

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

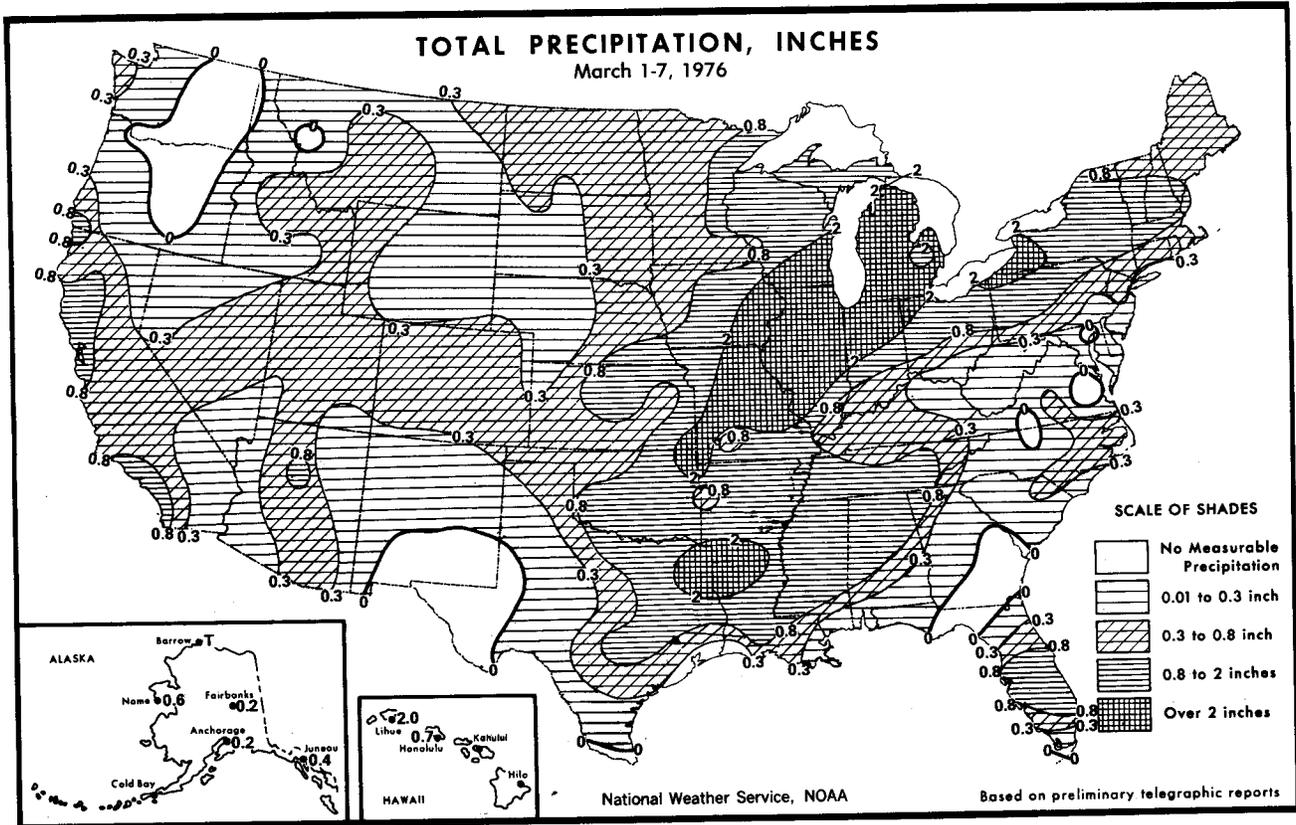
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Weather Service, NOAA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service

Volume 63, No. 10

Washington, D.C.

Mar. 9, 1976



National Weather Summary

For the week of March 1-7

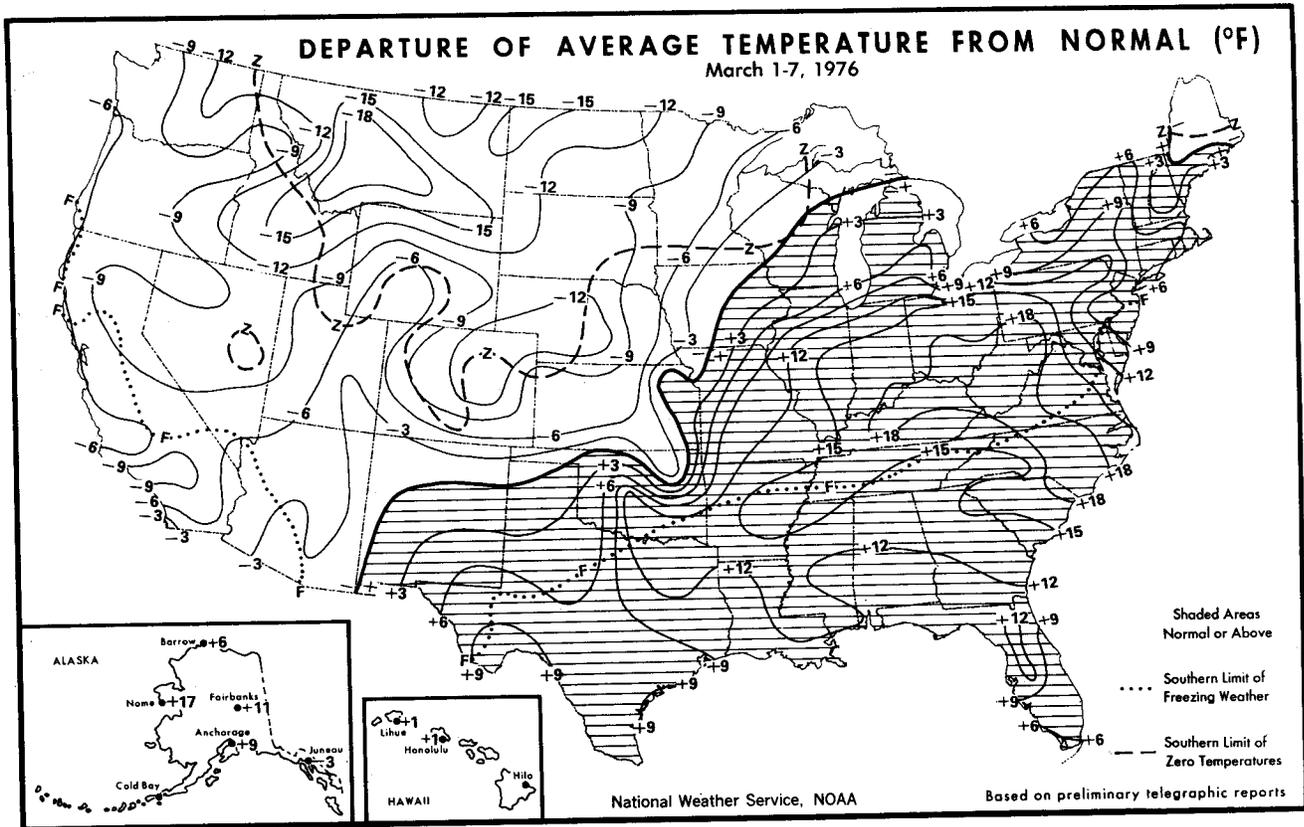
HIGHLIGHTS: A prominent cold front divided sharply contrasting air masses that covered the Nation during the week. Though unseasonably warm air kept temperatures up to 20° above normal in the central and southern Atlantic Coast States, a frigid blast of air pushing across the Plains shoved readings as low as 20° below normal over most of the western two-thirds of the Nation. Associated with the front, severe thunderstorms at midweek spawned damaging tornadoes in the Ohio and lower Mississippi Valleys.

An intense low pressure center over northwest Utah extending eastward across the U.S. provoked wintry weather on Monday from southern California, through the northern Plains and into the northern Great Lakes region. Throughout the day the storm touched off many showers with snow in California and Arizona. Some spots in California measured from 1 to 3 feet of new snow and mountain

areas of Idaho, Nevada, and Utah added up to 1 foot. Strong winds gusting to 50 mph whipped snow throughout portions of the Rockies and Plateau area.

Along the outskirts of the weather system freezing rain and snow streamed into areas from eastern Minnesota through the upper Great Lakes region. Showers and thunderstorms turned up from northern Illinois into northern Ohio.

Stretching across the entire width of the Nation, the frontal system produced a variety of weather on Tuesday. A broad band of snow, sleet, and freezing drizzle extended from New England through northern portions of the Great Lakes region into Iowa. Parts of lower Michigan waded through nearly a foot of snow, which strong winds drove into drifts 2 to 4 feet deep. In the Northeast, Concord, N.H. accumulated 7 inches of new snow and Portland, Me. added 4 inches. Heavy coats of ice snapped power lines and tree limbs



throughout southern Michigan and the Erie, Pa. area.

Centered over southeast Colorado, the intense low fixed wintry conditions over central portions of the Rockies and High Plains. Snow was widespread from the eastern Dakotas into the central Rockies.

From the southern Plains to the southern Atlantic Coast warm, dry weather persisted. Temperatures ranged mostly in the 70's and 80's and zoomed to record high levels from the Ohio Valley to the middle Atlantic Coast.

Around midweek the extensive weather system began pushing frigid air toward the Great Plains. Parts of Montana soon buckled under the blast of cold air (Lewistown, -25°).

The severe winter storm created adverse weather conditions from Arizona through the lower Rockies, across the Midwest, and into the Northeast. Freezing rain and sleet iced areas from southern New England into northeast New York. A severe ice storm caused extensive damage in central lower Michigan and western New York.

At the end of the day the storm center moved over New Mexico; piling more snow into the northern two-thirds of Arizona and lower portions of the Rockies and High Plains. Nighttime shower activity, triggered by the near stationary front, extended from Oklahoma across the middle Mississippi and Ohio Valleys into Pennsylvania.

Thursday's precipitation pattern ranged from the southern and central Plateau regions across the Rockies and eastward through the Ohio Valley into New England. Forecasters cited snow from lower Rockies across the northern and central Plains into the western Great Lakes region. Freezing rain occurred from northeast Kansas into lower sections of Michigan. Thundershowers rumbled from the southern Great Lakes region across the middle

Mississippi Valley into the southern Plains.

Cutting across the Nation, the front separated sharply contrasting air masses. In the northern Plains temperatures halted in the teens or lower. Warm readings in the 70's and 80's that dominated southeast U. S. included many record highs: Louisville, Ky. 81° , Charleston, W. Va. 80° , and Evanston, Ill. 76° . Boise, Idaho, 11° , claimed the record low for the day.

Trailing eastward from the northern Plains, the cold front produced severe weather in the evening across the Mississippi Valley. Severe thunderstorms spanned a dozen tornadoes in Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and lower Michigan.

In the warm air ahead of the storm record high temperatures were reported from Maine to Virginia and as far west as Ohio. As the prolonged warmth pushed vegetation ahead of schedule, earlier-than-usual frost and freeze warnings were issued for portions of Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Indiana. Meantime as the warm weather in the Northeast melted snow, some scattered local flooding occurred along the Illinois and middle Mississippi Rivers.

The weekend cooling trend began on Saturday morning as the cold front marking the leading edge of cold air pushed through the Ohio Valley into the Appalachians. In only a day's time temperatures slipped as much as 30° , or into the 30's in parts of Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

Forecasters blamed a low pressure center off the Texas Coast for Sunday's onslaught of showers and thunderstorms from Louisiana into eastern Texas. Rain was especially welcome in previously dry areas of northwest Texas. During the day moist air from the Gulf of Mexico spread into the Nation's interior, producing a wide area of rain and drizzle from the southern half of the Plains States into the lower Mississippi Valley.

National Agricultural Summary

For the Week of March 1-7

HIGHLIGHTS: Light precipitation finally relieved parched soils in the central and southern Great Plains but more rain is needed soon to maintain growth and limit further acreage losses. Many fields already have been abandoned and plowed to control wind erosion. Mild temperatures in the eastern United States advanced fruit tree bloom ahead of normal. Colder temperatures in the West slowed fruit tree development and caused limited damage. Pastures improved over most of the southern United States, but still did not supply all forage requirements for livestock. Ice and cold weather harmed livestock in some areas. Planting preparations were ahead of normal for this time of year. Planting of spring field crops began in the States along the Gulf Coast.

SMALL GRAINS: The central and southern Great Plains wheat crop improved slightly in response to light rain and snow, but large acreages in the Oklahoma Panhandle and adjacent areas in Texas, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico already had been abandoned and plowed to control wind erosion. Precipitation benefited the wheat crop in Kansas, but was very limited in the Southwest, where more rain is needed soon to reduce stress. Some winter-kill appeared in the central area. Greenbugs and armyworms were active throughout the State. Rain benefited most of the Oklahoma wheat producing areas, except the Panhandle, where light showers were not adequate to relieve stress. High winds late in the week caused additional losses in the northwest. Spraying to control greenbug infestations occurred when weather permitted.

Light to moderate rainfall in Texas brought temporary relief to the wheat and oats crops. Dryland wheat in the High Plains developed slowly; irrigated stands improved the most. Before the weekend rainfall, high winds and soil erosion continued to damage the High Plains wheat crop. Greenbug populations declined on the High Plains. In New Mexico dryland wheat was poor and irrigated stands were fair to good. Greenbug activity was moderate. Strong winds across portions of eastern Colorado created dusty conditions, which then were settled by snow.

In the Mountain States snowcover helped winter wheat survive subnormal temperatures. Cold weather returned the Washington wheat crop to dormancy. Heaving also resulted and some fields appeared to be under stress. In the west North Central States new snowcover helped reduce wind erosion. Elsewhere in the United States wheat was good to excellent. Topdressing was almost finished.

OTHER CROPS: Corn planting was underway in the extreme southern part of the Nation from Texas to Florida. In Texas 6% of the corn was planted. Early plantings emerged along the Upper Coast.

Sorghum planting was 14% complete in Texas and early stands were coming up in South Texas. Planting preparations were in progress throughout the State.

Cotton planting was concentrated in southern Texas and seedbed preparations were active statewide. In Arizona furrowing, irrigation, and herbicide applications preceded planting of cotton.

Rice planting was underway along the upper Gulf Coast in Texas and in Louisiana.

Irish potatoes were seeded on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, North Carolina, the Sand Mountain

area of Alabama, and the Texas High Plains. In Mississippi half the potato crop was planted. Seed potato planting was active in Oregon. Early plantings emerged to good stands in Louisiana and the San Antonio-Winter Garden area in Texas.

Transplanting of tobacco began in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, but in some places mild weather resulted in too large plants. In North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee tobacco plant beds were seeded.

The sugarcane harvest was on schedule in Florida. Sugarbeets made satisfactory growth in Arizona.

VEGETABLES: Volume of winter vegetables increased in Florida, where warm days and mild nights speeded maturity of all crops. Supplies increased for snap beans, cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, cucumbers, escarole, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, and strawberries. Crop volumes held steady for celery, chinese cabbage, eggplant, squash, and tomatoes and declined for radishes. Transplanting and seeding of spring crops were active.

In Arizona the lettuce harvest continued in the Yuma area, but was limited in the Salt River Valley. Harvest of most other vegetables increased.

In Texas onion harvest gained momentum. Onions, cabbage, carrots, and spinach are all available in volume. Irrigated watermelons along with other melon crops made good progress. Okra, peppers, late onions, and melon plantings were active.

California farmers focused on ground preparation for spring vegetable crops. Hotcaps protected some of the early plantings. Scattered light frost caused minor damage to crops in the San Joaquin Valley. Processing tomatoes sustained very minor damage from the cold snap.

Planting preparations for cucumbers, tomatoes, and late cabbage began in Coastal areas of South Carolina. Harvest of greens continued. In New Jersey early vegetable planting began. Strawberry harvest began in Louisiana and in Arkansas strawberry buds were prominent.

FRUITS AND NUTS: In California grapes leafed out in the Stockton-Stanislaus area and buds swelled elsewhere. Lemons sized well. Navel orange harvest was active. Almonds approached the petal-fall stage.

In Texas, peach trees bloomed throughout the State. Grapefruit and valencia oranges were being picked.

Peach trees bloomed in the Fort Valley area of Georgia, South Carolina, and Arkansas. Because the peach crop is so far advanced, freeze damage could be a problem if temperatures plunge too low. Orchard pruning and spraying continued across the northern half of the country. In Michigan ice damaged fruit trees.

PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK: Pastures improved in most areas of the eastern half of the United States amid unseasonably mild temperatures; however, hay was fed in most areas to supplement the new pasture growth. Wisconsin and Michigan staggered under a crushing layer of ice. Livestock chores became almost impossible since electric power was unavailable to operate water pumps, milkers, and refrigeration units. In the Mountain States cold temperatures and snow created unfavorable conditions for calving and lambing but birth losses were not excessive. Livestock were fair to good.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., March 7, 1976

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 . . .	63	+13	.9	-.5	La. Baton Rouge . . .	69	+12	.4	-.8	Youngstown . . .	48	+17	1.2	+ .5
Mobile . . .	69	+12	.1	-1.4	Lake Charles . . .	68	+10	.1	-.9	OKLA. Okla. City . . .	57	+12	1.2	+ .8
Montgomery . . .	63	+9	.5	-.8	New Orleans . . .	70	+12	T	-1.3	Tulsa . . .	41	-4	1.4	+ .9
ALASKA. Anchorage . . .	30	+9	.2	+ .1	Shreveport . . .	65	+11	3.3	+2.4	OREG. Astoria . . .	38	-6	.2	-1.5
Barrow . . .	-12	+6	T	-.1	MAINE. Caribou . . .	17	-2	.3	-.2	Burns . . .	24	-10	T	-.2
Fairbanks . . .	15	+11	.2	+ .1	Portland . . .	30	+3	.6	-.2	Medford . . .	36	-7	.3	-.1
Juneau . . .	27	-3	.4	-.4	MD. Baltimore . . .	50	+11	T	-.8	Pendleton . . .	33	-9	0	-.3
Kodiak . . .	---	---	---	---	MASS. Boston . . .	40	+6	.7	-.2	Portland . . .	39	-6	T	-.9
Nome . . .	22	+17	.6	+ .4	Chatham . . .	39	---	.5	---	Salem . . .	36	-8	.1	-1.0
ARIZ. Flagstaff . . .	28	-4	1.9	+1.5	MICH. Alpena . . .	24	+2	2.5	+2.1	PA. Allentown . . .	43	+9	3.2	-.6
Phoenix . . .	56	-1	.4	+ .2	Detroit . . .	36	+5	3.0	+2.5	Erie . . .	38	+9	3.7	+3.1
Tucson . . .	52	-3	.4	+ .2	Flint . . .	34	+6	1.5	+ .9	Harrisburg . . .	46	+9	.4	-.3
Winslow . . .	38	-4	.1	0	Grand Rapids . . .	32	+4	3.3	+2.8	Philadelphia . . .	47	+9	.1	-.7
Yuma . . .	56	-6	T	-.1	Houghton Lake . . .	25	+3	3.6	+3.2	Pittsburgh . . .	52	+18	1.5	+ .8
ARK. Fort Smith . . .	56	+9	.8	0	Lansing . . .	34	+6	2.1	+1.6	Scranton . . .	44	+13	.4	-.1
Little Rock . . .	62	+16	1.4	+ .3	Marquette . . .	21	-2	1.3	+ .9	R.I. Providence . . .	38	+5	.6	-.3
CALIF. Bakersfield . . .	50	-5	.4	+ .2	Muskegon . . .	32	+4	4.5	+4.0	S.C. Charleston . . .	69	+15	.2	-.9
Eureka . . .	42	-6	.6	-.6	S. Ste. Marie . . .	18	-1	1.1	+ .7	Columbia . . .	67	+16	.2	-.9
Fresno . . .	44	-8	.4	0	MINN. Duluth . . .	13	-5	1.0	+ .7	Greenville . . .	63	+16	.2	-1.0
Los Angeles . . .	50	-9	1.6	0	Internatl Falls . . .	5	-9	.4	+ .2	S.D. Aberdeen . . .	12	-9	.5	+ .4
Red Bluff . . .	43	-9	1.2	+ .6	Minneapolis . . .	18	-4	1.1	+ .8	Huron . . .	12	-11	.4	+ .2
San Diego . . .	55	-2	1.0	+ .6	Rochester . . .	21	-1	.4	+ .1	Rapid City . . .	16	-12	.2	+ .1
San Francisco . . .	46	-6	1.1	+ .5	St. Cloud . . .	12	-8	.6	+ .4	Sioux Falls . . .	19	-6	.5	+ .2
Stockton . . .	45	-7	.6	+ .1	MISS. Jackson . . .	65	+12	1.3	0	TENN. Chattanooga . . .	58	+12	1.0	-.3
COLO. Denver . . .	22	-12	.5	+ .3	Meridian . . .	62	+9	1.4	0	Knoxville . . .	59	+13	.6	-.6
Grand Junction . . .	32	-6	.6	+ .5	MO. Columbia . . .	46	+9	2.1	+1.6	Memphis . . .	63	+16	1.2	+ .1
Pueblo . . .	25	-12	.6	+ .5	Kansas City . . .	37	0	2.4	+ .5	Nashville . . .	61	+16	.6	-.6
CONN. Bridgeport . . .	40	+6	.2	-.6	St. Louis . . .	51	+12	2.4	+1.8	TEX. Abilene . . .	56	+5	.1	-.1
Hartford . . .	38	+7	.7	-.1	Springfield . . .	51	+11	.5	-.1	Amarillo . . .	43	+8	1.2	+ .7
D.C. Washington . . .	54	+13	T	-.7	MONT. Billings . . .	12	-18	.4	+ .2	Austin . . .	64	+8	.3	-.5
FLA. Apalachicola . . .	67	+9	T	-1.1	Glasgow . . .	10	-10	.1	0	Beaumont . . .	67	+10	.3	-.5
Daytona Beach . . .	70	+8	.7	-.1	Great Falls . . .	8	-20	.4	+ .2	Brownsville . . .	73	+8	T	-.2
Ft. Myers . . .	74	+7	.7	0	Havre . . .	9	-13	.2	+ .1	Corpus Christi . . .	71	+9	.1	-.2
Jacksonville . . .	70	+11	.2	-.7	Helena . . .	10	-18	.2	+ .1	Dallas . . .	---	---	---	---
Key West . . .	77	+4	T	-.4	Kalispell . . .	15	-13	T	-.2	Del Rio . . .	68	+9	.1	-.1
Lakeland . . .	75	+14	1.8	+ .9	Miles City . . .	13	-13	.2	+ .1	El Paso . . .	56	+4	T	-.1
Miami . . .	77	+7	.1	-.3	Missoula . . .	20	-10	T	-.1	Fort Worth . . .	64	+12	.8	+ .3
Orlando . . .	73	+9	1.2	+ .4	NEBR. Grand Island . . .	19	-12	.5	+ .3	Galveston . . .	65	+7	.1	-.5
Tallahassee . . .	67	+9	T	-1.4	Lincoln . . .	24	-8	.9	+ .6	Houston . . .	67	+9	.6	-.1
Tampa . . .	74	+10	1.2	+ .3	Norfolk . . .	20	-8	.5	+ .2	Lubbock . . .	49	+3	T	-.2
W. Palm Beach . . .	75	+7	1.6	+ .9	N. Platte . . .	17	-14	.2	0	Midland . . .	58	+7	T	-.1
GA. Atlanta . . .	62	+14	.1	-1.2	Omaha . . .	27	-3	.5	+ .2	San Angelo . . .	60	+6	.1	0
Augusta . . .	65	+14	T	-1.1	Valentine . . .	17	-10	.3	+ .2	San Antonio . . .	66	+8	.7	+ .3
Macon . . .	66	+13	.1	-1.1	NEV. Ely . . .	19	-11	.5	+ .4	Victoria . . .	68	+8	.5	0
Savannah . . .	69	+14	T	-1.0	Las Vegas . . .	46	-6	T	-.1	Waco . . .	64	+11	.5	0
HAWAII. Hilo . . .	---	---	---	---	Reno . . .	27	-12	.2	0	Wichita Falls . . .	55	+6	1.0	+ .7
Honolulu . . .	74	+1	.7	0	Winnemucca . . .	29	-7	.1	-.1	UTAH. Blanding . . .	34	-2	.2	0
Kahului . . .	72	0	2.3	+1.6	N.H. Concord . . .	30	+2	.9	+ .3	Salt Lake City . . .	29	-8	.4	+ .1
Lihue . . .	72	+1	2.0	+ .9	N.J. Atlantic City . . .	45	+8	.1	-.9	VT. Burlington . . .	31	+7	.7	+ .3
IDAHO. Boise . . .	25	-14	.1	-.2	Trenton . . .	46	+9	.4	-.4	VA. Lynchburg . . .	59	+17	.5	-.3
Lewiston . . .	33	-8	T	-.2	N.MEX. Albuquerque . . .	43	0	T	-.1	Norfolk . . .	59	+14	.1	-.7
Pocatello . . .	21	-12	.3	+ .1	Roswell . . .	55	+9	0	-.1	Richmond . . .	59	+16	T	-.8
ILL. Cairo . . .	58	+14	.6	-.5	N.Y. Albany . . .	34	+6	1.3	+ .7	Roanoke . . .	61	+19	T	-.8
Chicago . . .	39	+7	3.3	+2.8	Binghamton . . .	37	+10	1.1	+ .5	WASH. Colville . . .	21	-14	T	-.3
Moline . . .	36	+5	2.0	+1.6	Buffalo . . .	35	+7	3.1	+2.5	Omak . . .	23	-12	0	-.2
Peoria . . .	44	+12	2.2	+1.7	New York . . .	45	+8	.1	-.7	Quillayute . . .	35	-7	.7	-2.0
Rockford . . .	33	+4	3.4	+2.9	Rochester . . .	34	+5	1.5	+ .9	Seattle-Tacoma . . .	36	-7	.1	-.8
Springfield . . .	49	+14	2.7	+2.2	Syracuse . . .	36	+7	1.7	+1.0	Spokane . . .	24	-11	T	-.4
IND. Evansville . . .	57	+17	.4	-.6	N.C. Asheville . . .	57	+15	.1	-1.0	Walla Walla . . .	34	-10	T	-.3
Ft. Wayne . . .	46	+14	2.1	+1.5	Charlotte . . .	62	+15	.1	-1.0	Yakima . . .	30	-10	0	-.1
Indianapolis . . .	52	+17	1.2	+ .5	Greensboro . . .	63	+19	T	-.8	W.Va. Beckley . . .	56	+20	.1	-.9
South Bend . . .	42	+11	4.4	+3.9	Hatteras . . .	64	+16	.6	-.4	Charleston . . .	59	+19	.1	-.8
IOWA. Burlington . . .	39	+7	2.5	+2.0	Raleigh . . .	66	+20	T	-.8	Huntington . . .	60	+20	.1	-.8
Des Moines . . .	29	0	1.3	+ .9	Wilmington . . .	70	+19	T	-1.0	Parkersburg . . .	57	+18	.1	-.7
Dubuque . . .	28	+1	2.2	+1.7	N.DAK. Bismarck . . .	9	-10	.3	+ .2	WIS. Green Bay . . .	26	+3	1.3	+1.0
Sioux City . . .	21	-7	.4	+ .1	Fargo . . .	7	-11	.4	+ .3	La Crosse . . .	24	-1	.7	+ .3
KANS. Concordia . . .	27	-8	1.2	+ .9	Williston . . .	4	-15	.3	+ .2	Madison . . .	28	+3	2.5	+2.2
Dodge City . . .	32	-6	.4	+ .2	OHIO. Akron-Canton . . .	48	+16	1.2	+ .6	Milwaukee . . .	32	+5	4.1	+3.7
Goodland . . .	25	-8	.2	+ .1	Cincinnati . . .	54	+17	.2	-.7	WYO. Casper . . .	20	-8	.1	0
Topeka . . .	38	+1	.7	+ .3	Cleveland . . .	47	+15	1.1	+ .5	Cheyenne . . .	18	-12	.3	+ .1
Wichita . . .	36	-4	.6	+ .3	Columbus . . .	54	+19	.5	-.2	Lander . . .	23	-5	.1	-.1
KY. Lexington . . .	57	+18	.2	-.8	Dayton . . .	54	+18	1.1	+ .4	Sheridan . . .	12	-16	.1	-.1
Louisville . . .	59	+19	.3	-.8	Toledo . . .	42	+11	1.6	+1.1	P.R. San Juan . . .	76	0	.6	+ .1

Publication of the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin began in 1872 as the Weekly Weather Chronicle. It is now issued under general authority of the Act of January 12, 1895 (44USC 213), 53d Cong., 3d Session. Contents of the Bulletin may be reprinted freely, with proper credit. Standard copy for the Bulletin is prepared

by R. E. Felch, L. M. Denny, O. W. Byrd. National Weather Service, NOAA; and H. J. DeLong, Susan Atkins, Statistical Reporting Service, USDA. Yearly subscription rate: \$5.00 domestic, \$6.50 airmail, and \$11.25 foreign airmail. Order from the Agricultural Weather Support Service South Building Mail Unit, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C. 20250.

State Summaries of Weather and Agriculture

These summaries provide brief descriptions of crop and weather conditions important on a national scale. More detailed data are available in Weather and Crop Bulletins published each Monday by SRS State offices in cooperation with the National Weather Service, NOAA.

ALABAMA: Dry weather, high temperatures. Rain, 6th and 7th. Extremes: 85 and 35°. Fieldwork ahead of schedule. Corn planted southern area. Irish potato planting Sand Mountain area. Pastures furnishing limited grazing. Livestock fair. Soil moisture short to adequate.

ARIZONA: Widespread precipitation. Temperatures near normal southeast, subnormal elsewhere. Hard freeze southeast; south central, southwestern deserts spotty frost, freeze.

Cotton furrowing, pre-plant irrigation, application herbicides continues. Spring wheat 95 to 100% planted. Barley planting well advanced. Limited safflower acreage planted. Sugarbeets satisfactory, but some disease. Alfalfa hay activities increased, treating weevils, aphids. Lettuce harvest continued Yuma, limited Salt River Valley. Harvest mixed vegetables, Valencia oranges increasing. Lemon, grapefruit harvest limited. Storms improved water supplies, soil moisture. Good prospects normal spring feed, runoff. Range, cattle, calves mostly fair.

ARKANSAS: Warm first cooler weekend. Rain fell throughout State. Temperatures above normal. Extremes: 85 and 21°. Rainfall 0.19 in. to 2.52 in.

Land preparation progressed well. Fertilizing, liming, land leveling. Livestock supplemental feeding continues. Top-dressing completed. Small grains made excellent growth. Peaches continued to flower, fruit buds prominent on strawberries. No freeze damage.

CALIFORNIA: Precipitation over 4.00 in. in Sierra Nevada; 1.00 - 2.00 in. along coast and Sacramento Valley, and less than 1.00 in. San Joaquin Valley. Cooling midweek and warming end of week. Temperatures near normal low Southeast Deserts, 1 to 6° below other low valley areas.

Rains causing renewed growth small grains. Land preparation continues. Scattered light frost damage San Joaquin Valley. Moisture levels improving. Almonds petal fall stage. Grapes leafing out, Stockton-Stanislaus areas. Buds swelling other areas. Lemons sizing well. Navel, Avocado harvests continue. Vegetable spring ground preparation, early plantings under hot-caps. Minor isolated processing tomato damage from cold snap. Range grass improving. Forage continues short. Supplemental feeding heavier.

COLORADO: Strong winds blowing dust portions of east early. Major storm midweek brought moisture to eastern Plains. Storm dumped 3 to 7 in. snow east, more than foot mountains, lesser amounts west slope. Eastern precipitation amounts 0.25 to 0.50 in. Clear skies cool at week's end.

Except early week fieldwork. Slow during storm period. Calving, lambing active. Losses to newborn normal. No major problems from storm.

FLORIDA: Warm, wet week. Temperatures 7° above normal. Heaviest rainfall central, smaller amounts north and south.

Soil moisture short north and central, adequate west, improving south. Fieldwork active. Corn planting underway. Transplanting tobacco. Small grains beginning to head. Sugarcane har-

vest on schedule. Grazing fair to good. Cattle, calves fair, supplemental feeding continues. Citrus groves excellent. Additional moisture needed. Winter vegetable harvest gained 11%, warm days, mild nights hastened maturity. Supplies increased for snap beans, cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, cucumbers, escarole, lettuce, green peppers, potatoes, and strawberries. Crops holding steady, celery, Chinese cabbage, eggplant, squash and tomatoes. Volume declined radishes. Transplanting, seeding spring vegetable crops.

GEORGIA: Temperatures 10 to 15° above normal north, 6 to 10° above normal south. Spotty rain-fall, cooler 6th and 7th.

Soil moisture dry to adequate. Land preparation ahead normal, planting southern areas. Small grains good, pastures, cattle fair. Tobacco plants good, transplanting underway. Peaches full bloom Fort Valley.

HAWAII: Weather cloudy and cool. Rains frequent all islands.

Farm activities mainly harvesting some leafy crops. Vegetable supplies, head cabbage and Chinese cabbage adequate, others light. Banana, papaya, pineapple harvesting light. Sugar harvesting increasing.

IDAHO: Temperatures 5 to 12° below normal. Extremes: 49 to -28°. Precipitation heavy southern areas, central and northern areas lesser amounts.

Cold wet weather curtailed field activities. Calving and lambing progressing satisfactorily, livestock condition remains good, feed adequate.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures 1 to 7° above normal northern 3rd, 12 to 17° above normal elsewhere. Precipitation heavy, mostly 2.00 to 4.00 in. Some flooding north.

Winter wheat, other small grains, legumes good to excellent. Livestock good. Soil moisture adequate to surplus. Main farmwork, plowing, fertilizing, manure hauling, sowing oats.

INDIANA: Warm week but cold weekend. Slight wind damage Thursday. Some flooding. Rainfall 0.50 in. south, 1.50 in. central, 2.00 to 3.00 in. north.

Disking, fertilizing and seeding oats main activities. Soils too wet to permit plow. Greening up continues.

IOWA: Temperatures 6 to 8° below normal northwest; 5 to 7° above southeast. Precipitation 0.50 in. northwest, 3.00 in. southeast and east central.

Snow cover and precipitation reduced threat of wind erosion. Farm activities care of livestock.

KANSAS: Significant moisture ranging 0.25 in. extreme west to 1.00 to 2.00 in. central and east and locally over 2.00 in. southeast. Temperatures 26° northwest, 47° southeast or 5 to 7° below normal west and south.

Wheat benefited from moisture. Amounts in southwest very limited and more needed soon. Greenbugs and army cutworms active. Winter kill showing central area. Spring oats 30% planted, 10% average. Spring barley 15% planted.

KENTUCKY: Fair, unseasonably warm through 4th. Rain the 5th with fair, seasonable temperatures week's end. Rainfall amounts 0.25 to 0.50 in. Soils dry enough to plow and plant field crops. Farmers cleaning barns and spreading manure. Pasture renovation and reseeding active. Tobacco plant beds prepared and sown. Warm, sunny weather forced vegetative growth making fruits and buds susceptible to freeze damage. Winter grains, pasture greening and starting to grow.

LOUISIANA: Temperatures 10° above normal. Extremes: 85 and 40°. Heaviest showers northwest.

Fieldwork active, seedbed preparation, applying fertilizers and herbicides. Fieldwork: days favorable 5.5. Soil moisture adequate. Early rice and corn planting continued. Strawberry harvest under way. Irish potatoes emerging. Small grains, cattle fair to good.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE: Temperatures 13 to 21° above normal. Extremes: 80's to 20's. Precipitation trace to 0.64 in.

Plowing, fertilizing, liming fields, preparing to plant spring crops. Repair and maintenance work aided by mild weather. Cattle doing well, plenty of feed.

MICHIGAN: Temperature departures from normal 10° above south Lower Peninsula to 6° below southwest Upper Peninsula. Considerable snow, freezing rain. Considerable ice storm damage.

Many farms without power. Milking by hand and dumping milk. No electricity to run coolers. Fruit trees heavily damaged by ice accumulation in central fruit growing area.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures little below normal southeast, 12° below normal northwest. Extremes: -20 and 37°. Precipitation: 0.25 in. above normal west to 0.75 in. above east.

Livestock care, spring work preparation. New snow cover reduced soil erosion.

MISSISSIPPI: Temperatures 9 to 15° above normal. Extremes: 85 and 31°.

Soil moisture adequate. Fieldwork 4.9 days suitable. Plowing 36% completed. Irish potatoes 52% planted. Winter wheat and oats fair to good. Livestock mostly fair. Hay and roughage supplies short to adequate. Feed grain supplies short.

MISSOURI: Temperatures 3 to 18° above normal. Precipitation heavy several sections, 1.00 in. south to 2.00 in. or more elsewhere.

Livestock care major farm activity.

MONTANA: Cold, wet, and windy early, midweek warming and drying continued through weekend. Temperatures below normal.

Cold weather made livestock care difficult. Grazing mostly closed. Snowcover helped winter wheat through cold spell. Precipitation controlled soil blowing.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures 5 to 15° below normal. Precipitation as snow and sleet averaged 0.25 in. in Panhandle and up to 1.25 southeast.

Moisture benefitted wheat, improved soil moisture.

NEVADA: Temperatures 5 to 14° below normal. Extremes: 75 to -11°. Precipitation above normal.

Calving and lambing increasing. Livestock

good condition.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures 5° above normal northern Maine, 10 to 15° above normal elsewhere. Precipitation 0.10 to 1.50 in. as snow, sleet, or rain.

NEW JERSEY: Extremes: 14 and 80°. Rainfall 0.30 in. north, 0.31 in. central, and 0.07 in. south.

Farmers continue land preparation, fruit pruning and caring for livestock. Early vegetable planting underway.

NEW MEXICO: Light precipitation mountain sections. Showers northeast plains weekend. Considerable cloudiness, windiness. Temperatures averaged near normal.

Soil moisture short, very short northeast. Dryland wheat poor. Irrigated wheat fair to good eastern, good southern area. Durum wheat good, planting nearly complete. Greenbug and brown mite activity. Planting, irrigating, orchard pruning. Ranges mostly fair. Calving, lambing 50% complete. Shearing well advanced. Livestock fair.

NEW YORK: Temperatures above normal. Precipitation moderate to heavy most areas, below normal extreme southeast. Early week colder, thereafter moderate.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures 15 to 20° above normal. Precipitation spotty and light.

Fieldwork: 5.3 days suitable. Soil moisture short. Small grains, tobacco plant beds, Irish potatoes fair to good. Pastures fair. Major farm activities: Land preparation, top-dressing small grains, potato planting.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures ranged 12 to 21° below normal. Extremes: -32° and 39°. Precipitation above normal all areas except southeast.

Snow beneficial for fall sown crops and alfalfa as well as open fields. Cold not favoring calving and lambing.

OHIO: Unseasonably warm weather 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Some record highs established. Temperatures near normal 6th and 7th. Precipitation somewhere every day 1st through 5th.

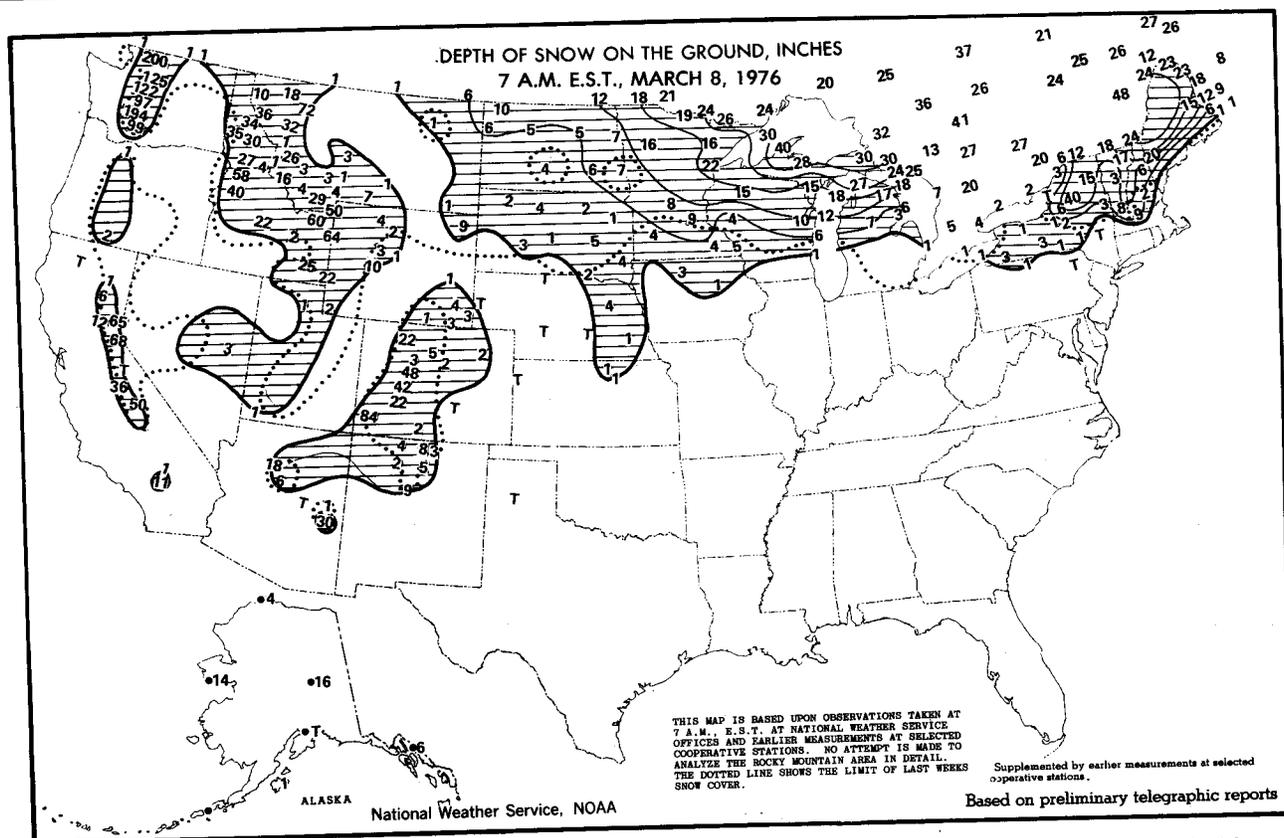
Unfavorable maple sirup season. Return to near normal temperatures favor fruit and wheat.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures 1° below normal Panhandle, 13° above normal central and southeast. Precipitation 0.10 in. west, 1.10 in. northeast. Weekend mild with rain most areas. Southern half 1.50 in.

Rains did not relieve wheat stress northwest. High winds late week caused more loss northwest. Greenbugs active, spraying as weather permits. Armyworm abating. Cattle come off wheat fields. Hard freezes caused fruit loss. Range condition better. Cattle condition fair to good.

OREGON: Temperatures 8° below normal. Extremes: 50's to 20's west; 60's to -9° east. Coast precipitation 1.00 to 1.91 in., 0.45 to 1.11 in. west; 0.01 to 0.83 in. east.

Fertilizing grain and grass fields, plowing, seeding grain as weather permits. Pruning orchards, training berries. Potatoes moving from storage. Planting seed potatoes, Hermiston. Livestock fair to good. Feed adequate. Lambing and calving continuing.



PENNSYLVANIA: Temperatures 20° above normal west; 10° above east and north. Extremes: 76 and 14°. Daily rainfall totaled 0.30 in. or less southeast to 3.70 in. Erie; 0.50 to 1.50 in. elsewhere.
Some fieldwork done. Top dressing, manure spreading and limited plowing.

PUERTO RICO: Island rainfall 0.73 in., 0.12 in. above normal. Temperatures 74° coasts and 68° interior. Extremes: 88 and 50°.
Sugarcane harvest made satisfactory progress. Fieldwork in coffee farms interrupted by rains. Excessive moisture retarded tobacco harvest and drying. Rains beneficial to pastures.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Temperatures 20° above normal midweek, dropped end of week. Showers late week; amounts light.

Farm activities land preparation, harvesting greens, setting late cabbage, preparing to plant cucumbers, tomatoes coastal areas; spraying peach trees. Peach tree pruning ending. Many trees in bloom. Transplanting tobacco, plant size generally too large due to recent warm weather.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Near blizzard 3 to 10 in. snow. Moisture content 0.20 to 1.00 in. Temperatures 13° below normal. Extremes: -25 and 47°.
Cattle good condition. Feed adequate. Stock water situation improving.

TENNESSEE: Warm, dry. Rainfall 1.00 in. west, 0.60 elsewhere. Temperatures 20° above normal. Fieldwork ahead of normal. Tobacco seeding, tilling and plowing well underway.

TEXAS: Temperatures first half above normal.

Colder end. Precipitation none first half increased into weekend. Light to moderate rainfall most areas.

Light to moderate rainfall most areas brought temporary relief to wheat, oat crop. Dryland wheat western area restricted. Planting of cotton, corn, and sorghum continues active south, south central, and east Texas. Wheat: Development primarily irrigated stands. Stress conditions on drylands stands reduced slightly due to weekend rainfall. Soil erosion high wind damage on High Plains. Greenbugs on High Plains reducing. Flax: Blooming in south and south central and along the coast. Some fields in south central may be abandoned to drouth. Cotton: Planting concentrated in south. Seedbed preparation active across State. Corn: Seeding for State at 6%. Early fields up and progressing along Upper Coast. Seedbed preparation active elsewhere. Sorghum: Planting 14% complete, early stands up in South Texas. Rice: Planting underway along Upper Gulf Coast.

Lower Rio Grande Valley: Onion harvest continues to gain momentum. Cabbage and carrots remain available in volume. Okra and pepper planting continues active. Cantaloupes and honeydews making good progress. Coastal Bend: Irrigated watermelons making satisfactory progress. Dryland melons still being planted where enough soil moisture exists. Cucumber planting virtually complete. San Antonio-Winter Garden: Early potatoes emerged to good stands. Spinach, cabbage, and carrots being harvested. Onions making good growth. Irrigated watermelons started to emerge. Rain needed to plant dryland watermelons and cantaloupes. Trans-Pecos: Onions making fair to good growth. High Plains: Onion and potato planting underway. Peach: Trees blooming throughout most of State. Citrus: Har-

vest continues active with picking of grapefruit and valencia oranges.

Range and Livestock: Rainfall and warm weather have improved pasture conditions. Range fires continue Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau areas. Culling of cows active. Cattle now being removed from wheat to allow grain development. Lambing and calving active.

UTAH: Scattered snow many sections, amounts light to moderate. Temperatures near normal east, near normal to 8° below normal west, north central, northern mountains and south central.

Spring plowing, ditch clearing, orchard pruning southern sections. Snow cover northern. Farm flock lambing nearing completion. Range calving started. Range sheep herds start lambing soon.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures 15° above normal. More seasonable weekend. Extremes: 86 and 20°. Rainfall light under 0.25 in.

Fieldwork: 5.8 days suitable. Topsoil moisture 67% short, 32% adequate, 1% surplus. Plowing and disking active. Spreading lime, fertilizer, manure. Seeding oats and clover. Topdressing small grain and overseeding pastures. Calving and lambing good. Pastures good, adequate for forage. Tobacco seedbed preparation and seeding. Potato seeding Eastern Shore. Pruning and spraying orchards.

WASHINGTON: West: Temperatures 7 to 9° sub-normal. Precipitation well below normal.

Digging and sorting certified strawberries. Caning and tying of berries nearing completion.

Harvesting forced rhubarb. Water damage low areas of cabbage fields. Lambing about completed. Calving at midpoint.

East: Readings 10 to 15° subnormal. Very little precipitation.

Orchard pruning and tree removal active. Subfreezing temperatures slowed stone fruit bud development. Other activities. Plowing, disking, seeding spring wheat. Cold weather put winter wheat into dormancy. Some fields under stress. Late seeded fields showed heaving, winter injury, and thin stands. Calving and lambing moved rapidly.

WEST VIRGINIA: Temperatures above normal. Precipitation below normal less than 0.25 in.

Fieldwork: 6.0 days suitable. Soil moisture short to adequate. Small grains grasses greenening up. Farm activities include plowing and fertilizing. Livestock good.

WISCONSIN: Unsettled weather. Snow north half; rain, sleet, snow south. Highs 20's and 30's; lows teens and 20's. Worst ice conditions south. Much damage to trees, power outages.

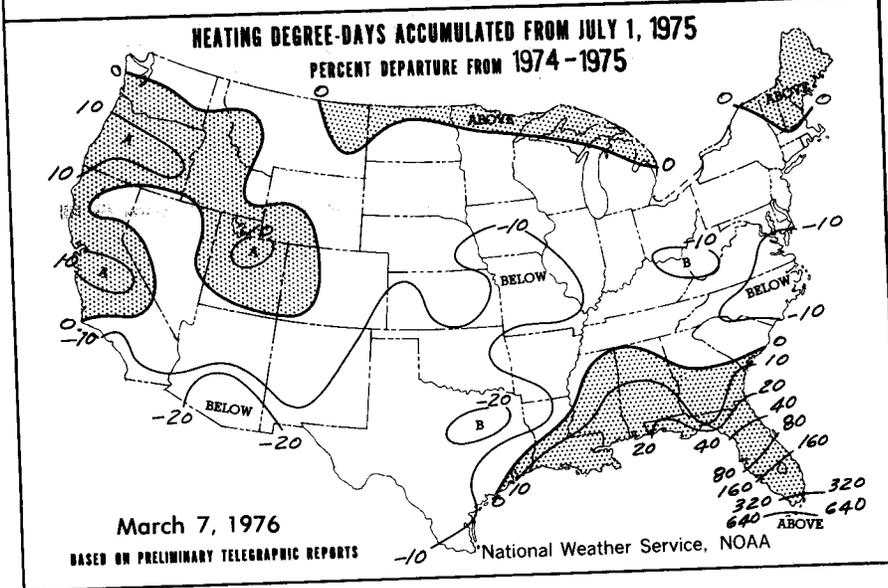
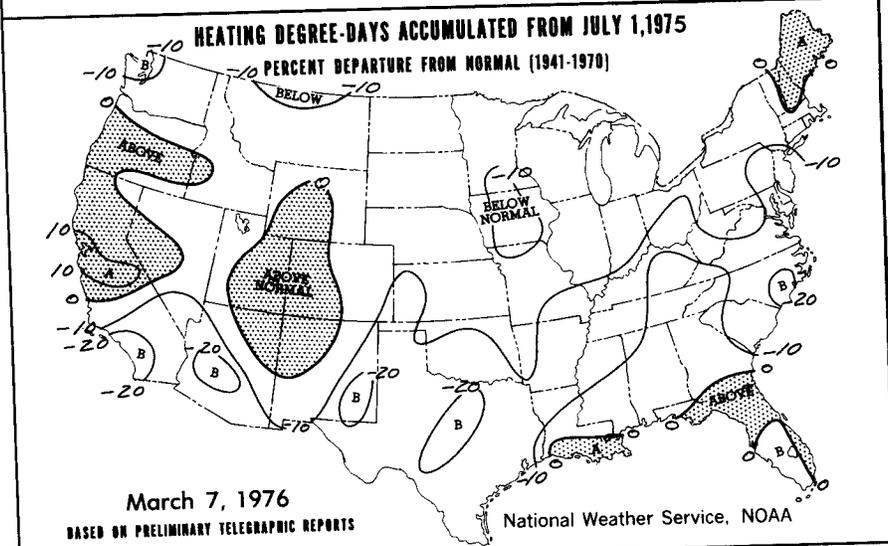
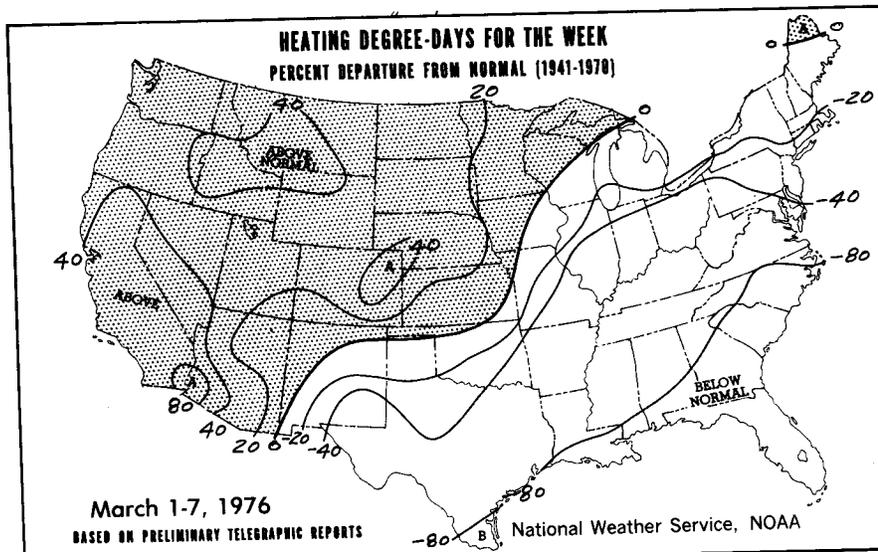
WYOMING: Temperatures below normal. Precipitation beneficial, most areas above normal.

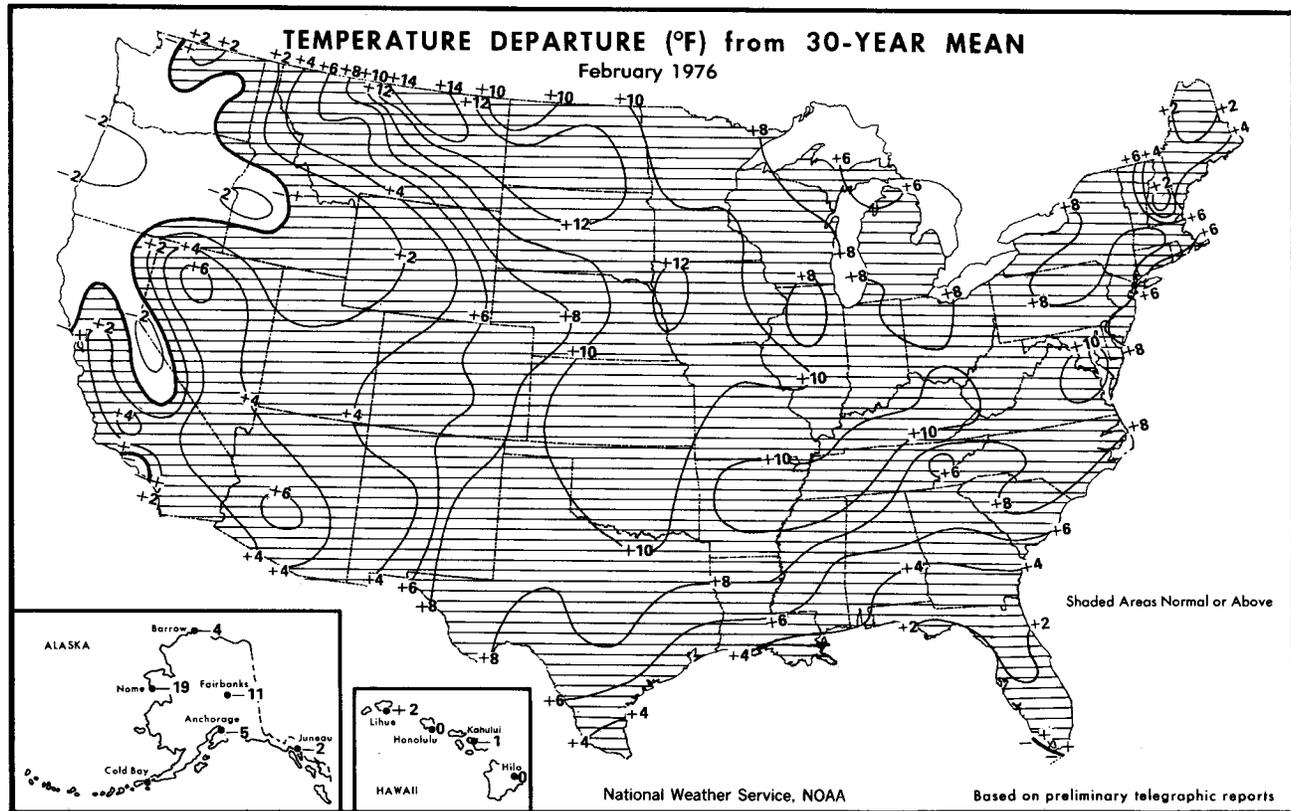
Supplemental feeding and care of livestock. Livestock good. Feed adequate. Cold, snow detrimental as calving, lambing gained momentum. Shearing in progress. Snow cover improved winter wheat prospects, still mostly dormant. Moisture adequate.

HEATING DEGREE DAYS (BASE 65°) FOR WEEK ENDING MAR. 7, 1976.

Table with columns for STATES AND STATIONS, WEEKLY DEPARTURE*, SEASONAL ACCUMULATION*, and DEPARTURE* FROM 1974-75. Rows list various states and cities with corresponding data.

* BASED ON 1941-70 NORMALS. * ACCUMULATION FROM JULY 1, 1975.





February Weather Summary

HIGHLIGHTS: Above normal temperatures that enveloped all but the extreme northwestern portion of the Nation highlighted February's weather patterns. Monthly readings averaged up to 10 to 12° above normal in central U.S., up to 15° above in Montana, and up to 10° above normal across to east central U.S. Cold air remained north, occasionally dipping into the Great Lakes area, and then moved eastward. Precipitation was less than 50% of normal in the already dry portions of the southern High Plains. Much needed rain finally came to California, especially in the southern portion, where irrigation water supplies were diminishing rapidly. Much above normal precipitation fell in all of the major corn producing States from Ohio to eastern Nebraska. Southern Minnesota remained dry. In general U.S. precipitation patterns should assure adequate soil moisture for spring planting.

February began on a dry note and significant precipitation was confined to the area east of the Appalachians. However, in the week ending February 10th a semistationary Pacific storm system off the southern California Coast began pouring moisture-laden air into the Southwest. Rain fell in all but extreme northern California and some areas of southern California recorded more than 4 inches. New snow in some mountain areas measured 3 feet or more. Meantime rain bypassed the High Plains and was scarce in most other areas. Weekly temperatures were cold, except in the Southwest. Midwestern readings ranged as much as 9° below normal. In the Plains Chinook winds boosted temperatures as much as 30° in places.

In the following week, ending near mid-month, rain continued in California and spread throughout the State and the West. Light precipitation dampened parts of the southern High Plains--winter wheat country--but accompanying winds only provoked further erosion. Texas, the southern part of the Gulf States, the Southeast, and Florida recorded no precipitation. All areas east of the Rockies measured less than 1 inch of precipitation. Continued warm temperatures in portions of the Plains averaged as high as 18 to 20° above normal.

During February 18-24 warm weather continued across the U.S., except in the Plateau area, where temperatures averaged to 3° below normal. In the Ohio River Valley and middle Eastern States temperatures averaged 15 to 20° above normal. Precipitation was concentrated in the Ohio and lower Mississippi Valleys and the eastern Great Lakes area where more than 2.00 inches fell. Up to 0.50 inches of snow in Kansas was soon swept from wheat fields by high winds, which only resulted in further erosion.

The last week in the month was very dry and warm. The only significant precipitation occurred in the Northwest, where 2.00 inches was recorded along the Coast from northern California into Washington and over the southern tip of Florida, where the area around Miami received over 2 inches. Lesser amounts fell in the northern Rockies and along the northern border States. No precipitation was recorded in at least three-fourths of the country. Nearly all of the Nation measured above normal temperatures. Readings up to 18° above warmed many areas of the Midwest to record high levels.

