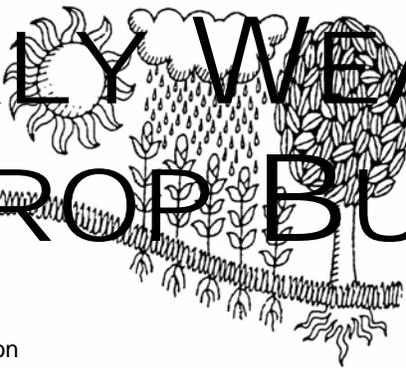
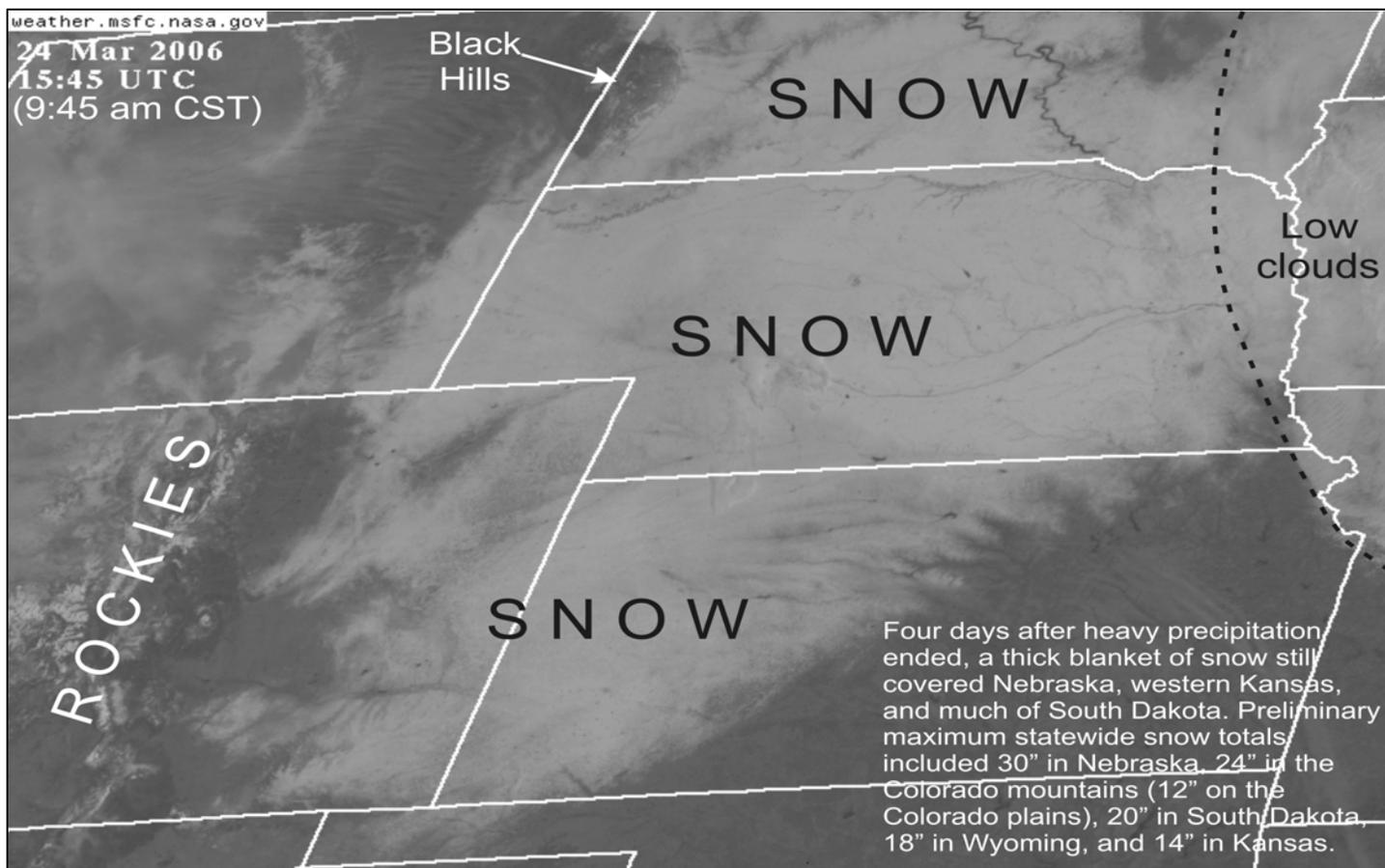


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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 19 - 25, 2006

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Cold air expanded across the **United States** in the wake of a dynamic storm system, holding weekly temperatures more than 15°F below normal across parts of the **central Plains** and resulting in significantly below-normal readings nationwide, except in **southern Florida, northern Maine, the upper Midwest, and the Northwest**. From March 25-27, **Southeastern** readings generally ranging from 28 to 32°F as far south as **northernmost Florida** resulted in frost but were not a major concern for temperature-sensitive crops such as boot-stage winter wheat, blooming fruit trees, and emerging corn. Meanwhile, **Western** storminess continued to hinder fieldwork and crop development in **northern and central California**, while snow further improved spring and summer runoff

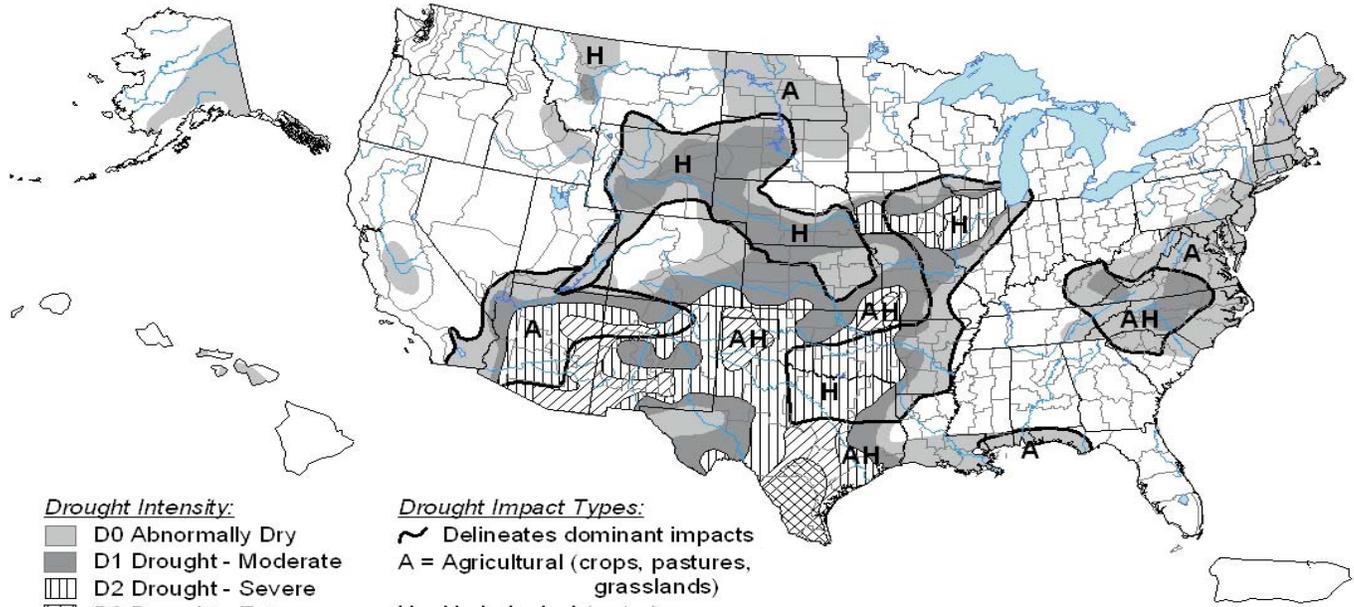
(Continued on page 5)

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U.S. Drought Monitor

March 21, 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.



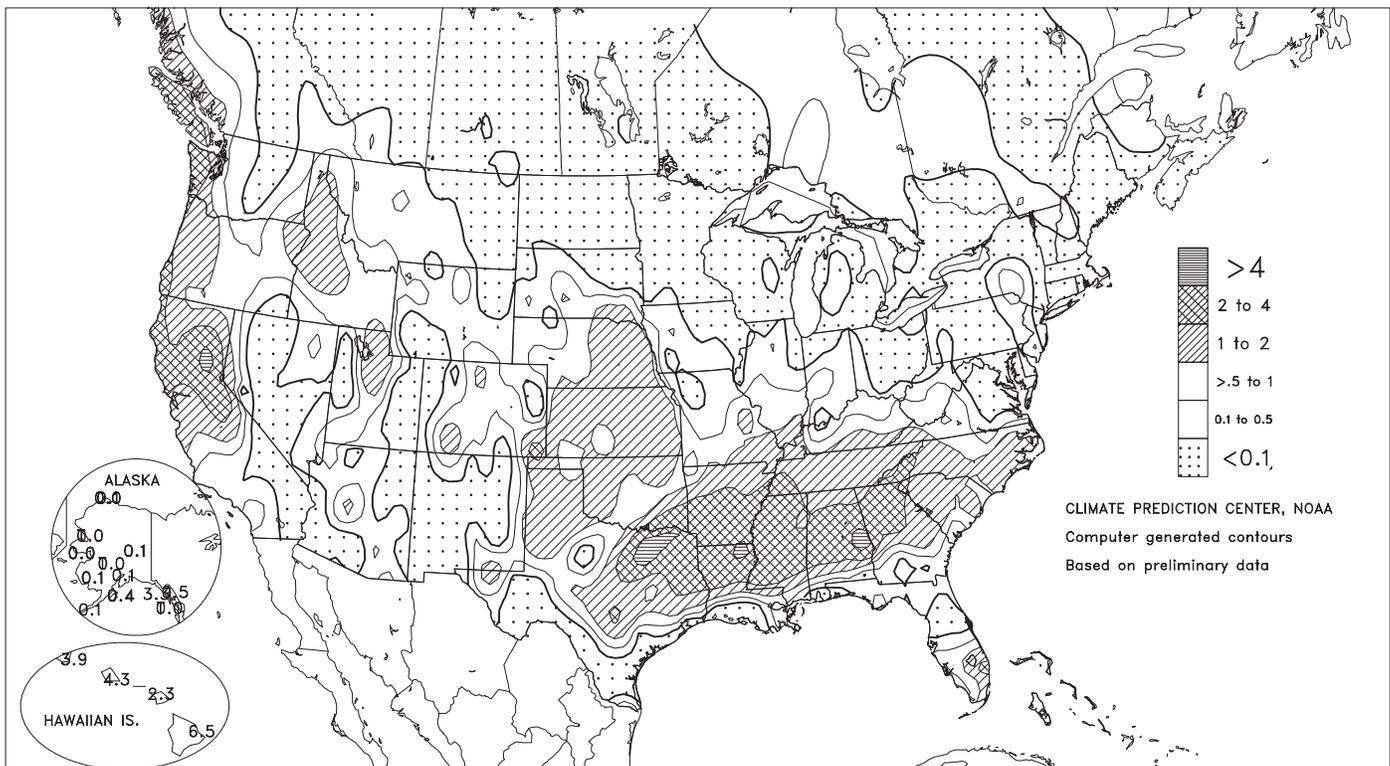
Released Thursday, March 23, 2006

Author: R. Heim and L. Love-Brotak, NOAA, NESDIS, NCDC

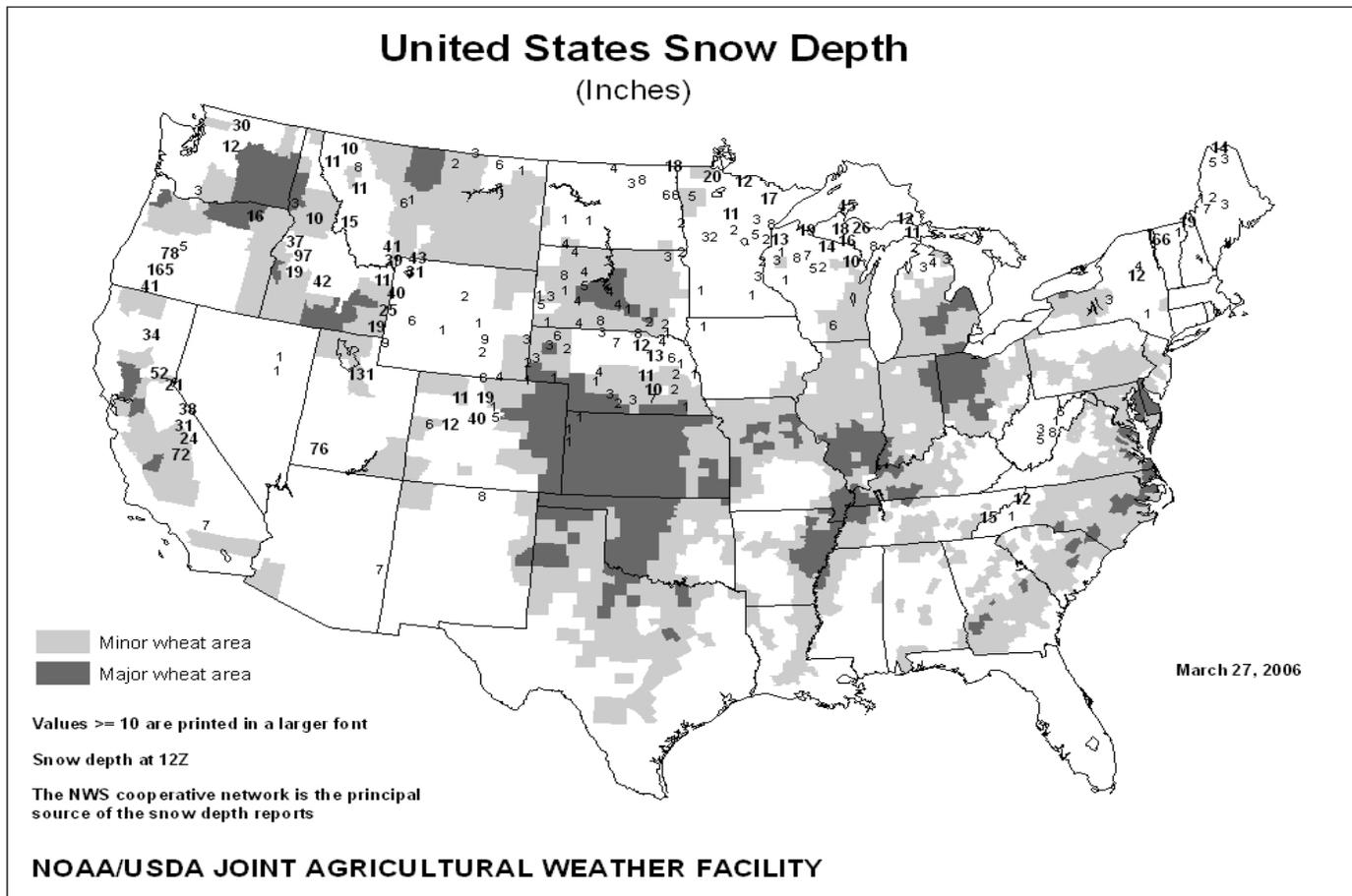
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Total Precipitation (Inches)

MAR 19 - 25, 2006



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



New York City Snowfall Update

A little more than 1 inch of snow fell in New York City's Central Park on March 2. The snow boosted the city's season-to-date total to 39.9 inches, leaving Central Park's accumulation just shy of reaching the 40-inch mark in four consecutive seasons for the first time during the 137-year period of record. In fact, prior to 2004-05, the city's seasonal snowfall never exceeded 40 inches more than twice in a row since record-keeping began in 1869.

Ironically, more than two-thirds of Central Park's 2005-06 snow fell during a single storm on February 11-12. New York City's 26.9-inch total for that event eclipsed its 1947 record (26.4 inches on December 26-27) for a single storm.

However, New York City is no stranger to long periods without heavy snow. From 1923-24 to 1946-47, 23 of 24 years passed without a 40-inch seasonal total (52.0 inches of snow fell in 1933-34). Incredibly, that spell was surpassed from 1967-68 to 1992-93, when 25 of 26 years featured seasonal snowfall totals below 40 inches (50.7 inches fell in 1977-78).

Central Park's single-season snowfall totals have ranged from 2.8 inches in 1972-73 to 75.6 inches in 1995-96. The city's (1971-2000) normal seasonal snowfall is 22.4 inches. During the current, 4-year (2002-03 to 2005-06) snowy spell, seasonal totals of 49.3, 42.6, 41.0, and 39.9 inches ranked 16th, 27th, 28th, and 31st, respectively since 1869-70.

Central Park, New York City Highest Three-Season Snowfall Totals (Inches)

Rank	Total	Years
1	155.0	1872-73 to 1874-75
2	140.8	1993-94 to 1995-96
3	140.4	1946-47 to 1948-49
4	135.9	1915-16 to 1917-18
5	132.9	2002-03 to 2004-05

Central Park, New York City Highest Four-Season Snowfall Totals (Inches)

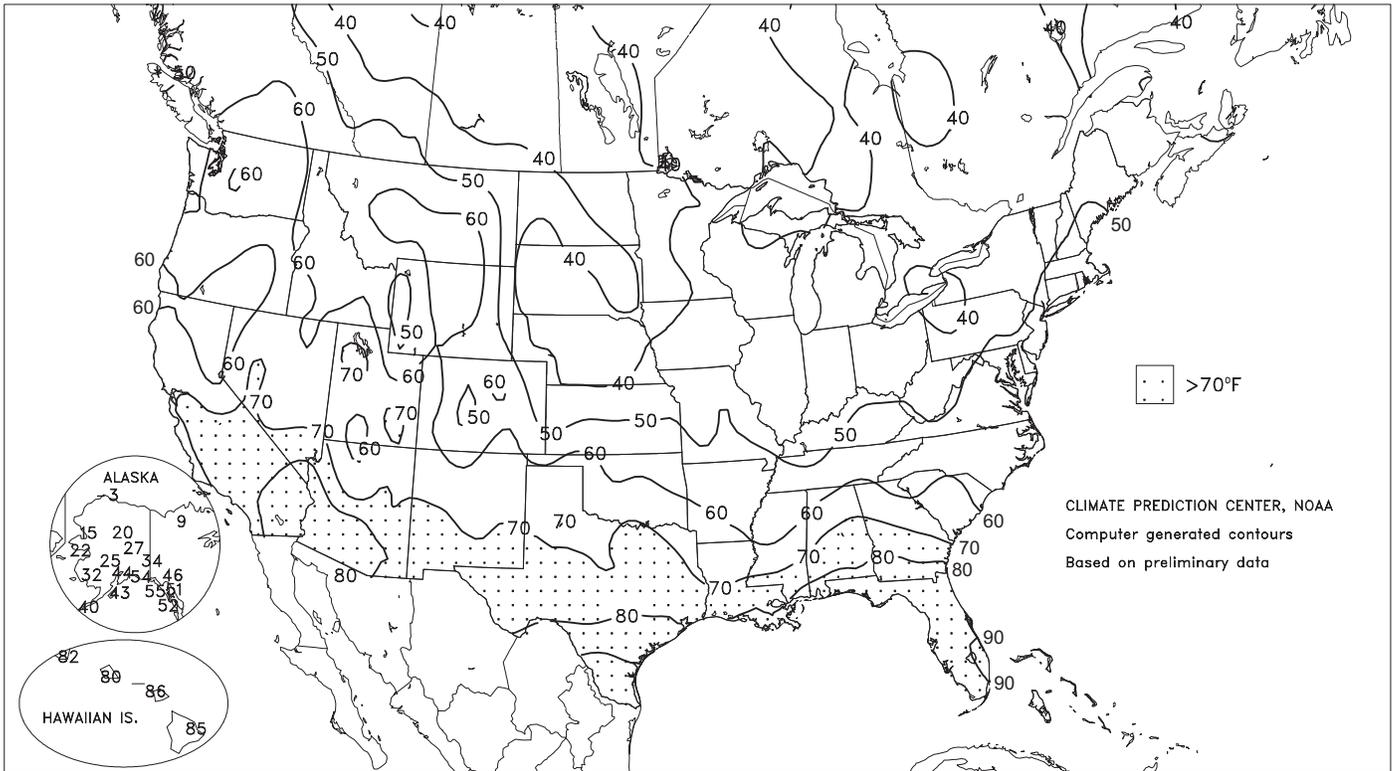
Rank	Total	Years
1	173.3	1872-73 to 1875-76
2	172.8	2002-03 to 2005-06
3	171.8	1945-46 to 1948-49
4	170.7	1913-14 to 1916-17
5	169.1	1871-72 to 1874-75

Notes: The information for this article was compiled from data provided by the National Weather Service. For record-keeping purposes, the snowfall season is defined as the period from July 1 to June 30.

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/climate/cms.html#Historical>

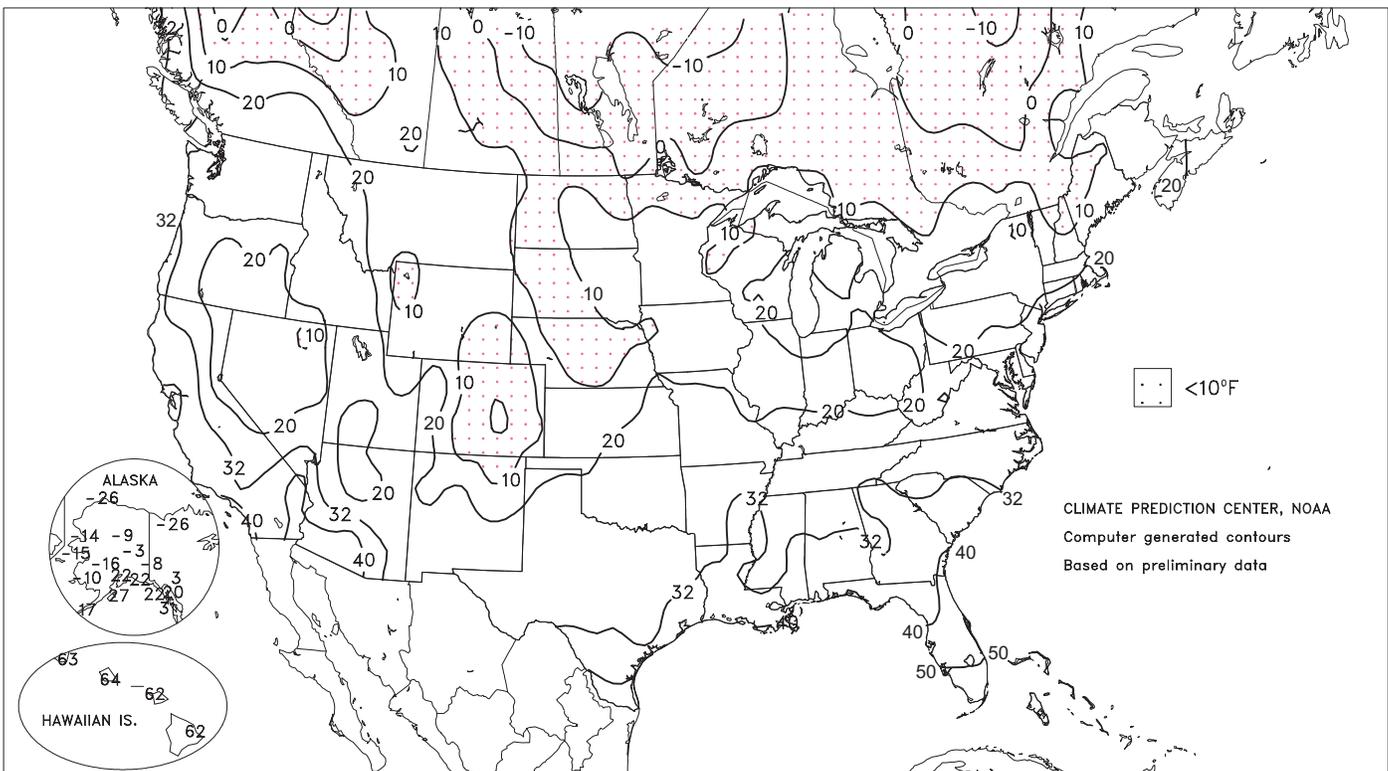
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

MAR 19 - 25, 2006



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

MAR 19 - 25, 2006



(Continued from front cover)

prospects across the **interior Northwest** and the **Intermountain region**. However, mostly dry weather returned to the drought-affected **Southwest**, following the previous week's rain and snow. Much-needed precipitation ended early in the week across the **southern High Plains**, where topsoil moisture improvements revived some pastures, rangeland, and winter grains. However, much more rain was needed to sustain drought recovery. Farther north, very heavy snow blanketed the **Nation's mid-section** from the **central High Plains northward**, disrupting travel but providing highly beneficial moisture for pastures and winter wheat. More than 2 feet of snow buried parts of **Nebraska**. Across the **South**, early-week showers and thunderstorms were followed by a cold snap. Weekly rainfall topped 2 inches from **northeastern Texas to the southern Appalachians**. Flash flooding was reported in several areas, including **northeastern Texas**, where some locations received more than 6 inches of rain. However, heavy rain

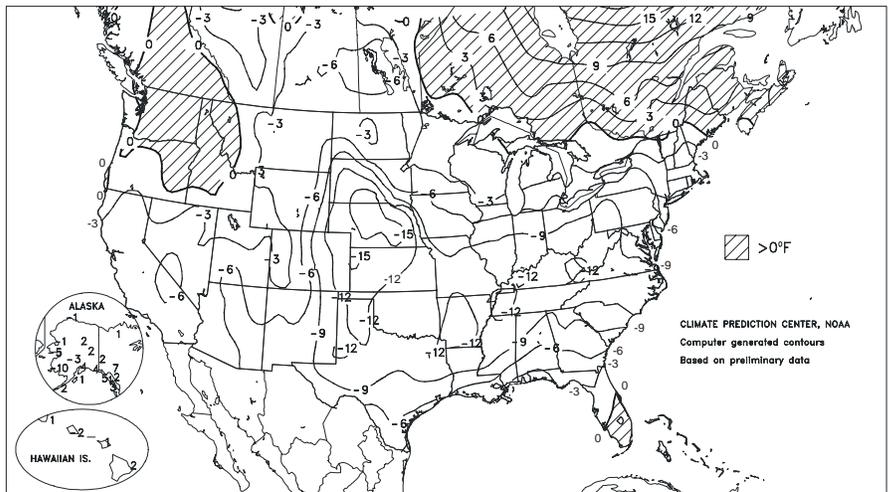
very dry. Aside from **Florida**, rain boosted **Southeastern** soil moisture reserves for newly planted summer crops and in preparation for planting, but short-term dryness worsened in the **Northeast**. Elsewhere, snow briefly fell across the **southern Corn Belt**, while the remainder of the **Midwest** experienced dry weather and near- to below-normal temperatures.

Early in the week, a spring snowstorm continued to rage across parts of the **Plains**. In **Nebraska**, March 18-21 snowfall totals included 21.6 inches in **Grand Island**, 21.2 inches in **Hastings**, 17.5 inches in **Norfolk**, 16.7 inches in **Kearney**, and 15.3 inches in **Valentine**. Unofficial **Nebraska** totals reached 30 inches in **Greeley (Greeley County)**, 29 inches in **Chambers (Holt County)**, and 26 inches in **Ord (Valley County)**. **Grand Island** set records for its greatest 1-day snowfall (17.8 inches on March 20; previously 13.0 inches on March 16, 1917) and 2-day total (20.7 inches on March 19-20; previously 15.1 inches on February 17-18, 1984). Records for the same two periods were also broken in **Hastings** (17.4 inches on March 20 and 20.3 inches on March 19-20, respectively), where former standards were 14.0 inches on March 18, 1984, and 17.4 inches on October 25-26, 1997. Elsewhere, **East Rapid City, SD**, netted 17.3 inches of snow from March 18-21, while **Goodland, KS**, measured 13.5 inches on March 20. For **Goodland**, it was the seventh-highest single-day total on record and greatest snowfall since October 25, 1997, when 19.3 inches fell. The **Plains'** snowfall was also very wet, resulting in daily-record precipitation totals on March 20 in locations such as **Goodland** (1.73 inches) and **Grand Island** (1.61 inches).

Meanwhile, heavy showers swept across areas from the **southern Plains to the southern Appalachians**. In **Texas' northern panhandle**, **Amarillo's** March 18-20 precipitation of 1.25 inches exceeded its 1.10-inch total during the preceding 202 days (August 28 - March 17). Farther east, the heaviest rain in years soaked parts of the **Arklatex region**. **Texarkana, AR**, received 5.07 inches of rain from March 18-20, marking its first observance of at least 5 inches of rain in a 3-day period since December 15-17, 2001. In **northeastern Texas**, March 19 totals reached 6.90 inches at **Dallas' Love Field** and 6.08 inches in **Arlington**. By March 21, **Augusta, GA** (2.79 inches), noted a daily-record rainfall, while daily snowfall records included 5.5 inches in **Springfield, IL**, and 4.3 inches in **Des Moines, IA**. Record warmth lingered in advance of the powerful spring storm. On March 20, daily-record highs in **southern Texas** soared to 99°F in **Harlingen** and 98°F in **McAllen**. A day later in **Florida**, **Tallahassee** (91°F) notched its earliest reading above 90°F (previously, 91°F on March 22, 1935). In contrast, **Western** highs were the lowest on record for the date in locations such as **Redding, CA** (45°F on March 20), and **Las Vegas, NV** (51°F on March 21).

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

MAR 19 - 25, 2006



By midweek, the former powerhouse storm weakened while crossing the **Midwest** and **East**, while another disturbance emerged from the **West**. Nevertheless, the first storm ended long spells without measurable rain in parts of **Florida** and **southern Texas**. **Harlingen, TX** (0.20 inch on March 22-23), measured rain for the first time since February 10, ending a 39-day dry spell. In **Florida**, the month's first measurable rain fell on March 23 in locations such as **Vero Beach** (0.53 inch), **Ft. Myers** (0.32 inch), and **Orlando** (0.02 inch). With the latter system, daily-record snowfall totals reached 1.3 inches (on March 22) in **Wichita, KS**, and 1.6 inches (on March 23) in **Oklahoma City, OK**. Meanwhile, chilly weather expanded eastward from the **West**, resulting in more than three dozen records. In **southern California**, daily-record lows for March 22 included 27°F in **Lancaster** and 28°F in **Palmdale**. Two days later on the **Plains**, records for March 24 were reported in locations such as **Valentine, NE** (-2°F); **Roswell, NM** (23°F); **Oklahoma City** (23°F); **Abilene, TX** (26°F). Farther east, **Georgia** locations such as **Macon** (32, 28, 29°F) and **Valdosta** (32, 31, and 32°F) reported their first of three consecutive freezes on March 25. **Tallahassee, FL**, also noted three consecutive freezes (32, 31, and 29°F) from March 25-27. Elsewhere, late-week rainfall reached daily-record proportions in several **Western** locations, including **Walla Walla, WA** (0.97 inch), and downtown **Sacramento, CA** (0.98 inch).

Periods of heavy rain continued to batter parts of **Hawaii**, especially toward week's end. On March 26, month-to-date rainfall on **Kauai's Mt. Waialeale** surged past its March 1951 record total of 81.95 inches. For the 5-week period ending at 8 a.m. HST on March 27, **Mt. Waialeale's** rainfall totaled 124.88 inches. Elsewhere on **Kauai**, **Lihue** measured 33.00 inches of rain (1,089 percent of normal) during the first 26 days of the month, more than doubling its March 1951 standard of 14.51 inches and easily surpassing its December 1968 monthly record of 22.91 inches. Farther east, a tornado struck **Lanai's Kaumalapau Harbor** on March 23, marking only the 35th documented tornado on the **Hawaiian Islands** since 1950. Elsewhere, March 1-26 rainfall climbed to 25.45 inches (214 percent of normal) in **Hilo**, on the **Big Island**, and 10.65 inches (649 percent) in **Honolulu, Oahu**. Farther north, mostly dry weather prevailed in **Alaska**, although temperatures ranged from 10°F below normal in parts of the southwestern mainland to as much as 5°F above normal in the southeastern part of the State. Heavy snow briefly lingered early in the week across **southern Alaska**, where **Yakutat** (19.4 inches on March 19) received a daily-record total. Later in the week, however, **Skagway** posted consecutive daily-record highs (55 and 51°F on March 22 and 23, respectively). Elsewhere in **southeastern Alaska**, **Juneau's** daily-record high (50°F on March 23) occurred just 5 days after its last of three consecutive daily-record lows (-2, -3, and 0°F from March 16-18).

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 25, 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	57	38	69	31	48	-8	2.50	1.09	2.06	4.45	91	19.13	131	88	40	0	1	3	1
HUNTSVILLE	52	36	60	30	44	-10	1.16	-0.33	1.05	2.19	40	10.61	67	82	54	0	2	3	1
MOBILE	70	45	81	33	57	-5	0.02	-1.62	0.01	0.24	4	7.34	44	77	48	0	0	2	0
MONTGOMERY	65	43	77	33	54	-5	2.02	0.63	1.24	3.55	68	13.23	84	81	33	0	0	4	2
AK ANCHORAGE	37	26	44	22	31	3	0.12	0.01	0.08	0.35	70	1.43	74	79	65	0	7	2	0
BARROW	-8	-18	-3	-26	-13	0	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.18	1800	0.67	279	83	78	0	7	5	0
FAIRBANKS	25	8	27	-3	16	1	0.08	0.02	0.04	0.20	100	1.18	105	85	72	0	7	3	0
JUNEAU	44	28	51	20	36	1	0.53	-0.18	0.26	1.44	50	6.44	55	95	82	0	7	4	0
KODIAK	39	30	43	27	35	2	0.44	-0.72	0.37	1.88	45	8.67	48	83	68	0	6	3	0
NOME	13	-3	22	-15	5	-5	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.53	126	2.63	126	75	68	0	7	0	0
AZ FLAGSTAFF	44	18	59	8	31	-7	0.30	-0.23	0.26	1.51	69	1.85	27	93	44	0	7	4	0
PHOENIX	72	49	87	43	60	-4	0.12	-0.09	0.11	1.71	197	1.71	69	60	34	0	0	2	0
TUCSON	69	42	83	36	56	-4	0.18	0.04	0.18	0.41	61	0.41	16	57	26	0	0	1	0
YUMA	76	49	87	43	63	-5	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.22	122	0.22	26	49	28	0	0	0	0
AR FORT SMITH	49	35	59	27	42	-12	1.76	0.86	1.50	4.73	151	8.46	104	89	56	0	3	3	1
LITTLE ROCK	50	37	59	32	44	-11	3.15	1.99	2.06	4.33	115	10.15	95	86	57	0	1	3	2
CA BAKERSFIELD	67	43	81	39	55	-3	0.02	-0.27	0.02	1.57	138	2.62	74	77	51	0	0	1	0
FRESNO	64	42	74	38	53	-3	0.79	0.33	0.52	2.69	148	6.63	109	89	64	0	0	3	1
LOS ANGELES	64	48	71	46	56	-2	0.13	-0.32	0.12	0.69	34	4.14	51	79	53	0	0	2	0
REDDING	57	42	64	38	49	-4	1.50	0.42	0.58	6.84	160	18.44	113	82	67	0	0	5	1
SACRAMENTO	60	43	67	38	51	-4	1.65	1.09	0.89	4.39	187	9.01	93	89	51	0	0	3	2
SAN DIEGO	65	51	75	48	58	-2	0.66	0.18	0.33	1.55	84	3.02	49	75	54	0	0	3	0
SAN FRANCISCO	59	47	64	44	53	-1	1.55	0.90	0.92	5.45	200	10.20	91	83	68	0	0	4	1
STOCKTON	63	41	72	35	52	-4	1.06	0.59	0.66	3.45	184	7.92	112	86	64	0	0	4	1
CO ALAMOSA	46	17	60	9	32	-2	0.41	0.30	0.21	0.60	188	0.79	101	87	60	0	7	5	0
CO SPRINGS	43	20	56	10	31	-8	0.14	-0.12	0.09	0.24	32	0.52	37	94	45	0	7	3	0
DENVER INTL	41	21	65	11	31	-9	0.34	0.16	0.17	0.74	106	1.17	101	89	58	0	7	3	0
GRAND JUNCTION	56	28	69	24	42	-3	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.82	108	1.25	67	63	33	0	6	0	0
PUEBLO	44	23	57	19	33	-10	0.19	-0.05	0.08	0.66	96	1.18	92	88	70	0	7	4	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	45	29	54	22	37	-4	0.00	-0.83	0.00	0.85	27	8.90	91	60	38	0	5	0	0
HARTFORD	44	26	54	18	35	-5	0.00	-0.91	0.00	0.79	26	9.28	94	67	40	0	6	0	0
DC WASHINGTON	50	33	54	28	41	-7	0.01	-0.79	0.01	0.04	1	5.75	66	63	34	0	4	1	0
DE WILMINGTON	47	31	52	21	39	-5	0.01	-0.89	0.01	0.29	9	6.82	72	61	35	0	4	1	0
FL DAYTONA BEACH	76	55	88	45	65	-1	0.15	-0.73	0.07	0.15	5	4.72	53	84	38	0	0	3	0
JACKSONVILLE	70	48	86	36	59	-4	0.57	-0.34	0.36	0.68	22	6.90	69	91	49	0	0	2	0
KEY WEST	79	68	84	61	73	-1	0.04	-0.39	0.04	0.04	3	0.98	19	82	63	0	0	1	0
MIAMI	82	65	90	53	73	0	1.06	0.45	1.06	1.10	58	4.89	84	83	48	1	0	1	1
ORLANDO	79	58	89	48	69	1	0.02	-0.80	0.02	0.02	1	2.81	37	87	44	0	0	1	0
PENSACOLA	71	51	84	39	61	-1	0.17	-1.29	0.17	0.24	5	6.99	46	60	36	0	0	1	0
TALLAHASSEE	73	48	91	32	61	-1	0.22	-1.24	0.22	0.31	6	10.02	66	78	42	1	1	1	0
TAMPA	76	58	82	47	67	-1	0.00	-0.59	0.00	0.00	0	9.79	135	81	49	0	0	0	0
WEST PALM BEACH	81	64	91	51	72	1	1.76	0.85	1.76	1.78	63	6.19	68	85	49	1	0	1	1
GA ATHENS	56	38	61	32	47	-8	1.66	0.58	1.03	2.90	71	10.76	82	78	43	0	1	2	2
ATLANTA	55	38	68	33	46	-10	1.69	0.52	1.13	3.70	84	14.30	101	79	54	0	0	4	1
AUGUSTA	58	38	62	34	48	-9	2.91	1.89	2.55	3.33	89	9.69	78	84	42	0	0	2	1
COLUMBUS	64	42	76	34	53	-6	0.95	-0.33	0.51	4.41	94	11.84	85	76	30	0	0	3	1
MACON	61	39	73	32	50	-8	0.38	-0.68	0.17	1.71	43	7.55	56	85	46	0	1	4	0
SAVANNAH	60	43	67	35	52	-9	0.20	-0.67	0.17	0.32	11	7.17	74	88	55	0	0	2	0
HI HILO	81	66	85	62	74	2	6.54	3.06	6.11	25.43	225	45.32	152	86	78	0	0	4	1
HONOLULU	78	67	80	64	73	-2	4.33	3.97	1.38	7.08	454	11.23	169	92	83	0	0	7	3
KAHULUI	82	66	86	62	74	1	2.28	1.76	1.85	2.36	129	3.79	48	91	84	0	0	3	1
LIHUE	79	68	82	63	73	0	3.91	3.12	1.72	19.49	681	30.01	280	89	79	0	0	6	3
ID BOISE	58	36	63	28	47	2	0.25	-0.05	0.25	1.06	99	3.22	89	72	45	0	2	1	0
LEWISTON	57	38	62	30	48	2	0.56	0.31	0.43	0.90	108	2.27	78	74	55	0	2	2	0
POCATELLO	47	26	60	23	37	-2	0.25	-0.05	0.15	1.43	132	3.52	109	86	65	0	7	4	0
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	42	27	49	25	35	-4	0.15	-0.51	0.10	2.59	134	7.17	135	79	54	0	7	2	0
MOLINE	45	27	51	20	36	-5	0.11	-0.61	0.04	3.29	151	7.08	134	76	52	0	5	4	0
PEORIA	42	27	48	18	35	-7	0.40	-0.27	0.25	2.90	134	6.86	128	79	43	0	5	2	0
ROCKFORD	43	25	49	21	34	-4	0.10	-0.50	0.07	3.42	198	7.05	157	79	51	0	7	2	0
SPRINGFIELD	42	26	47	14	34	-10	0.32	-0.42	0.21	4.34	176	6.99	119	75	56	0	6	3	0
IN EVANSVILLE	45	30	49	25	38	-10	0.59	-0.40	0.58	9.45	279	15.73	167	78	60	0	5	2	1
FORT WAYNE	42	25	47	19	34	-6	0.02	-0.66	0.01	1.35	62	6.01	98	84	46	0	7	2	0
INDIANAPOLIS	42	24	47	16	33	-11	0.51	-0.29	0.36	5.41	200	10.60	140	86	56	0	6	4	0
SOUTH BEND	40	23	42	19	32	-8	0.03	-0.67	0.03	4.02	185	7.84	122	80	53	0	7	1	0
IA BURLINGTON	44	28	50	17	36	-7	0.07	-0.63	0.05	3.01	133	6.03	118	81	43	0	7	2	0
CEDAR RAPIDS	42	24	48	17	33	-6	0.08	-0.48	0.04	3.46	212	5.41	143	86	40	0	7	2	0
DES MOINES	42	27	48	16	34	-7	0.37	-0.19	0.20	2.13	133	3.10	81	72	54	0	7	2	0

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 25, 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	43	30	53	22	37	-11	1.36	0.73	0.70	2.35	111	2.46	62	89	67	0	5	5	2	
KY JACKSON	45	30	53	23	38	-11	0.38	-0.56	0.19	2.82	79	10.24	95	84	43	0	4	5	0	
KY LEXINGTON	44	27	48	19	35	-13	0.47	-0.50	0.22	3.73	104	11.22	110	80	57	0	5	4	0	
KY LOUISVILLE	46	30	49	21	38	-11	0.66	-0.32	0.33	4.03	113	10.38	103	76	47	0	4	2	0	
LA PADUCAH	46	30	49	26	38	-12	1.68	0.73	1.20	5.80	172	14.80	137	83	44	0	5	3	1	
LA BATON ROUGE	68	46	81	33	57	-5	0.01	-1.14	0.01	0.24	6	6.35	42	88	41	0	0	1	0	
LA LAKE CHARLES	69	47	79	36	58	-4	0.10	-0.72	0.10	0.12	4	4.77	41	81	42	0	0	1	0	
LA NEW ORLEANS	69	51	79	38	60	-4	0.19	-1.00	0.16	0.64	15	6.75	44	77	49	0	0	2	0	
LA SHREVEPORT	57	42	65	32	50	-10	2.86	1.95	2.13	4.97	150	15.24	126	77	50	0	1	2	2	
ME CARIBOU	37	25	42	9	31	4	0.03	-0.55	0.02	0.95	48	6.87	98	84	58	0	5	2	0	
ME PORTLAND	43	25	55	16	34	-2	0.00	-0.98	0.00	1.00	31	7.45	71	72	40	0	6	0	0	
MD BALTIMORE	49	29	52	26	39	-6	0.00	-0.87	0.00	0.18	6	6.30	65	61	35	0	5	0	0	
MA BOSTON	43	29	56	22	36	-5	0.01	-0.87	0.01	0.56	19	7.77	76	66	41	0	4	1	0	
MA WORCESTER	40	24	52	17	32	-4	0.00	-0.99	0.00	0.50	15	9.29	88	74	39	0	7	0	0	
MI ALPENA	37	25	43	16	31	1	0.03	-0.47	0.01	2.00	123	6.61	139	85	52	0	7	3	0	
MI GRAND RAPIDS	40	26	46	22	33	-4	0.12	-0.53	0.07	3.18	166	9.87	180	80	51	0	7	2	0	
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	37	23	43	16	30	-2	0.13	-0.37	0.12	2.42	157	6.47	147	83	58	0	7	2	0	
MI LANSING	39	25	46	19	32	-4	0.09	-0.50	0.07	2.53	150	8.39	177	83	57	0	7	2	0	
MI MUSKOGON	41	27	44	23	34	-2	0.23	-0.35	0.17	5.54	315	11.33	204	81	59	0	7	3	0	
MI TRAVERSE CITY	38	26	41	17	32	-1	0.08	-0.41	0.06	1.37	96	4.45	72	84	52	0	7	3	0	
MN DULUTH	35	21	40	15	28	0	0.00	-0.43	0.00	0.88	72	2.30	72	72	55	0	7	0	0	
MN INT'L FALLS	35	13	41	-1	24	-2	0.01	-0.22	0.01	0.50	75	2.03	94	76	47	0	7	1	0	
MN MINNEAPOLIS	39	26	43	17	32	-3	0.04	-0.43	0.04	1.49	110	2.52	79	67	52	0	7	1	0	
MN ROCHESTER	36	24	39	16	30	-3	0.01	-0.48	0.01	1.62	122	2.35	78	72	59	0	7	1	0	
MN ST. CLOUD	39	26	44	22	33	2	0.01	-0.39	0.01	0.81	78	1.36	57	74	44	0	7	1	0	
MS JACKSON	55	41	60	32	48	-10	2.58	1.23	2.03	4.38	98	18.14	124	89	50	0	1	4	2	
MS MERIDIAN	60	41	67	31	51	-8	2.67	1.10	2.53	5.49	98	17.35	103	85	53	0	1	2	1	
MS TUPELO	54	37	58	32	46	-9	2.10	0.69	1.59	3.59	70	15.08	101	79	56	0	1	3	1	
MO COLUMBIA	43	31	49	24	37	-9	0.45	-0.29	0.43	2.48	101	4.50	70	79	50	0	5	3	0	
MO KANSAS CITY	44	30	50	24	37	-9	0.32	-0.23	0.23	1.34	71	2.49	57	78	51	0	4	3	0	
MO SAINT LOUIS	43	30	48	20	36	-12	0.63	-0.20	0.42	2.90	103	4.99	69	78	56	0	3	2	0	
MO SPRINGFIELD	45	30	50	22	38	-10	0.42	-0.51	0.21	2.43	83	4.29	59	83	57	0	5	3	0	
MT BILLINGS	42	22	66	15	32	-6	0.50	0.23	0.38	0.78	96	0.98	45	89	63	0	6	2	0	
MT BUTTE	43	23	57	18	33	1	0.13	-0.06	0.13	0.23	37	0.87	54	89	45	0	7	1	0	
MT CUT BANK	38	21	52	16	29	-3	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.01	3	0.22	21	95	66	0	7	0	0	
MT GLASGOW	39	22	55	18	31	-2	0.10	-0.01	0.09	0.23	72	1.50	161	83	65	0	7	2	0	
MT GREAT FALLS	42	20	65	13	31	-4	1.04	0.81	1.02	1.57	212	2.72	141	96	59	0	7	2	1	
MT HAVRE	43	23	58	19	33	-2	0.06	-0.10	0.06	0.17	33	0.85	63	89	68	0	7	1	0	
MT MISSOULA	52	30	62	25	41	2	0.20	0.01	0.19	1.10	155	2.71	107	79	51	0	6	2	0	
NE GRAND ISLAND	31	16	34	6	24	-16	1.84	1.34	1.28	2.59	168	2.84	103	93	82	0	7	3	2	
NE LINCOLN	35	23	40	17	29	-13	1.27	0.73	0.79	2.19	132	3.17	106	89	75	0	7	3	1	
NE NORFOLK	33	19	39	8	26	-13	1.30	0.82	0.69	2.51	171	3.03	108	86	74	0	7	3	2	
NE NORTH PLATTE	31	18	36	8	24	-16	0.53	0.24	0.42	0.64	70	0.98	54	91	76	0	7	2	0	
NE OMAHA	37	24	41	15	30	-12	0.82	0.30	0.35	1.91	119	2.65	84	89	69	0	7	3	0	
NE SCOTTSBLUFF	29	18	37	6	24	-15	0.30	0.02	0.17	0.75	89	1.79	91	92	84	0	7	2	0	
NE VALENTINE	29	13	33	-2	21	-16	0.79	0.53	0.63	1.55	191	1.97	124	89	81	0	7	3	1	
NV ELY	47	23	59	13	35	-2	0.14	-0.08	0.13	1.49	184	3.16	137	81	51	0	7	2	0	
NV LAS VEGAS	65	45	76	38	55	-4	0.14	0.04	0.14	0.14	29	0.23	13	60	36	0	0	1	0	
NV RENO	53	31	66	22	42	-2	0.13	-0.02	0.13	0.63	90	3.27	116	67	44	0	4	1	0	
NV WINNEMUCCA	54	24	66	14	39	-3	0.06	-0.13	0.06	0.57	88	2.59	123	77	42	0	6	1	0	
NH CONCORD	41	22	53	12	32	-3	0.00	-0.70	0.00	1.31	55	7.51	98	76	42	0	6	0	0	
NJ NEWARK	47	31	53	24	39	-5	0.00	-0.98	0.00	0.78	23	7.96	77	57	34	0	4	0	0	
NM ALBUQUERQUE	55	32	68	28	44	-5	0.03	-0.10	0.02	0.14	30	0.18	13	72	29	0	4	2	0	
NY ALBANY	43	26	51	19	35	-2	0.03	-0.70	0.02	1.17	49	6.94	98	74	40	0	5	2	0	
NY BINGHAMTON	31	21	41	12	26	-9	0.21	-0.48	0.11	1.61	71	6.15	84	86	68	0	7	4	0	
NY BUFFALO	34	26	39	19	30	-6	0.03	-0.66	0.02	1.98	85	8.10	103	84	59	0	7	2	0	
NY ROCHESTER	36	25	43	20	31	-5	0.04	-0.56	0.03	1.52	77	6.07	95	80	54	0	7	2	0	
NY SYRACUSE	35	24	44	15	30	-6	0.23	-0.49	0.10	1.78	77	6.40	91	88	63	0	6	3	0	
NC ASHEVILLE	46	31	54	24	38	-10	0.71	-0.31	0.47	0.90	24	7.04	61	82	53	0	5	4	0	
NC CHARLOTTE	51	35	58	31	43	-11	0.97	0.00	0.79	1.30	36	5.70	51	77	41	0	2	3	1	
NC GREENSBORO	50	35	56	32	43	-8	0.63	-0.23	0.41	0.97	31	4.91	50	80	42	0	1	3	0	
NC HATTERAS	49	38	54	32	44	-10	1.08	-0.05	0.75	1.08	27	7.56	55	84	55	0	1	3	1	
NC RALEIGH	51	33	56	29	42	-10	1.06	0.19	0.50	1.25	38	4.97	46	73	46	0	4	3	1	
NC WILMINGTON	54	36	60	30	45	-12	0.96	0.04	0.48	1.28	37	6.51	56	88	42	0	2	4	0	
ND BISMARCK	40	18	44	12	29	-3	0.01	-0.19	0.01	0.38	64	0.76	49	78	41	0	7	1	0	
ND DICKINSON	32	15	38	6	24	-8	0.06	-0.12	0.05	0.14	35	0.60	50	92	57	0	7	2	0	
ND FARGO	31	19	34	10	25	-5	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.33	38	1.16	52	77	61	0	7	0	0	
ND GRAND FORKS	29	12	35	2	20	-8	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.50	78	1.68	88	84	62	0	7	0	0	
ND JAMESTOWN	35	20	39	13	27	-3	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.15	24	0.36	20	79	44	0	7	0	0	
ND WILLISTON	38	19	46	11	29	-2	0.18	0.01	0.18	0.33	63	0.77	53	74	48	0	7	1	0	
OH AKRON-CANTON	36	23	42	19	30	-10	0.17	-0.55	0.11	2.11	85	7.57	105	85	62	0	7	2	0	
OH CINCINNATI	43	25	47	14	34	-12	0.34	-0.57	0.14	5.73	187	11.28	129	83	55	0	6	4	0	
OH CLEVELAND	37	27	42	21	32	-8	0.13	-0.56	0.13	1.36	60	6.08	86	79	56	0	7	1	0	
OH COLUMBUS	41	26	47	20	33	-11	0.08	-0.58	0.06	3.11	139	7.14	102	79	59	0	7	2	0	
OH DAYTON	40	24	45	19	32	-10	0.17	-0.62	0.13	3.21	128	7.84	106	87	57	0	7	3	0	
OH MANSFIELD	37	23	43	20	30	-9	0.11	-0.71	0.07	2.84	112	8.04	110	90	58	0	7	2	0	

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 25, 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	0.1 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
OK TOLEDO	41	27	48	23	34	-5	0.07	-0.56	0.07	2.30	117	7.09	123	76	51	0	7	1	0
OK YOUNGSTOWN	36	24	40	20	30	-9	0.11	-0.61	0.09	1.70	72	6.38	95	83	60	0	7	2	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	50	33	63	23	42	-11	0.56	-0.09	0.45	2.56	111	2.91	57	90	60	0	3	4	0
OR TULSA	49	35	57	28	42	-11	1.39	0.56	1.14	2.77	98	3.84	60	83	64	0	3	4	1
OR ASTORIA	53	39	58	30	46	0	1.13	-0.46	0.34	5.69	95	33.70	143	94	73	0	1	6	0
OR BURNS	49	29	55	19	39	1	0.21	-0.04	0.13	0.82	82	3.31	101	85	62	0	5	3	0
OR EUGENE	54	40	66	32	47	0	1.18	-0.05	0.42	3.46	73	19.16	102	93	75	0	1	5	0
OR MEDFORD	58	38	68	26	48	0	0.32	-0.06	0.18	1.62	108	8.68	143	82	48	0	1	6	0
OR PENDLETON	56	37	66	30	46	0	0.97	0.69	0.77	2.04	208	4.59	126	77	52	0	2	3	1
OR PORTLAND	56	40	61	31	48	0	0.86	0.08	0.25	3.03	100	16.11	131	88	64	0	2	6	0
OR SALEM	54	39	60	28	47	0	1.03	0.18	0.68	3.55	103	19.04	132	89	71	0	1	6	1
PA ALLENTOWN	44	26	48	20	35	-6	0.16	-0.65	0.16	0.88	31	8.48	93	63	42	0	6	1	0
PA ERIE	34	26	39	20	30	-8	0.16	-0.58	0.12	1.86	78	6.83	95	83	67	0	7	2	0
PA MIDDLETOWN	44	29	50	23	37	-6	0.00	-0.71	0.00	0.68	26	7.29	87	68	38	0	6	0	0
PA PHILADELPHIA	47	32	52	25	39	-6	0.12	-0.76	0.12	0.81	27	6.66	72	55	37	0	4	1	0
PA PITTSBURGH	38	26	43	22	32	-10	0.07	-0.65	0.05	1.90	77	7.38	98	78	51	0	7	2	0
PA WILKES-BARRE	38	23	41	15	31	-9	0.04	-0.59	0.04	1.28	62	6.76	102	80	52	0	6	1	0
PA WILLIAMSPORT	43	25	49	19	34	-6	0.01	-0.73	0.01	1.15	46	8.28	104	72	41	0	7	1	0
RI PROVIDENCE	45	28	57	22	37	-4	0.00	-1.04	0.00	0.57	16	8.43	75	63	39	0	5	0	0
SC BEAUFORT	60	43	63	37	51	-8	0.19	-0.68	0.14	0.21	7	6.01	60	90	45	0	0	2	0
SC CHARLESTON	60	42	63	37	51	-8	0.37	-0.56	0.19	0.45	14	6.68	65	84	38	0	0	2	0
SC COLUMBIA	56	38	62	31	47	-10	0.88	-0.16	0.72	0.88	24	7.00	57	80	39	0	1	2	1
SC GREENVILLE	53	35	61	28	44	-9	1.20	0.05	1.06	1.34	31	6.40	49	79	39	0	1	4	1
SD ABERDEEN	37	22	42	17	30	-3	0.00	-0.33	0.00	0.45	47	1.00	52	78	56	0	7	0	0
SD HURON	39	23	44	17	31	-4	0.00	-0.42	0.00	0.90	74	1.33	59	81	45	0	7	0	0
SD RAPID CITY	29	18	35	12	23	-13	0.63	0.38	0.29	1.21	166	1.57	101	92	80	0	7	5	0
SD SIOUX FALLS	35	23	41	14	29	-6	0.10	-0.37	0.08	0.98	75	1.89	81	80	63	0	7	2	0
TN BRISTOL	46	29	56	22	37	-11	1.31	0.47	0.57	2.62	83	8.50	84	87	48	0	5	5	1
TN CHATTANOOGA	52	38	60	33	45	-8	1.09	-0.30	1.04	1.63	32	8.87	58	79	45	0	0	2	1
TN KNOXVILLE	49	34	58	30	42	-9	1.37	0.22	0.64	2.86	68	9.41	74	80	45	0	3	4	1
TN MEMPHIS	50	36	55	32	43	-12	2.12	0.84	1.80	3.79	86	14.73	114	80	53	0	1	2	1
TN NASHVILLE	48	34	52	29	41	-11	1.18	0.10	1.07	2.59	66	11.85	102	74	41	0	2	2	1
TX ABILENE	57	36	70	26	47	-11	0.78	0.48	0.77	2.52	233	4.22	133	80	52	0	1	2	1
TX AMARILLO	47	25	68	19	36	-13	1.03	0.76	0.79	1.49	177	1.58	78	93	60	0	6	3	1
TX AUSTIN	68	41	79	28	55	-8	1.04	0.61	0.69	1.19	68	4.05	72	79	46	0	1	3	1
TX BEAUMONT	70	47	80	36	59	-5	0.17	-0.71	0.10	0.28	10	3.97	33	84	41	0	0	2	0
TX BROWNSVILLE	77	59	97	43	68	-2	0.19	-0.03	0.19	0.19	31	1.03	33	84	53	1	0	1	0
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	74	54	90	37	64	-3	0.08	-0.28	0.07	0.08	6	0.40	8	76	45	1	0	2	0
TX DEL RIO	71	47	82	33	59	-6	0.12	-0.08	0.12	0.13	18	0.42	19	63	37	0	0	1	0
TX EL PASO	66	37	78	32	51	-7	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.00	0	0.30	30	48	17	0	1	0	0
TX FORT WORTH	59	40	75	30	49	-10	3.46	2.82	3.44	4.39	176	10.49	155	80	43	0	1	2	1
TX GALVESTON	68	54	80	44	61	-4	0.11	-0.52	0.11	0.13	6	1.37	15	77	43	0	0	1	0
TX HOUSTON	67	48	79	36	57	-7	1.48	0.72	1.46	1.52	58	5.48	59	78	53	0	0	3	1
TX LUBBOCK	54	31	69	26	43	-10	1.09	0.93	0.85	1.43	270	1.61	93	86	58	0	5	3	1
TX MIDLAND	57	34	71	24	45	-12	0.58	0.52	0.52	1.08	338	2.06	144	81	54	0	3	3	1
TX SAN ANGELO	61	36	72	23	48	-11	1.01	0.82	0.99	1.15	149	2.00	72	81	50	0	2	2	1
TX SAN ANTONIO	70	45	82	32	57	-6	0.91	0.50	0.76	0.93	62	1.90	39	79	31	0	1	3	1
TX VICTORIA	70	45	83	28	57	-8	0.07	-0.43	0.07	0.08	5	2.19	35	81	44	0	1	1	0
TX WACO	61	39	74	31	50	-10	1.57	1.07	1.40	1.83	91	5.69	90	84	48	0	2	3	1
TX WICHITA FALLS	55	35	70	27	45	-11	0.43	-0.07	0.41	2.31	131	3.11	70	83	62	0	2	2	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	53	34	70	31	43	-2	0.53	0.09	0.41	2.14	144	4.72	113	81	46	0	2	4	0
VT BURLINGTON	38	26	49	17	32	-1	0.03	-0.53	0.03	1.05	60	6.39	113	78	51	0	6	1	0
VA LYNCHBURG	48	28	54	22	38	-10	0.47	-0.38	0.40	0.61	20	5.83	60	74	44	0	6	2	0
VA NORFOLK	50	39	54	34	44	-6	0.35	-0.57	0.27	0.52	16	3.85	36	75	46	0	0	3	0
VA RICHMOND	53	31	56	24	42	-7	0.14	-0.78	0.12	0.14	4	4.50	46	71	33	0	5	2	0
VA ROANOKE	48	32	55	28	40	-9	0.22	-0.64	0.15	0.30	10	5.42	58	60	40	0	4	2	0
VA WASH/DULLES	48	29	54	24	39	-6	0.00	-0.80	0.00	0.04	1	4.82	56	62	35	0	6	0	0
WA OLYMPIA	56	37	64	25	47	3	0.38	-0.75	0.30	2.95	68	22.26	123	89	69	0	2	3	0
WA QUILLAYUTE	50	37	56	29	43	-1	5.09	2.78	2.95	10.96	120	41.35	118	93	79	0	3	5	3
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	55	40	64	33	48	1	0.70	-0.10	0.49	2.06	68	16.26	132	93	66	0	0	5	0
WA SPOKANE	51	34	59	27	43	2	0.41	0.09	0.28	1.12	92	6.79	149	82	49	0	2	4	0
WA YAKIMA	57	35	62	24	46	2	0.01	-0.13	0.01	0.33	65	2.78	112	72	48	0	3	1	0
WV BECKLEY	41	23	47	18	32	-12	0.46	-0.34	0.21	1.40	48	5.52	61	83	65	0	7	4	0
WV CHARLESTON	44	28	50	23	36	-11	0.56	-0.29	0.25	1.52	48	6.57	68	84	47	0	5	3	0
WV ELKINS	40	25	44	19	32	-10	0.33	-0.54	0.15	1.29	41	5.63	58	86	49	0	7	3	0
WV HUNTINGTON	45	27	51	21	36	-12	0.83	-0.01	0.70	3.48	112	8.23	88	82	47	0	5	3	1
WI EAU CLAIRE	39	23	45	9	31	-2	0.00	-0.49	0.00	2.33	177	3.87	122	71	47	0	6	0	0
WI GREEN BAY	41	26	47	23	34	0	0.00	-0.52	0.00	1.03	68	4.01	108	76	48	0	7	0	0
WI LA CROSSE	43	25	46	18	34	-3	0.00	-0.53	0.00	1.41	101	2.59	73	73	39	0	7	0	0
WI MADISON	42	27	48	19	34	-2	0.14	-0.44	0.06	2.19	134	4.96	119	76	56	0	7	3	0
WI MILWAUKEE	41	29	49	26	35	-2	0.09	-0.57	0.07	3.56	190	7.39	138	73	58	0	7	2	0
WY CASPER	43	20	63	11	32	-5	0.17	-0.02	0.10	0.86	125	2.25	118	80	60	0	7	2	0
WY CHEYENNE	35	17	55	2	26	-9	0.62	0.37	0.48	0.99	129	1.55	93	80	64	0	7	3	0
WY LANDER	43	24	63	19	33	-4	0.59	0.29	0.55	1.09	122	2.12	109	80	61	0	7	2	1
WY SHERIDAN	46	22	66	15	34	-3	0.20	-0.04	0.19	0.62	89	1.14	56	83	58	0	7	2	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

National Agricultural Summary

March 20 - 26, 2006

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

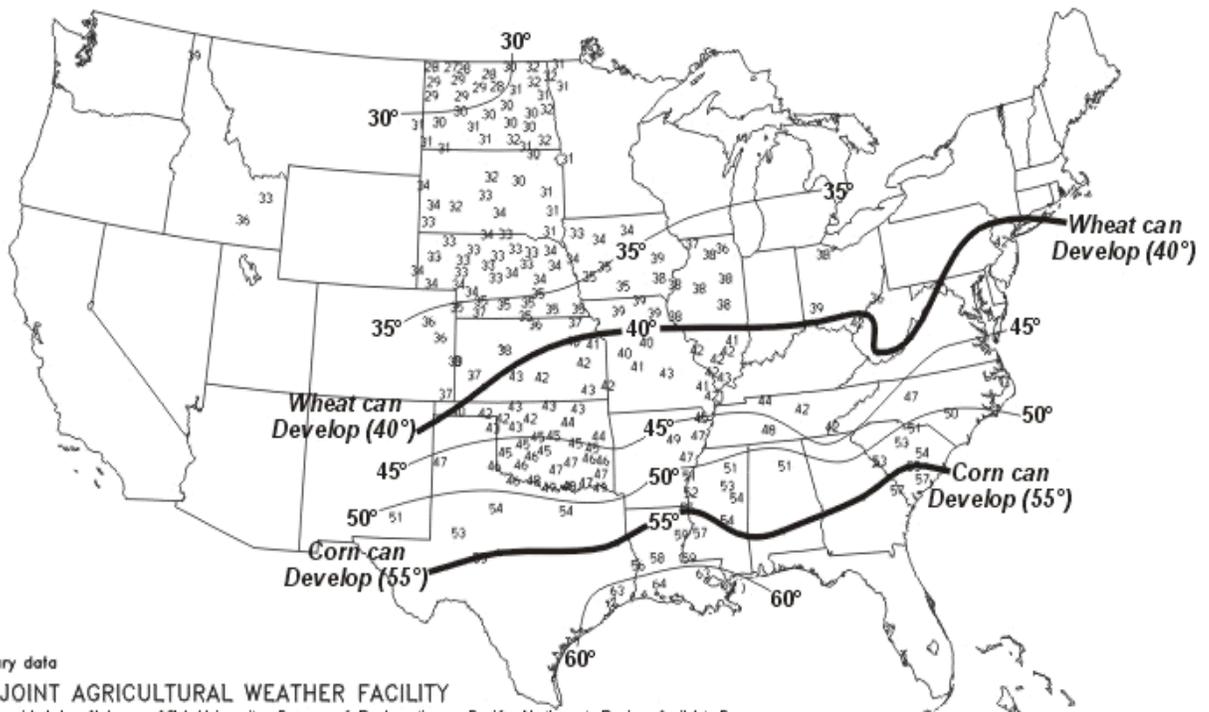
Below-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation, with the exception of the Pacific Northwest. Low temperatures dipped below 20 degrees F across the northern and central Great Plains and much of the Corn Belt. However, most of the winter wheat crop in these areas was protected by a new layer of snow cover deposited by a storm system that moved across the area early in the week. That system also brought much-needed precipitation to the central and southern Great Plains, where winter wheat, particularly in Texas and Oklahoma, endured an extremely dry winter. Heavier rainfall across the Mississippi Delta hindered planting. Light to moderate rainfall eased soil moisture shortages along the southern Atlantic Coast, but the middle Atlantic Coast States remained mostly dry. In the West, variable weather brought snow to the northern Rocky Mountains, light rainfall to parts of the Southwest, and moderate to heavy

precipitation to coastal areas, while the Great Basin and central and southern Rockies remained mostly dry.

In northern and central Florida, conditions remained mostly dry, while thunderstorms in the southern peninsula brought scattered rainfall and high winds, though no significant damage was reported. Rainfall in Georgia eased soil moisture shortages, but cold weather was a concern for vegetable growers. Corn planting in Louisiana was hampered by heavy rainfall, while rice growers in the southeastern part of the State, where little rain fell, planted rapidly. In Texas, rainfall improved the condition of winter wheat and oats, though some of the crop may have been beyond help. Corn planting, at 52 percent complete, exceeded the halfway mark. California fruit trees were blooming and some fruit trees were past peak bloom and leafing.

Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)

MAR 19 - 25, 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 Agrilmet Program, High Plains Regional Climate Center, Illinois State Water Survey, Iowa State University, Louisiana Agriclimatic Information System, Mississippi State University, Oklahoma Mesonet, Purdue University, University of Missouri, and USDA/NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network

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: Cool, mostly dry conditions prevailed across most of the State. Corn planting was underway throughout the state, with some emergence occurring in more southerly areas. Though night-time temperatures in the northern-most areas of the State sometimes dropped below freezing, no significant damage to corn, winter wheat was reported. Pastures were starting to green up despite cool, dry conditions. The peach crop was progressing ahead of normal, was in good condition, but growers expressed concerns about bacterial spot.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures for the State were mostly below normal for the week ending March 26. Precipitation was reported at 14 of the 22 reporting stations. Prescott received the most precipitation at 0.34 inches and Maricopa received the least at 0.01 inches. Alfalfa condition remains mostly good to fair. Range, pasture conditions are very poor to poor.

ARKANSAS: March Crop Weather Summary: The month began with warm, dry conditions. Windy conditions were observed throughout most of the month. Strong winds did produce a few tornadoes scattered in the upper part of the state. A cold front came through to mark the beginning of spring. This front also produced some snow, some sub-freezing temperatures in the upstate. There were also several much needed rain showers scattered throughout the state. These showers did hamper several days of early field work. Still, more rain is needed to overcome the drought conditions from the previous year. The month ended with warm temperatures, lots of sunshine which felt more like the beginning of spring. Corn, some soybean planting are already underway. Farmers are busy with land preparation which includes fertilizing, liming and plowing. They are also draining fields in some of the wetter areas. The winter wheat is starting to show some size in some in the areas with adequate soil moisture. Livestock made it through winter in mostly fair condition. Haying and other supplemental feeding are still necessary in the dryer counties.

CALIFORNIA: Rains boosted growth of field crops. Some planting, field preparation was delayed due to the wet weather. Some small grain crops were damaged by flooding in Sonoma County. Sugar beets continued to emerge. Sweet potato hotbed preparation was winding down by mid March. Cool wet weather slowed development on fruit trees, provided conditions for disease. Orchards were treated with fungicides to prevent blossom rot. Many growers ran water in deciduous fruit orchards to aid in frost protection. Pruning of prune trees was completed. Maintenance in vineyards was ongoing. Some grape vines in the Central Valley began to leaf out. Citrus harvest was slowed, though yields, quality were good. Strawberry plants in San Joaquin Valley showed good growth. Many fruit trees were blooming, some were past peak bloom, beginning to leaf out. Many cherry trees were damaged by the wet cool conditions. Avocado harvest began. Most almond orchards were past bloom, beginning to leaf out. Damage to the almond crop from the wet cold weather continued to undergo assessment. Pistachio trees began pushing buds in Fresno County. Walnut groves were pruned, shredded. Rain was beneficial to pastures. Sheep grazed in foothill pastures with a few still on retired crop land fields. Sellers continued to retain ownership of lambs due to low prices. Old crop lambs continued to ship from pastures in the Imperial Valley. Cows were stressed by the wet weather, milking conditions were not ideal. The wet weather also slowed the work of bees in almond orchards.

COLORADO: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DELAWARE: Producers are topdressing, applying lime to their fields, getting ready for the planting season. Continued dry weather is starting to impact winter seeded grains, but the effects are not

irreversible yet. Ground is being prepared for potato seeding and green pea seeding is underway.

FLORIDA: During the first half of March, dry conditions caused growers to irrigate vegetables in the central, southern Peninsula, new corn plantings in the northern Peninsula, Panhandle. Field preparations for soybean, peanut planting were active in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Sugarcane harvesting slowed around Lake Okeechobee with some mills closing. Vegetable planting, harvesting remained active in the central, southern Peninsula as northern Peninsula, Panhandle producers started to plant spring crop watermelons. Around mid-month, cabbage cutting reached the seasonal peak as growers satisfied the St. Patrick's Day demand. Potato digging in the Hastings area increased seasonally. Dry weather during the last half of March spurred land preparations, field crop planting in the Panhandle, northern Peninsula, increased vegetable harvesting in the central, southern Peninsula. Near the end of the month, scattered rains over some southern and northern Peninsula, Panhandle areas brought minor relief to dry conditions. The rain storms, especially those crossing the southern Peninsula, spawned tornadoes with some damage occurring. Other vegetables, non citrus fruit harvested included snap beans, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, sweet corn and tomatoes. March turned out to be an extremely dry month in six of the seven monitored citrus stations. Immokalee, in the extreme south, was the only exception receiving just over two inches of rain for the month. The least recorded rainfall was in Ft. Pierce at three tenths of an inch for the entire month. Warmer than normal seasonal daytime temperatures were recorded, averaging the mid 80s in all areas. Trees reached a uniform full bloom close to the end of the month, with pedal drop beginning on Valencias, grapefruit. Growers continued with fertilizing programs, brush removal, hedging, topping after harvest. Irrigation was on a rotating basis at least two to three times per week for the entire month. Maturity levels in all varieties lagged behind normal for the month. Early midseason harvest was relatively complete by the end of March, as Valencia harvesting began picking up the second, third week of the month. Grapefruit harvesting peaked at just over one million boxes during the second week, with a larger percentage of both colored, white going to processing. Honey tangerine harvest stayed between 100,000 to 150,000 boxes per week, while Temple harvest averaged less than 50,000 boxes per week. Most pasture was fair to good in March, with drought and seasonally cool temperatures limiting grass growth. At the beginning of March, small grain forage in the Panhandle, in the north started to grow. By month's end, warm season pasture had started to green up. Hay feeding was active throughout month. Cattle condition was poor to good throughout March.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7 for the month of March. Once again, variable temperatures, rainfall characterized the month of March, according to the USDA, NASS, Georgia Field Office. The month began with dry, warm conditions. Precipitation increased as the month progressed. Many counties reported no rain during the first week, moderate rain during the last week. This was good news to farmers who got started planting early in the month. The winter dormancy began to subside mid-month as warmer than average temperatures sparked greening in hayfields and pastures. The beginning of the month found cool season vegetables doing well, but growers were concerned that unseasonable warm days could lead to some late cold damage. These concerns were realized as the last week of March brought freezing temperatures once again. This cold snap slowed watermelon transplanting and damage to crops is still unknown. Corn planting, field preparation, pasture fertilization were some of the activities that took place throughout the month. Farmers relied on hay supplies for supplemental livestock feed and the end of the month found many farmers in short supply. Peaches began to bloom statewide. The onion crop was reported to look good and

harvest was expected to begin by the end of the month. Cabbage, other small grains were also reported to look good. Activities Included: Routine care of poultry, livestock, pasture weed control, tobacco transplanting, weaning of fall calves, primary tillage, spraying fungicide on wheat.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: Topsoil 6% short, 71% adequate, 23% surplus. During the past week, temperatures recorded for the state were above average, most weather stations received precipitation. Winter wheat condition 5% fair, 91% good, and 4% excellent. Hay, roughage supply 11% very short, 16% short, 71% adequate, 2% surplus. Lambing 72% complete. Calving 74% complete. Southeastern Idaho farmers experienced prohibitive winter weather, keeping farmers off their fields. Livestock are in very good shape. South-Central Idaho farmers have begun spreading manure and setting up sprinkler systems.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil 10% very short, 31% short, 50% adequate, 9% surplus. Oats 14% planted, 11% 2005, 9% avg. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 30% fair, 55% good, 12% excellent. Statewide precipitation averaged 1.61 inches above normal so far during March. The smallest district total was 2.74 inches in the Central District, while the greatest precipitation totals ranged from seven to eight inches in the two southern districts. The precipitation definitely helped topsoil moisture conditions around the state, but subsoil moisture conditions are still a concern. Temperatures have averaged near normal so far during March. Winter wheat is generally doing well in most areas of the state. Fieldwork has been limited due to the precipitation received this month, but fertilizer has been applied in some areas. Activities Included: Hauling grain, spreading manure, tending to calves, and machinery preparation for planting.

INDIANA: Winter wheat is reported to be in mostly good condition, is beginning to green up. However, some areas received heavy rainfall during mid-March which left some wheat under water for a short period of time. Some tillage work was done, fertilizer spread on soils that were dry enough to support heavy equipment. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Calving, lambing remain active on many livestock operations. Feedlots are muddy in most areas. Pastures are beginning to green up. Hay supplies are mostly adequate. The average state temperature for March 1st through March 24th was 39.6E which was .3E above normal. The average precipitation was 4.68 inches which was 2.18 inches above normal. The heaviest rainfall occurred in southern areas of the state, some of which received up to 5 inches above normal amounts. Activities Included: Tax preparation, ordering supplies, preparing planting equipment, hauling grain to market, attending farm meetings, cleaning fence rows, financial planning, and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Soil 16% very short, 34% short, 47% adequate, 3% surplus, a nice increase of moisture from the past month. Movement of grain for the state was 23% none, 40% light, 33% moderate, 4% heavy. **NEEDED MOISTURE ARRIVED.** Agricultural Summary: March brought a mixture of rain, snow, therefore the soil moisture is adequate, but not saturated. In some areas of the state, anhydrous application, spring tillage have begun. Cow/calf operators in several parts of the state lost calves during last week's snow storm. Manure hauling was good this month due to light frost penetration. At the end of March, the average depth of snow cover across Iowa is negligible. The average depth of frost penetration for the state is 2 inches, compared to last year's 3 inches. Availability of hay, roughage supplies 7% short, 75% adequate, 18% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage supplies 5% poor, 40% fair, 55% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 43% none, 22% limited, 21% moderate, 14% extensive. Livestock losses continue to be light due to the warm, dry weather for most of the month. Hog, Pig losses were at 26% below avg.; 72% avg.; 2% above average. Cattle, calf losses were below last year's state averages at 31% below avg.; 66% avg.; 3% above average.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.1. Topsoil 7% very short, 25% short, 64% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 25% very short, 46% short, 29% adequate. Oats 52% planted, 47% 2005, 52% avg. Wheat 11% jointing, 15% 2005, 11% avg.; condition 9% very poor, 20% poor, 45% fair, 24% good, 2% excellent; wind damage was 75% none, 20%

light, 4% moderate, 1% severe, freeze damage was 82% none, 16% light, 2% moderate. Pasture feed 13% very poor, 21% poor, 46% fair, 19% good, 1% excellent. Hay, forage supplies 4% very short, 18% short, 76% adequate, 2% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 90% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 13% very short, 28% short, 59% adequate.

KENTUCKY: March began warm and dry. Temperatures averaged 46° across the state, 6° above normal. High temperatures averaged from 60 in the West to 57 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 35° in the West to 34° in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.02 in. statewide which was 0.97 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.00 in. at Buckhorn Lake to a high of 0.11 in. at Covington. A very mild and wet second week brought severe thunderstorms to the State. Rainfall totals ranged from 4 to 6 in. along and south of the Ohio River. Flooding was reported in northern sections of the Commonwealth. The counties along the TN/KY border reported one inch or less. Extreme high temperatures reached upper 70's to 80 degrees. Temperatures averaged 53°, 10° above normal. Highs ranged from 64 in the West to 62 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 46° in the West to 43° in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 2.61 in. statewide which was 1.58 in. above normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.26 in. at Quicksand to a high of 7.06 in. at Evansville. The third week started off wet and very mild with temperatures in the 70's, then temperatures cooled to near seasonal normal with dry conditions at weeks end. Temperatures averaged 47°, 2° above normal. High temperatures averaged from 58 in the West to 57 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 39° in the West to 38° in the East. Precipitation (liq. Equ.) totaled 0.73 in., 0.30 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.25 in. at Cape Girardeau to a high of 1.51 in. at Williamstown. Cooler than normal temperature with snow, sleet in the north ushered in spring the fourth week. Temperatures averaged 36°, 11° below normal. High temperatures averaged from 45 in the West to 44 in the East. Low temperatures averaged 29° statewide. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.48 in., which was 0.56 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.01 in. at Mayfield to a high of 1.33 in. at Paducah. Temperatures the final week of the month rose steadily as more southerly air brought warmer weather and periods of showers. The periodic rain and warmer temperatures helped pastures, fall seeded small grains to begin greening. However, the frequent return to cooler temperatures during the month slowed growth. Corn producers prepared ground for planting and began seeding the crop in southern counties late in the month. Fruit was vulnerable to a sudden hard freeze as trees began to bud out at mid-month. Livestock remained in mostly good condition as farmers continued to feed cattle hay to supplement the limited feed from greening pastures.

LOUISIANA: The state averaged 2.46 inches of rain over the last four weeks, remaining 3.44 inches below the state average. Field crop producers were preparing fields for spring planting as weather condition permitted. Sugarcane producers were fertilizing, spraying pre-emergence herbicides. Other field crop producers were getting equipment ready for the upcoming season. Hay producers, cattlemen began to cut ryegrass for hay. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures, feeding hay. Strawberry producers continued harvesting, selling their crop. Crawfish harvest continued, and larger sizes were being reported.

MARYLAND: Producers are busy applying poultry litter, topdressing wheat, preparing corn ground, planting peas. Continued dry weather is starting to concern producers as they prepare for the growing season. Small grains are doing okay, but since there has been no rain applied nitrogen is not moving to the root zone. Hay supplies remain adequate.

MICHIGAN: March temperatures were near normal for most of the month. Precipitation for the last four weeks ranged from 1.23 inches in the northwest Lower Peninsula to 3.26 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula. Snow covered most of the State on March 1st. On March 15, snow covered the Upper Peninsula, northernmost part of the Lower Peninsula, which continued for the rest of the month. Some snow fell in the Lower Peninsula, but melted soon after. Cattle were looking good with some calving starting. Farmers were busy preparing machinery for the start of fieldwork. Some producers started applying

nitrogen fertilizer to winter wheat fields. Overwintering of winter wheat, alfalfa fields appears good. Cool temperatures have kept fruit development from moving too fast. Flower buds are beginning to swell in southern portions of the fruit areas. Operators are pruning apple, cherry and peach trees. Maple syrup production is going well with good conditions for sap flow. Activities Included: Pruning fruit trees, hauling manure, hauling crops to market, applying nitrogen fertilizer, preparing machinery, caring for livestock, lambing, and calving.

MINNESOTA: Heavy wet snow late in the month improved snow cover across most of the state. Areas of Southern, Central Minnesota reported 2-12 inches of snow as of the end of the month. Sub surface frost ranges from 0-22 inches. Producers are purchasing seed for spring planting, preparing machinery. Livestock has wintered well. Feed supplies have been sufficient.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.3. Soil 15% short, 51% adequate, 34% surplus. Hay supply 54% short, 44% adequate, 2% surplus. Feed grain 100% adequate. Corn 33% planted, NA 2005, 21% avg.; 12% emerged, NA 2005, 3% avg. Soybeans 1% planted, NA 2005 2% avg. Wheat 52% jointing, NA 2005, 38% avg.; 1% heading, NA 2005, NA avg.; 3% poor, 46% fair, 47% good, 4% excellent. Cattle 2% very poor, 11% poor, 41% fair, 31% good, 15% excellent. Pasture 10% very poor, 20% poor, 38% 24% good, 8% excellent. Wet conditions across the state have affected the planting of many fields. Before the rain arrived, early varieties of soybean planting had begun. Corn planting is progressing well, emergence rates are looking good. The demand for hay in March increased due to cooler temperatures and a decline in grass growth. The rains that fell during the week, along with the forecast of warmer temperatures, should help to improve grass growth.

MISSOURI: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

MONTANA: Topsoil 4% surplus, 4% 2005, 58% adequate, 41% 2005, 31% short, 33% 2005, 7% very short, 22% last year. Subsoil 2% surplus, 1% 2005, 42% adequate, 13% 2005, 41% short, 31% 2005, 15% very short, 55% last year. For the month of March, Montana experienced moderate to heavy precipitation. On March 18 Great Falls experienced record high precipitation of 0.34 inches compared to the 1968 high of 0.33 inches, record snow fall of 4.2 inches compared with the 1968 high of 3.3 inches. On the same day, Helena received record precipitation of 0.36 inches compared with the 1987 high of 0.18 inches. Great Falls received the most moisture in March with 2.02 inches. Joliet experienced the high temperature of 68 degrees. West Yellowstone experienced the low temperature of -23 degrees. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 1% last year, 10% poor, 11% 2005, 43% fair, 44% 2005, 39% good, 38% 2005, 7% excellent, 6% 2005, wind damage is 49% none, 50% 2005, 37% light, 33% 2005, 13% moderate, 15% 2005, 1% heavy, 2% 2005, freeze , drought damage 46% none, 43% 2005 29% light, 39% 2005, 24% moderate, 15% 2005, 1% heavy, 3% 2005, spring stages are 84% still dormant, 36% 2005, 15% greening, 55% 2005, 1% green, growing, 9% last year. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover is 58% very poor, 59% 2005, 25% poor, 8% 2005, 15% fair, 14% 2005, 2% good, 11% 2005, 0% excellent, 8% last year. Ranchers are providing supplemental feed to 96% of cattle, calves, 94% 2005, 95% of sheep, lambs, 84% last year. Livestock grazing is 81% open, 71% 2005 difficult, 18% 2005, 10% closed, 11% last year. Calving is 57% complete, 55% 2005, lambing is 37% complete, 47% last year.

NEBRASKA: For the month of March 2006, a large storm during the third full week of the month produced large amounts of snow over the eastern two-thirds of Nebraska. The heavy, wet snow resulted in moisture accumulations of one to two inches. Field work was halted, but the moisture was welcomed by crop producers. The snow made livestock care difficult. As of March 26, snow cover was reported in all districts of the state. Average snow depth ranged from over three inches in the southwest to over seventeen inches in north central counties. During the first two weeks of the month average temperatures were above normal, but below normal the last half of the month. Wheat conditions were near month ago levels 4% very poor, 7% poor, 46% fair, 40% good, 3% excellent. This is below last year's condition 59% good or excellent. Poorest wheat conditions were reported in the Southwest. Oat planting was underway in southern

counties with 9% seeded statewide. Hay, forage supplies adequate or surplus across the majority of the state. Cattle, Calves condition 2% poor 14% fair, 67% good, 17% excellent, below year ago levels. Calving has progressed to 64% complete with some calf losses reported due to the storm, but overall losses were below average.

NEVADA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

NEW ENGLAND: New England had unusual weather conditions during the month of March, very little snow, colder than normal temperatures in the region. Warmer weather arrived at the end of the month. New England precipitation levels are below normal for this time of year with parts of the region being three inches below normal. New England maple sugar producers were busy during the month. Sap production quantity, quality has improved over the last couple of weeks. Activities Included: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were below normal the first week of March in most state localities. During mid-March temperatures were up to 20° above normal across most of the state. By the end of March, temperatures fell to below normal in most areas. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in many areas during the month. Total precipitation for the month was below normal in most localities. There was no measurable snowfall for the month in most parts of the state. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: Greenhouse work, equipment repair, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: The month began with a warm relatively dry week, with temperatures averaging about 8° above normal for the state. The season's first strong winter storm brought welcome heavy snow to western, northern areas of the state mid month. However, overall effect on the current drought will be marginal as water equivalents from the snow remained light for most locations. Closer to months end, the far north, portions of eastern New Mexico received precipitation from a series of storms. Farmers spent the month laser leveling, preparing fields for pre-irrigation, making other preparations for this years crops. Windy conditions made field work difficult in the latter part of the month, the increasing fire danger is a major concern across the state. Wind damage was reported to onions, pasture. The outlook for alfalfa was not promising with limited irrigation water expected this season. The dry, warm winter has left winter wheat in bad shape. Chile, onion planting was ongoing during the month. Forage from wheat pastures, rangeland were limited, as livestock producers were busy supplementing feeding and hauling water.

NEW YORK: Maple syrup production was underway in many regions of the state, although in some eastern areas, cold daytime temperatures have delayed sap flows. Extremely high winds in February caused a lot of damage to sap lines by fallen trees and broken branches. Extra hours of work were required to repair damage in time for the maple season. Activities Included: Tending livestock, grading, packing apples, onions, potatoes, cabbage, machinery maintenance and repair.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 4.5. Soil 4% very short, 29% short, 62% adequate, 5% excellent. Activities Included: Feeding, tending livestock, tax preparation, topdressing small grains, preparation for spring planting. The State finally received some much needed rainfall during the week of March 20th with amounts ranging from .4 to 2.4 inches. The rainfall was accompanied below normal temperatures.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures during March were slightly below normal. Snow melted across the state, while the largest quantities remained in the northeast. Average statewide snow cover was 2.3 inches on March 26, compared with 0.9 inch a year ago. Starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 18, 4 days later than last year. The expected starting date ranged from April 10 in the south central to April 28 in the northeast. Hay and forage supplies were rated 0% very short, 4% short, 86% adequate, 10% surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were rated 0% very short, 2% short, 89% adequate, 9% surplus. Calving was 36% complete with lambing 52% complete. Shearing was 73% complete. Cow conditions were rated 0% very

poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 68% good, 19% excellent. Calf conditions were rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 72% good, 16% excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 0% very poor, 2% poor, 7% fair, 72% good, 19% excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 72% good, 18% excellent. Pasture and ranges were 99% still dormant, 1% growing. County and secondary roads were rated 95% open, 4% difficult, 1% closed. Road conditions were 2% drifted, 2% icy, 24% muddy, 72% dry.

OHIO: The March 2006 average temperature for Ohio was 37.3⁰, 1.1⁰ below normal. Precipitation for the state averaged 2.63 inches, 0.15 inches above normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that winter wheat conditions are good to excellent. Many fields have dead patches of wheat plants in low spots. The pooling of water, freezing temperatures killed plants in the low spots, since the majority of the winter was without snow cover. Most operators in the Northeast counties have already top dressed wheat fields with nitrogen. Cattle conditions are excellent in most areas of the state due to mild winter temperatures. There are no reported health issues with cattle. Operators have not let cattle out for pasturing, since pastures are just beginning to grow.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Topsoil 16% very short, 26% short, 58% adequate. Subsoil 43% very short, 44% short, 13% adequate. Wheat 31% very poor, 34% poor, 29% fair, 6% good; 43% jointing, 28% last week, 55% last year, 45% average. Rye 25% very poor, 32% poor, 38% fair, 5% good; 30% jointing, 20% last week, 80% last year, 31% average. Oats 59% very poor, 25% poor, 15% fair, 1% good; 77% planted, 75% last week, 95% last year, 89% average. Corn 36% seedbed prepared, 28% last week, 51% last year, 44% avg.; 6% planted, N/A last week, 17% last year, 11% average. Sorghum 18% seedbed prepared, 11% last week, 23% last year, 19% average. Soybeans 20% seedbed prepared, 14% last year, 26% last week, 22% average. Peanuts 12% seedbed prepared, 6% last week, 22% last year, 22% average. Cotton 33% seedbed prepared, 29% last week, 47% last year, 43% average. Livestock 15% very poor, 44% poor, 30% fair, 11% good; Pasture, Range 38% very poor, 29% poor, 28% fair, 5% good. Livestock: Cattle marketing was mostly average but some heavy trading was reported in the East Central, South Central districts. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged a little more than \$102 per cwt. Feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged nearly \$97.50 per cwt. Cold weather kept parasite activity down but cattle were still plagued with moderately heavy insect activity in areas of southern Oklahoma. Cattlemen enjoyed the rainfall for pasture green up but more runoff moisture is needed to replenish low stock ponds. Calving and lambing were still active.

OREGON: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

PENNSYLVANIA: March had a very cool beginning. The 2nd and 3rd day of the month seemed to be the coldest as very few areas reached a high of 40⁰ Fahrenheit. Traces of snow fell throughout the month, but most fell, if any at all, during these two days. These storms of snow, sleet, freezing rain increased livestock stress, caused travel disruptions. High winds were reported throughout the month including gusts of 66 mph in Erie. Overall, the majority of the days in March had below normal temperatures. Principal farm activities for the month of March included milking cows, spreading manure, and planning for this year's crop season. However, during the span from March 9th to the 14th, a warm front made its way through Pennsylvania raising temperatures 10⁰ above the daily average. During these several days temperatures ranged from high 50's to mid 70's for daily highs across the Keystone state. Harrisburg, Gettysburg were said to have hit the 80⁰ mark on the 13th. The warm front also brought several showers as most of the precipitation measured for March fell during this span of 6 days. After the warm front passed, temperatures dropped again below normal and remained there as we make our way into April.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Although the beginning of March was mild, spring 2006 began with weather conditions more like mid-winter. Clouds over cold northeast winds kept high temperatures in the 50s. Rains developed late in the evening and into Tuesday morning. Heavy amounts exceeding one inch were common across the upstate and central midlands. For the remainder of the last week, high altitude,

northwest winds delivered successive days of cold, below normal temperatures. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings, the mercury fell to or below freezing at many inland sites. For the period, the state average temperature was nine degrees below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 67⁰ at Pritchardville on March 23. The lowest official temperature reported was 22⁰ at Cedar Creek and Lake Bowen on the morning of March 26. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.75 inches at Springfield ending at 7:00 a.m. on March 21. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 1.2 inches. SOIL: 4-inch depth average soil temperature: Columbia 56 degrees. Some early plowing and land preparation occurred in some areas. Small grains were still in good shape. Planting of spring vegetables has begun in some areas.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil 2% very short, 13% short, 77% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil 11% very short, 19% short, 67% adequate, 3% surplus. Feed supplies 3% very short, 4% short, 88% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies 12% very short, 19% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Cattle condition 8% fair, 77% good, 15% excellent. Sheep condition 7% fair, 75% good, 18% excellent. Range, pasture 5% very poor, 14% poor, 36% fair, 42% good, 3% excellent. Accessible livestock feed supplies 87% readily, 13% difficult. Accessible stock water supplies 92% readily, 7% difficult, 1% inaccessible. Road conditions--county 92% open, 8% difficult. Road conditions--township 84% open, 13% difficult, 3% closed. Average snow depth 3.7 inches. Winter wheat breaking dormancy 22%, 53% 2005, 38% avg.; snow cover 30% poor, 48% adequate, 22% excellent. Alfalfa snow cover 47% poor, 39% adequate, 14% excellent. Calving 33% complete, 32% 2005. Lambing 50% complete, 51% 2005. Cattle moved to pasture 3% complete. Cattle death losses since March1st 24% below normal, 73% normal, 3% above normal. Calf deaths since March1st 17% below avg.; 79% avg.; 4% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths since March1st 20% below average, 78% average, 2% above average. Expected date to start spring field work April 9th. While mid-March snowstorms led to some issues with calving, lambing, accessibility of supplies, concern still remains over the effect colder temperatures will have on this year's winter crops and alfalfa. Some producers were able to get fertilizer spread as well as some other fieldwork completed during early-March. Activities Included: Routine chores, tending to livestock, calving, lambing, repairing machinery, spreading fertilizer, and preparing for spring fieldwork.

TENNESSEE: Temperatures across the state averaged mostly above normal for the first three weeks of the month until falling below normal during the fourth week. Rainfall averages were also below normal for the majority of the month, but rose above normal during the last week except on the Cumberland Plateau. The State's winter wheat crop was rated in mostly good condition with minimal insect and disease pressure. Favorable weather allowed producers to make good progress with field activities which included applying herbicides, fertilizer on wheat and pasture spraying. In some places, the winter rains have left pasture primed to bounce back. However, some counties have not received as much rain, and their pastures need some work. Cattle are in mostly good condition although some are thin in places where hay supplies were short.

TEXAS: The month of March started out very hot as temperatures rose into the 90's in many locations. The combination of heat, low humidity and little or no precipitation were all contributing factors to the massive wildfires that scorched the Panhandle. Over 840,000 acres were burned, making it the largest wildfire in Texas history. Livestock losses totaled well over 10,000 head. The latter half of the month brought some relief to the extreme drought conditions. A line of thunderstorms blew across the state, dropping rainfall amounts up to 2 inches on the Panhandle, South Plains. North Central, Northeast Texas received the most precipitation with rain gauge readings ranging from 3 to 8 inches accumulation. Scattered rain, thunderstorms were common in other areas of the state with total rainfall amounts varying widely. The Coastal Bend, South Texas, the Rio Grande Valley missed out on much of the rain as drought conditions persisted. The wheat crop continued to suffer. Most dryland fields on the Panhandle had been grazed out or disastered. The only grazing that remained in the region was under irrigation pivots. In many other regions, increased moisture and high temperatures began to green-up the crop. There was concern about freeze damage in many fields due to the cold front

that passed through mid-month, but the extent of that damage remained to be seen. Wheat on the Blacklands, East Texas began to show some sign of recovery from drought damage. Corn, sorghum producers took advantage of the rain, seeded their crop at a very fast clip. Some growers that did not receive moisture, especially in southern districts, failed to get their crop in the ground. Cotton was planted in the Rio Grande Valley, Coastal Bend, Upper Coast. By month's end, Blackland cotton growers began seeding. Land preparations in other regions were ongoing. Rice planting had begun, early planted fields were being flooded. Soybean producers began seeding in southern regions. In the Rio Grande Valley, sugarcane, citrus was harvested as well as remaining winter vegetables. Cabbage, spinach were under heavy irrigation in the Winter Garden area, some harvesting was ongoing. There was concern about freeze damage on pecan and peach trees that had bloomed. Range, pastures were in bad shape statewide, but started to improve somewhat as spring green up began to occur. Hay was in very short supply and it was necessary to import bales from neighboring states. Cattle body conditions were below average due to the lack of adequate forage.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 3. Subsoil 0% very short, 2% short, 88% adequate, 10% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 94% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 6% poor, 33% fair, 57% good, 4% excellent; freeze damage 46% none, 38% light, 12% moderate, 4% severe. Spring wheat 10% planted, 21% 2005, 22% avg.; 3% emerged, 0% 2005, 1% avg. Barley 11% planted, 16% 2005, 16% avg.; 4% emerged, 0% 2005, 2% avg.; 13% planted, 17% 2005, 10% avg. Corn 100% mature, 0% 2005, 0% avg.; harvested (grain) 100%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Cows calved 55%, 57% 2005, 44% avg. Cattle, calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 65% good, 23% excellent. Sheep condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 73% good, 10% excellent. Range, pasture 4% very poor, 1% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, 14% excellent. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 0% short, 95% adequate, 5% surplus. Sheep sheared on farm, sheared on farm 42%, 33% 2005, 32% avg. Sheep sheared on range, Sheep sheared on range 17%, 24% 2005, 17% avg. Ewes lamb on farm, Ewes lamb on farm 62%, 57% 2005, 43% avg. Ewes lamb on range, Ewes Lamb on range 19%, 22% 2005, 16% avg. Apples full bloom or past 0%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Apricots full bloom or past 0%, 22% 2005, 17% avg. Sweet cherries full bloom or past 0%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Tart cherries full Bloom or past 0%, 0% 2005, 0% avg. Peaches, full bloom or past 0%, 18% 2005, 7% avg. Pears, full bBloom or past 0%, 53% 2005, 16% avg. There was warming trend before a few storms moved through and made conditions too wet for farmers to get into the fields. Farmers are anxious to start planting, but it will take a few more weeks before fields are dry enough for farm work. Calving, lambing are well underway, should continue for another couple of months. Northern counties reported concern for snow mold on winter wheat and alfalfa hay. Counties are reporting up to a foot and a half of snow in some areas and standing water in others. Fall grain in the north looks good coming out of winter. No spring crops have been planted yet with the exception of a few onions on sandy soil. Fields have not yet been fertilized due to the wet conditions. Farmers reported needing a few weeks of sunshine before they can start field work. Livestock were in average condition last week. Cattle producers are reporting a fair to good calving season with little to modest calf sickness in the north, and slight losses in the south. Both cattle and sheep producers are reporting scours and pneumonia in baby animals due to the wet conditions. Calving and lambing should continue in the coming weeks.

VIRGINIA: March continued dry with above normal temperatures early in the month followed by below normal readings toward the end. Most areas have remained dry, though a storm system mid-month brought some moisture to the state. Some producers have expressed concern about the dry conditions, the affect these conditions might

have on the start of planting. Dry conditions have allowed farmers to continue with some spring field work such as top-dressing, applying herbicides. Activities included: Preparing equipment for spring planting, fixing fences, attending the last winter meetings. Virginia remained mostly dry in March with temperatures above normal early in the month followed by below normal readings toward the end of the period. Most areas experienced some precipitation mid-month, but more moisture could be used.

WASHINGTON: Rain was reported in most of the state causing fields in those areas to be too wet to farm. Winter wheat condition is in fair to excellent condition overall but some damage was reported in Walla Walla County. Damage was also reported for winter red onions in Walla Walla County. This damage has recently become apparent and was caused by extreme cold temperatures in February. Spring is here, irrigation season has begun and many farmers were busy preparing for spring planting in most of the state. Planting for growers in the southeast was well underway for spring wheat and potatoes. Spring calving continued, poor rangeland conditions were reported in the southeast corner of the state.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil 1% very short, 29% short, 70% adequate, compared with 1% short, 29% adequate, 70% surplus last year. Hay, roughage supplies 2% very short, 13% short, 80% adequate, 5% surplus. Feed grain supplies 2% very short, 5% short, 93% adequate. Winter Wheat conditions 3% poor, 11% fair, 86% good. Cattle, calves 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 78% good, 5% excellent. Calving 63% complete, compared to 65% last year, 69% for the 5-year average. Sheep, lambs 1% poor, 33% fair, 63% good, 3% excellent. Lambing 68% complete, compared to 63% last year, 68% for the 5-year average. Activities Included: Calving, lambing, feeding, plowing, working on equipment. Southern half of the state remains dry.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures in Wisconsin were slightly below normal for March. Average high temperatures during the month reached the low 40's. Average low temperatures ranged from 10 to 30^o across the state. Northern areas of the state received 1.03 to 2.33 inches of precipitation during March. The west central area received 1.41 inches of precipitation, slightly above normal for the month. Southern areas received 2.19 to 3.56 inches. This is 0.56 to 1.69 inches above normal. Snow cover can still be found in northern areas of the state.

WYOMING: Topsoil 7% very short, 37% short, 54% adequate, 2% surplus. Temperatures during the four weeks ending Friday, March 24th, continued colder than average in almost all stations. Averages ranged from 0.4^o above normal in Riverton to 4.4^o below normal in Wheatland. The high temperature was 73 in Torrington, the low was minus 11 in Jackson, Big Piney, and Laramie. Precipitation was below normal except in some Eastern areas. The most precipitation was reported in Chugwater with 1.37 inches, Redbird with 1.31 inches, Dillinger with 1.24 inches. The average depth of snow cover 1.4 inches. A few western counties had over 6 inches of snow while most counties had one inch or less of snowcover. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 34% fair, 62% good; wind damage 21% none, 61% light, 14% moderate, 4% severe, freeze damage 79% none, 19% light, 1% moderate, 1% severe. Spring calves born 47%, 2005 43%, 5-year average 48%. Farm flock ewes lambled 52%, 2005 50%, 5-year average 53%. Farm flock sheep shorn 52%, 2005 56%, 5-year average 57%. Calf, lamb losses mostly normal with reports of heavy losses in two southeast counties. Rain, snow over the weekend was hard on livestock. Range, pasture conditions 7% very poor, 9% poor, 50% fair, 34% good. Grazing prospects 13% poor, 47% fair, 39% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 5% very short, 21% short, and 74% adequate.

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 19 - 25, 2006

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Unseasonably cold weather persisted across much of northern and eastern Europe, while showers maintained favorable conditions for winter grain development in western and southern growing areas.

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably mild weather prevailed from southern Ukraine eastward across the Southern District in Russia, increasing soil temperatures for spring grain planting and prompting winter grains to begin breaking dormancy.

MIDDLE EAST: Warm, wet weather promoted winter grain development across much of the region, although persistent dryness in Israel and eastern Syria stressed heading winter grains.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Persistent showers in Morocco contrasted with warm, dry weather in Algeria and Tunisia.

SOUTH AFRICA: Mild, showery weather maintained favorable moisture reserves for immature summer crops across the corn belt.

AUSTRALIA: In southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, light showers had little negative impact on summer crop drydown and harvesting.

EASTERN ASIA: Mild weather aided winter wheat and rapeseed development.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Monsoon moisture continued northward, bringing showers from Indonesia to peninsular Thailand.

BRAZIL: In the south, heavy rain slowed soybean harvesting but boosted moisture for winter corn and later developing soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul.

ARGENTINA: Warmth and dryness aided maturation and harvesting of summer crops in most growing areas of central Argentina.



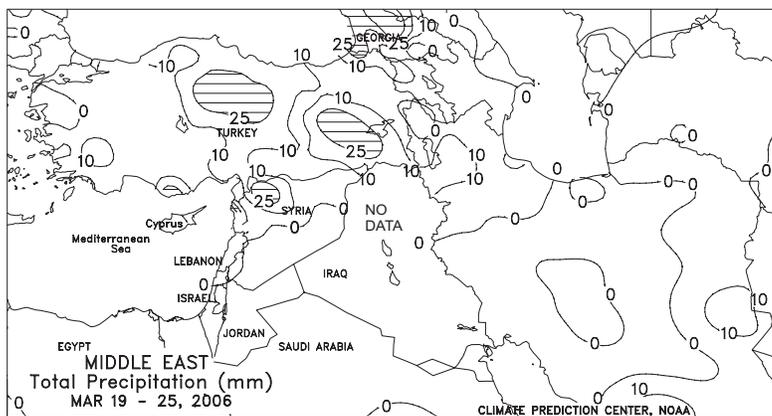
EUROPE

Unseasonably cold weather persisted across much of northern and eastern Europe, while showers maintained favorable conditions for winter grain development in western and southern growing areas. Dry, cold conditions (2-5 degrees C below normal) kept winter grains dormant from the Benelux Countries eastward into Poland and the Baltics. Winter grains typically break dormancy in early March in Germany and mid-March in Poland. At week's end, however, warmer air spread eastward out of western Europe, signaling an end to the recent protracted spell of unseasonably cold weather. In addition, late-week showers (3-12 mm) in northern Germany provided much-needed topsoil moisture following several months of below-normal precipitation. Farther west, widespread rain (10-50 mm) in France maintained favorable moisture supplies for vegetative winter grains and summer crop planting, while lighter showers (2-10 mm) in southeastern England moistened topsoils after an unfavorably dry start to the month. On the Iberian Peninsula, widespread, locally heavy rain (10-120 mm) maintained favorable prospects for vegetative to heading winter grains and further alleviated concerns over a second consecutive year of drought. Elsewhere, rain (10-35 mm) in the Balkans slowed drydown of flooded fields, while light to moderate showers (1-30 mm) in Italy delayed fieldwork but maintained adequate moisture reserves for vegetative winter grains.



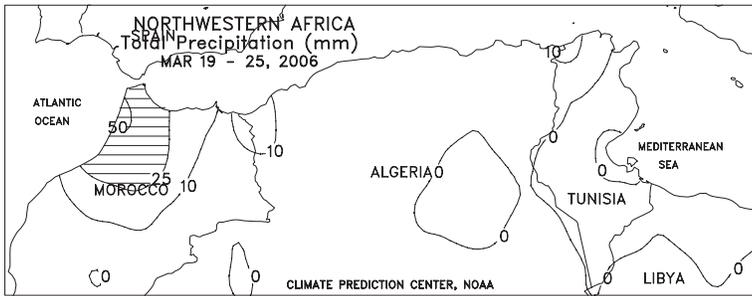
FSU-WESTERN

Unseasonably mild weather stretched from southern Ukraine eastward across the Southern District in Russia, raising soil temperatures for spring grain planting and causing winter grains to begin breaking dormancy. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C above normal in these areas, with extreme maximum temperatures ranging from 10 to 22 degrees C. Typically, winter grains begin breaking dormancy in early April in Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia. Elsewhere, near- to below-normal temperatures maintained snow cover as far south as central Ukraine and the northern tip of the Southern District in Russia, preventing early season fieldwork. However, daytime highs in these areas ranged from 1 to 5 degrees C, gradually melting some of the moderate to deep snow cover. A storm system progressed northeastward across the region, producing light to moderate amounts of precipitation (10-25 mm or more of liquid equivalent) from southwestern Ukraine into the Volga District in Russia. The precipitation fell mostly as rain in Ukraine and snow in Russia. Light precipitation (mostly less than 10 mm of liquid equivalent) fell elsewhere across the region.



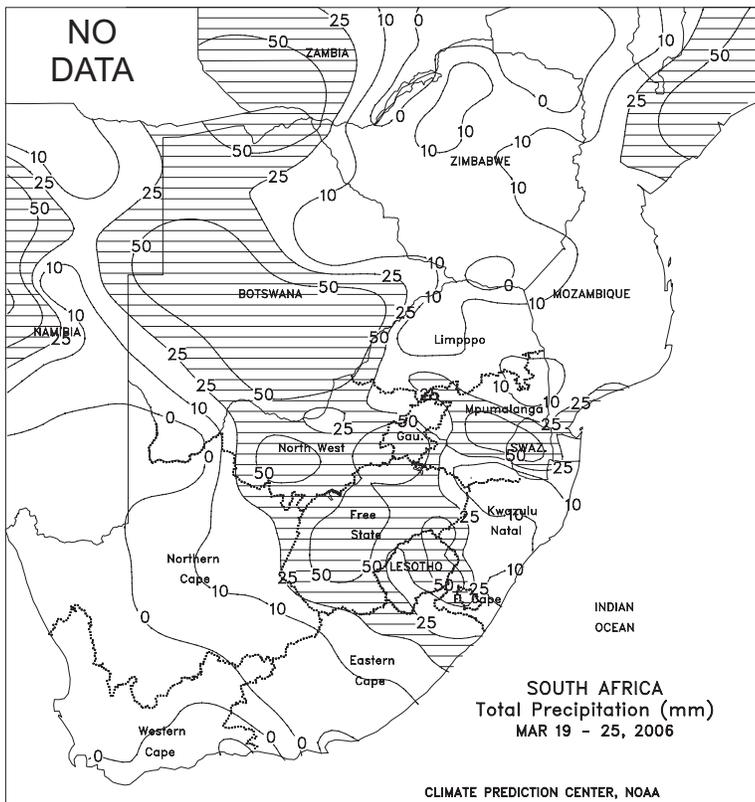
MIDDLE EAST

Warm, wet weather promoted winter grain development across much of the region, although persistent dryness in Israel and eastern Syria stressed heading winter grains. For the second consecutive week, a pair of slow-moving storms brought widespread rain (3-40 mm) to much of Turkey, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture reserves for vegetative winter grains. However, drier weather returned to western Turkey, allowing saturated fields to dry and fieldwork to resume. Farther south, persistent dryness in Israel and eastern Syria stressed heading winter grains, while showers in northern and western Syria moistened topsoils and eased short-term dryness. In Iran, temperatures up to 5 degrees C above normal coupled with occasional showers (5-20 mm) promoted winter grains development in northwestern growing areas, while a fourth week of dry weather farther south in Kordestan reduced topsoil moisture for vegetative winter grains.



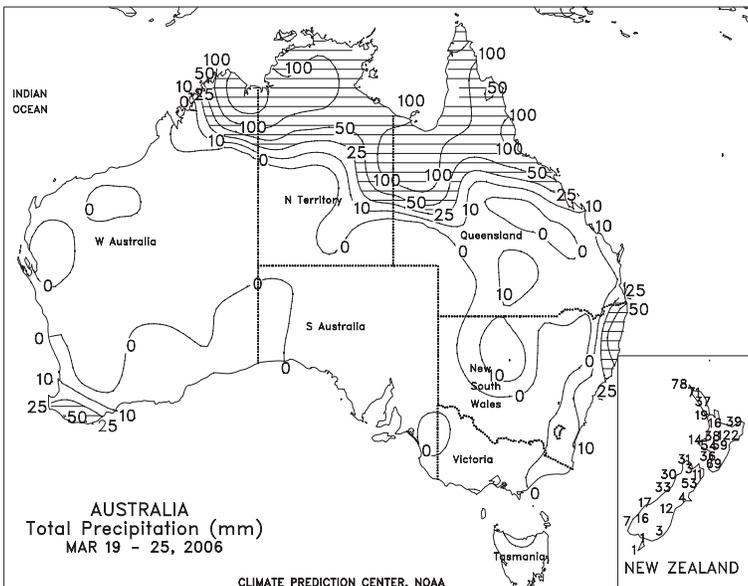
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Persistent showers in Morocco contrasted with warm, dry weather in Algeria and Tunisia. A pair of cold fronts brought light to moderate showers (10-70 mm) to northern Morocco, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture supplies for heading to reproductive winter grains. Farther east, mostly dry, warm conditions (1-4 degrees C above normal) in Algeria and Tunisia promoted winter grain development following a colder-than-normal winter.



SOUTH AFRICA

Mild, showery weather (highs in the middle and upper 20s degrees C, with rainfall totaling 10-50 mm or more) maintained moisture levels for immature summer crops. This was especially true for corn in western sections of the corn belt (North West and central Free State), where planting was delayed by the drier-than-normal spring and crops required favorable conditions through March for normal development. Elsewhere, showers were generally light (less than 10 mm) in major growing areas of KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo, with locally heavier amounts in eastern growing areas of Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces. In contrast, seasonable warmth and dryness prevailed in Western Cape, aiding fruit and vegetable maturation and harvesting but limiting moisture for winter wheat germination. Winter wheat planting usually begins in late-April in Western Cape, and is underway from May to July in and around the corn belt.



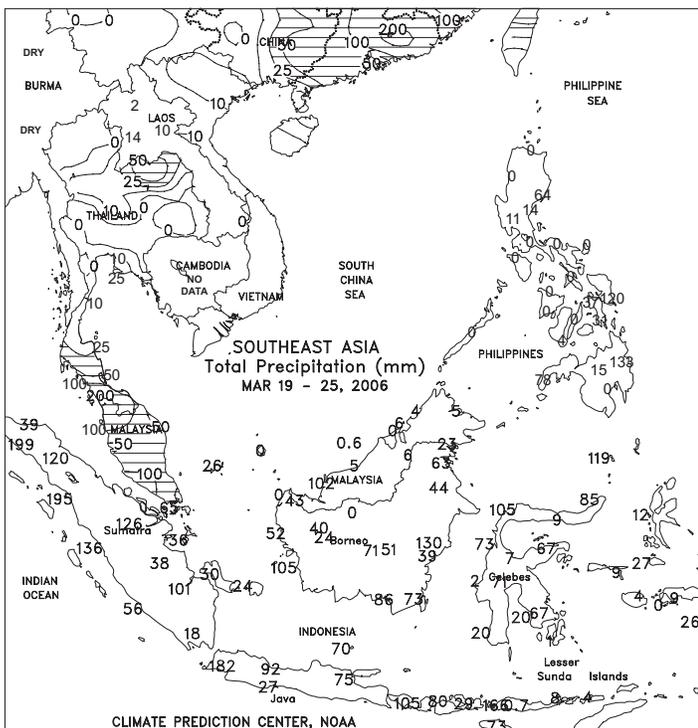
AUSTRALIA

On March 20, Tropical Cyclone Larry made landfall about 95 km (approximately 60 miles) south of Cairns in northern Queensland. During landfall, winds gusting as high as approximately 155 knots (nearly 180 mph) reportedly caused significant damage to sugarcane fields and banana trees, while heavy rain caused local flooding. Farther south, in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, light showers had little negative impact on summer crop drydown and harvesting. Temperatures in these areas were generally seasonable, favoring cotton and sorghum maturation.



EASTERN ASIA

Mild weather continued throughout China with temperatures 1 to 5 degrees C above normal and freezing temperatures being confined to Manchuria. The warmth aided winter wheat and rapeseed development from the North China Plain to the Yangtze Valley. As wheat approaches reproduction, more rain will be necessary to ensure normal development. Heavy showers (50-100 mm, locally more) in southern China increased moisture supplies for vegetative early double-crop rice, but likely caused some local flooding.



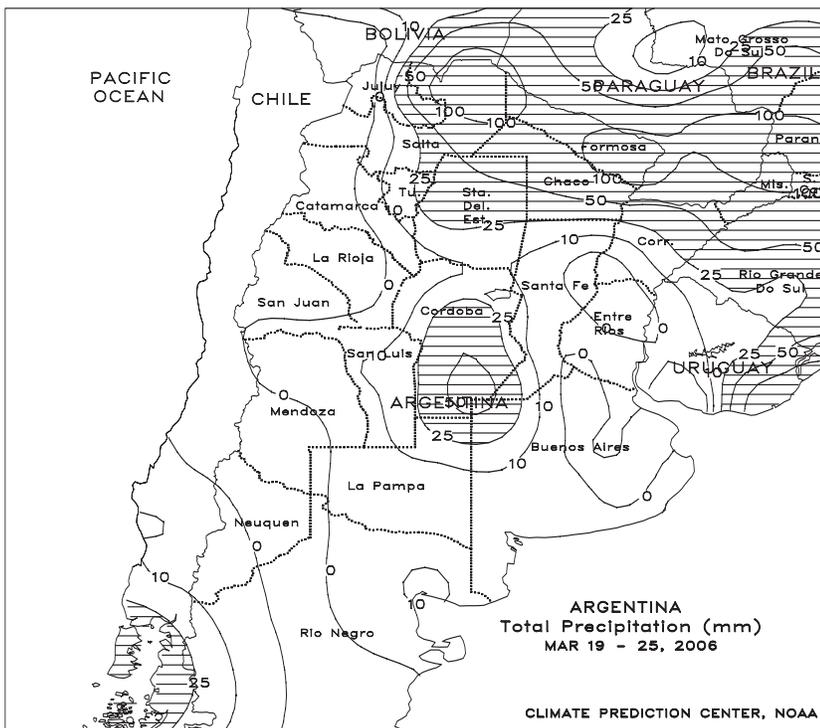
SOUTHEAST ASIA

The axis of monsoon moisture continued moving northward, bringing heavy showers (50-200 mm) from northern Indonesia to southern peninsular Thailand. The heavy rain slowed rice ripening and early harvest in Java as well as oil palm harvesting in Sumatra and Malaysia. Mostly dry weather prevailed in the Philippines easing lingering wetness from weeks of heavy rainfall, while light (less than 25 mm) pre-monsoon showers occurred in Indochina.



BRAZIL

Moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) covered the southern soybean belt (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Parana), disrupting harvesting but boosting moisture levels for crops in Rio Grande do Sul that can still benefit from rainfall. The moisture in southern Brazil also benefited winter corn, a second-season crop usually planted in January and February that accounts for about 10 percent of the national corn production. However, additional heavy rain in Parana could eventually lead to delays in both soybean harvesting and winter wheat planting, which traditionally begins in April. Elsewhere, showers continued across Mato Grosso and Goias, but less rainfall (less than 25 mm) was recorded in northern soybean areas of Mato Grosso do Sul. Mostly dry, unseasonably warm weather (highs in the middle 30s degrees C) returned to western Bahia, but scattered showers (10-50 mm or more) maintained moisture levels for immature soybeans and other summer crops elsewhere in the northeast. Beneficial rain also fell in coffee, sugarcane, and cocoa areas along the northeastern coast. According to private analyst Safras e Mercados, soybeans were 40 percent harvested nationally as of March 24, slightly behind last season's pace. However, crops were reportedly 70 percent harvested in Mato Grosso, Brazil's leading soybean producer, compared with 61 percent last year. In Rio Grande do Sul, which has a later crop calendar than that of the center-west region, fieldwork was just beginning.



ARGENTINA

Dry, seasonably warm weather (highs in the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C) fostered maturation and harvesting of summer grains and oilseeds over most major growing areas of central Argentina. The exception was Cordoba, where locally heavy showers (greater than 25 mm) increased moisture for late development of second-crop soybeans at the expense of corn and sunflower harvesting. Moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) also covered cotton areas of Chaco, Formosa, and Santiago del Estero, threatening quality of unharvested crops but otherwise increasing moisture reserves for northern Argentina's crops and livestock. Temperatures fell below 5 degrees C over a broad section of La Pampa and central and southern Buenos Aires, but a killing freeze has not yet occurred. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 70 percent harvested as of March 23, comparable with last year's pace. Sunseed was 57 percent harvested in Buenos Aires, Argentina's largest producer. Corn was 15 percent harvested, compared with 28 percent last year, and soybean harvesting was underway in several key growing areas.

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