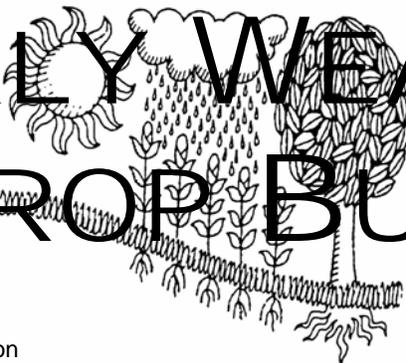
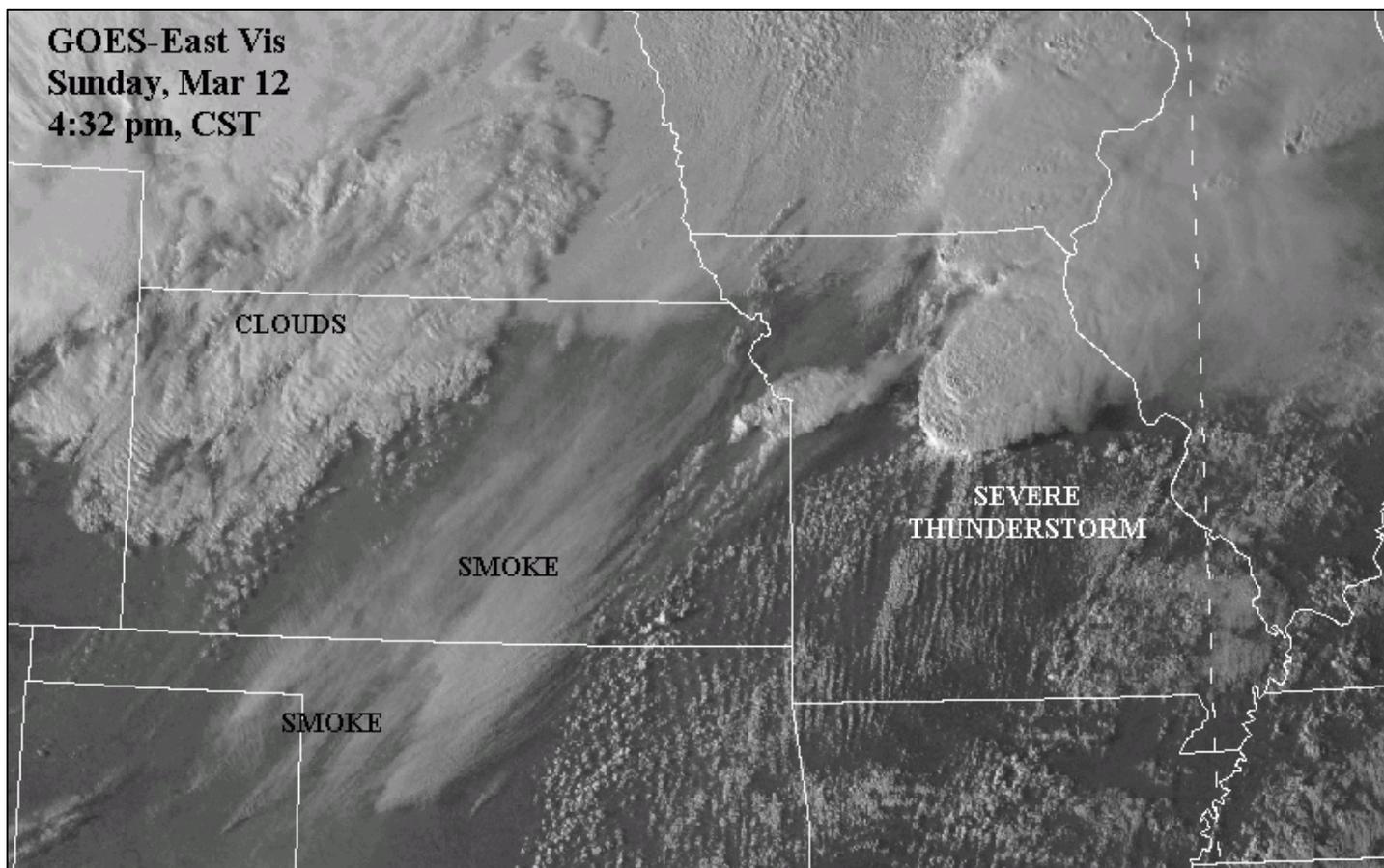


# WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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



## HIGHLIGHTS

**March 5 - 11, 2006**

*Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB*

Toward week's end, suddenly active weather featured desperately needed rain and snow in the **Southwest** but resulted in catastrophic events across the **southern High Plains** (high winds, blowing dust, and wildfires) and the **lower Midwest** and **interior South** (hail, high winds, tornadoes, and flash flooding). Cool, unsettled weather prevailed across much of the **West**, where weekly temperatures averaged as much as 10°F below normal. In **California's Central Valley**, producers continued to assess the effects of recent cold, windy weather on blooming nut trees and other temperature-sensitive crops. In the **Southwest**, precipitation disrupted travel and caused local flash flooding, but helped to revive drought-ravaged pastures and rangeland. Farther east, however, warm, dry weather

*(Continued on page 3)*

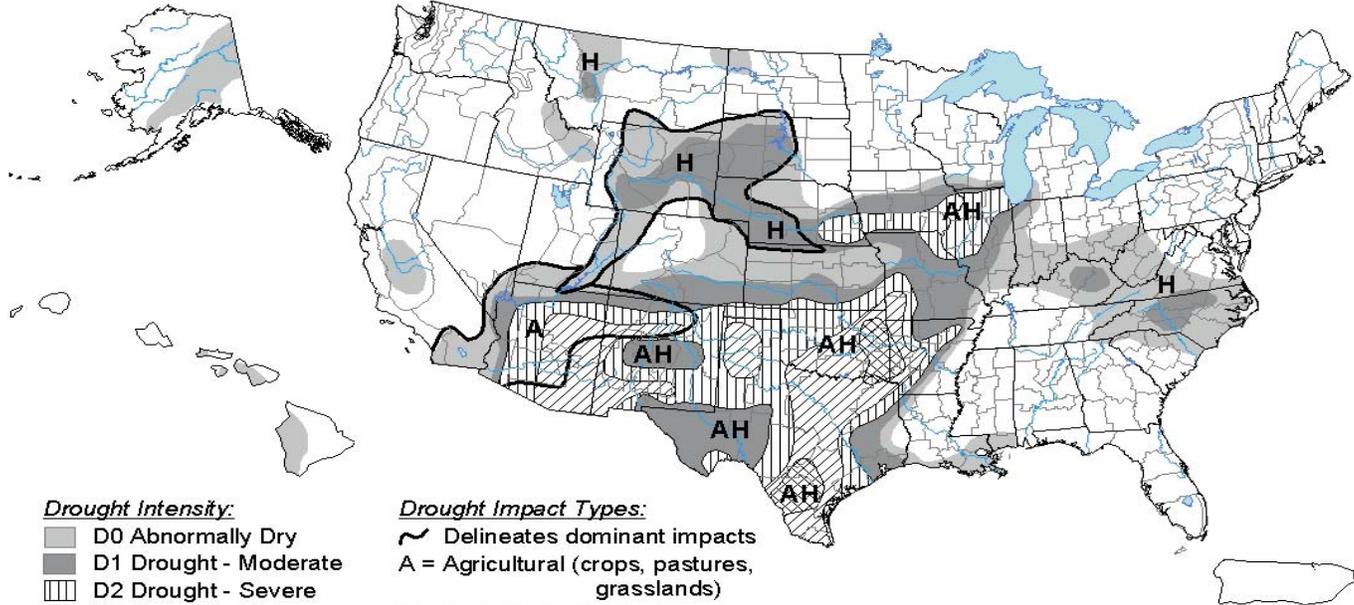
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# U.S. Drought Monitor

March 7, 2006

Valid 7 a.m. EST



- Drought Intensity:**
- D0 Abnormally Dry
  - D1 Drought - Moderate
  - D2 Drought - Severe
  - D3 Drought - Extreme
  - D4 Drought - Exceptional

- Drought Impact Types:**
- Delineates dominant impacts
  - A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
  - H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

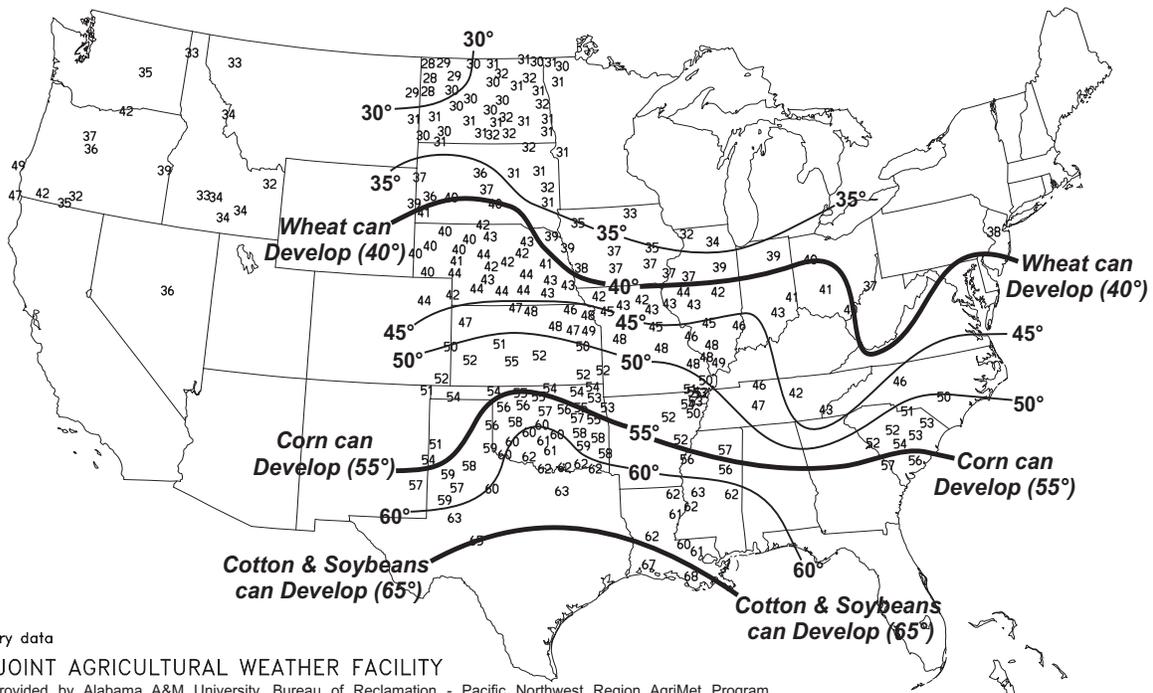


Released Thursday, March 9, 2006

Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

## Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)

MAR 5 - 11, 2006



Based on preliminary data

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

Supplemental data provided by Alabama A&M University, Bureau of Reclamation - Pacific Northwest Region AgriMet Program, High Plains Regional Climate Center, Illinois State Water Survey, Iowa State University, Louisiana Agricultural Information System, Mississippi State University, Oklahoma Mesonet, Purdue University, University of Missouri, and USDA/NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network

*(Continued from front cover)*

diminished prospects for winter wheat recovery on the **southern High Plains**, where a late-week wind storm raised dust and fanned wildfires that claimed at least a half dozen lives. Drought stress on pastures and winter grains continued to expand across the **central High Plains**, but locally heavy showers and thunderstorms dampened **eastern portions of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas**. Meanwhile, snow boosted topsoil moisture in parts of **South Dakota and Nebraska**. Elsewhere, the week's first major severe weather outbreak occurred across the **South** on March 9, when thunderstorms caused widespread wind damage from the **southeastern Plains to Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee**. Later, the March 11-12 outbreak spawned more than 125 tornadoes, according to preliminary reports from the Storm Prediction Center, and killed at least 10 people. Storms also dumped 2 to 6 inches of rain from the **southeastern Plains into the Midwest**.

Early in the week, locally heavy showers lingered in the **Midwest** and returned to **California**. Daily-record totals for March 5 included 1.30 inches in **Ottumwa, IA**, and 2.39 inches in **Redding, CA**. Another record was set the following day in **Mt. Shasta, CA**, where 2.29 inches fell, while warmth expanded across the **Rockies, Plains, and South**. Daily-record highs for March 6 reached 84°F in **Roswell, NM**, and 67°F in **Worland, WY**. By March 7, highs reached 80°F as far north as **Garden City, KS**, and topped 90°F in **Childress, TX** (91°F).

By midweek, widespread rain returned to the **Midwest**, while strong thunderstorms developed across the **South**. **Cincinnati, OH** (1.20 inches), measured a daily-record total for March 8, followed by a record total for March 9 in **Muskegon, MI** (0.98 inch). Meanwhile, high winds raked the **South**. On March 9, wind gusts were clocked to 71 m.p.h. at the Air Force Base near **Little Rock, AR**, and 60 m.p.h. in **Bastrop, LA**. A day later, non-thunderstorm winds in the **Midwestern and Northeastern States** gusted to 66 m.p.h. in **Erie, PA**, and 54 m.p.h. in **Indianapolis, IN**. Farther west, chilly weather settled across areas from the **Rockies westward**. Daily-record lows for March 10 included 2°F in **Ely, NV**, and 28°F in **Redding, CA**. The next day, records for March 11 were tied or broken in **Sacramento, CA** (32°F), **Whitman Mission, WA** (22°F), and **Cedar City, UT** (6°F).

**Cedar City's** chill followed a tremendous March storm across the **Southwest**. Approximately 18 inches of snow blanketed **Cedar City** from March 9-12. Meanwhile, frozen precipitation was reported in some unusual places near the **West Coast**, including **San Francisco's Airport** (a trace of sleet on March 11); **Olympia, WA** (snowfall totaling 0.3 inch from March 8-11); and **Portland, OR** (snowfall totaling 0.3 inch on March 8-9). Farther south, March 9-12 snowfall in **southern California** included at least 6 inches near the 5,710-foot summit of **Mount Wilson** and 18 to 24 inches at the 7,800-foot level near **Mount Baldy**. **Southwestern** storminess arrived following a 143-day spell (October 19 - March 10) without a drop of rain in **Phoenix, AZ**, where 1.44 inches fell on March 11-12. The longest spell with no rain in **Phoenix** was broken more than a month ago (previously, 101 days from September 23, 1999 - January 1, 2000), but the city's longest streak with no measurable precipitation (160 days from December 30, 1971 - June 6, 1972) remained intact. Elsewhere in **Arizona**, **Flagstaff's** season-to-date snowfall climbed from 1.6 inches (2 percent of normal) on March 6 to 32.7 inches (40 percent) on March 12. Most (29.9 inches) of **Flagstaff's** snow fell from March 10-12, when **Arizona** totals reached or exceeded 4 feet in locations such as **Pinetop and Hart Prairie**.

The March 11-12 severe weather outbreak, which featured more than 120 tornadoes according to preliminary reports by the Storm Prediction Center, was a record-setting event. The previous 2-day record for tornadoes in March was established on March 19-20, 1976, when 68 tornadoes were documented. Even outside of the tornado-affected areas, high winds caused damage. In **Moline, IL**, a gust to 107 m.p.h. was measured on March 12. Meanwhile on the **southern High Plains**, an explosion of wildfires on March 12 charred several hundred

thousand acres of grassland and other vegetation. Fires were fanned by winds as high as 73 m.p.h. in **Artesia, NM**, and 62 m.p.h. near **Hart, TX**. Elsewhere, dozens of daily-record highs were set from the **Plains eastward** on March 10-12. On March 10, highs topped 80°F as far north as **Richmond, VA** (81°F). A day later, records for March 11 in **southern Texas** included 99°F in **McAllen** and 96°F in **Harlingen**. In contrast, daily-record snowfall totals in **South Dakota** for March 11 included 4.1 inches in **Aberdeen** and 3.0 inches in **Pierre**.

For the second consecutive week, extremely heavy rain soaked parts of **Hawaii**. Record-setting rains returned to **Kauai**, while locally heavy showers dotted the remaining islands. On **Kauai's** perpetually wet **Mt. Waialeale**, where March precipitation typically totals 34.70 inches, the weekly rainfall of 30.46 inches was padded by a 23.58-inch sum in a 48-hour period from March 9-11. **Mt. Waialeale's** 2-week (February 26 - March 11) total climbed to 69.23 inches. Elsewhere on **Kauai, Lihue's** March 1-11 total of 11.17 inches (873 percent of normal) neared its March 1951 record of 14.54 inches. **Lihue** also collected a March single-day record total of 5.64 inches on March 11 (previously, 5.15 inches on March 1, 1989). Farther east, **Big Island** weekly totals of 19.65 inches in **Waiakea Uka** and 19.73 inches in **Glenwood** were padded by 24-hour (March 8-9) amounts of 11.41 and 10.52 inches, respectively. Meanwhile in **Alaska**, cold, mostly dry weather prevailed. Month-to-date precipitation totals in **southern Alaska** through March 11 were as low as 0.04 inch (2 percent of normal) in **Valdez** and 1.55 inches (38 percent) in **Yakutat**. Weekly temperatures averaged more than 10°F below normal across parts of **interior and western Alaska**, aided by daily-record lows in locations such as **Bettles** (-47°F on March 10).

## U.S. Crop Production Highlights

*The following information was released by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board on March 10, 2006. Forecasts refer to March 1.*

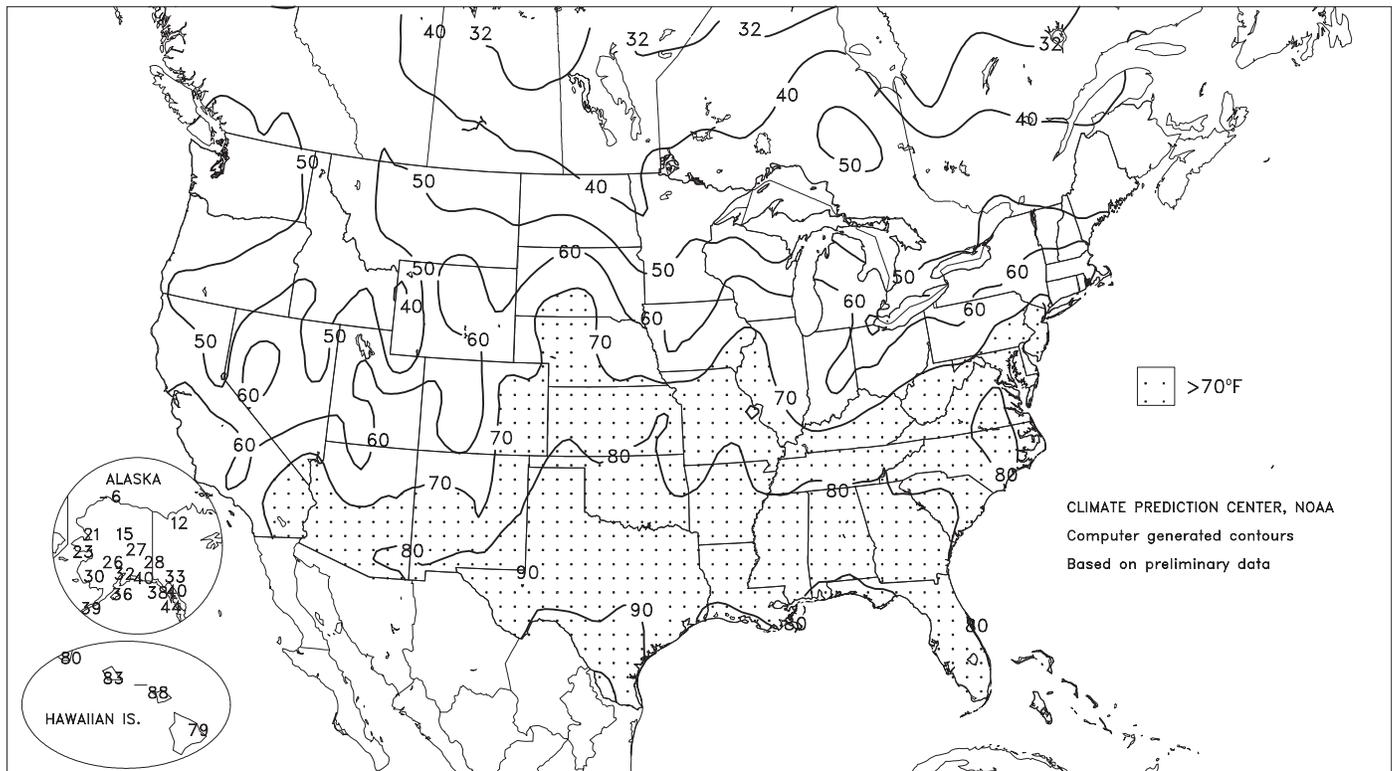
The **all orange** forecast for the 2005-06 season is 9.00 million tons, down 2 percent from the February forecast and 1 percent below last season's final utilization of 9.11 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 154 million boxes (6.93 million tons), is down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from the 2004-05 crop. Early, midseason, and navel varieties are forecast at 76.0 million boxes (3.42 million tons), down 5 percent from the previous forecast and 4 percent below last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia forecast is 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but up 11 percent from last season's final utilization. If realized, this will be the first time that Valencia utilized production is greater than utilized production from early, midseason, and navel varieties. The reduction in early, midseason, and navel varieties is based on estimated certifications of fruit utilization combined with projections of remaining fruit to be processed. February measurements of Valencia fruit size and drop indicate smaller projected fruit sizes than last month, which are offset by a lower drop rate than was forecast last month.

California's all orange forecast is 53.0 million boxes (1.99 million tons), down 2 percent from the previous forecast and 13 percent below last season. Valencia oranges are forecast at 11.0 million boxes (413,000 tons), down 8 percent from the January forecast and 39 percent below last season's final utilization. Valencia harvest will begin in mid-March for most growing areas. California conducted an objective measurement survey for the March 1 Valencia forecast. This survey showed the average number of fruit per tree is lower than last season, while fruit size is virtually unchanged. Fruit is generally of good quality but some splits have been noted. The California navel forecast as well as Arizona and Texas orange production forecasts are carried forward from January.



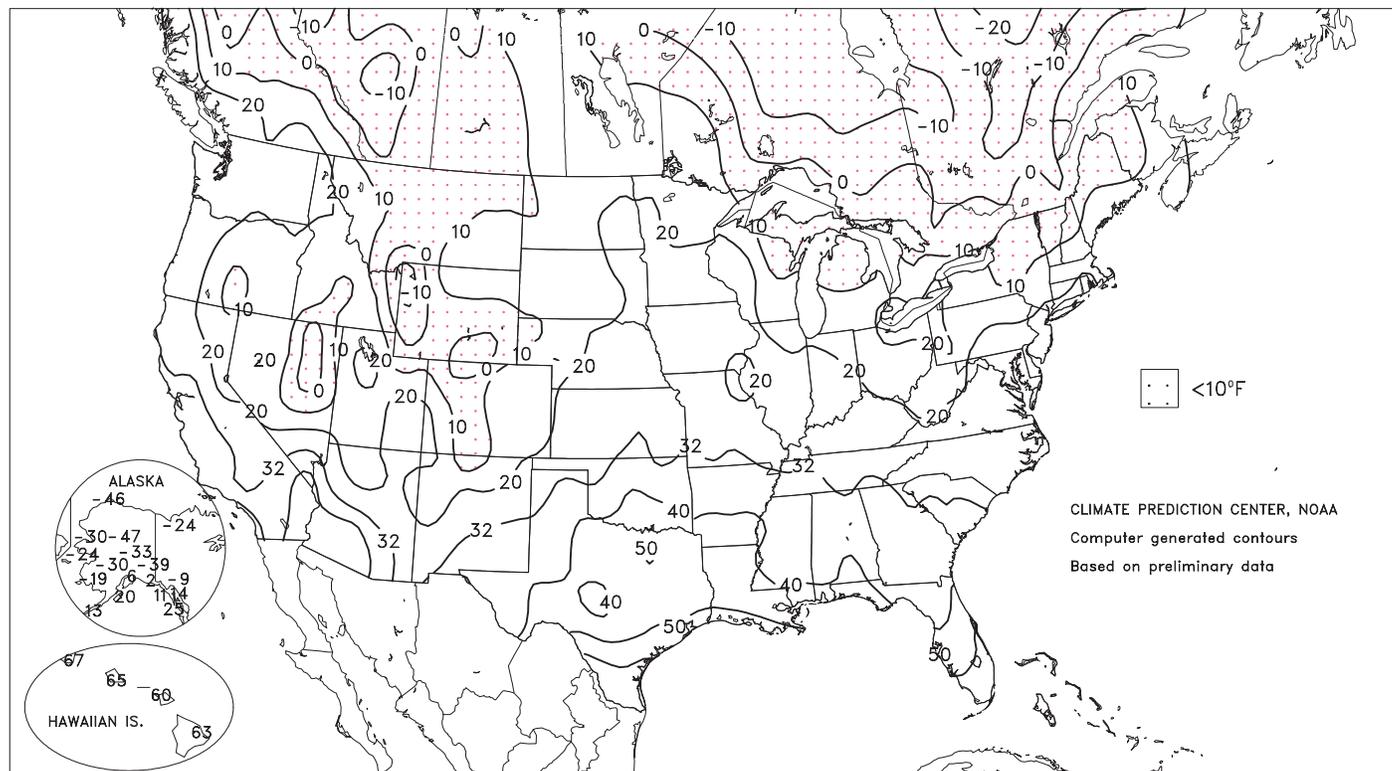
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

MAR 5 - 11, 2006



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

MAR 5 - 11, 2006



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 11, 2006

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

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						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 MAR01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL, IN, SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F				
																90 AND ABOVE	82 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE	
AL BIRMINGHAM	73	48	83	38	60	7	1.19	-0.16	0.99	1.19	57	15.87	135	85	30	0	0	3	1	
HUNTSVILLE	70	45	78	34	57	7	0.90	-0.66	0.83	0.90	37	9.32	72	82	57	0	0	2	1	
MOBILE	77	56	82	44	67	8	0.19	-1.46	0.19	0.19	8	7.29	55	87	56	0	0	1	0	
MONTGOMERY	76	47	83	37	61	5	1.07	-0.45	0.67	1.10	46	10.78	84	84	35	0	0	5	1	
AK ANCHORAGE	27	16	32	6	21	-3	0.21	0.06	0.18	0.23	92	1.31	78	69	54	0	7	2	0	
BARROW	-16	-28	-6	-46	-22	-6	0.11	0.11	0.07	0.12	1200	0.61	254	***	***	0	7	3	0	
FAIRBANKS	10	-16	27	-33	-3	-9	0.11	0.05	0.08	0.12	133	1.10	109	82	76	0	7	3	0	
JUNEAU	36	25	40	14	30	-2	0.90	0.04	0.51	0.91	66	5.91	58	94	85	0	6	5	1	
KODIAK	33	25	36	20	29	-3	0.10	-1.07	0.08	0.68	37	7.47	47	66	58	0	7	3	0	
NOME	7	-12	23	-24	-3	-11	0.04	-0.08	0.04	0.52	260	2.62	140	78	72	0	7	1	0	
AZ FLAGSTAFF	42	21	57	16	32	-3	0.96	0.31	0.34	0.96	92	1.30	22	77	37	0	7	5	0	
PHOENIX	70	50	80	42	60	-1	1.53	1.25	1.38	1.53	364	1.53	76	47	31	0	0	2	1	
TUCSON	69	46	82	39	58	0	0.03	-0.19	0.03	0.03	9	0.03	1	33	25	0	0	1	0	
YUMA	70	51	76	47	60	-5	0.19	0.13	0.18	0.19	211	0.19	25	55	42	0	0	2	0	
AR FORT SMITH	75	46	83	39	60	10	1.89	1.02	1.08	1.91	143	5.64	90	85	42	0	0	4	2	
LITTLE ROCK	74	46	84	38	60	9	0.80	-0.20	0.80	0.81	53	6.63	78	83	36	0	0	1	1	
CA BAKERSFIELD	59	43	67	37	51	-5	0.79	0.46	0.38	1.04	200	2.09	72	84	63	0	0	5	0	
FRESNO	57	41	64	36	49	-6	0.72	0.18	0.33	1.17	138	5.11	100	90	70	0	0	5	0	
LOS ANGELES	60	49	65	44	54	-4	0.36	-0.28	0.23	0.53	51	3.98	56	80	56	0	0	4	0	
REDDING	51	37	57	28	44	-8	3.05	1.79	2.11	4.01	201	15.61	112	85	67	0	1	4	2	
SACRAMENTO	56	40	59	32	48	-6	1.34	0.62	0.79	1.66	144	6.28	74	95	48	0	1	4	1	
SAN DIEGO	61	52	66	47	57	-2	0.51	-0.03	0.25	0.56	67	2.03	39	73	57	0	0	4	0	
SAN FRANCISCO	54	43	59	37	49	-5	1.89	1.06	0.71	2.82	214	7.57	77	82	72	0	0	7	2	
STOCKTON	57	42	63	35	50	-4	0.86	0.30	0.53	1.23	138	5.70	94	85	68	0	0	4	1	
CO ALAMOSA	49	17	65	4	33	2	0.11	0.03	0.08	0.17	131	0.36	61	68	38	0	7	2	0	
CO SPRINGS	54	25	69	14	40	4	0.03	-0.16	0.03	0.03	11	0.31	34	62	17	0	5	1	0	
DENVER INTL	52	27	70	15	39	2	0.33	0.12	0.33	0.33	106	0.76	99	69	32	0	5	1	0	
GRAND JUNCTION	49	30	67	23	40	-1	0.57	0.36	0.30	0.62	200	1.05	74	67	55	0	5	5	0	
PUEBLO	62	26	75	20	44	4	0.47	0.30	0.47	0.47	188	0.99	118	58	32	0	6	1	0	
CT BRIDGEPORT	49	32	70	23	41	4	0.00	-0.87	0.00	0.63	47	8.68	109	70	50	0	4	0	0	
HARTFORD	50	27	70	19	39	4	0.04	-0.79	0.03	0.26	20	8.75	108	72	49	0	5	2	0	
DC WASHINGTON	59	40	78	31	50	6	0.00	-0.83	0.00	0.03	2	5.74	81	64	31	0	2	0	0	
DE WILMINGTON	57	35	77	26	46	6	0.00	-0.89	0.00	0.17	12	6.70	88	70	29	0	4	0	0	
FL DAYTONA BEACH	75	51	83	42	63	-1	0.00	-0.83	0.00	0.00	0	4.57	64	86	38	0	0	0	0	
JACKSONVILLE	76	46	84	36	61	1	0.00	-0.85	0.00	0.00	0	6.22	76	92	35	0	0	0	0	
KEY WEST	78	68	81	63	73	0	0.00	-0.37	0.00	0.00	0	0.94	22	76	55	0	0	0	0	
MIAMI	78	64	81	58	71	0	0.00	-0.49	0.00	0.00	0	3.79	80	79	46	0	0	0	0	
ORLANDO	79	53	86	46	66	0	0.00	-0.77	0.00	0.00	0	2.79	47	92	48	0	0	0	0	
PENSACOLA	76	57	83	47	66	7	0.05	-1.40	0.05	0.05	2	6.80	55	81	51	0	0	1	0	
TALLAHASSEE	75	44	81	33	60	0	0.00	-1.50	0.00	0.00	0	9.71	79	86	54	0	0	0	0	
TAMPA	76	56	85	48	66	0	0.00	-0.68	0.00	0.00	0	9.79	163	81	43	0	0	0	0	
WEST PALM BEACH	77	60	81	49	69	-1	0.00	-0.72	0.00	0.00	0	4.41	60	84	53	0	0	0	0	
GA ATHENS	71	43	83	32	57	6	0.40	-0.79	0.32	0.40	22	8.26	76	77	38	0	1	4	0	
ATLANTA	69	46	78	38	58	6	0.33	-0.94	0.22	0.33	17	10.93	94	77	38	0	0	4	0	
AUGUSTA	71	41	85	29	56	2	0.03	-1.04	0.03	0.03	2	6.39	62	90	46	0	2	1	0	
COLUMBUS	73	47	81	38	60	4	3.01	1.67	1.51	3.01	145	10.44	92	82	38	0	0	4	2	
MACON	71	43	81	30	57	3	0.81	-0.35	0.56	0.81	45	6.65	59	86	41	0	1	4	1	
SAVANNAH	72	43	83	32	58	0	0.00	-0.74	0.00	0.00	0	6.85	85	87	47	0	1	0	0	
HI HILO	77	66	79	63	71	-1	10.52	7.55	4.20	14.41	320	34.30	148	92	81	0	0	6	4	
HONOLULU	80	69	83	65	74	0	0.93	0.45	0.64	2.14	278	6.29	108	82	73	0	0	3	1	
KAHULUI	84	67	88	60	76	3	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0	1.43	21	78	67	0	0	0	0	
LIHUE	77	70	80	67	74	2	3.34	2.54	1.48	6.44	511	16.96	186	85	77	0	0	4	3	
ID BOISE	46	30	53	25	38	-4	0.46	0.16	0.17	0.66	140	2.82	94	77	56	0	5	4	0	
LEWISTON	50	33	57	26	42	-1	0.24	0.02	0.16	0.24	69	1.61	66	77	55	0	4	3	0	
POCATELLO	41	22	51	14	32	-4	0.30	0.00	0.17	0.40	85	2.49	95	86	56	0	7	4	0	
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	49	33	67	20	41	7	1.76	1.28	0.72	1.76	244	6.34	155	89	75	0	3	7	1	
MOLINE	52	35	75	29	43	8	1.25	0.71	0.49	1.34	163	5.13	131	91	74	0	3	4	0	
PEORIA	53	36	69	28	45	8	1.69	1.12	0.55	1.86	211	5.82	144	92	62	0	2	6	1	
ROCKFORD	47	31	68	16	39	6	1.51	1.10	0.85	1.51	240	5.14	152	92	79	0	3	5	1	
SPRINGFIELD	55	38	71	27	47	8	1.79	1.13	0.89	1.80	178	4.45	100	88	70	0	2	6	1	
IN EVANSVILLE	58	41	67	27	50	7	5.92	4.99	2.89	5.92	414	12.20	164	80	63	0	1	5	3	
FORT WAYNE	49	31	60	17	40	5	1.10	0.54	0.44	1.11	128	5.77	119	94	68	0	3	7	0	
INDIANAPOLIS	50	36	60	23	43	4	3.29	2.55	1.33	3.29	289	8.48	141	97	71	0	3	7	3	
SOUTH BEND	49	31	65	15	40	5	1.71	1.15	0.98	1.72	202	5.54	109	88	75	0	3	7	1	
IA BURLINGTON	55	37	79	31	46	9	1.25	0.65	0.52	1.66	182	4.68	124	89	53	0	3	5	1	
CEDAR RAPIDS	46	31	68	28	39	6	2.85	2.45	2.00	3.18	539	5.13	187	99	67	0	5	4	2	
DES MOINES	50	31	62	27	40	5	1.14	0.75	0.73	1.39	240	2.36	84	92	76	0	5	4	1	
DUBUQUE	45	30</																		

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 11, 2006

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						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 MAR01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
KY WICHITA	69	41	79	30	55	12	0.41	-0.16	0.40	0.57	67	0.68	25	76	44	0	1	2	0
KY JACKSON	61	42	75	29	52	8	1.06	0.04	0.40	1.07	67	8.49	96	79	32	0	1	5	0
KY LEXINGTON	55	37	68	23	46	3	0.90	-0.12	0.67	0.90	57	8.39	102	77	58	0	2	5	1
KY LOUISVILLE	56	41	68	28	48	4	1.36	0.35	0.69	1.36	87	7.71	95	84	49	0	2	6	2
LA PADUCAH	65	42	79	31	53	8	3.69	2.75	3.55	3.69	249	12.69	143	89	42	0	1	4	1
LA BATON ROUGE	81	57	87	46	69	10	0.00	-1.09	0.00	0.00	0	6.11	47	89	43	0	0	0	0
LA LAKE CHARLES	79	57	81	49	68	9	0.01	-0.75	0.01	0.01	1	4.66	47	90	56	0	0	1	0
LA NEW ORLEANS	78	60	82	47	69	8	0.24	-0.89	0.24	0.24	13	6.35	48	84	60	0	0	1	0
LA SHREVEPORT	81	55	87	45	68	11	0.47	-0.47	0.47	0.47	32	10.74	104	83	36	0	0	1	0
ME CARIBOU	36	18	43	1	27	6	0.13	-0.41	0.13	0.19	23	6.11	104	82	53	0	7	1	0
ME PORTLAND	45	25	54	21	35	4	0.16	-0.70	0.14	0.16	12	6.61	77	80	45	0	6	2	0
MD BALTIMORE	60	35	77	24	47	6	0.00	-0.91	0.00	0.16	11	6.28	79	67	29	0	4	0	0
MA BOSTON	47	32	66	26	39	3	0.00	-0.83	0.00	0.00	0	7.21	85	71	42	0	4	0	0
MA WORCESTER	46	28	65	21	37	5	0.03	-0.88	0.02	0.03	2	8.82	103	73	33	0	5	2	0
MI ALPENA	41	18	49	3	30	5	0.96	0.53	0.69	0.96	148	5.57	148	92	60	0	7	3	1
MI GRAND RAPIDS	49	28	63	17	38	6	1.51	1.04	0.66	1.65	236	8.34	196	93	60	0	5	7	1
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	42	19	52	3	31	5	1.12	0.73	0.68	1.31	222	5.36	155	88	62	0	6	4	1
MI LANSING	48	27	60	16	38	7	1.35	0.94	0.66	1.50	242	7.36	200	90	68	0	6	6	1
MI MUSKOGON	47	28	67	17	37	6	1.72	1.28	0.86	1.83	273	7.62	170	88	76	0	5	5	1
MI TRAVERSE CITY	43	23	56	8	33	5	0.65	0.31	0.41	0.69	133	3.77	71	92	55	0	5	4	0
MN DULUTH	36	26	42	15	31	9	0.52	0.22	0.24	0.76	173	2.18	91	93	78	0	7	4	0
MN INT'L FALLS	36	24	46	12	30	10	0.49	0.33	0.28	0.49	204	2.02	117	93	70	0	7	4	0
MN MINNEAPOLIS	44	30	56	25	37	8	0.22	-0.11	0.19	0.23	48	1.26	55	89	73	0	6	2	0
MN ROCHESTER	42	30	57	28	36	9	0.72	0.41	0.29	0.78	173	1.51	71	90	80	0	6	4	0
MN ST. CLOUD	41	27	50	23	34	9	0.23	0.00	0.15	0.51	155	1.06	63	93	73	0	7	2	0
MS JACKSON	78	48	86	39	63	8	1.23	0.03	1.23	1.23	66	14.99	125	85	37	0	0	1	1
MS MERIDIAN	78	45	85	36	62	6	0.97	-0.59	0.86	0.98	41	12.84	94	86	40	0	0	5	1
MS TUPELO	74	47	83	36	60	9	1.30	-0.15	1.06	1.30	58	12.79	106	78	50	0	0	2	1
MO COLUMBIA	63	39	81	27	51	10	1.86	1.20	0.77	1.86	182	3.88	78	92	57	0	2	5	2
MO KANSAS CITY	66	39	79	34	52	11	0.23	-0.28	0.15	0.56	72	1.71	53	79	45	0	0	4	0
MO SAINT LOUIS	60	41	81	29	50	7	1.93	1.17	0.79	1.95	167	4.04	72	90	71	0	1	6	1
MO SPRINGFIELD	67	41	79	26	54	10	1.44	0.68	0.97	1.48	129	3.34	60	82	52	0	1	3	1
MT BILLINGS	48	23	56	12	36	1	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.01	3	0.21	13	66	26	0	6	0	0
MT BUTTE	37	16	48	5	26	-2	0.09	-0.08	0.06	0.09	36	0.73	58	84	33	0	7	3	0
MT CUT BANK	39	18	52	4	28	-1	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.00	0	0.21	26	79	40	0	7	0	0
MT GLASGOW	38	21	45	13	30	2	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.13	100	1.40	189	84	70	0	7	1	0
MT GREAT FALLS	44	21	59	9	32	1	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.14	48	1.29	87	76	29	0	6	0	0
MT HAVRE	36	17	48	1	27	-3	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.10	48	0.78	75	82	67	0	7	0	0
MT MISSOULA	40	25	43	19	32	-3	0.34	0.15	0.20	0.90	300	2.51	118	85	64	0	7	3	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	57	33	67	26	45	10	0.33	-0.06	0.33	0.43	74	0.68	38	86	56	0	2	1	0
NE LINCOLN	58	30	70	23	44	8	0.32	-0.10	0.25	0.61	98	1.59	82	86	56	0	5	2	0
NE NORFOLK	56	32	61	25	44	10	0.71	0.34	0.42	1.00	179	1.52	80	83	49	0	3	2	0
NE NORTH PLATTE	58	25	74	16	41	5	0.01	-0.23	0.01	0.02	6	0.36	29	85	30	0	6	1	0
NE OMAHA	54	31	62	26	43	7	0.33	-0.08	0.21	0.39	64	1.13	52	90	63	0	4	2	0
NE SCOTTSBLUFF	50	22	66	13	36	1	0.19	-0.02	0.16	0.19	59	1.23	85	76	53	0	7	3	0
NE VALENTINE	53	25	72	15	39	6	0.25	0.04	0.20	0.25	81	0.67	61	88	45	0	6	2	0
NV ELY	37	15	49	-3	26	-8	0.53	0.30	0.17	0.62	172	2.29	124	78	61	0	7	6	0
NV LAS VEGAS	61	46	70	37	54	-3	0.00	-0.16	0.00	0.00	0	0.09	6	43	30	0	0	0	0
NV RENO	47	29	59	21	38	-4	0.11	-0.11	0.04	0.29	81	2.93	118	72	48	0	5	3	0
NV WINNEMUCCA	44	23	59	17	34	-6	0.22	0.05	0.10	0.28	108	2.30	135	80	54	0	6	5	0
NH CONCORD	45	21	55	11	33	3	0.13	-0.52	0.09	0.13	13	6.33	100	87	39	0	6	2	0
NJ NEWARK	55	35	76	26	45	5	0.00	-0.91	0.00	0.49	35	7.67	92	60	36	0	4	0	0
NM ALBUQUERQUE	59	37	73	30	48	2	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.01	5	0.05	4	42	14	0	2	0	0
NY ALBANY	47	25	66	15	36	4	0.19	-0.45	0.19	0.19	19	5.96	106	77	35	0	5	1	0
NY BINGHAMTON	42	24	58	13	33	3	0.23	-0.38	0.21	0.59	61	5.13	86	83	51	0	4	2	0
NY BUFFALO	45	26	58	19	36	4	0.57	-0.05	0.50	0.80	83	6.92	106	87	46	0	5	2	1
NY ROCHESTER	46	27	60	20	37	6	0.34	-0.19	0.34	0.34	42	4.89	94	80	49	0	5	1	0
NY SYRACUSE	42	24	61	10	33	2	0.51	-0.10	0.51	0.57	61	5.19	92	80	50	0	4	1	1
NC ASHEVILLE	63	37	75	26	50	6	0.11	-0.94	0.06	0.11	7	6.25	66	77	34	0	3	3	0
NC CHARLOTTE	66	41	76	31	54	3	0.10	-0.92	0.09	0.10	6	4.50	49	79	36	0	2	2	0
NC GREENSBORO	65	41	79	27	53	6	0.17	-0.70	0.11	0.17	13	4.11	51	79	27	0	2	3	0
NC HATTERAS	54	45	63	35	50	0	0.00	-1.11	0.00	0.00	0	6.48	56	87	61	0	0	0	0
NC RALEIGH	66	39	81	26	52	4	0.13	-0.83	0.11	0.13	9	3.85	43	83	47	0	3	3	0
NC WILMINGTON	66	42	80	28	54	1	0.23	-0.76	0.14	0.23	15	5.46	56	86	38	0	3	2	0
ND BISMARCK	46	25	54	19	36	9	0.14	-0.01	0.13	0.23	105	0.61	52	85	53	0	7	2	0
ND DICKINSON	43	18	50	6	30	2	0.02	-0.05	0.01	0.03	30	0.49	54	91	43	0	7	2	0
ND FARGO	37	28	42	23	33	10	0.30	0.08	0.23	0.33	100	1.16	69	93	73	0	6	4	0
ND GRAND FORKS	35	25	37	17	30	8	0.36	0.19	0.31	0.50	200	1.68	111	95	76	0	7	2	0
ND JAMESTOWN	40	28	47	24	34	9	0.09	-0.07	0.08	0.15	63	0.36	26	95	65	0	7	2	0
ND WILLISTON	40	20	48	7	30	4	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.06	30	0.50	44	84	64	0	7	0	0
OH AKRON-CANTON	48	31	61	17	39	4	0.11	-0.57	0.07	0.24	23	5.70	98	81	57	0	4	3	0
OH CINCINNATI	51	36	64	25	44	3	3.01	-2.18	1.22	3.01	235	8.56	123	85	63	0	3	5	3
OH CLEVELAND	48	32	62	20	40	5	0.31	-0.29	0.27	0.56	60	5.28	93	81	53	0	4	3	0
OH COLUMBUS	50	33	61	19	41	2	0.72	0.11	0.29	0.72	77	4.75	84	80	62	0	3	5	0
OH DAYTON	49	32	60	19	40	2	1.49	0.84	0.54	1.49	149	6.12	104	95	64	0	3	5	1
OH MANSFIELD	48	29	59	18	39	5	0.32	-0.33	0.25	0.42	42	5.62	97	92	58	0	5	5	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

\*\*\* Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 11, 2006

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						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 MAR01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL IN. SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
OK TOLEDO	49	28	59	17	39	5	0.90	0.39	0.59	0.94	121	5.73	125	88	66	0	6	5	1
OK YOUNGSTOWN	48	29	62	18	39	5	0.22	-0.40	0.22	0.61	64	5.29	99	84	53	0	4	1	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	77	49	82	38	63	14	0.34	-0.31	0.32	0.35	35	0.70	18	81	31	0	0	2	0
OR TULSA	76	48	80	39	62	13	0.30	-0.48	0.30	0.35	29	1.42	30	73	48	0	0	1	0
OR ASTORIA	48	37	56	29	43	-3	2.96	1.22	1.17	3.22	117	31.23	154	93	77	0	2	6	3
OR BURNS	38	22	44	14	30	-6	0.19	-0.11	0.11	0.34	72	2.83	103	85	70	0	7	4	0
OR EUGENE	48	36	58	27	42	-3	1.52	0.13	0.59	1.76	80	17.46	108	91	77	0	3	6	1
OR MEDFORD	46	36	52	30	41	-5	0.87	0.43	0.27	1.05	148	8.11	154	87	61	0	3	5	0
OR PENDLETON	50	32	55	23	41	-3	0.28	0.00	0.18	0.28	65	2.83	91	71	48	0	4	2	0
OR PORTLAND	48	38	55	30	43	-3	1.20	0.31	0.36	1.44	102	14.52	136	87	74	0	1	7	0
OR SALEM	48	36	56	27	42	-4	1.76	0.74	0.73	1.91	116	17.40	138	91	78	0	2	6	2
PA ALLENTOWN	55	33	75	21	44	8	0.01	-0.77	0.01	0.35	29	7.95	107	61	36	0	4	1	0
PA ERIE	46	30	62	22	38	4	0.42	-0.21	0.40	0.59	60	5.56	96	83	55	0	5	2	0
PA MIDDLETOWN	55	35	72	26	45	7	0.02	-0.72	0.02	0.20	17	6.81	98	70	31	0	4	1	0
PA PHILADELPHIA	57	37	76	28	47	6	0.00	-0.83	0.00	0.19	15	6.04	80	60	31	0	4	0	0
PA PITTSBURGH	50	29	64	20	39	2	0.20	-0.48	0.09	0.37	35	5.85	96	88	42	0	5	4	0
PA WILKES-BARRE	48	29	65	16	39	4	0.04	-0.50	0.03	0.48	58	5.96	111	75	38	0	4	2	0
PA WILLIAMSPORT	52	30	67	20	41	6	0.04	-0.63	0.03	0.53	51	7.66	118	76	35	0	4	2	0
RI PROVIDENCE	49	30	65	22	40	4	0.01	-0.92	0.01	0.34	24	8.20	89	75	49	0	4	1	0
SC BEAUFORT	70	46	82	35	58	3	0.00	-0.76	0.00	0.00	0	5.80	70	92	40	0	0	0	0
SC CHARLESTON	71	45	83	33	58	2	0.01	-0.86	0.01	0.01	1	6.24	73	87	36	0	0	1	0
SC COLUMBIA	70	42	80	28	56	3	0.00	-1.03	0.00	0.00	0	6.12	61	85	51	0	2	0	0
SC GREENVILLE	68	43	77	31	56	6	0.14	-1.13	0.10	0.14	7	5.20	49	73	33	0	1	3	0
SD ABERDEEN	46	27	56	23	36	9	0.43	0.20	0.38	0.44	129	0.99	76	89	65	0	7	3	0
SD HURON	50	26	59	18	38	9	0.21	-0.09	0.12	0.21	48	0.64	43	88	45	0	7	2	0
SD RAPID CITY	52	23	64	16	38	5	0.01	-0.17	0.01	0.01	4	0.37	33	77	29	0	7	1	0
SD SIOUX FALLS	51	27	57	22	39	10	0.12	-0.19	0.12	0.12	27	1.03	71	85	62	0	6	1	0
TN BRISTOL	63	33	78	19	48	4	0.30	-0.61	0.16	0.31	22	6.19	74	88	31	0	3	2	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	68	44	81	36	56	7	0.50	-0.92	0.47	0.50	23	7.74	62	77	48	0	0	2	0
TN KNOXVILLE	66	41	81	28	54	7	0.46	-0.74	0.30	0.46	25	7.01	67	82	35	0	1	3	0
TN MEMPHIS	72	48	81	38	60	9	1.58	0.38	1.51	1.58	84	12.52	120	78	43	0	0	2	1
TN NASHVILLE	66	44	80	33	55	7	0.98	-0.14	0.86	0.98	56	10.24	109	76	37	0	0	2	1
TX ABILENE	81	54	85	44	67	13	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.00	0	1.70	66	61	41	0	0	0	0
TX AMARILLO	71	39	82	29	55	9	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.28	85	0.37	25	66	14	0	1	0	0
TX AUSTIN	85	56	93	37	71	11	0.01	-0.51	0.01	0.02	2	2.88	61	81	52	2	0	1	0
TX BEAUMONT	79	59	82	50	69	8	0.10	-0.70	0.10	0.10	8	3.79	37	93	56	0	0	1	0
TX BROWNSVILLE	87	68	91	63	77	10	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	0.84	30	90	51	2	0	0	0
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	86	65	91	59	76	12	0.00	-0.40	0.00	0.00	0	0.32	8	91	64	2	0	0	0
TX DEL RIO	86	59	92	45	72	10	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	0.29	16	65	44	2	0	0	0
TX EL PASO	73	47	83	42	60	5	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	0.30	32	35	10	0	0	0	0
TX FORT WORTH	80	59	86	50	69	14	0.00	-0.74	0.00	0.00	0	6.10	112	81	43	0	0	0	0
TX GALVESTON	76	63	84	59	70	8	0.01	-0.58	0.01	0.01	1	1.25	16	94	67	0	0	1	0
TX HOUSTON	80	60	85	47	70	10	0.01	-0.71	0.01	0.01	1	3.97	51	87	60	0	0	1	0
TX LUBBOCK	77	45	88	37	61	12	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	0.18	13	54	23	0	0	0	0
TX MIDLAND	78	47	85	38	63	9	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.98	76	62	29	0	0	0	0
TX SAN ANGELO	82	50	87	40	66	11	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.00	0	0.85	36	64	34	0	0	0	0
TX SAN ANTONIO	87	61	93	45	74	14	0.00	-0.41	0.00	0.00	0	0.97	24	85	33	2	0	0	0
TX VICTORIA	84	61	88	48	72	10	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.01	1	2.12	40	91	71	0	0	0	0
TX WACO	81	57	86	43	69	12	0.17	-0.43	0.15	0.17	18	4.03	76	84	57	0	0	2	0
TX WICHITA FALLS	82	52	85	43	67	15	0.25	-0.25	0.16	0.25	32	1.05	30	67	38	0	0	2	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	47	29	59	22	38	-3	0.71	0.30	0.29	0.71	113	3.29	99	79	39	0	5	5	0
VT BURLINGTON	40	20	56	6	30	2	0.11	-0.34	0.09	0.35	51	5.69	124	83	46	0	6	2	0
VA LYNCHBURG	63	34	79	24	49	6	0.10	-0.76	0.10	0.10	7	5.32	67	70	24	0	3	1	0
VA NORFOLK	59	42	76	27	50	3	0.11	-0.81	0.11	0.17	12	3.50	40	81	39	0	2	1	0
VA RICHMOND	63	40	81	28	52	7	0.00	-0.93	0.00	0.00	0	4.36	55	66	38	0	3	0	0
VA ROANOKE	63	38	77	28	51	6	0.06	-0.79	0.06	0.06	5	5.18	68	65	38	0	2	1	0
WA WASH/DULLES	60	35	78	23	47	6	0.00	-0.79	0.00	0.01	1	4.79	68	64	32	0	3	0	0
WA OLYMPIA	46	34	52	33	40	-3	1.77	0.52	0.72	1.87	94	21.18	135	92	79	0	0	7	1
WA QUILLAYUTE	48	35	53	27	42	-1	3.26	0.59	2.18	3.72	87	34.11	113	93	78	0	3	5	1
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	48	37	55	32	43	-2	0.59	-0.28	0.38	0.62	45	14.82	139	90	73	0	1	5	0
WA SPOKANE	41	28	48	22	35	-3	0.32	-0.04	0.18	0.32	57	5.99	154	87	61	0	6	4	0
WA YAKIMA	49	28	57	20	38	-3	0.14	0.00	0.14	0.14	58	2.59	117	82	60	0	7	1	0
WV BECKLEY	56	32	74	16	44	4	0.26	-0.57	0.15	0.27	21	4.39	59	72	45	0	4	5	0
WV CHARLESTON	59	34	74	19	47	4	0.42	-0.49	0.34	0.44	31	5.49	70	83	36	0	3	4	0
WV ELKINS	58	28	76	16	43	5	0.15	-0.74	0.13	0.34	24	4.68	58	84	30	0	5	3	0
WV HUNTINGTON	57	35	76	20	46	3	0.80	-0.08	0.37	0.83	60	5.58	73	82	41	0	3	5	0
WI EAU CLAIRE	43	30	60	25	36	9	0.51	0.21	0.37	0.51	116	2.05	90	94	62	0	6	4	0
WI GREEN BAY	40	24	51	11	32	4	0.56	0.19	0.16	0.72	131	3.70	134	93	72	0	5	6	0
WI LA CROSSE	46	30	66	24	38	7	0.75	0.44	0.40	0.75	163	1.93	73	92	60	0	5	4	0
WI MADISON	44	29	65	14	36	5	1.14	0.75	0.65	1.21	205	3.98	128	94	79	0	4	6	1
WI MILWAUKEE	44	29	58	19	37	5	1.61	1.16	0.78	1.67	246	5.50	132	90	80	0	4	6	1
WY CASPER	46	22	63	10	34	1	0.26	0.07	0.14	0.26	87	1.65	109	71	37	0	6	2	0
WY CHEYENNE	44	19	63	2	31	-2	0.17	-0.03	0.10	0.18	60	0.74	62	61	42	0	6	4	0
WY LANDER	45	21	58	11	33	0	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	1.03	74	50	30	0	6	0	0
WY SHERIDAN	50	21	62	10	35	2	0.11	-0.06	0.08	0.11	44	0.63	40	73	44	0	7	2	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

\*\*\* Not Available

## February Weather and Crop Summary

### Weather

*Weather summary provided by USDA/WAOB*

Drought stress on pastures and dryland winter grains remained severe across the southern Plains and the Southwest, and began to spread northward through the central Plains. Farther north, snow insulated most of Nebraska's winter wheat from a short-lived but severe cold wave, while Montana's wheat had only patchy, shallow protection on February 17-18 from temperatures as low as -30°F. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather returned to much of California and the Pacific Northwest, but abundant February snowfall maintained favorable prospects for summer water supplies across the northern Rockies and the interior Northwest. In contrast, the Southwest continued to brace for minimal spring and summer runoff, although many reservoirs remained at adequate levels following the phenomenally wet winter of 2004-05. Farther east, rain provided additional drought relief from eastern Texas to the Delta, while drought persisted in the central Corn Belt. Dryness gradually intensified across the interior Southeast, including North Carolina, while periodic rainfall eased previously dry conditions in Florida. However, the Southeast had a midmonth brush with cold weather, culminating on February 14 in a light freeze as far south as interior southern Florida. Elsewhere, a February 11-12 snow storm interrupted an otherwise quiet weather pattern in the Mid-Atlantic States, while Midwestern conditions ranged from drier than normal in the Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys to frequently snowy in the Great Lakes region.

Sharp temperature fluctuations tended to average out, resulting in near-normal February temperatures across much of the Nation. On the Plains, for example, warm spells in early February and again toward month's end were balanced by a week-long cold snap beginning in mid-February. Elsewhere, monthly temperatures averaged slightly below normal across the South and Northwest but were mostly above normal in the drought-stricken Southwest.

Early in the month in Texas, Lubbock's record-setting dry spell ended at 98 days (October 28 - February 2), but the city's rain (0.03 inch on February 3) provided negligible drought relief. For the month, Lubbock's total of 0.18 inch (25 percent of normal) was not a record, but February-record dryness was observed at several locations in a broad area stretching from the Southwest to the Ohio Valley:

#### Record-Low February Precipitation (Inches)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Previous Record</u>
Phoenix, AZ	0.00	0.77	0.00 in 2002 and earlier
Joplin, MO	0.01	2.25	0.23 in 1904
Kansas City, MO	0.04	1.31	0.07 in 1917 and 1920
Springfield, MO	0.09	2.28	0.35 in 1947
Columbia, MO	0.11	2.20	0.11 in 1991
Parkersburg, WV	0.51	2.71	0.56 in 1968

On a slightly longer time scale, January-February rainfall totaled just 1.24 inches (16 percent of normal) in Galveston, TX, the second-driest start to a year there behind 1.05 inches during the first 2 months of 1916. Farther north, Tulsa, OK, completed its driest winter on record (1.59 inches, or 27 percent of normal), edging its December 1962 - February 1963 standard of 1.76 inches. Meanwhile, November-February precipitation records for dryness were broken in many Southwestern locations, including Albuquerque, NM (0.14 inch, or 7 percent of normal), and Tucson, AZ (0.01 inch, or less than 1 percent). Albuquerque's previous record of 0.30 inch was established in 1903-04; Tucson's rainfall also tied a record for its lowest total for any 4-month period (0.01 inch from March-June 1959 and January-April 1972). At month's end, Phoenix, AZ, recorded its 133<sup>rd</sup> consecutive day without a drop of rain (previously, 101 days from September 23, 1999 - January 1, 2000). However, the longest spell in Phoenix without measurable rain remained 160 days, set from December 30, 1971 - June 6, 1972. Elsewhere, San Antonio, TX, received 12.91 inches of precipitation (39 percent of normal) for the 1-year period ending in February 2006, ahead of only a 9.87-inch sum from March 1917 - February 1918.

#### Record-Low November-February Precipitation (Inches)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Previous Record</u>
Phoenix, AZ	0.00	3.25	0.01 in 1999-2000
Tucson, AZ	0.01	3.57	0.29 in 1999-2000
Albuquerque, NM	0.14	2.04	0.30 in 1903-04
Roswell, NM	0.18	1.92	0.28 in 1973-74
Clayton, NM	0.21	1.43	0.26 in 1949-50
Santa Fe, NM	0.27	2.80	0.49 in 1903-04
Alamogordo, NM	0.33	3.06	0.45 in 1955-56
Gallup, NM	0.43	3.12	0.55 in 1989-90

While the Southwest stayed dry, the Northwest experienced a reprieve from January downpours. However, a final storm tore through the Northwest on February 3-4, bearing high winds and temporarily cutting electricity to more than 250,000 customers. February 3-4 peak wind gusts in western Washington were clocked to 68 m.p.h. on Whidbey Island and 78 m.p.h. on Hurricane Ridge, while Lincoln City, OR, also recorded 78 m.p.h. In the storm's wake, approximately 100 Western daily-record highs were set from February 5-11. Most of the record highs were set in California, where three consecutive daily-record highs were observed in Red Bluff (78, 79, and 78°F from February 7-9) and Paso Robles (81, 79, and 76°F from February 9-11). Highs reached 90°F in California locations such as Death Valley (on February 9), Oxnard (on February 9), and Santa Ana (on February 8). For Death Valley, it was the earliest reading of 90°F or higher, breaking the record set on February 12, 1996.

Farther east, long streaks of above-normal daily average temperatures came to an end. In South Dakota, Mobridge's warm spell easily surpassed its 1936 record of 41 consecutive

days and finally ended at 56 days (December 21 - February 14). Elsewhere in South Dakota, Rapid City's 52-day warm spell (December 20 - February 9) edged its November-December 1939 mark of 48 consecutive days. In Wisconsin, LaCrosse observed its third-longest stretch of consecutive warmer-than-normal days (49 days from December 22 - February 8), trailing 57 days in October-December 2001 and 54 days in January-March 1878. However, wintry weather returned more quickly across the South and East. On February 6, Birmingham, AL, noted a daily-record rainfall of 3.42 inches. A few days later, daily-record snowfall totals included 3.2 inches (on February 10) in Memphis, TN, and 4.3 inches (on February 11) in Jackson, KY. More significant snows were observed across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States on February 11-12, when storm totals reached 26.9 inches at New York's Central Park; 21.9 inches in Hartford, CT; 17.5 inches in Boston, MA; and 13.1 inches in Baltimore, MD. It was the heaviest single-storm snowfall for both New York City (previously, 26.4 inches on December 26-27, 1947) and Hartford (previously, 21.0 inches on February 11-12, 1983). On February 12, northeasterly wind gusts as high as 38 m.p.h. accompanied the snow in New York City. Farther south, chilly weather trailed the East Coast storm into Florida, producing daily-record lows on February 14 in Daytona Beach (29°F) and Melbourne (32°F). Florida Automated Weather Network sensors placed at the (non-standard) 2-foot level across interior southern Florida recorded lows of 28°F in Immokalee and 29°F in Belle Glade.

At midmonth, heavy snow developed in a narrow band stretching from the northern Intermountain West to Michigan. February 14-16 snowfall totaled 16.8 inches in Lander, WY; 14.4 inches in Scottsbluff, NE; and 13.7 inches in Green Bay, WI. A northeasterly wind gust to 49 m.p.h. accompanied the snow in Green Bay, where it was the highest storm total since mid-March 1997 (17.5 inches) and sixth-highest storm-total snowfall on record. Elsewhere in Wisconsin, Madison's February 15-16 total of 10.1 inches represented its greatest 2-day snowfall since January 2-3, 1999, when 10.7 inches fell. The snow preceded the passage of an Arctic cold front, which sparked high winds. On February 16, high winds raised dust in parts of Arizona, where a gust to 74 m.p.h. was reported in Show Low. A day later, a wind gust to 60 m.p.h. was clocked in Las Vegas, NM. High winds raked the Great Lakes and Northeastern States on February 17, when gusts reached 98 m.p.h. in Milton (Saratoga County Airport), NY, and 143 m.p.h. just below the summit of Stratton Mountain, a 3,936-foot peak in Vermont's Green Mountains.

Farther west, a daily-record chill settled across California on February 16, when daily-record lows included 23°F in Redding and 28°F in Santa Maria. A day later, a low of -54°F was reported in northwestern Montana near the Continental Divide at Gates Park. Elsewhere on February 17, daily-record lows included -33°F in Neihart, MT, and -32°F in Casper, WY. Casper's low also set a monthly record, previously established with a low of -30°F on February 24, 2003. At week's end, record

lows for February 18 were set in more than 50 locations, including Wisdom, MT (-43°F), Alliance, NE (-36°F), Stanley, ID (-31°F), Rhinelander, WI (-28°F), and Meacham, OR (-19°F). For Alliance, it was the coldest day since December 23, 1989 (-38°F), and the fifth-lowest temperature since 1890. On the central High Plains, February 18 record lows fell to -13°F in Denver, CO, and -4°F in Goodland, KS. In Milwaukee, WI, the February 18 low of -12°F marked its coldest day since January 5, 1999, when the low was -15°F. Milwaukee also saw the end of its record-setting winter streak with high temperatures of 30°F or higher (57 days from December 22 - February 16; previously, 31 days in December 1931). Elsewhere, freezing rain glazed parts of the interior South, while February 17-19 snow accumulations reached 2.1 inches in Tulsa, OK, and 5.5 inches in both Mountain Home, AR, and Paducah, KY.

California's chilly spell lasted through February 22, when Bakersfield (32°F) noted a daily-record low. By month's end, however, stormy weather returned to the West. Daily-record precipitation totals in California for February 27 included 3.56 inches in Crescent City and 1.53 inches in Burbank. In California's Central Valley, February 27 wind gusts topped 50 m.p.h. in locations such as Sacramento (53 m.p.h.) and Stockton (51 m.p.h.). A gust to 98 m.p.h. was clocked on Angel Island, near San Francisco. Farther east, daily-record totals topped 2 inches on February 25 in locations such as Vicksburg, MS (2.74 inches), and Monroe, LA (2.53 inches). Elsewhere, 3.51 inches of rain drenched Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX, on February 24-25, exceeding the city's 2.94-inch total during the preceding 115 days.

In late February, record warmth developed from the Plains westward. Alliance, NE (75°F), posted a daily-record high on February 28, just 1 week after its last of five consecutive daily-record lows (-30, -36, -16, -16, and -9°F from February 17-21). More than 100 daily-record highs were established from February 27 - March 1, and several monthly records were tied on the last day of February. Denver, CO (77°F), tied a record originally set on February 4, 1890, while Lubbock, TX (89°F), matched a reading attained on February 24, 1918. In Kansas, monthly record-tying temperatures on February 28 included 86°F in Hill City (previously set on February 29, 1972) and 81°F in Goodland (previously set on February 17, 1970).

#### February 28 Monthly Record Highs (°F)

Location	High	Previous Record
Lubbock, TX	89	89 on February 24, 1918
WaKeeney, KS	87	84 on February 18, 1970
Hill City, KS	86	86 on February 29, 1972
Ness City, KS	86	86 on February 17, 1970
Goodland, KS	81	81 on February 17, 1970
Denver, CO	77	77 on February 4, 1890

In Alaska, bitterly cold weather persisted early in the month, followed by a warming trend. On February 3, Barrow's low of -55°F came within 1°F of its all-time record established in 1924. King Salmon noted lows below -30°F on 12 consecutive days

from January 22 - February 2, and posted eight daily-record lows during that span. However, King Salmon's temperature rebounded from a daily-record low of -43°F on February 2 to a high of 30°F the following day. Elsewhere in Alaska, Fairbanks' streak of days with the temperature below -10°F ended at 20 consecutive days (January 14 - February 2). Precipitation accompanied Alaska's return to mild weather, resulting in February 5 snowfall totals of 11.5 inches in Valdez and 2.5 inches in King Salmon. Later in the month, while frigid air reached the Lower 48 States, record warmth overspread Alaska. In western Alaska, Kotzebue collected four consecutive daily-record highs (37, 35, 33, and 30°F) from February 14-17. Barrow also posted multiple record highs, notching 35, 34, and 34°F from February 14-16, respectively. Other Alaskan daily records included 46°F (on February 15) in King Salmon and 41°F (on February 18) in McGrath. Later, Fairbanks measured consecutive daily-record snowfalls on February 25-26, totaling 8.7 inches. For the month, significantly above-normal precipitation across western Alaska contrasted with drier-than-normal conditions in southeastern areas. Nome netted 1.92 inches (256 percent of normal), including 28.1 inches of snow, while Juneau measured 2.07 inches (51 percent). In addition, Juneau's February snowfall totaled 3.0 inches (17 percent of normal).

Following a relatively quiet weather pattern across Hawaii in early to mid-February, rainfall intensified dramatically across the western islands toward month's end. On February 20-21, 24-hour totals on Kauai included 18.37 inches on Mt. Waialeale and 8.01 inches at Hanalei River. Elsewhere on Kauai, Lihue's

monthly rainfall of 8.64 inches (265 percent of normal) was aided by daily-record totals on February 21 (1.80 inches) and 23 (3.46 inches). Farther east, Oahu's Wilson Tunnel measured 10.87 inches of rain in a 48-hour period from February 19-21.

## Fieldwork

*Fieldwork summary provided by USDA/NASS*

After nearly 2 months of above-normal temperatures nationwide, February was marked by more normal temperatures. Though the central Corn Belt, northern Great Plains, and Southwest continued to experience warm weather, below-normal temperatures prevailed across the Southeast, Mississippi Delta, Pacific Northwest, and northern Rocky Mountains.

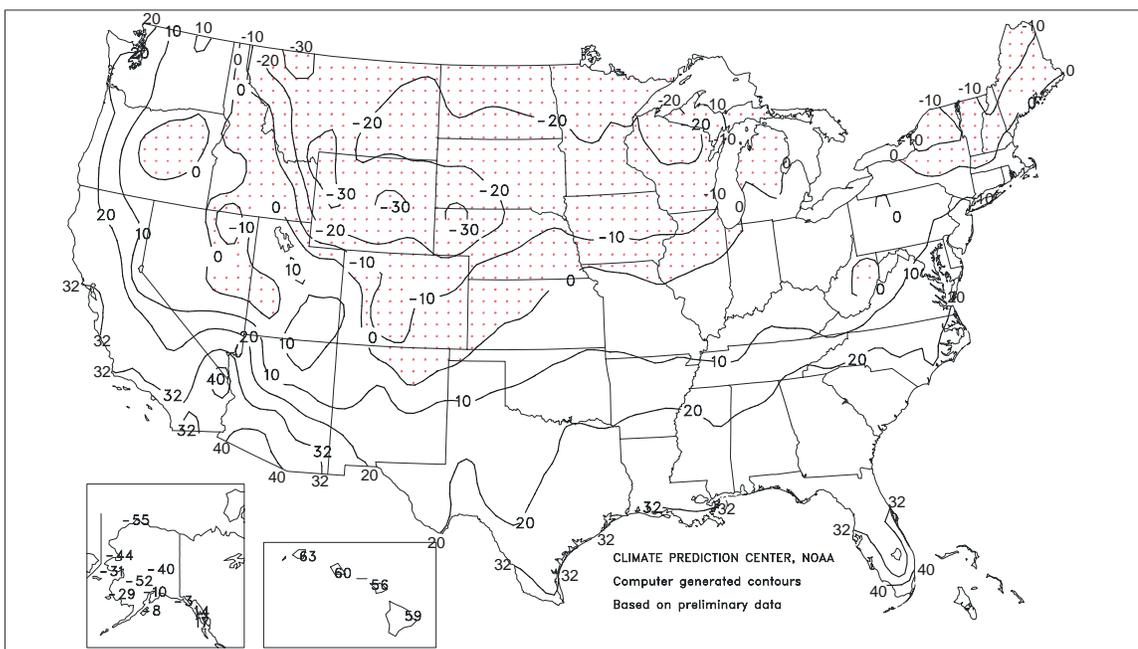
February was a dry month for most of the Nation. Precipitation was below normal across the Corn Belt, favoring land preparation. In the Great Plains, however, a continued lack of precipitation was a serious concern for winter wheat growers. Most northern areas of the region lacked a protective snow cover due to warm weather in previous months, leaving the crop exposed to occasional sub-zero temperatures. Meanwhile on the southern Great Plains, a lack of rainfall, warm weather, and windy conditions continued to deplete soil moisture, causing further stress to winter grains.

Elsewhere, the Southwest remained dry throughout the month, with temperatures averaging above normal. Moderate

precipitation and below-normal temperatures prevailed in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains. In Florida, freezing temperatures in the peninsula around midmonth forced producers to use irrigation and wind machines to avoid freeze damage to winter crops. Field preparation was active across the Southeast and Mississippi Delta, while some planting of summer crops occurred in Texas.

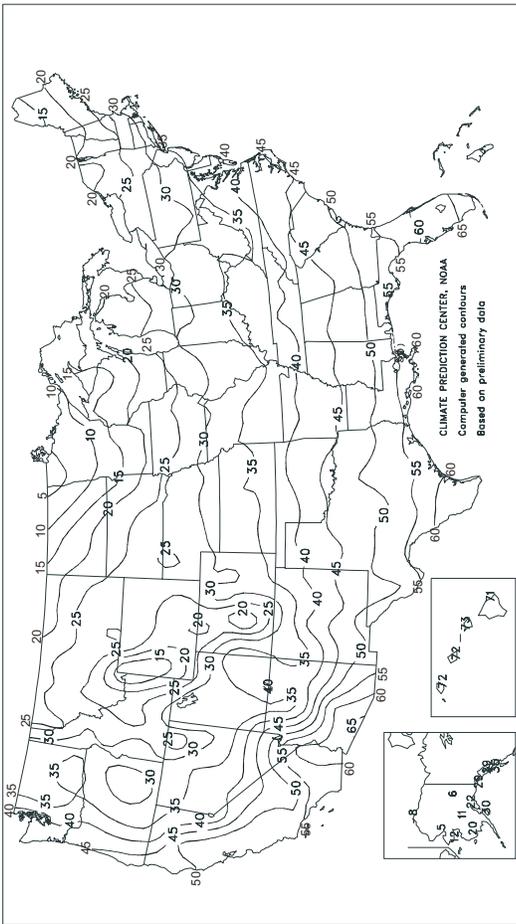
Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

February 2006



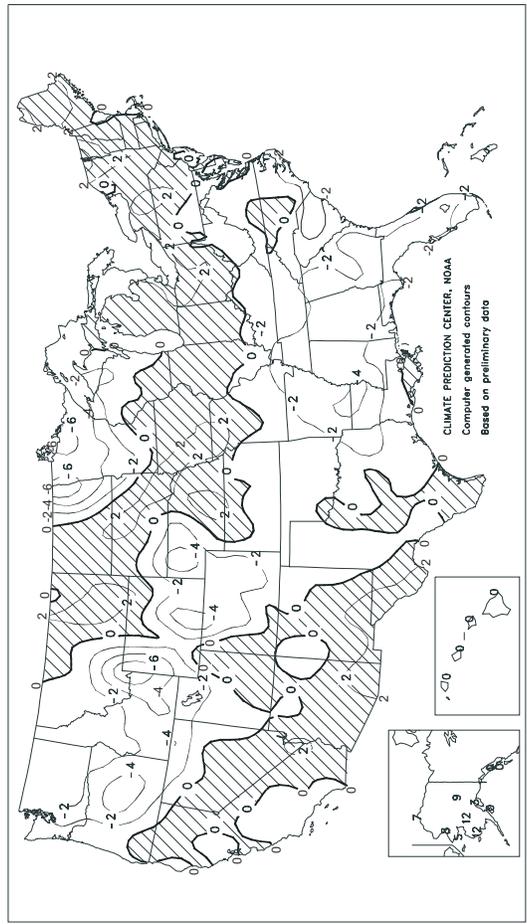
Average Temperature (°F)

February 2006



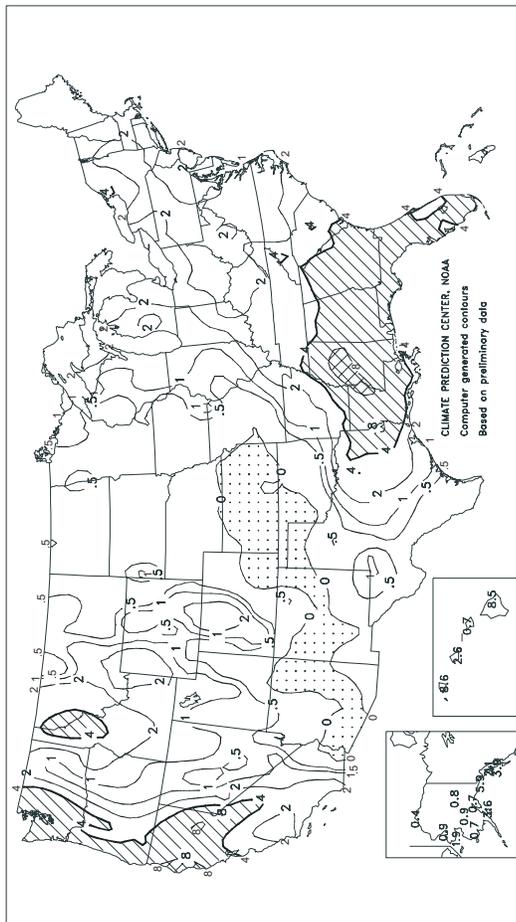
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2006



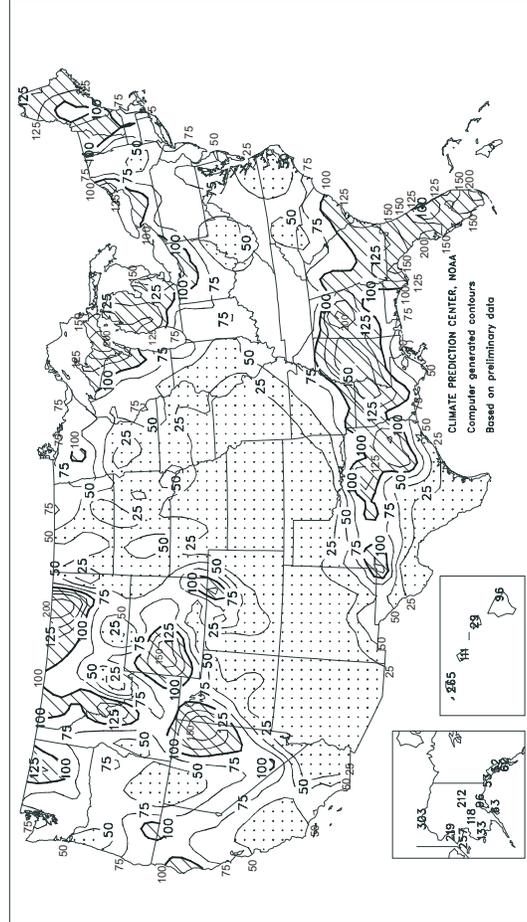
Total Precipitation (inches)

February 2006



Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2006



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

February 2006

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	45	-2	8.71	4.50	LEXINGTON	35	-1	2.12	-1.15	COLUMBUS	33	1	1.36	-0.84
HUNTSVILLE	42	-2	2.49	-2.46	LONDON-CORBIN	37	-2	1.52	-2.20	DAYTON	32	2	1.66	-0.63
MOBILE	53	0	3.94	-1.16	LOUISVILLE	38	0	1.82	-1.43	MANSFIELD	29	2	2.46	0.29
MONTGOMERY	48	-3	5.16	-0.29	LOUCIAH	37	-1	2.72	-1.21	TOLEDO	30	3	1.86	-0.02
AK ANCHORAGE	22	3	0.71	-0.03	LA BATON ROUGE	54	1	4.34	-0.76	YOUNGSTOWN	29	1	1.97	-0.06
BARROW	-8	8	0.36	0.24	LAKE CHARLES	54	0	2.73	-0.55	OK OKLAHOMA CITY	42	0	0.08	-1.48
COLD BAY	30	2	3.99	1.40	NEW ORLEANS	57	1	3.16	-2.31	TULSA	42	0	0.35	-1.60
FAIRBANKS	6	10	0.76	0.40	SHREVEPORT	49	-2	4.91	0.70	OR ASTORIA	43	-1	2.94	-4.93
JUNEAU	29	0	2.07	-1.95	ME BANGOR	22	1	2.43	-0.11	BURNS	26	-4	0.35	-0.76
KING SALMON	23	7	1.25	0.53	CARIBOU	15	2	2.36	0.30	EUGENE	42	-1	3.02	-3.33
KODIAK	30	0	3.59	-2.13	PORTLAND	26	1	2.74	-0.40	MEDFORD	44	0	1.94	-0.16
NOME	12	6	1.92	1.17	MD BALTIMORE	36	1	2.64	-0.38	PENDLETON	36	-3	0.37	-0.85
AZ FLAGSTAFF	34	2	0.09	-2.47	MA BOSTON	31	0	2.64	-0.66	PORTLAND	42	-1	2.15	-2.03
PHOENIX	62	4	0.00	-0.77	WORCESTER	26	0	3.51	0.41	SALEM	42	-1	2.12	-2.97
TUCSON	58	3	0.00	-0.88	MI ALPENA	20	1	1.74	0.39	PA ALLENTOWN	32	2	2.37	-0.38
AR FORT SMITH	43	-1	0.63	-1.96	DETROIT	30	3	2.71	0.83	ERIE	30	2	2.52	0.24
LITTLE ROCK	43	-2	2.08	-1.25	FLINT	25	1	1.48	0.13	MIDDLETOWN	33	2	2.40	-0.53
CA BAKERSFIELD	54	1	0.30	-0.91	GRAND RAPIDS	26	1	2.39	0.86	PHILADELPHIA	35	0	1.51	-1.23
EUREKA	47	-2	6.34	0.83	HOUGHTON LAKE	20	0	1.31	0.06	PITTSBURGH	30	-1	1.74	-0.63
FRESNO	53	2	0.54	-1.58	LANSING	25	1	1.72	0.27	WILKES-BARRE	30	1	1.22	-0.86
LOS ANGELES	59	1	2.03	-1.08	MUSKEGON	27	2	2.09	0.51	WILLIAMSPORT	31	2	1.55	-1.06
REDDING	51	2	4.44	-1.05	TRVERSE CITY	23	1	0.81	-0.98	PR SAN JUAN	76	-1	1.74	-0.56
SACRAMENTO	51	0	2.09	-1.45	MN DULUTH	12	-3	0.94	0.11	RI PROVIDENCE	32	1	2.75	-0.70
SAN DIEGO	58	-1	1.11	-0.93	INTL FALLS	4	-7	0.62	-0.02	SC CHARLESTON	50	-1	3.30	0.22
SAN FRANCISCO	53	1	2.30	-1.71	MINNEAPOLIS	20	0	0.32	-0.47	COLUMBIA	46	-2	3.33	-0.51
STOCKTON	52	1	1.16	-1.30	ROCHESTER	20	2	0.40	-0.35	FLORENCE	46	-2	2.84	-0.18
CO ALAMOSA	25	3	0.02	-0.19	ST. CLOUD	15	-1	0.20	-0.39	GREENVILLE	44	0	1.22	-0.32
CO SPRINGS	30	-2	0.04	-0.31	MS JACKSON	48	-1	7.10	2.60	MYRTLE BEACH	48	-1	2.94	-0.56
DENVER	31	0	0.15	-0.08	MERIDIAN	48	-2	6.78	1.43	SD ABERDEEN	20	1	0.20	-0.28
GRAND JUNCTION	35	1	0.02	-0.48	TUPELO	44	-1	4.81	0.13	HURON	23	2	0.29	-0.28
PUEBLO	32	-3	0.00	-0.26	MO COLUMBIA	34	0	0.11	-2.09	RAPID CITY	26	-1	0.22	-0.24
CT BRIDGEPORT	32	0	2.48	-0.44	JOPLIN	38	-1	0.01	-2.24	SIoux FALLS	23	2	0.14	-0.37
HARTFORD	30	1	3.06	0.10	KANSAS CITY	35	2	0.04	-1.27	TN BRISTOL	37	-1	1.98	-1.42
DC WASHINGTON	38	0	2.46	-0.17	SPRINGFIELD	37	0	0.09	-2.19	CHATTANOOGA	42	-1	2.05	-2.80
DE WILMINGTON	35	1	2.38	-0.43	ST JOSEPH	35	3	0.02	-1.11	JACKSON	39	-4	2.93	-1.32
FL DAYTONA BEACH	58	-2	4.33	1.59	ST LOUIS	35	0	0.46	-1.82	KNOXVILLE	41	-1	2.55	-1.46
FT LAUDERDALE	66	-2	4.88	2.18	MT BILLINGS	30	0	0.11	-0.46	MEMPHIS	42	-3	3.77	-0.54
FT MYERS	64	-2	2.34	0.24	BUTTE	19	-3	0.16	-0.31	NASHVILLE	41	0	2.69	-1.00
JACKSONVILLE	54	-2	3.92	0.77	CUT BANK	23	-1	0.16	-0.12	TX ABILENE	49	0	1.29	0.16
KEY WEST	69	-2	0.71	-0.80	GLASGOW	21	2	0.97	0.71	AMARILLO	39	-2	0.05	-0.50
MELBOURNE	60	-2	2.15	-0.34	GREAT FALLS	27	1	0.44	-0.07	AUSTIN	53	-2	1.06	-0.93
MIAMI	67	-2	3.47	1.40	HELENA	29	3	0.24	-0.14	BEAUMONT	55	-1	1.82	-1.53
ORLANDO	61	-2	2.36	0.01	MILES CITY	26	1	0.26	-0.08	BROWNSVILLE	64	1	0.15	-1.03
PENSACOLA	55	0	3.76	-0.92	MISSOULA	28	-1	0.38	-0.39	COLLEGE STATION	53	-2	3.71	1.33
ST PETERSBURG	62	-1	9.17	6.30	NE GRAND ISLAND	31	3	0.07	-0.61	CORPUS CHRISTI	62	2	0.06	-1.78
TALLAHASSEE	54	-1	7.35	2.72	HASTINGS	32	2	0.08	-0.59	DALLAS/FT WORTH	49	0	3.85	1.48
TAMPA	60	-3	9.09	6.42	LINCOLN	30	2	0.07	-0.59	DEL RIO	56	0	0.04	-0.92
WEST PALM BEACH	65	-2	2.79	0.24	MCCOOK	32	0	0.03	-0.61	EL PASO	53	2	0.28	-0.11
GA ATHENS	44	-3	3.60	-0.79	NORFOLK	28	2	0.17	-0.59	GALVESTON	58	0	0.67	-1.94
ATLANTA	44	-3	5.50	0.82	NORTH PLATTE	28	-1	0.13	-0.38	HOUSTON	55	0	1.46	-1.52
AUGUSTA	47	-1	3.09	-1.02	OMAHA/EPPLEY	30	2	0.06	-0.74	LUBBOCK	45	2	0.18	-0.53
COLUMBUS	49	-1	4.46	-0.02	SCOTTSBLUFF	27	-3	0.55	-0.03	MIDLAND	48	-1	0.82	0.24
MACON	48	-1	3.81	-0.74	VALENTINE	25	-2	0.23	-0.25	SAN ANGELO	50	0	0.67	-0.51
SAVANNAH	50	-3	3.91	0.99	NV ELKO	31	0	1.21	0.33	SAN ANTONIO	56	1	0.62	-1.13
HI HILO	71	0	8.46	-0.40	ELY	29	-1	0.93	0.18	VICTORIA	56	-1	0.61	-1.43
HONOLULU	72	-1	2.62	0.27	LAS VEGAS	54	2	0.05	-0.64	WACO	51	0	1.84	-0.59
KAHULUI	73	1	0.69	-1.67	RENO	39	1	1.04	-0.02	WICHITA FALLS	46	0	0.17	-1.40
LIHUE	72	0	8.64	5.38	WINNEMUCCA	34	-2	0.27	-0.35	UT SALT LAKE CITY	33	-2	1.26	-0.07
ID BOISE	35	-2	0.41	-0.73	NH CONCORD	25	2	2.60	0.24	VT BURLINGTON	23	3	1.51	-0.16
LEWISTON	38	0	0.26	-0.69	NJ ATLANTIC CITY	35	1	2.22	-0.63	VA LYNCHBURG	38	0	2.07	-1.03
POCATELLO	26	-4	0.87	-0.14	NEWARK	35	1	2.36	-0.60	NORFOLK	42	0	0.65	-2.69
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	28	1	1.80	0.17	NM ALBUQUERQUE	43	2	0.00	-0.44	RICHMOND	40	0	1.47	-1.51
MOLINE	28	1	0.98	-0.53	NY ALBANY	28	3	1.02	-1.15	ROANOKE	39	0	1.56	-1.52
PEORIA	30	2	0.56	-1.11	BINGHAMTON	25	1	1.25	-1.21	WASH/DULLES	36	1	2.38	-0.39
ROCKFORD	26	1	0.66	-0.68	BUFFALO	28	2	2.45	0.03	WA OLYMPIA	39	-1	3.45	-2.72
SPRINGFIELD	31	0	0.53	-1.27	ROCHESTER	28	3	2.13	0.09	QUILLAYUTE	42	0	6.37	-5.98
IN EVANSVILLE	35	-1	2.17	-0.93	SYRACUSE	27	3	1.66	-0.46	SEATTLE-TACOMA	43	0	2.55	-1.63
FORT WAYNE	30	3	1.65	-0.29	NC ASHEVILLE	39	0	2.56	-1.27	SPOKANE	31	-2	1.20	-0.31
INDIANAPOLIS	32	1	1.89	-0.52	CHARLOTTE	43	-2	1.17	-2.38	YAKIMA	35	0	0.64	-0.16
SOUTH BEND	29	2	0.95	-1.03	GREENSBORO	42	1	1.54	-1.56	WV BECKLEY	32	-2	1.71	-1.25
IA BURLINGTON	30	2	0.29	-1.25	HATTERAS	46	-1	2.21	-1.73	CHARLESTON	36	-1	1.20	-1.99
CEDAR RAPIDS	24	-1	0.39	-0.71	RALEIGH	43	0	1.65	-1.82	ELKINS	32	0	0.84	-2.36
DES MOINES	28	1	0.22	-0.97	WILMINGTON	46	-3	3.35	-0.31	HUNTINGTON	37	0	0.88	-2.21
DUBUQUE	23	0	0.35	-1.07	ND BISMARCK	20	2	0.20	-0.31	WI EAU CLAIRE	19	0	0.44	-0.36
SIoux CITY	25	0	0.38	-0.24	DICKINSON	21	0	0.20	-0.23	GREEN BAY	19	-1	1.34	0.33
WATERLOO	23	0	0.13	-0.92	FARGO	10	-4	0.46	-0.13	LA CROSSE	22	-1	0.71	-0.28
KS CONCORDIA	33	1	0.01	-0.72	GRAND FORKS	5	-8	0.57	-0.01	MADISON	22	-1	0.81	-0.47
DODGE CITY	36	0	0.00	-0.66	JAMESTOWN	15	-1	0.02	-0.50	MILWAUKEE	26	1	0.91	-0.74
GOODLAND	32	0	0.07	-0.37	MINOT	16	-1	0.08	-0.45	WAUSAU	17	-2	0.65	-0.25
HILL CITY	33	1	0.00	-0.60	WILLISTON	18	1	0.17	-0.22	WY CASPER	24	-3	0.66	0.02
TOPEKA	35	2	0.02	-1.16	OH AKRON-CANTON	29	1	2.31	0.03	CHEYENNE	27	-2	0.52	0.08
WICHITA	36	0	0.00	-1.02	CINCINNATI	35	1	1.34	-1.41	LANDER	24	-2	0.89	0.35
KY JACKSON	38	0	1.85	-1.83	CLEVELAND	30	2	2.80	0.51	SHERIDAN	27	0	0.40	-0.17

Based on 1971-2000 normals

\*\*\* Not Available

## Winter Weather Review

*Review provided by USDA/WAOB*

**Highlights:** An extremely dry winter across the central and southern Plains and the Southwest contrasted with persistent cold-season storminess in the Northwest. December-February precipitation totaled less than 25 percent of normal across the middle and lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas' northern panhandle, southeastern California, and large sections of Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Meanwhile, winter totals in excess of 200 percent of normal were common as far east as the northern Rockies and as far south as the Sierra Nevada. In fact, wet weather nearly eradicated long-term Northwestern drought, but Southwestern drought returned following a 1-year respite. Across the southern Plains and the Southwest, pastures, rangeland, and dryland winter grains deteriorated under relentlessly dry conditions. As winter progressed, drought-related concerns gradually advanced northward across the Plains' winter wheat belt into Nebraska and South Dakota. Farther east, winter precipitation was generally near or above normal in a broad arc from the Great Lakes region into the Northeast. Elsewhere, an extremely sharp moisture gradient became established across the South. Worsening drought along and west of a line from central Texas to the middle Mississippi Valley contrasted with mostly favorable to slightly dry conditions east of a line from Louisiana into the Tennessee Valley.

Although winter temperatures averaged above normal nearly nationwide, fluctuations were significant. In fact, temperatures were significantly below normal across much of the contiguous United States for the first 3 weeks of December and for more than 1 week beginning in mid-February, but climbed to record-setting levels for an extended period from late December into early February. For the 3-month period, however, readings ranged from near normal in the Southeast and Northwest to 3 to 9°F above normal across the Plains and Midwest.

**December:** Following a dry start to December across northern and central California and much of the Northwest, mid- to late-month storminess caused flooding but boosted high-elevation snowpacks and eased long-term drought. Dry conditions persisted, however, across the Southwest, increasing stress on pastures and rangeland. On the southern Plains, where numerous wildfires scorched brush, grassland, and timber, pastures and winter grains continued to suffer from worsening drought, occasional high winds, and sharp temperature fluctuations. Farther north, conditions across the northern and central Plains remained mostly favorable for winter wheat, despite mid- to late-month soil moisture reductions and the loss of a protective snow cover. The Corn Belt experienced a dramatic shift from cold, snowy weather to mild, showery conditions. Toward month's end, muddy conditions increased stress on some Midwestern livestock. Farther east, locally heavy

rain and snow maintained wet conditions in the northern Atlantic States. The South also experienced a late-month warming trend, but abundant soil moisture reserves in the southern Atlantic States contrasted with worsening drought from Texas northeastward to the northern Delta.

Despite a late-December warming trend, monthly temperatures were below normal in the East and Northwest due to the cold snap's magnitude. December readings averaged at least 4°F below normal from the eastern Corn Belt to the northern Mid-Atlantic States and in parts of the interior Northwest. In contrast, warmer-than-normal weather prevailed in California, the Southwest, and the North Central United States, boosting temperatures in some locations more than 4°F above normal.

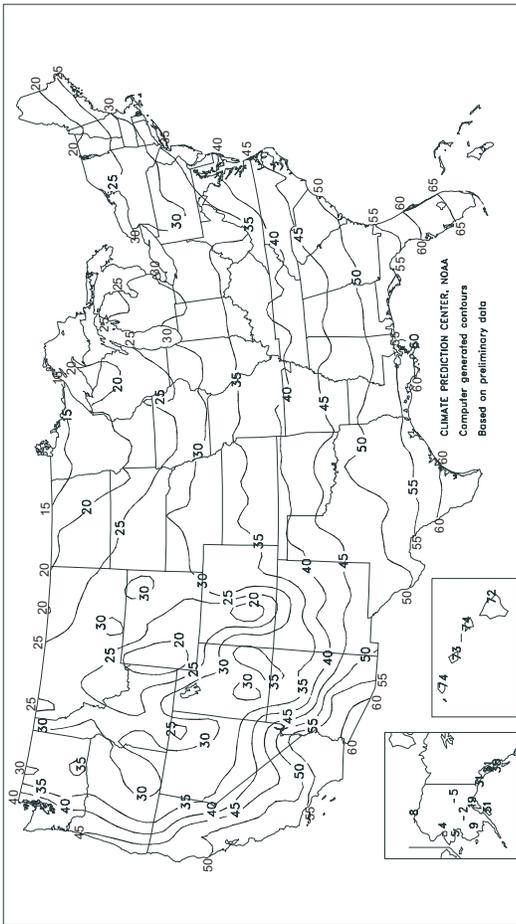
**January:** January featured a remarkable stretch of sustained warmth virtually nationwide, boosting monthly temperatures nearly 20°F above normal on the northern Plains and generally 8 to 18°F above normal across the remainder of the Plains, Midwest, and Northeast. Dozens of locations noted their warmest January, breaking records established as far back as 1914 and 1919. Near-normal January readings were confined to southern Florida, parts of California, and the Desert Southwest.

The new year began in the midst of a flood from northern California into parts of the Northwest. Although showery January weather maintained soggy or snowy conditions in the West as far south as central California, the Great Basin, and Utah's Wasatch Range, the region escaped further widespread flooding. In stark contrast, drought intensified under a dry regime in Arizona and New Mexico due to diminishing soil moisture reserves, meager mountain snowpacks, and prospects for below-normal spring and summer runoff. Exceptionally dry conditions also persisted in winter wheat areas on the southern Plains, further stressing pastures and winter grains. The remainder of the Plains also reported mostly below-normal precipitation and diminishing soil moisture reserves. However, the northern and central Plains' wheat continued to benefit from a lack of weather extremes, despite minimal snow cover and a gradual loss of the crop's winter hardiness. Farther east, most winter wheat areas of the Midwest experienced a wet January, but mild weather kept fields mostly muddy rather than frozen. Muddy conditions were a concern, however, for some Midwestern livestock, especially from the Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region. Elsewhere, Southern pastures and winter grains from eastern Texas to the Delta benefited from soil moisture improvements, but winter agricultural areas of southern Texas and peninsular Florida remained extremely dry through month's end.

**February:** *A complete summary begins on page 9.*

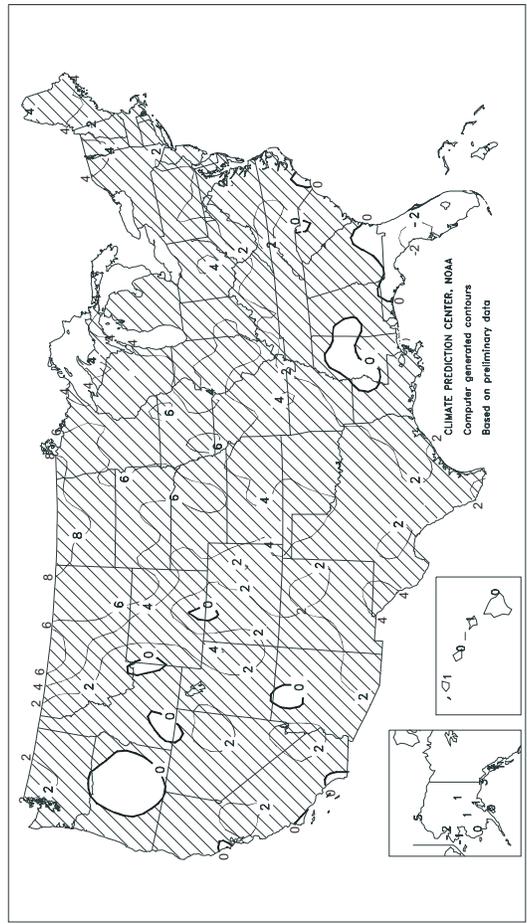
Average Temperature (°F)

DEC 2005 - FEB 2006



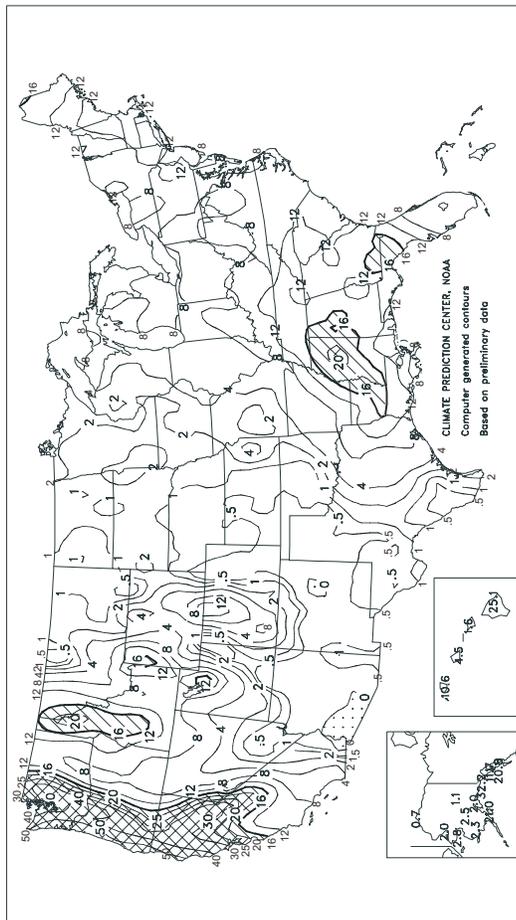
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

DEC 2005 - FEB 2006



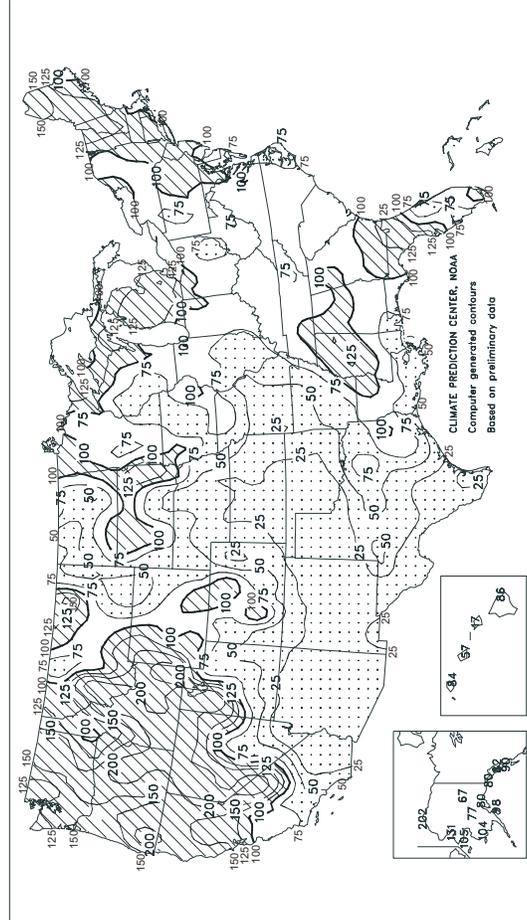
Total Precipitation (inches)

DEC 2005 - FEB 2006



Percent of Normal Precipitation

DEC 2005 - FEB 2006



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY  
Winter 2005 - 06

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	46	1	19.31	5.18	LEXINGTON	37	2	9.89	-0.75	COLUMBUS	35	4	5.72	-1.94
HUNTSVILLE	43	1	13.35	-2.71	LONDON-CORBIN	38	1	9.94	-2.10	DAYTON	32	3	6.51	-1.46
MOBILE	53	1	10.69	-4.82	LOUISVILLE	38	2	8.39	-1.83	MANSFIELD	31	4	6.55	-1.51
MONTGOMERY	49	0	12.17	-3.29	PADUCAH	38	2	10.46	-1.32	TOLEDO	31	4	7.96	1.51
AK ANCHORAGE	19	2	1.98	-0.49	LA BATON ROUGE	54	2	10.36	-6.19	YOUNGSTOWN	31	3	6.09	-1.24
BARROW	-8	5	0.72	0.37	LAKE CHARLES	54	1	8.57	-4.83	OK OKLAHOMA CITY	43	4	0.63	-4.10
COLD BAY	29	0	7.79	-2.21	NEW ORLEANS	57	3	9.43	-6.98	TULSA	43	4	1.59	-4.39
FAIRBANKS	-5	2	1.11	-0.55	SHREVEPORT	51	2	11.51	-1.85	OR ASTORIA	44	1	42.49	14.60
JUNEAU	31	3	11.74	-2.50	ME BANGOR	24	3	10.19	0.98	BURNS	25	-1	6.94	3.35
KING SALMON	17	1	4.57	1.43	CARIBOU	17	4	12.43	4.21	EUGENE	42	1	26.40	4.11
KODIAK	31	1	21.04	-0.49	PORTLAND	28	3	11.75	0.28	MEDFORD	42	2	14.13	6.66
NOME	5	-2	2.82	0.14	MD BALTIMORE	37	2	10.02	0.18	PENDLETON	36	1	5.12	0.97
AZ FLAGSTAFF	32	1	0.38	-6.19	MA BOSTON	33	1	10.09	-0.86	PORTLAND	42	1	20.60	5.64
PHOENIX	59	4	0.00	-2.52	WORCESTER	29	3	12.53	1.56	SALEM	42	1	27.01	9.62
TUCSON	56	3	0.01	-2.89	MI ALPENA	24	4	6.23	1.29	PA ALLENTOWN	33	3	11.18	1.54
AR FORT SMITH	44	3	4.12	-4.23	DETROIT	30	3	8.47	2.17	ERIE	32	3	7.93	-0.61
LITTLE ROCK	45	2	6.52	-5.13	FLINT	28	4	7.27	2.17	MIDDLETOWN	34	3	9.33	0.32
CA BAKERSFIELD	52	3	2.16	-0.99	GRAND RAPIDS	29	4	9.12	2.86	PHILADELPHIA	37	2	8.82	-0.75
EUREKA	48	0	31.15	13.32	HOUGHTON LAKE	24	3	5.55	0.94	PITTSBURGH	32	2	7.21	-0.72
FRESNO	51	4	5.94	0.32	LANSING	28	4	7.77	2.54	WILKES-BARRE	31	2	8.24	1.15
LOS ANGELES	59	2	4.41	-3.47	MUSKEGON	29	3	8.73	2.29	WILLIAMSPORT	31	3	9.40	1.00
REDDING	49	2	25.50	8.84	TRAVERSE CITY	28	5	4.11	-3.32	PR SAN JUAN	76	-1	12.20	2.31
SACRAMENTO	49	1	13.60	3.77	MN DULUTH	18	6	3.96	1.07	RI PROVIDENCE	34	3	12.20	0.24
SAN DIEGO	58	0	1.72	-3.91	INT'L FALLS	13	6	2.14	-0.04	SC CHARLESTON	51	1	9.48	-0.92
SAN FRANCISCO	53	3	14.09	2.74	MINNEAPOLIS	23	6	2.00	-0.83	COLUMBIA	47	1	10.21	-1.67
STOCKTON	51	4	8.65	1.66	ROCHESTER	22	6	1.32	-1.39	FLORENCE	47	0	8.79	-1.79
CO ALAMOSA	23	5	0.23	-0.56	ST. CLOUD	20	7	1.56	-0.48	GREENVILLE	45	2	9.88	-2.63
CO SPRINGS	31	2	0.58	-0.47	MS JACKSON	48	1	18.64	3.13	MYRTLE BEACH	49	1	9.55	-1.06
DENVER	33	3	0.78	0.01	MERIDIAN	49	1	15.26	-1.32	SD ABERDEEN	22	7	1.66	0.32
GRAND JUNCTION	32	3	1.18	-0.44	TUPELO	45	2	17.17	1.23	HURON	24	6	1.01	-0.43
PUEBLO	33	2	0.76	-0.22	MO COLUMBIA	35	4	2.97	-3.43	RAPID CITY	29	4	0.61	-0.62
CT BRIDGEPORT	34	2	11.73	1.61	JOPLIN	40	4	1.48	-5.57	SIOUX FALLS	24	6	1.94	0.40
HARTFORD	30	2	12.16	1.76	KANSAS CITY	36	6	2.89	-1.21	TN BRISTOL	38	2	8.59	-1.72
DC WASHINGTON	39	1	9.05	0.16	SPRINGFIELD	38	3	2.48	-5.08	CHATTANOOGA	42	0	11.09	-3.97
DE WILMINGTON	36	2	9.79	0.15	ST JOSEPH	35	5	1.90	-1.55	JACKSON	41	0	12.51	-1.43
FL DAYTONA BEACH	59	-1	6.42	-2.16	ST LOUIS	37	4	3.31	-3.97	KNOXVILLE	41	1	9.38	-3.69
FT LAUDERDALE	67	-1	6.92	-1.37	MT BILLINGS	32	5	0.64	-1.41	MEMPHIS	45	2	12.85	-1.38
FT MYERS	64	-2	2.79	-3.12	BUTTE	20	1	1.39	-0.14	NASHVILLE	41	1	11.72	-0.48
JACKSONVILLE	54	-1	13.60	4.12	CUT BANK	28	7	0.22	-0.78	TX ABILENE	49	3	1.81	-1.56
KEY WEST	70	-1	0.99	-4.88	GLASGOW	22	7	1.64	0.66	AMARILLO	39	1	0.12	-1.67
MELBOURNE	61	-1	4.96	-2.32	GREAT FALLS	30	6	1.44	-0.42	AUSTIN	53	1	2.95	-3.37
MIAMI	69	0	4.79	-1.34	HELENA	29	6	1.11	-0.25	BEAUMONT	56	2	5.85	-8.44
ORLANDO	61	-1	4.83	-2.26	MILES CITY	27	6	0.64	-0.65	BROWNSVILLE	64	3	2.34	-1.31
PENSACOLA	55	1	11.42	-2.57	MISSOULA	27	2	2.78	-0.20	COLLEGE STATION	54	2	7.35	-1.58
ST PETERSBURG	63	0	11.79	3.56	NE GRAND ISLAND	32	7	0.72	-1.16	CORPUS CHRISTI	61	3	0.68	-4.53
TALLAHASSEE	54	1	15.07	0.98	HASTINGS	33	6	0.71	-1.24	DALLAS/FT WORTH	51	4	6.43	-0.41
TAMPA	61	-1	11.06	3.82	LINCOLN	31	5	1.50	-0.69	DEL RIO	55	2	0.35	-1.93
WEST PALM BEACH	66	-1	7.11	-2.33	MCCOOK	33	4	0.29	-1.38	EL PASO	50	3	0.30	-1.31
GA ATHENS	46	2	12.42	-0.37	NORFOLK	29	6	1.01	-0.97	GALVESTON	58	1	3.60	-6.62
ATLANTA	45	0	14.27	0.75	NORTH PLATTE	30	4	0.58	-0.72	HOUSTON	56	2	10.33	-0.02
AUGUSTA	47	0	10.32	-1.43	OMAHA/EPPLEY	30	5	1.55	-0.94	LUBBOCK	44	4	0.18	-1.70
COLUMBUS	50	1	9.81	-3.85	SCOTTSBLUFF	30	3	1.18	-0.50	MIDLAND	47	2	1.09	-0.67
MACON	48	1	9.60	-3.88	VALENTINE	28	4	0.65	-0.46	SAN ANGELO	49	2	0.87	-2.06
SAVANNAH	51	0	9.57	-0.11	NV ELKO	31	3	5.55	2.60	SAN ANTONIO	56	4	1.07	-4.30
HI HILO	72	0	25.13	-3.97	ELY	29	2	2.32	0.33	VICTORIA	56	1	2.60	-4.35
HONOLULU	73	-1	4.52	-3.41	LAS VEGAS	51	2	0.11	-1.57	WACO	51	3	4.29	-2.80
KAHULUI	74	2	1.57	-7.61	RENO	39	4	6.52	3.52	WICHITA FALLS	47	4	0.98	-3.39
LIHUE	74	2	10.60	-2.03	WINNEMUCCA	33	1	4.30	2.04	UT SALT LAKE CITY	33	2	3.84	-0.09
ID BOISE	33	1	5.56	1.65	NH CONCORD	26	3	10.75	2.46	VT BURLINGTON	25	4	7.55	1.44
LEWISTON	37	2	3.01	-0.13	NJ ATLANTIC CITY	37	3	12.43	2.83	VA LYNCHBURG	38	1	8.25	-1.62
POCATELLO	27	1	4.46	1.21	NEWARK	36	2	10.83	0.32	NORFOLK	44	2	7.63	-2.67
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	29	4	5.94	0.13	NM ALBUQUERQUE	40	2	0.14	-1.28	RICHMOND	41	2	10.17	0.52
MOLINE	29	4	4.83	-0.46	NY ALBANY	29	4	8.72	1.39	ROANOKE	40	2	7.48	-1.69
PEORIA	31	5	5.27	-0.30	BINGHAMTON	27	3	6.56	-1.51	WASH/DULLES	37	3	7.72	-1.17
ROCKFORD	27	4	4.63	-0.18	BUFFALO	30	3	8.48	-0.90	WA OLYMPIA	40	1	28.20	6.60
SPRINGFIELD	32	3	4.12	-1.84	ROCHESTER	31	5	5.92	-1.19	QUILLAYUTE	43	2	39.67	-0.83
IN EVANSVILLE	37	3	8.04	-1.51	SYRACUSE	29	4	7.18	-0.65	SEATTLE-TACOMA	44	2	21.05	6.12
FORT WAYNE	30	3	6.81	0.05	NC ASHEVILLE	39	1	9.65	-1.63	SPOKANE	30	1	8.63	3.05
INDIANAPOLIS	33	3	7.88	-0.04	CHARLOTTE	43	-1	9.65	-1.08	YAKIMA	32	1	4.84	1.49
SOUTH BEND	29	3	5.61	-1.73	GREENSBORO	43	3	8.15	-1.55	WV BECKLEY	33	0	6.84	-2.44
IA BURLINGTON	32	6	4.03	-0.92	HATTERAS	48	0	11.28	-3.06	CHARLESTON	37	1	7.70	-2.06
CEDAR RAPIDS	25	3	3.28	-0.35	RALEIGH	44	2	7.96	-2.57	ELKINS	33	2	6.92	-3.15
DES MOINES	29	5	1.92	-1.63	WILMINGTON	48	0	9.38	-2.58	HUNTINGTON	38	2	7.12	-2.55
DUBUQUE	24	3	3.32	-1.07	ND BISMARCK	22	8	1.22	-0.18	WI EAU CLAIRE	22	6	1.91	-0.96
SIOUX CITY	27	5	1.39	-0.48	DICKINSON	23	5	0.60	-0.54	GREEN BAY	23	4	4.02	0.39
WATERLOO	24	4	2.02	-0.98	FARGO	17	6	2.15	0.23	LA CROSSE	24	4	1.74	-1.67
KS CONCORDIA	34	4	0.44	-1.81	GRAND FORKS	14	4	1.68	-0.13	MADISON	25	4	3.76	-0.43
DODGE CITY	37	4	0.36	-1.69	JAMESTOWN	20	7	0.52	-1.06	MILWAUKEE	28	4	5.01	-0.71
GOODLAND	34	4	0.74	-0.53	MINOT	22	8	0.25	-1.56	WAUSAU	21	4	2.92	-0.40
HILL CITY	34	4	0.20	-1.34	WILLISTON	21	9	0.67	-0.83	WY CASPER	27	3	1.68	-0.16
TOPEKA	35	4	1.50	-2.05	OH AKRON-CANTON	31	3	6.81	-0.94	CHEYENNE	30	3	0.84	-0.51
WICHITA	37	4	0.70	-2.51	CINCINNATI	35	2	7.36	-1.59	LANDER	25	3	1.42	-0.25
KY JACKSON	40	3	10.60	-0.91	CLEVELAND	32	4	6.78	-1.13	SHERIDAN	29	6	1.00	-1.02

Based on 1971-2000 normals

\*\*\* Not Available

# National Agricultural Summary

March 6 - 12, 2006

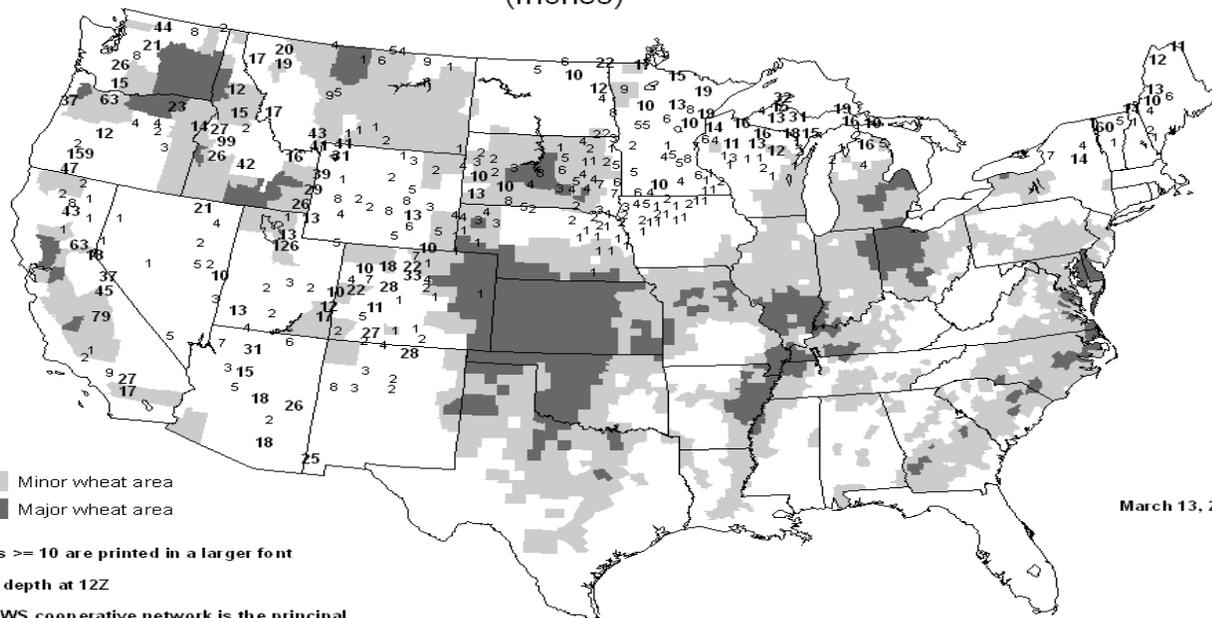
Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

## HIGHLIGHTS

Temperatures were above normal across the eastern two-thirds of the Nation, from the Great Plains to the Atlantic Coast. Across much of the Great Plains and Mississippi Delta, average temperatures exceeded the normal by 9 degrees F or more. Below-normal temperatures prevailed west of the Rocky Mountains. The Great Plains remained mostly dry, causing continued concerns for the winter wheat crop. Dry conditions also overspread the Atlantic Coast States, but most other regions received some precipitation. Heavy rainfall in the southern Corn Belt hindered fieldwork but boosted soil moisture. Light to moderate precipitation fell across the Mississippi Delta, Southeast, and Rocky Mountains. Heavy precipitation occurred along coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest, but farther inland, only light showers were received.

In Georgia, peaches began blooming while corn planting continued. Dry conditions in Florida encouraged corn planting, and vegetable planting and harvesting, but forced some growers to irrigate. Corn and sorghum planting were well underway in Texas, while cotton growers were just beginning to plant in southern growing areas. Continued dry conditions caused one of the worst wildfires in State history, consuming some 600,000 acres of mostly grassland and pasture. In Arizona, small grain emergence neared completion, while cotton planting was underway in the western part of the State. A second week of rainfall in California was beneficial for crops but delayed fieldwork in some areas. Citrus harvest continued with good quality and yields.

United States Snow Depth  
(Inches)



March 13, 2006

Values  $\geq 10$  are printed in a larger font

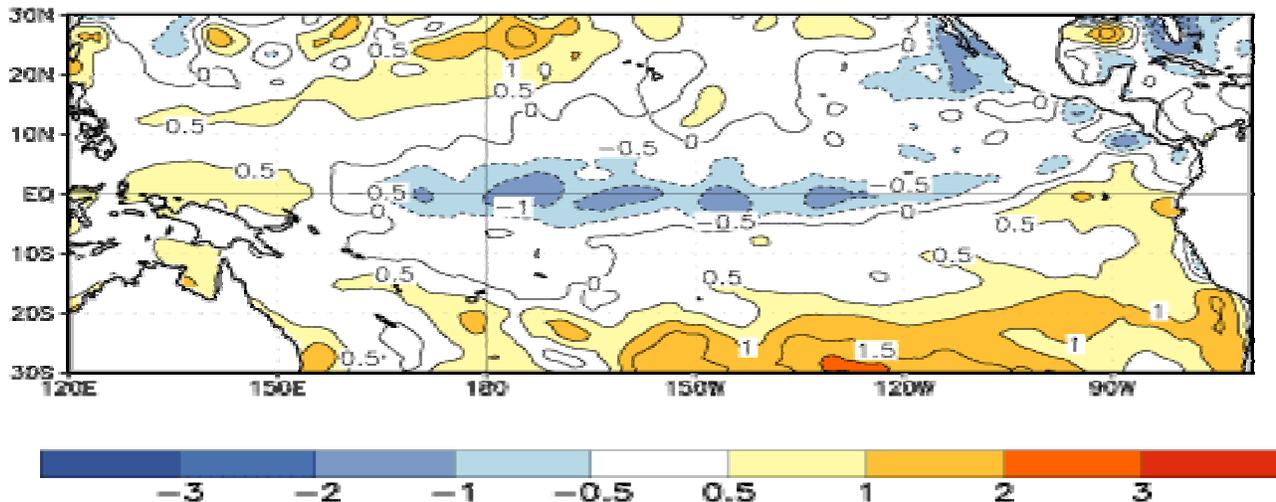
Snow depth at 12Z

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

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

## March 9 ENSO Update

Average SST Anomalies  
5 FEB – 4 MAR 2006



**Figure 1. Average SST anomalies (°C) for the four-week period 5 February – 4 March 2006. The SST anomalies are computed with respect to the 1971-2000 base period means (Smith and Reynolds, 1998, *J. Climate*, 11, 3320-3323).**

**Synopsis:** La Niña conditions are expected to continue during the next 3-6 months.

The patterns of anomalous ocean temperatures, atmospheric circulation and precipitation are consistent in indicating La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific. During February negative equatorial SST anomalies less than  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  were observed at most locations between  $165^{\circ}\text{E}$  and  $115^{\circ}\text{W}$ , while anomalies greater than  $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  were restricted to the western equatorial Pacific between Indonesia and  $155^{\circ}\text{E}$  and the eastern equatorial Pacific between  $100^{\circ}\text{W}$  and the South American coast (**Fig. 1**). Negative SST departures were observed in all of the Niño regions, except for Niño 1+2. During February, SST anomalies increased in the extreme eastern equatorial Pacific and heavy rains occurred in some portions of Ecuador and northern Peru. Brief warming in the extreme eastern equatorial Pacific at this time of the year has been observed in previous years, including the La Niña years of 1999, 2000 and 2001.

During February above-average precipitation (negative OLR anomalies) was observed over portions of Indonesia, the Philippines and along the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ), while below-average precipitation (positive OLR anomalies) was observed over the central equatorial Pacific. Stronger-than-average low-level (850-hPa) easterly winds persisted over the central equatorial Pacific, and anomalous upper-level (200-hPa) cyclonic circulation centers were observed in both hemispheres. The equatorial subsurface temperature anomaly pattern (negative anomalies in the central and eastern Pacific and positive anomalies in the western Pacific, persisted during January-February 2006, and the basin-wide upper ocean heat content remained below-average. These atmospheric and oceanic features are consistent with ongoing La Niña conditions.

Most of the statistical and coupled model forecasts indicate cooler-than-average conditions in the tropical Pacific through mid-2006. The spread of the most recent statistical and coupled model forecasts (weak La Niña to ENSO-neutral) indicates some uncertainty in the outlooks. However, current conditions (stronger-than-average easterly winds over the central equatorial Pacific and below-average upper-ocean heat content) and recent trends in observed oceanic conditions support continuation of La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific during the next 3-6 months. Based on current conditions in the tropical Pacific, the most recent SST predictions, and on results from historical studies on the effects of cold episodes, we expect wetter-than-normal (drier-than-normal) conditions to prevail over northern Indonesia, the Philippines and Hawaii (central equatorial Pacific) during the next three months.

This discussion is a consolidated effort of NOAA and its funded institutions. Weekly updates for SST, 850-hPa wind, OLR and features of the equatorial subsurface thermal structure are available on the Climate Prediction Center web page at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov> (**Weekly Update**). Forecasts for the evolution of El Niño/La Niña are updated monthly in the **Forecast Forum** section of CPC's Climate Diagnostics Bulletin. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for 6 April 2006. To receive an e-mail notification when the monthly ENSO Diagnostic Discussions are released, please send an e-mail message: [ncep.list.ensu-update@noaa.gov](mailto:ncep.list.ensu-update@noaa.gov).

# International Weather and Crop Summary

March 5 - 11, 2006

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

## HIGHLIGHTS

**EUROPE:** Unseasonably cold, wet weather slowed winter grain development across much of the continent but eased moisture deficits in central and northern growing areas.

**FSU-WESTERN:** Unseasonably cold, snowy weather maintained snow cover later than usual in Ukraine and parts of the Southern District in Russia, preventing early-season fieldwork.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Persistent warmth accelerated winter grain development, while heavy rain in western Turkey halted cotton planting.

**NORTHWESTERN AFRICA:** Favorably dry weather in Morocco and western Algeria contrasted with persistent wetness in Tunisia.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Showers kept late-planted corn well watered in western growing areas, but cool weather lowered the rate of development.

**AUSTRALIA:** Unseasonably warm, mostly dry weather aided cotton and sorghum maturation and harvesting.

**EASTERN ASIA:** Warm weather improved development of winter crops.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Heavy rainfall eased in Indonesia but increased in the Philippines.

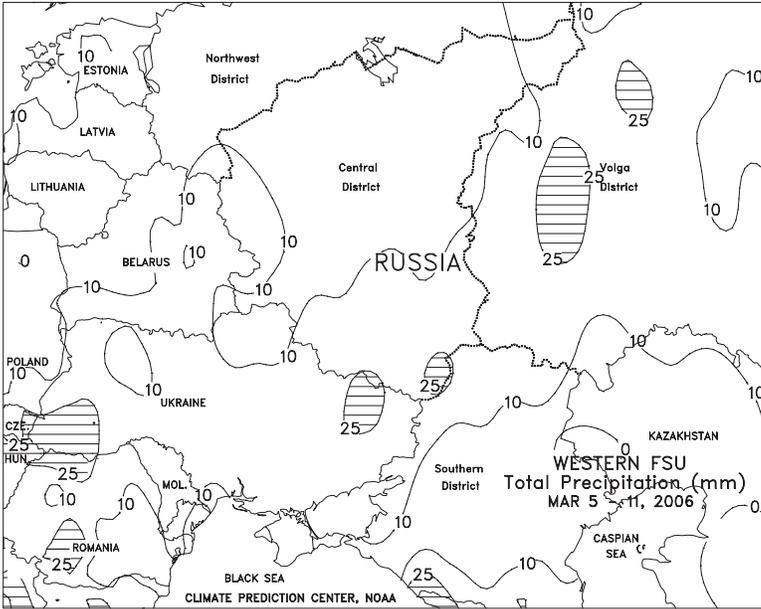
**BRAZIL:** Warmth and dryness hastened maturation of soybeans and corn in the south.

**ARGENTINA:** Showers benefited immature soybeans in southern growing areas, as drier weather returned to recently wet locations in central Argentina.



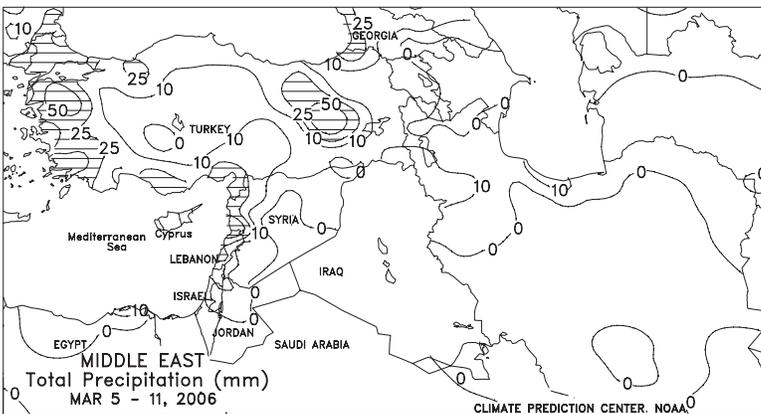
## EUROPE

Unseasonably cold, wet weather slowed winter grain development across much of the continent but eased moisture deficits in central and northern growing areas. Another in a series of slow-moving storms brought widespread rain and snow (15-75 mm of liquid equivalent) to northern, central, and southeastern Europe. In particular, showers (15-25 mm) in southeastern England provided much-needed moisture for vegetative winter grains, although significant long-term precipitation deficits still persist (75 percent of normal since September 1, 2005). In southwestern France, locally heavy rain (50-110 mm) alleviated moisture deficits and improved prospects for upcoming summer crop planting and establishment. However, dry weather returned to the Iberian Peninsula, promoting crop development but reducing topsoil moisture for vegetative to heading winter grains. Farther east, locally heavy rain and snow (15-130 mm of liquid equivalent) in central Italy and southeastern Europe boosted irrigation reserves but halted early spring fieldwork. In northeast Europe, dry weather accompanied bitter cold (-20 to -15 degrees C), although a sufficient snowpack protected dormant winter grains in Poland and the Baltics from potential winterkill. In Germany and the Benelux countries, where winter grains typically break dormancy by early March, temperatures up to 6 degrees C below normal kept winter grains dormant.



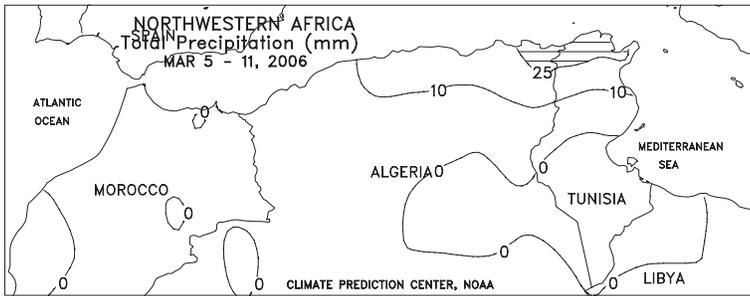
**FSU-WESTERN**

A storm system that originated in the Mediterranean area moved northeastward across the region, bringing more cold, snowy weather to many locations. Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in Belarus, Ukraine, and the Central and western Volga Districts in Russia, where weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees C below normal. In Ukraine, the unusually cold weather maintained snow cover later than normal, keeping winter grains dormant and preventing early season fieldwork. Typically, snow cover begins retreating northward over Ukraine in early March. Ahead of the system, unseasonably mild weather (weekly temperatures averaging 1-5 degrees C above normal) was observed in the Southern and eastern Volga Districts in Russia. However, colder weather overspread these areas at week's end, associated with the passage of a cold front. Widespread precipitation (3-25 mm or more of liquid equivalent) was observed over the region, with greatest amounts of moisture (25-50 mm or more of liquid equivalent) falling as heavy snow at spotty locations that stretched northeastward from eastern Ukraine through the western Volga District in Russia. Light, if any, rain (less than 10 mm) fell in the southern portion of the Southern District in Russia. Elsewhere in Russia, light to moderate snow increased the already deep snowpack in the Central and Volga Districts, protecting winter grains from bitterly cold weather (minimum temperatures ranging from -25 to -15 degrees C). At week's end, a moderate to deep snow cover extended as far south as the Black Sea coast and the northern third of the Southern District in Russia.



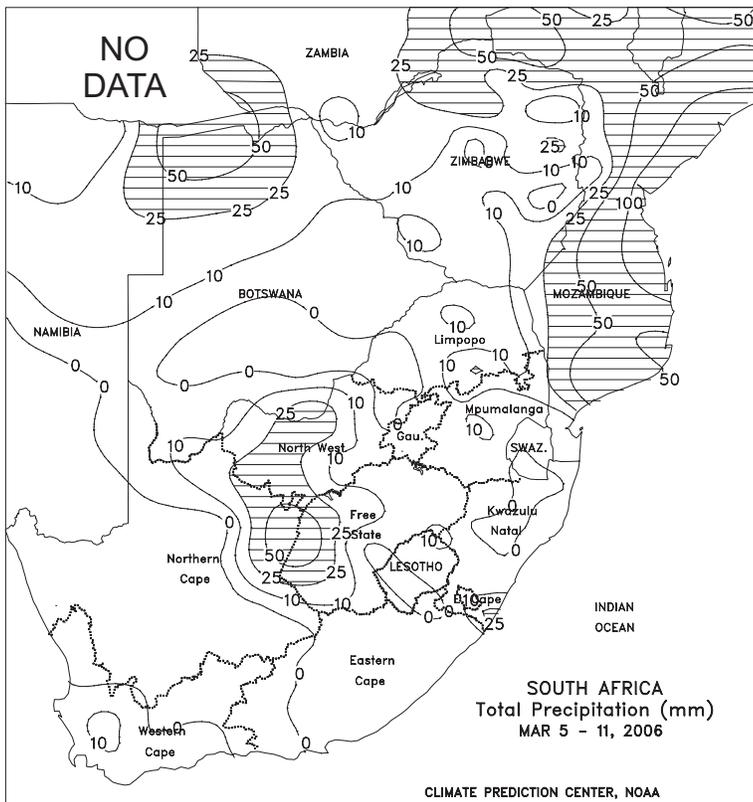
**MIDDLE EAST**

Persistent warmth accelerated winter grain development, while heavy rain in western Turkey halted cotton planting. A northward-displaced storm track kept dry, warm weather (4-8 degrees C above normal) across the region throughout much of the week. Consequently, winter grain development progressed rapidly in southern Turkey and along the eastern Mediterranean coast, while winter grains in northwestern Iran broke dormancy. A late-week storm brought much-needed rainfall (20-60 mm) to southern Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean coast, while unfavorably dry weather persisted in northern and eastern Syria. Farther west, locally heavy rain (25-85 mm) fell in advance of the storm overspread western Turkey by midweek, halting fieldwork but maintaining adequate to abundant moisture reserves.



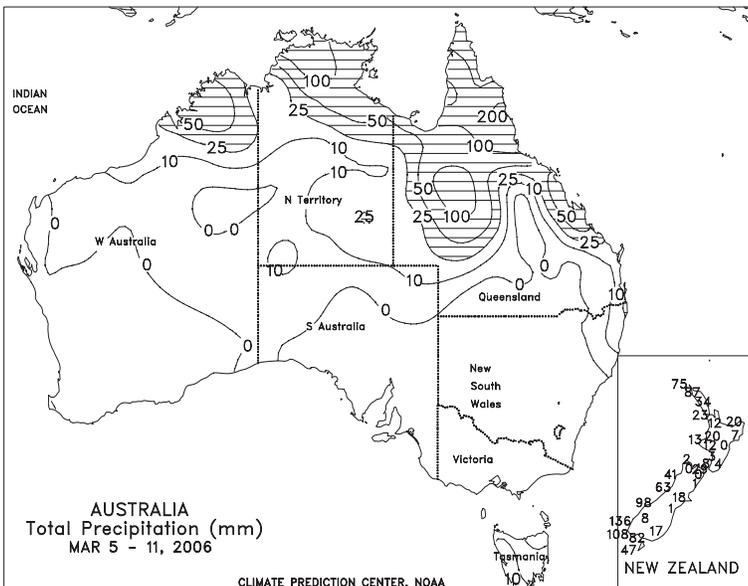
**NORTHWESTERN AFRICA**

Favorably dry weather in Morocco and western Algeria contrasted with persistent wetness in Tunisia. After weeks of locally heavy rain, the dryness in Morocco and western Algeria promoted winter grain development and allowed saturated fields to dry. Farther east, however, a Mediterranean storm brought light to moderate rain (15-45 mm) to eastern Algeria and northern Tunisia, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture reserves for vegetative to heading winter grains. Below-normal temperatures slowed crop development across much of the region, although winter grain development is only slightly behind the long-term average.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

Mostly dry weather dominated major agricultural areas of central and eastern South Africa, with appreciable showers (10-25 mm or more) confined to the western corn belt. Those rains kept late-planted crops well watered, while sunny skies aided maturation of corn and other summer crops in the eastern corn belt. Unseasonably cool weather (temperatures averaging 1-3 degrees C below normal) persisted, but highs in the middle and upper 20s degrees C promoted late-season development of summer crops across the corn belt. In Western Cape, dry, seasonably warm weather (highs in the upper 30s degrees C) promoted maturation and harvest of fruit and vegetables but increased irrigation requirements of immature agriculture and livestock.



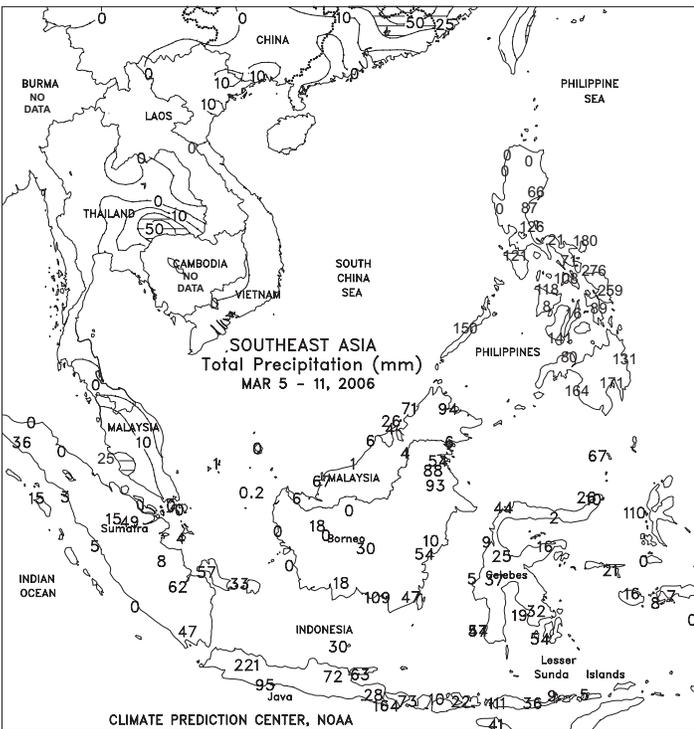
**AUSTRALIA**

Light showers (1-16 mm) in portions of northern New South Wales and Queensland moistened topsoils for immature summer crops. Major cotton and sorghum areas were generally dry, however, aiding the maturation and harvesting of these crops. Unseasonably warm weather (temperatures averaging about 1 degree C above normal) favored drydown of maturing crops.



**EASTERN ASIA**

Warm weather returned to China, where temperatures were 3 to 7 degrees C above normal. The warmth prompted dormant winter wheat in Shandong and Hebei to begin breaking dormancy, while wheat development accelerated to the south. Rainfall would be welcome for greening wheat to aid in development. The warm weather also favored vegetative winter rapeseed in the Yangtze Valley. Showers (10-50 mm, locally 50-100 mm) continued to be confined to areas south of the Yangtze Valley, increasing moisture supplies for vegetative rice.



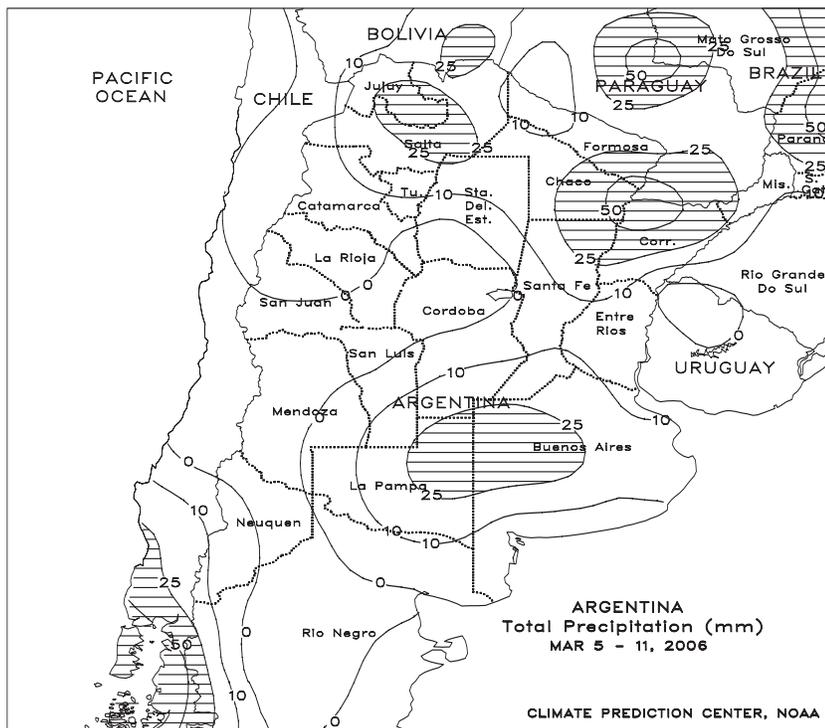
**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Heavy showers in Indonesia became more localized, allowing some areas flooded by weeks of heavy rainfall to dry out. The drier conditions also aided rice that began to ripen in Java and oil palm harvesting in Sumatra and Malaysia. Heavy showers (50-200 mm, locally more) returned to the eastern and southern Philippines, renewing flooding in those areas. In Vietnam, seasonably dry weather benefited winter-spring rice harvesting and summer-autumn rice transplanting which typically begins in March.



**BRAZIL**

Mostly dry, seasonably warm weather dominated southern Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and southwestern growing areas of Parana), hastening maturation of soybeans and summer corn. Soybean harvesting continued to progress well in Brazil's Center-West and Southeast regions (Mato Grosso to Sao Paulo and western Minas Gerais), despite the continuation of locally heavy showers (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm). In the northeast, ample rains (50-100 mm or more) increased moisture for immature soybeans and other crops in western Bahia and neighboring states. Locally heavy showers also increased moisture in previously dry coffee areas of Esperito Santo and eastern Minas Gerais. According to private analyst Safras e Mercados, soybeans were 23 percent harvested nationally as of March 10. Soybeans were 48 percent harvested in Mato Grosso, Brazil's largest producer.



**ARGENTINA**

Moderate showers (10-25 mm or more) swept through La Pampa, Buenos Aires, and neighboring locations in Cordoba and Santa Fe, increasing moisture for second-crop soybeans and other immature summer crops. In contrast, drier weather returned to the remainder of central Argentina, spurring seasonal fieldwork after several weeks of overall beneficial rainfall. Temperatures averaged near to below normal in Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, and Santa Fe, with slightly higher-than-normal temperatures in the more westerly growing areas. Highs in the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C throughout central Argentina fostered late summer crop growth and drydown of maturing stands. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 33 percent harvested as of March 9, compared with 29 percent last year. Sunseed was 5 percent harvested in Buenos Aires, Argentina's largest producer. Harvesting of corn and other summer crops, still in early stages, was aided by the drier weather. Elsewhere, unseasonably warm weather (temperatures averaging 1-3 degrees C above normal, with highs in the upper 30s degrees C) boosted growth of cotton in major northern growing areas, but locally heavy showers (greater than 25 mm) was untimely for open bolls.

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