

Weekly Weather & Crop Bulletin

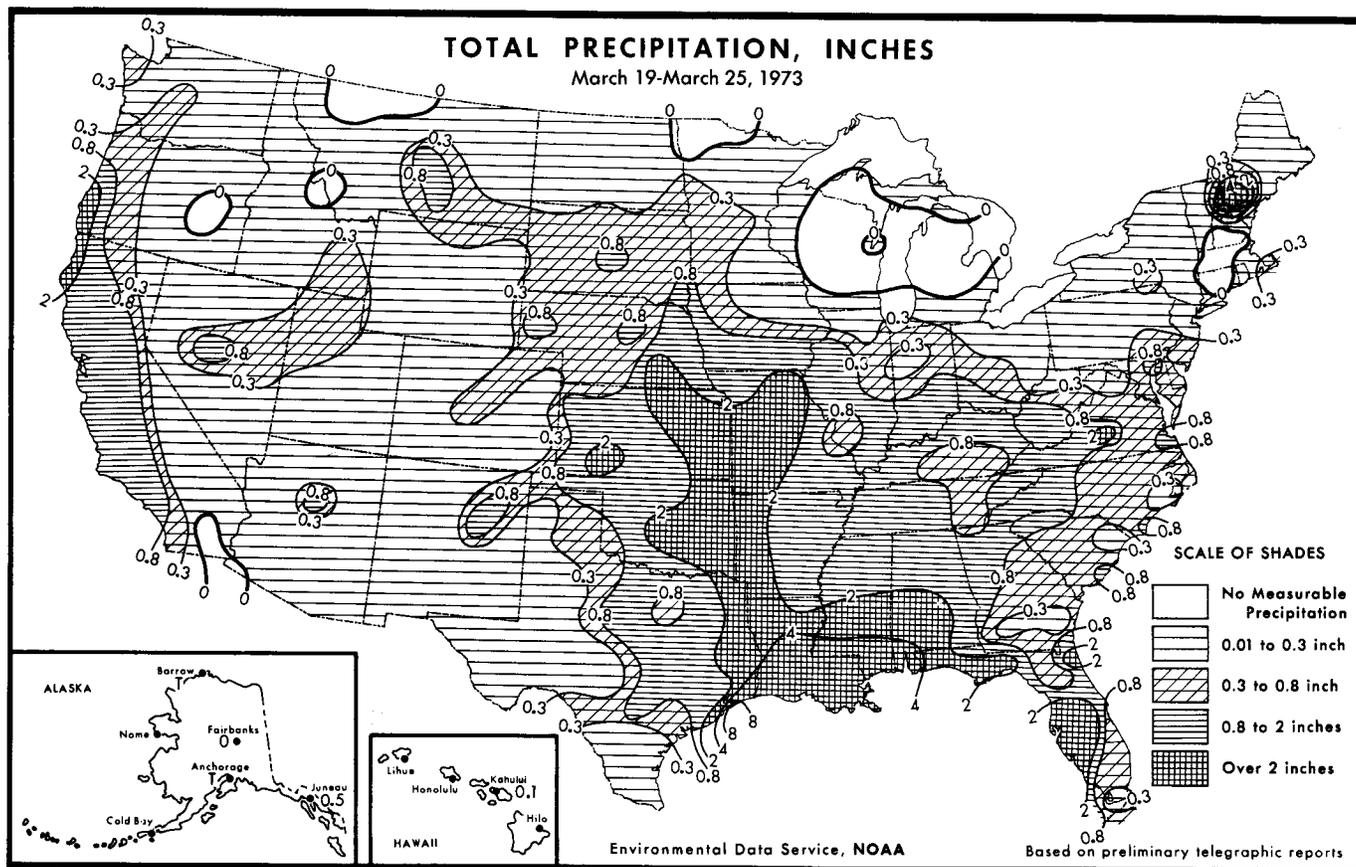
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Data Service

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service

Volume 60, No. 13

Edited by Lucius W. Dye

Mar. 26, 1973 Washington, D. C.



NATIONAL WEATHER SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS: Winter lost its grip on much of the Corn Belt and Northern Plains late in the week--temperatures did not quite drop to freezing mark from Thursday afternoon through Sunday. Midwest saw the remains of one bad southern storm pass to sea, only to be followed by another out of Texas later in the week.

PRECIPITATION: Four inches of rain soaked the already-wet soils of the lower Mississippi River Delta late last week and on Sunday, March 25. The same storm dumped from 2.00 to 4.00 inches on sections of Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Further north, Missouri recorded almost record amounts of rainfall for this time of year.

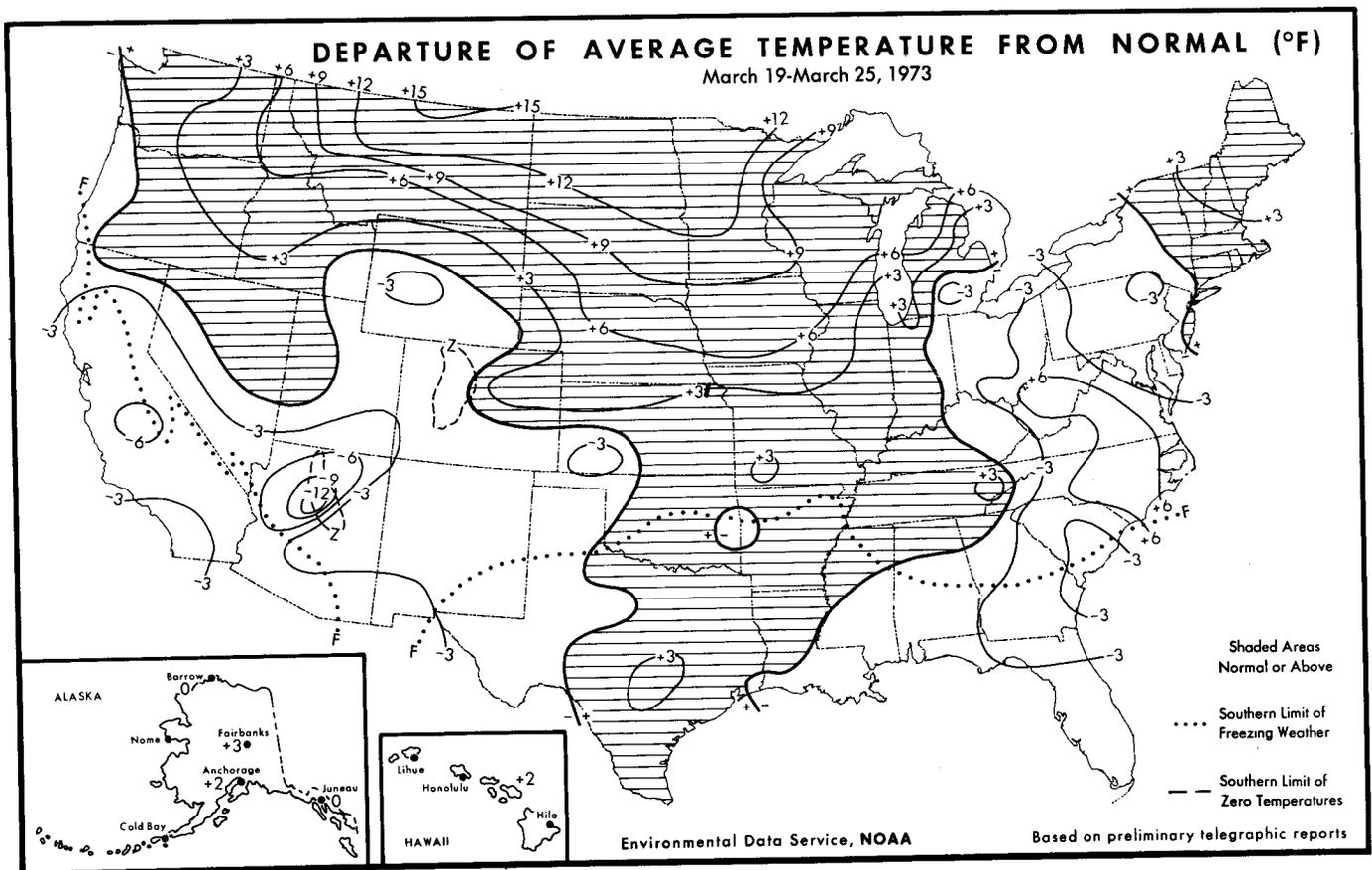
Meanwhile, Flagstaff, Ariz., set a new snowfall record. It has had 177 inches of snow so far this winter, topping the old record, 167 inches,

set in the winter of 1948-49.

Nationwide, the first week of spring was moderate precipitationwise. Monday, three storms highlighted the last day of winter. One, a Low northeast of Maine caused 6-foot waves in Lake Ontario and spread clouds over the East. The second Low spread rain and thunderstorms over much of the middle Mississippi River Valley and the Plains. A third dumped rain from central California through western Washington.

Spring began on a rainy Tuesday. A Low, moving from Oklahoma to Tennessee, brought over 2.00 inches of rain to the Mississippi River Valley, thunderstorms to the Gulf Coast, and saturated soils and flooded rivers to northern Georgia. Mobile, Ala., reported 1.42 inches of rain. Over the Rockies and the Plains, high pressures maintained fair skies.

Wednesday, a Low brought rain and snow to the



West, the Nation's midsection enjoyed a fair Canadian High, and a rainy low passed through the Carolinas into the Atlantic.

By Thursday, a large complex storm covered the West. Winds gusted up to 45 m.p.h. over the western Great Plains. Ogden, Utah, accumulated 13 inches of snow.

On Friday the storm gave Flagstaff, Ariz., 12 inches of new snow. A cold front scattered showers and thunderstorms over the Northern Plains and the Mississippi Valley. Pushing into warm, moist air over the Southern Plains, it unleashed heavy rains and tornadoes. Golf-ball-sized hail struck Galveston, Tex., which also received nearly 2.50 inches of rain in an hour and 8.00 inches in 24 hours. The Upper Coastal Plain of Texas received rainfall amounting to 1.25 to 3.25 inches.

On Saturday tornadoes struck Northwest and Southeast Texas. Northward, Dodge City, Kans., had 2.05 inches of rain. In contrast, springlike weather graced the Nation's eastern and western thirds.

On Sunday, the torrential rains spread from Texas into the Deep South. Excessive rainfall aggravated existing flood conditions there; Mobile, Ala., reported 2.53 inches of rain. The storm moved into the middle Mississippi River Valley, where it weakened and calmed somewhat.

TEMPERATURE: Warmer temperatures than average prevailed over the Midwest and central United States last week, while in the northern Great Plains temperatures averaged as much as 15° above normal. For most of the East Coast, temperatures averaged lower

than seasonal normal, with daily highs in the 40's and 50's. The West Coast also stayed on the cooler side, with daily highs mainly in the 50's and 60's.

A mild Monday started the week. Temperatures remained below freezing at midday in only a few areas and shot into the 70's along the whole Gulf Coast.

On Tuesday morning, temperatures dropped below freezing over much of the northern Midwest, the Plains, and the Mountain States; however, a cold front extending out of a Low in Nevada made it a colder day than Monday in much of the Nation's center.

Wednesday morning saw the mercury dip below 32° across the northern half of the Nation from southern Pennsylvania, through the Corn Belt and the Plains into Nevada and eastern California and Oregon. The Northeast stayed fairly cold throughout the day--the national low was at Bradford, Pa., 10°--while it averaged warmer in the West.

On Thursday morning much of the western Corn Belt and parts of the Plains saw their last freezing temperatures for the week. From Friday through Sunday, many locations recorded daily lows in the mid- and high 30's and low 40's.

Winter reigned in New England and Upstate New York; temperatures there generally fell below freezing every night through Sunday.

The mid-Atlantic region had lows in the 30's and 40's and highs in the 50's and 60's. Late week temperatures in the Western Plains and the Rockies dropped to the 20's and 30's and peaked in the 40's and 50's.

John C. Ryan

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: Winter wheat made rapid growth in central and southern Great Plains. * Farmers in lower Mississippi River area cleaning up from previous week flooding. * Wet weather in many South Central States halted land preparation for spring planting--progress far behind normal. * Peach trees continue blooming in South with no freeze damage.

SMALL GRAINS: Abundant moisture and mild temperatures continued to boost winter wheat growth in the central and southern Great Plains. Most of the crop in this major wheat producing area is in good to excellent condition. Winter wheat growth was rapid in Kansas last week. Topgrowth provided generally adequate protective cover from strong winds and blowing soil and only a few late seeded fields suffered light wind damage. However, considerable yellowing of wheat has occurred in central and eastern areas of Kansas due to soil borne mosaic. Oklahoma wheat made good growth with 33 percent of the acreage jointing compared to 67 percent a year earlier. Cattle are being moved off wheat fields in southern areas of Kansas and Oklahoma. Wheat and oats in Texas are making excellent progress with many fields intended for grain now in the early boot stage. In Colorado, winter wheat and barley remain in good to excellent condition with some growth made on the eastern plains. Winter wheat in Montana is generally in fair to good condition with some additional topsoil moisture received last week. Central Montana still remains dry. Small grain crops in Oregon are rated in fair to mostly good condition. In southeast Washington, winter wheat is greening and some winter-killed areas have been reseeded to spring grains, peas and lentils. California and Arizona small grains made excellent progress with some wheat and barley starting heading to head out. Small grain conditions across the South vary from fair to excellent, but most acreage is in good condition. Damage to lowland acreage from recent flooding cannot be fully determined yet. Progress of spring oats and barley seeding in Kansas and Colorado continued to fall further behind the usual schedule. Oats seeding in Kansas is only 13 percent complete compared to an average of 46 percent. Wet soil in Oklahoma kept farmers from planting all of the intended spring oats and barley acreage. Oats seeding in Missouri is only 2 percent complete compared to 46 percent last year.

OTHER CROPS: A few remaining fields of 1972 crop cotton, corn, and soybeans were harvested last week, as wet soil conditions continued to limit fieldwork in most areas. Harvesting in Nebraska remained at a standstill for corn at 97 percent complete and sorghum grain at 94 percent. In Mississippi, cotton and soybeans harvesting both advanced 1 point to 97 percent complete. Flooding during the previous week destroyed much unharvested acreage in the southern Mississippi River Delta and caused losses to fences, crops and livestock in northern Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. Farmers in these States spent most of last week repairing fences and clearing debris left from the flood waters. Heavy rains over the weekend further delayed fieldwork and spring land preparation throughout the South Central Region and into the southern Corn Belt. Soils in Indiana and Ohio became progressively drier last week and farmers took advantage of about 4 sunny days for extensive plowing and fertilizer spreading. Farmers in the other Corn Belt States are

anxiously waiting for drier weather and fields so they can catch up on fall and spring plowing.

Spring planting is underway in the South Atlantic States and South Texas. Corn was planted in South Carolina and in Texas where 24 percent of the acreage is planted compared to 43 percent last year. Texas cotton is 5 percent planted, 10 percent last year. Sorghum in Texas is 19 percent planted versus 30 percent last year and rice planting is 7 percent complete compared to 32 percent last year. Rain and wet fields in Arizona delayed sorghum planting. Tobacco farmers in North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee were busy last week seeding plantbeds. Water damaged some tobacco beds in flue-cured areas of North Carolina. Potato and sugar beet planting in Oregon is about 50 percent completed. Potato planting was active on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and some sweet potato beds have been started also.

Fruits and Nuts: Growing conditions have been ideal for Florida citrus trees which continue in excellent condition and are near the peak of blooming for orange trees. Citrus picking in Texas remains active with trees reaching full bloom stage. The Navel orange harvest in California continues at a moderate pace while the lemon harvest is active with good quality and sizes. Peach trees continue to bloom in the South although some concern for freeze damage persists in northern areas. So far, freeze damage appears to be minor. Fruit growers in Oregon and California had to fire orchard heaters last week to avoid frost damage to fruit trees that are budding and starting to bloom. Spraying of fruit trees is active in California--early varieties of apple trees are beginning to bloom in addition to walnut, cherry and pear trees. Rain caused some damage to southern California strawberries as picking increased--a light harvest got underway in Louisiana.

Vegetables: Frequent winds and showers last week in Florida slowed the growth of most vegetables. Most Florida crops are in seasonal supply with volume increasing. Farmers as far north as Maryland made good progress planting early vegetable crops. Tomato transplanting was active in South Carolina. Onion supplies in the Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley remain light. The Coastal Bend watermelon and cucumber crops are expected to be later than normal this year. Carrot digging continues in south Texas and early carrot planting is underway on the High Plains. Wet fields in Arizona delayed lettuce and mixed vegetable harvesting. Vegetable planting in Washington and Oregon is increasing. In California, spring lettuce harvesting is in full swing at Riverside while asparagus cutting was slowed by wet fields in the San Joaquin-Delta areas.

PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK: Pastures continue to green up in good condition in the South, Pacific Northwest and in southern portions of the North Central Region. Native grasses are growing and providing additional grazing across the southern tier of States from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast. Supplemental feeding has diminished in these States and has stopped in some areas. Muddy yards and feedlots continue to cause problems for livestock in the central Great Plains.

Arlon M. Scott
Agricultural Statistician

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., Mar. 25, 1973

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 . . .	55	- 1	2.0	+ .6	La.Baton Rouge . . .	61	- 1	7.4	+5.9	Youngstown . . .	32	- 5	.4	- .4
Mobile . . .	61	- 1	4.5	+2.8	Lake Charles . . .	62	0	5.1	+4.2	OKLA.Okla. City . . .	51	+ 1	3.0	+2.5
Montgomery . . .	57	- 1	2.0	+ .5	New Orleans . . .	62	- 1	5.5	+4.2	Tulsa . . .	52	+ 2	3.2	+2.6
ALASKA.Anchorage . . .	26	+ 2	T	- .1	Shreveport . . .	60	+ 2	2.3	+1.3	OREG.Astoria . . .	44	- 1	.1	-1.9
Barrow . . .	14	+ 0	T	0	MAINE.Caribou . . .	29	+ 4	.1	- .5	Burns . . .	41	+ 2	T	- .2
Fairbanks . . .	15	+ 3	0	- .1	Portland . . .	38	+ 5	T	-1.0	Medford . . .	46	+ 1	.6	+ .2
Juneau . . .	32	0	.5	- .2	MD.Baltimore . . .	43	- 2	.8	- .1	Pendleton . . .	48	+ 3	T	- .3
Kodiak . . .	32	---	.6	---	MASS.Boston . . .	41	+ 2	.1	- .9	Portland . . .	48	+ 1	.4	- .4
Nome . . .	---	---	---	---	Chatham . . .	37	- 1	.4	---	Salem . . .	44	- 2	.6	- .4
ARIZ.Flagstaff . . .	23	-14	1.6	+1.3	MICH.Alpena . . .	31	+ 3	0	- .5	PA.Allentown . . .	40	0	.3	- .5
Phoenix . . .	58	- 2	.2	+ .1	Detroit . . .	36	- 1	.1	- .4	Erie . . .	31	- 4	.1	- .6
Tucson . . .	53	- 6	.2	+ .1	Flint . . .	33	0	0	- .5	Harrisburg . . .	40	- 2	.3	- .5
Yuma . . .	45	- 2	.1	0	Grand Rapids . . .	37	+ 2	0	- .5	Philadelphia . . .	42	- 1	.4	- .5
ARK.Fort Smith . . .	52	- 1	2.8	+2.0	Houghton Lake . . .	35	+ 6	0	- .4	Pittsburgh . . .	36	- 3	.2	- .5
Little Rock . . .	56	+ 2	1.8	+ .7	Lansing . . .	31	- 4	0	- .6	Scranton . . .	34	- 5	.2	- .5
CALIF.Bakersfield . . .	53	- 5	.9	+ .7	Marquette . . .	35	+ 6	T	- .5	R.I. Providence . . .	39	0	1.1	- .9
Eureka . . .	47	- 2	2.4	+1.3	Muskegon . . .	38	+ 3	0	- .5	S.C.Charleston . . .	54	- 2	1.3	+ .4
Fresno . . .	49	- 7	1.5	+1.1	S. Ste. Marie . . .	34	+ 8	T	- .4	Columbia . . .	51	- 2	1.6	- .4
Los Angeles . . .	57	- 3	1.5	+1.1	MINN.Duluth . . .	32	+ 8	.1	- .3	Greenville . . .	48	- 5	1.1	0
Red Bluff . . .	50	- 5	1.7	+1.1	Internatl Falls . . .	36	+14	T	- .2	S.D.Aberdeen . . .	43	+12	.5	+ .2
San Diego . . .	58	- 1	.7	+ .3	Minneapolis . . .	42	+11	.2	- .2	Huron . . .	41	+10	.8	+ .5
San Francisco . . .	50	- 4	1.1	+ .5	Rochester . . .	40	+ 9	.1	- .3	Rapid City . . .	38	+ 5	.6	+ .3
Stockton . . .	51	- 4	1.3	+ .8	St. Cloud . . .	40	+12	.4	+ .1	Sioux Falls . . .	41	+ 9	.8	+ .4
COLO.Denver . . .	41	+ 3	.4	+ .1	MISS.Jackson . . .	57	- 1	2.7	+1.4	TENN.Chattanooga . . .	51	- 2	.6	- .7
Grand Junction . . .	42	- 1	.1	- .1	Meridian . . .	58	0	3.0	+1.6	Knoxville . . .	49	- 3	1.0	0
Pueblo . . .	41	0	T	- .1	MO.Columbia . . .	45	+ 2	2.2	+1.5	Memphis . . .	53	0	1.0	- .2
CONN.Bridgeport . . .	40	+ 1	T	-1.0	Kansas City . . .	45	0	3.1	+2.5	Nashville . . .	52	+ 1	1.7	+ .5
Hartford . . .	41	+ 2	T	- .8	St. Louis . . .	46	+ 1	.7	- .1	TEX.Abilene . . .	56	- 1	1.9	+1.6
D.C.Washington . . .	45	- 2	.5	- .2	Springfield . . .	49	+ 3	2.3	+1.6	Amarillo . . .	47	- 2	1.2	+ .3
FLA.Apalachicola . . .	61	- 1	1.4	+ .4	MONT.Billings . . .	39	+ 4	1.0	+ .7	Austin . . .	65	+ 4	1.3	+ .8
Daytona Beach . . .	62	- 3	1.6	---	Glasgow . . .	42	+13	.3	+ .2	Beaumont . . .	61	- 1	5.3	+4.5
Ft. Myers . . .	67	- 2	3.1	+2.5	Great Falls . . .	46	+14	.1	- .1	Brownsville . . .	69	0	T	- .2
Jacksonville . . .	59	- 4	2.2	+1.4	Havre . . .	44	+15	0	- .1	Corpus Christi . . .	67	+ 1	T	- .4
Key West . . .	73	0	1.4	+1.0	Helena . . .	39	+ 6	T	- .2	Dallas . . .	---	---	---	---
Lakeland . . .	64	- 4	2.8	+1.7	Kalispell . . .	43	+ 9	0	- .2	Del Rio . . .	65	0	.6	+ .5
Miami . . .	71	0	.4	- .1	Miles City . . .	43	+10	.1	0	El Paso . . .	53	- 3	.1	0
Orlando . . .	66	- 1	2.7	+1.9	Missoula . . .	44	+ 9	.1	- .1	Fort Worth . . .	58	0	.4	- .1
Tallahassee . . .	57	- 5	2.5	+1.3	NEBR.Grand Island . . .	41	+ 3	2.0	+1.7	Galveston . . .	64	+ 2	8.1	+7.4
Tampa . . .	65	- 2	3.5	+2.6	Lincoln . . .	43	+ 3	.2	- .2	Houston . . .	62	+ 1	1.4	+ .8
W.Palm Beach . . .	69	- 2	.4	---	Norfolk . . .	42	+ 7	2.0	+1.6	Lubbock . . .	51	0	.2	0
GA.Atlanta . . .	52	- 1	1.7	+ .5	N.Platte . . .	42	+ 5	.6	+ .4	Midland . . .	55	- 2	T	- .1
Augusta . . .	53	- 4	.4	- .6	Omaha . . .	43	+ 6	1.9	+1.6	San Angelo . . .	60	+ 1	.3	+ .1
Macon . . .	56	- 3	.6	- .5	Valentine . . .	41	+ 8	.6	+ .4	San Antonio . . .	66	+ 4	.8	+ .4
Savannah . . .	58	- 2	.5	- .4	NEV.Ely . . .	37	+ 2	.5	+ .3	Victoria . . .	65	0	.5	- .1
HAWAII.Hilo . . .	---	---	---	---	Las Vegas . . .	51	- 5	.3	+ .2	Waco . . .	61	+ 1	1.3	+ .5
Honolulu . . .	---	---	---	---	Reno . . .	38	- 4	.1	0	Wichita Falls . . .	56	+ 1	1.8	+1.5
Kahului . . .	75	+ 2	.1	-1.4	Winnemucca . . .	40	+ 1	.2	0	UTAH.Blanding . . .	36	- 5	.3	+ .1
Lihue . . .	---	---	---	---	N.H.Concord . . .	34	0	T	- .7	Salt Lake City . . .	42	0	.5	+ .2
IDAHO.Boise . . .	48	+ 5	.1	- .2	N.J.Atlantic City . . .	43	0	.4	- .5	VT.Burlington . . .	32	+ 3	.1	- .4
Lewiston . . .	50	+ 6	T	- .3	Trenton . . .	42	- 1	.3	- .6	VA.Lynchburg . . .	42	- 6	2.1	+1.3
Pocatello . . .	37	- 1	.4	+ .1	N.MEX.Albuquerque . . .	46	- 1	.1	0	Norfolk . . .	45	- 5	1.8	+1.0
ILL.Cairo . . .	51	+ 1	1.1	- .1	Roswell . . .	---	---	---	---	Richmond . . .	44	- 6	.6	- .2
Chicago . . .	40	+ 1	.4	- .3	N.Y.Albany . . .	37	+ 2	.2	- .4	Roanoke . . .	43	- 4	1.4	+ .6
Moline . . .	43	+ 5	.8	+ .2	Binghamton . . .	31	- 3	.4	- .3	WASH.Colville . . .	44	+ 5	T	- .2
Peoria . . .	44	+ 4	.9	+ .2	Buffalo . . .	33	- 1	.1	- .6	Omak . . .	45	+ 2	.1	0
Rockford . . .	40	+ 3	.1	- .5	New York . . .	42	- 1	.2	- .8	Quillayute . . .	43	0	.5	-1.9
Springfield . . .	44	+ 2	1.5	+ .8	Rochester . . .	32	- 2	T	- .7	Seattle-Tacoma . . .	45	+ 1	.1	- .8
IND.Evansville . . .	47	0	1.2	+ .1	Syracuse . . .	34	- 1	.2	- .6	Spokane . . .	45	+ 6	T	- .3
Ft. Wayne . . .	37	- 2	.6	- .1	N.C.Asheville . . .	46	- 2	1.0	+ .1	Walla Walla . . .	51	+ 4	.1	- .3
Indianapolis . . .	42	+ 1	1.1	+ .3	Charlotte . . .	46	- 6	1.0	0	Yakima . . .	47	+ 4	T	- .1
South Bend . . .	40	+ 3	.3	- .4	Greensboro . . .	44	- 6	.6	- .2	W.Va.Beckley . . .	36	- 6	1.0	- .1
IOWA.Burlington . . .	44	+ 5	1.0	+ .3	Hatteras . . .	49	- 3	.5	- .4	Charleston . . .	39	- 7	1.0	0
Des Moines . . .	45	+ 8	1.0	+ .5	Raleigh . . .	45	- 6	.6	- .2	Huntington . . .	41	- 6	1.6	+ .6
Dubuque . . .	41	+ 7	.2	- .5	Wilmington . . .	49	- 7	1.3	+ .4	Parkersburg . . .	41	- 3	.3	- .5
Sioux City . . .	43	+ 7	1.7	+1.4	N.DAK.Bismarck . . .	42	+13	T	- .2	WIS.Green Bay . . .	37	+ 6	T	- .3
KANS.Concordia . . .	44	+ 3	2.5	+2.2	Fargo . . .	41	+14	.3	+ .2	La Crosse . . .	42	+ 9	T	- .6
Dodge City . . .	41	- 3	2.6	+2.3	Williston . . .	40	+13	.1	- .1	Madison . . .	38	+ 6	T	- .4
Goodland . . .	41	+ 3	.8	+ .5	OHIO.Akron-Canton . . .	34	- 5	.2	- .6	Milwaukee . . .	36	+ 3	T	- .6
Topeka . . .	46	+ 2	2.7	+2.2	Cincinnati . . .	41	- 2	1.5	+ .5	WYO.Casper . . .	33	0	.1	- .2
Wichita . . .	48	+ 1	2.0	+1.6	Cleveland . . .	34	- 3	.2	- .5	Cheyenne . . .	32	- 1	.1	- .2
KY.Lexington . . .	44	- 1	1.2	+ .1	Columbus . . .	39	- 2	.4	- .4	Lander . . .	30	- 4	.3	+ .1
Louisville . . .	45	0	1.5	+ .4	Dayton . . .	38	- 3	.8	0	Sheridan . . .	35	+ 2	.7	+ .4
					Toledo . . .	34	- 3	.3	- .3	P.R.San Juan . . .	80	+ 4	T	- .6

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 office of the Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A. in cooperation with NOAA Climatologists.

ALABAMA: Warm first and last of week with highs in 70's but cooler Wednesday and Thursday when lows dropped into 30's. Scattered light frost northern sections Thursday morning with State low of 28° at Pinson. Showers on Tuesday gave way to mostly clear weather until weekend. Extensive rain and thunderstorms over State Saturday afternoon and night with 1.00 to 3.00 inches of rain. Serious lowland flooding along Tombigbee River during week from earlier downpours. Land preparation further delayed by rain and wet ground. Many low-lying fields and pastures upper part of State still under water. Livestock losses from earlier flooding light. Farmers in northern counties repaired fences and cleared debris caused by flood waters. Small grains in excellent condition, flood damage to low-lying fields cannot be fully determined. Growers applied nitrogen to these crops. Rain slowed cultivation and sidedressing Irish potatoes in Baldwin, Mobile, and Escambia Counties. Wet ground delayed planting of potatoes on Sand Mountain. First tomatoes set out in Houston and Geneva Counties. Pastures began greening up and provided additional grazing. Clovers and fescue pastures provided good grazing, but many fields remain too wet to support livestock.

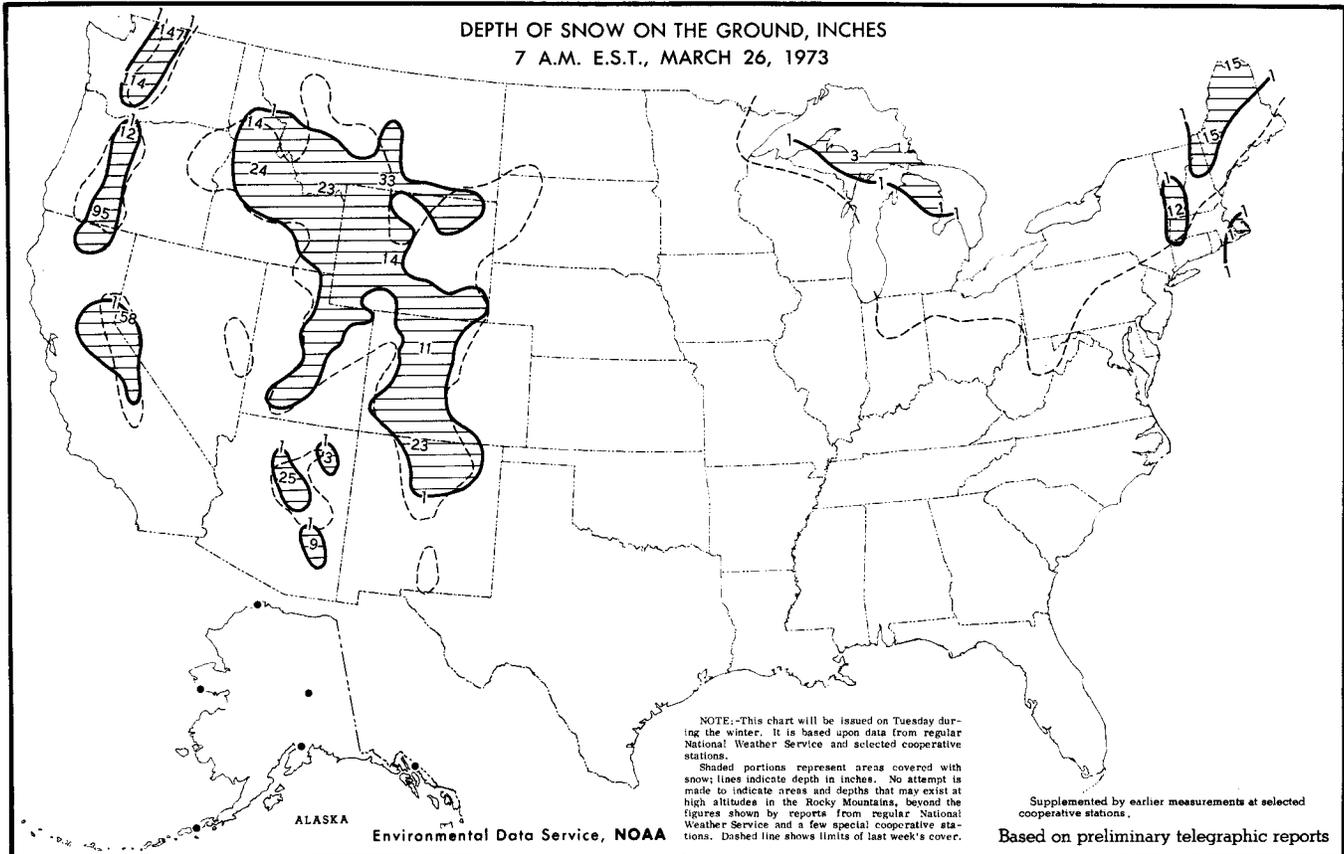
ARIZONA: Temperatures were much below normal over State most of week. Precipitation from Pacific moisture was widespread over State with snow above about 5,000 feet. Water totals for week were near 1.50 inches in both White Mountains and San Francisco Mountains. In spite of predominance of cold air, minimum temperatures remained above freezing in both Salt River Valley and Yuma every night. Weather conditions slowed cotton planting. Small grains made excellent progress. Wheat, barley heading in Yuma County. Safflower, excellent growth, southwest. Sorghum planting and stand establishment retarded by weather. Soil moisture delayed sugar beet planting. First cutting alfalfa hay about 50% complete Yuma County. Harvest lettuce, mixed vegetables delayed by wet fields. Lettuce for spring harvest good progress central, southeastern areas. Cantaloupes, Yuma area making reasonable progress. Harvest valencia oranges, grapefruit limited scale--rains slowed picking all areas. Bloom spray full swing most areas. Groves generally good condition, favorable growth. Ranges received rain, snow with record accumulations. Ground moisture supplies above normal. Desert ranges very green, providing grazing. Stockwater adequate to surplus. Cattle, calves fair to good; sheep, lambs fair.

ARKANSAS: Weekly rainfall totals of 2.00 to slightly over 4.00 inches recorded in much of western half of State with heaviest falls in west-central and northwest sections. Over eastern half of State, totals in 1.00- to 2.00-inch range. Largest weekly total, 4.06 inches, at Harrison. Most rain fell on weekend. Weekly mean temperatures in 50's with departures ranging from 2° in central section to +4° in north-central section. Highest 75° at Texarkana and El Dorado on 23d. Lowest, 25° at Gilbert and Calico Rock on 22d. Cooling early in week followed by gradual warming latter part of week, and cooling again on weekend. Fair to good progress early in week with land preparation, but progress to date far behind normal. Minor harvest cotton

and soybeans continued as weather permitted. Heavy rains end of week will further delay needed field-work. Small grains and cool season grasses growing well and providing some grazing. Cattle fair to good condition, feeding diminished. Infestation of lice and ticks reported heavy numerous counties. Fruit trees blooming with no damage from low temperatures so far.

CALIFORNIA: Moderate to heavy rains midweek. Precipitation totals ranged from 1.00 to 2.00 inches west of Sierra Nevada and south coast range to a few hundredths inch low desert. Locally heavy daily amounts mountains and Los Angeles Basin. Average temperatures 4° to 8° below normal. Small grains developing well. Southern fields starting to head out; broadleaf weeds a problem--spraying active. Little milo and safflower planting to date. Some alfalfa caught in windrows by storm; cutting increasing. Early-seeded cotton Palo Verde Valley starting to emerge. Limited planting Southern San Joaquin Valley. Some 1972 cotton still to be harvested, may be abandoned. Fruit general spray programs continue active with delays from wet soils. Many growers using aerial spray. Frost protection some areas several mornings during week. Apple bloom beginning early varieties; walnut, cherry, pear bloom progressing. Cultivating orchards and vineyards on lighter soils. Navel orange harvest about same. Lemon harvest active; good quality and sizes most areas. Desert grapefruit movement remains slow. Citrus bloom increasing. Dates slow emerging, pollination continues. Artichoke harvest increasing Castroville. Asparagus cutting slow San Joaquin-Delta due to wet fields, cool weather. Broccoli, cauliflower light Salinas. Cabbage supplies steady San Diego. Carrot digging continues Riverside, Imperial while celery cutting expected at current levels. Riverside spring lettuce deal, full swing. Strawberry picking southern California increasing, some rain damage. Processing tomato planting disrupted by rain. Rangeland improving with warmer and longer days, supplemental feeding stopped in many areas. Lambing-calving active, no unusual losses. Sheep shearing picking up in San Joaquin Valley; near completion central coast. Egg and milk production beginning seasonal upswing.

COLORADO: Temperatures 2° to 8° above normal east; near normal elsewhere. Highs mostly upper 60's east, 50's in mountains. Lows in mid-20's on Plains, variable elsewhere. Significant precipitation amounts all areas with 1.30 inches at Springfield, the greatest. Some rain and snow over weekend as temperatures were considerably cooler. Rain and snow continued to delay field preparation for spring planting. Soil moisture supplies adequate to surplus most areas. Winter wheat and barley good to excellent condition. Wheat fields had limited soil blowing from strong winds eastern plains, but wind damage none to light. Little or no evidence of freeze damage to seed. Winter wheat and barley slight to moderate growth eastern plains. Most acreages remain under snow west slope. Seeding spring oats and barley considerably behind year ago: Oats 4%, 36% last year; spring barley 6%, 39% last year. Range and pastures poor to fair, limited growth early grass southeast. Condition livestock poor to fair, supplemental feeding continued heavy



statewide. Calving progressing with death loss normal to above.

FLORIDA: Several frontal passages this week kept temperatures 2° to 4° below normal except for near normal temperatures Lower East Coast and Keys. Heavy rain and thunderstorms accompanied frontal passage on weekend. Most sections averaged over 2.00 inches for week except 0.50 inch along Lower East Coast. Soil moisture variable. Seeding of spring crops on schedule. Growth of small grain was good. Weekend rains improved moisture but cool weather has limited pasture growth. Cattle improving with only light supplemental feeding. Citrus trees and fruit in excellent condition. Growing conditions near ideal. Rain all day March 25 very helpful. Bloom near peak for oranges, other types following close behind. Frequent winds, showers during week slowed growth most vegetables. Rains generally heavy on 25th in northern half and on 26th in southern half expected to slow early week harvest, especially tomatoes and potatoes. Most crops in seasonal supply with volume increasing into the spring quarter. Light start of watermelons expected about mid-April in southwest.

GEORGIA: Rain early in week and during weekend. Mostly sunny remainder of period. Rainfall totals highly variable, ranging from less than 0.50 inch east-central to more than 2.00 inches parts of north. Mild beginning and end of period, cool at midweek. Lows dropped below freezing in north on 1 or more days and frost was reported in north and central. Averages ranged from slightly above normal in northwest to slightly below normal in east and south. Soil moisture mostly adequate until weekend rains raised it back to excessive. Land

preparation very active when soils dry enough to break. Spring planting underway. Tobacco transplanting continues. Small grains fair to excellent—topdressing still active most areas. Peach blooming past peak—cold damage negligible, if any. Pastures fair to mostly good.

HAWAII: Cloudy weather with frequent light showers—occasionally heavy, mainly mountain areas. Winds gusty but damage light. Farm operations slowed by wet field conditions. Supplies vegetables and fruits continued adequate. Sugar production to date about 30% above same period last year. Gradual increase pineapple harvesting. Pasture condition fair to good—more rain needed lowland areas. Cattle condition fair to good.

IDAHO: Temperatures averaged near normal north and west and 3° to 7° below normal east. Precipitation ranged light to heavy. Heaviest amounts were recorded south-central where most reports exceeded 1.00 inch. Fieldwork was slowed in all sections except the southwest because of colder temperatures and rains. Calving and lambing still going strong and conditions remain good. Potato marketing active. Considerable activity preparing field ditches for the coming irrigation season.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures gradually moderated during past week with highest readings reaching into the 50's or 60's by week's end. Weekly temperatures averaged 1° to 5° above normal. Precipitation totals through Friday ranged from maxima near 1 inch in the south to only a trace in the northwest. Heavier and more widespread rains covered State past weekend. Continual warm wet weather causing muddy conditions in feedlots. Water standing in many fields making fieldwork virtually impossible.

INDIANA: Considerable sunny weather much of week. General rain on weekend and in south early in week. Totals from 0.30 inch north to 1.50 inches south. Temperatures averaged 44° and 3° above normal ranging from 23° on 23d to 71° on 24th. Recent warm weeks have advanced spring at least 2 weeks. Soils became progressively drier during week and farmers were increasingly active in chopping stalks, tilling, and land preparation activity. Some of the few remaining corn fields were harvested with some areas the driest condition since last fall. Greening up continues and danger from frost damage persists in orchards because of the rapid bud development.

IOWA: Temperatures averaged 5° to 8° above normal with moderate to heavy precipitation falling week-end except subnormal amounts over northeast division and some nearby central and east-central counties.

KANSAS: Cloudy wet weather continued. Moisture totals first 3 months and for March have been at record or near record levels for much of Kansas. Precipitation last week generally 0.75 to 2.50 inches, locally over 3.00 inches southern and eastern portions with considerable lowland and agricultural flooding. Weekly mean temperatures averaged 2° to 4° above normal. Maxima generally 40's to 60's and minima mostly 30's to 40's. Oat and spring barley seeding advanced a little last week but fell further behind usual progress. Oat seeding 13% completed, 74% year earlier and average of 46%. Barley 15% seeded, 52% year ago and average 29%. Alfalfa showing new growth most areas, rains caused some flooding of low-lying fields and delayed most fieldwork. Wheat made rapid growth under mild temperatures and plentiful moisture. Top-growth provided generally adequate cover but light wind damage reported on a few late-seeded fields. Considerable yellowing of wheat central, eastern areas due to soil borne mosaic and waterlogged soils. Spring calving, farrowing progressed normally but muddy roads, lots, and pastures hampered livestock care and feeding. Cattle moved off wheat intended for grain in southern areas but grazing continued in other areas where soil conditions permitted. New grass in pastures provided some green feed.

KENTUCKY: Temperatures averaging 1° to 2° below normal, except 6° below normal extreme east. Rain-fall 0.70 inch to 1.50 inches. Temperatures below normal until about normal last 2 days. Minimum readings freezing or below one or more areas on 5 days. Maxima in 60's and 70's last 2 days. 3 cloudy days with precipitation, mostly rain but some snow flurries, mostly east, on 20th and 21st. Little farm activity due wet soil. Cool weather slowing vegetative growth, no serious damage from freezes. Some early tobacco beds have plants up, many yet to seed. Most winter grains in good condition showing rapid growth. Pastures greening. Cattle overwintered well, calving active, most herds now on pasture.

LOUISIANA: Weather highlighted by torrential rains south half Friday and Saturday. Storm totals 4 to more than 6 inches common. Rains in north 1.50- to 3.00-inch range. All gulf drainage streams in flood. Temperatures averaged near seasonal. Greatest departures 3° below in northeast. Temperature extremes: 78° Diamond Tuesday; 38° Cotton Valley and Calhoun Thursday. Greatest 1-day, 4.97 inches measured at Baton Rouge on Sunday. Some fieldwork accomplished in midweek where soil dry enough. Torrential rains last week stopped all fieldwork and caused additional flooding in central and northern parishes. Some fertilizers and herbicides put down and some scattered planting of rice and

corn. Shaving and cultivation of sugarcane continued on well-drained soil. Wheat and oats fair to good condition. Light harvest of strawberries got underway. Tomatoes and peppers being transplanted. Pasture feed average, small grains and rye grass provided good grazing where ground dry enough to support stock. Livestock fair to good, some being moved out of low areas of several central parishes in advance of expected extensive flooding.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: Temperatures averaged near normal with cooler during work week and lows reaching mid-20's colder areas on the nights of 19th and 23d. Extremes: Highs generally low 70's except near 60° in Garrett County on 17th and 19th. Precipitation averaged 0.35 to 0.75 inch falling mostly as showers night of 17th, with up to 6 inches of snow in Garrett County. Drifting snow and scattered damages reported from the high winds of 18th. Well-drained soils dried sufficiently for plowing. Fertilizer spreading and clover seeding also active. Good progress in planting early vegetable crops. Orchardists continuing with pruning and spraying. Extent of damage, if any, to fruit buds from low temperatures will not be fully evident until fruit set can be determined. Livestock in generally good condition, some pasturing on early growth of grain crops.

MICHIGAN: Cooler early. Fair, gradual warming end of period. Snow cover melted south. Minor flooding in lowlands southern Michigan. Temperatures averaged 4° to 9° above normal Upper Peninsula; 3° below normal southeast to 8° above normal northwest Lower Peninsula. Precipitation: None most sections to near 0.25 inch along Indiana-Ohio-Michigan border.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures averaged 10° above normal in south to 12° above normal rest of State. Precipitation: Western districts averaged about 0.30 inch with slightly heavier amounts in far southwest corner. Balance of State ranged from little to no moisture. Snow depth: There is no snow left in State except in forests. Ten inches of snow still exists in heavier forested areas in northeast. Most of the small lakes are free of ice from Twin Cities south. Some farmers plowing in south-central although progress very limited.

MISSISSIPPI: Temperatures averaged 5° below normal to normal for State. Weekly rainfall totals were from under 0.25 inch to over 2.50 inches progressively north to south. The already swollen rivers, lakes, and tributaries received more rain over weekend. As rain spread across most of State Friday and Saturday, amounts were 1.50 inches to over 4.00 inches with greatest of 5.58 inches reported Sunday at Collins. Some flash flooding occurred mostly in southern portions. Flood waters caused considerable damage to property, crops, and livestock during the week in several areas across the north. Large areas in Lower Delta counties under water--some cotton land may not be readied for planting this spring. Land preparation made a little progress on higher elevations all areas. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 1.8 days compared with 0.9 day last week and 4.2 days last year. During past 2 weeks cotton and soybeans acreage harvested advanced 1 percentage point to 97% and land preparation advanced 1 point to 20%. Unharvested soybeans and cotton acreage in flooded areas destroyed. Small grains continue in fair to good condition with 40% of acreage jointing. Peaches, truck crops, Irish potatoes, pastures, and livestock in fair to good condition.

MISSOURI: It was a cloudy wet week. The heavy cloud cover held down temperatures to near seasonal levels, the first time in 3 weeks they were not well above normal. Rainfall was heavy with heavy showers both early and late in week. Totals exceeded 1.00 inch at most locations. Many locations have exceeded, or are close to exceeding their all-time record for March rainfall. Less than 1/2 day suitable for fieldwork. Fall and spring plowing 11% complete compared to 52% last year. Oats seeding 2% complete, 46% last year at this time. Wheat and pastures mostly fair to good condition; soil moisture surplus all areas.

MONTANA: Temperatures averaged 3° to 14° above the seasonal normals. Western and north-central divisions had the greatest departures from normal. Temperatures ranged from 68° at Great Falls to 1° below zero at West Yellowstone. Precipitation over all the State except the north-central portion. One inch or more precipitation received at various locations in central and south-central areas. Snow generally 1 to 4 inches at lower elevations with over 2 feet of new snow some higher mountains. Topsoil moisture somewhat improved except portions north-central and central still dry. Winter wheat condition fair north-central, to fair central, fair to good elsewhere. Livestock condition good; calving, lambing and shearing progressing well.

NEBRASKA: Average weekly temperatures near normal in southwest to 7° to 8° above normal northeast. First half of week dry, second half wet. Most precipitation fell as snow in Panhandle and rain elsewhere. Precipitation amounts from 1.00 to 2.50 inches. Field conditions improved first part of week, but worsened after precipitation received last half of week. Some harvesting of remaining crops--grain and sorghum harvest 94% and corn 97% complete. Winter wheat crop condition 84% of normal. Additional rain caused most feedlots to return to quagmires.

NEVADA: Temperatures all divisions below normal from 1° to 2° below normal in north and south-central to 7° below normal in extreme south. Light to heavy precipitation all stations. Austin reported 1.33 inches and Caliente 1.21 inches. Snow fell midweek northeast and south-central; 4 inches at Ely and Austin. Seedbed preparation continues as planting of small grains begins in local areas. Winter-planted grains making good spring growth. Onions being planted in Yerington area. In Moapa Valley, fall-planted onions ready for harvest as radish and carrot harvest gets underway. Stock and irrigation water supplies adequate

NEW ENGLAND: Another mild week with means mostly 2° to 5° above normal. Sunny and dry Saturday and Sunday with maxima generally in 50's and 60's; otherwise cloudy with frequent light showers or flurries. Heavier snowfall totaling several inches occurred March 22 south of Boston to Cape Cod and the islands. Heavier rain, totaling mostly under 0.50 inch, morning of 26th in South. Weekly totals varied from less than 0.10 inch in north to locally over 0.50 inch in south. Weather towards end of week very conducive to good flow of maple sap.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures averaged near normal with extremes varying from near 20° to the middle 60's. There were a few showers early in week and a general rain overnight on 25th and 26th. Northern

counties averaged 1.30 inches for the week, the central and southern interior, 1.60 inches, and the coastal division 1.10 inches. Weekly totals ranged from 0.77 inch at Cape May Courthouse to 1.89 inches at Seabrook.

NEW MEXICO: Scattered precipitation throughout week most general on Friday and Saturday. Heaviest precipitation of 0.50 to 1.00 inch in northeast and central portions of State. Elsewhere, temperatures averaged above normal at night and cool in the days. Highest temperatures Tuesday and Wednesday and lowest temperatures on weekend. Limited precipitation, snow north hindering land preparation. Soil moisture adequate, winds drying topsoil south. Land preparation south, pre-irrigation begun. Winter wheat, barley, spring lettuce good. Pruning fruit trees. Ranges, livestock good. Supplemental feeding, calving, lambing active. Grass greening.

NEW YORK: Temperatures averaged from 6° to 10° colder than previous week. Cold from 19th through 23d with maximums mostly in low 40's southeast and low to mid-30's elsewhere. Lowest minimums in teens interior Upstate on 21st and 23d with 10° at Little Valley. Temperatures warming late week with maximums 55° to low 60's on 25th. Precipitation of previous weekend through 19th included 5 to 12 inches of snow in southwest tier and eastern lee of Lake Ontario. Coastal storm with high winds on 22d yielded 4 to 6 inches of snow eastern Long Island to double winter total. Remaining areas precipitation very light through 24th. Rain showers night of 25th mostly in south-central and southeast with heaviest 1.30 inches at New York City decreasing to 0.30 inch along southern border. Last of winter snowcover in Adirondacks melted by late week.

NORTH CAROLINA: Sharp cold turn after 2 warm weeks. Freezing 2 or 3 mornings most of State; frost or freeze nearly all areas 23d. Showers 21st and over weekend; amounts variable 0.25 inch to 2.00 inches. Windy with cold turn and shower periods; some damage. Snow midweek. Farm activities continue on limited basis, 2.0 days suitable fieldwork. Burley tobacco plantbed seeding active--water damaged some tobacco beds flue-cured areas. Plantbed condition 56% good, 43% fair, 1% poor. Peaches full bloom, no apparent damage sustained from frost. Small grains 4% excellent, 78% good, 18% fair. Pastures generally good. Top-dressing active where fields accessible. Hay and feed grains mostly adequate, but prices continue high. Some fields of 1972 cotton and soybeans harvested.

NORTH DAKOTA: Cloudy most of week except sunny late weekend. Light rain or snow Thursday to Saturday. Precipitation totals trace to 0.33 inch. Temperatures averaged 10° to 15° above normal remaining much above normal for 5th consecutive week. Continued mild weather. Yards and feedlots muddy. Farmers repaired machinery, cleaned seed, attended meetings, and farm sales and cared for young livestock past week. No appreciable fieldwork to date. Calving and lambing making good progress with few losses.

OHIO: Minimum temperatures past week ranged from the upper teens to upper 30's. Maximum temperatures from 19th to 23d ranged from upper 20's to the mid-50's. On 24th, the high temperatures

returned to 60's. On 25th, highs ranged into 50's. On 20th and 21st, rainfall amounts in southern Ohio were about 0.40 inch. On 25th, central and southern Ohio had amounts ranging from about 0.30 inch to 1.00 inch. Precipitation amounts in northern Ohio on above dates generally light. Four days of nice weather last week enabled farmers in many areas to work in fields. Extensive plowing was done in some areas, as well as spreading fertilizer and seeding oats. Plowing is nearing completion in parts of west-central and central Ohio. Other farm activities include livestock chores and machinery maintenance.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures averaged slightly below normal Panhandle and 1° to 3° above normal elsewhere. General rains of 1.00 to 3.00 inches over State, mostly over weekend. Wheat made good growth during past week with most acreage reported good condition. About 1/3 acreage jointing compared with nearly 2/3 year earlier. Wet soil and late season has cut planting spring oats and barley short of anticipated acreage. Spring barley 3/4 up to stand compared to usual 90%. Condition of spring oats rated 62% good or better, but barley rated higher at 76% good. Seedbed preparation made fair progress west, but little in east because of wet soils. Fertilizing small grains active. Pastures improved with growth of winter annuals and cool weather grasses. Cattle coming off wheat pastures southwest.

OREGON: Somewhat cooler with average temperatures from 6° below normal to near normal in extreme east. Weekly minimums 4° to 30° east and 28° to 35° west. Maximums 49° to 66°. Frequent rainy days. Amounts trace to 0.59 inch east of Cascades, 0.15 to 0.96 inch Cascades, 0.65 to 1.87 inches western interior, and 2.09 to 3.89 inches coast and coast range. Progress of fieldwork several weeks ahead of normal. Grain, hay, and seed crops are in fair to mostly good condition. Planting of green peas, early potatoes, and sugar beets about 50% completed. Low night temperatures in some areas required firing orchard heaters to avoid frost damage to fruit trees that are budding and starting to bloom. Livestock are in good to excellent condition, but hay supplies range from depleted to adequate. Rapidly greening pastures and ranges will offer some relief.

PENNSYLVANIA: Cool dry week until showers Sunday. Maximums mostly 30's and 40's until 50's and 60's weekend. Minimums mostly teens to 30's. Weekly temperatures near normal southeast, 2° to 5° below normal elsewhere. Extremes 67°, 10°. Snow flurries west and central beginning of week. Central very light snow or flurries many areas midweek. Precipitation totals mostly under 0.25 inch west, 0.25 to 0.50 inch central, 0.50 to 1.00 inch east except to 1.40 inches southeast corner. Snow cover gone.

PUERTO RICO: Hot dry week. Only 10 of 48 stations reported rainfall. Rainfall averaged 0.02 inch or about 0.51 inch below normal. Highest weekly total, 0.24 inch, in northeast. No rain along north and south coasts. Crop moisture conditions deteriorated significantly in south, north, and parts of interior divisions where yields and crop conditions were seriously affected by lack of rain and high temperatures. Other zones generally near normal, but more rain needed islandwide. Temperatures averaged 78° on Coast and 72° in interior divisions, with individual stations reporting from 1° to 3° above normal. Highest maximum temperature, 93°; lowest minimum, 57°. Dry weather helped progress of sugarcane harvesting

operations and maturing of cane. Too dry in non-irrigated zones for optimum development of young sugarcane. Coffee plantations continued pruning and cultivating but dry weather affected flowering. Pastures in parts of south were in bad shape due intensification of drought. Also poor to fair parts of north but otherwise near normal in other zones. Tobacco harvesting and drying operations made good progress. Minor crop yields are down due drought conditions in south and parts of north and interior zones.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Rainfall varied from a few tenths inch along the coast to 2.50 inches in Upper Piedmont and Mountains. Temperatures averaged 4° below normal. Many locations had freezing temperatures on 22d and 23d. Land preparation, fertilizing active--some corn planting. Tobacco bed treatment and maintenance--condition fair to good. Spraying peach trees. Coastal area setting out tomato plants, planting snapbeans, cucumbers, watermelons, and cantaloupes. Harvesting some mixed green vegetables.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Weekly temperatures averaged from 5° to 11° above normal. This is 5th week in a row that temperatures have averaged above normal. Extremes ranged from 17° at Harrington and Vivian on 20th to 62° at Philip and Oral on 21st. Precipitation fell mostly as rain last part of week with totals ranging from about 0.10 inch parts of northwest to over 1.00 inch in the extreme northeast. Some fieldwork with light equipment underway. Muddy yards and lots still a problem, but will dry rapidly if present conditions continue. Caring for livestock and preparing for spring planting are main farm activities.

TENNESSEE: Temperatures averaged near or a few degrees above normal. Readings reached low 70's on 19th and a few locations in eastern counties reported freezing temperatures on 22d. Precipitation 20th to 22d totaled 0.50 to 1.25 inches. Light to moderate rain widespread on weekend. Flooded fields and scattered rains throughout week have hampered most farmwork in State. Farmers were able to work in the field less than 1 day. Spring plowing, planting tobacco beds, and cleaning up after the flood were the major farm activities for the week.

TEXAS: Numerous showers and thunderstorms accompanying an early spring cold front drenched eastern section of State on Friday and Saturday. Galveston reported 8.11 inches rainfall for week, and several other stations in southeast had 2.50 or more. Much lighter rain in western half. Temperatures were slightly below normal, with cool nights and mild or warm days. Freezing occurred only at a few scattered points on High Plains and in the Trans-Pecos region. Some afternoon highs in 80's from San Angelo to the Lower Valley. At end of week entire State was fair and dry; however, flooding continued on many rivers in East Texas. Planting cotton, corn, sorghum, peanuts and rice made good progress early last week. Rain toward end of week brought operations to halt, planting and seedbed preparation lagging behind schedule most areas of State. Wheat and oats making excellent progress. Many fields where grain crop expected in early boot stage. Grazing lagging behind growth rates some areas and forage becoming rank. Some livestock death losses from bloat on High and Low Plains. Major crops percent planted: cotton 5, last year 10; corn 24, last year 43; sorghum 19, last year 30; rice 7, last year 32; peanuts 5, last year 4.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley onion supplies remain light with volume not expected for 1 to 2 weeks. In the Coastal Bend watermelons and cucumbers have emerged and are running. The crop is expected to be later than normal this year. In the Winter Garden-San Antonio area, carrot harvest continues. Supplies of cabbage and spinach declining. Potatoes showing good growth with a few early fields being dug. At Laredo carrot digging is active. In East Texas melon planting increasing with drier weather. In Knox-Haskell area earlier potato plantings are emerging. On the High Plains early carrot planting is underway, potato and onion planting active all counties. Citrus picking remains active, trees reaching full bloom stage for the 1973-74 crop.

UTAH: Recurring periods of precipitation, locally moderate to heavy accumulations. Severe snow storm north portion of Wasatch Front with near-record snowfall some localities. Considerable damage to power and telephone lines. Temperatures averaged near to a little below normal for period. Soil temperatures at 4-inch depth, ranged from upper 30's Cache Valley to near 40° Salt Lake City and low 50's St. George. Some sheep shearing started. Farm flock lambing nearly completed, range lambing will start some areas next week. Calving well along. Care and feeding of beef cattle and sheep on winter rangelands and valley farms plus dairy herds and poultry flocks continue major activities. Irrigation water supplies good to excellent all areas from reservoir storage and stream flow. Soil moisture plentiful nearly all farming areas. Fields beginning to dry enough some lower valleys to permit plowing and planting. Apricot trees ready to bloom. Marketing of potatoes and apples from storage nearly completed.

VIRGINIA: Rain in several periods with totals mostly 1.00 to 2.00 inches but some patchy light amounts. Highest temperatures generally in 60's and 70's but averaging about 4° to 5° below normal. Surplus soil moisture limited fieldwork especially on heavier soils and in fields without good drainage. Some plowing and other tillage, but fixing fence, spreading of manure, lime, and fertilizer more prevalent. Pasture growth well advanced. Peach bud development and blooming well advanced. Full bloom as far north as Albemarle County, but not blooming yet west of Blue Ridge Mountains. Some concern on freeze

damage, but damage appears to be minor. On Eastern Shore, Irish potatoes 1/3 planted in Accomack County, Northhampton more advanced. Some sweet potato beds started.

WASHINGTON: Western Washington: Rain first week followed by warm days, frosty nights. Spring field activities increased. Picking daffodils continues, harvest forced rhubarb near complete. Field rhubarb to start soon. Lifting and planting certified strawberries continue. Limited pasturing plus green chop rye relieving pressure on hay supply. Eastern Washington: Warm days, cool nights. Planting of sugar beets, potatoes, mint, asparagus, peas, other vegetables increasing. Some winterkill in alfalfa. Soils dry, irrigation water expected soon. Fruit trees budding early. Grape pruning, hop and grape trellising continue. Winter wheat in southeast greening. Some winter-killed areas reseeded to spring grains, peas, and lentils.

WEST VIRGINIA: Light snow flurries March 18 and 22, heavy rain showers March 17 and 25. Sub-freezing minimum temperatures most nights entire State. Some daytime warmup March 23 to 26 with highs near 60°. Supplemental feeding of live-stock increased due to cold weather. Preparation of land for spring planting continued when weather permitted. Pastures continue to grow and green up. Soil moisture adequate to surplus.

WISCONSIN: One more week of above-normal warmth. Now 40 successive days with above-normal temperatures in portions of State. Extremes during week ranged between 7° at Mellen on Wednesday and 61° at Prairie du Chien on Friday. No rain of consequence during week. Topsoils drying nicely. Rivers starting to recede from flood levels. Farmers getting seed and machinery ready. Pruning in orchards about completed.

WYOMING: Light to moderate snows statewide; Sheridan Field Station reported the most moisture with 0.84 inch. Temperatures averaged near normal except 2° to 8° above normal over the northeast quarter. Temperature extremes were 64° at Basin and Deaver, and -16° at Bondurant. Main farm and ranch activities consisted of calving, lambing, and some farm shearing. Continued wet conditions are causing more losses to calves.

HEAVY SNOW AT FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA
Paul W. Sorenson, Official-in-Charge
National Weather Service, Flagstaff

Weather really began inundating Flagstaff and much of Northern Arizona in October 1972. Copious rain storms from several tropical disturbances produced 9.86 inches of moisture for the month. This is the greatest amount for any month or any year on record, 1898-1972. Fortunately, the air was warm; therefore, only 11.5 inches of snow was recorded in October.

Flagstaff has recorded above normal precipitation for every month since October. The total moisture October 1 to March 15, 25.08 inches; (normal, 8.51 inches). For the same period of time we have accumulated 154.8 inches of snow. The record any snow season (October 1 to May 1) was established in 1948 and 1949 with 167.0 inches. Snowfall since January 1, 1973 to March 15, 91.1 inches; (normal, 37.0 inches).

In nine and half months, Flagstaff has recorded 32.54 inches of precipitation (June 1 to March 15). Normal whole year 18.50 inches.

Heavy snow also exists in surrounding areas. Happy Jack Ranger Station, 45 miles southeast of Flagstaff reports 64 inches of snow on the level. Water equivalent of the snow 15.6 inches. Morman Mountain reports 70 inches of snow, 18.7 inches water equivalent.

Temperatures have been unusually low. We are into the 8th consecutive month with below-normal average monthly temperatures. We have had only six days since November 1 when the temperatures climbed to 50 degrees or more. We have had only four days in 1973 when the temperature reached 50 degrees or higher. The first 18 days of March, all below normal. Precipitation for 18 days of March, 3.21 inches. Normal for same period 0.95 inch. Precipitation this year January 1 to date 8.79 inches, normal 4.38.

Note: 22.6 inches of snow has fallen since March 15 bringing the seasonal total to 177.2 inches, this being 10.2 inches more snowfall than in any previous season.

Editor

HEAVY SNOW IN ALABAMA
Robert Ferry
Meteorologist-in-Charge
Birmingham, Alabama

Much of Alabama has experienced the worst snow-storm of record. A mixture of sleet and freezing rain developed over south Alabama on Thursday night 2/8/73 and caused roads to become icy by early on the morning of Friday, 2/9/73. The precipitation gradually became all snow Friday morning along the northern part of the precipitation area and during the afternoon over the remainder of the area. By around 10 a.m., up to three inches of snow had accumulated in a band from some 40 miles north of Mobile to just south of Montgomery. Over southeast and east-central Alabama the heaviest snow fell Friday afternoon and Friday night with the precipitation tapering off early on Saturday, 2/10/73. Telephone calls into the area in the early hours (1-3 a.m.) of Saturday indicated that some 8 south-east Alabama counties were already totally snow-bound. Some drifts were about two feet deep. The attached map shows the area of heaviest snowfall based on early reports. Some are official measurements while others are from county sheriffs who, in some cases, made special measurements at our request.

Several traffic fatalities resulted from the icy highways including two in the Mobile area. No detailed reports are available as yet concerning damage from the freezing rain at the onset of the storm. One report around noon Friday indicated severe icing about midway between Pensacola and the Alabama border with large tree limbs being torn from trees by the ice. Property damage caused by the 3-day storm has been estimated to exceed \$1 million.

Following is a roundup of conditions at 6:30 a.m., Saturday morning. These represent approximately the maximum snow depths.

Auburn/Lee County: Snow depth averages 11 inches with drifts to 18 inches.

Troy/Pike County: Measured depth is 9.5 inches but drifts are as much as two feet deep.

Clayton/Barbour County: Average depth 8 to 12 inches with drifts to 18 inches.

Abbeville/Henry County: Average snow depth 3 to 4 inches.

Ozark/Dale County: Measured 5 inches on the ground. Dothan has 2 inches. Visibility at Dothan is 1/2 mile in snow at 6 a.m.

Phoenix City/Russell County: Average depth of 12 to 14 inches with drifts 18 to 20 inches deep. Travel virtually impossible.

Lafayette/Chambers County: Some 2 inches on the ground, roads open.

Columbus, Ga.: Snow depth 14 inches...greatest of all time...previous record was 9 inches.

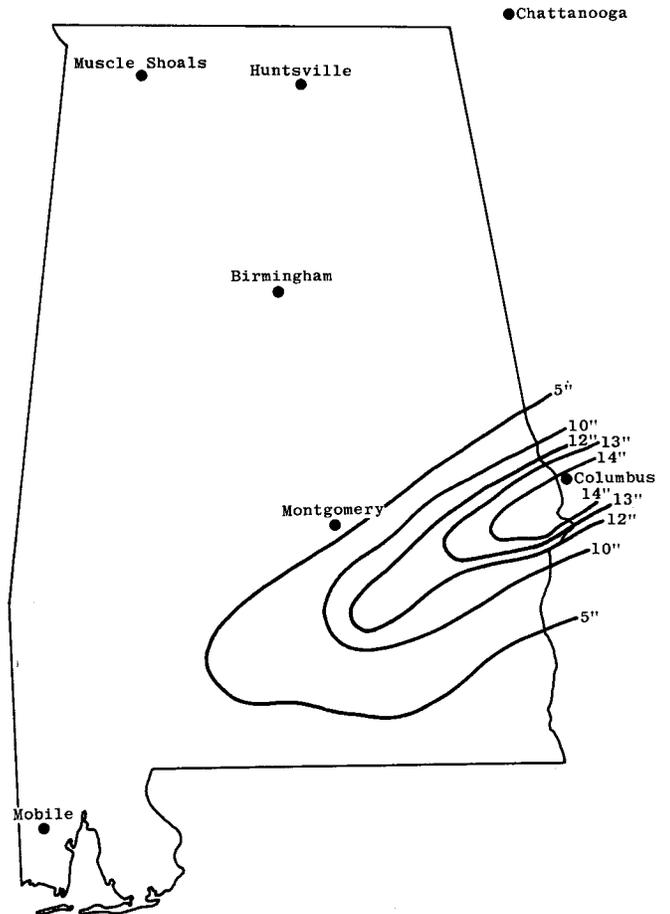
Augusta, Ga.: Depth 12 inches breaks previous all time record of 11 inches set in February 1914.

Biloxi, Mississippi: Three inches on ground.

Montgomery: Two inches still on ground this morning but nowhere near a record. In 1895...11 inches fell within 24 hours.

Mobile: Three inches on the ground this morning. Not a record as 6 inches occurred there in 1895.

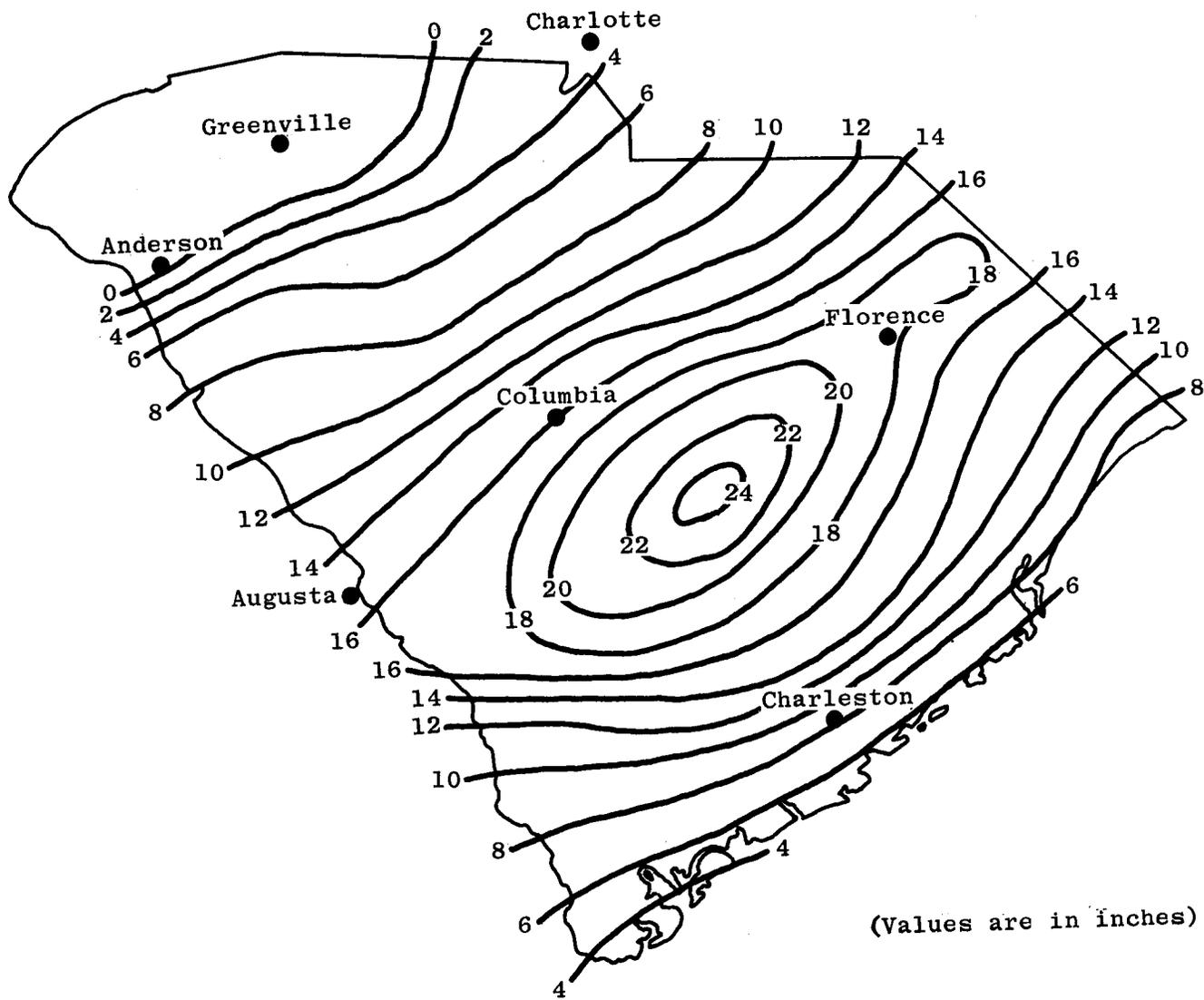
...Not a flake has fallen at Birmingham.

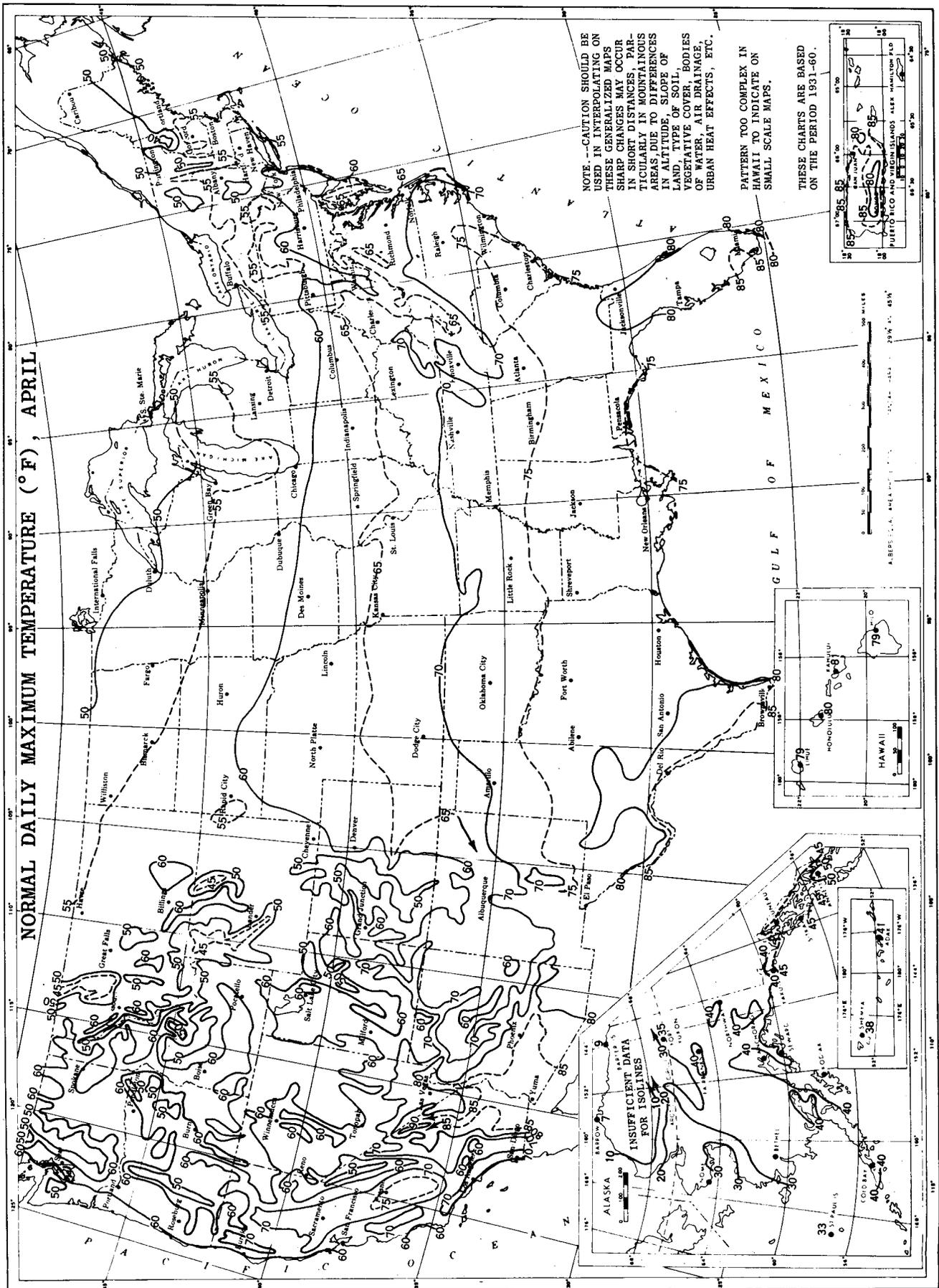


RECORD SNOWFALL IN SOUTH CAROLINA
 February 9-10, 1973
 Halbrook Landers
 Climatologist for South Carolina

The accompanying map shows the distribution of the snow in inches of depth. Snow fell for approximately 24 hours, beginning in late afternoon on the 9th. The belt of largest amounts lies parallel to the coast about 75 miles inland. Six northwestern counties were nearly snow free. This happened because the cyclone, the circulation of which brought the snow, was considerably farther off the coast than in most cases of snowfall in South Carolina. A few places just northwest of the zero snow line had light rain but most locations in the Northwest had no precipitation. The previous record for a February snowfall in South Carolina was 21.8 inches at Caesars Head Mountain in 1969. February records in the nonmountainous part of the State were set at Smiths Mills in 1912 and again at Society Hill in 1914 at 18 inches. An area the size of five or six counties exceeded 18 inches in the 1973 snowfall. The coastal beaches, which rarely see snow, were

covered with from three to seven inches. It was truly the greatest snowfall for the central part of the State during the 75-year period of record, not only for February, but for any winter month. About 30,000 persons were stranded on the highways. They were mostly tourists traveling to and from the North and Florida. Many of these were rescued by Air Force and National Guard helicopters. When the hotels and motels overflowed, some of the rest were housed in armories, schools, and churches. Many farmers put up as many as 60 to 70 people in their homes. Probably over 100 tons of food and supplies were taken by helicopter to people snow-bound in their homes. As many as 17 deaths were directly or indirectly caused by the snow storm. About half of these were from exposure (freezing). Total damage to property, roads, etc. which can be assessed, will run about \$30 million.







FIRST CLASS MAIL

Total Annual Subscriptions: \$5.00 in U.S. and possessions, \$6.50 including domestic airmail, \$11.25 including foreign airmail. For December through March issues only, \$1.50, \$2.00 with domestic airmail, \$3.50 with foreign airmail. Make checks payable to Department of Commerce, NOAA.

Publication of this bulletin began in 1872 as the Weekly Weather Chronicle. It is now issued under general authority contained in the Act of January 12, 1895 (44 USC 213), 53d Cong., III. Sess. Quotation or reproduction of this material is encouraged. Please give credit to this publication and, in case of special articles, to authors.

Please send subscriptions and any questions or comments to the Editor at above address.

