

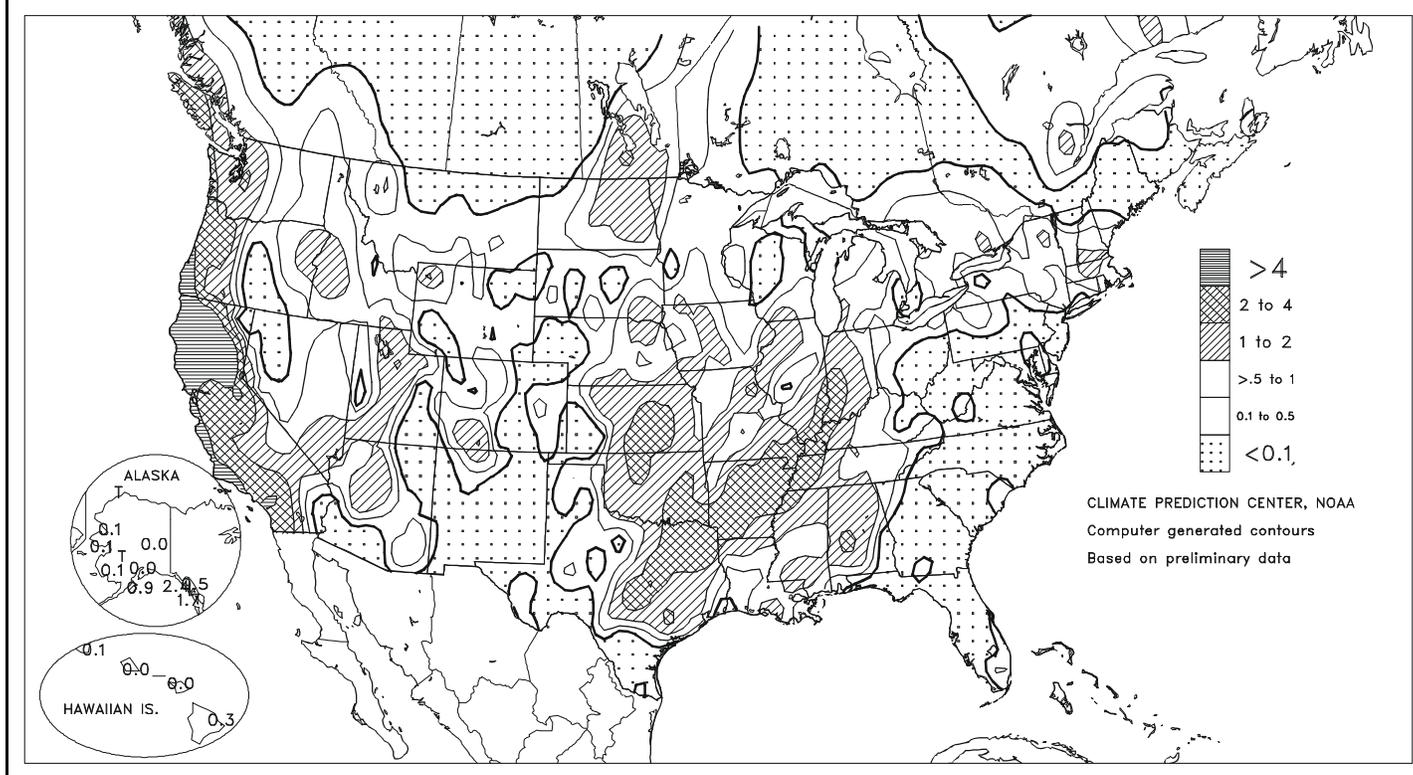
WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board

Total Precipitation (Inches)

FEB 20 - 26, 2000



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data

HIGHLIGHTS

February 20 - 26, 2000

Widespread precipitation continued to alleviate or eliminate dryness in many areas, including much of the **Plains, Midwest, and lower Mississippi Valley**. In the **West**, a seventh consecutive week of widespread precipitation further improved soil moisture reserves, high-elevation snow packs, and spring runoff prospects. In **California**, however, cool (weekly temperatures as much as 7°F below normal), wet conditions slowed spring fieldwork and left standing water in some areas. In contrast, unfavorably warm, dry weather continued to stress dryland winter grains and increase irrigation requirements from **southern Arizona** to the **southern High Plains**, and

(Continued on page 2)

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across **Peninsular Florida**. In areas where soil moisture improved significantly, especially from the eastern portion of the **southern Plains** to the **Delta**, very warm weather (8 to 16°F above normal) spurred rapid winter wheat development. Farther north, warmth caused winter wheat to break dormancy as far north as the **central Plains** and the **Ohio Valley**. Temperatures averaged 6 to 24°F above normal from the **northern and central Plains** to the **northern and middle Atlantic Coast**, excluding **northern New England**. Nearly two dozen **Midwestern** and **Northeastern** cities noted February-record warmth.

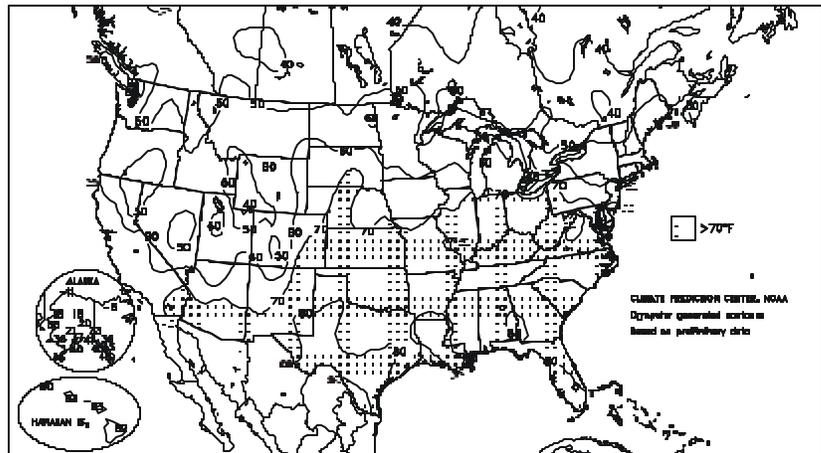
Continuing a remarkable 7-week turnaround in the **West**, precipitation again totaled 4 to locally more than 10 inches across much of **northern California**. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the water equivalent of the high-elevation **Sierra Nevada** snow pack improved more than 20 inches in less than 7 weeks, from 3 inches (20 percent of normal) on January 10 to 24 inches (102 percent) on February 27. In **Sacramento, CA**, seasonal rainfall totaled only 1.90 inches through January 10, including only 0.03 inch in December. Since then, **Sacramento's** rainfall reached 7.20 inches during the remainder of January and totaled 8.48 inches from February 1-27. Meanwhile in **southern California**, **San Diego's** February 1-27 rainfall reached 3.66 inches (including a daily-record total of 1.59 inches on February 21), following their driest July-January period (0.56 inch) since 1962-63. **San Diego's** seasonal rainfall rose to 4.22 inches, or 60 percent of normal. **Los Angeles's** February 1-27 rainfall, 5.54 inches, accounted for 76 percent of their seasonal total (7.26 inches), which remained 3.65 inches below normal.

Significant moisture again bypassed portions of the **Southwest** and **southern High Plains**, leaving **Phoenix, AZ** with a year-to-date total of 0.01 inch (less than 1 percent of normal). Only light showers dampened **Tucson, AZ**, where February 1-27 precipitation totaled 0.19 inch (28 percent of normal), and October 1 - February 27 rainfall reached 0.29 inch (7 percent). In **western Texas**, month-to-date precipitation remained as low as a trace in **Midland**, 0.04 inch in **Amarillo**, and 0.05 inch in **Lubbock**. **Lubbock's** October 1 - February 27 total stood at 1.71 inches, or 41 percent of normal. In **southern Nevada**, however, **Las Vegas** saw their February 1-27 rainfall climb to 1.59 inches (338 percent of normal), following a near-record 140-day spell (September 23, 1999 - February 9, 2000) without measurable precipitation.

Farther east, the most significant rain (generally 2 to 3 inches) fell from **north-central Oklahoma** into **east-central Kansas**, and from **northeastern Texas** to the **lower Ohio Valley**. **Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX** notched a daily-record rainfall (2.01 inches) on February 22. February 1-27 precipitation included 7.26 inches (244 percent of normal) in **Evansville, IN** and 6.62 inches (209 percent) in **Louisville, KY**. Substantial moisture (locally more than 1 inch) also dampened the **northern Plains** and **western Corn Belt**. February 1-27 precipitation reached 1.74 inches (405 percent of normal) in **Bismarck, ND**, breaking their February record of 1.67 inches, set in 1998. In **South Dakota**, **Sioux Falls** netted 0.82 inch

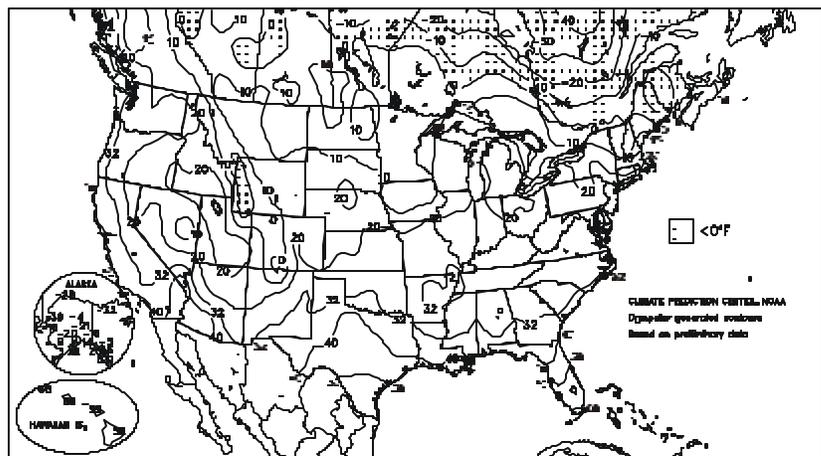
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

FEB 20 - 28, 2000



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

FEB 20 - 28, 2000



of rain of February 23, well above their normal February precipitation of 0.64 inch.

In addition to the monthly records, more than 130 daily-record highs were set or tied during the week. On Monday, **Dodge City, KS** (79°F) posted a record high. A day later in **North Dakota**, February records that had stood since 1958 were broken in **Grand Forks** (67°F) and **Devils Lake** (60°F). **Indianapolis, IN** set three consecutive record highs (71, 71, and 76°F) from February 23-25, including a February-record high on Friday. On February 25, **Zanesville, OH** (74°F) shattered their monthly record that had remained on the books since February 15, 1954, then broke it again the next day with a high of 75°F. On Saturday, warmth abolished February-record highs that had stood since 1932 in **Erie, PA** (75°F) and **Cleveland, OH** (74°F), and since 1930 in **Green Bay, WI** (61°F) and **Wausau, WI** (59°F). In contrast, cool conditions in **southern California** resulted in a few daily-record lows. On Thursday, record lows included 33 °F in **Chatsworth** and 31°F in **Canoga Park**. A day later in **northern California**, **Redding's** high of 47°F was 15°F below normal.

Generally dry weather continued for a fifth consecutive week in **Hawaii**, accompanied by a return to warmer-than-normal conditions (temperatures as much as 3°F above normal). As a result, agricultural drought continued to gradually intensify across primarily leeward portions of the **central and eastern Hawaiian Islands**. Meanwhile in **Alaska**, temperatures remained above normal in western areas (up to 17°F) for the third week in a row and across interior sections (up to 12°F) for the sixth consecutive week.

Weather Data for Selected Locations in the Delta

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 26, 2000

Data provided by the Mississippi State Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC) and the Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC).

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE EF						PRECIPITATION								4-INCH SOIL TEMP, °F		NUMBER OF DAYS			
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL IN SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. EF		PRECIP		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE	
MS BATESVILLE ^x	65	48	78	30	57	10	0.00	-1.26	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	1	0	0	
BELZONI ^x	73	48	82	34	61	10	0.00	-1.21	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0	
CLARKSDALE ^x	70	50	77	33	60	12	0.26	-0.90	0.26	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	1	0	
CLEVELAND ^x	66	45	78	30	56	7	0.30	-1.16	0.30	--	--	5.71	70	--	--	0	2	1	0	
GREENVILLE ^x	68	46	80	32	57	5	0.00	-1.33	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	1	0	0	
GREENWOOD ^x	72	49	78	30	61	10	0.88	-0.19	0.88	--	--	4.31	53	--	--	0	1	1	1	
INDIANOLA 1S	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
INVERNESS 5E	72	49	79	34	61	--	0.73	--	0.73	6.93	--	4.21	--	--	--	0	0	1	1	
LYON	69	48	76	29	59	--	1.83	--	1.65	7.95	--	4.67	--	--	--	0	1	2	1	
MOORHEAD ^x	73	50	79	34	62	11	0.00	-1.17	0.00	--	--	2.10	24	--	--	0	0	0	0	
ONWARD	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
ROLLING FORK ^x	70	47	80	31	59	9	0.00	-1.18	0.00	--	--	3.14	34	--	--	0	1	0	0	
SIDON	75	50	81	34	63	--	0.53	--	0.53	6.65	--	4.30	--	--	--	0	0	1	1	
TUNICA ^x	63	47	75	30	55	8	0.53	-0.57	0.53	--	--	2.39	30	--	--	0	1	1	1	
VICKSBURG ^x	70	47	78	29	59	5	0.00	-1.22	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	2	0	0	
YAZOO CITY ^x	70	45	79	30	58	5	0.00	-1.28	0.00	--	--	2.46	27	--	--	0	2	0	0	
STONEVILLE [*]	68	46	80	32	57	9	0.00	-1.17	0.00	7.52	95	4.08	30	64	51	0	1	0	0	

Compiled by USDA/OCE/WAOB's Stoneville Field Office.

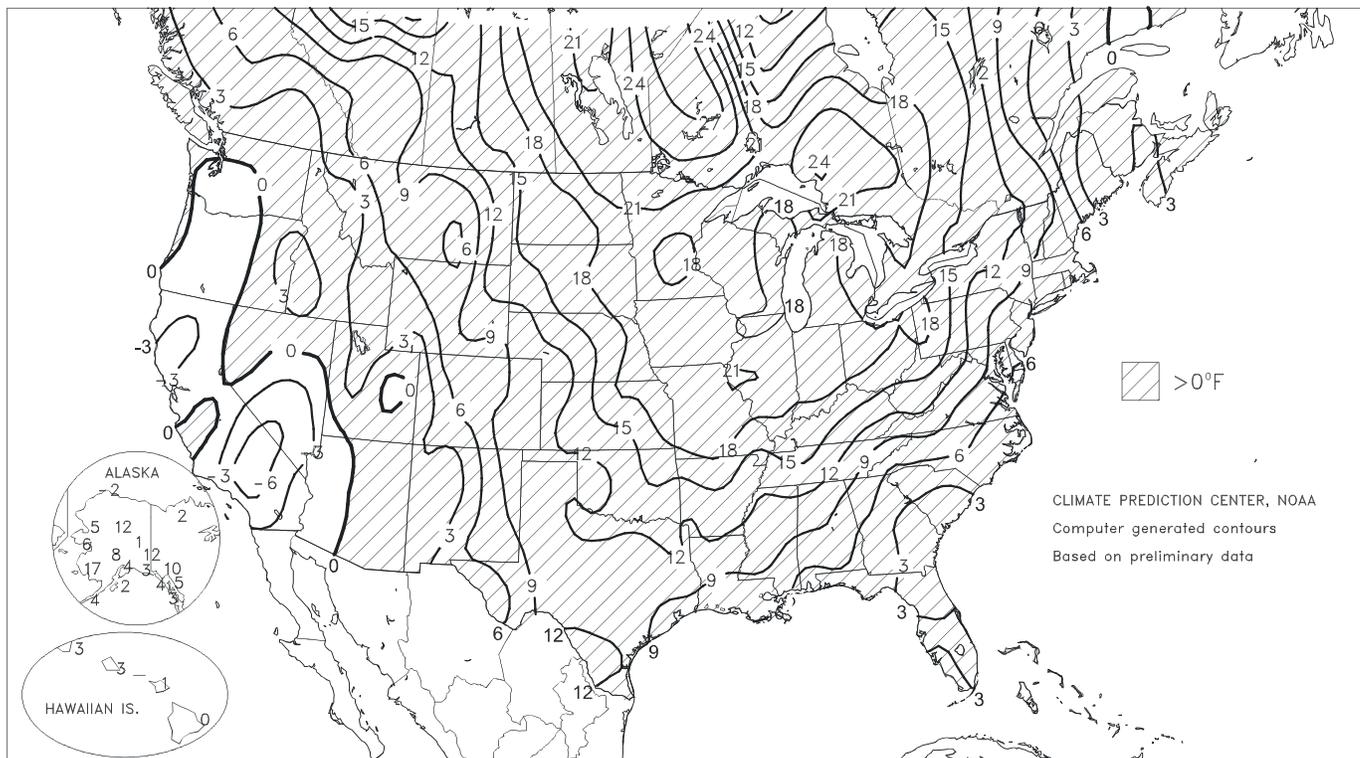
* Based on 1964-93 normals.

^x Based on 1961-90 normals.

Delta Weather and Crop Summary: Weekly temperatures for the Mississippi Delta remained above normal for the 3rd consecutive week. Despite scattered midweek showers, weekly rainfall was below normal. Aerial applications of fertilizer for wheat continued, while burn-down chemicals were applied to future row-crop areas. Some farmers began planting corn, while others continued breaking ground and preparing it for planting.

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

FEB 20 - 26, 2000



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 26, 2000

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center (301-763-8000, Ext. 7503)

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE EF						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS					
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. EF		PRECIP		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	0.1 INCH OR MORE	5.0 INCH OR MORE	
AL	BIRMINGHAM	70	46	77	29	58	10	0.00	-1.25	0.00	9.54	65	6.61	70	75	36	0	1	0	0
	HUNTSVILLE	69	45	78	28	57	12	0.29	-1.02	0.29	9.59	62	6.19	64	80	42	0	1	1	0
	MOBILE	72	48	79	36	60	5	0.00	-1.46	0.00	6.93	46	3.50	36	92	43	0	0	0	0
	MONTGOMERY	72	41	79	29	57	5	0.00	-1.46	0.00	8.55	57	5.17	53	86	33	0	1	0	0
AK	ANCHORAGE	30	18	37	10	24	4	0.00	-0.19	0.00	3.74	142	2.19	145	91	60	0	7	0	0
	BARROW	-16	-25	-11	-28	-20	-2	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.57	133	0.44	163	79	70	0	7	2	0
	FAIRBANKS	12	-11	20	-21	1	1	0.00	-0.11	0.00	2.32	134	1.97	224	87	67	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	39	31	43	26	35	5	0.47	-0.42	0.13	16.68	134	6.38	79	99	84	0	3	6	0
	KODIAK	38	28	40	18	33	2	0.88	-0.32	0.45	13.61	71	6.60	54	95	71	0	4	5	0
	NOME	17	3	30	-16	10	6	0.11	-0.03	0.08	3.27	150	3.06	227	85	65	0	7	2	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	43	23	55	11	33	0	1.34	0.78	0.74	2.55	40	2.55	64	92	42	0	7	6	1
	PHOENIX	70	50	83	43	60	1	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.01	0	0.01	1	60	25	0	0	0	0
	TUCSON	69	42	81	33	55	-1	0.23	0.06	0.15	0.33	13	0.33	22	69	18	0	0	3	0
	YUMA	70	51	74	46	61	-1	0.09	0.03	0.00	0.09	9	0.09	16	68	33	0	0	1	0
AR	FORT SMITH	70	47	79	27	59	15	0.21	-0.54	0.12	8.04	110	3.03	71	85	35	0	1	3	0
	LITTLE ROCK	70	48	76	29	59	13	1.77	0.79	1.59	9.15	79	3.91	58	91	45	0	1	2	1
CA	BAKERSFIELD	61	45	70	41	53	-2	0.74	0.46	0.60	2.44	99	2.31	126	88	45	0	0	4	1
	EUREKA	55	46	59	40	51	1	1.28	0.11	0.51	15.09	96	17.79	113	85	74	0	1	6	1
	FRESNO	61	44	71	35	53	0	1.10	0.66	0.54	7.15	142	7.12	197	94	49	0	0	4	1
	LOS ANGELES	60	49	63	46	54	-4	2.57	1.96	1.32	5.13	80	4.73	100	88	60	0	0	3	3
	REDDING	52	42	58	34	47	-5	2.57	1.52	0.75	16.03	102	15.40	151	97	61	0	0	7	2
	SACRAMENTO	58	45	66	35	52	0	1.96	1.29	0.69	14.21	159	14.18	221	96	56	0	0	6	2
	SAN DIEGO	62	52	64	49	57	-2	2.37	1.98	1.22	3.71	77	3.39	105	94	61	0	0	4	3
	SAN FRANCISCO	57	48	62	42	53	0	2.14	1.40	1.15	13.12	126	12.65	173	92	65	0	0	7	1
CO	ALAMOSA	48	10	58	1	29	3	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.28	29	0.25	48	84	22	0	7	0	0
	CO SPRINGS	55	29	64	20	42	9	0.03	-0.10	0.03	0.94	85	0.74	114	66	17	0	5	1	0
	DENVER	58	29	68	17	43	8	0.13	-0.05	0.13	0.77	47	0.50	50	72	19	0	5	1	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	49	29	56	19	39	1	0.12	-0.02	0.12	2.56	159	2.30	230	84	36	0	5	1	0
	PUEBLO	63	29	73	16	46	9	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.43	43	0.38	64	66	14	0	4	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	45	31	57	24	38	6	0.21	-0.57	0.20	6.61	69	4.23	70	97	66	0	4	2	0
	HARTFORD	45	28	61	16	37	7	0.45	-0.37	0.44	6.48	63	4.21	66	96	57	0	4	2	0
DC	WASHINGTON	59	39	76	33	49	9	0.00	-0.70	0.00	6.75	81	4.26	81	80	41	0	0	0	0
DE	WILMINGTON	54	33	72	26	43	7	0.06	-0.69	0.06	7.19	78	5.34	93	87	46	0	4	1	0
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	72	53	76	46	63	3	0.03	-0.77	0.01	3.65	44	2.09	37	94	54	0	0	3	0
	JACKSONVILLE	70	43	77	35	57	0	0.01	-0.98	0.01	4.38	45	3.49	50	96	49	0	0	1	0
	KEY WEST	77	68	79	66	72	1	0.14	-0.30	0.03	1.90	33	1.25	34	88	63	0	0	3	0
	MIAMI	79	65	83	59	72	3	0.29	-0.24	0.13	4.46	77	1.78	45	87	55	0	0	3	0
	ORLANDO	77	53	80	48	65	3	0.00	-0.80	0.00	4.01	55	1.36	27	94	41	0	0	0	0
	PENSACOLA	69	49	73	38	59	4	0.18	-1.22	0.15	7.72	55	3.81	39	87	54	0	0	3	0
	TALLAHASSEE	75	43	80	33	59	4	0.01	-1.47	0.01	5.58	37	3.03	31	91	32	0	0	1	0
	TAMPA	79	55	82	48	67	4	0.00	-0.83	0.00	3.27	47	2.25	47	91	36	0	0	0	0
	WEST PALM	78	64	81	59	71	4	0.07	-0.65	0.03	3.24	42	1.79	34	85	54	0	0	3	0
GA	ATHENS	66	38	76	30	52	4	0.00	-1.16	0.00	8.91	70	6.67	77	93	40	0	3	0	0
	ATLANTA	66	42	75	33	54	7	0.00	-1.26	0.00	8.18	61	5.97	65	88	37	0	0	0	0
	AUGUSTA	68	34	77	26	51	2	0.00	-1.10	0.00	8.73	77	7.76	97	97	37	0	4	0	0
	COLUMBUS	71	44	78	37	58	7	0.00	-1.28	0.00	6.44	46	4.72	52	87	34	0	0	0	0
	MACON	70	37	77	28	54	3	0.00	-1.21	0.00	7.27	55	5.47	61	96	36	0	2	0	0
	SAVANNAH	69	40	77	32	55	1	0.00	-0.81	0.00	5.58	58	3.64	55	97	42	0	2	0	0
HI	HILO	81	63	82	58	72	0	0.31	-2.46	0.12	33.22	106	18.42	95	89	59	0	0	4	0
	HONOLULU	81	71	83	66	76	3	0.00	-0.50	0.00	4.08	43	1.43	25	79	56	0	0	0	0
	KAHULUI	82	65	83	59	74	2	0.00	-0.66	0.00	3.61	36	1.06	16	82	49	0	0	0	0
	LIHUE	79	70	80	68	74	2	0.12	-0.64	0.05	6.58	47	2.49	28	84	58	0	0	4	0
ID	BOISE	51	33	61	23	42	4	1.42	1.16	0.81	4.66	123	3.76	154	87	42	0	2	4	1
	LEWISTON	50	36	54	30	43	2	0.61	0.39	0.22	4.12	124	2.98	141	90	56	0	2	5	0
	POCATELLO	45	30	57	21	38	7	0.62	0.38	0.36	3.17	106	2.90	154	85	52	0	4	5	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	57	38	72	22	47	19	0.83	0.43	0.75	5.15	98	2.38	86	90	56	0	2	3	1
	MOLINE	56	36	71	18	46	18	1.44	1.06	0.80	5.73	118	3.46	131	95	59	0	2	4	1
	PEORIA	60	41	70	23	50	21	0.64	0.22	0.46	4.69	89	2.14	76	88	54	0	2	4	0
	ROCKFORD	53	32	70	12	42	16	0.87	0.53	0.67	4.37	100	2.43	105	96	66	0	2	3	1
	SPRINGFIELD	62	44	72	26	53	21	0.23	-0.30	0.12	3.94	67	1.74	56	87	52	0	2	4	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	64	43	76	24	54	17	1.96	1.07	1.08	16.57	181	11.44	208	90	46	0	2	5	2
	FORT WAYNE	56	39	73	19	48	19	0.59	0.06	0.50	4.23	65	2.28	63	98	70	0	2	3	1
	INDIANAPOLIS	63	43	76	23	53	21	1.05	0.35	0.81	7.16	91	4.55	100	89	44	0	2	4	1
	SOUTH BEND	58	39	74	19	49	20	0.92	0.40	0.61	6.16	85	3.50	88	87	53	0	2	4	1
IA	BURLINGTON	59	40	71	19	50	20	1.24	0.87	0.98	5.51	129	2.99	131	87	56	0	2	3	1
	CEDAR RAPIDS	53	34	67	7	44	18	0.41	0.10	0.18	2.41	69	1.66	86	97	65	0	2	4	0
	DES MOINES	57	40	64	14	49	21	0.63	0.30	0.34	1.63	50	1.28	65	91	57	0	1	2	0
	DUBUQUE	50	34	66	9	42	18	0.56	0.15	0.30	3.13	71	2.27	93	93	68	0	2	3	0
	SIoux CITY	54	34	64	10	44	17	0.39	0.15	0.36	1.33	68	0.98	83	95	59	0	3	3	0
	WATERLOO	52	33	65	4	42	18	0.22	-0.11	0.15	2.12	69	1.54	87	96	65	0	2	3	0
KS	CONCORDIA	64	41	72	24	52	18	1.67	1.40	0.75	2.52	121	2.09	169	88	44	0	2	3	2
	DODGE CITY	66	36	79	23	51	14	0.17	-0.03	0.12	0.99	59	0.68	65	86	28	0	3	2	0
	GOODLAND	62	28	72	14	45	11	0.56	0.43	0.18	1.24	107	0.93	124	85	24	0	4	4	0
	TOPEKA	65	44	74	23	54	19	1.29	0.96	0.75	3.83	116	2.07	110	88	43	0	1	3	1

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 26, 2000

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE EF						PRECIPITATION								RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. EF		PRECIP		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE	
KY	WICHITA	63	42	73	26	53	15	1.69	1.37	0.91	7.72	271	3.66	222	92	53	0	1	3	2
	JACKSON	63	44	78	28	54	15	0.07	-0.94	0.05	6.88	59	4.32	59	78	38	0	2	2	0
	LEXINGTON	62	43	74	24	53	16	0.50	-0.39	0.38	8.94	91	6.24	108	81	43	0	2	4	0
	LOUISVILLE	65	46	77	27	56	18	0.38	-0.54	0.24	15.68	165	10.04	171	79	43	0	1	5	0
LA	PADUCAH	65	47	74	24	56	17	1.12	0.06	0.63	13.80	120	9.76	142	87	45	0	2	4	1
	BATON ROUGE	77	50	81	36	63	8	0.57	-0.80	0.57	8.69	56	3.42	34	94	41	0	0	1	1
	LAKE CHARLES	75	52	79	39	64	9	0.48	-0.37	0.47	6.85	53	2.37	30	95	51	0	0	2	0
	NEW ORLEANS	74	53	80	43	64	8	0.28	-1.22	0.28	7.86	48	4.00	38	90	49	0	0	1	0
	SHREVEPORT	74	52	80	35	63	12	1.26	0.30	1.21	8.44	73	4.62	61	95	49	0	0	2	1
ME	CARIBOU	31	2	48	-19	17	2	0.08	-0.41	0.08	7.02	95	4.22	101	92	44	0	7	1	0
	PORTLAND	41	26	54	11	34	8	0.35	-0.50	0.31	6.73	60	4.73	71	93	55	0	4	2	0
MD	BALTIMORE	57	33	79	27	45	8	0.00	-0.80	0.00	7.85	84	4.89	82	88	44	0	4	0	0
MA	BOSTON	46	32	61	24	39	7	0.12	-0.79	0.08	5.71	52	4.19	60	87	52	0	4	3	0
	WORCESTER	43	29	59	21	36	9	0.51	-0.37	0.45	6.92	63	4.37	64	94	60	0	6	4	0
MI	ALPENA	45	26	59	6	35	15	0.52	0.17	0.43	4.17	86	2.61	93	98	73	0	3	2	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	52	37	63	17	45	19	0.74	0.34	0.51	4.30	72	1.99	63	93	61	0	2	2	1
	HOUGHTON LAKE	47	30	59	6	39	19	0.53	0.21	0.35	3.83	85	2.20	86	94	71	0	2	3	0
	LANSING	52	39	63	20	45	20	0.68	0.30	0.43	3.82	75	1.98	73	91	67	0	2	2	0
	MUSKEGON	52	38	66	25	45	19	0.50	0.11	0.33	4.33	64	1.97	53	88	63	0	2	2	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	51	35	65	22	43	22	0.28	-0.05	0.15	4.29	78	2.45	73	89	55	0	2	2	0
MN	DULUTH	42	26	45	10	34	19	0.37	0.14	0.29	1.63	51	1.40	73	99	71	0	4	3	0
	INT'L FALLS	47	23	58	1	35	24	0.20	0.03	0.16	1.02	45	0.84	58	96	55	0	4	3	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	47	31	55	7	39	18	0.66	0.39	0.31	2.19	77	1.86	106	97	71	0	3	4	0
	ROCHESTER	46	32	58	7	39	19	0.41	0.18	0.37	2.68	109	2.19	152	96	75	0	2	2	0
	ST. CLOUD	41	23	51	-2	32	14	0.60	0.42	0.39	1.84	86	1.62	124	97	68	0	4	2	0
MS	JACKSON	74	46	81	30	60	10	0.61	-0.60	0.61	5.58	36	2.82	29	92	37	0	1	1	1
	MERIDIAN	72	45	78	29	59	8	0.65	-0.80	0.65	7.91	49	4.33	43	94	39	0	2	1	1
	TUPELO	70	46	76	30	58	11	1.04	-0.21	1.04	8.97	58	5.94	64	84	40	0	2	1	1
MO	COLUMBIA	66	45	77	27	55	20	1.35	0.81	1.20	7.50	134	4.13	132	85	37	0	1	2	1
	KANSAS CITY	63	43	72	26	53	19	0.85	0.51	0.56	4.55	124	2.37	114	87	46	0	1	3	1
	SAINT LOUIS	65	45	80	27	55	18	0.35	-0.28	0.20	6.23	92	4.39	117	91	45	0	2	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	67	46	77	25	56	18	0.54	-0.11	0.52	9.53	138	2.54	68	78	36	0	1	2	1
MT	BILLINGS	48	28	57	16	38	7	0.95	0.78	0.66	3.25	143	3.05	205	80	43	0	6	2	1
	BUTTE	44	19	51	6	31	7	0.26	0.16	0.18	1.48	112	0.94	107	90	46	0	7	2	0
	GLASGOW	42	20	49	3	31	10	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.59	60	0.39	64	93	59	0	7	0	0
	GREAT FALLS	47	29	55	23	38	9	0.16	0.01	0.16	1.02	45	0.99	69	78	45	0	5	1	0
	KALISPELL	38	21	44	0	29	0	0.02	-0.23	0.01	2.65	62	1.56	61	97	70	0	6	2	0
	MILES CITY	50	23	58	7	37	11	0.70	0.59	0.65	1.28	80	1.04	108	95	45	0	7	2	1
	MISSOULA	40	24	50	7	32	1	0.37	0.18	0.35	2.04	65	1.56	79	94	60	0	7	2	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	56	34	61	18	45	15	0.32	0.08	0.31	1.16	64	0.89	82	94	56	0	3	2	0
	LINCOLN	61	38	71	11	49	19	0.38	0.13	0.20	1.43	70	0.86	74	94	47	0	1	3	0
	NORFOLK	54	34	65	15	44	17	0.95	0.69	0.93	1.48	76	1.28	106	95	59	0	4	3	1
	NORTH PLATTE	59	25	75	16	42	12	0.27	0.12	0.23	0.80	66	0.75	100	95	40	0	6	3	0
	OMAHA	58	38	66	16	48	18	0.92	0.67	0.49	2.22	91	1.65	115	94	62	0	2	2	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	56	26	64	12	41	9	0.03	-0.12	0.03	1.24	84	1.11	122	93	34	0	7	1	0
	VALENTINE	59	27	70	19	43	16	0.95	0.81	0.92	1.41	134	1.30	191	94	35	0	6	2	1
NV	ELY	38	20	48	2	29	-2	0.68	0.51	0.56	1.92	96	1.87	143	92	60	0	7	4	1
	LAS VEGAS	56	43	60	38	50	-3	0.99	0.88	0.71	1.56	123	1.56	175	88	46	0	0	3	1
	RENO	49	32	54	21	40	0	0.07	-0.16	0.05	3.09	103	3.02	151	80	34	0	4	3	0
	WINNEMUCCA	47	29	54	20	38	0	0.43	0.26	0.24	2.62	119	2.54	192	90	48	0	6	4	0
NH	CONCORD	42	23	53	10	32	8	0.54	-0.10	0.30	5.91	74	4.56	94	95	52	0	7	2	0
NJ	NEWARK	51	35	66	29	43	8	0.02	-0.76	0.02	7.86	81	4.91	79	87	54	0	4	1	0
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	56	33	66	26	44	2	0.20	0.09	0.20	0.67	50	0.64	75	60	19	0	3	1	0
NY	ALBANY	43	27	50	14	35	9	0.38	-0.22	0.37	6.34	86	4.92	110	87	56	0	3	2	0
	BINGHAMTON	42	30	53	19	36	11	0.31	-0.30	0.31	7.13	94	5.48	120	86	57	0	3	1	0
	BUFFALO	52	35	71	25	43	17	0.30	-0.28	0.20	6.28	74	4.08	84	88	53	0	2	3	0
	ROCHESTER	51	35	66	23	43	16	0.23	-0.31	0.16	6.43	95	4.37	108	84	54	0	2	3	0
NC	SYRACUSE	45	31	52	17	38	12	0.32	-0.24	0.26	5.85	78	4.50	104	88	56	0	3	4	0
	ASHEVILLE	60	33	72	26	46	5	0.00	-1.05	0.00	7.09	68	5.11	75	89	40	0	3	0	0
	CHARLOTTE	64	37	76	30	51	7	0.00	-1.00	0.00	9.25	86	7.51	104	88	37	0	3	0	0
	GREENSBORO	63	37	77	26	50	8	0.00	-0.86	0.00	8.27	86	6.22	100	82	34	0	2	0	0
	HATTERAS	58	43	71	31	51	4	0.02	-0.97	0.01	12.42	91	7.85	86	95	58	0	1	2	0
	RALEIGH	64	37	78	27	51	7	0.00	-0.94	0.00	10.12	100	7.80	113	93	39	0	4	0	0
	WILMINGTON	68	40	78	33	54	5	0.00	-0.94	0.00	7.73	71	6.32	87	93	41	0	0	0	0
ND	BISMARCK	42	19	49	-2	31	12	0.39	0.28	0.28	1.63	119	1.40	163	98	68	0	6	2	0
	DICKINSON	49	26	56	11	38	16	0.67	0.58	0.67	1.43	132	1.22	177	90	56	0	6	1	1
	FARGO	42	25	48	8	33	18	0.63	0.50	0.53	1.44	82	0.99	90	97	74	0	4	4	1
	GRAND FORKS	50	25	67	9	38	24	1.13	1.00	0.71	1.55	86	1.20	103	96	50	0	4	2	1
	JAMESTOWN	41	23	50	11	32	15	1.51	1.38	0.92	2.44	159	2.39	228	97	70	0	5	2	2
	WILLISTON	47	21	54	5	34	15	0.21	0.10	0.21	1.10	72	0.80	85	96	59	0	6	1	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	55	39	72	21	47	17	0.13	-0.49	0.12	6.49	91	4.62	110	90	63	0	2	2	0
	CINCINNATI	62	41	75	21	52	18	0.37	-0.39	0.15	11.53	141	7.93	158	84	41	0	2	4	0
	CLEVELAND	57	42	74	22	49	20	0.33	-0.26	0.31	7.15	100	4.45	110	83	53	0	2	3	0
	COLUMBUS	60	41	75	21	50	18	0.08	-0.53	0.05	8.51	120	5.83	138	85	48	0	2	3	0
	DAYTON	60	42	73	20	51	19	0.09	-0.52	0.05	7.52	107	4.96	121	84	45	0	2	2	0
	MANSFIELD																			

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 26, 2000

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE EF						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS				
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. EF		PRECIP	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
OK TOLEDO	56	39	71	18	48	20	0.20	-0.28	0.17	4.16	66	2.34	70	90	56	0	2	3	0
OK YOUNGSTOWN	55	40	73	24	48	20	0.17	-0.39	0.12	6.51	94	4.14	104	85	52	0	2	2	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	67	44	76	32	56	13	1.11	0.65	0.63	5.93	151	2.22	87	84	44	0	1	2	1
OR TULSA	69	49	76	26	59	16	1.16	0.57	0.68	7.35	134	2.24	67	77	34	0	1	3	1
OR ASTORIA	51	40	59	35	46	1	1.94	0.15	0.73	29.58	107	16.72	98	95	69	0	0	7	1
OR BURNS	41	27	46	18	34	2	0.87	0.68	0.37	3.99	140	3.42	200	95	63	0	7	6	0
OR EUGENE	50	36	56	30	43	-2	1.91	0.58	0.70	19.52	90	15.87	121	99	73	0	3	6	2
OR MEDFORD	53	39	60	32	46	2	1.13	0.68	0.51	8.69	111	7.80	174	93	51	0	1	6	1
OR PENDLETON	49	33	55	27	41	0	0.83	0.55	0.41	6.03	144	5.02	195	94	54	0	4	5	0
OR PORTLAND	48	38	51	32	43	-2	1.24	0.34	0.71	13.76	91	10.14	113	97	63	0	1	5	1
PA SALEM	50	36	53	30	43	-1	1.99	0.92	1.06	19.86	117	14.48	143	99	67	0	3	6	1
PA ALLENTOWN	48	28	61	18	38	6	0.01	-0.73	0.01	6.56	70	4.11	70	94	60	0	5	1	0
PA ERIE	55	40	75	26	47	19	0.27	-0.35	0.27	7.75	98	3.91	91	82	51	0	2	1	0
PA MIDDLETOWN	54	32	70	25	43	9	0.08	-0.68	0.08	6.12	70	3.55	64	86	48	0	4	1	0
PA PHILADELPHIA	54	34	69	27	44	9	0.01	-0.70	0.01	8.02	87	5.03	87	92	54	0	3	1	0
PA PITTSBURGH	59	41	76	28	50	19	0.05	-0.59	0.05	6.14	80	3.90	82	79	41	0	3	1	0
PA WILKES-BARRE	46	30	57	20	38	9	0.16	-0.40	0.16	4.77	72	3.53	86	86	55	0	3	1	0
PA WILLIAMSPORT	47	29	58	19	38	8	0.12	-0.60	0.12	5.78	71	3.42	67	91	58	0	4	1	0
RI PROVIDENCE	46	31	60	21	39	8	0.23	-0.68	0.13	8.03	69	5.64	78	88	50	0	4	2	0
SC BEAUFORT	66	42	75	34	54	1	0.00	-0.85	0.00	4.90	49	2.43	36	97	44	0	0	0	0
SC CHARLESTON	68	41	77	33	55	3	0.01	-0.87	0.01	8.59	89	6.05	94	96	42	0	0	1	0
SC COLUMBIA	67	36	77	28	51	2	0.00	-1.06	0.00	11.39	96	9.97	121	95	39	0	3	0	0
SD GREENVILLE	63	39	76	29	51	6	0.00	-1.17	0.00	7.02	57	4.40	54	81	39	0	1	0	0
SD ABERDEEN	48	27	59	4	38	18	0.29	0.13	0.13	1.05	88	0.90	114	97	59	0	5	4	0
SD HURON	57	28	70	12	42	19	0.58	0.36	0.36	0.93	62	0.83	81	95	48	0	5	4	0
SD RAPID CITY	58	28	69	16	43	14	0.86	0.71	0.55	1.27	95	1.10	126	79	27	0	5	2	1
SD SIOUX FALLS	55	32	64	12	44	21	0.91	0.70	0.77	1.83	103	1.66	154	96	50	0	4	3	1
TN BRISTOL	62	35	75	27	48	8	0.02	-0.86	0.02	6.52	67	5.07	79	89	41	0	3	1	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	67	40	78	28	53	9	0.00	-1.28	0.00	8.45	58	6.62	71	88	34	0	2	0	0
TN KNOXVILLE	63	38	77	26	50	8	0.00	-1.07	0.00	9.96	80	8.26	104	94	43	0	2	0	0
TN MEMPHIS	69	49	76	29	59	12	3.30	2.12	3.09	11.47	85	6.74	87	82	40	0	1	2	1
TX NASHVILLE	67	45	76	27	56	13	0.55	-0.47	0.38	9.56	82	7.06	100	75	37	0	2	3	0
TX ABILENE	72	49	77	41	60	10	0.37	0.07	0.37	0.96	31	0.61	29	75	30	0	0	1	0
TX AMARILLO	67	37	77	28	52	11	0.04	-0.13	0.04	1.21	81	0.28	26	64	22	0	2	1	0
TX AUSTIN	76	54	81	41	65	10	1.57	1.02	0.84	6.23	111	5.54	149	94	44	0	0	4	2
TX BEAUMONT	75	54	79	42	65	9	0.13	-0.65	0.08	6.43	50	2.40	30	96	57	0	0	2	0
TX BROWNSVILLE	82	65	86	55	73	9	0.01	-0.20	0.01	1.44	38	1.12	44	94	56	0	0	1	0
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	79	63	84	56	71	11	0.05	-0.39	0.05	1.22	25	0.97	27	92	54	0	0	1	0
TX DEL RIO	80	57	84	46	69	12	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.91	44	0.90	62	78	31	0	0	0	0
TX EL PASO	68	43	79	40	56	6	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.66	48	0.03	4	59	18	0	0	0	0
TX FORT WORTH	73	53	81	38	63	13	3.31	2.72	2.01	7.47	132	4.92	128	85	32	0	0	2	2
TX GALVESTON	71	59	74	49	65	8	0.12	-0.40	0.06	9.29	105	3.48	65	93	66	0	0	2	0
TX HOUSTON	76	53	81	42	64	8	1.31	0.59	0.89	4.90	52	2.70	45	95	51	0	0	3	1
TX LUBBOCK	70	40	82	35	55	10	0.02	-0.17	0.02	1.10	71	0.05	5	65	22	0	0	1	0
TX MIDLAND	72	48	81	37	60	11	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.61	40	0.61	62	69	21	0	0	0	0
TX SAN ANGELO	73	51	78	39	62	11	0.21	-0.06	0.12	0.41	16	0.32	18	71	26	0	0	2	0
TX SAN ANTONIO	77	58	83	46	67	11	1.08	0.64	0.93	4.13	84	3.61	106	89	40	0	0	4	1
TX VICTORIA	78	56	81	48	67	9	0.35	-0.11	0.30	5.53	91	4.51	112	94	50	0	0	3	0
TX WACO	73	52	77	37	62	10	4.27	3.72	2.00	9.41	173	6.60	184	95	48	0	0	3	3
TX WICHITA FALLS	71	48	76	39	59	12	0.76	0.34	0.40	2.66	73	1.94	82	83	35	0	0	3	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	50	33	63	26	41	4	0.67	0.32	0.28	6.21	171	4.37	195	83	47	0	4	4	0
VT BURLINGTON	41	27	46	5	34	13	0.50	0.07	0.44	4.83	84	3.71	112	85	56	0	3	3	0
VA LYNCHBURG	61	33	79	22	47	8	0.00	-0.79	0.00	6.64	75	4.28	76	89	40	0	4	0	0
VA NORFOLK	56	39	75	31	47	4	0.00	-0.86	0.00	7.46	73	5.75	82	95	60	0	2	0	0
VA RICHMOND	61	35	77	26	48	7	0.00	-0.81	0.00	6.98	74	5.26	85	97	50	0	4	0	0
VA ROANOKE	63	37	78	27	50	11	0.00	-0.80	0.00	6.05	72	3.59	66	85	38	0	3	0	0
VA WASH/DULLES	60	36	79	28	48	12	0.00	-0.73	0.00	5.63	66	2.96	56	83	40	0	2	0	0
WA OLYMPIA	49	33	56	24	41	-1	1.60	0.28	0.50	23.25	108	13.30	99	99	62	0	3	7	1
WA QUILLAYUTE	49	36	61	32	43	1	3.24	0.18	1.14	40.72	98	19.09	73	98	70	0	1	7	4
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	50	38	58	33	44	0	1.35	0.42	0.63	13.43	89	8.37	92	93	56	0	0	5	1
WA SPOKANE	42	31	47	23	36	1	0.47	0.11	0.20	5.71	99	3.45	102	94	63	0	3	5	0
WA YAKIMA	47	28	52	22	37	-2	0.41	0.24	0.29	2.79	84	2.51	132	93	49	0	6	3	0
WV BECKLEY	55	38	71	26	47	13	0.00	-0.76	0.00	5.54	63	3.73	67	76	44	0	2	0	0
WV CHARLESTON	62	40	79	27	51	13	0.07	-0.73	0.03	8.01	88	5.46	96	85	46	0	2	2	0
WV ELKINS	59	30	74	20	45	13	0.03	-0.76	0.03	8.58	92	5.30	91	91	39	0	4	1	0
WV HUNTINGTON	62	41	77	25	52	14	0.18	-0.59	0.12	8.60	97	5.87	107	85	40	0	3	2	0
WI EAU CLAIRE	49	27	56	10	38	18	0.50	0.29	0.28	3.12	114	2.75	168	95	67	0	3	3	0
WI GREEN BAY	45	30	61	16	38	17	0.40	0.10	0.31	2.53	70	1.70	81	94	73	0	3	4	0
WI LA CROSSE	54	33	62	13	44	21	0.00	-0.27	0.00	2.11	70	1.46	83	90	52	0	2	0	0
WI MADISON	51	34	64	19	43	20	0.67	0.35	0.43	3.05	79	2.19	107	92	63	0	2	3	0
WI MILWAUKEE	53	35	64	20	44	18	0.37	-0.04	0.35	3.31	63	2.05	70	90	61	0	2	2	0
WI CASPER	48	29	54	15	38	10	0.13	-0.04	0.12	1.18	67	1.08	98	76	42	0	4	2	0
WI CHEYENNE	50	26	60	15	38	8	0.00	-0.13	0.00	1.24	105	1.05	138	83	26	0	7	0	0
WI LANDER	48	23	58	11	35	7	0.13	-0.04	0.13	0.46	29	0.31	31	80	32	0	7	1	0
WI SHERIDAN	45	22	53	11	34	5	0.10	-0.07	0.07	2.61	128	1.98	148	84	52	0	7	2	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

*** Not Available

NOTE: These data are preliminary and subject to change. In the past, precipitation totals from a number of stations have been incomplete.

National Agricultural Summary

February 21 - 27, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

A mid-week thunderstorm soaked dry soils with moderate to heavy rainfall in parts of the central and southern Great Plains. Lighter rainfall boosted soil moisture supplies in the Corn Belt and adjacent areas in the northern Great Plains. Along the Pacific Coast, a wet weather pattern continued. The moisture improved dry soil conditions in southern California and parts of the interior Southwest, but soils in northern California and coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest were too wet. The Atlantic Coastal Plains and eastern Gulf Coast were also dry.

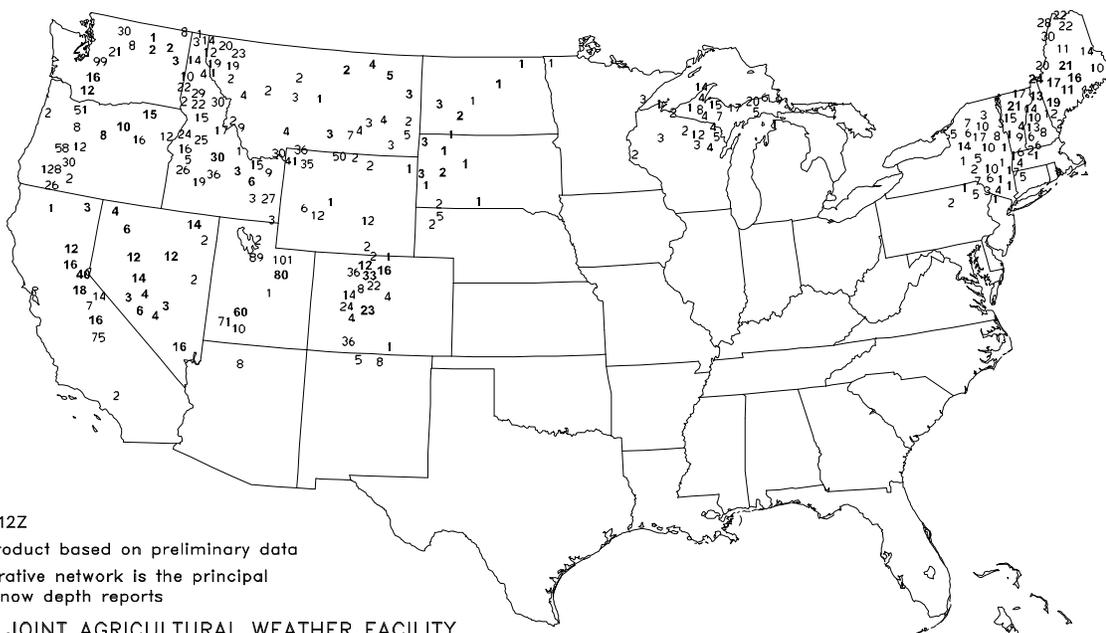
The rain and warm weather stimulated winter wheat growth in Oklahoma and Kansas, where most wheat fields have broken dormancy. A narrow band of heavy precipitation eased drought conditions in eastern Texas, but the west Texas High Plains remained very dry, and fieldwork

slowed due to excessive wind erosion. Corn planting continued as cotton planting began along the western Gulf Coast region and lower Rio Grande Valley. In California, rain disrupted major field tillage. Sugarbeet growth was hindered by cold weather, but rain stimulated growth of wheat and other winter grains and forages. Where possible, growers continued planting sugarbeets and winter grains. Normal winter orchard work was also hindered by wet weather, although grapefruit and lemon harvesting remained active in southern California and navel orange picking continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Almonds were near full bloom. In Florida, citrus growers continued irrigating groves to maintain good tree condition. Most trees were starting to put on new growth with pin head bloom buds. Some trees in navel and Valencia groves were showing a limited number of open bloom flowers.

(Commodity-specific information will resume during the first week of April 2000.)

Snow Depth (Inches)

Feb 28, 2000



Snow Depth at 12Z

Experimental product based on preliminary data

The NWS cooperative network is the principal source of the snow depth reports

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

Supplemental values from the U.S. Air Force Snow Depth Analysis, 00Z Feb. 28

State Agricultural Summaries

These summaries, issued weekly through the summer growing season, 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 NASS State Statistical Offices in cooperation with the National Weather Service. The crop weather reports are also available on the Internet through the NASS Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/> or from JAWF at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf>.

ALABAMA: Portions of the state received rainfall, but totals fell short of normal. Land preparation has begun for planting spring crops.

ARIZONA: Areas continued to record above average temperatures with very minor precipitation during the month of February. Weather conditions have minimal impact on vegetable production as the produce is irrigated. Crop conditions also remained relatively unaffected by the lack of rain, above average temperatures. Range, pasture feeds declined with the lack of precipitation.

ARKANSAS: For the month of February, temperatures were near normal throughout the State. Precipitation was below normal for the month. Areas wheat was being fertilized for the first time, with early herbicide applications being applied. Wheat green-up progressing well, with crop potential being good to excellent. The other farming activities were: Pruning fruit trees, preparing land for next season, cleaning, maintenance of equipment. Livestock was reported in fair condition. Broiler producers still calculating losses from late January snow storm which collapsed many roofs on broiler houses.

CALIFORNIA: February's field crop activity was somewhat slow, as soil conditions were often too wet to get equipment into the fields. Continued rainfall enhanced growth, development of dryland grain, oat hay crops. Irrigated grain, silage, alfalfa plantings also benefitted from the precipitation. Fertilizer was applied to field crops. Sugarbeet planting continued throughout the month. Cotton growers were bedding up fields, applying herbicides as weather permitted. Growth of wheat in most fields was good. Occasional field flooding may have affected the wheat crop in some areas. Normal winter cultural activities, other orchard work were slowed by the wet conditions in February. Between rains, Areas fruit growers were pruning or planting trees, vines. Other activities this month included: Dormant spraying of stone fruit trees. Almonds, early varieties of stone fruits were blooming throughout the month. As March approached, many more apricot, cherry, peach, plum and nectarine trees were blossoming. Picking of grapefruit, lemon crops was active in southern areas. San Joaquin Valley navel oranges were picked during the drier periods. Recent rain was improving the citrus sugar-acid ratio, but by month's end growers were concerned about rind puff, crease. Satsuma tangerine picking was active all month. Spinach continued to make good progress under ideal growing conditions in the San Joaquin Valley. Onion, garlic plants were progressing well with ample moisture. Beds were being prepared for spring melon planting. Processing tomato fields were being prepared for planting, some areas tomato planting was delayed by wet ground conditions. The warm weather between storm fronts aided the growth, development of transplanted vegetables. Carrots continued to be harvested, planted on a year round basis. Among the vegetables harvested this month were asparagus, artichokes, broccoli, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, greens, leaf lettuce, kale, leeks, mint, radishes. As the end of February approached, rangeland pastures were in good to excellent condition in central, northern areas. In a few areas of the southern San Joaquin Valley, new grass was short on foothill pastures, some supplemental feeding was needed. Season-to-date rainfall, which had been substantially below normal in early to mid January, was above normal by the end of February. In some areas sheep were still grazing on alfalfa pastures. Muddy conditions at dairies, feedlots affected cattle performance. Bees were pollinating almond blossoms on those sunny days between rains.

COLORADO: Temperatures were mostly seasonal to above normal for the entire month. Except the mountain areas, most of the state received limited amounts of moisture. Mountain snow pack has improved during the past few weeks, but is still below normal at this time. Some strong winds on several days during February accelerated soil moisture depletion. The 2000 winter wheat crop remains in mostly good to excellent condition but will need additional moisture in the near future. Due to the dry, warm weather, producers have done some field work around attending producer meetings, farm shows. Calving, lambing are progressing under excellent conditions.

DELAWARE: About two weeks of below normal temperatures early in the month allowed some spreading of stored manure. Eight to 12 inches of snow fall early in the month provided unusual cover for small grains for two weeks. Heavy rain/thunderstorm on February 25

provided additional, needed moisture. Small grains continue to be in good condition for the state. There have been no significant outbreaks of disease in poultry flocks.

FLORIDA: Mostly mild conditions continued. Temperatures averaged normal to 4° above. Daytime highs 60s, 70s with several localities reporting at least one high 80s. Nighttime lows 40s, 50s, 60s with some western Panhandle, northern Peninsula localities recording at least one low 30s. Most rainfall totals ranged from 0 to about 0.25 in. with Ft. Pierce recording about 0.50 in. Wildfire threat continues with State of area, Division of Forestry, local fire departments responding to brush fires statewide, including two significant fires, Alachua, Lafayette counties. Moisture is mostly short to adequate with scattered areas of very short moisture. Sugarcane grinding is winding down with mills starting to close. Farmers tending tobacco beds. Mostly dry conditions increasing need for irrigating vegetables. Plant City strawberry growers preparing for festival March 2 through 12. Major vegetables harvested: potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, endive, escarole, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes, snap beans, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, eggplant. Scattered showers brought limited rainfall all citrus areas, irrigation all areas. New growth, small bloom buds starting, some open bloom in well cared for Valencia, Navel groves. Early, mid orange harvest slowing as supplies limited. Some Valencia oranges being picked for fresh use. Grapefruit movement increasing. Caretakers cutting cover crops, hedging, topping, stacking dead trees, limbs. Pasture feed; 10% very poor, 15% poor, 70% fair, 5% good. Condition of cattle 5% very poor, 10% poor, 70% fair, 15% good. Panhandle; pasture feed improving following recent rains. North: small grain forages growing some following warmer days. Central: cool temperatures keeping permanent pasture grass from growing. West Central: cattle condition decreasing due to lack of grass, pasture feed poor due to lack of rain. Southwest: pasture being burned off in some locations; new grass showing up on earlier burned pasture. Statewide, condition of cattle, calves mostly fair.

GEORGIA: Temperatures were mild through much of February. The drought continued. The State had adequate to short soil moisture. A tornado on Valentine's Day damaged chicken houses, pecan orchards in Southwestern counties. Rain amounts during this storm varied by location. Small grains were in fair to good condition. About 70% of the small grains had been top dressed. The warmer weather in February improved onion growth. Most of the onion crop was in good condition. Peach development was ahead of normal. The crop is vulnerable to cold snaps. Tobacco bed preparation wrapped up. Pastures were in poor to good condition. Other activities included: Land preparation for spring planting, soil testing, attending production meetings.

HAWAII: Weather conditions were generally good for agriculture during February. Abundant sunshine, cool temperatures, calm winds, adequate irrigation supplies enabled most crops to make favorable progress. The dry conditions, however, were hampering crops dependent on natural rainfall. Banana harvesting seasonally light. Fields in good condition. Papaya harvesting steady at seasonally light levels. Field conditions vary from mostly good to fair with some in poor due to disease. Head cabbage harvesting was active. Most crops in good condition. Dry onions continued to recovery from heavy rains in January. Ginger root harvesting very active; seasonally heavy.

IDAHO: February ushered in spring like conditions with above normal temperatures, minimal precipitation. Snow melt has river banks running full with minor flooding in the Weiser River Valley area. Eastern areas experienced a major wind storm mid-February damaging irrigation lines. No reported problems with disease for producers calving, lambing. Calving is 34% complete, lambing is 65%. Hay, roughage supply was reported 11% surplus, 60% adequate, 27% short, 2% very short. Winter wheat 5% excellent, 77% good, 17% fair, 1% poor. Much needed valley rain, mountain snow moved into the state the last week of February. Activities: Repairing machinery, feeding, marketing livestock, attending meetings.

ILLINOIS: The topsoil moisture condition was rated 11% very short, 51% short, 36% adequate, 2% surplus. As of February 25, Though

topsoil moisture conditions have improved, there is still concern about low subsoil moisture. Welcomed precipitation, warm temperatures were reported throughout the state the last few weeks. The February rain, snowfalls across the state were much needed for the winter wheat crop. Fields are turning green with the recent moisture, warm temperatures. As of February 25, the wheat condition was rated 2% very poor, 11% poor, 43% fair, 42% good, 2% excellent. The mild weather has been beneficial for livestock, though some producers have had to haul water. With calving season just beginning, cattle producers are hoping for continued favorable weather. Other activities during the month have included: Hauling grain to market, tax preparation, visiting FSA offices, ordering seed, fertilizer.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture is mostly adequate. Subsoil moisture remains short in most areas of the state. Precipitation was mostly snow during early February with rain arriving later in the month. Most areas of the state received 1 to over 3 inches of rain this month. Southern areas received heavier amounts causing some flooding. This has helped relieve some of the dry soil conditions. Most of the state is still about 5 inches short of precipitation. Temperatures averaged well above normal during the last two weeks with several days in the 60 to 70° range. Temperatures during early February averaged near normal. Snow covered most of the northern, central regions of the state early in the month, which helped protect the winter wheat crop. Hauling of water continues on some farms. Winter wheat is in fair to mostly good condition. Hay supplies remain short in some areas. Farmers continue to work on taxes, purchase inputs for the 2000 crop, sign up for programs at their FSA office. Livestock are in mostly good condition, but lots are muddy. Tobacco sales are winding down. Major activities: Spreading manure, lime, attending seminars, equipment cleaning, repair, hauling grain, seeding clover, feeding livestock, caring for livestock.

IOWA: With unusually warm weather, frost is gone in many parts of area. Welcome rains absorbed quickly by soil. Moisture still needed for growing season. Average depth of snow cover 0 inches. Average depth of frost penetration 4 inches. Soil moisture availability 14% very short, 56% short, 29% adequate, 1% surplus. Soil erosion 80% light to none, 19% moderate, 1% severe. Grain movement rated 15% none, 40% light, 42% moderate, 3% heavy. Availability of hay, roughage supplies for livestock feed 4% short, 79% adequate, 17% surplus; quality of hay, roughage supplies 6% poor, 43% fair, 51% good. Livestock condition good to excellent except for central, north central area, where pseudo rabies outbreak has occurred. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 24% none, 28% light, 32% moderate, 16% extensive. Hog, pig losses 20% below avg.; 77% avg.; 3% above avg. Cattle, calf losses 28% below avg.; 72% avg.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture is rated mostly adequate as farmers continue top-dressing wheat, alfalfa, brome. state. Currently, topsoil moisture is rated 12% surplus, 53% adequate, 20%t short, 15% very short. The subsoil profile remains somewhat short in many areas and needs to be rebuilt to provide rangeland grass an adequate supply to produce good grazing conditions this year. Most of the State received precipitation either as rain or snow during February, according to State Agricultural Statistics, State University Reserch, Extension Service Unfortunately, the moisture didn't cover the entire state leaving some areas in need of moisture. With the warm temperatures, wheat has broken dormancy in most areas. The winter wheat 5% excellent, 35% good, 33% fair, 20% poor, 7%t very poor. The January condition was rated 3% excellent, 30% good, 44% fair, 18% poor, 5% very poor. The percent of wheat rated good to excellent increased from 33% 40% the percent of the crop rated poor to very poor increased from 23% to 27% resulting in a mixed change from last month. The crop seems to have suffered only light freeze, wind damage during the winter. Greenbugs, Army cutworms have been reported reaching treatable levels in the southwestern part of the The recent precipitation has helped replenish topsoil moisture in some areas, however more moisture is needed. Spring calving, lambing are in full swing. The warm, dry conditions earlier this spring allowed early calving, lambing to produced good results. Cattle, calves remain on stalks with only a limited number on wheat pasture. In preparation for spring planting producers are applying fertilizer, working the seedbed for row crops.

KENTUCKY: The first full week of February 2000 continued the below normal temperatures, precipitation from the final weeks of January. Snowfall, mainly 1 to 3 inches with localized heavy snowfall in the Southeast along the Virginia border slowed farm activities. Widespread rainfall occurred during the next two weeks of February with northern, western locations receiving heavy downpours. The heavy rains brought muddy field conditions and caused flash flooding, flooding of low lying farm land. Temperatures were generally 6 to 9° above normal causing winter wheat to show some growth by months' end. The month ended with continued warm temperatures reaching into the 70's, generally light scattered showers that continued to help

moisture levels recover from the previous year' s drought conditions. Burley Tobacco markets held sales through the months' end with clean-up sales scheduled for March 13th thru 16th. Areas gross sales totaled 409.3 million pounds, averaged \$189.96 per hundred pounds through February 25th, with 46% of net sales going to the coop pool. Pasture feeds were generally fair to good with most producers continuing to feed extra grain, hay. Cattle were in mostly good condition due to the mild weather conditions.

LOUISIANA: Dry conditions slowed field activities. Rice producers flooded rice fields. Crawfish yields were very low. Cattlemen continue to feed.

MARYLAND: Adequate amounts of snow provided a good cover for the small grains. Small grains continued to be in good condition. State received little precipitation for the month as most counties were below average, except for western areas. Farmers were allowed some time for manure spreading due to below normal temperatures in the first part of the month. Livestock appears to be in good shape as no major outbreaks of diseases were reported in poultry or cattle.

MICHIGAN: Cold weather, snow dominated the beginning of the month creating a good snow cover for the State. For the last two weeks the temperatures have been getting warmer with record highs reported for some parts of the State. The plentiful snow cover from earlier in the month washed away as rains melted almost all of the snow. The rain, melting snow has left a surplus supply of topsoil moisture, but subsoil moisture remains below normal. Lambing is underway, calving will begin soon. Activities included: Repairing equipment, pruning fruit trees, hauling manure, attending farm meetings.

MINNESOTA: February average temperatures were about 8.7° above normal, with February 21 through February 27 averaging 20.3° above normal. As of February 24, snow cover was under 4 inches in agricultural areas of the state; the above normal temperatures at the end of the month have melted almost all snow cover. More concern is being focused on the possibility of damage to over wintered crops, a dry growing season. Statewide precipitation was 0.39 inch above normal. The mild weather and above normal temperatures have been excellent for livestock conditions, with feed supplies hardly touched.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil moisture, 31% very short, 49% short, 15% adequate, 5% surplus. Wheat 3% poor, 19% fair, 69% good, 9% excellent. Hay supply 41% very short, 54% short, 5% surplus. Cattle, 1% very poor, 6% poor, 35% fair, 50% good, 8% excellent. Feed grain 18% very short, 78% short, 4% adequate. Weather conditions have been dry for the month of February. Many producers are well into their preparations for spring planting. A few producers have planted corn. Conditions have been good for cattle in many parts of the state.

MISSOURI: Recent rains have helped restore soil moisture supplies, improving the outlook for the 2000 crop season. However, subsoil moisture is still low in many areas, more run-off is needed for stock ponds. The wheat crop came through the winter without significant losses. The exceptionally mild weather has been beneficial for starting early growth of wheat, pastures. Farmers are spreading fertilizer, getting ready for fieldwork.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 42% short, 52% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 21% very short, 50% short, 29% adequate, 0% surplus. The overall lack of snow cover in combination with little moisture, high winds has taken its toll on the winter wheat crop. Some areas of the state received significant snowfall towards the end of the month which provided much needed moisture, protection to the winter wheat crop, but more is needed in the major producing areas to help the crop across the state. Statewide, winter wheat 3% very poor, 6% poor, 52% fair, 36% good, 3% excellent. Wind damage to winter wheat 10% none, 56% light, 30% moderate, 4% heavy. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 17% very poor, 51% poor, 24% fair, 2% good, 6% excellent. As a result of the fairly mild conditions during February, livestock is reported to be in very good condition as there have been few reported problems. Calving completed was at 27% by the end of February, which is more than 1999 estimate of 23%, the average of 16%. Lambing completed was 12% finished, which is on pace with 1999 ahead of the average of 8%. Even though there is a lot of open grazing, producers are giving supplemental feed to meet nutritional needs. At the end of the month, 98% of the cattle, calves, 94% of the sheep, lambs were receiving supplemental feed. Livestock grazing 64% open, 14% difficult, 22% closed.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures across the State averaged about 5 ° above normals during the first three weeks with the fourth week 10

to 18°s above normals. Precipitation came in the form of snow mid-month followed by light rains across the State. Total February accumulation of 1 inch or more was recorded in Central, Southeastern districts. Winter Wheat crop 7% very poor, 13% poor, 32% fair, 46% good, 2% excellent. Hay supplies, as well as feed grain supplies, were mostly adequate. Livestock producers reported excellent calving conditions with the open winter, mild temperatures. Calving was 26% complete by the end of February, slightly ahead of 1999 23%, with calf losses at below average to average. Producer activities included: Taking cattle off stalks, preparing taxes, attending meetings, gearing up for the new cropping season.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: During February area maple sugar growers prepared for the upcoming season. Many syrup producers started tapping trees, some started boiling syrup. Farmers stayed busy tending livestock, preparing for spring planting season. Moving apples, potatoes out of storage. The cold weather, high cost of heating oil have increased the expense of keeping greenhouses warm.

NEW JERSEY: Top soil moisture was categorized as short during the month, especially in South Area. Recent rains brought some relief by the end of the month. Above average temperatures by the end of the month permitted early land preparation activities such as plowing, discing, application of fertilizers. Some planting of lettuce, greens occurred in areas of South Area. Vegetables being wintered over are in good condition. Fruit growers are pruning their trees. Total precipitation so far in February is between 25%, 50% below average.

NEW MEXICO: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW YORK: February brought heavy snowfall to most areas early in the month, mild weather at month's end. Cold weather, snow made outside activities difficult. Work was confined to tending livestock, machinery maintenance, winter chores, grading, packing onions, potatoes, apples. A variety of meetings, trade shows were held during the month. Sap for making maple syrup was running in southern regions. In northern regions producers were tapping trees, preparing for the upcoming maple season.

NORTH CAROLINA: February was mostly uneventful with mixed temperatures, adequate precipitation. Soil moisture levels are 80% adequate. Activities have been concentrated indoors as farmers work on their books, prepare greenhouse tobacco beds. Plantings for specialty crops such as Irish potatoes, cabbage began earlier this month, are currently on schedule compared to 1999.

NORTH DAKOTA: Above normal temperatures, below normal snowfall continued during the month of February, thus creating near ideal winter conditions for livestock. Average snow depth across the state was 0.5 inches. Snow cover was sufficient to protect only 11% of the alfalfa. Hay, roughage supplies were 0% very short, 2% short, 80% adequate, 18% surplus. Cattle were 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 76% good, 12% excellent. 99% of the cattle were receiving supplemental feed. Calving was 9% complete. Cattle sales were 2% below normal, 90% normal, 8% above normal. Sheep 0% very poor, 1% poor, 8% fair, 74% good, 17% excellent. 99% of the sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Lambing was 15% complete, shearing was 26% complete.

OHIO: The average temperature for February was 34.4°, 5.8° above normal. Ohio averaged 1.61 inches of precipitation, 0.9 inches above normal. Counties in northern area experienced snowfall for most of the month, while southern counties had rain that led to flooding. Warm, dry conditions prevailed for most of the state during the last week of the month. Farming activities were minimal during February. Activities included: Selling tobacco, constructing pipelines, troughs, buying seed, fertilizer. One reporter mentioned that maple syrup production is not going as well as producers hoped. Winter wheat is reported in excellent condition throughout the state. Winter wheat could suffer from a heavy freeze, considering the lack of snow cover in the state.

OKLAHOMA: Monthly temperatures ranged from 8° at Medford on February 2nd to 84° at Burneyville on February 15th. Monthly precipitation averaged 0.33 in. Panhandle to 2.08 in. Southeast. Monthly individual Mesonet stations ranged from 0.01 in. at Goodwell and Kenton to 4.21 in. at Broken Bow. Monthly soil temperatures averaged 42° at Boise City to 53° at Burneyville. Mild temperatures, late-month rainfall boosted wheat growth, development. West, south

still mostly short in moisture supplies. Cattle moved off wheat pasture which will be harvested for grain. Cattle auctions report near average marketings. Recent price for feeder steers averaged \$6 per cwt. below one month ago.

OREGON: Activities: Nursery digging of bare root plants, shipping in prime season. Pruning, training of orchards continues. Some fertilizer has been applied to winter wheat fields. Machinery repair ongoing. Farm shows are in full swing. The calving season has begun along with the lambing season. There have been no major storms recently.

PENNSYLVANIA: During the first two weeks of February, weather conditions were about normal around the State, although we had a few days of cold, bitter weather. This caused some field activities such as spreading manure and plowing to be halted. Daily precipitation ranged from 0.0 to 1.0 inches, depending on the location. Temperatures began to warm up during the third week, however a winter storm covered the State (February 18th) with several inches of snow, some areas received amounts closer to a foot. After snowing for several hours, the winds brought in warm air which changed the snow over to sleet, freezing rain. Weekly precipitation was below normal in many areas. At the beginning of the fourth week a high pressure system caused temperatures around the State to rise. Total precipitation for February was below normal in 50 of the 67 counties. The western part of the State is under a drought warning and the eastern part is under a drought watch. This decision is based upon stream flow, ground water, long-term precipitation conditions. Activities include: Hauling, spreading manure; machinery maintenance; caring for livestock; plowing; buying hay; putting hay in silos; tax preparation; attending farm organization meetings; planning for the 2000 crop season.

SOUTH CAROLINA: The state's average temperature for February averaged near normal at 47° Fahrenheit. Statewide precipitation was approximately 1.43 inches which is 2.53 inches below normal. Farmers were busy repairing, maintaining equipment, pruning fruit trees, caring for livestock, attending agricultural seminars, preparing records for year end totals and taxes.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Winter wheat 1% very poor, 24% poor, 41% fair, 33% good, 1% excellent. Winter rye 12% poor, 41% fair, 43% good, 4% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 80% adequate, 13% surplus. Cattle 4% fair, 68% good, 28% excellent. Sheep 9% fair, 72% good, 19% excellent. Cattle deaths 47% below avg.; 53% avg. Calf deaths 50% below avg.; 50% avg. Sheep, lamb deaths 53% below avg.; 47% avg. Average snow depth 0.0 inch. Alfalfa snow cover 95% poor, 5% adequate. Winter wheat snow cover 99% poor, 1% adequate. Winter rye snow cover 96% poor, 4% adequate. Hay, roughage supplies 1% short, 65% adequate, 34% surplus. Accessible livestock feed supplies 97% readily, 1% difficult, 2% inaccessible. Accessible stock water supplies 94% readily, 5% difficult, 1% inaccessible. County road conditions 100% open. Township road conditions 100% open. Precipitation during the month was above average, as were temperatures. While livestock are doing well there is much concern for winter crops; winter kill, poor emergence, growth from months of drought.

TENNESSEE: Temperatures in February were unseasonably mild across the State except for a short cold snap during the first week of the month. This mild weather, ample forage from winter wheat grazing, have allowed cattle producers to stretch limited hay supplies. Despite this, many still consider their hay stocks to be short for this time of year. Cattle are currently in mostly fair to good condition. The State's wheat crop is in mostly good condition with some producers now beginning to top-dress with nitrogen. Fields sprayed with insecticides last fall have very little to no aphids presents, while parasitic insects are doing a good job controlling the pests in untreated fields. Precipitation for the month was below normal throughout the State.

TEXAS: The state experienced generally above normal temperatures with below normal rainfall throughout the month. High winds associated with these weather patterns increased wind erosion, slowed land preparation in some areas. The light rain showers that were associated with passage of the last weather front had little effect on the range, pasture feeds, no run off occurred. General livestock conditions remained poor as supplemental feeding increased, hay stocks decreased. Herd reduction, some liquidation continued as available pond water became unavailable to some producers. Winter vegetable harvest moved ahead in South Area, the Winter garden areas, planting of spring crops began. Planting began in southern areas for Cotton, Corn, Sorghum. Concern was expressed by some growers as to the number of chill hours needed for good production as fruit trees began blooming in many areas of the state.

UTAH: Major activities include: Feeding, caring for livestock. Some early calving has begun, as has some pruning of fruit trees. Recent precipitation throughout most of the state has improved soil moisture. More moisture is still needed. Livestock is reported in fair to good condition due to mild weather this winter.

WASHINGTON: Winter throughout February remained fairly mild, warm in most areas. Although the state is slightly below normal for precipitation, it did not appear to have many adverse effects on the upcoming season at this time in central areas. Early spring field preparation for the 2000 crop season had begun. Fields were being plowed, soil fumigated, weed control measures were underway. Tree fruit pruning was winding down, grape vine pruning was underway. Trees, vines were in good condition due to the mild winter, few cold spells. Ranchers who were calving, lambing welcomed the mild weather.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 15% short, 73% adequate, 11% surplus. Wheat 12% fair, 80% good, 8% excellent. Cattle 2% poor, 25% fair, 72% good, 1% excellent; 31% calved. Sheep 22% fair, 75% good, 3% excellent; 22% lambed. Hay, roughage supplies 14% very short, 53% short, 33% adequate. Feed grain supplies 5% very short, 16% short, 79% adequate. Unseasonably mild weather during most of the month of February was beneficial for livestock. A total of 21 counties were hit by floods. Feeding of livestock was less than normal. However, some livestock producers are searching for alternative feed sources due to hay shortage.

WISCONSIN: During the first week of February, temperatures averaged nearly 8° F warmer than the 30-year avg. Average temperatures the second, third week of the month were 4° F, 1° F above normal. The last week of the month temperatures increased dramatically across the state. Record high temperatures helped the state average reach 18° F above normal. Cumulative precipitation since January has been slightly above normal, with the exception of Central, Southwest regions which have been slightly below normal. Snow levels ranged from 2-12 inches in Northern areas. Snow cover in the lower two-thirds of the state melted due to the warm temperatures, rainfall received the final week of the month.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 59% short, 32% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 64% short, 25% adequate, 1% surplus. Average depth of snow cover 2.5 inches. Most counties have 4 inches or less. Condition of winter wheat crop 3% poor, 16% fair, 81% good. Winter wheat wind damage 61% none, 39% light. Winter wheat freeze damage 72% none, 28% light. Cattle condition 8% fair, 80% good, 12% excellent. Sheep 6% fair, 87% good, 7% excellent. Spring calves born 22%, 21% 1999, 15% avg. Farm flock ewes lambed 27%, 25% 1999, 27% avg. Farm flock sheep shorn 30%, 28% 1999, 29% avg. Hay, roughage supplies 55% adequate, 45% surplus. Spring grazing prospects 6% poor, 43% fair, 51% good. Temperatures during February were mostly above normal. The entire State received precipitation, snowfall but amounts were mostly below normal.

Record-High February Temperatures (°F), February 22-26, 2000

<u>Location</u>	<u>High/Date</u>	<u>Former Record/Date(s)</u>
Grand Forks (Airport), ND	67 on Feb. 22	65 in Feb. 1958
Grand Forks (NWS Office), ND	67 on Feb. 22	65 in Feb. 1958
Devils Lake, ND	60 on Feb. 22	60 in Feb. 1958
International Falls, MN	58 on Feb. 22	55 on Feb. 2, 1991
Dulles International Airport, VA	79 on Feb. 25	79 on Feb. 24, 1985
Indianapolis, IN	76 on Feb. 25	75 on Feb. 11, 1999
Zanesville, OH	74 on Feb. 25	73 on Feb. 15, 1954
Columbus, OH	74 on Feb. 25	73 on Feb. 25, 1957
South Bend, IN	74 on Feb. 25	72 on Feb. 11, 1999
Fort Wayne, IN	73 on Feb. 25	71 on Feb. 11, 1999
Champaign, IL	72 on Feb. 25	70 on Feb. 29, 1972 and Feb. 26, 1996
Morgantown, WV	77 on Feb. 26	75 on Feb. 24, 1975
Zanesville, OH	75 on Feb. 26	74 on Feb. 25, 2000
Columbus, OH	75 on Feb. 26	74 on Feb. 25, 2000
Erie, PA	75 on Feb. 26	72 on Feb. 11, 1932
Cleveland, OH	74 on Feb. 26	73 on Feb. 11, 1932
Youngstown, OH	73 on Feb. 26	71 on Feb. 21, 1997
Akron-Canton, OH	72 on Feb. 26	71 on Feb. 11, 1932
Toledo, OH	71 on Feb. 26	71 on Feb. 26, 1944 and Feb. 11, 1999
Buffalo, NY	71 on Feb. 26	70 on Feb. 21, 1997
Mansfield, OH	71 on Feb. 26	68 on Feb. 11, 1999
Green Bay, WI	61 on Feb. 26	60 on Feb. 21, 1930
Wausau, WI	59 on Feb. 26	58 on Feb. 21, 1930

International Weather and Crop Summary

February 20 - 26, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Drought conditions continued throughout Morocco and the western half of Algeria.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Light showers fell across Java, Indonesia, reducing moisture supplies for main-season rice.

EUROPE: Dry weather persisted in the Iberian peninsula, further reducing moisture supplies for vegetative winter grains.

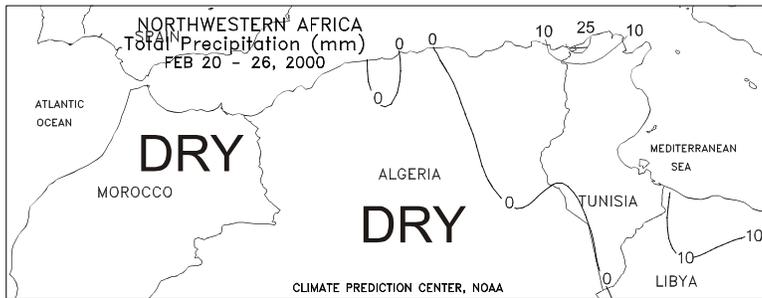
SOUTH AMERICA: Late showers brought some relief to Rio Grande do Sul, where dryness had stressed soybeans.

FSU-WESTERN: Snow accompanied colder weather in Russia and parts of Ukraine, increasing protective snow cover.

AUSTRALIA: Locally heavy rain brought some drought relief to the southeast.

EASTERN ASIA: Across the North China Plain, winter wheat remained dormant, despite warmer weather.

SOUTH AFRICA: A drying trend continued across the corn belt, aiding development of filling summer crops.



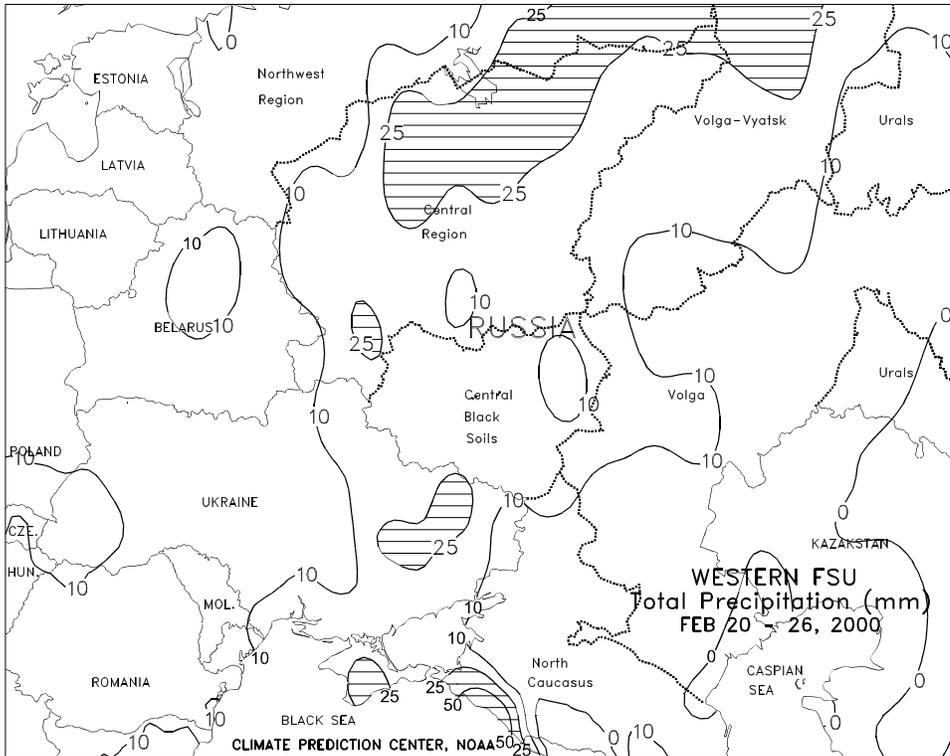
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

High pressure over western Europe continued to siphon warm, dry air out of the desert interior of northern Africa. Most of the winter grain region has experienced 8 to 12 weeks with little or no rain. Recent warm air intrusion resulted in temperatures 2 to 5 degrees C above normal in the western half of the growing region. Current weather conditions continued to accelerate evaporation of nearly depleted soil moisture. In the eastern crop areas, light, scattered showers provided little relief to winter grains in the jointing stage. This resulted in a reliance on diminishing soil moisture. Winter grains in the west continue to be in poor condition, with fair but declining crop conditions in the east.



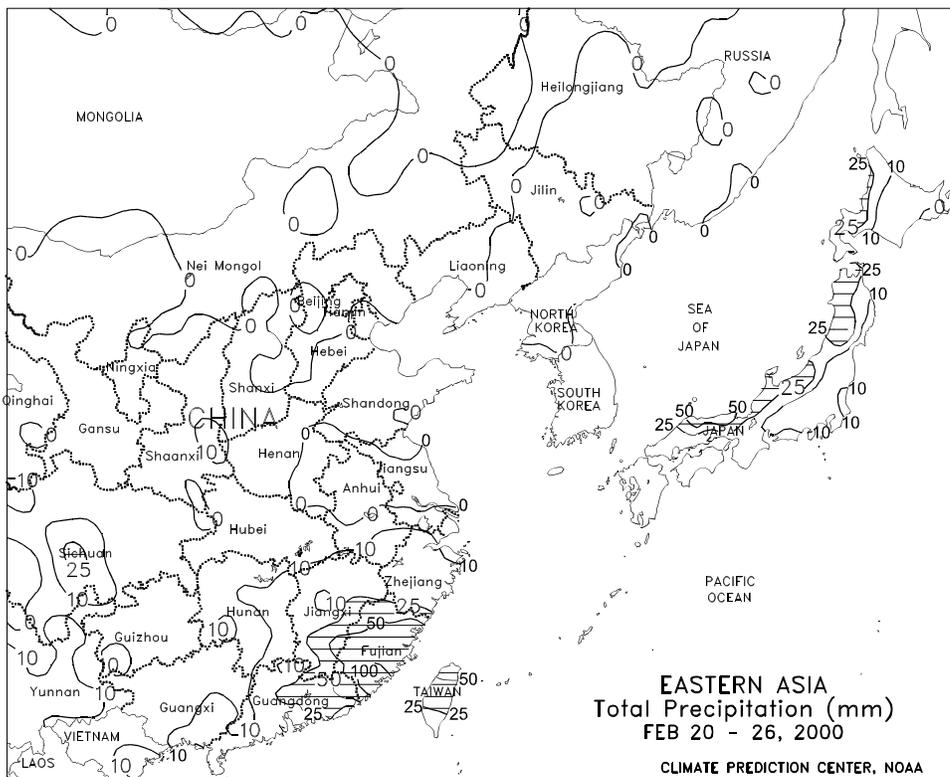
EUROPE

In northern Europe, light precipitation (7-28 mm) fell from southern England eastward across the Benelux countries, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, southern Poland, and northern Slovakia, maintaining adequate moisture supplies for winter grains and oilseeds. Elsewhere across northern Europe, mainly dry weather (less than 10 mm) prevailed in major crop-producing areas, helping early spring fieldwork. Unseasonably mild weather covered much of northern Europe (temperatures 1-2 degrees C above normal), favoring winter grain development in southern England, northern France, and the Benelux countries. For the 2nd consecutive week, average temperatures remained below 5 degrees C from Germany eastward, slowing or halting early winter grain and oilseed development. In southern Europe, unseasonably cold weather (temperatures 1-4 degrees C below normal) extended from central and southern Italy eastward into southeastern Europe. Light rain (5-28 mm) fell across the southern Balkans, Greece, and Bulgaria, increasing moisture supplies for dormant winter grains. Farther west, dry, unseasonably warm weather (temperatures 1-4 degrees C above normal) prevailed across the Iberian peninsula, southern France, and northwestern Italy. More rain is needed for vegetative winter grains in Spain and Portugal, where rainfall has been well below normal since November 1. Similarly, more rain is needed in northern Italy, where below-normal rainfall since December 1 has reduced moisture supplies.



FSU-WESTERN

Unsettled weather prevailed over most of the region. Moderate to heavy snow (10-40 mm of liquid equivalent) fell from the northeastern Ukraine northward through Russia (Central Black Soils Region and Central Region), increasing protective snow cover. A mixture of rain and snow (4-28 mm of liquid equivalent) fell in southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia. Colder weather spread southward over the region during the week. Lowest temperatures (-15 to -29 degrees C) were confined to northern Russia, where a deep snow cover protected dormant winter grains from potential winterkill. Farther south, temperatures in major winter wheat-producing areas of Ukraine and southern Russia did not fall low enough to threaten crops. Extreme minimum temperatures in these areas ranged from -5 to -13 degrees C. At week's end, unseasonably mild weather returned to western and southern areas, with maximum temperatures ranging from 1 to 5 degrees C in Ukraine, North Caucasus, and Belarus.

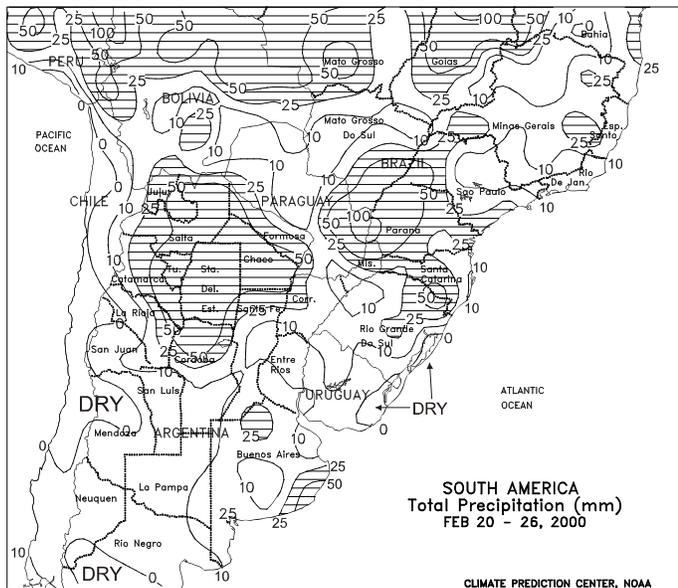
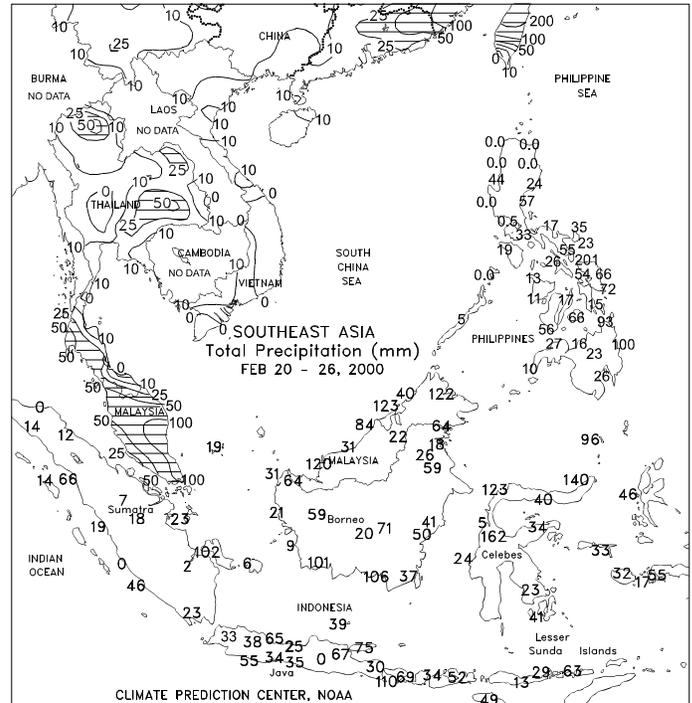


EASTERN ASIA

In the North China Plain, winter wheat remained dormant, despite a continuation of milder-than-normal weather (temperatures 1-2 degrees C above normal). Drier weather returned to the Yangtze Valley, but widespread, locally heavy rain (10-50 mm or more) fell along the southeast coast, boosting moisture reserves in the main rice and sugarcane areas.

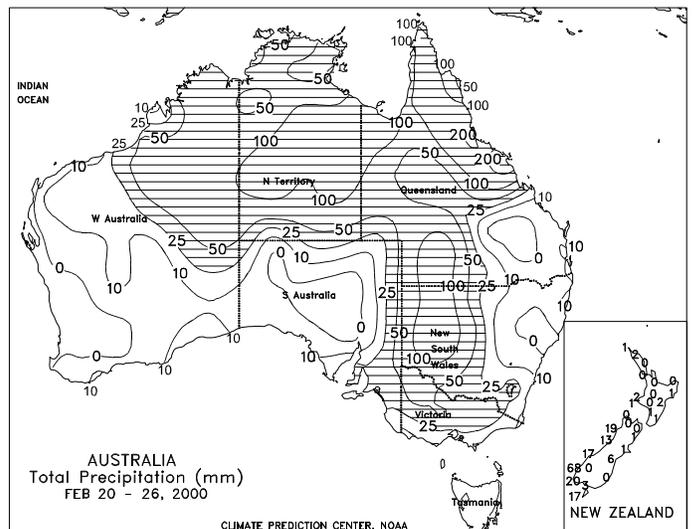
SOUTHEAST ASIA

Light showers (25-50 mm) fell across Java, Indonesia, reducing moisture supplies for main-season rice. Seasonable showers (30-110 mm) maintained moisture supplies for oil palm across peninsular Malaysia. In the Philippines, lighter showers (10-60 mm, with locally heavier amounts) fell across the central and southern islands, allowing flood waters to recede in east-central areas. In Thailand, scattered showers (10-40 mm) helped second-crop rice development. Dry weather prevailed across Vietnam, helping fieldwork. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across Indochina and central and southern Vietnam.



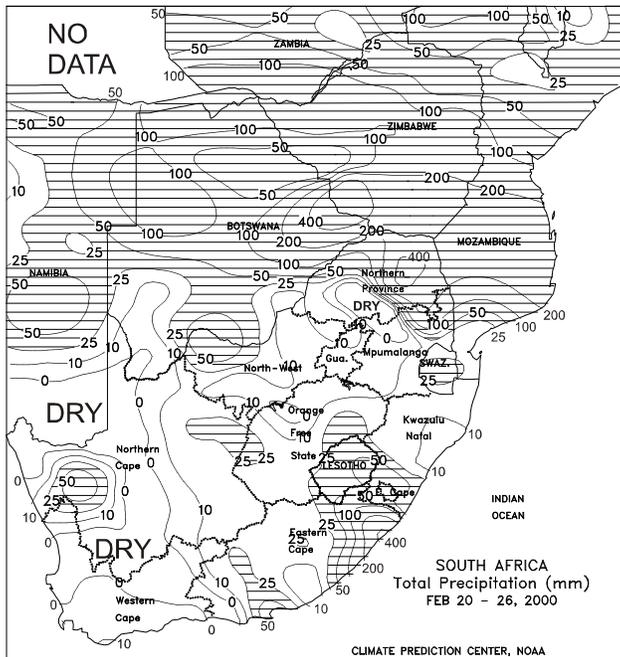
SOUTH AMERICA

Showers (10-50 mm or more) maintained generally favorable conditions for summer crop development from Santa Catarina and Parana northward. Warmer- and drier-than-normal weather persisted in Rio Grande do Sul. However, stormy weather advancing across northern Argentina, Uruguay, and southern Brazil on February 27-28 brought some relief to previously stressed soybeans (*more information will appear in next week's summary*). Temperatures averaged near to above normal across southern Brazil. In northern Argentina, above-normal temperatures increased crop moisture demands, with highs in the low to mid 30's degrees C over the heart of the summer crop region (northern Buenos Aires, southern Cordoba, and southern Santa Fe). The warmth, combined with a 2nd week of locally light rainfall (2-15 mm at most locations) in this area, temporarily reduced moisture for reproductive to filling soybeans and immature corn. Scattered showers (10-50 mm or more) continued in the more northerly crop areas of Argentina and Paraguay.



AUSTRALIA

An influx of tropical moisture generated unusually heavy rain (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) from western Queensland southward to Victoria. The rainfall was highly beneficial for pastures and rangeland, especially in sections of the southeast (South Australia, western Victoria, and southern New South Wales) still affected by long-term drought. However, localized flooding was possible in the Murray Region of western New South Wales. Very heavy rain (100-300 mm) also caused flooding in Queensland's northern sugarcane areas, reportedly causing localized crop damage. In contrast, dry weather dominated a broad area of southeastern Queensland and New South Wales that included the main sugarcane areas and eastern sections of the cotton and sorghum belts. Despite the drier conditions, temperatures averaging 1 to 2 degrees C below normal sustained lower-than-normal crop growth rates. Warm, mostly dry weather continued in Western Australia. In New Zealand, dry, warmer-than-normal weather covered the main agricultural districts, with highs exceeding 30 degrees C in east-coastal areas of South Island.

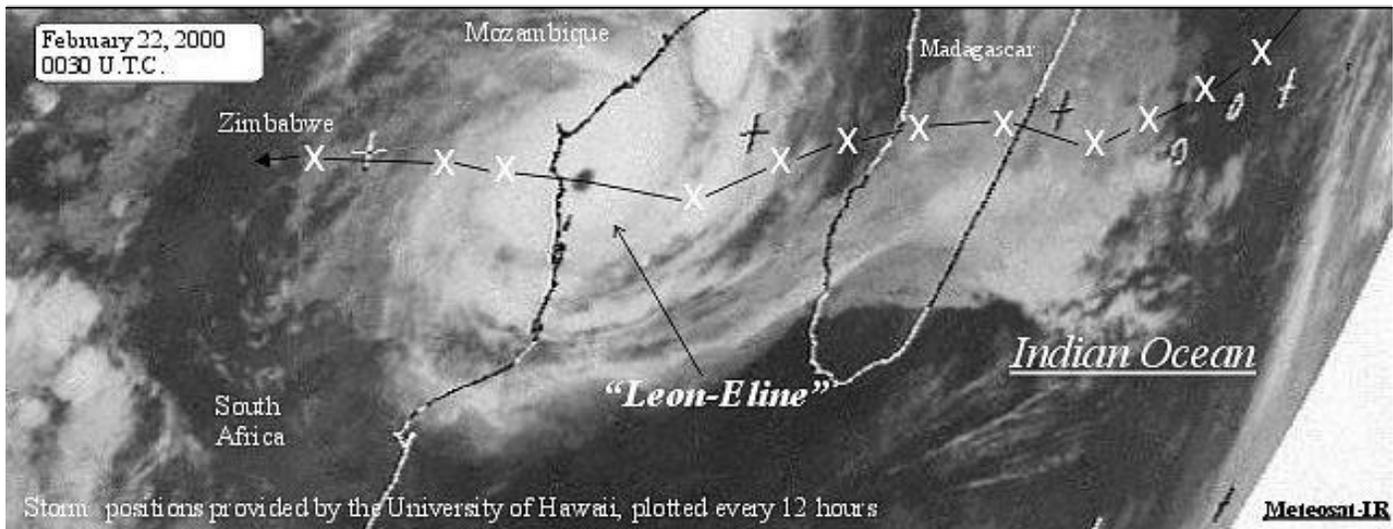


SOUTH AFRICA

Mostly dry, sunny weather covered the corn belt, aiding development of filling summer crops. Rainfall generally totaled less than 10 mm, except for portions of eastern Free State that recorded heavier showers (25 mm or greater). The heavy tropical rains and deadly flooding in South Africa in recent weeks has been confined to sections of Northern Province that border Zimbabwe and Mozambique. While having a severe regional impact on small farmers, the river systems most affected (including the Limpopo and Olifants) do not flow through the main commercial corn areas. Elsewhere, rainfall was light and scattered in northern sugarcane areas, but moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) fell over southern KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Eastern Cape. Dry, seasonably warm weather dominated Western Cape.

Tropical Cyclone Leon-Eline Inundates Southeastern Africa

by Chester Schmitt



On February 4, Tropical Cyclone Leon-Eline developed southwest of the island of Java. The system then moved westward across the southern Indian Ocean, grazing the island nation of Mauritius. On February 17, Leon-Eline made landfall on the east coast of Madagascar near the city of Mahanoro, packing winds of 150 KPH (95 MPH). The cyclone brought heavy rains and strong winds to the island as it crossed. The system weakened considerably as it interacted with the mountains of Madagascar. On February 18, the system moved off the west coast of Madagascar into the Mozambique Channel about 100 miles north of Morondava. The maximum winds were reduced to 55 KPH (35 MPH).

Over the warm waters of the Mozambique Channel, Leon-Eline underwent rapid intensification. Maximum sustained winds reached 185 KPH (115 MPH) before striking the Mozambique coast on February 22. The storm made landfall near the coastal city of Nova Mambone in southern Mozambique. Leon-Eline moved westward across Mozambique and into eastern Zimbabwe, where it brought torrential rains and winds of 80 KPH (50 MPH). Leon-Eline finally dissipated over western Zimbabwe.

Up to 308 mm (12 inches) of rain was reported in central and southern Mozambique. Rainfall data over Mozambique is sparse. Therefore, some areas of the country may have received larger amounts. In southern Zimbabwe, rainfall totals from Leon-Eline generally ranged from 200-600 mm (8-24 inches), with locally heavier totals reported. Kezi, Zimbabwe reported 1,038 mm (41 inches) of rainfall from the storm. This combined with locally strong winds resulted in flooding and possible damage to summer crops. The heavy rains also resulted in severe flooding along the Save and Limpopo Rivers in northeastern South Africa, southern Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique.

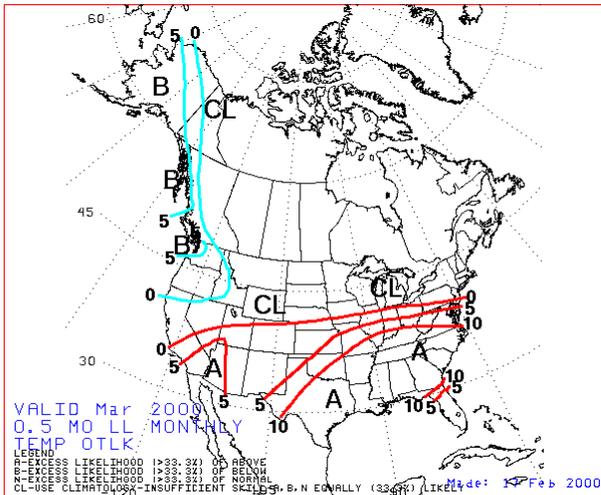
Over South Africa, heavy downpours dropped 100-450 mm (4-18 inches) of rain to eastern parts of Northern Province, with locally heavier amounts reported. The largest rainfall total was 537 mm (21 inches), which was reported in Levubu, Northern Province. Over eastern parts of the corn belt, however, subsidence around the system resulted in dry weather. Western Northern Province, Mpumalanga, and Guateng remained mostly dry while Tropical Cyclone Leon-Eline mainly impacted Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

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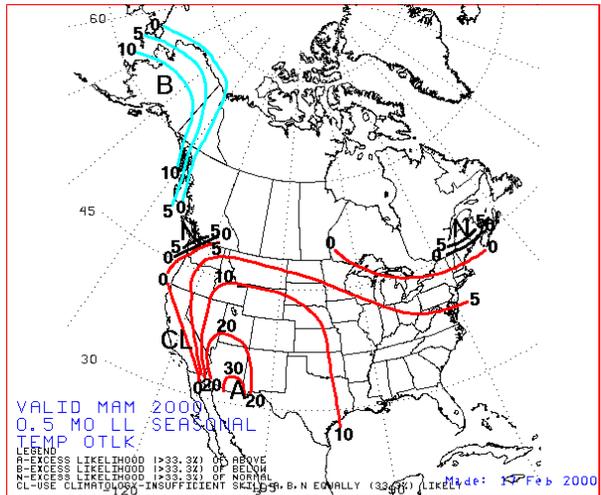
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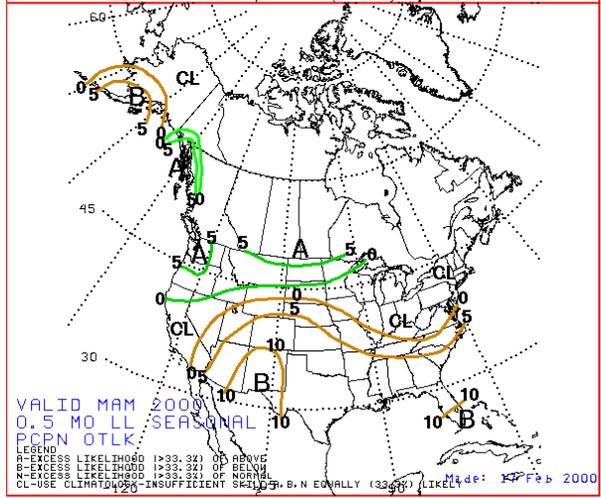


**March 2000
 Temperature (top)
 and Precipitation
 (bottom) Outlook**



**3-Month (March-
 May 2000)
 Temperature (top)
 and Precipitation
 (bottom) Outlook**

(from Climate Prediction Center, NCEP, NWS, NOAA)



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