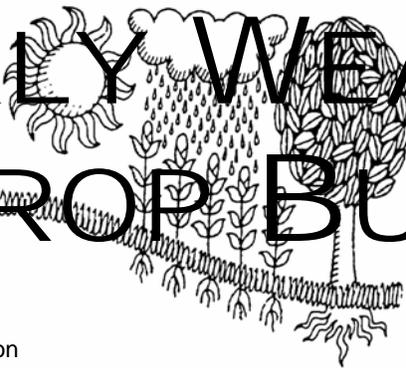
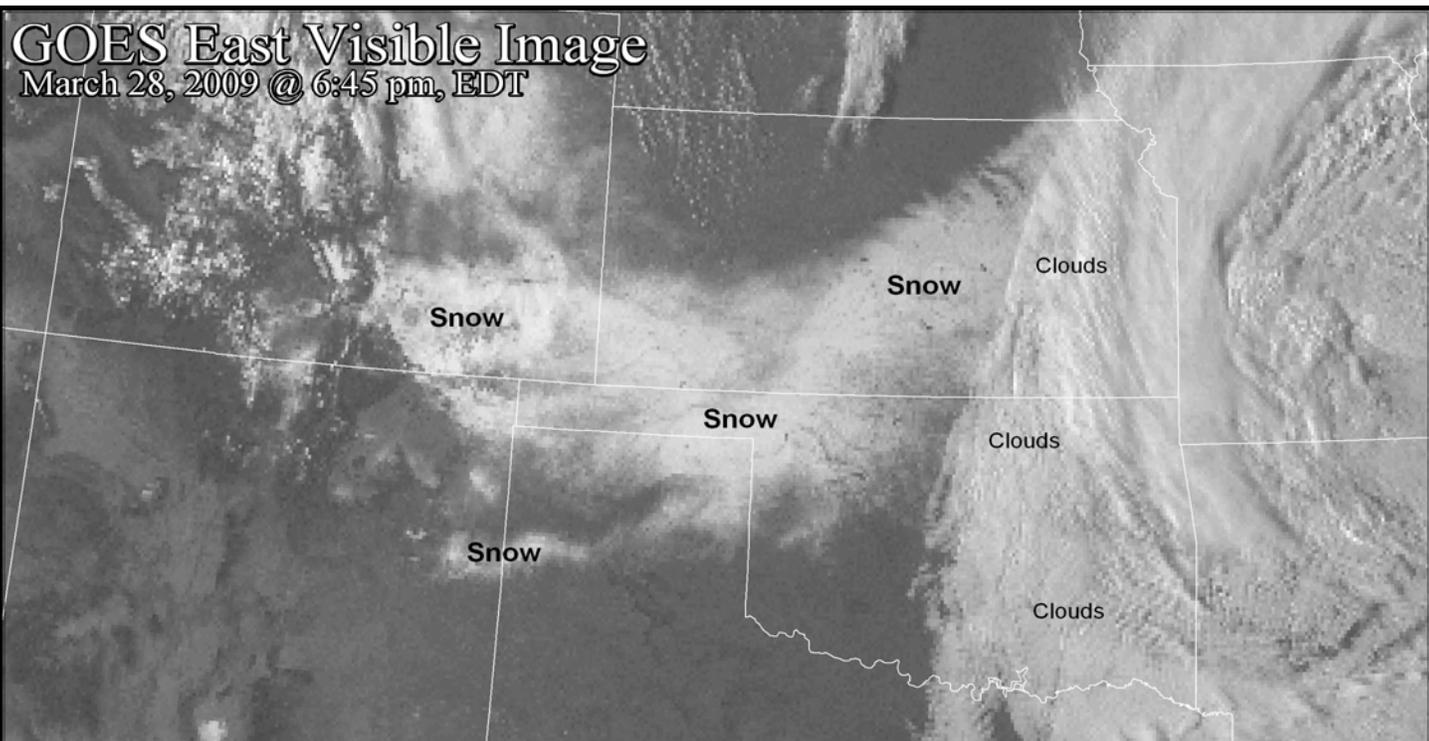


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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



A historic, late-season snow storm dumped more than 2 feet of snow on parts of the central and southern Plains and provided desperately needed moisture for pastures and winter grains. March 26-28 snowfall totals reached 29 inches in Laverne (Harper County), OK; 28 inches near Pratt (Pratt County), KS; and 14 inches in Dalhart (Dallam County), TX. On March 29, USDA/NASS reported that Oklahoma's topsoil moisture was rated 51 percent very short to short, a significant improvement from 85 percent the previous week.

HIGHLIGHTS March 22 - 28, 2009

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

H eavy rain—accompanied by high winds, large hail, and isolated tornadoes—soaked the **South**, halting spring planting but boosting moisture reserves. Weekly rainfall totaled as much as 4 to 12 inches from **Louisiana to Georgia and western Florida**. However, rain largely bypassed **Florida's peninsula**, maintaining heavy irrigation requirements for vegetables and citrus. Farther north, heavy rain perpetuated soggy conditions in the **middle Mississippi and lower Missouri Valleys**, while beneficial showers dampened the previously dry **Ohio**

(Continued on page 7)

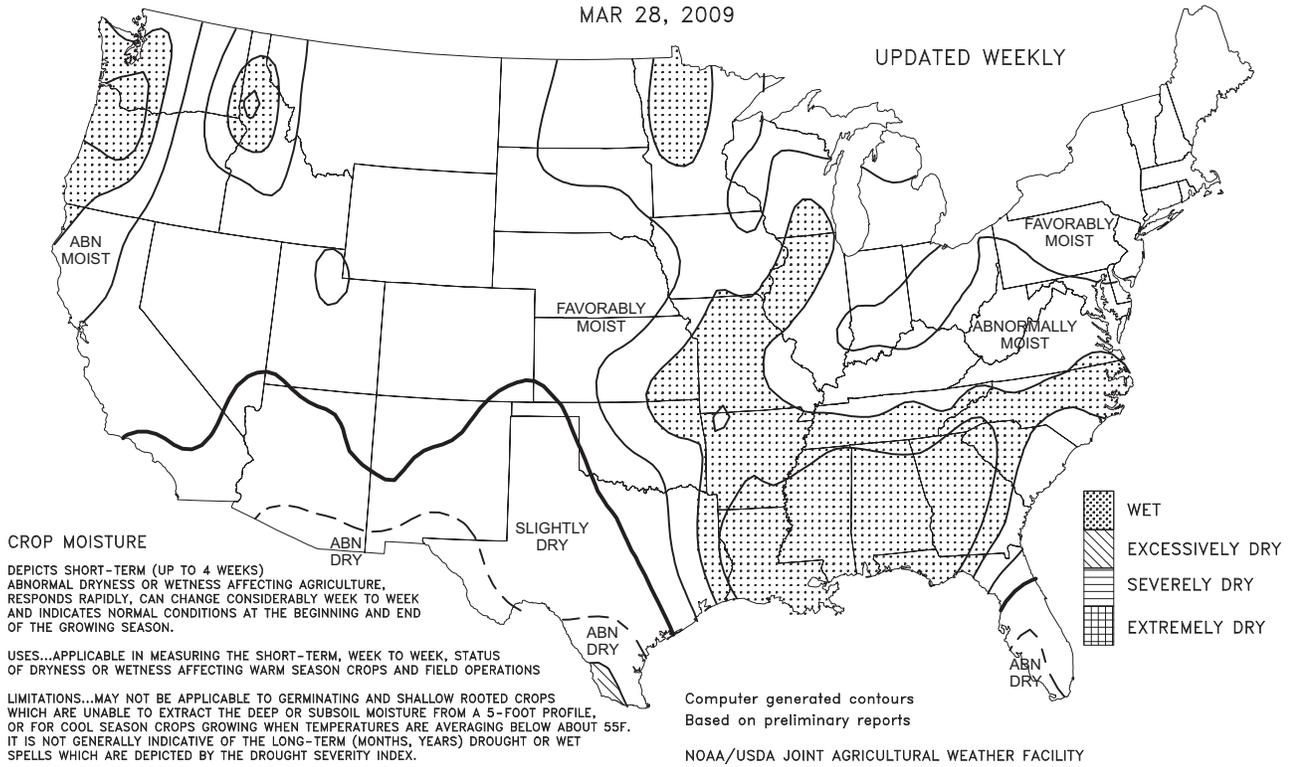
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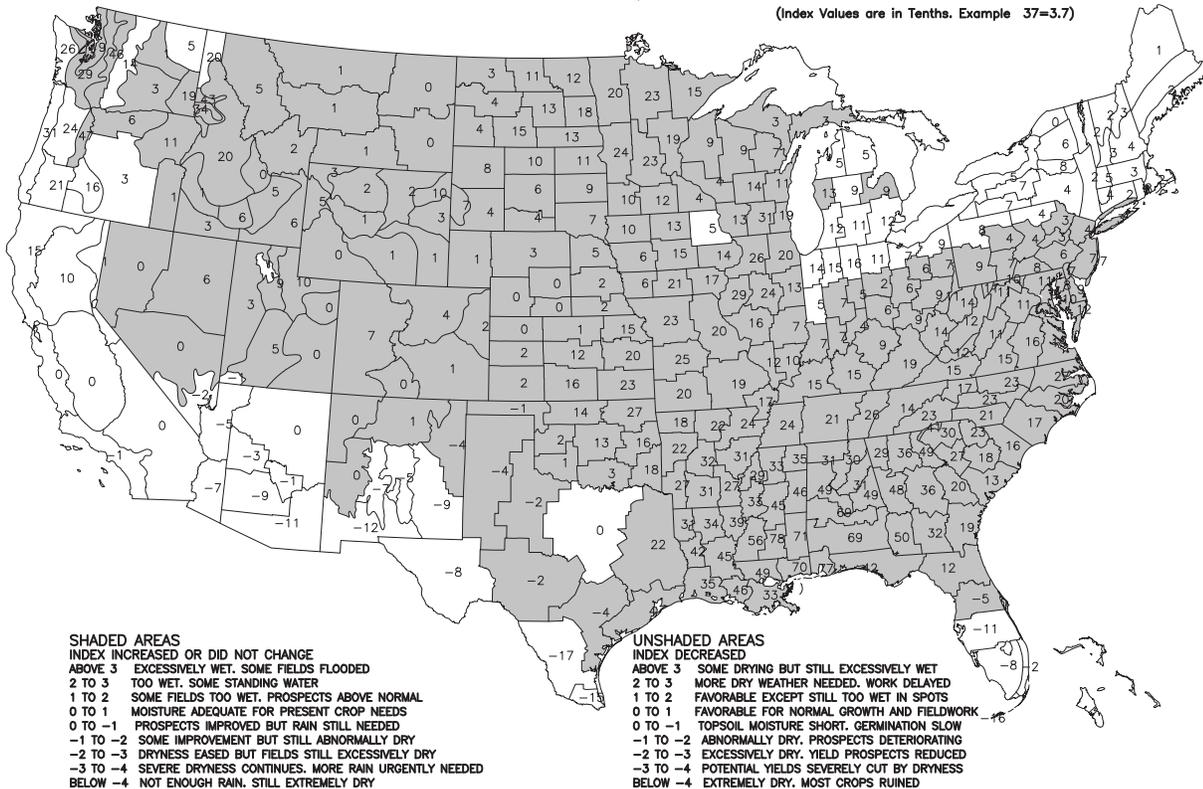
Crop Moisture
SHORT TERM, CROP NEED VS. AVAILABLE WATER IN 5-FT. SOIL PROFILE
MAR 28, 2009

UPDATED WEEKLY



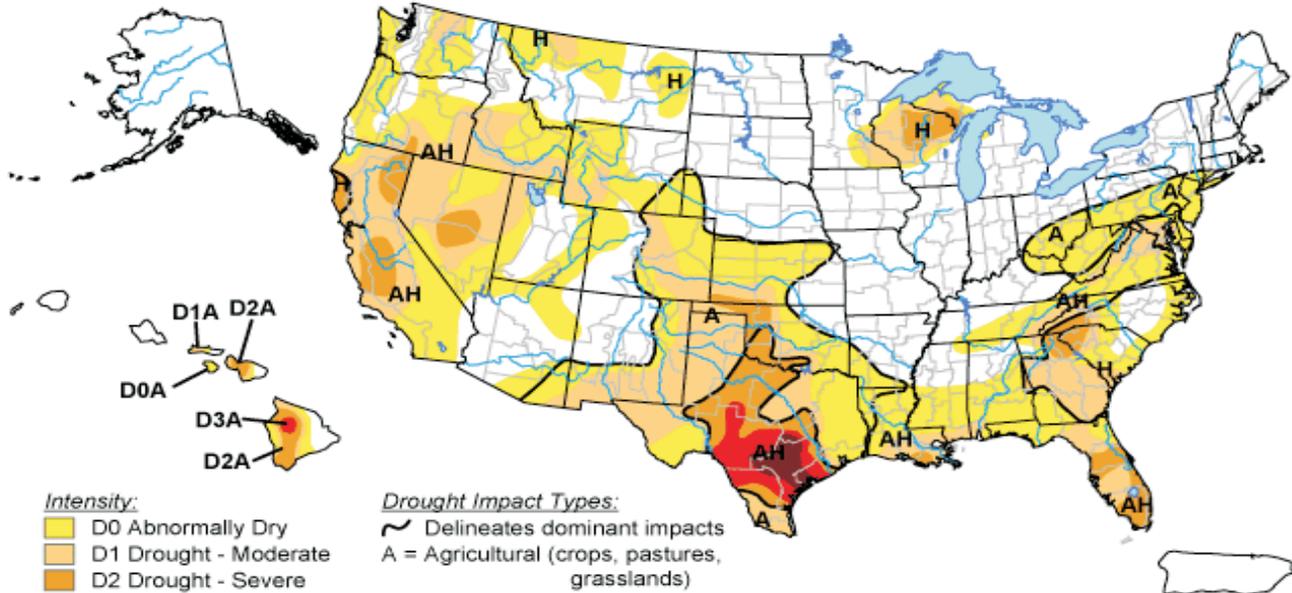
Crop Moisture Index
SHORT TERM, CROP NEED VS. AVAILABLE WATER IN 5-FT. SOIL PROFILE
MAR 28, 2009

(Index Values are in Tenths. Example 37=3.7)



U.S. Drought Monitor

March 24, 2009
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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

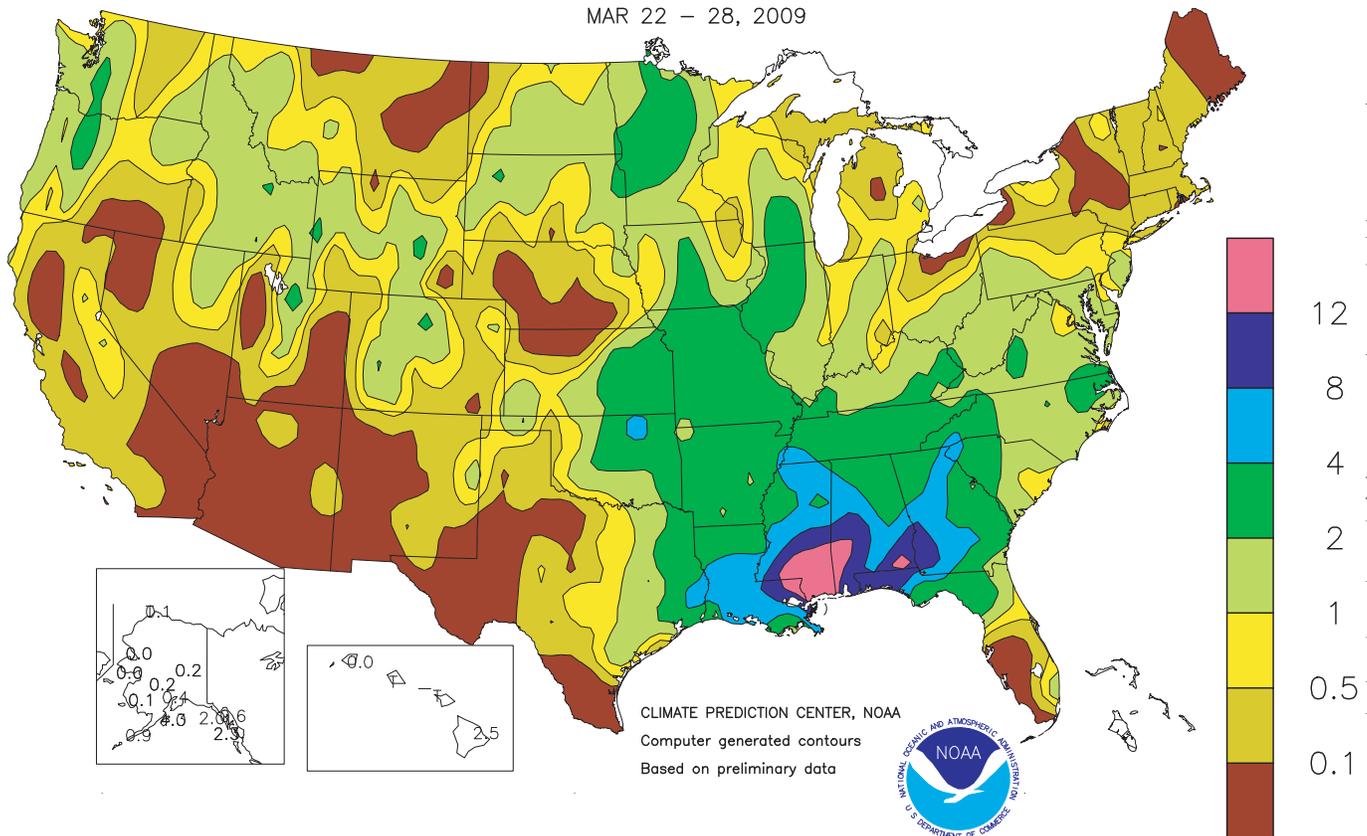
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



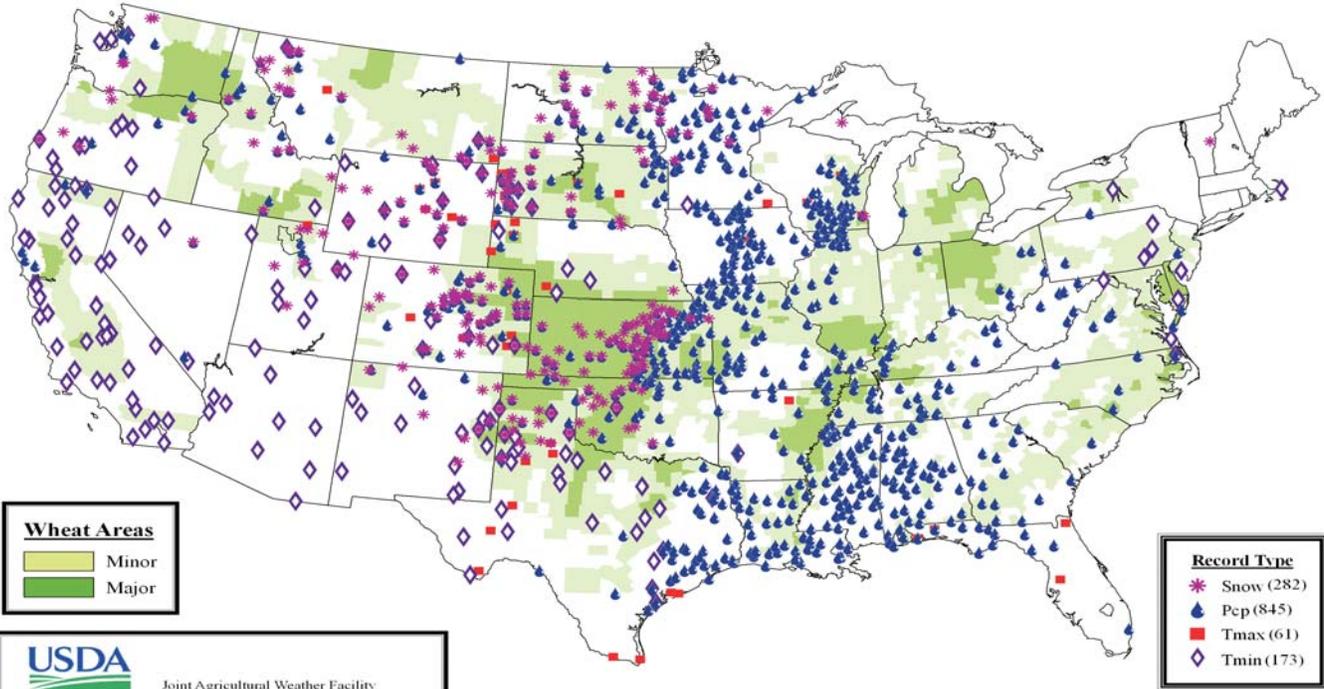
Released Thursday, March 26, 2009

Author: Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Total Precipitation (Inches)
MAR 22 - 28, 2009

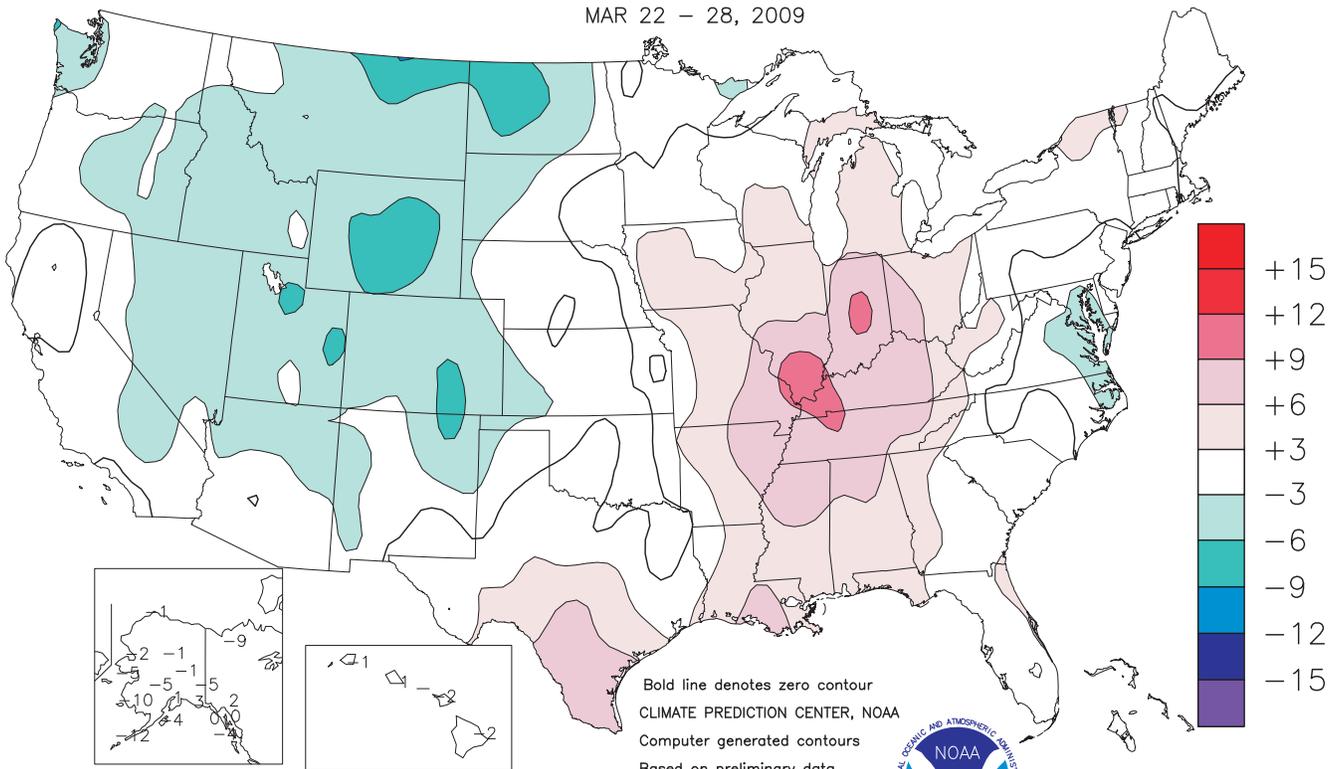


Daily Weather Records (ASOS & COOP) March 22-28, 2009

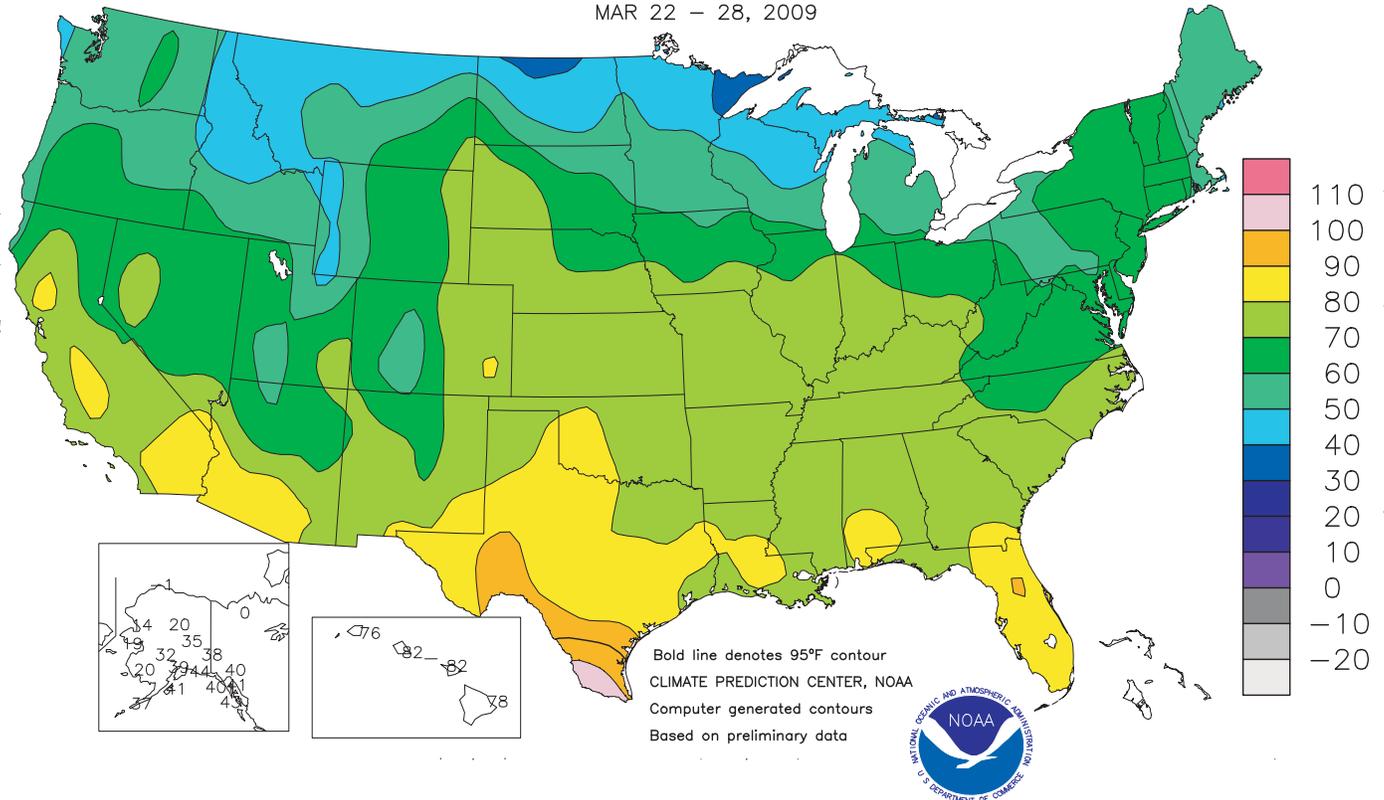


Data courtesy of the U.S. National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)

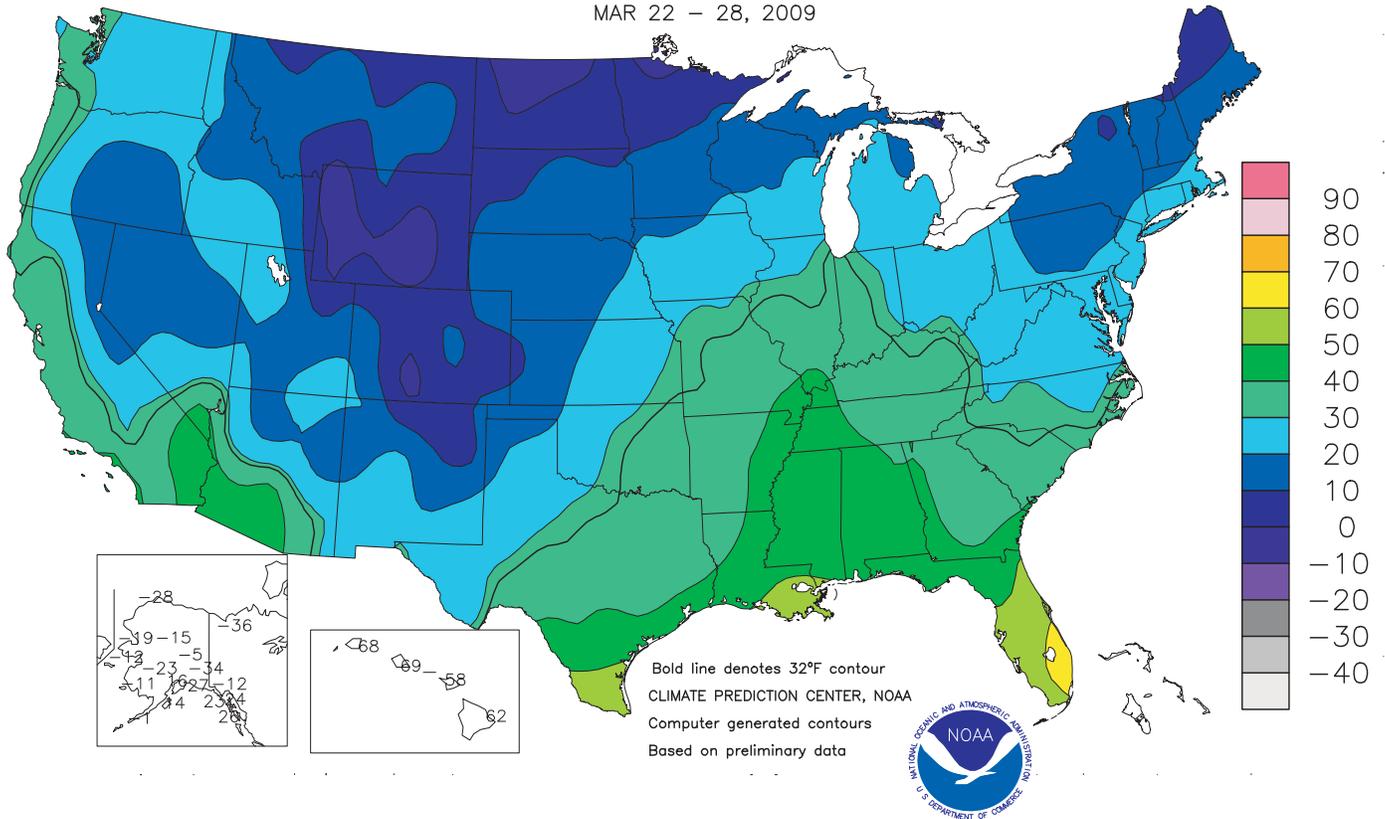
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F) MAR 22 - 28, 2009



Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
MAR 22 - 28, 2009



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
MAR 22 - 28, 2009



Red River Valley Flood Highlights

2009 Record Flooding at Selected Locations

Updated through March 31

<u>Red River Basin</u>	<u>Crest (feet above flood stage)/Date</u>	<u>Former Record/Date</u>
Red River at Fargo, ND	22.82 feet on March 28	22.10 feet on April 7, 1897
Wild Rice R. near Abercrombie, ND	17.77 feet on March 25	17.50 feet on March 3, 1897
Red River at Oslo, MN	12.09 feet on March 31 ^x	12.00 feet on April 23, 1997
Goose River at Hillsboro, ND	6.79 feet on March 25	6.76 feet on April 21, 1979
Maple River near Mapleton, ND	4.73 feet on March 25	4.66 feet on April 1, 2006

^x The Red River at Oslo, MN, was still slowly rising when this report was compiled on March 31.

<u>James River Basin</u> *	<u>Crest (feet above flood stage)/Date</u>	<u>Former Record/Date</u>
James River at Lamoure, ND	2.52 feet on March 27	2.20 feet on May 24, 1969
James River near Columbia, SD	6.56 feet on March 26	5.63 feet on April 30, 1997
Elm River near Westport, SD	8.69 feet on March 26	8.11 feet on April 10, 1969

* The James River drains southward into the Missouri River near Yankton, SD, and is not part of the Red River Basin.

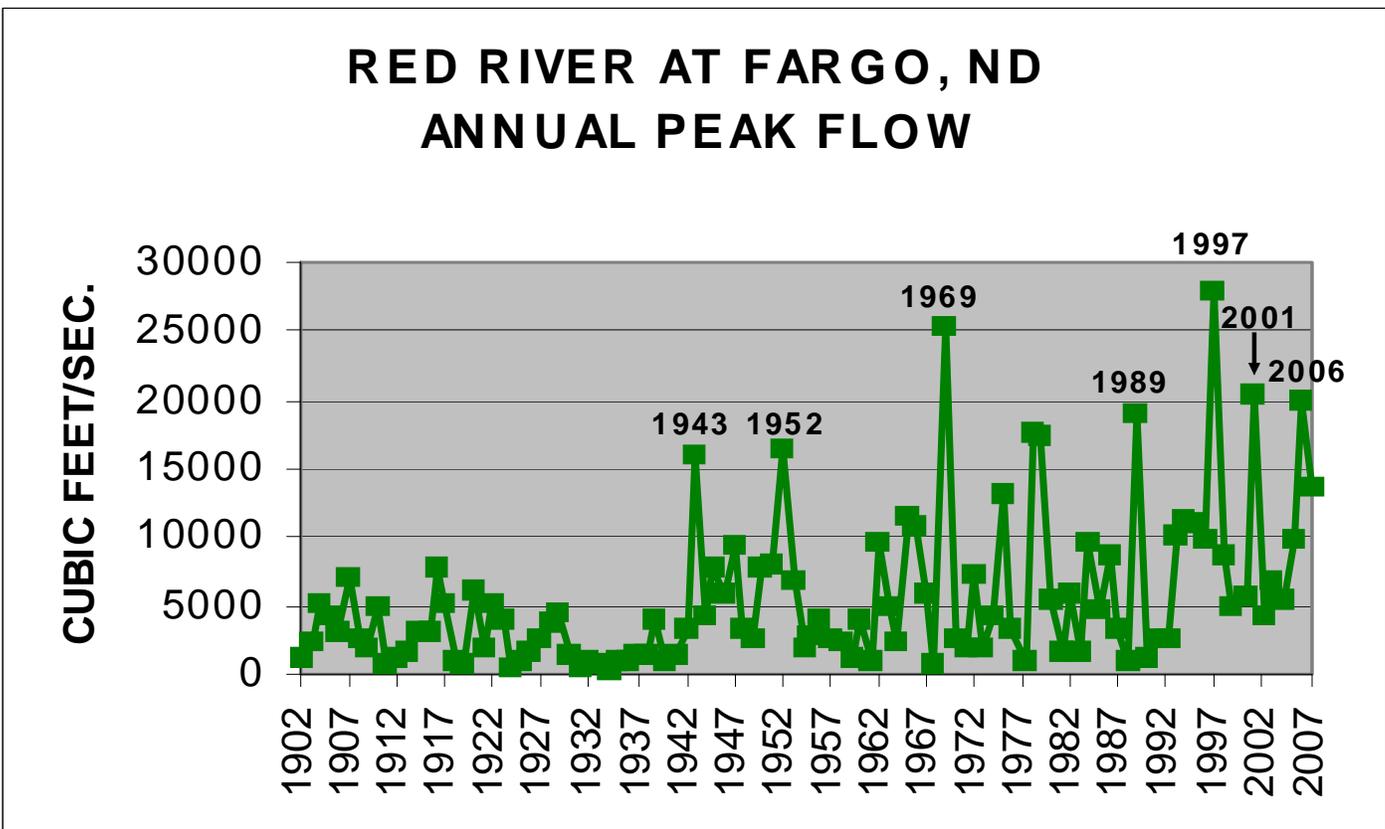


Figure 1. Annual peak flow values (in cubic feet per second) for the Red River at Fargo from 1902 to 2007. Values for 2008 have not yet been finalized, and the preliminary peak value for the 2009 flood was 29,400 cubic feet per second (cfs) on March 27 and 28. Prior to 2009, the greatest estimated peak flow was 25,000 cfs during the Flood of 1897.

Following major floods in 1882 and 1897 (not shown), there was little flooding in the Red River Valley during the first half of the 20th century. However, there were 8 years from 1969 to 2009 with peak flows exceeding 15,000 cfs at Fargo. Those years were 1969, 1978, 1979, 1989, 1997, 2001, 2006, and 2009.

(Continued from front cover)

Valley. Two major storms affected the nation's mid-section, with the first system creating blizzard conditions across parts of the **northern Plains**. That storm also brought unwanted moisture to the **Red River Valley**, where near-record to record flooding developed. In contrast, the second storm provided much-needed moisture—mostly snow—for drought-stressed pastures and winter grains in **eastern Colorado, northern Texas**, and large sections of **Kansas and Oklahoma**. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather from **California to the Rio Grande Valley** contrasted with cool, unsettled weather from the **Pacific Northwest to the Rockies**. Precipitation was especially heavy across the **northern Intermountain West**, where some locations received totals in excess of 2 inches. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 5°F below normal across much of the **Rocky Mountain region**, while readings ranged from 5 to 10°F above normal in the **eastern Corn Belt and Mid-South**.

Early in the week, stormy weather spread across the **northwestern and north-central U.S.**, while warmth prevailed on the **Plains**. On March 22, daily-record highs included 79°F in **Chadron, NE**, and 77°F in **Rapid City, SD**. Later, **Rapid City** received 11.5 inches of snow on March 23-24, along with a peak northerly wind gust to 77 m.p.h. Meanwhile, daily-record precipitation totals for March 22 reached 0.93 inch in **Watertown, SD**, and 0.54 inch in **Grand Forks, ND**. Storm-total (March 22-26) precipitation in **Grand Forks** climbed to 1.85 inches, including 8.6 inches of snow. Elsewhere in **North Dakota**, storm-total snowfall unofficially reached 22.5 inches in **Marmarth** and 18.0 inches in **Dickinson**. In the **Black Hills of South Dakota**, the March 23-25 total reached 30.7 inches near **Lead**. On March 28, the **Red River at Fargo** climbed to 22.82 feet above flood stage, exceeding the April 1897 high-water mark by 0.72 feet. Record crests were also established at gauging points on several **Red River** tributaries, including the **Wild Rice, Sheyenne, Maple Rivers**. In **South Dakota**, the **James River** achieved a record crest near **Columbia** (6.56 feet above flood stage on March 26), exceeding the April 1997 standard by 0.93 foot. Meanwhile, warmth lingered through March 23 in **western Texas**, where highs soared to 90°F in **Midland** and 84°F in **Lubbock**. In contrast, cool, breezy weather settled into the **West Coast States**, where **southern California's Whitaker Peak** recorded a northwesterly wind gust to 85 m.p.h. on March 23. The following day, record lows for March 24 in **southern California** included 27°F in **Lancaster** and 28°F in **Riverside**. Cool weather also settled into areas **east of the Appalachians**, resulting in daily-record lows for March 25 in **Salisbury, MD** (17°F), and **Wallops Island, VA** (25°F). Elsewhere, heavy rain soaked parts of the **Midwest** and the **Southeast**. Daily-record amounts for March 24 included 2.28 inches in **Madison, WI**, and 2.13 inches in **Rockford, IL**, followed the next day by records in **Mississippi** locations such as **Vicksburg** (3.75 inches) and **Greenville** (2.56 inches). In **Louisiana, New Iberia** (3.87 inches) netted a record-setting total for March 26.

Meanwhile, a second storm took aim on the **Rockies, Plains, Midwest, and Southeast**. By March 26, storm-total snowfall reached 40.0 inches in **Alta, UT**, while **Lander, WY**, netted 16.8 inches. On the **central and southern Plains**, unofficial March 26-28 snowfall totals topped 2 feet in several locations, including **Laverne, OK** (29 inches), and **Pratt, KS** (28 inches). At the height of the storm on March 27, **Boise City, OK**, clocked a peak wind gust to 56 m.p.h. Official snowfall reached 8.3 inches (on March 26-27) in **Denver, CO**; 9.9 inches (on March 28) in **Tulsa, OK**; and 11.0 inches (on March 27-28) in **Amarillo, TX**. For **Amarillo**, it was the second-latest 10-inch storm on record, behind 12.0 inches on March 29-30, 1926. Farther east, snow spread into

parts of the **Midwest** by March 29, when daily-record totals included 5.8 inches in **Springfield, IL**, and 2.0 inches in **St. Louis, MO**. Meanwhile, heavy rain continued to pound the **South**, where late-week records reached 2.82 inches (on March 27) in **Mobile, AL**, and 5.25 inches (on March 28) in **Alma, GA**. From March 25-28, **Biloxi, MS**, netted 12.09 inches of rain. The two-storm combination also resulted in almost daily outbreaks of severe thunderstorms, mainly across the **South**. During the week, more than six dozen tornadoes were spotted, according to preliminary reports. Although there were no fatalities with the storms, a tornado near **Magee, MS**, on the night of March 25-26 had a maximum width of 500 yards (more than one-quarter mile) and reportedly resulted in more than two dozen injuries and damage to or destruction of 60 homes.

Cold, stormy weather prevailed across **southwestern Alaska**, while near-normal temperatures covered the remainder of the state. From March 22-25, **Kodiak** received 3.77 inches of precipitation, including 24.1 inches of snow. On March 24, **Cold Bay** noted a daily-record low of -1°F. The only later sub-zero readings in **Cold Bay** occurred on March 28 and 29, 1976. At week's end, a storm ripped into **western Alaska**, where an all-time-record wind gust of 115 m.p.h. was clocked on **St. Paul Island** (previously, 94 m.p.h. on February 25, 2009). Farther south, cool weather prevailed in **Hawaii**, although windward showers produced a weekly rainfall of 2.54 inches in **Hilo, on the Big Island**. Through March 28, **Hilo's** month-to-date total climbed to 27.72 inches (215 percent of normal). Elsewhere on the **Big Island, Glenwood's** weekly rainfall reached 8.79 inches.

U.S. Prospective Planting Highlights

The following information was released by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board on March 31, 2009.

Corn growers intend to plant 85.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, down 1 percent from last year, as lower corn prices and unstable input costs are discouraging some growers from planting corn. If realized, this will be the second consecutive year-over-year decrease since 2007 but will still be the third largest acreage since 1949, behind 2007 and 2008. Expected acreage is down from last year in many States; however, producers in the 10 major corn-producing States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) collectively intend to plant 66.3 million acres, up slightly from the 66.1 million acres planted last year.

Soybean producers intend to plant 76.0 million acres in 2009, up slightly from last year. If realized, the U.S. planted area would be the largest on record. Acreage increases of 100,000 acres or more are expected in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Ohio. The largest decreases are expected in Missouri and South Dakota, both 150,000 acres less than 2008. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas and New York will be the largest on record, and the planted acreage in North Dakota will tie the previous record high.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 58.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 2008. The 2009 winter wheat planted area, at 42.9 million acres, is 7 percent below last year but up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.38 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.65 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2009 is expected to total 13.3 million acres, down 6 percent from 2008. Of this total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The expected Durum planted area for 2009 is 2.45 million acres, down 10 percent from the previous year.

All cotton plantings for 2009 are expected to total 8.81 million acres, 7 percent below last year and the lowest since 1983. Upland area is expected to total 8.67 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Growers intend to decrease planted area in all States except Georgia, Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. The largest percentage declines are in Arkansas, California, Louisiana and Mississippi. Record low upland acreage is expected in Louisiana and Mississippi. American-Pima cotton growers intend to plant 143,500 acres, down 18 percent from 2008. California producers intend to plant 120,000 acres, down 23 percent from last year.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 28, 2009

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	53	76	48	63	7	3.20	1.79	1.18	6.07	112	17.42	115	82	41	0	0	4	3
HUNTSVILLE	72	51	76	45	62	8	2.69	1.22	1.40	4.86	80	12.47	75	81	56	0	0	5	2
MOBILE	73	56	79	50	65	3	8.06	6.44	3.40	11.65	179	19.00	109	89	63	0	0	5	3
AK MONTGOMERY	75	55	80	44	65	6	2.71	1.34	1.30	6.87	122	12.42	77	85	48	0	0	4	3
ANCHORAGE	35	24	39	16	29	1	0.37	0.26	0.28	0.93	166	2.37	120	70	60	0	7	2	0
BARROW	-8	-18	-1	-28	-13	-1	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.18	1800	0.89	371	94	74	0	7	1	0
FAIRBANKS	26	3	35	-5	15	0	0.15	0.09	0.09	0.93	423	2.04	179	67	61	0	7	2	0
JUNEAU	39	30	41	24	35	0	0.57	-0.13	0.26	2.38	73	15.55	129	89	78	0	3	4	0
KODIAK	35	24	41	14	30	-3	3.97	2.81	1.62	4.75	101	15.79	85	82	73	0	6	6	2
NOME	13	-3	19	-12	5	-6	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.16	247	3.74	175	64	58	0	7	0	0
AZ FLAGSTAFF	51	21	58	14	36	-2	0.02	-0.50	0.02	0.22	9	2.43	34	62	17	0	7	1	0
PHOENIX	77	52	84	49	65	1	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0	1.47	57	28	13	0	0	0	0
PRESCOTT	61	29	67	24	45	0	0.00	-0.35	0.00	0.00	0	1.81	34	47	13	0	5	0	0
TUCSON	74	44	84	38	59	-1	0.02	-0.11	0.01	0.27	36	1.51	58	27	13	0	0	2	0
AR FORT SMITH	67	47	78	36	57	3	2.49	1.60	1.13	2.99	86	8.32	98	86	52	0	0	5	2
LITTLE ROCK	70	49	79	40	60	5	3.11	1.94	0.88	4.37	104	9.17	82	93	50	0	0	5	4
CA BAKERSFIELD	74	46	87	37	60	2	0.16	-0.12	0.16	0.36	28	2.58	70	58	39	0	0	1	0
FRESNO	69	44	81	37	57	1	0.06	-0.38	0.06	0.24	12	3.69	58	71	47	0	0	1	0
LOS ANGELES	68	51	73	48	60	1	0.01	-0.43	0.01	0.05	2	3.97	47	71	36	0	0	1	0
REDDING	70	45	79	32	58	5	0.07	-0.99	0.07	1.20	25	11.10	66	67	33	0	1	1	0
SACRAMENTO	71	43	78	37	57	2	0.04	-0.50	0.04	2.09	79	8.57	85	80	28	0	0	1	0
SAN DIEGO	68	53	74	49	60	-1	0.14	-0.33	0.14	0.18	9	2.89	45	73	43	0	0	1	0
SAN FRANCISCO	63	46	73	41	55	1	0.28	-0.36	0.28	2.22	72	9.31	81	83	64	0	0	1	0
STOCKTON	70	42	79	36	56	0	0.11	-0.35	0.11	1.18	56	5.92	81	85	50	0	0	1	0
CO ALAMOSA	48	18	63	3	33	-2	0.46	0.35	0.27	0.50	143	0.62	77	73	31	0	6	2	0
CO SPRINGS	49	23	73	12	36	-3	0.11	-0.15	0.06	0.21	25	0.34	23	81	29	0	6	3	0
DENVER INTL	48	24	78	10	36	-4	0.19	0.01	0.14	0.29	38	0.46	37	77	39	0	6	3	0
GRAND JUNCTION	52	29	72	20	41	-4	0.19	-0.03	0.17	0.41	49	1.07	55	65	40	0	4	2	0
PUEBLO	54	23	80	8	39	-4	0.22	-0.02	0.12	0.22	29	0.30	22	59	38	0	6	2	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	48	32	58	25	40	-2	0.37	-0.61	0.29	1.06	29	4.70	46	74	48	0	5	2	0
HARTFORD	52	30	65	21	41	1	0.21	-0.70	0.21	1.40	41	5.60	55	69	43	0	5	1	0
DC WASHINGTON	54	38	62	28	46	-3	1.10	0.31	0.48	1.96	60	4.99	55	71	40	0	1	3	0
DE WILMINGTON	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	4.58	49	***	***	***	***	***	***
FL DAYTONA BEACH	78	60	89	53	69	3	0.60	-0.28	0.43	0.66	19	2.28	25	94	44	0	0	3	0
JACKSONVILLE	76	55	89	41	66	3	0.37	-0.54	0.21	1.40	40	5.40	52	91	50	0	0	3	0
KEY WEST	78	70	82	67	74	0	0.25	-0.19	0.22	0.73	47	2.20	42	79	62	0	0	3	0
MIAMI	80	68	85	65	74	1	0.04	-0.58	0.02	1.58	74	2.04	34	77	49	0	0	3	0
ORLANDO	81	59	90	52	70	2	0.19	-0.62	0.19	0.35	11	3.05	39	89	44	1	0	1	0
PENSACOLA	73	59	83	53	66	4	4.37	2.93	2.31	6.85	119	12.75	81	89	72	0	0	4	3
TALLAHASSEE	74	53	79	42	63	1	3.59	2.15	1.59	3.72	63	7.50	47	88	59	0	0	3	3
TAMPA	81	63	85	57	72	4	0.39	-0.20	0.39	0.67	26	3.76	50	79	46	0	0	1	0
WEST PALM BEACH	78	68	83	66	73	2	0.00	-0.91	0.00	1.38	44	1.63	17	64	44	0	0	0	0
GA ATHENS	66	47	76	38	57	2	3.75	2.68	1.55	7.07	155	13.44	99	92	71	0	0	4	3
ATLANTA	67	52	71	41	59	3	3.98	2.82	1.68	7.11	145	13.69	94	89	66	0	0	4	3
AUGUSTA	71	47	75	32	59	1	1.69	0.68	1.49	4.30	103	9.03	71	94	59	0	1	3	1
COLUMBUS	69	54	75	44	62	3	5.96	4.70	3.79	11.67	224	19.60	135	88	51	0	0	3	3
MACON	71	50	75	37	61	3	3.42	2.37	3.08	6.75	151	10.41	74	88	54	0	0	3	1
SAVANNAH	73	51	77	37	62	1	1.65	0.78	1.65	3.77	120	6.12	61	92	49	0	0	1	1
HI HILO	77	64	78	62	70	-2	2.52	-0.98	0.85	27.69	221	46.77	150	87	77	0	0	7	2
HONOLULU	81	70	82	69	75	0	0.04	-0.31	0.04	2.26	128	6.20	91	70	62	0	0	1	0
KAHULUI	80	63	82	58	71	-2	0.01	-0.51	0.01	2.20	107	7.01	86	79	70	0	0	1	0
LIHUE	75	69	76	68	72	-1	0.00	-0.79	0.00	1.90	59	5.37	49	80	76	0	0	0	0
ID BOISE	51	33	59	27	42	-3	0.17	-0.13	0.13	0.81	68	1.88	50	72	55	0	3	3	0
LEWISTON	50	36	55	31	43	-3	0.67	0.42	0.46	1.74	187	3.72	123	76	57	0	2	3	0
POCATELLO	43	27	53	19	35	-5	0.62	0.32	0.22	0.71	59	2.51	75	85	62	0	6	4	0
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	53	37	69	32	45	5	0.65	-0.02	0.45	3.79	175	8.35	151	79	56	0	2	3	0
MOLINE	52	37	69	29	45	4	1.41	0.67	0.87	5.31	219	8.06	146	79	65	0	2	4	1
PEORIA	55	40	69	32	47	5	3.16	2.49	1.92	6.62	274	9.36	167	78	53	0	1	4	2
ROCKFORD	52	36	64	29	44	5	2.42	1.81	2.13	5.31	275	8.35	178	83	59	0	2	3	1
SPRINGFIELD	58	41	73	35	50	6	1.37	0.63	0.58	2.44	89	4.33	70	84	52	0	0	3	2
IN EVANSVILLE	67	46	76	40	57	9	1.70	0.71	0.79	2.75	73	8.87	91	77	51	0	0	3	1
FORT WAYNE	61	34	68	30	47	6	1.14	0.45	1.02	5.61	232	10.38	162	81	39	0	3	2	1
INDIANAPOLIS	64	44	75	37	54	10	1.44	0.64	1.16	2.06	68	6.47	82	74	36	0	0	2	1
SOUTH BEND	58	34	66	28	46	6	0.80	0.09	0.60	4.73	195	9.41	141	73	43	0	3	2	1
IA BURLINGTON	54	39	72	29	46	3	1.94	1.23	1.28	3.71	147	5.96	111	84	54	0	1	4	2
CEDAR RAPIDS	50	35	68	25	43	4	0.33	-0.24	0.24	3.24	179	4.84	122	87	55	0	3	4	0
DES MOINES	53	37	70	26	45	4	2.13	1.56	1.23	4.72	265	5.89	147	78	61	0	3	4	2
DUBUQUE	47	33	58	24	40	2	1.07	0.43	0.79	3.99	187	6.64	137	85	71	0	4	6	1
SIOUX CITY	50	31	68	21	41	2	1.26	0.75	0.80	1.40	86	2.54	90	83	64	0	5	3	1
WATERLOO	50	32	67	23	41	3	0.62	0.08	0.30	2.38	138	3.58	99	82	63	0	4	3	0
KS CONCORDIA	56	31	77	24	43	-2	0.03	-0.52	0.03	0.43	21	0.78	23	77	47	0	5	1	0
DODGE CITY	55	32	73	19	43	-3	0.66	0.21	0.56	0.67	44	0.87	31	77	42	0	5	2	1
GOODLAND	50	25	73	10	38	-4	0.21	-0.06	0.07	0.21	21	0.95	50	83	63	0	6	5	0
TOPEKA	55	38	76	30	47	0	2.53	1.92	1.18	4.52	208	5.11	119	82	54	0	2	5	2

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 28, 2009

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	57	37	77	27	47	-1	1.38	0.75	0.90	1.62	70	2.32	55	80	54	0	3	5	1
KY JACKSON	65	47	75	38	56	7	1.36	0.42	0.67	3.48	88	11.01	98	73	47	0	0	4	1
LEXINGTON	64	45	73	33	55	7	1.39	0.43	0.62	2.36	59	9.22	87	71	55	0	0	4	2
LOUISVILLE	66	47	75	38	56	7	0.73	-0.24	0.30	1.32	33	7.15	68	78	50	0	0	3	0
PADUCAH	68	49	77	41	59	9	0.29	-0.66	0.16	1.54	41	8.17	73	83	44	0	0	3	0
LA BATON ROUGE	79	59	83	50	69	7	2.91	1.75	2.66	6.16	138	11.56	73	91	54	0	0	4	1
LAKE CHARLES	76	57	79	43	67	5	2.75	1.93	1.47	6.52	210	8.95	75	91	63	0	0	3	2
NEW ORLEANS	77	62	79	53	69	5	4.21	3.01	3.29	5.11	110	15.90	99	84	62	0	0	3	2
SHREVEPORT	71	50	80	36	61	1	2.89	1.98	1.24	6.35	170	10.12	81	89	57	0	0	3	3
ME CARIBOU	40	18	53	5	29	1	0.03	-0.55	0.02	1.28	58	6.30	87	83	39	0	7	2	0
ME PORTLAND	45	27	52	20	36	0	0.28	-0.70	0.21	1.94	54	7.08	65	76	48	0	5	2	0
MD BALTIMORE	54	34	61	25	44	-2	1.18	0.32	0.57	1.97	56	4.96	49	74	51	0	4	3	1
MA BOSTON	47	31	53	23	39	-2	0.28	-0.60	0.26	1.41	42	6.70	63	69	44	0	4	2	0
MA WORCESTER	48	29	60	19	38	2	0.30	-0.69	0.29	1.61	43	7.01	64	75	29	0	5	2	0
MI ALPENA	40	24	48	14	32	1	0.10	-0.40	0.09	0.50	28	4.58	93	84	48	0	7	2	0
MI GRAND RAPIDS	52	32	60	26	42	5	0.02	-0.64	0.02	1.67	79	6.72	118	70	41	0	4	1	0
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	47	27	56	19	37	5	0.04	-0.46	0.03	0.97	57	4.55	100	80	48	0	6	2	0
MI LANSING	52	30	58	23	41	4	0.58	-0.02	0.39	2.31	122	5.68	115	72	48	0	4	2	0
MI MUSKOGON	51	32	59	26	42	6	0.55	-0.04	0.49	2.32	118	8.75	152	66	46	0	4	2	0
MI TRAVERSE CITY	46	31	56	26	39	6	0.05	-0.45	0.04	1.04	65	5.58	88	76	41	0	4	2	0
MN DULUTH	31	24	37	15	28	0	1.64	1.21	1.05	2.04	150	3.51	106	88	74	0	6	3	2
MN INT'L FALLS	33	20	43	2	26	-1	2.15	1.91	1.20	2.74	365	4.88	219	90	67	0	6	4	2
MN MINNEAPOLIS	45	30	61	17	37	2	0.85	0.37	0.44	1.20	80	2.71	81	78	58	0	4	2	0
MN ROCHESTER	45	30	59	19	38	4	0.39	-0.11	0.22	0.84	57	2.27	72	82	65	0	4	2	0
MN ST. CLOUD	40	27	58	15	34	3	2.09	1.68	1.26	2.48	216	3.82	153	88	61	0	4	4	2
MS JACKSON	73	52	79	42	63	5	4.74	3.38	2.54	9.03	181	15.61	103	94	56	0	0	5	3
MS MERIDIAN	75	52	79	41	64	5	6.02	4.45	1.83	8.83	142	15.39	88	96	61	0	0	4	4
MS TUPELO	72	52	75	46	62	7	3.71	2.32	2.28	5.83	102	11.97	77	83	62	0	0	5	2
MO COLUMBIA	59	40	77	32	49	3	2.52	1.77	1.23	3.63	132	6.25	94	88	54	0	1	5	2
MO KANSAS CITY	57	40	76	31	48	2	1.27	0.72	0.69	4.37	209	5.30	116	83	51	0	3	4	2
MO SAINT LOUIS	63	46	75	36	54	6	1.66	0.83	1.12	2.55	82	5.65	75	72	50	0	0	2	2
MO SPRINGFIELD	61	41	74	32	51	3	2.55	1.61	1.11	3.59	111	6.58	86	84	63	0	2	4	2
MT BILLINGS	45	25	62	13	35	-4	0.29	0.02	0.19	0.95	107	1.74	77	86	49	0	5	5	0
MT BUTTE	38	20	46	9	29	-3	0.10	-0.09	0.07	0.63	91	1.08	67	86	49	0	7	4	0
MT CUT BANK	37	19	44	10	28	-5	0.08	-0.05	0.06	***	***	***	***	92	53	0	7	2	0
MT GLASGOW	37	20	48	11	28	-6	0.14	0.03	0.12	0.17	49	0.71	74	86	61	0	6	3	0
MT GREAT FALLS	42	21	49	12	32	-3	0.28	0.04	0.14	0.55	67	1.51	75	86	48	0	7	4	0
MT HAVRE	40	22	48	16	31	-4	0.04	-0.11	0.03	0.06	11	0.65	46	81	63	0	7	2	0
MT MISSOULA	43	27	53	19	35	-5	0.43	0.24	0.24	0.86	109	2.19	84	89	64	0	5	4	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	52	28	74	16	40	-1	0.11	-0.39	0.07	0.15	9	1.33	46	78	58	0	5	2	0
NE LINCOLN	54	32	75	22	43	1	0.02	-0.53	0.02	0.18	10	1.20	38	72	47	0	5	1	0
NE NORFOLK	49	29	68	17	39	-1	0.95	0.47	0.54	1.11	69	2.63	89	82	62	0	5	4	1
NE NORTH PLATTE	51	24	70	11	38	-2	0.02	-0.28	0.01	0.22	22	1.51	79	87	46	0	6	2	0
NE OMAHA	53	34	71	21	43	1	0.22	-0.30	0.16	0.91	52	1.93	58	77	55	0	4	2	0
NE SCOTTSBLUFF	49	24	78	12	36	-3	0.70	0.42	0.65	0.73	78	1.89	92	85	62	0	6	2	1
NE VALENTINE	48	24	71	14	36	-1	0.61	0.35	0.53	0.68	76	1.99	119	85	64	0	6	2	1
NV ELY	45	21	60	11	33	-4	0.29	0.07	0.25	0.68	75	2.74	114	83	46	0	7	2	0
NV LAS VEGAS	69	48	76	45	59	-1	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.00	0	0.82	45	31	17	0	0	0	0
NV RENO	57	31	73	24	44	0	0.07	-0.08	0.07	1.61	204	2.34	80	59	33	0	4	1	0
NV WINNEMUCCA	54	21	69	12	38	-4	0.01	-0.18	0.01	0.93	129	2.34	108	69	36	0	7	1	0
NH CONCORD	50	24	62	16	37	1	0.23	-0.47	0.23	2.08	79	6.83	86	84	33	0	5	1	0
NJ NEWARK	53	35	64	26	44	0	0.49	-0.48	0.42	1.10	30	4.54	43	63	32	0	4	2	0
NM ALBUQUERQUE	60	35	75	26	48	-2	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.31	61	0.31	22	48	16	0	3	0	0
NY ALBANY	50	29	67	19	40	3	0.20	-0.53	0.20	1.52	57	4.60	63	72	29	0	4	1	0
NY BINGHAMTON	46	29	64	16	37	2	0.18	-0.51	0.18	2.77	108	5.89	78	67	36	0	4	1	0
NY BUFFALO	51	28	61	20	40	3	0.15	-0.55	0.14	2.99	115	7.98	98	77	34	0	4	2	0
NY ROCHESTER	49	28	61	16	39	3	0.25	-0.35	0.24	2.86	130	6.66	101	77	45	0	5	2	0
NY SYRACUSE	49	28	66	16	38	2	0.19	-0.54	0.19	2.19	85	5.38	74	80	30	0	4	1	0
NC ASHEVILLE	60	40	67	28	50	2	2.11	1.09	0.83	3.86	93	8.13	68	97	69	0	1	4	1
NC CHARLOTTE	63	43	71	30	53	-2	1.66	0.70	0.91	5.41	136	10.14	88	89	60	0	1	4	1
NC GREENSBORO	59	41	65	33	50	-1	1.16	0.31	0.50	4.54	132	8.70	86	84	54	0	0	4	1
NC HATTERAS	56	44	65	34	50	-4	0.61	-0.51	0.39	2.92	66	8.77	62	88	62	0	0	2	0
NC RALEIGH	64	46	70	31	55	2	1.97	1.11	0.91	6.84	185	11.02	99	76	53	0	1	4	2
NC WILMINGTON	66	47	75	33	57	0	1.16	0.26	0.97	3.35	87	6.97	58	92	51	0	0	4	1
ND BISMARCK	34	21	50	5	28	-4	1.04	0.84	0.74	1.16	176	2.77	171	89	79	0	5	3	1
ND DICKINSON	34	17	58	0	26	-7	1.00	0.81	0.70	1.02	232	1.89	152	96	70	0	6	2	1
ND FARGO	36	24	53	7	30	-1	1.49	1.21	0.61	1.89	199	3.73	162	85	71	0	5	4	2
ND GRAND FORKS	32	19	51	0	25	-4	1.56	1.35	0.54	1.73	244	3.00	152	94	76	0	5	4	2
ND JAMESTOWN	30	18	42	4	24	-7	1.46	1.25	0.72	1.48	211	2.93	159	94	81	0	5	4	1
ND WILLISTON	34	18	49	6	26	-6	0.04	-0.13	0.03	0.06	10	2.36	156	87	73	0	6	2	0
OH AKRON-CANTON	55	32	62	22	43	3	0.51	-0.21	0.40	2.51	91	7.21	96	80	47	0	4	2	0
OH CINCINNATI	63	42	73	35	52	6	0.85	-0.06	0.36	1.54	45	7.02	77	74	59	0	0	4	0
OH CLEVELAND	55	32	61	27	43	3	0.26	-0.43	0.25	3.10	123	8.49	116	76	38	0	4	2	0
OH COLUMBUS	61	38	69	30	49	5	0.91	0.24	0.59	1.15	46	5.81	80	70	48	0	1	2	1
OH DAYTON	61	37	70	32	49	6	0.57	-0.23	0.43	1.45	52	5.09	66	77	44	0	1	3	0
OH MANSFIELD	56	33	62	27	44	5	0.37	-0.46	0.28	3.08	109	8.37	110	83	34	0	4	3	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 28, 2009

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	55	33	59	29	44	4	0.43	-0.21	0.32	4.72	215	10.03	167	86	46	0	4	2	0
OK YOUNGSTOWN	53	30	61	22	42	3	0.68	-0.05	0.49	3.56	136	8.86	127	73	41	0	4	2	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	61	43	78	31	52	-1	1.88	1.24	1.35	2.40	93	3.81	70	80	53	0	2	2	2
OR TULSA	62	43	78	32	53	-1	4.35	3.53	1.77	4.54	145	7.50	112	83	59	0	1	4	3
OR ASTORIA	49	39	50	34	44	-2	2.50	0.92	1.16	7.46	111	21.85	90	93	76	0	0	6	1
OR BURNS	49	23	59	17	36	-2	0.07	-0.18	0.01	0.62	55	1.71	50	86	58	0	7	3	0
OR EUGENE	54	38	62	31	46	-1	0.37	-0.85	0.19	3.09	58	9.84	51	93	75	0	1	4	0
OR MEDFORD	56	38	69	27	47	-1	0.23	-0.14	0.12	1.57	93	4.00	64	90	55	0	1	4	0
OR PENDLETON	51	35	57	28	43	-3	0.94	0.66	0.53	2.18	198	4.56	121	88	67	0	2	4	1
OR PORTLAND	53	40	60	35	47	-1	0.90	0.13	0.49	3.32	98	9.45	75	87	69	0	0	7	0
OR SALEM	53	38	58	34	46	-1	0.39	-0.45	0.26	2.97	77	9.43	64	88	71	0	0	4	0
PA ALLENTOWN	52	29	61	21	41	0	0.37	-0.44	0.30	0.88	28	3.66	39	72	46	0	4	2	0
PA ERIE	50	30	59	22	40	1	0.08	-0.66	0.05	2.40	90	8.52	114	69	48	0	4	2	0
PA MIDDLETOWN	53	32	59	20	42	-2	0.54	-0.17	0.25	0.91	31	3.53	41	74	36	0	4	3	0
PA PHILADELPHIA	54	36	63	25	45	0	0.58	-0.29	0.31	0.88	26	4.45	46	72	49	0	3	3	0
PA PITTSBURGH	56	34	62	27	45	3	0.88	0.16	0.41	1.30	47	5.84	74	75	39	0	4	3	0
PA WILKES-BARRE	51	31	64	15	41	1	0.26	-0.38	0.26	0.89	39	3.75	55	64	31	0	4	1	0
PA WILLIAMSPORT	55	32	64	20	43	3	0.31	-0.44	0.28	1.00	36	4.11	50	67	39	0	4	2	0
RI PROVIDENCE	50	30	61	22	40	-1	0.23	-0.81	0.22	1.91	50	7.84	67	69	36	0	5	2	0
SC BEAUFORT	72	51	74	37	62	3	1.36	0.48	1.31	2.61	82	5.07	49	95	53	0	0	3	1
SC CHARLESTON	72	51	77	37	62	3	0.96	0.04	0.92	2.71	76	5.35	50	95	54	0	0	2	1
SC COLUMBIA	70	48	75	33	59	2	1.74	0.71	1.40	3.45	84	7.52	60	84	53	0	0	4	1
SC GREENVILLE	63	46	72	35	55	2	2.43	1.30	1.02	6.93	142	12.88	95	84	64	0	0	4	2
SD ABERDEEN	41	26	58	8	33	-1	0.57	0.23	0.41	0.72	68	2.55	126	86	78	0	5	4	0
SD HURON	45	28	66	15	36	1	0.56	0.13	0.31	0.56	42	1.63	68	87	62	0	5	2	0
SD RAPID CITY	46	22	77	9	34	-3	1.01	0.75	0.66	1.15	142	2.37	145	84	53	0	6	3	1
SD SIOUX FALLS	44	29	61	16	37	2	0.93	0.45	0.59	1.05	73	1.86	76	86	70	0	5	3	1
TN BRISTOL	65	43	73	28	54	5	0.97	0.14	0.43	2.14	60	10.05	96	92	50	0	1	4	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	70	49	74	42	59	6	3.23	1.86	1.17	5.15	92	13.13	83	91	61	0	0	4	4
TN KNOXVILLE	68	48	74	36	58	7	1.53	0.40	0.57	3.49	75	12.82	97	87	53	0	0	4	1
TN MEMPHIS	71	51	77	42	61	6	4.23	2.95	2.12	6.03	123	12.36	92	83	47	0	0	5	3
TN NASHVILLE	70	49	76	37	60	8	1.36	0.29	0.49	2.91	66	10.35	86	88	53	0	0	5	0
TX ABILENE	72	48	83	30	60	2	0.10	-0.20	0.09	1.44	119	1.93	58	73	42	0	2	2	0
TX AMARILLO	62	35	74	19	49	-1	0.30	0.03	0.27	0.47	51	0.95	45	75	33	0	3	3	0
TX AUSTIN	78	55	84	39	67	4	0.68	0.25	0.23	3.24	166	4.58	79	85	60	0	0	4	0
TX BEAUMONT	76	58	79	42	67	3	3.16	2.28	1.62	5.13	156	7.31	59	93	62	0	0	4	2
TX BROWNSVILLE	86	67	101	54	77	7	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.12	17	0.70	22	86	51	1	0	0	0
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	84	64	93	49	74	7	0.44	0.08	0.42	0.99	64	1.16	23	86	55	1	0	2	0
TX DEL RIO	82	56	91	42	69	4	0.00	-0.20	0.00	1.53	191	1.58	68	80	47	1	0	0	0
TX EL PASO	73	48	83	33	61	2	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.06	30	0.07	7	27	10	0	0	0	0
TX FORT WORTH	70	49	79	34	59	0	0.54	-0.09	0.52	5.02	180	6.56	93	84	48	0	0	2	1
TX GALVESTON	74	61	77	46	68	2	0.72	0.09	0.32	3.78	156	5.18	57	93	69	0	0	5	0
TX HOUSTON	77	57	82	41	67	3	1.64	0.87	0.87	4.13	140	6.15	64	92	63	0	0	4	1
TX LUBBOCK	69	39	84	24	54	1	0.02	-0.15	0.02	0.37	62	1.23	68	62	33	0	2	1	0
TX MIDLAND	75	43	90	27	59	2	0.03	-0.03	0.03	0.63	170	0.89	60	57	31	1	2	1	0
TX SAN ANGELO	76	49	84	35	62	3	0.51	0.32	0.51	1.73	197	2.27	79	72	49	0	0	1	1
TX SAN ANTONIO	81	58	86	41	70	6	0.25	-0.16	0.21	2.46	147	3.38	67	84	40	0	0	3	0
TX VICTORIA	81	58	89	39	70	5	0.72	0.22	0.70	1.82	92	2.14	33	93	59	0	0	3	1
TX WACO	75	49	81	35	62	2	0.54	0.05	0.30	2.59	114	4.58	69	84	64	0	0	2	0
TX WICHITA FALLS	69	45	83	30	57	1	0.07	-0.43	0.07	0.39	20	1.20	26	79	52	0	2	1	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	47	30	63	24	39	-6	0.97	0.53	0.47	1.30	78	4.28	98	82	48	0	5	5	0
VT BURLINGTON	48	25	68	14	36	2	0.31	-0.25	0.31	1.37	70	4.94	85	80	34	0	5	1	0
VA LYNCHBURG	55	36	63	27	46	-2	0.74	-0.11	0.31	3.21	94	7.48	74	82	52	0	1	4	0
VA NORFOLK	55	38	68	28	47	-4	1.26	0.35	0.58	5.26	144	8.34	76	87	58	0	3	3	2
VA RICHMOND	57	36	63	28	47	-3	1.63	0.72	1.15	4.21	114	6.44	63	84	54	0	3	3	1
VA ROANOKE	58	39	68	30	48	-1	1.12	0.27	0.33	3.44	101	7.39	76	80	56	0	1	4	0
WA WASH/DULLES	54	34	63	27	44	-2	1.52	0.72	0.78	2.40	76	5.42	60	77	52	0	3	3	1
WA OLYMPIA	49	34	54	29	41	-3	1.11	-0.01	0.63	5.51	113	15.71	85	89	78	0	2	5	1
WA QUILLAYUTE	46	36	49	32	41	-3	1.33	-0.96	0.35	8.13	79	22.52	62	93	81	0	1	6	0
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	48	38	52	33	43	-4	0.47	-0.33	0.33	3.90	114	10.81	85	88	68	0	0	5	0
WA SPOKANE	45	31	52	26	38	-3	0.46	0.15	0.21	2.21	163	4.62	99	84	52	0	5	4	0
WA YAKIMA	55	29	64	24	42	-2	0.05	-0.09	0.05	0.85	147	2.49	98	75	40	0	5	1	0
WV BECKLEY	57	38	63	28	47	3	1.23	0.44	0.62	2.73	84	8.67	92	80	54	0	2	3	1
WV CHARLESTON	63	40	73	27	52	5	1.43	0.58	0.66	2.44	69	8.77	88	86	48	0	2	3	1
WV ELKINS	59	32	66	17	46	4	1.38	0.52	0.62	2.15	61	8.74	86	94	41	0	3	3	1
WV HUNTINGTON	63	40	74	28	52	4	1.61	0.78	0.73	2.36	68	8.74	90	81	49	0	1	3	2
WI EAU CLAIRE	43	29	51	17	36	2	0.39	-0.11	0.31	0.72	49	1.82	55	88	56	0	3	4	0
WI GREEN BAY	42	31	50	24	36	2	0.85	0.32	0.80	1.56	93	3.77	97	85	58	0	4	3	1
WI LA CROSSE	48	31	62	20	40	3	0.28	-0.27	0.24	0.96	62	2.67	72	84	52	0	5	3	0
WI MADISON	48	32	60	23	40	4	2.77	2.18	2.28	5.53	302	7.98	183	87	64	0	3	3	1
WI MILWAUKEE	46	34	56	29	40	3	0.55	-0.12	0.30	3.09	148	6.42	115	74	62	0	2	2	0
WY CASPER	41	16	65	-6	28	-9	0.89	0.70	0.88	1.00	132	2.36	119	79	63	0	6	2	1
WY CHEYENNE	43	22	69	10	33	-2	0.08	-0.17	0.05	0.24	28	1.28	74	73	45	0	6	2	0
WY LANDER	42	20	62	-1	31	-7	1.38	1.08	0.70	1.93	197	2.17	106	83	43	0	6	3	2
WY SHERIDAN	41	20	68	-2	31	-6	0.64	0.39	0.39	1.00	128	2.24	106	83	61	0	6	3	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

National Agricultural Summary

March 23 – 29, 2009

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Strong storm systems brought copious amounts of precipitation to locations throughout the southern Great Plains, Corn Belt, Delta, and Southeast, with areas in Florida's Panhandle receiving over 10 inches of rain. The Pacific Northwest and isolated locations in the Rocky Mountains also received substantial rain and snow. In North Dakota, heavy rainfall coupled with melted snow to cause extensive flooding. The Red River crested at 40.82 feet (22.82 feet above flood stage) which broke the 112-year old record of 40.10 feet set in 1897. Temperatures were above average on the eastern side of the United States and in Texas. Maximum temperatures recorded in areas near Brownsville, Texas, topped 100 degrees F. In contrast, areas west of the Great Plains averaged as much as 10 degrees below normal for the week.

California experienced cold weather early in the week, as a front exited to the east. Warmer weather returned by mid week, until a second gusty front brought northwesterly winds and cooler conditions on Sunday. Lodging caused by strong winds associated with the late-week storm was seen in small grain fields in the central San Joaquin Valley. Fruit crops continued blooming across the State, while producers harvested citrus crops and kiwi. Freeze damage suffered by almond trees in early March remained unknown as of yet. Tomatoes in some fields in central California were lost due to frost.

In Arizona, temperatures remained above normal with little to no precipitation reported. Small grain emergence was complete.

Producers were busy planting cotton and harvesting alfalfa hay, winter vegetables, and citrus fruit.

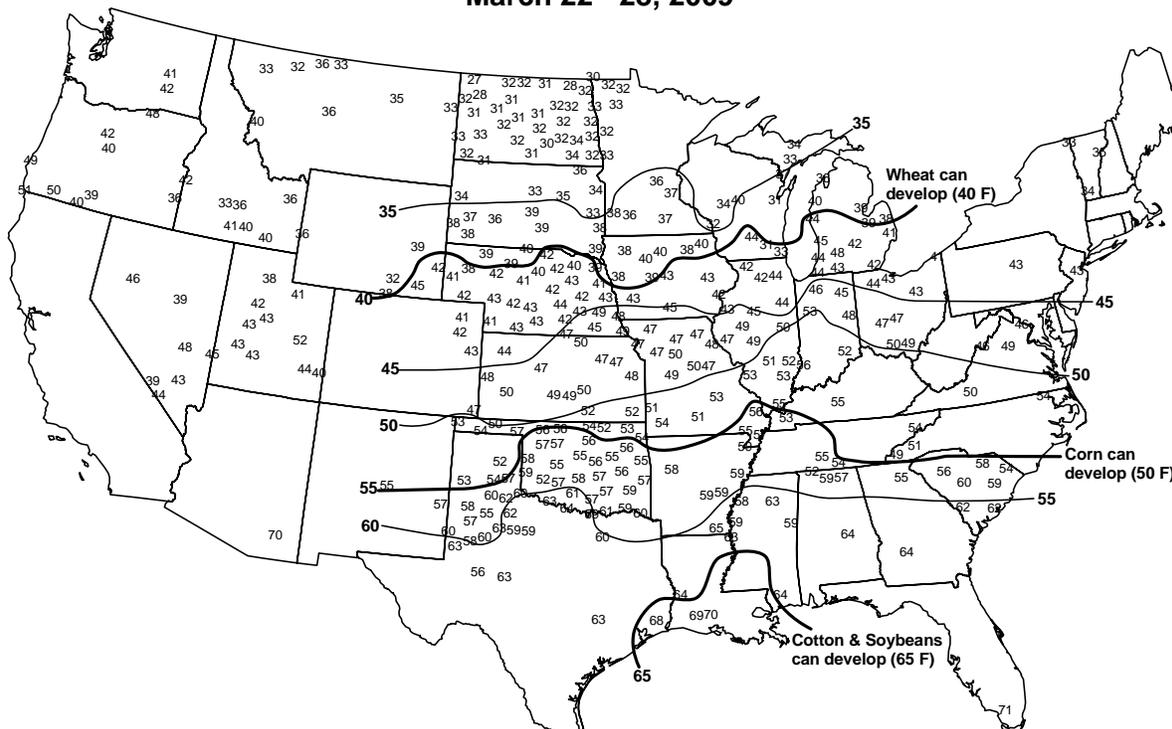
While eastern Texas received considerable rainfall, western areas remained dry, prompting producers to continue irrigating the wheat crop. Wheat was growing well in the Cross Timbers and Blacklands; however, more moisture was needed to help fill heads with grain. Pecan trees were beginning to bud in the Trans Pecos and Edwards Plateau regions. South Texas producers spent the week planting melons and green beans, while cabbage harvest continued.

Heavy rains pounded Georgia, leading to improved soil moisture conditions throughout the State. However, some locations reported crop damage, a delay in planting, or the need to replant some vegetables.

Florida received widespread rainfall, halting fieldwork in some counties and causing flooding in others. Strong winds and hail associated with the storm damaged the wheat crop. However, the extent of the damage is currently unknown. The irrigation need in potato fields was lessened, with most of the crop reported in the flowering stage. Spring vegetable planting continued, and blueberry producers were busy harvesting their crop. Citrus producers were busy applying fertilizers and herbicides, and irrigating on a regular basis. Packing houses reported a decline in tangerine and early to mid season orange supply, while the Valencia harvest gained speed.

Average Soil Temperature (° F, 4" Bare)

March 22 - 28, 2009



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 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 monthly during the winter, provide brief descriptions of crop and weather conditions important on a national scale. More detailed data are available in Crop Progress and Condition Reports published each Monday during the growing season by NASS State Statistical Offices in cooperation with the National Weather Service. The crop reports are available on the Internet through the NASS Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.

ALABAMA: The central and southern part of Alabama experienced abnormally dry intensities. As indicated by the Agricultural Weather Information Services, during the week of March 23-29, as much as 3.9 inches and as low as 2.1 inches of precipitation occurred in northern Alabama. In the southern part of the state, Geneva County encountered as high as 12.6 inches of rain whereas Crenshaw County witnessed as low as 4.1 inches of precipitation. During the middle of March, four to six inches fell in central Alabama, according to the US Drought Monitor released 3/17/09. Alabama producers are busy preparing and planting corn as the weather permits. Doug Chapman, Regional Extension Agent from Northwest Alabama stated that strawberries, peaches, and apples are in good to excellent condition with adequate blooming taking place. The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service reported that many peach producers are worried about Peach Scab due to the mild weather and persistent rain. Brandon Dillard of Geneva County reported wheat crop in good to excellent condition. Mr. Dillard expressed that the rain was an advantage to wheat production, but producers are worried about the effect disease will have on their crops. Charles Burmester, Agronomist in Northern Alabama, commented that several counties planted wheat late, but overall condition was reported fair to good.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State were mostly above normal for the month of March. Little to no precipitation fell throughout the month. By the end of the month, there were no reporting stations with above normal precipitation for the year. Crop conditions remained relatively unchanged for March. Alfalfa condition remained mostly good to excellent for the month. Small grain emergence was complete by the end of the month. Cotton planting was underway. Range and pasture conditions remained unchanged for most of the month despite lack of new rainfall. Alfalfa harvesting continued for Arizona. The winter vegetable harvest continued throughout March along with the citrus harvest.

ARKANSAS: For most of March, temperatures were warmer than normal in Arkansas, reaching as high as 11 degrees above normal in Fayetteville for the week ending March 8, 2009. High temperatures well above 80 degrees Fahrenheit were observed at some weather stations during each of the first three weeks of the month, as temperatures reached as high as 85 degrees Fahrenheit in Mountain Home during the week ending March 22. Wet weather occurred throughout the month, but a weather system during the last week of March brought significant amounts of rain to the majority of the state. Some places such as West Memphis and Morrilton received over 4 inches of rain during that last week. Planting of row crops was delayed due to the wet field conditions, but 12% of the corn crop was in the ground by the week ending, March 29, 2009, and 3% of the crop had emerged. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition as producers continued to make fertilizer and herbicide applications to the crop. Livestock were in mostly fair to good condition, and there were still reports of ongoing fence repairs from the January ice storm.

CALIFORNIA: Weed spraying in wheat, oat, and sorghum grain fields was still underway across the state. Winds caused lodging in grain fields in the central San Joaquin Valley, which will make harvesting difficult. Dryland grain fields were showing good surfacing with recent rains. Early planted fields of wheat, oats were starting to develop seed heads. Rice growers were fertilizing, irrigating to prepare for spring planting. Newly planted alfalfa fields were being irrigated; established fields were treated with herbicides to remove weeds. Alfalfa for forage was being cut in the San Joaquin Valley. Sod growers were preparing the ground for seeding. Corn fields were being planted in Merced. Safflower and cotton were emerging in Sutter County. Potatoes continued to be harvested. Grape buds began to swell while vineyard tying and spraying wrapped up. Irrigation began in vineyards.

Bloom began in apple, apricot, peach, cherry, nectarine, pluot, prune, and pear orchards. In the Sacramento Valley, Cling peach bloom was complete and leafing out occurred in some areas; persimmons were beginning to leaf out. Fungicide treatments were applied to protect blooms during moist conditions in the central and northern parts of the state. Weed, blight control continued in peach and prune orchards. Lack of significant rainfall in the San Joaquin Valley forced farmers to begin irrigation practices for most tree crops. Bee hives remained in stone fruit orchards throughout the state. Growers assessed damage from cold temperatures in grapes, kiwis, fruit trees. Scattered freeze damage to orchard crops was reported in parts of the San Joaquin Valley. Spring strawberries and blueberries were blooming. Kiwis began to show leaves. Olive orchard maintenance continued. Lemon and Pummelo, Oro Blanco and Melo Gold grapefruit harvests moved forward. Washington, Nucellar, and Atwood navel oranges were still being picked. Minneola and W. Murcott mandarin and Valencia orange harvest increased. Some mandarin orchards in the San Joaquin Valley were covered with nets to discourage cross pollination. Cold weather forced growers in the San Joaquin Valley to use wind machines and irrigation to keep temperatures up. Pre-plant fumigation continued in new almond, walnut orchards. Cool temperatures extended the almond bloom in parts of the Sacramento Valley. Petal fall was almost complete through much of the San Joaquin Valley. Early mite damage to almonds was reported in the San Joaquin Valley in areas where last year's water restrictions increased tree susceptibility to water stress. Freeze damage to almonds from early March was not yet quantified. Walnut orchards were fertilized, irrigated and treated for blight. Pollen sacks continued to develop on male pistachio trees. Pistachio trees were blooming. The asparagus harvest was in full swing along the Central Coast, lower San Joaquin Valley. The harvest of radicchio, cabbage, carrots, greenhouse vegetables progressed well. Broccoli, cauliflower, leaf lettuce harvests were underway in Monterey. Stanislaus County harvested broccoli and spinach. In Merced, radicchio harvest finished; tomatoes were planted. Fresno County lost some tomatoes to frost; but carrots, onions and garlic were cultivated, irrigated, and treated with herbicide. Harvests continued more slowly for farmers' market vegetables in Fresno County such as basil, beets, carrots, cilantro, collard greens, leaf lettuce, leeks, lemongrass, kale, mustard greens, green onions, radishes, saluyot (okra leaf), spinach, winter squash, swiss chard, and many varieties of herbs. Fields were prepared for commercial planting of cantaloupe, tomatoes. Outdoor zucchini, summer and yellow crooked neck squash, cucumbers germinated under hot caps in Tulare. Carrots were planted; onions, garlic emerged nicely from the ground. Spring lettuce plantings grew well and were almost ready for harvest. Carrots were being planted while harvest remained underway in Imperial. Foothill pastures and rangeland in the northern part of the state continued to improve. Pastureland in Central California also made gains in nutritive value, but more rain was needed to sustain growth and some areas remained in poor condition. Cattle were gaining weight steadily on central range and pastures, however supplemental feeding continued in many areas. Some calving continued. Dairy herds were reduced in response to market conditions. Sheep were moved off alfalfa as fields went into production. Continued predator problems were reported in the Sutter Buttes area. Bees remained in dried plums in northern areas, and were moved from almonds to stone fruit orchards in central areas.

COLORADO: Colorado received well below normal amounts of precipitation. Although, most of the state did receive some much needed moisture in late March. Temperatures were slightly above average for the state during the month. Statewide, the mountain snowpack is 99%, up from only 92% in mid-March but down from February's 109%. The eastern plains experienced extremely dry conditions during most of the month. Winter wheat broke dormancy in fair to good condition but will require additional moisture during the growing season. Producers are planting spring crops on schedule under good conditions.

DELAWARE: Dry conditions until weekend of 3/28/09. Rainfall departure from normal 4 to 6 inches for state. Hay and feed supplies are adequate. Winter wheat and Barley are in mostly fair to good condition. Farmers are preparing fields for planting. Some peas already in the ground.

FLORIDA: Very little rain allowed field work to progress, hindered most crops. Glades County producers harvested frost-damaged sugarcane as season ended. Early-planted potatoes escaped cold damage, northeast; newly-emerging plants had some damage. Vegetables looked good, production slow due to drought, cold stress. Growers prepared fields for row crops, spring vegetables early in month. Sweet corn, beans, squash planted in southern areas. Watermelons set, many central, northern locations. St. Johns County harvested cabbage, broccoli with good yields, quality. Mid-month, small grains doing well. Growers planting field crops, vegetables. St. Johns County some cabbage plowed under, replaced with potatoes. Collier, Hendry, Lee counties salt problems in vegetables due to warm, dry field conditions. Scattered showers late March, barely eased drought. Wheat, fair to good condition. End of March, heavy rain, flooding to Panhandle; up to 8.00 inches in extreme western counties, stopped field work. Hail, high winds caused some crop damage. Perennial pastures greened, winter forage got a boost. Areas where planting was delayed by drought able to proceed in prepared fields. Vegetables marketed tomatoes, squash, celery, onions, endive, escarole, strawberries, sweet potatoes, radishes, greens, cantaloupe, broccoli, cabbage, beets, eggplant, peppers, beans, sweet corn. Early March, citrus trees showed new growth, new leaves, small amount of bloom. Valencia harvest begun while processing of early, midseason varieties slowed. White, colored grapefruit harvesting continued at a strong pace. Mid-month, rainfall scarce, drought continued. New limb growth reported on trees, slowly recovering from freezing temperatures. Fertilizing, aerial spraying, hedging dominant activities in well cared for groves. End-month, start of new crop evidenced by widespread spring citrus bloom. Growers reported new growth flush with full open bloom on many citrus trees. Monthly average pasture condition very poor to good, lower than for February. Pasture condition low due to drought, cool temperatures; seasonal dormancy of permanent pasture. Month's end, winter grain forage provided limited forage due to drought. Permanent pasture greening provided limited forage in southwestern areas. Supplemental hay fed throughout State. Hay supply short. Cattle condition mostly poor to good, down from February's average.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 12% short, 57% adequate, 30% surplus. Corn 0% very poor, 2% poor, 32% fair, 65% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 4% poor, 33% fair, 57% good, 6% excellent. Range and pasture 6% very poor, 12% poor, 41% fair, 39% good, 2% excellent. Onions 0% very poor, 0% poor, 11% fair, 88% good, 1% excellent. Peaches 0% very poor, 6% poor, 13% fair, 81% good, 0% excellent. Corn 48% planted, 37% 2008, 33% avg.; 27% emerged, 13% 2008, 13% avg. Sorghum 0% planted, 1% 2008, 0% avg. Winter wheat jointing 78%, 78% 2008, 52% avg.; boot 35%, 24% 2008, 19% avg.; 4% headed, 2% 2008, 3% avg. Apples 3% blooming, 4% 2008, 5% avg. Peaches 97% blooming, 95% 2008, 57% avg. Tobacco transplanted 5%, 2% 2008, 4% avg. Watermelons 35% planted, 27% 2008, 22% avg. Heavy rain, throughout the state, improved soil moisture conditions. In some areas, the rain damaged crops, delayed planting and caused replanting of some vegetables.

HAWAII: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Mostly cloudy to overcast skies. Precipitation light to moderate with the heaviest rainfall concentrated over windward and mountain locations. Soil moisture levels were adequate in most areas. Winds were moderate to breezy trades. Overall, temperatures were slightly warmer, but still cool to warm during the day and cool during the evening and early-morning hours. Most banana orchards were in fair to good condition. Overcast skies and wet conditions slowed field operations in some areas. Breezy conditions causing some leaf shredding. Harvesting was light to moderate. Most papaya orchards were in fair to good condition. Wet conditions increasing disease problems in some fields. Harvesting activities were light. Head cabbage crop was in fair to good condition. Insect infestation was light, but increasing. Harvesting pace was light to moderate.

IDAHO: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 4% short, 79% adequate, 17% surplus. Calving complete 70%, 77% 2008, 79% avg. Lambing complete 71%, 73% 2008, 79% avg. Hay and roughage supply 0% very short, 33% short, 61% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 17% fair, 76% good, 7% excellent. Spring wheat, barley and sugarbeet planting began in the South Western and South Central districts. Spring wheat and barley emergence has begun in the South Western district. Onion and potato planting have begun in South Western districts.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures during the month of March averaged 43.2 degrees, 2.5 degrees above normal across the state. Statewide precipitation averaged 4.08 inches during the month, 1.14 inches above normal. Heavy rain and wet snow fell on many parts of the state over the weekend, causing delays in fertilizer application. Even though most of the snow melted quickly, fields were left saturated. Topsoil moisture was rated 50% adequate and 50% surplus. Winter wheat conditions stood at 1% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 59% good, and 8% excellent.

INDIANA: As of the 29th the state temperature for March averaged 43.90 which was 3.400 above normal. Total precipitation averaged 3.30 inches which was 0.05 inches above normal. Precipitation in northern areas averaged 200% of normal causing flooding in low lying areas while precipitation in central and southern areas averaged only 70 percent of normal. The winter wheat crop has begun to break dormancy and is reported to be in mostly good condition. Many of the winter wheat fields were topdressed with nitrogen during the month. Many operators were applying pre-plant anhydrous ammonia on intended corn acreage. Dry fertilizer, lime and manure were also spread during the month along with completing some light tillage operations. Calving and lambing continues on livestock operations with good survival rates being reported. Hay supplies remain mostly adequate as usage slows down as pastures begin to green up. Other activities included preparing spring tillage and planting equipment, cleaning fields of debris, fixing winter erosion problems, taking delivery of seed and fertilizer, financial planning, spreading fertilizer and manure, moving grain to market and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Soil moisture availability rated 3% short, 65% adequate, and 32% surplus. Grain movement rated 26% none, 38% light, 30% moderate, and 6% heavy. Availability of hay and roughage supplies rated 10% short, 78% adequate, and 12% surplus. Quality of hay and roughage supplies rated 11% poor, 44% fair, and 45% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing rated 53% none, 28% limited, 15% moderate, and 4% extensive. Hog and pig losses rated at 11% below average, 85% average, and 4% above average. Cattle and calf losses rated 14% below average, 83% average, and 3% above average. Manure hauling and applications have been the predominant activities of late. However, saturated fields have limited activities in areas as farmers must wait for fields to dry out. Farmers are anxious to get into their fields and get fertilizer applied and planting underway. Calving conditions have been mostly good with some reports of mud causing problems.

KANSAS: Days suitable for field work in March 20.4. Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 28% short, 50% adequate, and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 23% short, 64% adequate, and 7% surplus. Thirteen percent of the wheat has jointed, 10% last year, 20 percent 5-yr avg. Wheat condition was rated 4% very poor, 13% poor, 41% fair, 38% good, and 4% excellent. Wind damage to wheat was rated 77% no damage, 16% light damage, 5% moderate damage, 2% severe. Freeze damage was rated 89% no damage, 10% light damage, 1% moderate damage. Oats 91% planted, 84% 2008, and 65% 5-yr avg. Range and pasture condition rated 10% very poor, 16% poor, 35% fair, 35% good, and 4% excellent. Feed grain supplies 9% short, 90% adequate, and 1% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 12% short, 81% adequate, and 7% surplus. Stock water supplies are 1% very short, 14% short, 83% adequate, and 2% surplus.

KENTUCKY: The first week of March was very dry for the majority of the Commonwealth with many locations receiving zero rainfall. Rainfall was below normal for the 4th time in the past 5 weeks as the dry trend continued. Temperatures during the period were above normal as southerly winds ushered in warm, humid air for much of the period. Late in the week, temperatures reached 80 degrees in some

locations. Temperatures for the period averaged 47 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees above normal and 9 degrees above the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 59 in the West to 56 in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.08 inches statewide which was 0.95 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 0.18 inches, Central 0.00 inches, Bluegrass 0.00 inches and East 0.06 inches, which was 0.94, 1.19, 1.00 and 1.00 inches respectively below normal. The second week of March experienced above normal rainfall and temperatures. Multiple weather systems moved through the state bringing showers and a few thunderstorms. Some locations in the southeastern part of the state received over two and a half inches of rain while northern portions of the Bluegrass State received under a quarter of an inch. Temperatures during the period remained mild with above normal values being reported for the 2nd straight week. Temperatures for the period averaged 45 degrees across the state which was 1 degree above normal and 2 degrees below the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 57 in the West to 55 in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.40 inches statewide which was 0.48 inches above normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 1.21 inches, Central 1.61 inches, Bluegrass 0.88 inches and East 1.75 inches, which was 0.30, 0.63, 0.00 and 0.84 inches respectively above normal. Relatively warm and dry conditions continued during the third week of March. The Commonwealth received below normal rainfall for the 5th week out of the past 7. Southeastern portions of the state continued to receive the majority of the total rainfall. Temperatures continued to be mild as above normal values were reported, although low temperatures did drop down to frost/freeze levels late in the week. Temperatures for the period averaged 50 degrees across the state which was 3 degrees above normal and 5 degrees above the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 65 in the West to 61 in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.22 inches statewide which was 0.89 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 0.04 inches, Central 0.06 inches, Bluegrass 0.28 inches and East 0.43 inches, which was 1.06, 1.13, 0.79 and 0.65 inches respectively below normal. The last week of March was a much needed wet week with some locations receiving well over 2 inches of rainfall. Temperatures remained above normal for the 4th straight week, but lows did drop to frost/freeze levels during the evening of March 29th. Temperatures for the period averaged 55 degrees across the state which was 6 degrees above normal and 5 degrees above the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 65 in the West to 63 in the East. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 1.97 inches, Central 1.67 inches, Bluegrass 1.40 inches and East 1.66 inches, which was 0.96, 0.76, 0.61 and 0.83 inches respectively above normal.

LOUISIANA: The state averaged 7.27 inches of rain over the last four weeks. Producers have been busy this March preparing fields for planting. As of the Weekly Crop Weather Report released on 03/30/2009 approximately 73% of spring plowing has been completed. Corn, sorghum, and rice have been planted in many areas with corn starting to emerge across the state. However, the significant rainfall at the later part of the month has slowed down planting of sorghum, rice, corn, and soybeans. Wheat across the state has started to head. Vegetable, fruit, and citrus producers have been busy preparing for spring and summer crops. Crawfish producers have reported an improvement in size of crawfish in their catches. Cattlemen remained busy with calving and pastures showed improvement this month.

MARYLAND: Dry conditions until weekend of 3/28/09. Rainfall departure from normal 3 to 8 inches for state. Hay and feed supplies are adequate. Winter wheat and Barley are in mostly good condition. Farmers are preparing fields for planting. Some peas already in the ground.

MICHIGAN: The precipitation for the past four weeks ending March 29 varied from 0.78 inches in western Upper Peninsula to 2.84 inches in southwest Lower Peninsula. Although a few areas remained under snow, above normal temperatures for the month ushered in spring and allowed for early planting of sugar beets across the State. Early assessments revealed wheat wintered well with little to no winterkill. Buds were swelling in fruit crops and minimal winter damage reported in strawberries and blueberries. Field activities included top-dressing wheat, applying copper to peaches for leaf curl, and getting machinery ready for planting.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures during March 1-29 averaged from 2.8 degrees below normal in the Northwest District to 1.1 degrees above normal in the Southeast District. Temperature extremes included a low of -30 degrees at Itasca and a high of 69 degrees at Marshall. Precipitation averaged from 0.89 inches below normal in the Southeast District to 2.35 inches above normal in the North Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 5.13 inches was recorded in Aitkin. Rain and melting snow, in addition to frozen or saturated soil, caused overland and river flooding in the Red River valley and in a few other parts of the state. Warmer than normal temperatures early in the month and deep frost made fields and pastures muddy throughout much of the state. Colder temperatures later in the month slowed thawing of snow. Livestock conditions varied across the state depending on temperature and rain and snow received. Feed supplies were generally adequate.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.8. Soil moisture 19% adequate, 81% surplus. Corn 48% planted, 39% avg.; 18% emerged, 19% avg. Soybeans 3% planted, 7% avg. Winter Wheat 53% jointing, 45% avg. Watermelons 37% planted, 17% avg. It has been one wet week across Mississippi. Heavy rain and thunderstorms covered most of the state, forcing several producers out of the field; however, the precipitation has been beneficial for pastures. Prior to the rainfall, some producers were able to successfully apply nitrogen applications. Winter wheat is progressing with few pest problems.

MISSOURI: March was warmer than normal and precipitation slightly above average. Precipitation averaged 3.75 inches compared to the 30 year March average of 3.48 inches. The precipitation ranged from 2.85 inches in the east-central district to 5.18 inches in the north-central district for March. Average temperatures were 2 degrees to 4.5 degrees above normal with the exception of the northwest district that was 1.1 degrees below average.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 29% last year, 11% short, 41% last year, 74% adequate, 29% last year, 11% surplus, 1% last year. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 30% last year, 18% short, 46% last year, 70% adequate, 23% last year, 4% surplus, 1% last year. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 4% last year, 3% poor, 11% last year, 40% fair, 51% last year, 52% good, 31% last year, 4% excellent, 3% last year. Winter wheat wind damage 62% none, 37% last year, 33% light, 37% last year, 4% moderate, 24% last year, 1% heavy, 2% last year. Winter wheat freeze and drought damage 53% none, 38% last year, 37% light, 41% last year, 9% moderate, 20% last year, 1% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 24% very poor, 47% last year, 43% poor, 22% last year, 25% fair, 20% last year, 6% good, 9% last year, 2% excellent, 2% last year. Winter wheat spring stages 82% still dormant, 71% last year, 17% greening, 28% last year, 1% greening and growing, 1% last year. Most of the state received moderate precipitation for the month of March. White Sulphur Springs received the most monthly accumulated precipitation with 3.16 inches. Temperatures during the month of March were slightly below normal. Highs ranged from 40s to 70s and lows ranged from minus thirties to positive teens. Broadus had the high temperature during the month of 77 degrees, and Scobey had the low temperature of negative 33 degrees. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 90%, 96% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 93%, 96% last year. Livestock grazing 40% open, 69% last year, 41% difficult, 15% last year, 19% closed, 16% last year. Grazing has not been possible in many areas as cold weather and snow cover have not allowed grass to green. Producers in the north central district are hoping they have enough hay supplies to last until the grass does green up. Calving completed 52%, 53% last year. Lambing completed 30%, 40% last year.

NEBRASKA: For the month of March 2009, variable temperatures during the month averaged near normal. Precipitation during March was below normal with most areas receiving less than 1 inch of moisture, except for the northern and eastern parts of the state. At the end of March snow depth was limited to the Panhandle and the North Central districts which averaged one to two inches in those areas. A front moved through the western and northern part of the state during the end of the month leaving snow cover in those areas. Soil temperatures were above freezing across the entire state with the eastern half of Nebraska near last year's temperatures while the western half was between 5 and 8 degrees below year ago soil

temperatures. Fieldwork was mostly limited to fertilizer applications and seed bed preparations. A few fields of oats had been planted. Calving continued to make good progress with normal calf losses reported. Wheat conditions 0% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 59% good, and 9% excellent, above last year's condition of 50% good or excellent. Oat planting was underway with 11% seeded statewide, slightly ahead of last year. Hay and forage supplies rated 0% very short, 5%, 91% adequate, and 4% surplus, well above year ago levels of 86% good or excellent. Cattle and Calves conditions rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 74% good, and 12% excellent, above year ago levels. Calving progressed to 56% complete with calf losses mostly average.

NEVADA: A fast moving cold front brought snow to much of northern Nevada early in the month. Las Vegas recorded the monthly high at 85 degrees. Ely recorded the lowest temperature of the month at 2 degrees. Precipitation was scattered during the month. Reno recorded the most precipitation with 1.61 inches. Drought conditions for northwestern Nevada improved from severe to moderate drought. Supplemental feeding of range livestock continued. Other farm and ranch activities included equipment maintenance, calving, fence repairs, field preparation, ditch burning, and weed control.

NEW ENGLAND: A region-wide snowstorm and below average temperatures ushered in the month of March. During two days, areas saw anywhere between 5.0 to 11.6 inches of snowfall. New England experienced more rain and snow during the weekend of March 7 where an additional two to four inches of snow fell and some areas saw up to 0.2 inches of rain. The remainder of the month was mainly dry with light rain falling periodically. Maple producers were busy collecting and boiling sap towards the end of the month. Cool overnight temperatures, combined with warm, sunny days kept the sap running. Some producers were still trying to move trees out of the way and repair downed pipelines that resulted from the ice storm in December. On prime sap running days, high temperatures crept up into the mid-50s. March ended with widespread rain totaling up to 1.15 inches during the course of the weekend. The mostly dry month of March left precipitation levels in many areas of New England one to three inches below average. Average high temperatures across New England during March were three to seven degree below normal in the southern states, while high temperatures were average in the northern states. During March, tobacco farmers began seeding their greenhouses with broadleaf and shade tobacco. Some farmers have even begun to plow, which is very early for the region. Other farm activities included nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, and preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were up to 22 degrees below normal the first week of March in some state localities. During the rest of March, temperatures were variable ranging from a high of 67 degrees to a low of 19 degrees. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in all districts. Farmers continued plowing fields, spreading lime, and testing soil moisture. Other activities included planting oats, working greenhouses, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Topsoil moisture 36% very short, 54% short, 10% adequate. Wind damage 26% light, 26% moderate, 1% severe. Freeze damage 18% light, 16% moderate, 2% severe. Alfalfa 5% poor, 43% fair, 52% good. Winter wheat 32% very poor, 30% poor, 22% fair, 10% good, 6% excellent; 66% grazed. Lettuce 74% good, 26% excellent. Chile 36% planted. Onion 13% fair, 54% good, 33% excellent; 100% planted. Cattle 2% very poor, 19% poor, 58% fair, 21% good. Sheep 3% very poor, 16% poor, 64% fair, 17% good. Range and pasture 16% very poor, 35% poor, 40% fair, 9% good. Temperatures in the northern parts of the state were in the mid forties to fifties the beginning of the week, with the lows being in the mid twenties to high thirties. Temperatures in the southern portion of the state were in the high to low eighties and lows in the

high forties lower fifties. On Thursday the winter storm system made its way into the state dropping temperatures significantly across the state Thursday and Friday. Some areas high temperatures dropped as much as twenty degrees from the previous day. The winter storm moved from west to east dumping the highest snowfall totals in the Northern and North eastern plains of the state causing numerous road closures and near blizzard conditions. With the system moving out of NM Friday, temperatures over the weekend climbed back up to fifties and high sixties on Saturday and sixties to low eighties on Sunday.

NEW YORK: March brought more cold weather with intermittent warming periods. Toward the end of the month warmer daytime temperatures provided excellent conditions for sap runs in maple syrup sugar bushes. Producers spent long days and nights boiling sap to make syrup. Apple, onion, and potato growers continued moving their crops from storage for grading and packing. Other major activities included tending livestock, spreading manure, attending meetings and trade shows, and finalizing plans for the upcoming season.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 3.0. Soil moisture 5% short, 52% adequate, 43% surplus. Activities during the week were limited due to wet conditions. North Carolina received widespread precipitation last week. Rainfall ranged from no rain to 2.68 inches in Elizabeth City and Franklin. Average temperatures ranged from 42 to 60 degrees.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth was 8.1 inches on March 1. Hay and forage supplies were rated 15% very short, 32% short, 52% adequate, 1% surplus. Pastures and ranges remained 100% dormant. Grain and concentrate supplies were 4% very short, 10% short, 84% adequate, and 2% surplus. Cow conditions were rated 1% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 57% good, 6% excellent. Calving was 42% complete. Calf conditions were rated 1% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 64% good, 3% excellent. One percent of cattle/calves obtained feed from pasture and ranges. Sheep conditions were rated 6% poor, 35% fair, 53% good, 6% excellent. Lambing was 60% complete. Lambing conditions were rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 30% fair, 57% good, 5% excellent. Shearing was 69% complete. County and secondary roads were rated 57% open, 29% difficult, 14% closed. Nineteen percent were drifted, 15% icy, 40% muddy, 26% dry. Colder than normal temperatures and above normal precipitation were experienced throughout most of the state during March. Severe winter weather and flooding struck regions of the state in the last week of March. The state of North Dakota was declared a disaster area on March 24, with 34 of 53 counties designated to receive aid. Reporters commented that adverse weather delayed fieldwork and grain movement, and strained calving conditions and livestock feed supplies.

OHIO: The March 2009 average temperature for Ohio was 41.9 degrees, 2.5 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the state averaged 2.65 inches, 0.31 inches below normal. Winter wheat producing counties report that field conditions range between very good to poor depending on the area. Before winter the plants achieved good growth, and were topped with snow cover for much of winter. There are some flooded acres that have been lost for the season. Livestock are in good condition. Hay inventories are beginning to run low; and some farmers have required additional shipments of hay.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Topsoil moisture 23% very short, 28% short, 44% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 35% very short, 39% short, 25% adequate, 1% surplus. Wheat condition 15% very poor 21% poor, 39% fair, 22% good, 3% excellent; jointing 62% this week, 45% last week, 48% last year, 59% average. Rye condition 16% very poor 26% poor, 37% fair, 20% good, 1% excellent; jointing 79% this week, 70% last week, 72% last year, 69% average. Oats condition 21% very poor 34% poor, 30% fair, 15% good; 92% planted this week, 91% last

week, 99% last year, 94% average; jointing 11% this week, N/A last week, 20% last year, 17% average. Corn seedbed prepared 69% this week, 67% last week, 62% last year, 55% average. Sorghum seedbed prepared 25% this week, 21% last week, 23% last year, 22% average. Soybean seedbed prepared 33% this week, 22% last week, 37% last year, 30% average. Peanuts seedbed prepared 42% this week, 40% last week, 32% last year, 27% average. Cotton seedbed prepared 62% this week, 52% last week, 49% last year, 43% average. Livestock condition 3% very poor, 16% poor, 43% fair, 36% good, 2% excellent. Pasture and range condition 10% very poor, 23% poor, 45% fair, 22% good. Livestock Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$97 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$87 per cwt. Livestock conditions declined last week and were rated mostly in the fair to poor range. Average livestock marketings were reported last week.

OREGON: Most stations reported temperatures, precipitation slightly below average again this month. More precipitation throughout, State would be welcomed to prevent decreased forage available in the coming months. Grain is beginning with 1-2 leaf growth but still lagging behind due to dry cool weather. Also, hazelnuts have started to bloom, while brush burning, weed spraying continued in the Willamette Valley.

PENNSYLVANIA: Farmers are continuing to prepare for the upcoming season. Principal farm activities for the month of March included milking cows, plowing, spreading manure, applying chemicals and fertilizers, and pruning trees. Some farmers seeded alfalfa and oats. Dense fog and lots of rainfall happened towards the end of the month of March. March temperatures were highly variable. Lows were down to 12 degrees occurring on the 3rd, with highs into the low 70s on the 7th. This month did not have much wintry precipitation, as the precipitation throughout the month was mostly rainfall. The average temperature for March was 40.7, which is 0.2 degrees below normal. Fruit and winter grains were reported to have survived the winter. Wheat and barley are beginning to green up.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Soil moisture 2% very short, 15% short, 67% adequate, 16% surplus. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 1% poor, 35% fair, 60% good, 4% excellent. Oats 0% very poor, 2% poor, 27% fair, 69% good, 2% excellent. Peaches 0% very poor, 0% poor, 27% fair, 65% good, 8% excellent. fair, 0% good, 0% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 35% fair, 58% good, 4% excellent. Corn 15% planted, 26% 2008, 26% avg.; 2% emerged, 5% 2008, 9% avg. Winter wheat 0% headed, 2% 2008, 1% avg. Oats 3% headed, 17% 2008, 6% avg. Snapbeans, fresh planted 14%, 14% 2008, 19% avg. Cucumbers, fresh planted 3%, 15% 2008, 14% avg. Watermelons 23% planted, 26% 2008, 22% avg. Tomatoes, fresh planted 19%, 17% 2008, 23% avg. Cantalopes 16% planted, 6% 2008, 16% avg. All of South Carolina received rainfall this past week with most of the state receiving an inch or more of precipitation. Upstate areas that needed moisture the most got it from this latest system. The slow rainfall over the course of several days greatly improved soil moisture, and helped replenish irrigation and livestock ponds. Field and land preparation for this year's crops was being done at a rapid pace prior to the storm system. Corn planting has been slowed by cool wet weather, but should pick up in another week or so. Oat conditions were mostly good this past week, and were just beginning to head out in some areas. Likewise, winter wheat was also progressing well. Pastures were greening up with some Upstate pastures even in soggy or muddy condition. Vegetable planting is well under way, particularly in Low Country areas. Most peaches have finished blooming. Following a cold sunrise, mild weather was observed from Monday afternoon through Tuesday. Jamestown reported a Monday high temperature of 78 degrees and Allendale, 77 degrees on Tuesday. Clouds increased for Wednesday with a few rain showers affecting the Upstate. A nearly stationary boundary remained draped across the state through Saturday with periods of rain, some heavy and with

thunder. During the four-day stretch from Wednesday through Saturday, Table Rock measured 3.92 inches of rain, Jocassee Dam, 3.55 inches. The mild conditions have jump-started spring flowering while the wet weather helped rinse early surface coatings of tree pollen. Drying sunshine returned on Sunday's building high pressure, with strong, westerly winds. Conway and Jamestown both recorded an afternoon high temperature of 78 degrees on Sunday before the cold front swept away the warmth. The state average temperature for the period was two degrees above normal. The highest official temperature reported was 79 degrees at Myrtle Beach on March 29. The lowest official temperature reported was 32 degrees at Cedar Creek March 23. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.90 inches at McCormick ending at 7:00 a.m. on March 29. The state average rainfall for the period was 1.6 inches. The four-inch depth average soil temperature. Columbia 59 degrees. South Carolina river stages were near to above normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 57 degrees.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 62% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 69% adequate, 23% surplus. Expected date to start spring fieldwork, April 12, 2009. Average snow depth (inches) 1.4. Winter wheat snow cover 65% poor, 32% adequate, 3% excellent. Winter wheat breaking dormancy 23%. Alfalfa snow cover 56% poor, 42% adequate, 2% excellent. Feed supplies 1% very short, 11% short, 83% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 74% adequate, 20% surplus. Accessible livestock feed supplies 83% readily, 16% difficult, 1% inaccessible. Accessible stock water supplies 93% readily, 6% difficult, 1% inaccessible. Range and pasture 2% very poor, 13% poor, 31% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent. Cattle death losses 10% below normal, 85% normal, 5% above normal. Calf deaths 9% below average, 83% average, 8% above average. Cattle moved to pasture 2% complete. Calving 36% complete. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 66% good, 13% excellent. Sheep & lamb deaths 8% below average, 70% average, 22% above average. Sheep condition 2% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 64% good, 11% excellent. Lambing 60% complete. Road conditions-county 81% open, 16% difficult, 3% closed. Road conditions-township 79% open, 15% difficult, 6% closed. South Dakota agriculture was hit with extremes of major winter storms and in some places a week of above-average temperatures. Some livestock producers have reported difficulties in calving and lambing due to the winter storms. Crop producers are expressing concerns about winterkill in winter wheat and alfalfa and excessive soil moisture in some areas.

TENNESSEE: March temperatures averaged above normal for the entire month. Precipitation amounts varied during the month, with the first and third weeks above normal and the second and fourth weeks below normal. Cattle were rated in mostly good-to-fair condition. Pastures were rated in mostly fair-to-poor condition. Hay supplies were rated as 74 percent adequate-to-surplus. The winter wheat crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition. Many producers have been busy applying fertilizer to wheat.

TEXAS: Top soil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state. Wheat condition was mostly very poor to fair. Oat condition was mostly very poor to poor. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide. Sorghum condition was mostly poor to fair statewide. Range and Pasture condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide. The western part of the state received little to no moisture while the rest of the state received up to 6 inches of rainfall. Producers continued to irrigate wheat fields in the Plains. Wheat was growing well in the Cross Timbers and the Blacklands; however, more moisture was needed to help fill heads with grain. Cotton field preparation took place in the Northern Plains. Corn has emerged in the Blacklands, the Edwards Plateau, and South Texas. Sorghum producers in South Central Texas were in need of more rain for land preparation. Pecan trees in the Trans-Pecos and the Edwards Plateau were beginning to bud. In South Texas, land was being prepared for melons, cabbage harvest continued,

green beans were being planted, onions were making good progress and potatoes were in the flowering stage. Producers continued to supplement livestock in most areas of the state.

UTAH: Box Elder County reports that calving is about two-thirds completed. The cattle are doing pretty well with very few problems. In two weeks branding will begin. Cache County reports cattlemen are hoping for warmer, drier weather. The cold snow and winds are hampering calving success. Stormy weather is forecasted for the remainder of the week. Utah and Wasatch County livestock producers are heavy into the calving season. Sheep producers who have farm flocks are about done lambing and range herds will start in April and May. Beaver County reports livestock are doing well. Garfield and Kane counties report the mix of warm and cold days is stressing livestock but calving is progressing. There have been reports of scours within these counties. Iron County reports calving is mostly completed. Many of the range sheep operations have finished shearing and are starting the lambing season. Wayne County reports sheep are all shorn and lambing is well underway. Box Elder County reports onions are still not planted because of some snow still left on the ground. Farmers are hoping to complete onion plantings by mid-April. Cache County reports farmers are waiting for the weather to improve before they begin field work. Beaver County reports crop work is going well. The Milford Flat area is reporting a bad infestation of ground squirrels. Agents within the county are conducting a research project and baiting program to try to take care of the problem. Iron County reports some producers are planting spring grains and have commented on the good soil moisture. Alfalfa hay is just starting to green up. Wayne reports spring fieldwork is 2-3 weeks ahead of normal. Box Elder County reports it had a couple warm days, which melted away the snow. Some snow mold was reported. Cache County reports they are still in winter and no fieldwork has taken place yet. Some producers have been doing some soil testing. Toole County reports storms continue to cover the area resulting in normal or close to normal perception. No abnormal freezes or incidents have been reported. Utah and Wasatch County report the weather has been cold and wet for the past few days. Duchesne County irrigation water level is beginning to look very bleak. Farmers are hoping for more rainstorms before mid April. Garfield and Kane counties report moisture is well below normal. Iron County reports snow pack and soil moisture are very good. Wayne County reports snow-pack on the Dirty Devil River drainage is 65% of normal and the expected run-off will also be below normal. Weather within the month of March has been very warm.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 20% short, 70% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 29% short, 64% adequate, 2% surplus. Beef cattle forage obtained from pastures 16%; 10% 2008. Milk cow forage obtained from pastures 5%; 12% 2008. Sheep forage obtained from pastures 10%; 22% 2008. Pasture 4% very poor, 12% poor, 50% fair, 32% good, 2% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 60% good, 5% excellent. Small grain and winter grazing crops 1% very poor, 5% poor, 37% fair, 53% good, 4% excellent. Soil moisture conditions continued to show improvement throughout the month of March, as moderate rain and snow showers continued to accumulate across the state. Both topsoil moisture and subsoil moisture showed a marked increase, with ratings at 70% and 64% adequate, respectively. Pastures and hayfields are beginning to show signs of new growth, and some of the hardest-hit regions are showing signs of recovery from the previous year's drought. In some areas, producers are beginning to apply burn down applications to corn fields in preparation for early planting, which should begin within the next couple of weeks. Field activities in small grain fields continued, with many producers applying spring nitrogen applications. Vegetable growers began planting early-

season varieties, although wet fields in some areas have delayed planting for several growers.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.8. In Whitman County, fresh drifted snow banks remained on many fields. Welcome rains continued to slow progress for field work in most of the grain growing counties. Spring seeding through out the region was kept to a minimum. Adams County reported Crop Adjustors were trying to assess general winter wheat losses. Due to the moisture and inability of farmers to get out into the fields, the winter wheat crop condition generally remains unknown. Yakima County reports most fruit growers have completed tree pruning and the fruit trees were breaking dormancy. Snohomish County reported raspberry caning was finished. Whatcom County reported raspberry and blueberry growers were busy with new plantings. Range and pasture conditions were 10 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 51 percent fair and 18 percent good. On the Eastern side, soil temperatures were still cold and early pasture growth was delayed. Many producers still had cattle on feed, and hay was reported to still be available.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 11% very short, 11% short, 77% adequate and 1% surplus compared with 1% very short, 2% short, 69% adequate and 28% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 3% very short, 12% short, 83% adequate and 2% surplus. Feed grain supplies were 3% very short, 8% short, and 89% adequate. Winter Wheat conditions were 3% poor, 94% fair and 3% good. Cattle and calves were 2% poor, 46% fair, 49% good and 3% excellent. Calving was 64% complete, compared to 60% last year. Sheep and lambs were 2% poor, 46% fair, 50% good and 2% excellent. Lambing was 73% complete, compared to 69% last year. Farming activities included general farm maintenance, pruning fruit trees, calving, lambing, feeding livestock, and spring plowing.

WISCONSIN: Snow cover was limited to the northern-most part of the state until snow fell on much of the state Saturday, March 28, leaving a shallow snow cover in the southern third, central, and east-central parts of the state. Precipitation in the last 30 days was highest in the south-central part of the state, with 5 to 6 inches. The more north you go in the state, the lower the precipitation totals for the last 30 days, with the north central part of the state receiving less than 1 inch in most areas.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 20% short, 69% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 13% very short, 41% short, 45% adequate, 1% surplus. Average depth of snow 3.7 inches. Barley 22% planted, 1% emerged. Oats 0% planted. Spring Wheat 0% planted. Sugarbeets 0% planted. Winter wheat condition 44% fair, 54% good, 2% excellent; wind damage 29% none, 64% light, 7% moderate, freeze damage 87% none, 5% light, 8% moderate. Spring calves born 48%, 39% previous week. Farm flock 47% ewes lambing, 39% previous week, 51% 2008, 55% avg. Farm flock 51% sheep shorn, 44% previous week, 40% 2008, 55% avg. Range flock 14% ewes lambing, 9% previous week, 3% 2008, 7% avg. Range flock 35% sheep shorn, 27% previous week, 6% 2008, 16% avg. Calf losses 39% light, 60% normal, 1% heavy. Lamb losses 51% light, 46% normal, 3% heavy. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 28% poor, 68% fair, 3% good. Calves condition 24% fair, 75% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 1% poor, 22% fair, 77% good. Lambs condition 22% fair, 77% good, 1% excellent. Range and pasture conditions 2% very poor, 11% poor, 48% fair, 38% good, 1% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 5% short, 88% adequate, 7% surplus. Wyoming was experiencing early spring snow storms with wet snow and a lot of wind. Snow packs in some areas were replenished with snow. Activities preparing to plant small grain crop, calving, lambing, feeding livestock.

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 22 - 28, 2009

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

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Cool, unsettled weather in Ukraine kept winter grains dormant and hampered early spring fieldwork, while mild weather in the Southern District in Russia encouraged further greening of winter grains.

EUROPE: Cool, wet weather over central and eastern growing areas slowed crop development and early spring fieldwork.

MIDDLE EAST: Rainy conditions maintained favorable topsoil moisture for vegetative winter wheat over the western half of the region.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Widespread showers benefited heading to filling winter grains over western crop districts.

AUSTRALIA: Dry weather continued to favor summer crop maturation and harvesting.

EAST ASIA: Cool, dry weather prevailed for greening wheat on the North China Plain, while warm, wet weather favored

developing crops farther south.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Showers continued across Indonesia and Malaysia, while mostly dry weather in the Philippines aided fieldwork.

SOUTH ASIA: Strong thunderstorms interrupted winter crop harvesting.

ARGENTINA: Warm, mostly dry weather dominated central Argentina but rain provided northern crop areas with a much-needed boost in moisture.

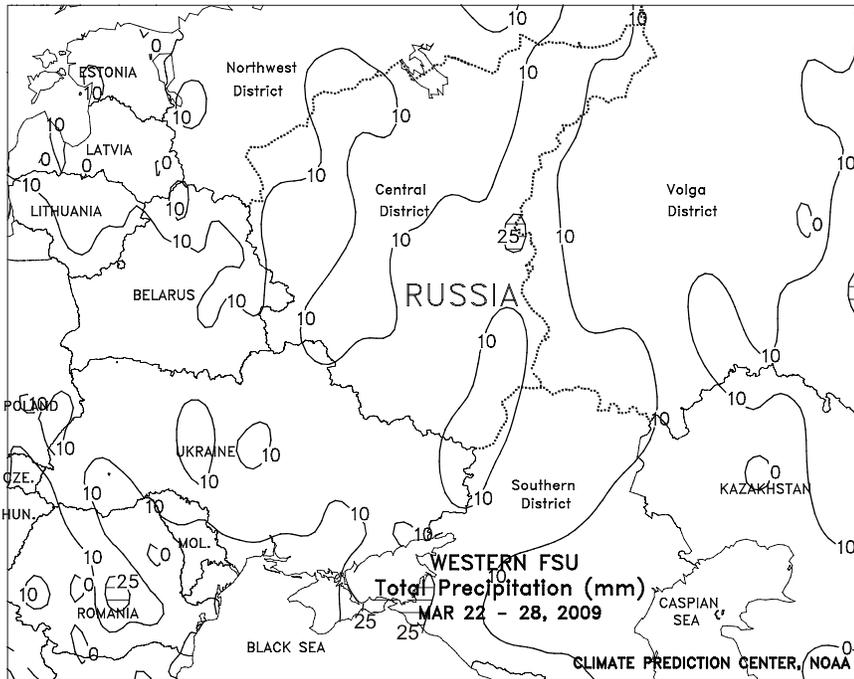
BRAZIL: In the south, warmth and dryness promoted soybean harvesting but reduced moisture for safrinha corn.

SOUTH AFRICA: Conditions favored late-season growth of corn and other filling to maturing summer crops.



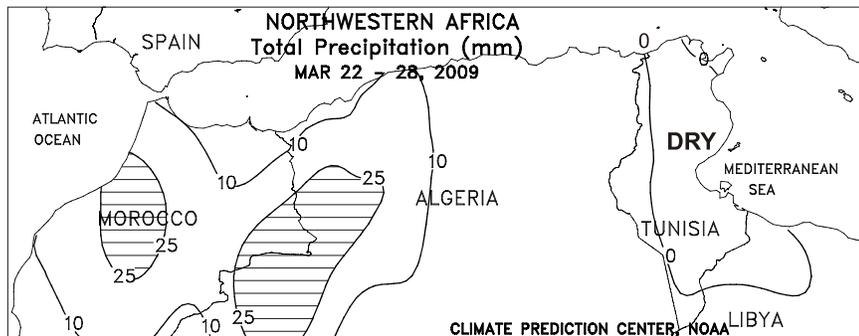
EUROPE

Wet, chilly weather overspread central and eastern growing areas, while generally dry conditions settled over western-most crop districts. A pair of cold fronts produced 10 to 50 mm of rain from northern and eastern France into Poland and the Baltics, slowing early spring fieldwork but maintaining adequate to abundant moisture reserves for dormant (eastern Poland and the Baltics) to vegetative (France and Germany) winter grains and oilseeds. Farther west, high pressure maintained sunny, warm conditions (1-5 degrees C above normal) on the Iberian Peninsula, accelerating winter crop development and citrus harvesting. Meanwhile, temperatures over the remainder of Europe averaged 1 to 2 degrees C below normal; nighttime freezes (-9 to -1 degrees C) slowed crop development in France and Germany and kept wheat and rapeseed dormant in northeastern crop districts.



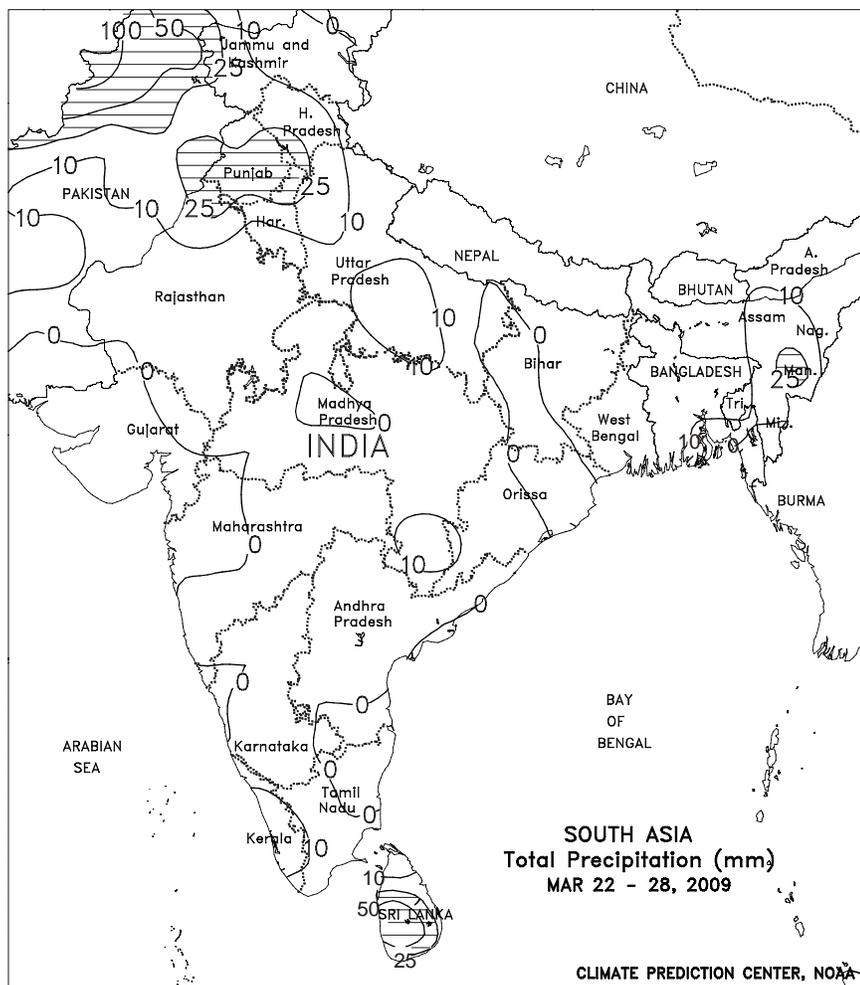
FSU-WESTERN

Near- to below-normal temperatures prevailed over most of the region, keeping winter grains dormant and maintaining snow cover from northern Belarus eastward across northern Russia. The exception was in the Southern District in Russia, where unseasonably mild weather (weekly temperatures averaging 1 to 4 degrees C above normal) encouraged further greening of winter grains across southernmost crop areas. Typically, winter grains begin breaking dormancy in early April across Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia. Extreme maximum temperatures ranged from 7 to 15 degrees C across Ukraine and 15 to 20 degrees C in the Southern District in Russia. In northern Russia, daytime temperatures rose 2 to 9 degrees C above freezing during the second half of the week, gradually melting some of the moderate to deep snow cover. A mixture of rain and snow (10-24 mm of liquid equivalent) accompanied the cool weather in Ukraine and southern Belarus, hampering early spring fieldwork but boosting soil moisture reserves.



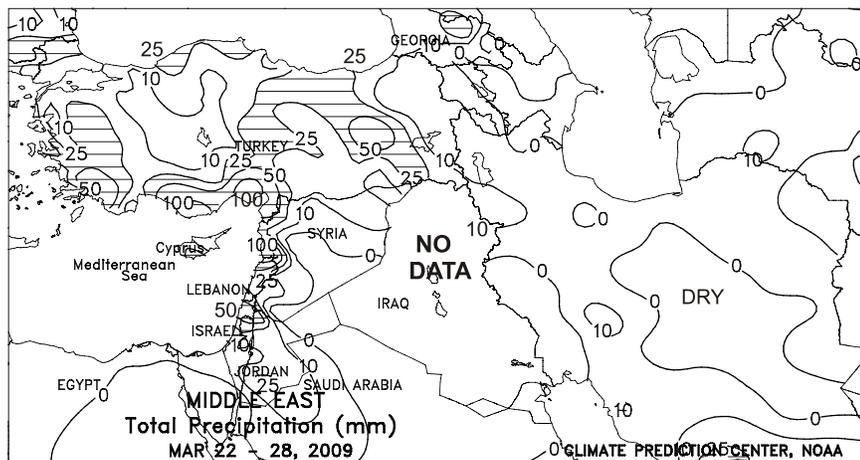
NORTHWEST AFRICA

Rain intensified over western crop districts, while generally dry weather prevailed across eastern growing areas. An upper-air low over the eastern Atlantic began drifting eastward, producing 10 to 40 mm of rain in Morocco and western Algeria. The precipitation was beneficial for heading to filling winter grains and further established the 2008-09 rainy season as the wettest on record in portions of Morocco and western Algeria. Dry, generally sunny weather over the eastern half of the region promoted winter crop development, although rain was spreading into eastern Algeria and Tunisia as of March 30. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal over most crop areas, with near- to slightly below-normal readings confined to northeastern Algeria and northern Tunisia.



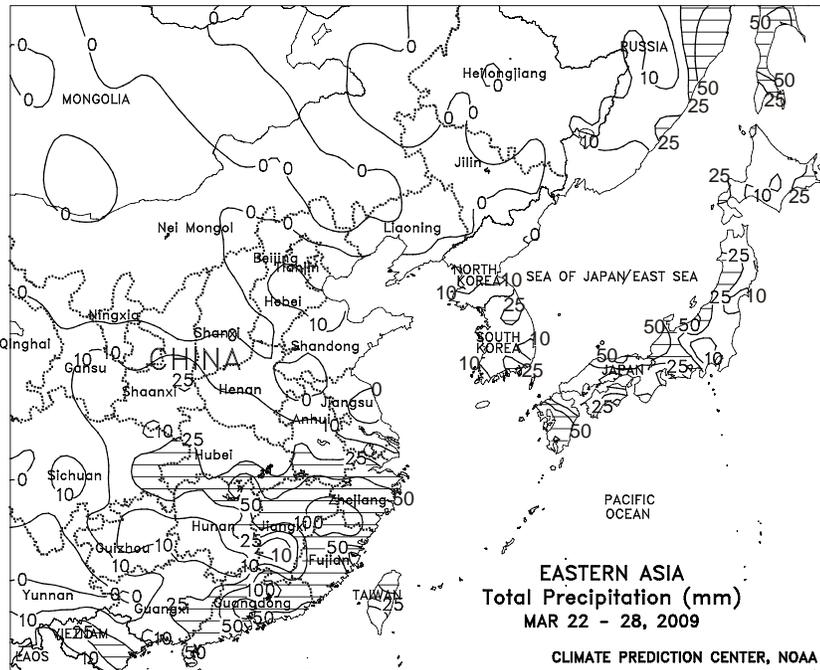
SOUTH ASIA

Unsettled weather continued over northern portions of the subcontinent, while drier conditions returned farther south. In northern India, showers and thunderstorms (25-45 mm) slowed wheat and rapeseed harvesting and caused localized lodging to standing winter crops. Showers (10-25 mm, locally more) also developed over northeastern India, easing short-term dryness and providing beneficial moisture for rice. Meanwhile, dry weather returned to southern India, allowing rabi (winter) groundnut and rice harvesting to resume. In Pakistan, locally heavy showers (10-30 mm) in northern growing areas hampered winter wheat and barley harvesting, while heavy snow (25-100 mm liquid equivalent) in the northern mountains of Pakistan boosted snowpack reserves for spring runoff and irrigation.



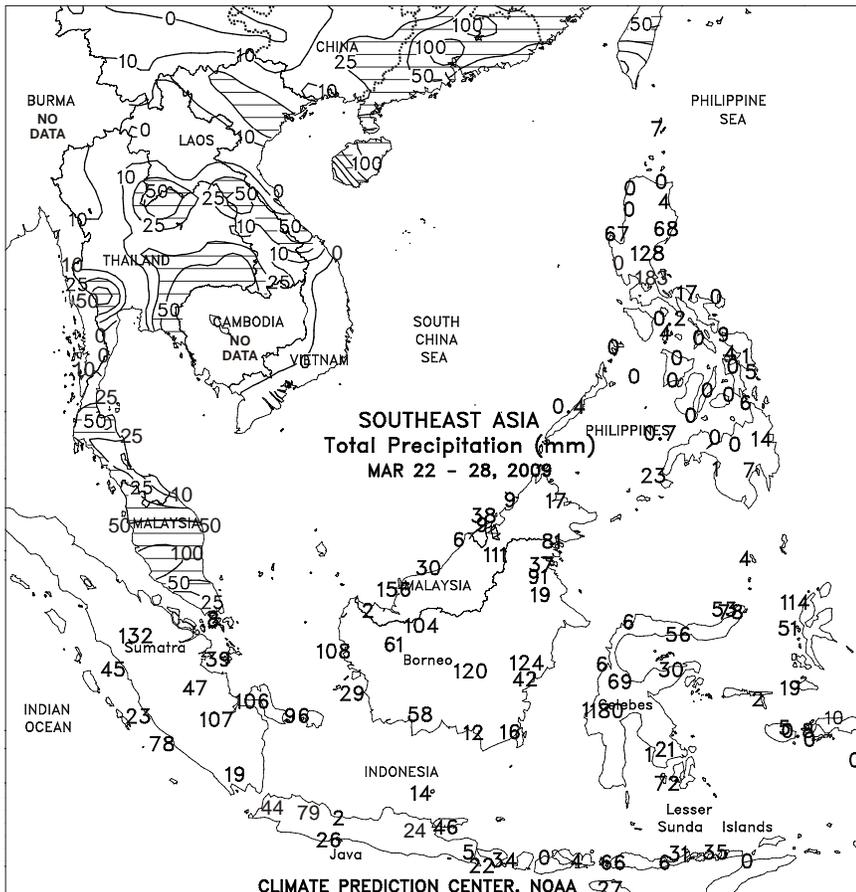
MIDDLE EAST

Showers persisted over the western half of the region, while mostly dry weather prevailed in eastern crop districts. In Turkey, 10 to 100 mm of rain maintained favorable soil moisture reserves for vegetative winter grains in western and southern wheat areas, while lighter precipitation (less than 10 mm) fell across central Turkey's Anatolia Plateau. Locally heavy rain (10-110 mm) also continued in Syria and Lebanon, maintaining favorable prospects for heading winter crops. Satellite imagery indicated another round of rain in northern Iraq, benefiting jointing to early-heading winter wheat. Farther east, scattered light showers (less than 10 mm) provided some moisture for vegetative rain-fed grains in northern districts, although more rain would be welcomed. On March 30, a slow-moving storm system centered over southern Iraq was producing strong thunderstorms with heavy downpours over southern portions of Iran and Iraq, providing a much-needed recharge to irrigation supplies and easing the impacts of long-term drought.



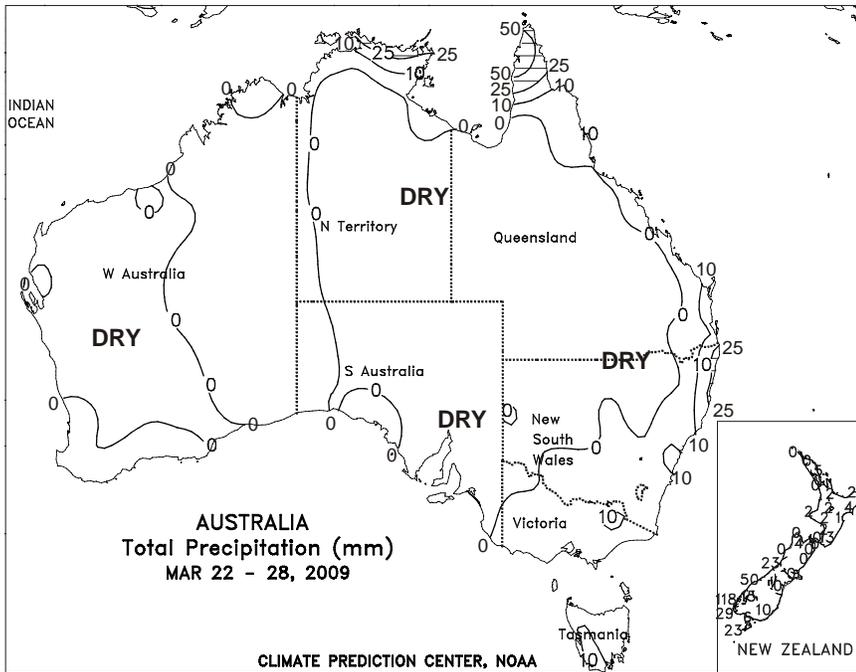
EAST ASIA

In China, cool, dry weather prevailed in northern growing areas, while warm, wet weather prevailed in the south. On the North China Plain, average temperatures above 5 degrees C continued to benefit greening wheat, although minimum temperatures below 0 degrees C slowed development. Additionally, soil moisture remained adequate through irrigation, while light showers (less than 10 mm) provided supplemental moisture in Shandong and Hebei. In the Yangtze Valley, average temperatures between 10 and 15 degrees C and minimum temperatures above freezing favored winter rapeseed entering reproduction and vegetative spring corn. At the same time, rainfall between 10 and 50 mm provided good supplemental moisture to the irrigated crops. Meanwhile in the south, heavy showers (25-100 mm) benefited early double-crop rice across southern provinces, while lighter amounts (less than 10 mm) prevailed in Henan.



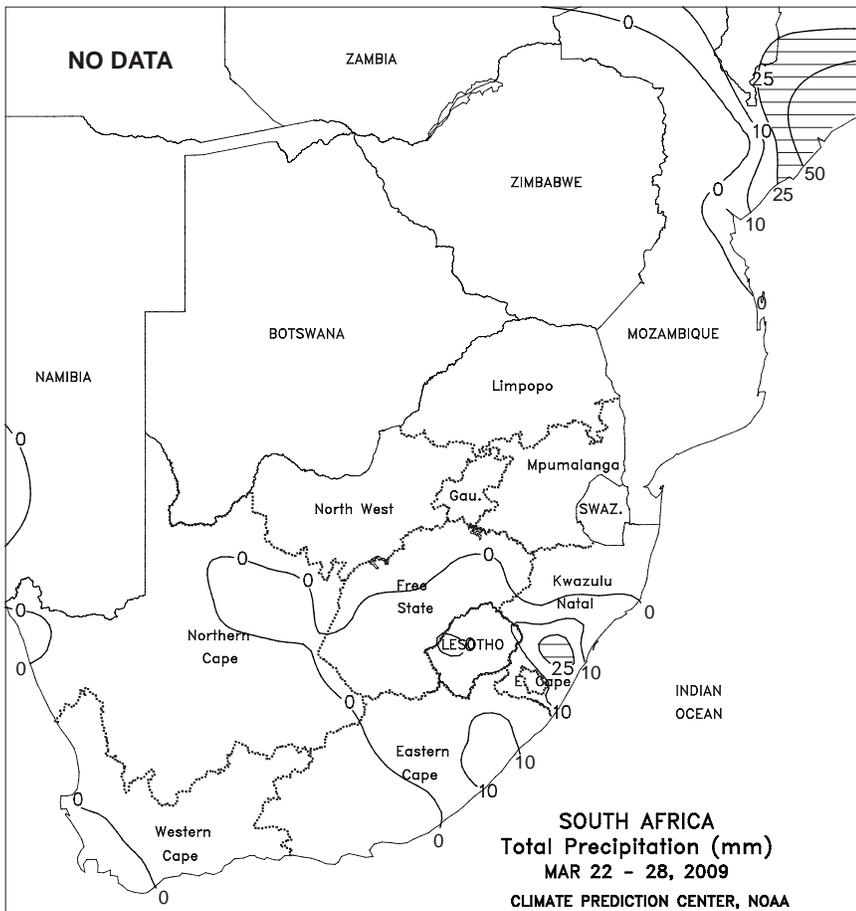
SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Intertropical Convergence Zone remained active across most of Indonesia and Malaysia. Heavy showers (50-200 mm) maintained abundant soil moisture for oil palm but slowed harvest activities. Similarly, the rainfall caused minor delays for rice harvesting that was winding down across Java, Indonesia. In contrast, dry weather across the Philippines aided corn and rice harvesting as well as spring planting activities. Meanwhile, dry weather in southern Vietnam benefited winter-spring rice harvesting, while 10 to 50 mm of rain benefited winter-spring rice development in the north. Unseasonable showers (10-100 mm) continued in the Northeast Region of Thailand, increasing reservoir levels but occurring too early for May planted rain-fed rice.



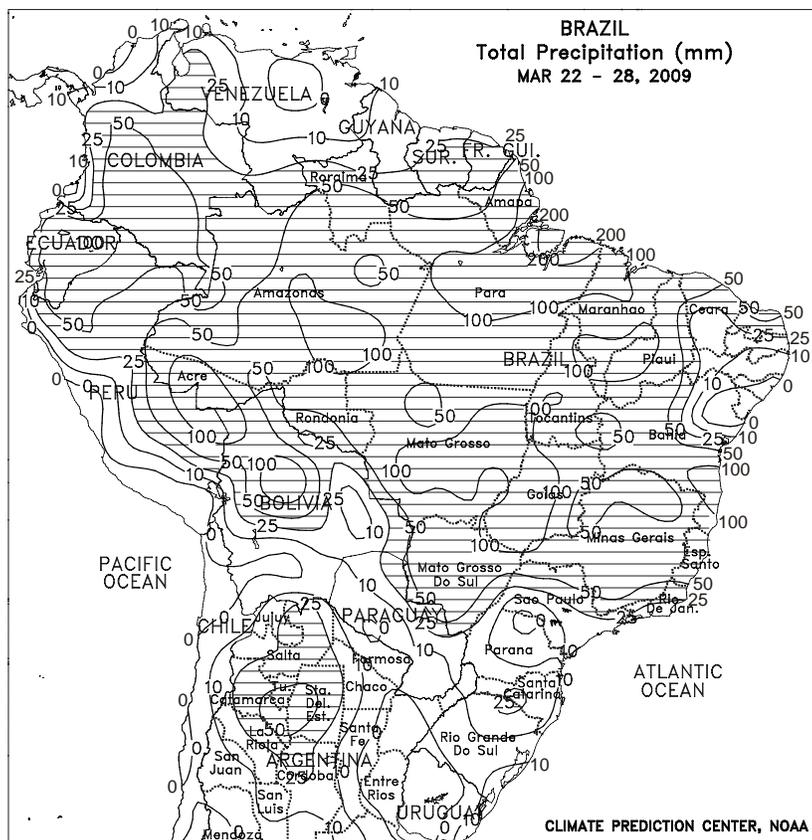
AUSTRALIA

In major summer crop areas of southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, dry weather continued a pattern of below-normal March rainfall. The dry weather further benefited summer crop maturation and harvesting, but perpetuated a slow and steady decline in topsoil moisture in advance of winter wheat planting. In central Queensland, winter wheat planting typically begins in mid-April. Elsewhere in the Australian wheat belt, winter grains are normally planted during May and June. Thus, there is plenty of time for rains to moisten topsoils prior to winter grain planting. Temperatures in major summer crop areas averaged about 1 degree C above normal, with maximum temperatures generally in the lower to middle 30s degrees C.



SOUTH AFRICA

Dry, unseasonably warm weather dominated the corn belt, advancing development of filling to maturing summer crops. Temperatures averaged about 1 degree C above normal, with highs reaching the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C by week's end. Similar conditions prevailed in KwaZulu-Natal, although a few heavy showers (greater than 25 mm) were recorded in southern sugarcane areas. Warmth and dryness also covered the Cape provinces, aiding maturation and harvesting of various summer crops. In Western Cape, winter wheat planting is usually underway by May.

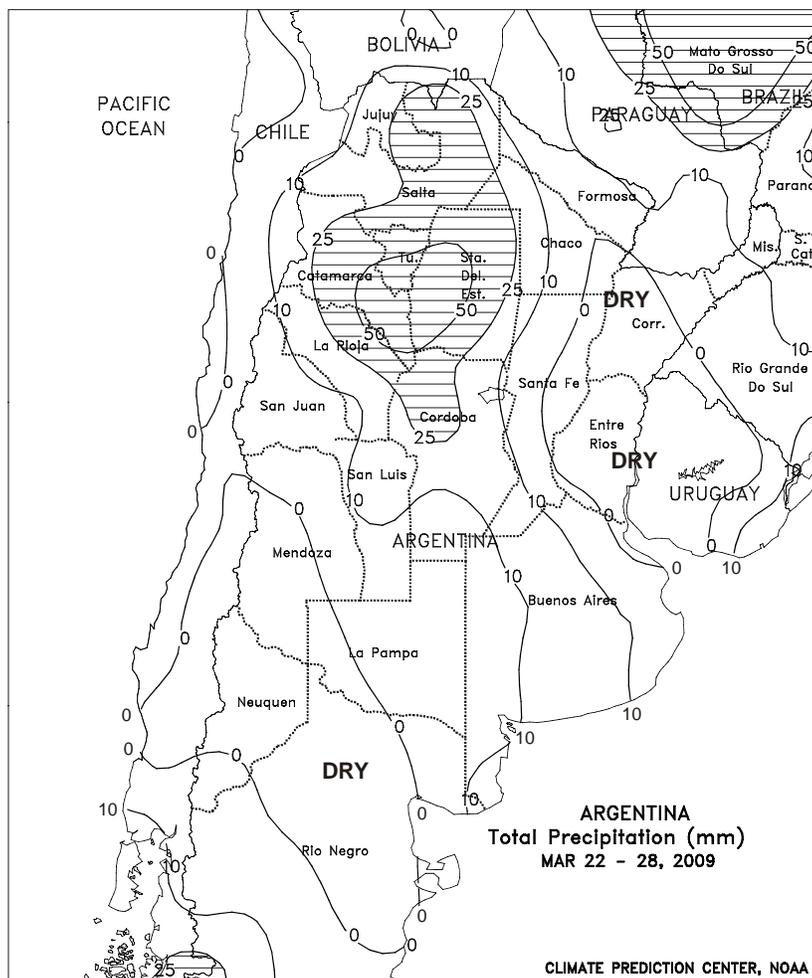


BRAZIL

In southern Brazil, warmer- and drier-than-normal weather aided soybean harvesting but reduced moisture for second-season row crops. The affected region (southern Sao Paulo southward through Rio Grande do Sul) saw several days of scattered, generally light showers, although weekly accumulations were below 10 mm in many locations. One such area was northern Parana, which experienced a second week of dryness after a period of beneficial rain; according to Brazil's bureau of statistics (IBGE), Parana typically accounts for about 30 percent of the nation's safrinha corn production, and a return to a more normal weather pattern is needed to ensure current yield prospects. Elsewhere, rain (25-50 mm or more) benefited sugarcane and coffee in the main growing areas of northern Sao Paulo, southern Minas Gerais, and Espirito Santo. Locally heavy rain (25-100 mm or more) covered much of the Center-West Region and northeastern interior, including previously dry locations of western Bahia and northern Minas Gerais. The rain was overall beneficial for immature crops, including cotton and safrinha corn, but the wetness likely hampered soybean harvests and may be affecting the ability to treat for Asian rust and other diseases. In contrast, dry weather maintained favorable conditions for sugarcane harvesting and other seasonal fieldwork along the northeastern coast.

ARGENTINA

Unseasonable warmth and dryness continued to dominate a large part of central Argentina, hastening development of summer grains and oilseeds but renewing concerns for the normal development of second-crop soybeans. Weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 5 degrees C above normal, with highs exceeding 35 degrees C in the southwest (La Pampa, western Buenos Aires, and southern Cordoba). Scattered, mostly light showers (5-25 mm) fell early in the week from Cordoba to southern Buenos Aires, but no rain fell over Entre Rios and adjoining areas of Santa Fe and northeastern Buenos Aires. The dry weather in the latter region was initially beneficial following the inundating rains of early March, but after 3 weeks of dryness, some locations have likely become unfavorably dry for late-planted, second-crop soybeans. Farther north, much-needed rain (25-50 mm) covered a broad area stretching from northern Cordoba to the Bolivian border, benefiting immature row crops and livestock. Included in this area are soybean-producing areas of Tucuman, Santiago del Estero and western sections of Chaco and Formosa. However, dry, warmer-than-normal weather covered northern Argentina's eastern cotton areas (northern Santa Fe and eastern sections of Chaco and Formosa), where moisture was limited for rain-fed agriculture.



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The *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* (ISSN 0043-1974) is published weekly and is jointly prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Publication began in 1872 as the *Weekly Weather Chronicle*. It is issued under general authority of the Act of January 12, 1895 (44-USC 213), 53rd Congress, 3rd Session. NOAA and IMC are responsible for managing, printing, and distributing the bulletin. The contents may be reprinted freely, with proper credit.

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Correspondence to the meteorologists should be directed to: ***Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*, NOAA/USDA, Joint Agricultural Weather Facility, USDA South Building, Room 4443B, Washington, DC 20250**. Internet URL: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/>; E-mail address: jawfweb@oce.usda.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service/Climate Prediction Center
Managing Editor.....**David Miskus** (202) 720-7919
Meteorologists.....**Brad Pugh, Adam Allgood,**
...Andrew Loconto, Sarah Marquardt, and Viviane Silva

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Statistician.....**Dawn Keen** (202) 720-7621
State Summaries Editor...**Delores Thomas** (202) 720-8033
World Agricultural Outlook Board
International Editor**Mark Brusberg** (202) 720-3508
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Agricultural Weather Analysts.....**Tom Puterbaugh,**
....Brian Morris, Harlan Shannon, and Eric Luebehusen
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