: General light showers most frequent early in week and on Friday. Totals greater than 0.25 inch in southwest and north-central localities. Temperatures averaged much below normal particularly during day. General cooling to lowest temperatures Sunday morning. Warming to highest temperatures of week Sunday afternoon. Scattered rains interfered with field operations in certain locations. Land preparation continues advancing. Wheat, barley, lettuce, onions satisfactory. Caring for livestock still needed for maintaining good conditions. Calving remains active.

NEW YORK: Coldest week of season. Temperatures much below normal beginning of week and after 15th. Moderating midweek with maximums in 30's to low 40's on 14th. Minimums -10° to -20° widespread Upstate on 12th, 17th, and 18th. Watertown -32° and Glens Falls -29° on weekend. Coldest minimums on Long Island near +5° on 17th. General snowfall on 14th and 15th totaled 5 to 10 inches all sections except extreme southeast where traces or none. Precipitation totals, 0.40 to 0.80 inch all sections. Moderately deep snow cover except in Lower Hudson Valley and Long Island. Depths 12 to 24 inches in Adirondacks and northern valleys with 6 to 10 inches.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures averaged 10° below normal. Some record lows just above zero southeast. Snow cover remained through 14th in southeast. Rain 14th and 15th, 0.25 inch to 2.00 inches averaging 1.00 inch east and 0.50 inch west. Mother Nature plagued many North Carolina farmers as she released relentless fury across State Saturday morning, February 10. Heavy snows halted fieldwork and tobacco plantbed preparation along coast. Snow, in conjunction with wet fields many areas, limited fieldwork to an average 1/2 day. In general, most farmers only kept livestock fed and made plans for 1973 crops. Wheat, oats, barley, rye mostly good condition. Pastures mostly fair, but wet, thus limiting grazing. Feed grain and hay supplies mostly adequate, heavier rations fed livestock after snow.

NORTH DAKOTA: Snow and strong winds with blowing snow and change to colder Tuesday and Wednesday. Milder and windy on weekend. Daytime temperatures near or below zero middle of week. Averages near normal. Precipitation totals trace to 0.40 inch. Snow cover trace to 5 inches. Although cold most of week, livestock remain in good condition. Some wind erosion on bare fields. Feed supplies adequate. Farmers and ranchers marketing livestock, hauling feed and roughage, and repairing machinery and buildings.

OHIO: On morning of 17th, new record low temperatures were set at Findlay, -11°; Toledo, -29°; and Youngstown, -10°. Low temperatures were below zero with many stations again on 18th. On 14th and 15th, lows were in 30's. On 16th and 17th, highs mostly in teens and 20's with a return to 30's on 18th. Snow started falling early morning of 15th. By early afternoon 16th, Youngstown and Findlay had about 3 inches, Toledo and Akron 4 inches, and Cleveland area had about 8 to 18 inches. Outside farm activities were limited in some areas by icy conditions and severe cold; livestock chores increased in these areas. Corn and soybeans are still being harvested and corn storage continues to present problems. Drying of corn and soybeans continues on a limited basis due to natural gas shortages, especially in the north-central district. Farmers are also attending livestock sales and meetings.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures averaged 2° to 8° below normal. Precipitation light with greatest average 0.20 inch, southwest. Snow up to 1 inch western 1/2 on Saturday. Southwest Oklahoma cotton growers made good progress in harvesting standing acreage. Strippers were busy 3 or more days depending on ground conditions. Topdressing small grains became active. Seeding of spring small grains slow as soil too wet for preparation. About 10% intended acreage seeded. Wheat made limited growth under cool temperatures. Dormant spray being applied to eastern orchards and pecan groves. Poor ranges made feeding necessary while forage supplies dropped. Cattle conditions unchanged at fair to good.

OREGON: Cloudy week with daily showers. Temperatures averaged 1° to 5° below normal north-central, above normal elsewhere to 6° above east-central. Weekly minima 5° to 27° east, 28° to 42° western 1/3. Maxima 39° to 62°. Showers 3 to 7 days totaled 0.10 to 0.60 inch except 0.90 to 2.00 inches on coast and Cascades. Spring work gaining momentum. Plowing, spraying, fertilizing, and some seeding being done as ground dries enough to support equipment. Orchard pruning and caneberry training continue. Feeding continues with supplies growing shorter and good hay hard to find. Calf and lamb crops progressing normally.

PENNSYLVANIA: Quite cold beginning and end of week, mild midweek. Maxima in 30's and 40's Wednesday below 20° Saturday. Minima below zero central and north early in week and over weekend. Weekly temperatures 4° to 8° below normal south, 8° to 14° below normal central and north. Extremes: 49°, -22°. Precipitation midweek, rain south, snow, sleet, and rain central, and snow north. Snowfall 6 to 10 inches parts of north Wednesday. Widespread flurries and squalls Friday. Total precipitation near 0.25 inch northwest up to 1.00 inch lower Susquehanna Region. Snow cover Monday morning: None southeast, 1 to 6 inches west, central, and northeast, 6 to 10 inches north-central. Routine winter farm chores.

PUERTO RICO: Increased rainfall activity during week with islandwide average of 1.10 inches or 0.40 inch above normal. Highest weekly total, 5.35 inches in north-central portion with generally good distribution and near normal crop moisture conditions except small sections in south-central and western coasts where more rain needed to restore normal crop development. Temperatures averaged 76° on coast and 70° interior divisions with mean departure of 1.5° below normal. Highest maximum, 89°; lowest minimum, 47°. Sugarcane harvesting and grinding operations progressed well in good weather except heavy showers some central and western interior zones caused minor delays. Coffee plantations active with fieldwork under good weather. Tobacco plantations need more rain for optimum development of growing crop. Pastures fair in south and west due lack of rain, but good to excellent all other zones. Minor crops developing well with good abundance all zones except south and west where agricultural drought continues.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Rainfall midweek with amounts mostly from 0.50 to 1.00 inch. Cold air was the rule with temperatures averaging 7° below normal in the northwest and 10° to 12° below normal rest of the State which was snow-covered most of week. Little farm activity accomplished especially lower half of State because of wet conditions following snow storm. Some harvesting and land preparation upper State. Pruning and setting out new peach trees.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Weekly temperatures averaged from near normal in northeast to 7° below normal in southeast. Extremes ranged from 33° below zero on 16th to 50° in southwest on 12th. Precipitation fell as snow mostly first half of week. A total of 5 to 7 inches of snow fell in much of east on 13th and 14th, with lighter amounts in west. Snow cover on 16th generally ranged from 1 to 3 inches in lower elevations of west to 4 to 9 inches in east. Some farrowing and early calving reported. Early lambing quite successful because of mild weather. Condition of fall-seeded grains still questionable. Freezing and thawing temperatures causing concern among wheat growers and making things difficult for feedlot cattle and feedlot operators. Some hay being moved before spring load limits are put on highways. Cleaning seed, getting equipment ready for spring work, and caring for livestock are main farm activities.

TENNESSEE: Temperatures below normal with departures ranging from 6° to 12°. Greatest departures extreme southeast. Cold most of week with some warming on weekend. Lowest 9° at Crossville on 17th. Highest 57° at Nashville on 19th. Rainfall general over State first part of week. Amounts ranged from 0.50 inch at Jackson to 1.25 inches at Crossville. Most stations reported less than 1.00 inch. Farmers continued their

efforts last week to harvest remainder of corn, cotton, and soybean crops. Some progress was made despite rain early in week. Freezing temperatures towards end of week helped land support farm machinery. Farm activities included livestock feeding, preparing tobacco beds, and making necessary repairs as the weather permitted.

TEXAS: Cold, cloudy, wet weather was general over State midweek. Precipitation amounts heaviest in Lower Valley; where amounts of 1.00 inch or more reported. Temperatures began to climb slowly upward over weekend. Cotton harvest made little headway past week as many fields too wet to harvest. Cotton 95% harvested compared to 93% a week ago and 100% last year. Cotton and sorghum planting began Lower Rio Grande Valley this week on limited scale. Wheat and oats recovering from cold wet weather. Warm open weather needed to maintain growth rates where forage desired. In Lower Rio Grande Valley, vegetable harvest is back in full swing. Cabbage, carrot, and lettuce harvesting is active. Onion growth slowed due to cold weather, melon planting continues. In Coastal Bend watermelon planting continues; many growers replanting for 2d and 3d time because freezing temperatures killed earlier plantings. In San Antonio Winter Garden harvest of spinach, carrots, and cabbage continues. Some lettuce lost due to freeze. Cold weather has setback top growth on onions. In Knox-Haskell area potato planting is underway in drier fields. Clear, dry weather needed to complete planting. Peach trees continue to bloom in many South Texas counties. Early peach crop received some damage since trees were blooming during last freeze in some areas. Citrus harvest continues strong. Valencia picking is expected to increase as early and mid-season orange crop is cleaned up. Trees are in excellent condition with adequate moisture.

UTAH: Snow scattered areas northwest forepart of period and again over weekend. Accumulated amounts of moisture locally moderate to heavy over and near northern Wasatch Mountains. Temperatures averaged near normal except 3° to 11° below normal northern mountains and Uintah Basin divisions. Harsh winter weather still limiting farm activities. Very little early plowing as yet even in southern Utah. Farm flock lambing progressing. Marketing of potatoes, apples, and dry onions from storage continues. Although some bud and limb damage occurred last fall because severe winter temperatures occurred before fruit trees developed maximum hardiness, the fruit outlook for 1973 in some localities still looks good. Serious damage to both trees and buds had occurred in a few areas and other critical periods for Utah's fruit crops lie ahead. Snow cover delaying pruning in orchards. Care and feeding of cattle and sheep on winter range lands, on valley farms, and in feed lots plus caring for dairy herds and poultry flocks continue major activities. Preparation of machinery for spring field work is a current activity.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures quite mild at beginning and end and near to below normal at midweek. Snow extreme southeast at beginning and moderate to heavy rain, freezing rain, and snow flurries 14th and 16th. As week ended, soil slightly drier than week earlier, but over 3/4 contained excess moisture. Drier soils largely west of mountains. About 1 day suitable for fieldwork. Condition of winter grains and grazing crops about same as year ago. Percent of forage from grazing increased slightly and was above this date last year. Temperature fluctuations and dampness contributed to livestock health problems. Pruned orchards, prepared tobacco plant beds, spread fertilizer, harvested soybeans and corn, as weather and soil conditions permitted. Unloaded seed potatoes on eastern shore.

WASHINGTON: Western Washington: Another dry week with temperatures above normal, precipitation light except on coast where 1.25 inches reported. Pruning of caneberries, forced rhubarb harvest, and lifting and planting of tree seedlings continue. Some farmers replanting cabbage seed fields; also preparing fields for spring planting. Local hay supplies remained short with continued inshipments from eastern areas. Eastern Washington: Dry but some light snow on 10th and 11th. Temperatures near normal. Pruning orchards, vineyards continues. Spreading of fertilizer, applying sprays, and reseeding of wheat underway. Some growers installing orchard heaters. Calving and lambing in full swing. Livestock generally in good shape.

WEST VIRGINIA: Heavy rain February 14 gave 0.50 to 1.00 inch totals. Light rain February 15 turned to light snow flurries February 15 to 16 followed by coldest weather of season February 17 to 18. Sunny but cold February 11, 12, 13, 17, and 18. Farm activities mainly caring for livestock, maintaining farmsteads, and pruning trees. Supplemental feeding of livestock widespread due to continued cold weather. Most livestock in good condition.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures averaged near normal. Mild early and late in period. Several cold days after midweek. Extremes: 41° at La Crosse on 13th and 30° below zero at Danbury on 16th. Several inches of snow in most areas on 13th and 14th. This gave good protective covering when cold weather returned. Frost in ground shallow and depths unchanged over the last month or so; average, 7 inches. Some lakes in south opening up or becoming unsafe. Livestock generally in good condition.

WYOMING: Scattered light snow statewide. Jackson had the most moisture with 0.55 inch. Temperatures averaged near normal except 4° to 15° below normal over the Green, Bear, Wind River, and Upper Platte Drainages. Maxima: Mostly 30's west of Divide, Wind River and Upper Platte Drainages, 40's elsewhere. Minima: Mostly -10° to -25° west of Divide, Wind River and Upper Platte Drainages, 10° to -15° elsewhere. Temperature extremes: +52° at Wheatland and -24° at Big Piney and Riverton.

1972 CROP WEATHER IN CENTRAL AMERICA - A BRIEF REVIEW

Extremely dry weather has been affecting parts of virtually all of Central America since mid-1972. The grain crops have been the most seriously affected, while coffee and cotton yields have remained at or above expected levels. Cotton and oilseed crops planted later in the year may be affected because of the dry conditions at planting time. The total extent of the damage will not be known with these crops until they are harvested later this year.

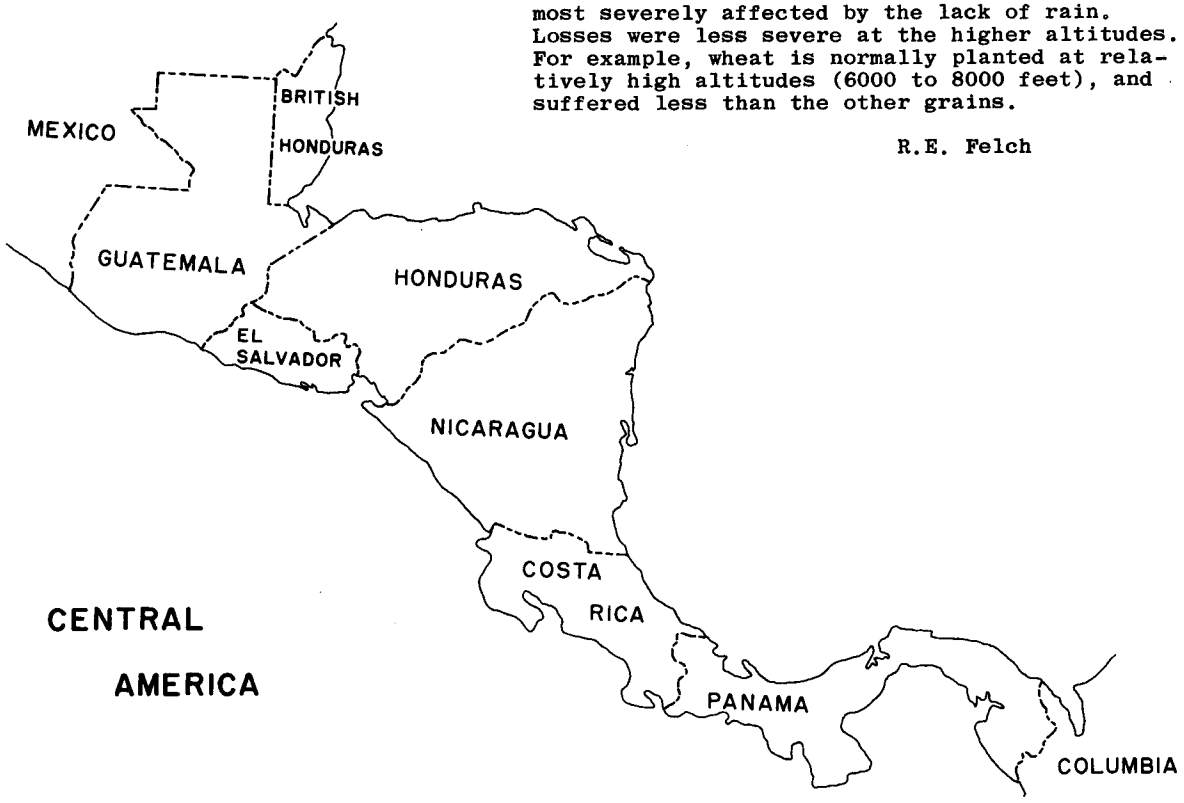
Crop production in El Salvador was adversely affected by a combination of very dry conditions at mid-year and very heavy rains at years end. Corn was the most severely affected since the dry period at mid-year coincided with the time of silking and tasseling and grain filling. The dry weather assisted the sugar cane crop since it occurred at the time of dry-down for harvest. Good weather conditions persisted in the coffee growing areas and record yields were harvested.

Honduras did not escape the serious shortage of 1972, but it was not as severely affected as it's neighbors. Corn and bean yields were reduced 30 percent. Again coffee yields were not severely affected, although the size of the coffee cherries now being harvested are smaller than usual.

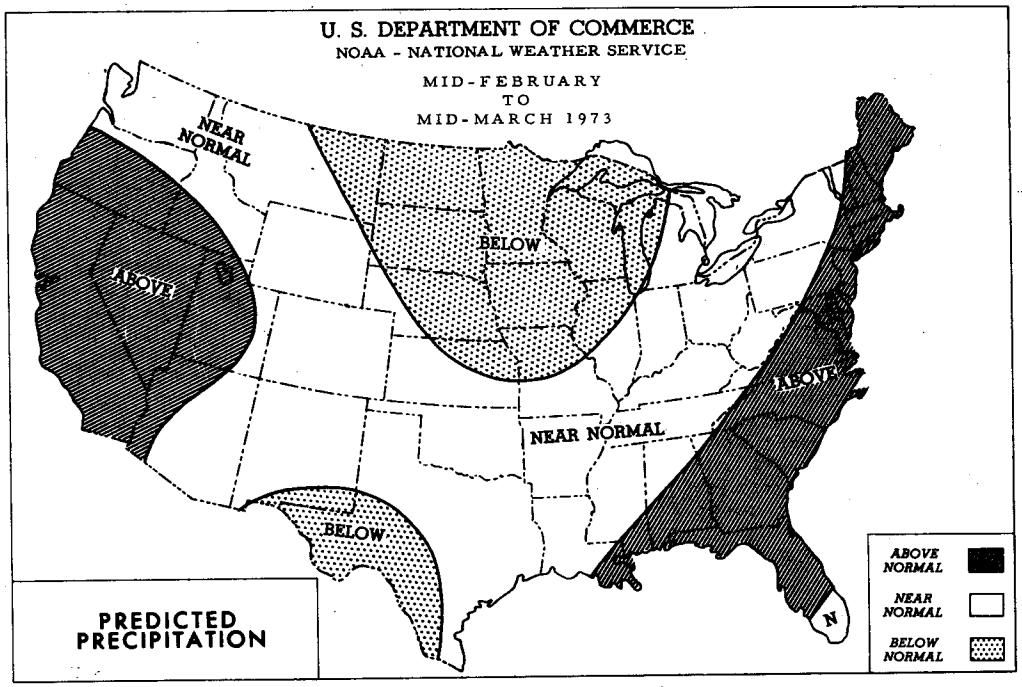
The Pacific Coast region of both Costa Rica and Nicaragua were hit very hard by the drought. In the Dry Pacific Region of Costa Rica, total rice production is down about 18 percent, with corn and bean yields down 6 percent. In Nicaragua the basic grain crops were the most severely affected. Corn production is down about 20 percent. In addition, the dry weather not only reduced the 1972 crop, but it extended on into the planting season for the second crop. Cotton, sugar and coffee yields were good to excellent. The current season's production is expected to be off in coffee primarily because of several severe storms that occurred at flowering time, destroying many of the buds before the berries formed.

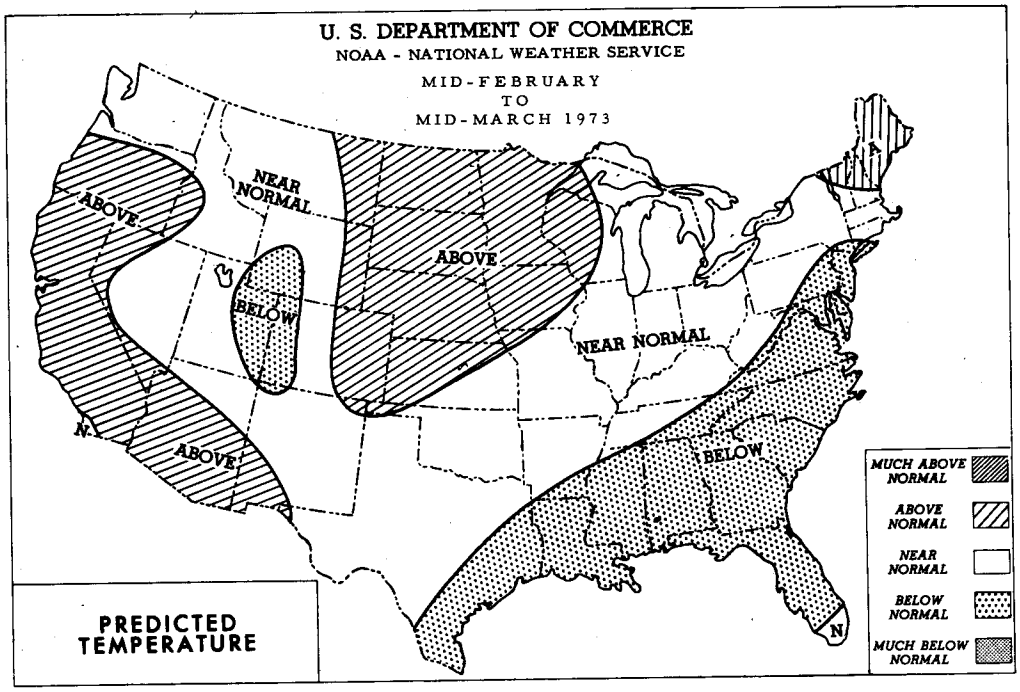
In Guatemala, the principal export crops of coffee, cotton and sugar did well in 1972, but corn and beans, which many subsistence farmers depend on for food, were severely reduced. The unfavorable weather conditions really began back in 1971 and persisted through 1972. Basically the warm high temperature season continued much longer than usual and the rainy season was late starting and unusually dry. Nearer sea level in Guatemala, rains were generally adequate. The so-called middle altitudes (2000 to 4000 feet) were the most severely affected by the lack of rain. Losses were less severe at the higher altitudes. For example, wheat is normally planted at relatively high altitudes (6000 to 8000 feet), and suffered less than the other grains.

R.E. Felch

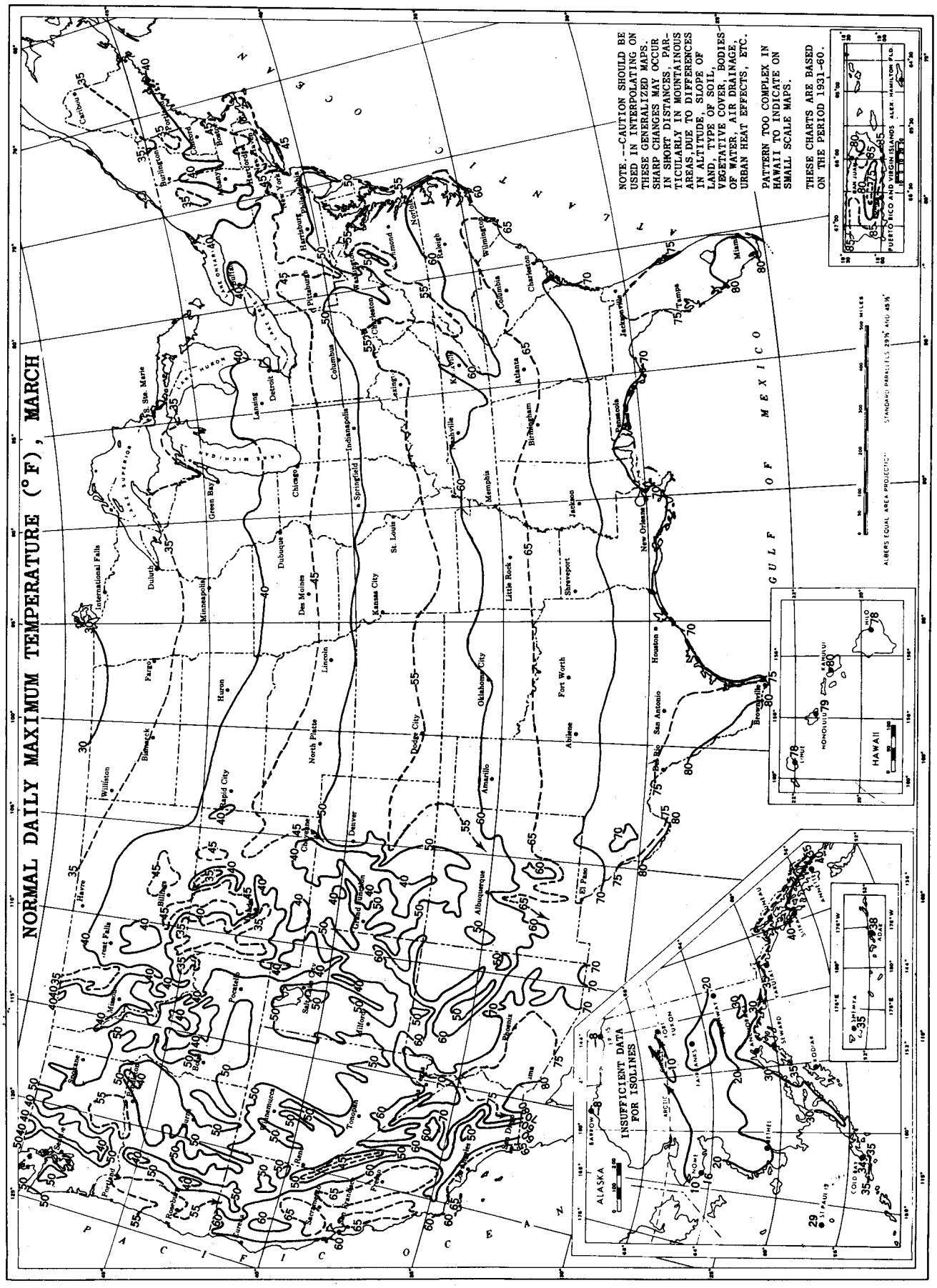


AVERAGE MONTHLY WEATHER OUTLOOK





The above prognostic charts show the expected categories of average temperature and total precipitation for the period indicated. They were extracted from the Weather Service's publication "Average Monthly Weather Outlook" which contains additional information necessary for complete interpretation.


NORMAL DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°F), MARCH
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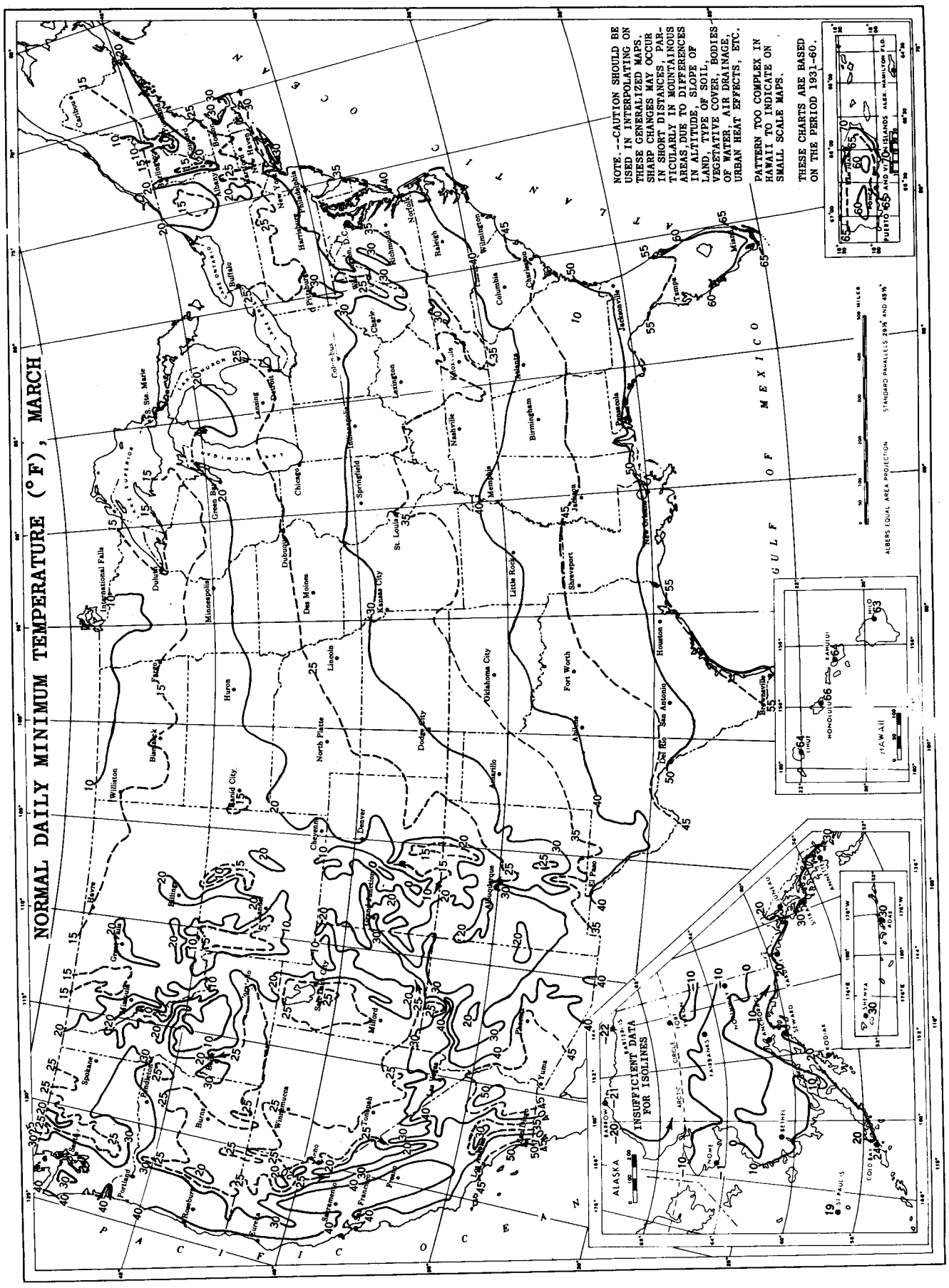
INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR ISOLINES
ALASKA
HAWAII
PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS
GULF OF MEXICO
PACIFIC OCEAN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GULF OF MEXICO
ATLANTIC OCEAN
HAWAII
ALASKA

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