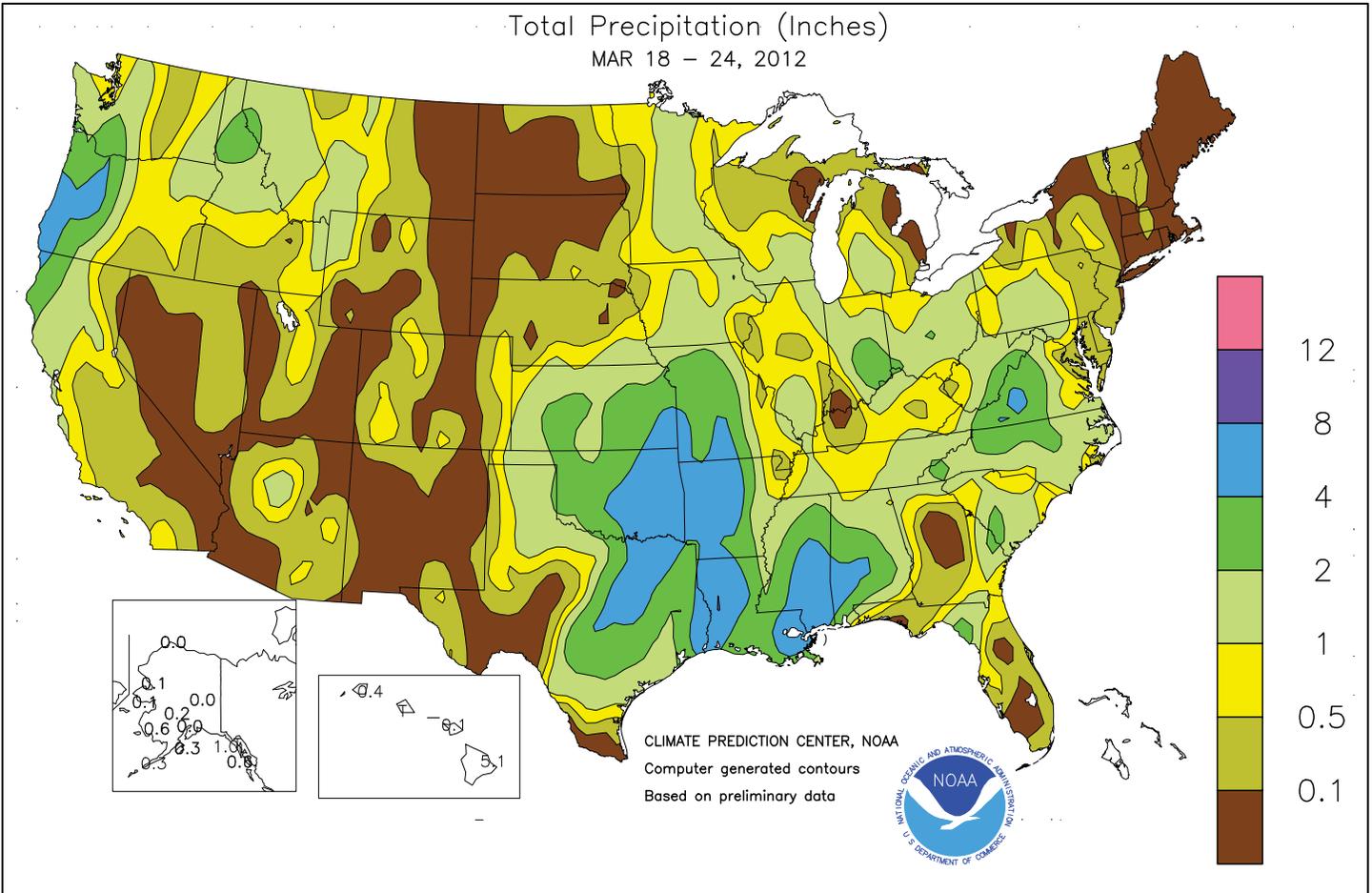


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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

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



HIGHLIGHTS

March 18-24, 2012

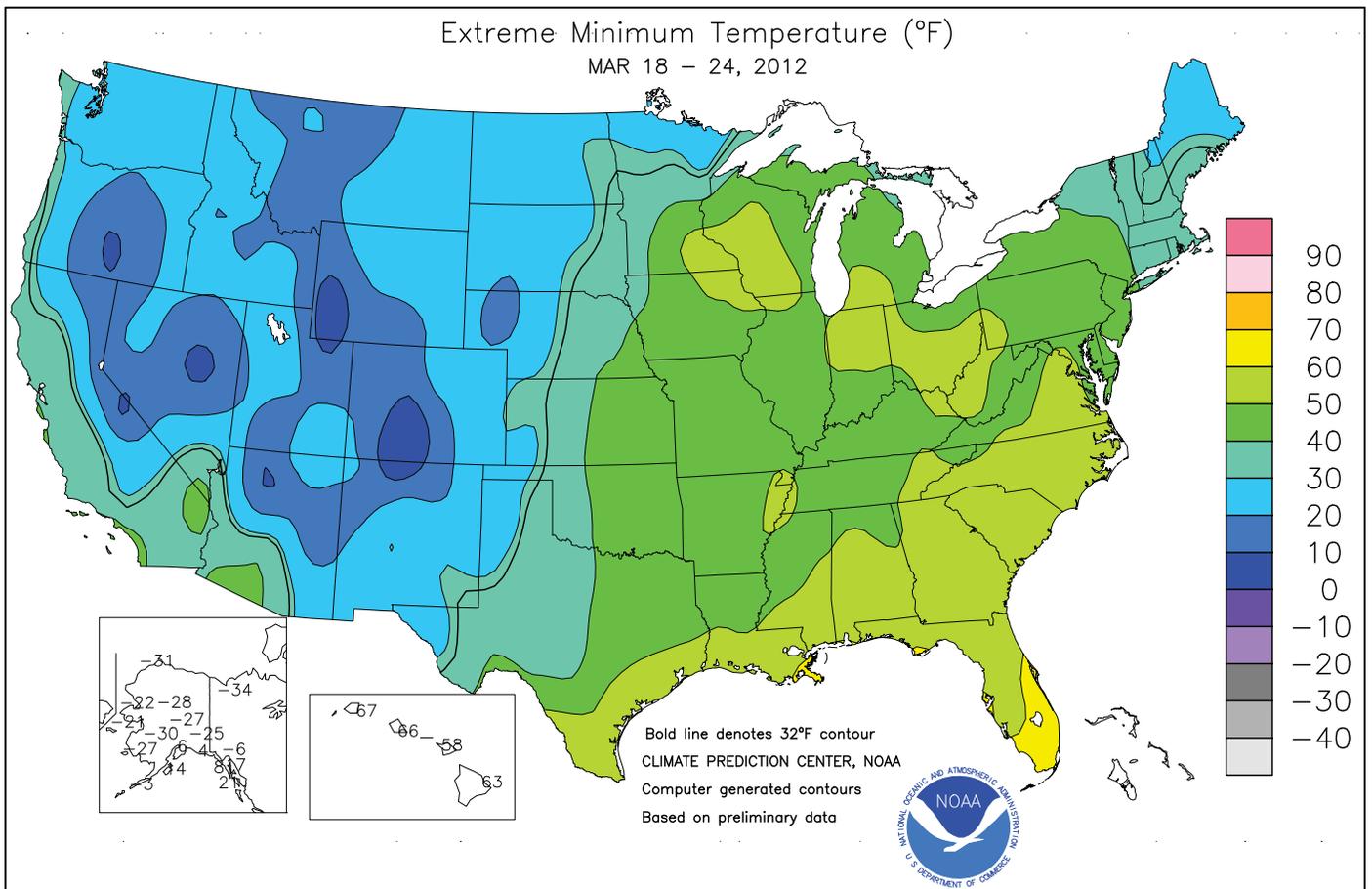
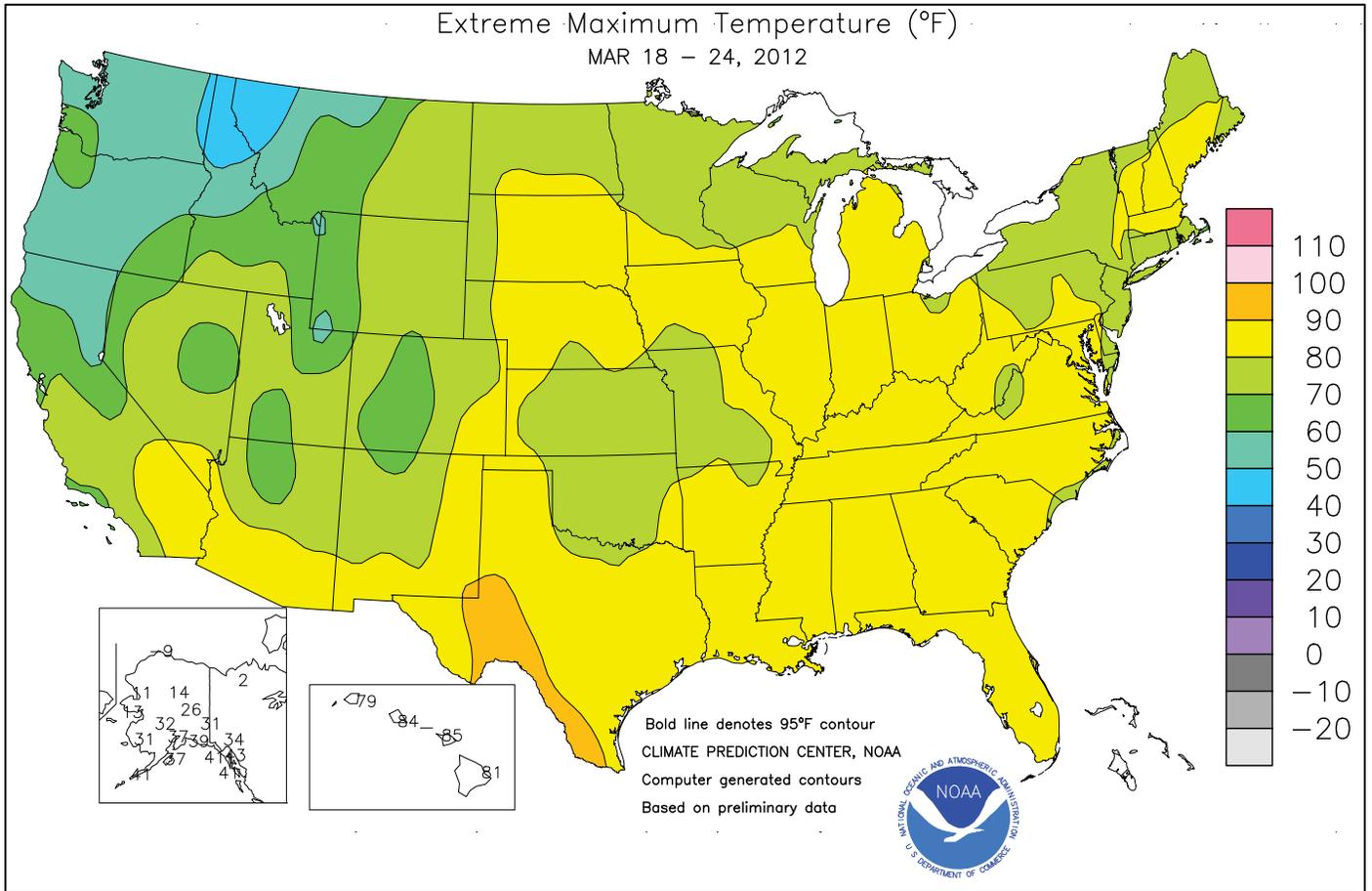
Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Historic and unprecedented early-season warmth continued across the **Midwest** and **Northeast**, pushing weekly temperatures more than 30°F above normal in some locations and promoting an extremely early and rapid pace of winter wheat, pasture, and fruit development. In contrast, near- to below-normal temperatures covered the **West**. Weekly temperatures averaged more than 5°F below normal in parts of the **Pacific Northwest** and **Desert Southwest**. Meanwhile, a slow-moving storm triggered heavy rain (4 inches or more)

(Continued on page 3)

Contents

Extreme Maximum & Minimum Temperature Maps	2
Temperature Departure Map	3
Record Reports for March 11-17 and March 18-24.....	4
National Weather Data for Selected Cities	5
National Agricultural Summary & Soil Temperature Map	8
March State Agricultural Summaries.....	9
International Weather and Crop Summary	16
Bulletin Information & March 20 Drought Monitor.....	28

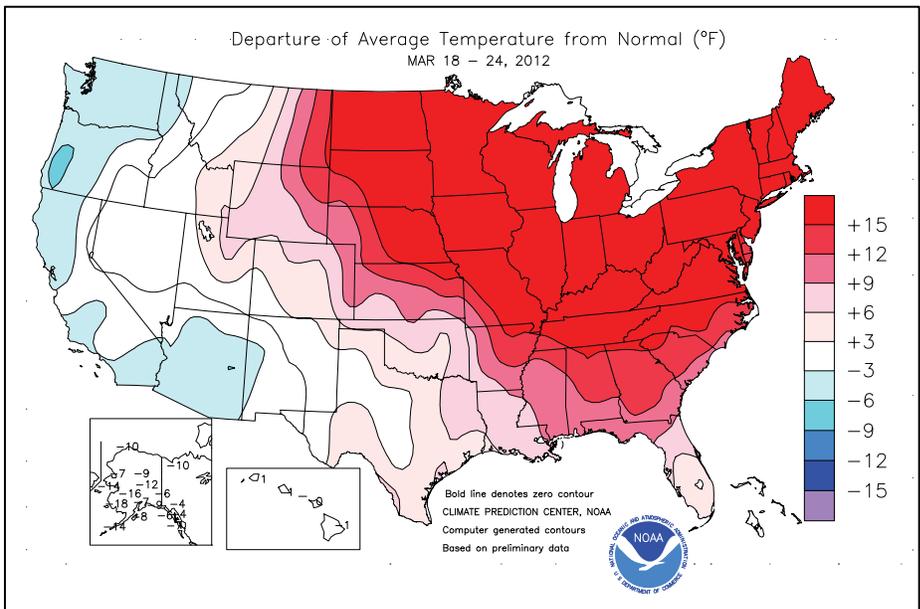


(Continued from front cover)

and local flooding from the **southeastern Plains into the central Gulf Coast States**. The storm eventually produced light to moderately heavy rain across most areas **east of the Rockies**, excluding parts of the **northern Plains, New England, and Florida's peninsula**. Rain was especially beneficial across the **southern Plains and the lower Southeast**, although both regions were still in need of additional moisture to vanquish drought-related concerns. Elsewhere, much of the **West** continued to receive much-needed, late-season precipitation, although the heaviest rain and snow fell across already relatively wet areas from the **Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies**. Nevertheless, gloomy water-supply prospects improved slightly from **California to the Four Corners region**. In addition, moisture spilled across the **northern Rockies**, resulting in some beneficial snow on **Montana's High Plains**.

Nearly lost amid the warmth was the heavy rain that unfolded across the **South** and snow across the **northern High Plains** and parts of the **West**. In **Montana, Havre** received 11.9 inches of snow (1.76 inches of liquid) on March 19, accounting for more than half of its October 1 - March 24 precipitation total of 3.25 inches. Elsewhere in **Montana, Great Falls** received 5.2 inches of snow on March 18-19 and 4.8 inches on March 23-24, for a weekly sum of 10.0 inches. Through week's end, **Great Falls'** season-to-date snowfall stood at just 29.3 inches (60 percent of normal), while **Havre's** total was just 17.4 inches (54 percent). Farther south, **Waco, TX**, set a 24-hour rainfall record for March. **Waco** netted 6.17 inches in a 24-hour period on March 19-20, shattering the record of 4.22 inches set on March 29-30, 2007. Farther north, 5.09 inches of rain pelted **Little Rock, AR**, in a 24-hour period on March 20-21. Prior to this event, **Little Rock's** wettest 24-hour period in March had occurred on March 9, 1878, when 4.08 inches fell. Similarly, **North Little Rock** netted 5.14 inches on March 20-21, edging the 24-hour March record established on March 7-8, 1990, when 5.05 inches fell. Storm-total rainfall topped 10 inches in several parishes in **Louisiana**, triggering lowland flooding. The **Calcasieu River near Oberlin, LA**, crested 6.94 feet above flood stage on March 26—the highest water level in that location since May 2004. During the multi-day storm event, selected daily-record totals topped 3 inches in locations such as **Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX** (4.22 inches on March 20); **Shreveport, LA** (4.06 inches on March 20); **Hattisburg, MS** (3.41 inches on March 21); **Joplin, MO** (3.06 inches on March 19); and **Oklahoma City, OK** (3.02 inches on March 19). Prior to reaching the **Plains and South**, the storm had produced heavy precipitation and high winds in the **West**. On March 18, wind gusts were clocked to 71 mph in **Clayton, NM**, and 70 mph in **Lander, WY**. On March 18-19, **Flagstaff, AZ**, received 26.4 inches of snow, while the nearby **Arizona Snowbowl** reported 53 inches. In **Utah's Wasatch Range, Alta** recorded an early-week snowfall total of 50 inches. Later, impressive, late-season snow also fell in **Oregon**, where 1 to 3 feet blanketed the **Cascades**. In **Eugene, OR**, where 7.5 inches fell on March 20-21, the only spring storms of such magnitude occurred on March 5-7, 1951, when 7.6 inches fell, and March 3-4, 1916, when 13.7 inches fell.

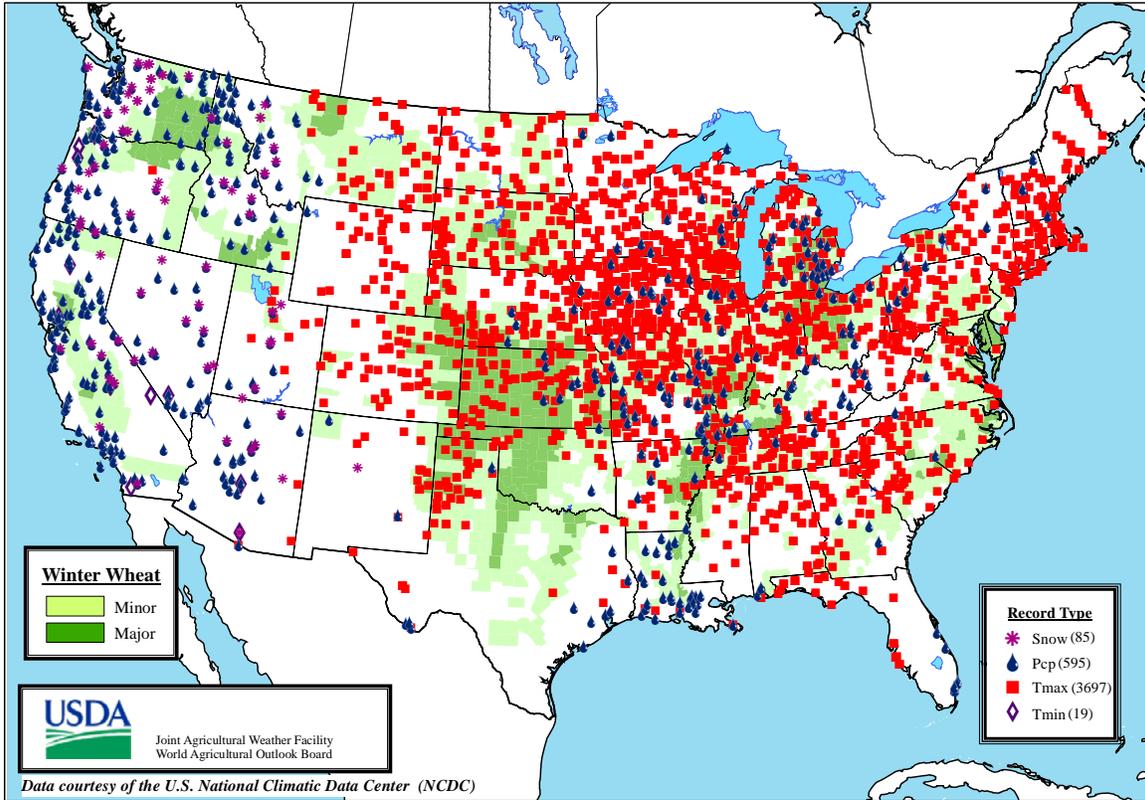
Meanwhile, a plethora of warmth-related records were set from the **Plains to the East Coast**. **Pittsburgh, PA**, reached or exceeded 70°F on 11 consecutive days from March 13-23, breaking its March record of 5 days set from March 12-16, 1990. In **Ohio**, there were 10 consecutive days of 70-degree warmth from March 14-23 in locations such as **Cleveland** and **Akron-Canton**. **Cleveland's** record had been 7 consecutive days in 1945, while **Akron-Canton's** had been 8 days in 1910. Similarly, **La Crosse, WI**, reached or topped 70°F on 9



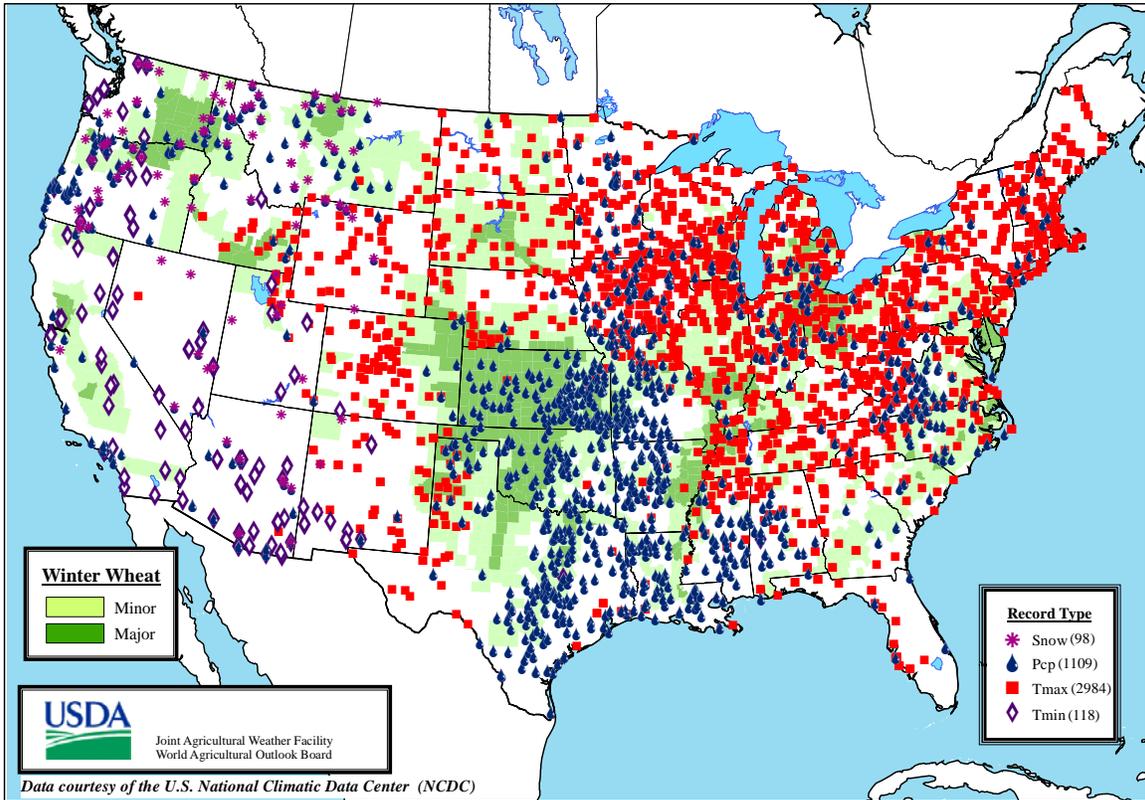
consecutive days from March 14-22, edging the record originally set from March 23-29, 1910. **Chicago, IL**, set daily-record highs (81, 81, 82, 82, 81, 78, 85, 87, and 83°F) on 9 consecutive days from March 14-22. **Fort Wayne, IN**, also attained daily-record highs on 9 days in a row, topping its all-time mark of seven consecutive daily-record highs from July 8-14, 1936. In **New Hampshire, Concord** (five consecutive daily-record highs from March 18-22) set a mark for consecutive record highs, previously established from July 19-21, 1977. Reaching the 80-degree mark earlier than ever before were locations such as **Bangor, ME** (83°F on March 21; previously, April 11, 1945); **Burlington, VT** (80°F on March 20; previously, March 29, 1945); and **Milwaukee, WI** (83°F on March 20; previously, March 26, 2007). **Bangor** (84°F on March 22), **Burlington** (81°F on March 21 and 22), and **Milwaukee** (84°F on March 21) all went on to record higher readings later in the week. Setting all-time records for March warmth were dozens of locations from the **Midwest into the Northeast**, including **Pierre, SD** (88°F on March 18); **Ft. Wayne, IN** (87°F on March 21); **Detroit, MI** (86°F on March 22); **Columbus, OH** (85°F on March 21 and 22); **Bangor, ME** (84°F on March 22); **Milwaukee, WI** (84°F on March 21); and **International Falls, MN** (79°F on March 18). (A more complete compilation of March warmth-related records will appear in next week's *Bulletin*.) Toward week's end, heat shifted westward, where daily-record highs for March 24 included 91°F in **Midland, TX**, and 82°F in **Pueblo, CO**. In contrast, scattered daily-record lows in the **West** dipped to 9°F (on March 19) in **Redmond, OR**, and 4°F (on March 20) in **Eureka, NV**.

Alaska's run of cold March weather continued, with weekly temperatures averaging more than 10°F below normal at many interior and western locations. **King Salmon** posted daily-record lows (-21 and -26°F) on March 18 and 20, respectively. **Cold Bay** also noted two daily-record lows in 3 days, including a reading of -3°F on March 22. Through week's end, **Fairbanks** had not yet experienced an above-freezing temperature during March; the highest reading was 26°F on March 24. The only time on record that **Fairbanks** failed to reach 32°F in March was 1919, when the highest reading was 30°F. During the second half of the week, snow accompanied a surge of milder air across **southwestern Alaska**, where March 21-23 totals reached 6.8 inches in **Bethel** and 12.0 inches in **King Salmon**. Farther south, **Hawaii** experienced an increase in rainfall, especially in windward sections of the eastern islands. On the **Big Island**, in fact, **Hilo's** weekly rainfall reached 7.11 inches, aided by a 3.69-inch total on March 24. Despite a relatively dry week on **Kauai, Lihue's** month-to-date rainfall climbed to 18.11 inches (503 percent of normal).

Daily Weather Records (ASOS & COOP) March 11-17, 2012



Daily Weather Records (ASOS & COOP) March 18-24, 2012



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 24, 2012

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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OF MORE	.50 INCH OF MORE
AL BIRMINGHAM	80	61	86	52	70	15	1.85	0.42	1.06	4.60	98	13.46	94	87	41	0	0	3	2
HUNTSVILLE	79	58	85	50	69	16	1.18	-0.34	0.71	4.18	80	15.53	99	86	52	0	0	3	1
MOBILE	80	64	83	59	72	11	3.32	1.65	2.61	6.28	112	15.77	96	93	62	0	0	2	2
AK MONTGOMERY	83	60	88	57	71	12	1.50	0.08	0.82	2.96	58	10.99	71	91	46	0	0	2	2
ANCHORAGE	29	12	37	6	20	-7	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.53	108	3.62	190	76	61	0	7	0	0
BARROW	-18	-28	-9	-31	-23	-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	100	0.42	175	78	69	0	7	0	0
FAIRBANKS	14	-12	26	-27	1	-12	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	1.11	100	74	64	0	7	0	0
JUNEAU	39	22	43	17	30	-4	0.04	-0.69	0.04	2.85	101	12.38	106	87	65	0	7	1	0
KODIAK	29	21	37	14	25	-8	0.32	-0.84	0.32	1.16	29	13.28	74	75	67	0	6	1	0
NOME	6	-14	13	-21	-4	-14	0.09	-0.02	0.08	0.29	71	1.56	75	74	68	0	7	2	0
AZ FLAGSTAFF	48	18	60	12	33	-4	1.59	1.04	1.44	1.81	85	3.22	47	91	39	0	7	2	1
PHOENIX	75	50	88	42	62	-1	0.25	0.03	0.25	0.25	29	0.25	10	59	36	0	0	1	0
PRESCOTT	57	29	72	19	43	-1	1.31	0.92	1.14	1.36	86	1.85	37	82	36	0	5	2	1
TUCSON	71	43	88	33	57	-3	0.34	0.19	0.30	0.34	52	0.56	22	68	33	0	0	2	0
AR FORT SMITH	71	55	84	45	63	9	4.91	4.00	2.17	9.03	301	15.63	196	84	57	0	0	5	3
LITTLE ROCK	76	57	84	49	67	13	5.53	4.39	2.87	8.05	225	14.64	139	91	49	0	0	4	2
CA BAKERSFIELD	68	44	79	37	56	-2	0.11	-0.19	0.11	0.96	86	1.69	48	69	45	0	0	1	0
FRESNO	65	44	74	38	55	-1	0.12	-0.36	0.12	1.78	100	3.91	65	85	58	0	0	1	0
LOS ANGELES	62	49	68	45	55	-3	0.08	-0.40	0.08	0.57	28	1.88	23	80	51	0	0	1	0
REDDING	53	41	57	33	47	-6	1.04	-0.08	0.73	4.14	99	11.38	70	85	65	0	0	3	1
SACRAMENTO	61	43	70	34	52	-3	0.04	-0.55	0.04	2.14	93	5.49	57	86	40	0	0	1	0
SAN DIEGO	62	50	68	47	56	-4	0.27	-0.23	0.14	0.65	36	2.24	37	78	62	0	0	2	0
SAN FRANCISCO	58	46	67	42	52	-2	0.85	0.17	0.85	3.02	113	5.84	52	73	61	0	0	1	1
STOCKTON	62	42	72	34	52	-3	0.00	-0.49	0.00	1.04	57	3.13	45	83	59	0	0	0	0
CO ALAMOSA	58	16	72	6	37	3	0.04	-0.06	0.03	0.10	33	0.44	58	64	29	0	7	2	0
CO SPRINGS	63	32	74	24	47	8	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.06	9	0.37	28	55	11	0	4	0	0
DENVER INTL	64	32	76	23	48	9	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.04	6	1.20	105	52	15	0	4	0	0
GRAND JUNCTION	62	30	76	20	46	2	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.20	28	1.00	55	58	30	0	5	0	0
PUEBLO	66	29	82	18	48	5	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.11	17	0.74	60	52	17	0	5	0	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	65	47	71	41	56	15	0.00	-0.96	0.00	0.65	21	5.21	54	86	62	0	0	0	0
HARTFORD	75	47	83	39	61	22	0.00	-0.90	0.00	0.95	33	5.38	55	84	52	0	0	0	0
DC WASHINGTON	73	57	83	52	65	17	0.23	-0.58	0.12	0.78	28	5.30	61	95	64	0	0	3	0
DE WILMINGTON	70	51	81	45	61	17	0.30	-0.61	0.30	0.83	27	5.46	59	100	60	0	0	1	0
FL DAYTONA BEACH	82	62	86	57	72	7	0.11	-0.77	0.07	1.86	64	3.66	42	95	53	0	0	2	0
JACKSONVILLE	82	57	87	52	70	8	0.79	-0.12	0.60	1.44	48	2.67	27	95	48	0	0	3	1
KEY WEST	81	74	82	71	78	4	0.01	-0.42	0.01	0.68	51	6.68	132	76	61	0	0	1	0
MIAMI	82	71	83	66	76	3	0.03	-0.56	0.02	3.43	193	7.02	123	76	52	0	0	2	0
ORLANDO	85	62	87	59	73	5	0.01	-0.82	0.01	0.64	24	3.91	52	93	55	0	0	1	0
PENSACOLA	78	66	84	62	72	10	0.78	-0.70	0.74	3.27	66	11.51	77	92	70	0	0	3	1
TALLAHASSEE	85	62	88	57	74	12	0.00	-1.49	0.00	4.15	82	10.30	68	93	53	0	0	0	0
TAMPA	86	68	88	63	77	9	0.75	0.14	0.73	1.89	84	4.86	68	85	41	0	0	2	1
GA WEST PALM BEACH	81	69	83	65	75	4	0.65	-0.24	0.48	1.75	66	5.95	66	80	60	0	0	2	0
ATHENS	81	57	86	54	69	15	0.03	-1.08	0.03	2.89	73	7.71	59	92	53	0	0	1	0
ATLANTA	78	61	84	52	70	15	0.01	-1.19	0.01	3.17	74	10.54	76	80	49	0	0	1	0
AUGUSTA	83	55	88	53	69	12	0.80	-0.24	0.66	2.00	55	4.52	37	97	59	0	0	2	1
COLUMBUS	82	61	86	57	71	12	1.24	-0.06	0.72	2.87	63	11.97	87	93	43	0	0	2	2
MACON	82	57	87	54	69	12	0.06	-1.02	0.06	1.40	36	7.12	53	98	48	0	0	1	0
SAVANNAH	82	60	86	57	71	11	0.66	-0.19	0.53	4.03	151	8.13	85	95	58	0	0	2	1
HI HILO	78	65	81	63	72	0	5.06	1.62	2.30	12.11	114	27.70	95	88	79	0	0	6	4
HONOLULU	82	69	84	66	76	2	0.01	-0.37	0.01	5.54	362	7.23	109	75	66	0	0	1	0
KAHULUI	82	65	85	58	73	0	0.08	-0.44	0.07	2.56	146	2.64	34	79	67	0	0	2	0
LIHUE	79	69	79	67	74	1	0.37	-0.43	0.20	18.13	657	31.36	296	80	71	0	0	4	0
ID BOISE	54	38	66	28	46	1	0.20	-0.10	0.15	1.31	127	4.70	132	74	51	0	1	3	0
LEWISTON	47	34	52	32	40	-6	1.11	0.86	0.71	1.81	226	4.41	153	87	71	0	1	4	1
POCATELLO	56	32	70	23	44	5	0.45	0.15	0.45	0.90	87	3.16	99	72	45	0	4	1	0
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	77	58	87	50	68	29	1.44	0.81	1.25	2.10	117	5.60	108	83	67	0	0	3	1
MOLINE	76	54	83	46	65	25	0.43	-0.27	0.30	1.01	50	3.66	71	92	70	0	0	2	0
PEORIA	76	58	82	48	67	26	0.37	-0.28	0.24	1.47	72	4.41	84	87	49	0	0	3	0
ROCKFORD	78	58	84	51	68	30	0.48	-0.09	0.24	1.90	119	4.44	102	84	61	0	0	3	0
SPRINGFIELD	77	58	82	47	67	24	0.56	-0.17	0.34	1.41	61	4.48	78	86	47	0	0	3	0
IN EVANSVILLE	79	58	84	48	68	21	0.27	-0.71	0.27	2.19	68	7.33	79	80	54	0	0	1	0
FORT WAYNE	78	56	87	53	67	27	1.88	1.22	1.73	2.86	140	7.96	132	89	50	0	0	2	1
INDIANAPOLIS	78	60	84	51	69	26	1.48	0.69	1.29	3.54	138	8.40	113	84	51	0	0	3	1
SOUTH BEND	77	58	85	52	68	29	0.32	-0.36	0.23	1.35	67	6.62	105	84	66	0	0	4	0
IA BURLINGTON	76	55	82	48	66	24	0.20	-0.49	0.15	1.05	49	2.72	55	93	50	0	0	4	0
CEDAR RAPIDS	73	55	82	49	64	26	1.01	0.47	0.84	1.85	123	3.40	93	95	55	0	0	3	1
DES MOINES	73	56	83	49	65	25	0.73	0.20	0.32	1.17	79	3.36	91	86	63	0			

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 24, 2012

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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	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	
WICHITA	64	49	73	42	57	10	3.01	2.38	1.31	3.76	188	7.39	191	98	81	0	0	5	3	
KY JACKSON	80	60	86	51	70	22	1.10	0.14	0.69	4.06	118	12.82	120	79	37	0	0	3	1	
LEXINGTON	77	58	83	47	67	20	0.26	-0.73	0.24	3.26	95	9.89	98	83	58	0	0	2	0	
LOUISVILLE	80	60	85	51	70	22	1.84	0.85	1.76	5.99	175	11.82	119	78	47	0	0	3	1	
PADUCAH	76	58	83	49	67	18	1.09	0.15	0.90	3.99	124	9.73	92	86	47	0	0	3	1	
LA BATON ROUGE	79	60	85	52	70	9	3.56	2.42	3.37	6.08	160	19.39	128	98	51	0	0	3	1	
LAKE CHARLES	79	61	86	53	70	8	3.14	2.32	2.11	7.19	269	24.00	209	89	58	0	0	2	2	
NEW ORLEANS	80	64	85	59	72	9	6.80	5.63	3.36	7.95	201	14.47	95	90	64	0	0	3	3	
SHREVEPORT	78	57	85	49	68	9	4.43	3.52	4.06	7.87	246	14.62	122	87	49	0	0	2	1	
ME CARIBOU	61	36	75	24	49	23	0.02	-0.56	0.02	1.48	77	7.44	107	76	39	0	2	1	0	
PORTLAND	70	44	82	37	57	22	0.00	-0.96	0.00	1.69	55	7.45	72	82	37	0	0	0	0	
MD BALTIMORE	71	53	81	45	62	17	0.74	-0.15	0.69	1.67	55	6.63	69	97	70	0	0	3	1	
MA BOSTON	73	50	83	41	61	21	0.00	-0.88	0.00	1.08	37	4.75	47	83	40	0	0	0	0	
WORCESTER	73	49	78	39	61	25	0.00	-0.98	0.00	1.51	47	5.96	58	85	31	0	0	0	0	
MI ALPENA	70	46	87	40	58	28	0.13	-0.37	0.04	1.83	119	5.31	114	90	50	0	0	4	0	
GRAND RAPIDS	77	56	87	52	67	31	1.19	0.56	1.10	2.78	157	7.98	150	89	53	0	0	2	1	
HOUGHTON LAKE	75	51	85	44	63	32	0.25	-0.23	0.16	2.35	163	6.97	162	88	68	0	0	2	0	
LANSING	75	54	86	49	64	29	0.99	0.43	0.89	2.40	153	6.01	130	91	69	0	0	4	1	
MUSKOGON	75	58	82	53	67	32	0.84	0.28	0.84	2.64	160	7.61	140	81	58	0	0	1	1	
TRAVERSE CITY	76	53	87	48	65	33	0.46	-0.01	0.46	2.58	195	5.34	88	84	44	0	0	1	0	
MN DULUTH	62	44	73	38	53	26	0.57	0.16	0.23	1.34	118	3.12	101	95	79	0	0	5	0	
INT'L FALLS	67	41	79	28	54	29	1.30	1.08	1.04	1.78	287	3.32	158	93	49	0	3	4	1	
MINNEAPOLIS	72	57	79	51	64	30	0.74	0.28	0.59	1.20	95	3.27	106	92	68	0	0	4	1	
ROCHESTER	73	58	80	54	65	33	0.76	0.30	0.45	1.08	89	3.28	113	92	67	0	0	4	0	
ST. CLOUD	68	52	78	41	60	30	0.79	0.42	0.49	0.98	104	2.79	122	96	65	0	0	5	0	
MS JACKSON	77	58	84	50	68	10	4.00	2.67	3.16	7.01	165	19.31	134	94	51	0	0	2	2	
MERIDIAN	79	58	85	52	68	10	3.48	1.89	1.59	8.93	167	21.26	128	96	56	0	0	3	2	
TUPELO	78	58	85	49	68	14	2.35	0.92	1.79	4.90	100	14.26	97	87	54	0	0	3	2	
MO COLUMBIA	72	54	81	50	63	18	2.31	1.58	1.09	3.91	167	7.32	117	91	57	0	0	4	3	
KANSAS CITY	68	54	77	47	61	16	2.27	1.72	1.21	3.47	194	6.66	157	94	65	0	0	5	1	
SAINT LOUIS	78	59	83	52	68	21	0.33	-0.50	0.19	3.23	121	7.57	107	81	58	0	0	3	0	
SPRINGFIELD	68	51	78	42	59	12	2.24	1.33	1.25	2.74	100	6.05	85	88	77	0	0	5	1	
MT BILLINGS	55	34	73	27	45	7	0.60	0.34	0.60	0.70	93	1.55	73	74	43	0	3	1	1	
BUTTE	45	25	60	7	35	3	0.49	0.30	0.36	1.06	183	1.33	84	88	48	0	7	3	0	
CUT BANK	41	24	54	22	32	0	0.01	-0.11	0.01	0.02	6	0.54	53	96	52	0	7	1	0	
GLASGOW	56	31	75	26	44	12	0.02	-0.08	0.02	0.27	90	1.16	127	77	50	0	5	1	0	
GREAT FALLS	44	27	68	18	36	2	1.08	0.86	0.50	1.20	174	1.81	96	89	53	0	6	6	1	
HAVRE	43	26	54	19	35	1	0.34	0.17	0.17	0.38	78	0.93	70	87	72	0	7	2	0	
MISSOULA	45	29	50	24	37	-2	0.30	0.10	0.14	0.84	124	3.31	132	88	73	0	7	4	0	
NE GRAND ISLAND	68	47	82	39	58	18	0.48	-0.01	0.24	0.78	55	1.98	75	85	60	0	0	3	0	
LINCOLN	69	50	80	40	59	18	0.66	0.12	0.21	0.89	58	3.14	109	91	66	0	0	4	0	
NORFOLK	70	47	84	37	58	20	0.40	-0.07	0.20	0.56	41	2.47	91	88	56	0	0	3	0	
NORTH PLATTE	69	38	84	27	53	14	0.30	0.02	0.30	0.82	96	2.17	124	88	35	0	2	1	0	
OMAHA	71	54	83	47	63	22	0.67	0.16	0.41	0.94	63	3.29	107	91	62	0	0	4	0	
SCOTTSBLUFF	68	30	78	24	49	11	0.00	-0.27	0.00	0.00	0	1.02	53	68	40	0	5	0	0	
VALENTINE	66	40	84	24	53	17	0.14	-0.11	0.14	0.14	19	2.60	170	82	52	0	1	1	0	
NV ELY	52	25	66	11	38	1	0.13	-0.09	0.13	0.65	83	2.54	112	74	43	0	5	1	0	
LAS VEGAS	70	48	83	39	59	0	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.18	38	0.24	14	45	27	0	0	0	0	
RENO	59	35	70	25	47	3	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.11	16	2.25	80	58	32	0	2	0	0	
WINNEMUCCA	56	30	71	21	43	1	0.48	0.29	0.44	0.94	154	2.23	108	74	49	0	4	2	0	
NH CONCORD	77	41	84	29	59	24	0.00	-0.69	0.00	1.40	62	5.64	74	86	26	0	1	0	0	
NJ NEWARK	72	52	79	46	62	19	0.14	-0.84	0.14	0.60	19	4.82	48	90	65	0	0	1	0	
NM ALBUQUERQUE	64	36	76	30	50	1	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.18	41	0.84	61	47	16	0	3	0	0	
NY ALBANY	73	49	81	42	61	25	0.03	-0.69	0.03	1.40	62	4.66	67	90	36	0	0	1	0	
BINGHAMTON	72	50	76	42	61	27	0.04	-0.63	0.02	1.36	63	5.65	78	90	56	0	0	2	0	
BUFFALO	74	53	82	45	63	27	0.44	-0.25	0.44	1.36	62	7.50	96	86	44	0	0	1	0	
ROCHESTER	73	52	80	48	63	28	0.04	-0.55	0.02	0.66	35	6.11	98	87	64	0	0	2	0	
SYRACUSE	75	49	81	41	62	27	0.08	-0.62	0.08	1.77	81	7.06	102	94	40	0	0	1	0	
NC ASHEVILLE	74	52	80	50	63	16	0.83	-0.21	0.46	2.47	69	7.91	69	95	59	0	0	5	0	
CHARLOTTE	79	58	83	55	69	15	0.46	-0.53	0.33	3.43	100	7.01	64	96	48	0	0	2	0	
GREENSBORO	77	55	82	52	66	16	1.47	0.60	0.84	2.33	79	6.00	63	98	56	0	0	3	2	
HATTERAS	74	61	77	57	67	14	1.11	-0.04	0.51	3.10	81	11.56	85	94	72	0	0	3	1	
RALEIGH	77	58	83	53	67	15	2.97	2.07	1.63	5.07	158	8.97	84	96	77	0	0	5	2	
WILMINGTON	77	58	80	53	68	12	1.01	0.07	0.50	3.20	96	7.13	62	99	59	0	0	3	1	
ND BISMARCK	66	34	79	24	50	19	0.02	-0.17	0.02	0.05	9	0.83	55	86	48	0	4	1	0	
DICKINSON	68	34	79	23	51	19	0.00	-0.16	0.00	0.04	11	0.47	41	83	21	0	4	0	0	
FARGO	69	45	78	34	57	28	0.08	-0.20	0.05	0.47	58	2.00	93	84	52	0	0	3	0	
GRAND FORKS	65	41	74	31	53	26	0.70	0.50	0.55	1.14	190	2.03	109	93	57	0	3	3	1	
JAMESTOWN	66	40	79	30	53	23	0.22	0.02	0.14	0.24	41	0.68	39	90	46	0	3	3	0	
WILLISTON	62	31	76	27	47	17	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.08	16	0.48	34	79	44	0	4	0	0	
OH AKRON-CANTON	78	56	83	49	67	28	0.76	0.04	0.36	2.78	118	8.61	121	86	55	0	0	3	0	
CINCINNATI	77	58	83	47	67	22	1.10	0.20	1.05	2.53	87	9.46	110	83	57	0	0	2	1	
CLEVELAND	78	55	83	46	67	28	1.42	0.75	1.19	3.69	172	9.16	133	87	48	0	0	3	1	
COLUMBUS	78	58	85	55	68	25	2.49	1.83	2.04	4.24	198	9.95	145	84	57	0	0	3	1	
DAYTON	78	58	86	53	68	26	1.32	0.55	0.76	2.22	94	8.22	113	84	46	0	0	2	2	
MANSFIELD	77	55	84	50	66	28	0.78	-0.02	0.50	2.32	97	8.45	118	94	47	0	0	4	1	

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 24, 2012

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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	TOTAL IN., SINCE JAN 01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	0.1 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
OK TOLEDO	77	53	85	50	65	26	0.19	-0.42	0.12	3.77	204	7.97	141	93	66	0	0	2	0
OK YOUNGSTOWN	76	53	81	50	65	27	0.49	-0.22	0.42	2.31	104	10.03	152	91	67	0	0	2	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	67	49	78	42	58	6	3.70	3.05	3.02	5.03	228	8.12	161	91	56	0	0	3	2
OR TULSA	66	51	77	43	59	6	4.83	4.00	2.79	6.24	232	8.46	136	92	71	0	0	4	3
OR ASTORIA	48	35	60	30	42	-4	1.35	-0.27	0.51	9.22	158	26.82	115	92	76	0	3	5	1
OR BURNS	49	28	59	15	39	1	0.29	0.03	0.26	1.03	106	3.54	109	82	58	0	4	2	0
OR EUGENE	48	34	56	30	41	-6	2.91	1.65	2.05	7.09	153	19.26	103	91	79	0	3	5	2
OR MEDFORD	52	35	59	27	44	-3	0.63	0.24	0.37	2.36	162	7.31	121	90	55	0	2	5	0
OR PENDLETON	49	30	53	26	40	-6	0.78	0.50	0.54	1.22	130	4.15	115	93	69	0	6	3	1
OR PORTLAND	50	35	64	31	42	-6	1.57	0.77	0.70	5.51	187	15.16	124	89	69	0	3	6	1
OR SALEM	49	33	63	28	41	-6	2.09	1.21	1.26	6.93	206	21.39	150	90	79	0	5	5	1
PA ALLENTOWN	72	50	80	45	61	21	0.01	-0.81	0.01	0.44	16	4.51	50	92	63	0	0	1	0
PA ERIE	72	53	78	42	62	24	0.52	-0.20	0.38	1.88	83	8.17	116	89	63	0	0	4	0
PA MIDDLETOWN	70	51	79	46	61	18	1.01	0.29	1.01	1.31	52	6.59	79	96	64	0	0	1	1
PA PHILADELPHIA	72	52	80	45	62	18	0.09	-0.79	0.08	0.50	17	4.93	54	98	73	0	0	2	0
PA PITTSBURGH	76	55	81	52	66	25	0.53	-0.19	0.24	2.37	100	8.46	114	92	44	0	0	4	0
PA WILKES-BARRE	72	50	78	47	61	22	1.36	0.74	1.35	2.28	118	5.21	80	90	45	0	0	2	1
PA WILLIAMSPORT	72	50	80	47	61	22	0.13	-0.60	0.13	0.93	40	5.69	73	90	65	0	0	1	0
RI PROVIDENCE	72	47	81	35	59	19	0.00	-1.03	0.00	0.85	26	5.74	52	84	62	0	0	0	0
SC BEAUFORT	81	60	83	57	70	12	3.12	2.26	1.25	7.58	279	10.94	111	95	54	0	0	6	3
SC CHARLESTON	82	58	85	56	70	11	1.42	0.49	0.41	5.44	178	8.35	82	99	54	0	0	4	0
SC COLUMBIA	83	59	88	55	71	15	1.14	0.10	1.05	2.10	59	6.32	53	92	51	0	0	3	1
SC GREENVILLE	79	58	85	56	69	16	0.57	-0.62	0.26	2.72	64	7.81	61	93	46	0	0	4	0
SD ABERDEEN	70	40	85	25	55	23	0.04	-0.28	0.04	0.33	37	1.90	103	90	62	0	1	1	0
SD HURON	71	45	88	31	58	24	0.22	-0.18	0.22	0.80	71	3.59	165	89	43	0	1	1	0
SD RAPID CITY	66	32	78	24	49	13	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.04	6	0.73	48	74	22	0	3	0	0
SD SIOUX FALLS	71	47	85	37	59	25	0.56	0.11	0.26	0.75	63	3.93	178	93	62	0	0	3	0
TN BRISTOL	78	52	85	49	65	17	0.40	-0.46	0.26	1.98	64	10.29	103	95	42	0	0	4	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	79	58	85	51	69	16	0.40	-1.01	0.27	3.52	73	12.87	85	90	58	0	0	4	0
TN KNOXVILLE	78	56	85	51	67	16	1.20	0.03	0.85	5.23	129	14.99	119	92	49	0	0	4	1
TN MEMPHIS	77	59	85	51	68	14	0.72	-0.55	0.67	4.25	101	9.01	71	82	42	0	0	2	1
TN NASHVILLE	77	57	84	46	67	16	0.46	-0.64	0.22	3.11	82	11.05	96	86	46	0	0	3	0
TX ABILENE	71	47	83	38	59	2	0.45	0.15	0.41	1.21	116	5.68	181	85	59	0	0	2	0
TX AMARILLO	65	38	86	25	51	2	0.89	0.63	0.35	1.16	149	1.84	94	88	35	0	1	5	0
TX AUSTIN	77	53	82	44	65	2	2.70	2.26	2.69	4.83	284	15.99	287	84	61	0	0	2	1
TX BEAUMONT	77	59	84	51	68	5	4.32	3.45	4.22	7.00	250	21.17	179	99	58	0	0	4	1
TX BROWNSVILLE	82	63	86	51	73	4	0.05	-0.15	0.05	0.21	37	4.78	154	93	66	0	0	1	0
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	83	62	86	51	72	5	0.54	0.18	0.54	0.90	68	5.44	114	89	70	0	0	1	1
TX DEL RIO	84	54	92	40	69	4	0.03	-0.16	0.03	0.07	10	1.77	80	69	41	2	0	1	0
TX EL PASO	71	42	85	32	57	-1	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.08	44	0.76	75	44	15	0	1	1	0
TX FORT WORTH	73	53	81	46	63	5	4.28	3.63	2.17	5.78	239	13.84	207	92	52	0	0	3	2
TX GALVESTON	76	65	81	57	71	6	2.16	1.53	2.14	4.32	209	14.65	167	95	64	0	0	3	1
TX HOUSTON	80	61	84	54	70	7	1.95	1.19	1.80	6.69	265	17.74	193	85	57	0	0	3	1
TX LUBBOCK	66	39	87	33	53	1	0.55	0.40	0.37	0.71	139	1.29	75	85	51	0	0	3	0
TX MIDLAND	77	44	91	34	60	3	0.04	-0.02	0.04	0.11	34	1.30	91	74	35	1	0	1	0
TX SAN ANGELO	76	46	88	36	61	3	0.06	-0.13	0.03	1.16	153	7.16	260	78	50	0	0	2	0
TX SAN ANTONIO	77	55	82	48	66	3	1.67	1.26	1.50	2.83	198	12.45	257	90	51	0	0	4	1
TX VICTORIA	79	61	84	54	70	5	0.17	-0.33	0.15	2.11	124	7.13	115	92	58	0	0	2	0
TX WACO	73	50	80	41	62	3	6.20	5.69	3.73	8.33	425	15.36	244	90	71	0	0	3	2
TX WICHITA FALLS	69	48	79	40	59	4	1.69	1.19	1.40	3.52	208	6.36	145	93	69	0	0	4	1
UT SALT LAKE CITY	60	40	72	27	50	6	0.27	-0.17	0.24	0.50	35	3.41	83	64	31	0	2	3	0
VT BURLINGTON	73	48	81	38	61	29	0.02	-0.52	0.02	0.88	53	3.73	67	82	36	0	0	1	0
VA LYNCHBURG	77	52	84	50	65	18	4.46	3.60	3.02	5.67	192	10.50	109	96	55	0	0	6	2
VA NORFOLK	75	59	84	53	67	17	0.70	-0.23	0.64	2.57	82	7.04	68	91	63	0	0	3	1
VA RICHMOND	78	56	85	52	67	18	1.28	0.35	0.67	2.35	74	7.30	75	99	70	0	0	2	2
VA ROANOKE	77	55	84	52	66	18	1.93	1.06	1.40	3.31	113	7.21	78	94	67	0	0	5	1
VA WASH/DULLES	73	54	83	51	64	19	0.40	-0.40	0.39	1.31	49	5.40	63	96	73	0	0	2	0
WA OLYMPIA	49	31	60	24	40	-4	0.48	-0.67	0.21	4.67	116	18.40	104	92	73	0	4	6	0
WA QUILLAYUTE	49	32	62	29	40	-4	1.29	-1.08	0.48	14.52	164	41.51	119	96	80	0	5	6	0
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	49	34	59	30	42	-5	0.57	-0.24	0.22	5.14	175	15.60	127	89	69	0	1	3	0
WA SPOKANE	42	29	49	26	36	-4	0.61	0.28	0.36	2.71	230	6.20	137	92	66	0	7	3	0
WA YAKIMA	52	29	58	20	40	-3	0.13	-0.01	0.08	0.42	84	2.37	96	80	49	0	5	3	0
WV BECKLEY	76	55	82	50	65	22	0.96	0.15	0.81	3.24	115	10.44	116	82	55	0	0	4	1
WV CHARLESTON	81	56	87	54	68	21	0.81	-0.06	0.42	3.20	105	8.55	90	93	42	0	0	4	0
WV ELKINS	77	47	84	44	62	21	1.56	0.69	0.82	3.26	108	8.67	90	99	39	0	0	4	2
WV HUNTINGTON	81	57	87	51	69	22	0.30	-0.55	0.20	2.46	83	7.01	76	88	40	0	0	3	0
WI EAU CLAIRE	71	56	80	51	63	31	0.27	-0.19	0.14	0.92	77	3.30	109	94	61	0	0	5	0
WI GREEN BAY	71	52	82	47	62	29	0.30	-0.20	0.26	1.48	106	4.00	110	89	63	0	0	2	0
WI LA CROSSE	74	58	80	54	66	30	0.45	-0.05	0.22	0.65	51	3.17	92	95	60	0	0	5	0
WI MADISON	74	58	83	53	66	31	0.62	0.07	0.34	1.80	119	4.23	105	86	72	0	0	3	0
WI MILWAUKEE	73	51	84	46	62	26	0.88	0.26	0.75	2.81	162	5.66	108	85	74	0	0	2	1
WY CASPER	60	29	76	21	45	9	0.14	-0.05	0.07	0.33	51	1.88	101	71	41	0	6	2	0
WY CHEYENNE	59	31	72	24	45	10	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.00	0	1.03	64	55	27	0	5	0	0
WY LANDER	61	30	75	18	46	9	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.36	44	1.67	89	65	18	0	5	0	0
WY SHERIDAN	65	29	76	21	47	11	0.22	-0.01	0.22	0.46	71	1.75	88	82	51	0	6	1	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

National Agricultural Summary

March 12 – 18, 2012

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

While mild, near-normal temperatures were evident throughout much of the West, above average temperatures continued to blanket areas of the country from the Great Plains eastward. Most notably, recordings more than 20 degrees above normal dominated much of the Great Lakes region, northern Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and Northeast, promoting a rapid pace for planting and small grain development. A strong, slow-moving storm system dumped precipitation on the central and southern Great Plains, as well as much of the Delta. Total accumulations exceeded 400 percent of normal in isolated locations, leading to some lowland flooding.

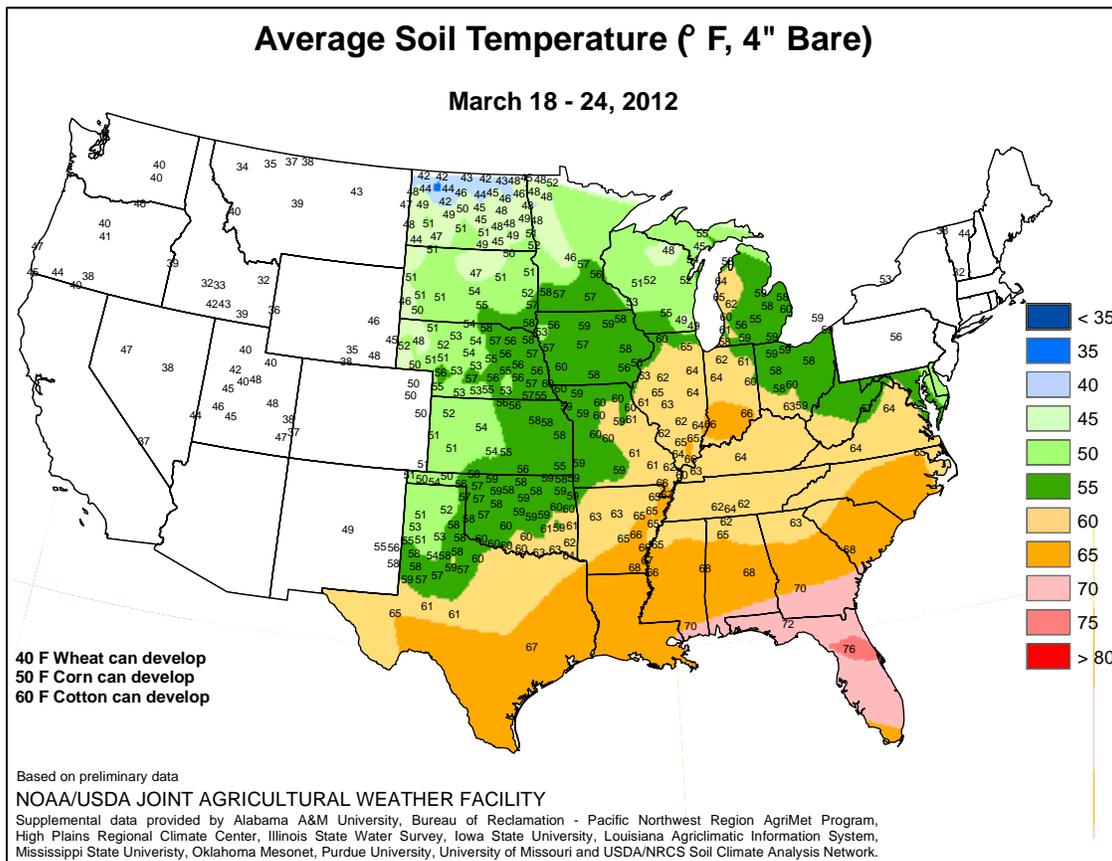
Dry weather and above average temperatures persisted across much of Florida, providing producers ample time to prepare and plant fields. Corn planting was well underway in northern Florida where field conditions warranted. Vegetable producers continued to harvest their winter crop in some areas, while spring varieties were planted in others. Market movement included cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Valencia bloom was heavy across the citrus-producing region, with varying stages of bloom evident in other citrus crops. Orchard growers were busy applying herbicides, disking, irrigating, and caring for young trees.

A wet week delivered much-needed rainfall to most of Texas during the week, with total accumulations exceeding 5 inches in portions of the Blacklands and along the Louisiana border. Temperatures were near-normal across much of the State. The developing oat and wheat crops benefitted from the recent moisture, with an improvement

reported in crop conditions. However, some problems with powdery mildew, rust, and armyworms were evident in winter wheat as producers scouted fields. Field preparation for corn and cotton was ongoing in the High Plains, while fields in other areas of the State were being planted. Soybean and sunflower producers were also preparing to plant. Fruit trees were in full bloom and pecan trees were budding. Pecan producers in some areas were applying nitrogen fertilizer to their orchards.

In Arizona, temperatures were slightly below normal during the week. Precipitation was recording at over half of the reporting weather stations across the State, with Flagstaff totaling slightly over an inch. Despite the recent moisture, unfavorably dry conditions remained for producers in most areas. Cotton planting was limited to western areas. Alfalfa hay harvest continued. Produce growers shipped a variety of fruit and vegetable crops during the week.

A series of storm systems brought moisture and mild temperatures to much of California during the week. Small grain crops were developing well following the recent increase in soil moisture levels. Fieldwork was halted in many areas due to the widespread precipitation. Bloom remained evident in a variety of tree fruit crops, with early varieties beginning to leaf out. Producers moved bees out of almond orchards and into cherry orchards. As conditions allowed, fertilizing, grafting, repair work, and spraying continued. Citrus fruit and some vegetable crops were harvested, while spring vegetable fields were readied for planting.



State Agricultural Summaries

These summaries, issued weekly through the summer growing season, provide brief descriptions of crop and weather conditions important on a national scale. More detailed data are available in Crop Progress and Condition Reports published each Monday 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 month of March brought several rain showers which helped the water table, but was too early to benefit any row crops. There was still a lot of indecision as far as acreage to be planted and very few peanut contracts have been secured. Farmers were just now getting into the burn down phase, and the warmer than normal temperatures had producers gearing up for the planting season. Calves were looking heavier than this time last year with cattle prices relatively high. Robert T. Boozer, Alabama Cooperative Extension System Area Extension Research Horticulturist, said the peach crop was progressing early in terms of bloom & fruit, and looked to be a good fruit crop. The average mean temperature throughout Alabama ranged from 58.3°F in Demopolis to 66.3°F in Mobile. Total precipitation for the month ranged from 1.36 inches in Evergreen to 6.43 inches in Demopolis. The US Drought Monitor released March 13, 2012, showed portions of the State still in drought conditions.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State started off mostly below normal in March. They were above normal only during the second and third week of the month. The temperature extremes for March were a high of 89 degrees in Roll and a low of 1 below zero at Grand Canyon. Precipitation in the form of rain or snow was recorded in all 21 weather stations in March. All reporting stations are below normal in precipitation for the year. Cotton planting started in March. Alfalfa harvesting is occurring on three-quarters of the growing areas across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting remains active throughout the month. Range and pasture conditions vary from very poor to excellent. Even with some precipitation dry conditions remain for most of the state.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures in Arkansas remained higher than usual during March. Some heavy rain and winds occurred throughout the State in mid-March. Planting and fieldwork were underway early in the month but were slowed by wet conditions. Planting and fieldwork resumed and was expected to increase as weather conditions improved at the end of the month. Aided by rain and the early onset of warm weather, forages were growing rapidly, a favorable development for livestock producers who were no longer feeding hay.

CALIFORNIA: Grains continued to show good growth in the northern portion of the State, where more rain was received, and in the south where irrigated, but southern dry-land fields had lagging development. Some grains were irrigated due to the lack of significant precipitation. Wheat, rye and oats continued to mature and were in fair to excellent condition. Alfalfa fields continued to green well following pest and weed control applications. Safflower was planted. Ground for sod was leveled and prepared for seeding. Rice paddy draining continued despite heavy rains in mid March, but ground preparation, fertilization and draining continued as conditions permitted. Field corn planting and preparation continued. Spring cotton planting preparations continued with bed formation, pre-irrigation, and weed control. Plums, peaches, apricots, nectarines and cherries continued to bloom. Growers applied bloom sprays to control fungus. Early varieties of stone fruit experienced petal fall. Pruning of grape and kiwi vineyards ended. Vineyard spraying, irrigating, fertilizing, grafting and repair work continued. Some grape varieties started to bud. Pomegranate orchards were pruned. Blueberries bloomed and bees were used to pollinate. Navel oranges, tangerines, tangelos and lemons

continued to be harvested. Valencia oranges were tested for maturity and harvest may start soon. Almond bloom continued. Early varieties experienced petal fall. Almond trees began to leaf-out. Bees remained in almond orchards. Walnuts, almonds, and pistachios continued to be exported. Early walnut varieties were just beginning to leaf-out. In Tulare County, ground preparation and planting started in vegetable fields, and certified producers were starting early summer vegetables in greenhouses and cold frames. Fresno County reported that the low winter rainfall forced growers of annual crops to pre-irrigate in preparation for planting. Shaping of beds and soil fumigation continued. Fumigation in preparation of planting bell pepper, carrot and some tomato fields continued. Processing tomato transplants were starting to be planted. Fall planted garlic and onions continued to emerge and were growing well, as was spring head lettuce. Asparagus, spring broccoli, beets, cauliflower, cabbage, turnips, daikon, green onions, herbs, choys, chards and kales were being harvested. In Stanislaus County, broccoli continued to be harvested, and asparagus, lettuce, parsley, kale, and spinach were growing well. In San Joaquin County, asparagus was being prepared for harvest. Non-irrigated rangeland began to gradually improve after the late winter rains were welcome by anxious ranchers. Recovery of the non-irrigated rangeland from the unusually dry winter will require some time, especially for new growth and germination to be apparent in central and southern areas. Greening was reported across the state. Some cattle ranchers thinned herds in response to the scant rain and anticipated poor rangeland conditions for the season. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Sheep grazed older alfalfa fields. Lambing continued in some areas. Bees continued to be moved to stone fruit orchards. When weather conditions permitted, bees worked the almond, cherry and other stone fruit bloom. Bee colony strength examinations averaged 7 to 10 frames of bees in Tulare County. Temperatures in the southern San Joaquin Valley were favorable for milk production.

COLORADO: Colorado received below normal amounts of precipitation during March. Average temperatures across the State were generally above normal. Producers are taking advantage of the near to ideal conditions and are making great strides in field operations with the planting of small grain and early row crops. Currently, the mountain snowpack in the northern regions are 64% of average while the southern areas are 70% of average. Overall, mountain snowpack is currently 65% of average. The winter wheat growing areas experienced drier conditions during the month. Winter wheat remains in mostly fair to good condition. The soil moisture in these areas remains in mostly short supply.

DELAWARE: Warm temperatures during March helped stimulate plant growth. Light rainfall throughout the month provided adequate soil moisture levels. Pasture conditions were fair. Fertilizer was applied to small grains. Field activities included manure application and spring tillage in preparation for spring planting.

FLORIDA: Early March rainfall relieved dry conditions in northern Florida. Mid-month temperatures dipped below 30 degrees in some fruit, vegetable growing areas; damages light due to short cold temperature duration and protective measures taken. Late month, soil moisture mostly adequate except for counties from northwest Florida southwest to gulf. Throughout March, weather favorable for planting, harvesting vegetables, to remain on schedule. Snap beans, cabbage, celery, escarole, radishes, sweet

corn, eggplant, bell peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, strawberries harvested. Light supply of blueberries produced after mid-month. Producers planting watermelons near month's end. Winter wheat crop appeared to have a good stand. Drought conditions throughout citrus region this month. Harvesting of early oranges (Navels and Hamlins), Honey tangerines, tangelos about complete. White and colored grapefruit, Valencia oranges harvest strong and steady. Widespread citrus bloom heavy with all varieties showing varying stages of bloom. Cultural practices included irrigation, young tree care, limited hedging and topping. Beginning of March, pasture condition Statewide varied from very poor to excellent, mostly poor to fair. Drought, cold, disease limited forage growth. Cattle condition varied from very poor to excellent, mostly fair. Hay, supplements were fed. Most pasture conditions in Panhandle, north poor to good. Summer (Bahia) pastures started to green due to warmer weather. Central areas, most pasture in poor to fair condition, cattle in very poor to excellent condition, mostly fair. Southwest area, most pasture in poor to fair condition, forage growth slowed by drought and cold. Pasture, cattle conditions continued to improve. Winter forage grew well as nighttime temperatures increased. Drought limited forage growth, summer pasture not ready for grazing; hay and supplements fed. Seasonal cold also limited forage growth in all but southwest. Cattle condition mostly fair to good. Central area, most pasture in fair condition, hay fields fertilized. Cattle condition very poor to excellent, most fair to good condition.

GEORGIA: Climate warmed slightly from February. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from an inch in most areas of the State up to 5 inches in the Southwestern coastal plain and the northwestern Appalachian areas of the State. The month's average temperature ranged from the upper 50s to the lower 70s. All of Georgia was warmer than normal for this time of year with some areas setting new record highs and as many as 5 consecutive days above 80°. Georgia is on track to have one of its warmest March months ever recorded. The warmer temperatures have allowed many crops to be planted well before usual planting dates and crop maturity is ahead of schedule. Rains have given Georgia some relief from the exceptional drought; however, extreme drought still covers over half of the State compared to 6% one year ago. Field activities include spring planting and routine care of poultry and livestock.

HAWAII: Drought conditions began to polarize during the first week of March. Land areas classified as having no drought present increased, as did those categorized in the severe, extreme, and exceptional drought stages. The leeward tip of Molokai entered into the highest (exceptional) drought rating category and comprised 1.15 percent of the total land area of the State of Hawaii. This was the first time this year that any land area has attained the exceptional drought rating. However despite the worsening drought conditions in many areas, the islands got a measurable amount of precipitation. On the island of Hawaii most windward areas became saturated while the leeward areas received a moderate amount of precipitation. The islands contained in Maui and Honolulu Counties experienced partly cloudy conditions with intermittent rainfall. The island of Kauai received ample precipitation with an average of 7.74 inches of rain across the island for the week. Very rainy conditions during the beginning of the second week in March did much to improve drought conditions Statewide. The Hanalei rain station on Kauai reported staggering daily totals of 12.52 and 11.48 inches on Monday and Tuesday respectively. The island of Oahu got quite a bit of rain as well, with an island wide average of 6.3 inches for the week. Maui County issued flash flood warnings in some areas due to the amount of precipitation received from storms. These storms also brought with them hail, wind gusts of up to 40 MPH, as well as thunder and lightning. The island of Hawaii missed out on much of the heavy precipitation, but scattered showers and mostly sunny skies combined to produce optimal growing conditions for crops. During the third week of March the

heavy rains and storms subsided and the normal pattern of mostly sunny skies with scattered showers windward and isolated showers leeward resumed across the State. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported a decline of the land areas in all stages of drought classifications. Most notably was the leeward tip of Molokai which was downgraded from exceptional to extreme drought stage. This downgrading removed any land area in Hawaii from being classified in the exceptional stage. Overall, optimal growing conditions persisted throughout the week, and the recent rains replenished irrigation reservoir levels to aide in areas still experiencing drought conditions. The fourth week of March brought lots of sunshine and scattered showers across all Islands in the State. The U.S. Drought Monitor indicated only slight changes in the drought conditions from the previous week, primarily the southeastern tip of Oahu Island being downgraded from "abnormally dry" to "none". With this downgrading, the entire island of Oahu now has no areas which are identified as being in drought stages. Similarly, the entire island of Kauai also has no areas classified as having any drought present. Despite the small amount of precipitation received this week, State irrigation reservoirs continued to increase the amount of water in storage.

IDAHO: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 9% short, 72% adequate, 18% surplus. Calving complete 69%, 71% 2011, 72% avg. Lambing complete 77%, 67% 2011, 69% avg. Hay and roughage supply 16% very short, 19% short, 55% adequate, 10% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 78% good, 7% excellent. Extension Educators have reported that the warmer weather though out March has brought on excellent growing conditions. Farmers are gearing up to go into the fields. Potato seeds are being shipped at a fast pace. Calving is over half done and livestock are in very good condition.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 1 % very short, 21 % short, 71 % adequate, and 7 % surplus. Subsoil moisture 3 % very short, 28 % short, 67 % adequate, and 2 % surplus. Corn 1 % planted. Oats 44 % planted. Winter wheat condition 1 % very poor, 2 % poor, 19 % fair, 66 % good, 12 % excellent. Warmer temperatures and below normal precipitation continued into March across most of the State. Temperatures averaged 54.4 degrees, 14.7 degrees above normal. Total precipitation averaged 1.95 inches, 0.42 inches below normal. The warm temperatures, along with the low precipitation, have allowed many farmers the opportunity to get into their fields earlier than normal. Many farmers were busy prepping fields for planting and performing spring nitrogen applications.

INDIANA: The weather during March was very warm and drier than normal. Temperatures through the 25th of the month averaged 54.7o which is 15.1o above normal. The State received an average of 2.54 inches of precipitation which was 95 percent of normal. A tornado swept across some southern counties March 2nd damaging or destroying many homes and buildings. Farmers were very busy with spring tillage and anhydrous ammonia applications. A very small amount of corn and soybeans were planted, but the majority of producers were waiting to begin after the earliest planting dates allowed for crop insurance replant guarantees. Winter wheat had broken dormancy and was growing quickly. The majority of the winter wheat acreage was reported to be in good condition. Fruit and berry crops were blooming very early this year causing concern for growers as a frost could cause considerable damage. Calving and lambing continued on several livestock farms with very few problems reported. Early pasture growth had allowed many livestock producers to cut back on feeding of hay. Other activities included finishing income taxes, preparing planting equipment, spreading fertilizer and lime, clearing fence rows, repairing and installing drainage tile, hauling grain to market and tending to livestock.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture levels rated 14% very short, 35% short, 50% adequate, and 1% surplus. March has been a dry month for

Iowa despite most of the State getting a small amount of rain the week of March 19. Alfalfa and oat seeding, disking, field leveling, and applying fertilizer have been the most common activities of late for farmers. With warmer than normal weather conditions, green pastures can be seen throughout the State.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 18. Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 10% short, 60% adequate, 24% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 23% short, 60% adequate, 9% surplus. Winter wheat jointed 36%, 11% 2011, 11% avg.; condition 2% very poor, 6% poor, 33% fair, 48% good, and 11% excellent; wind damage 84% none, 10% light, 5% moderate, 1% severe; insect infestation 91%, 7% light, 2% moderate; disease infestation, 90% none, 9% light, 1% moderate. Range and pasture condition 19% very poor, 21% poor, 33% fair, 26% good, 1% excellent. Feed grain supplies 8% very short, 18% short, 71% adequate, 3% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 21% very short, 28% short, 49% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 7% very short, 14% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Last week, Kansas producers throughout the State received ample amounts of precipitation coupled with unseasonably warm temperatures. All but 5 of the 52 stations reported rain totals of an inch or more with Columbus leading the State at 5.82 inches, followed by Pittsburg at 5.55 inches, and Parsons at 4.55 inches. Average temperatures last week were still warm for March and ranged from 3 to 15 degrees above normal as highs were predominantly in the 70's with the western districts reporting high temperatures mostly in the low 80's. Only 10 stations reported low temperatures at or below freezing, while most of the State saw low temperatures in the mid-30's to mid-40's. A year ago, topsoil moisture was rated as 17 percent very short, 21 percent short, 53 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. Topsoil moisture supplies greatly improved for the western districts as the Southwest District reported 52 percent adequate to surplus. This is the first week since the beginning of August 2010 that topsoil moisture has been over 50 percent adequate to surplus in Southwest Kansas. Fieldwork was slowed by the wet weather, but some farmers were able to top-dress wheat, spray for weeds and disease, and prepare for spring planting. Wheat jointing is more than 2 weeks ahead of last year and the average. Last year at this time the wheat condition was considerably worse at 13 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 27 percent good and 4 percent excellent. Wheat in the South Central District jumped from 24 percent jointed on March 18 to 70 percent jointed on Sunday to lead the State. The calm and wet weather provided ideal conditions for burning pasture. Producers continue to calve and prepare pasture for spring grazing.

KENTUCKY: Kentucky experienced two major severe storms and tornado outbreaks on the last day of February and during the first week of March causing death and destruction. The week ended with a winter storm which dumped several inches of snow across central and eastern Kentucky. Temperatures for the period averaged 50 degrees across the State which was 7 degrees warmer than normal and 6 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 64 in the West to 61 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 40 degrees in the West to 38 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.36 inches Statewide which was 0.39 inches above normal and 140% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 1.00 inches, Central 1.47 inches, Bluegrass 1.24 inches and East 1.75 inches, which was -0.07, 0.45, 0.38 and 0.81 inches respectively from normal. The second week of March saw above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall. The week started very cold and snowy, but quickly transitioned to very mild temperatures. This was the fourth week straight with above normal temperatures and the second week in a row with above normal rainfall. Temperatures for the period averaged 48 degrees across the State which was 3 degrees warmer than normal and 2 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 62 in the West to 59 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from

37 degrees in the West to 35 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.48 inches Statewide which was 0.50 inches above normal and 151% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 1.88 inches, Central 1.64 inches, Bluegrass 1.00 inches and East 1.41 inches, which was 0.85, 0.61, 0.1 and 0.44 inches above normal. Temperatures soared across the Bluegrass during the third week of March as highs were mostly in the 70s and locations west and south exceeded 80 degrees. Rainfall was frequent but the west received slightly below normal rainfall for the week. This was the third week in a row with above normal rainfall and the fifth week straight with above normal temperatures. Temperatures for the period averaged 66 degrees across the State which was 20 degrees warmer than normal and 18 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 78 in the West to 75 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 58 degrees in the West to 54 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.20 inches Statewide which was 0.19 inches above normal and 119% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.97 inches, Central 1.72 inches, Bluegrass 1.02 inches and East 1.09 inches, which was -0.09, 0.66, 0.10 and 0.10 inches respectively from normal. The fourth week in March can be described by above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall. The first half of the workweek was very mild and the last couple of days and the weekend experienced seasonal temperatures. Most locations received 3 to 5 days with temperatures in the low 80s. This was the first week with below normal rainfall in the past 4 weeks. Temperatures for the period averaged 66 degrees across the State which was 18 degrees warmer than normal and no change to the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 75 in the West to 77 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 58 degrees in the West to 55 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.60 inches Statewide which was 0.44 inches below normal and 58% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.88 inches, Central 0.54 inches, Bluegrass 0.43 inches and East 0.57 inches, which was 0.23, 0.56, 0.51 and 0.44 inches below normal. Producers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2012 crop season. Costs of inputs are being weighed against anticipated selling prices. Tobacco growers without contracts are making decisions on whether to grow a crop this year. Farmers were busy performing routine equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season. Everything is green in the State. Plants and fruit trees have advanced and are much further along than usual. According to UK Extension specialists, wheat in the west and central part of State has developed to the point where frost/freeze could cause damage.

LOUISIANA: The State averaged 8.73 inches of rain over the last four weeks, six inches above the State average. Corn, sorghum and rice have been planted in many areas with corn starting to emerge across the State. However, the significant rainfall at the latter part of the month has slowed down filed crop plantings. Wheat across the State has started to head. Producers continue spraying and harvesting strawberries. Vegetable producers have been busy preparing for spring and summer crops. Crawfish producers have reported an improvement in size of crawfish in their catches. Livestock producers were fertilizing pasture and feeding hay.

MARYLAND: Warm temperatures during March helped stimulate plant growth. Light rainfall throughout the month provided adequate soil moisture levels. Pasture conditions were mostly good and hay fields were green with early spring growth. Ground preparation for spring planting was underway, including manure application and tillage. Small grains received fertilizer applications. Apple and peach trees were in full bloom. Early vegetable crops were planted.

MICHIGAN: The precipitation for the four weeks ended March 25 varied from 0.46 inches to 2.37 inches in the Upper Peninsula

and 1.10 inches to 5.34 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Temperatures were warmer than usual for the last 30 days, ranging from 14.5 to 18.8 degrees above normal across the State. A very warm March has led to early fieldwork for Michigan farmers. Wheat growth has been good in the warm temperatures. Planting of oats and sugarbeets was underway. Some fruit trees were in bloom; nearly a month early. Winter wheat condition for the State was reported 17% excellent, 50% good, 25% fair, 6% poor, and 2% very poor.

MINNESOTA: Early spring-like weather prevailed in March. Statewide temperatures averaged 15.1 degrees above normal for the month. Temperatures ranged from 13.4 degrees above normal in the Northeast District to 17.7 degrees above normal in the Southeast District. Temperature extremes included a low of -14 degrees at International Falls and a high of 83 degrees at Marshall, Redwood Falls, and Winona Dam. Precipitation averaged from 0.46 inch below normal in the West Central District to 0.44 inch above normal in the North Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 2.01 inches was recorded in Forest Lake. An unusual mid-March influx of warm, moist air produced record-setting temperatures for many locations in Minnesota. During this warm stretch, the maximum temperature in the Twin Cities reached or exceeded 70 degrees on 6 days during the month, breaking the previous March record of 5 set in 1910. Other records broken in March include earliest ever 80 degrees at MSP and Rochester on March 17th; highest March temperature ever reported from International Falls (79 F on March 18th) and Kabetogama (77 F on March 20); highest minimum temperatures ever reported in March from nearly all climate stations in the state (with overnight lows in the 50s and 60s F); and highest dew points ever measured in March (many in the 60s F), according to the Minnesota State Climatology Office. As of March 20, the southeastern tip of the state was rated abnormally dry, while the rest of the state was rated as undergoing a moderate to severe drought by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil moisture 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 62 percent adequate and 38 percent surplus. Corn 25% planted, 9% emerged. Wheat 75% jointing, 22% heading. Wheat 1% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 51% good, 13% excellent. Watermelons 4% planted. Blueberries 0% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 30% good, 60% excellent. Cattle 1% very poor, 5% poor, 41% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 10% poor, 20% fair, 56% good, 13% excellent.

MISSOURI: Temperatures were 9 to 13 degrees above average. Precipitation 3.81 inches, 0.33 of an inch above average. The southwest district received 4.56 inches with flash flooding occurring in some areas. Topsoil moisture supply 1% very short, 5% short, 69% adequate, 25% surplus. Subsoil moisture supply 2% very short, 19% short, 73% adequate, 6% surplus. Ground worked spring tillage 44%, 22 days ahead of last year. Corn planted 2%, present in all districts. Winter wheat condition 3% poor, 30% fair, 50% good, 17% excellent. Supply of hay and other roughages 3% very short, 13% short, 76% adequate, 8% surplus. Pasture condition 6% poor, 33% fair, 51% good, and 10% excellent. Grass growth is several weeks ahead of normal due to prolonged above average temperatures and adequate rainfall.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 0% last year; 33% short, 3% last year; 57% adequate, 68% last year; 4% surplus, 29% last year. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 1% last year; 36% short, 8% last year; 50% adequate, 80% last year; 7% surplus, 11% last year. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 0% last year; 12% poor, 3% last year; 57% fair, 33% last year; 25% good, 60% last year; 3% excellent, 4% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 48% none, 69% last year; 25% light, 29% last year; 24% moderate, 1% last year; 3% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damaged 60% none, 71% last year; 31% light, 26% last

year; 8% moderate, 3% last year; 1% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 59% very poor, 8% last year; 33% poor, 29% last year; 6% fair, 26% last year; 2% good, 36% last year; 0% excellent, 1% last year. Winter Wheat – spring stages 62% still dormant, 92% last year; 28% greening, 8% last year; 10% green & growing, 0% last year. Livestock grazing 79% open, 18% last year; 6% difficult, 33% last year; 15% closed, 49% last year. Cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed 92%, 95% last year. Sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed 90%, 92% last year. Calving complete 41%; 44% last year. Lambing complete 24%; 31% last year.

NEBRASKA: Wheat conditions rated 1% very poor, 3 poor, 25 fair, 64 good, 7 excellent, well above year ago levels. Hay and forage supplies rated 1% very short, 5 short, 88 adequate, and 6 excellent. Cattle and Calves condition rated 0% very poor, 0 poor, 7 fair, 77 good and 16 excellent. Calf losses 27% below average, 72 average, and 1 above average. Cows Calved 60%. To date for the month of March 2012, temperatures averaged 12 degrees above normal with highs recorded in the 80's while lows were mainly in the upper 20's and 30's. The second week saw temperatures spike to over 20 degrees above normal across the State. Precipitation was limited until the third week of March when amounts of an inch or more fell in Southeastern counties. However, little or no rain was recorded in Panhandle counties and for most of the State, precipitation for the month was below normal. Winds dried soils leaving topsoil moisture short or very short in about half the State. Compared to normal, driest conditions were recorded in Northeastern counties. During the last week of the month, topsoil soil temperatures ranged from 50 to 57 degrees. Soils across much of the eastern third were above 55 degrees needed for germination of corn, however only isolated fields had been planted. Marketing grain, preparation for spring planting and livestock care were the main activities during the month.

NEVADA: Low pressure systems brought rain and snow to the State during March. Temperatures ranged from 0.3 degrees below normal to 2.2 degrees above normal. Las Vegas recorded the monthly high at 83 degrees. Eureka recorded the lowest temperature of the month at 2 degrees. Elko recorded the most precipitation with 1.32 inches. All weather stations recorded some precipitation. Supplemental feeding of range livestock continued. Other farm and ranch activities included equipment maintenance, spring calving, fence repairs, crop and livestock marketing.

NEW ENGLAND: The unusually warm March brought monthly average temperatures ranging from 6 to 15 degrees above normal throughout New England. The month was marked by a series of record-breaking heat waves. Almost all of New England, outside of northernmost latitudes, experienced one snowstorm in March. Precipitation in the form of rain was also minimal, ranging from 0.3 to 2.0 inches throughout New England. The first week began with a major snowstorm, directly followed by a rainstorm mixing with snow. Many areas of New England reported more than half a foot of snow and over an inch of liquid precipitation. Rainfall was light and infrequent after these storms. The second week began cool and sunny with high temperatures mainly in the 20s and 30s but warmed up rapidly as the first heat wave of the month impacted the region. The warmest weather was reported on March 8, with record-breaking daytime temperatures generally in the 60s. The second heat wave hit at the beginning of the third week, with record-breaking temperatures mainly in the 60s and 70s. Northern Maine reported significant snowfall of over 10 inches once temperatures returned to normal levels. The third and most significant heat wave of March impacted New England by the end of the third week and persisted for most of the fourth week. Temperatures in the 70s and 80s broke records by as much as 23 degrees and were the highest temperatures ever recorded for the month in many northern New England locations. Temperatures returned to normal levels by week's end. Maple syrup production

suffered due to persistently warm temperatures during the month, causing maple trees to begin budding. Many sugar producers decided to pull their taps due to this issue. Farm activities included nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock, and preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were much above normal for the majority of March in most localities. High and low temperatures ranged from the high-70s to the low-20s. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in all districts. Farmers continued field preparations for spring crops. Other activities included planting early corn, pruning fruit trees, repairing machinery, and greenhouse work.

NEW MEXICO: Early month rain and snow in the Northern portions of the State. Temperatures were below normal Statewide. Wild weather over portions of New Mexico occurred mid month. An upper low pressure circulation centered over northern New Mexico combined with a strong cold front that brought strong winds with blowing dust and accumulating snow to the State. Eastern wind gust peaked at 68 MPH at the Albuquerque sun port. Snow reports 6 inches at Sandia Park, Albuquerque Foothills 2 to 3 inches and 6.5 inches at the Red River Ski Area. Weather improved as the second half of the month progressed. Precipitation was at a minimum. Above normal to well above normal warm weather experienced throughout the State gave way to cooler temperatures with the arrival of a late month storm system. The highest temperatures above normal were recorded in Tucumcari at 14 degrees, Clayton at 14 degrees and Raton at 11 degrees. As March ended, windy, cool weather came through the State providing some precipitation following very high winds and dust in some areas. As the low moved out, an upper level ridge began building over the lower Southwest with much dryer air and warmer temperatures as April neared.

NEW YORK: The entire State experienced unseasonably warm weather for March. Few storms and even less snow made it across the State. Temperatures varied widely for the month with record-breaking highs in the 80s and lows in the teens. Outside activities progressed rapidly under extremely mild weather. Spring plowing was off to an early start. The maple season was cut short as temperatures were not conducive to sap runs. Trees budded early to put an end to the season. Fruit producers were concerned that a frost could damage early blooming fruit trees. Major activities included caring for livestock, spreading manure, preparing machinery, and grading and packing potatoes, onions, apples and cabbage. Winter meetings and trade shows were well attended.

NORTH CAROLINA: State-wide soil moisture levels were rated at 1% very short, 7% short, 71% adequate and 21% surplus. The State received mostly above normal precipitation and temperatures throughout the month of March. Warmer than usual temperatures and recent rainfall had the growing season a few weeks ahead of schedule, with many crops already being planted and small grains in mostly good to excellent condition.

NORTH DAKOTA: Almost no snow cover was reported on March 25. The approximate starting date for field work is April 2. Spring wheat 1% planted. Hay and forage supplies were 3% short, 81% adequate, 16% surplus. Grain and concentrate supply 5% short, 83% adequate, 12% surplus. Calving and lambing 41% complete and 54% complete, respectively. Shearing 76% complete. Cow condition 1% poor, 6% fair, 73% good, 20% excellent. Calf condition 7% fair, 74% good, 19% excellent. Sheep condition 7% fair, 69% good, 24% excellent. Lamb condition 7% fair, 70% good, 23% excellent. The percentage of feed obtained from pasture and range for cattle and sheep were 16% and 8%, respectively. Road conditions 98% open and 2% difficult. Nine percent were muddy and 91% were dry. Pastures and ranges 18% growing and 82% still dormant.

OHIO: The March 2012 average temperature was 52.5 degrees, 14.2 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the State averaged 2.40 inches, 0.68 inches above normal. Winter wheat producing counties reported the crop in fair-to-good condition. Much of the crop was planted late and acreage planted is down from operator planting intentions due to a wet fall. Some areas of winter wheat have been drowned out, which will affect amount harvested and yield. Livestock are in good to excellent condition. There are no widespread disease problems reported by producers. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome has affected some hog operations in Ohio.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 8% short, 64% adequate, 23% surplus. Subsoil moisture 16% very short, 28% short, 52% adequate, 4% surplus. Wheat condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 19% fair, 56% good, 19% excellent; jointing 73%. Canola condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 52% good, 16% excellent; blooming 69%. Rye condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 62% good, 18% excellent; jointing 81%; headed 16%. Oats condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 15% excellent; planted 94% this week, emerged 74%, jointing 16%. Corn seedbed prepared 66%, planted 9%. Sorghum seedbed prepared 31%. Soybeans seedbed prepared 25%. Peanuts seedbed prepared 20%. Cotton seedbed prepared 45%. Livestock condition 4% very poor, 15% poor, 38% fair, 39% good, 4% excellent. Pasture and range condition 16% very poor, 25% poor, 35% fair, 21% good, 3% excellent. Several weeks of above average temperatures were felt throughout the State during March, with average temperatures in the 60s and average highs in the upper 70s. Scattered rain showers were received during the week of March 5-11, with the State averaging 1.34 inches. The showers improved the small grain conditions as well as soil moisture allowing producers to prepare seedbeds for spring planting. The above average temperatures and intermittent showers during March meant rapid growth for small grains and some recovery in pasture and range conditions. The week of March 19-25, heavy rains the first part of the week alleviated the drought conditions across most of the State, as the State averaged 3.13 inches of rain. Eastern Oklahoma received the most rain with flooding reported in some areas. Livestock prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$165 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$148 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the fair to poor range.

OREGON: March brought average temperatures and above normal precipitation in the form of rain and snow. High temperatures ranged from 57 degrees in North Bend, up to 73 degrees in Medford and Roseburg. Low temperatures ranged from 32 degrees in Bandon, down to -1 degrees in Lakeview. The average temperature across the State was 40.8 degrees. Thirty-six of the forty-two stations reported above normal precipitation. Detroit Lake again reported the most precipitation with 14.78 inches, five inches more than February. Average total snowfall across the State was about 5 inches higher than in February. Lake County was around 73 percent of normal for the water year, up 17 percent from last month. Irrigation reservoir storage was 106% of normal, but there were still some concerns for producers who rely on snowpack for their irrigation water. Snow on the Willamette Valley floor and heavy snow in the Coast Range caused the highest flood this year in Washington County. Fall wheat and grass for seed were fertilized before flooding occurred. There has been an overabundance of geese in fields. Umatilla County reported that spring planting is underway, and fall planted crops are growing well. More moisture is still needed for fallow ground intended to be planted for 2013 wheat. Canal irrigation began in some parts of the County the last week of the month. There have not been any reports of winter wheat damage due to the lack of snow coverage this year. There will be early and late sugar beets and onions in Malheur County due to warm and dry conditions early in the month and then planting being disrupted by mid-month rains. There was

some damage to fruit and nut trees in Lane County due to a wet, heavy snow later in the month. Flowering prunes were hit pretty hard along with branch damage to hazelnut, plum, and peach trees. Some rivers are near flood stage in the County as well. There were many other fruits that had expanding buds, getting close to blossom. Beef producers were wrapping up calving, and were beginning to brand calves in preparation to send them out onto grass and government allotments during the next few weeks. There has been some concern about livestock water, but the recent storms full of moisture have helped the supply, and also increased pasture growth.

PENNSYLVANIA: Warm temperatures arrived early this year, but threat of a frost remained in the forecast. Fruit trees were starting to bloom. Principal farm activities were applying fertilizer, spreading manure, and plowing. Many farmers had started seeding alfalfa as well as planting oats and spring barley. Some farmers had been observed planting corn. Weather for the month of March was warmer than normal, with less than average rainfall. This allowed for early field activities. The Harrisburg area during March received no ice or snow. The average high temperature was 62.3 degrees and the average low was 40.9 degrees. March 23rd was the warmest day of the month, with a high of 79 degrees. The lowest temperature of the month was 24 degrees, which happened on March 6th. The average temperature for the month was 51.6 degrees, which is 10.9 degrees above normal.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Unseasonably warm temperatures and heavy rainfall was observed for much of South Carolina during the first week of March. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate for the week. However, subsoil moisture and irrigation ponds still needed to be replenished due to a dry winter season. Soil moisture conditions were listed as 5% very short, 24% short, 66% adequate and 5% surplus. With the week's persistent rain showers, there were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork. The State average temperature for the period was nine degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the week was 2.4 inches. A lack of rainfall, coupled with strong winds, dried excess surface water from the previous week and allowed many South Carolina farmers to get back in the field for planting preparations by Monday, March 12th. Some locations, particularly the UpState, experienced some frost on Monday and Tuesday. However, very little freeze damage was reported. Soil moisture conditions were 1% very short, 26% short, 72% adequate and 1% surplus. With drier conditions, there were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork. The State average temperature for the week was two degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.1 inches. Some precipitation was observed for the week ending March 18th, 2012, but mostly dry conditions allowed many farmers to begin planting or continue field preparations. Soil moisture conditions were 1% very short, 27% short, 71% adequate and 1% surplus. There were 6.4 days that were suitable for fieldwork. The State average temperature for the period was a balmy thirteen degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the week was 0.3 inches. Record high temperatures were present during the week ending March 25th, 2012. Many areas reached 85 degrees on Monday, leading to scattered storms for the rest of the week. Some hail was observed in stronger thunderstorms but little damage was reported. Scattered showers and high temperatures allowed plantings to continue. Soil moisture conditions were 2% very short, 26% short, 69% adequate and 3% surplus. The State average temperature for the period was ten degrees above normal. There were 6 days that were suitable for fieldwork. The State average rainfall was measured at 0.9 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 43% short, 48% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 40% short, 55% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat 3% very poor, 16% poor, 32% fair, 41% good, 8% excellent. Feed supplies 1% short, 89% adequate, 10% surplus. Stock water supplies 7% short, 91%

adequate, 2% surplus. Accessible livestock feed supplies 100% readily. Accessible stock water supplies 98% readily, 2% difficult. Range and pasture 1% very poor, 8% poor, 41% fair, 43% good, 7% excellent. Cattle death losses 42% below normal, 57% normal, 1% above normal. Calf deaths 36% below average, 63% average, 1% above average. Cattle moved to pasture 3% complete. Calving 35% complete. Cattle condition 6% fair, 75% good, 19% excellent. Sheep & lamb deaths 39% below average, 61% average. Lambing 40% complete. Sheep condition 4% fair, 63% good, 33% excellent. Road conditions--township 99% open, 1% difficult. Road conditions--county 100% open. Early spring like weather helped farmers get into the fields to prepare for the upcoming planting season, with some farmers starting planting of small grains in some areas of the state. Precipitation is still desired across the state; as some areas are starting to become dry with the wind and warm temperatures.

TENNESSEE: Topsoil moisture 3% short, 78% adequate and 19% surplus. Winter Wheat 1% poor, 14% fair, 64% good and 21% excellent. Range and Pasture Conditions 1% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, and 13% excellent. Hay stocks 6% very short, 15% short, 69% adequate, and 10% surplus. Cattle 3% poor, 21% fair, 64% good and 12% excellent. Spring like weather came early with temperatures well near normal across the entire State throughout the month of March. Rainfall was above normal for most of Tennessee. Farmers busy fertilizing pastures, applying herbicides, top-dressing wheat, and planting some corn. Most crops, especially fruits and nuts, seem to be progressing well ahead of the normal pace. Growers are very concerned about the potential of a late spring freeze. Spring calving is well underway.

TEXAS: Considerable rainfall during March, with monthly totals ranging from 0.01 inch to 8 inches. However, in West Texas and the High Plains dry, windy conditions persisted, causing problems with blowing dust and soil erosion. Precipitation and warm temperatures allowed small grains to progress well in most areas, although in parts of the Panhandle, wheat and oats were stressed due to lack of moisture. Irrigation was active in these areas. Toward the end of March, some producers reported problems with rust, powdery mildew, and armyworms in winter wheat. Corn and sorghum planting made good progress during the month. Some planting delays occurred in the Blacklands and South Texas due to rainy weather and wet field conditions. Cotton land preparation continued throughout the month with fields being furrowed, pre-watered and treated with pre-plant chemicals. Cotton planting had begun by mid-month. Soybean and sunflower preparations were also underway. Overall, rain and warm temperatures created favorable growing conditions for row crops across much of the State. Throughout March, fruit trees from the High Plains to East Texas were in bloom. Pecan trees were budding by the end of the month and some pecan producers were beginning to fertilize trees with nitrogen. Vegetable growers in North and East Texas had prepared fields and were planting spring vegetables by the end of the month. Spinach, onions, cabbage, and melons made good progress in South Texas and the Lower Valley. Citrus, vegetable, and sugarcane harvests were underway in the Lower Valley. In the Trans-Pecos, chili planting was active and onions were beginning bulb formation by the end of March. Range and pastureland around much of the State improved markedly with precipitation in March. Rainfall aided the growth of cool and warm season grasses and some grasses were being cut for hay. Improved pastures also allowed producers to reduce supplemental feeding. However, many pastures were still recovering from overgrazing and producers used them cautiously. Other issues that producers dealt with in March were weed growth, cattle bloat due to clover growth, and feral hog damage to pastures and hayfields. The spring calving, lambing, and kidding season were in full swing throughout the month. Rainfall improved stream and pond levels throughout most of the State. However, many stock tanks in South Texas and the Lower Valley remained low at the end of the month.

UTAH: In the northern part of Utah, farmers are beginning to worry about the lack of moisture. Snowpack in the west part of the State is below normal which will limit irrigation water for areas that rely on stream flow for irrigation. Dry conditions will also affect pasture and grazing land. Last year's excessive snowfall in the southern region of the State made it extremely difficult for livestock producers to access their grazing cattle. Lighter snowfall in Utah this year has made it easier for livestock producers to provide calving assistance and transport additional feed to their grazing cattle. Some counties in the northern region have reported water supply looks good and the weather is great. The general condition in the central and southern parts of the State remains dry. Box Elder County livestock producers have reported that calving is going well with no major problems. Sheep producers are currently making arrangements to shear flocks and herds. Prices are still very good for cattle, lambs, and wool. Garfield and Kane Counties are on the tail end of calving. Few calves have been lost due to disease or scours this season because of mild temperatures. In Utah County this past week producers have been in the fields attributable to good weather. Livestock producers are busy calving and lambing. The weather has been great for calving and lambing in Duchesne County and there have been very few death losses and a low reporting of sickness in newborns. The higher prices are also encouraging a lot of producers to expand if they can. Morgan County representative reported the weather conditions look good for crops and livestock. Farmers in Box Elder County began field work. Farmers have planted onions and some small grains. Fertilizers were added last week. Most of the fall grain in the Bear River Valley looks very good because of warmer temperatures. Dry land winter wheat is also beginning to break dormancy and most farmers reported that it made it through the winter in good shape. Fertilization and spring tillage are progressing nicely in Weber County. Fall grain is being treated for weeds. Some cutworm damage occurred to Fall planted alfalfa. In Emery and Carbon Counties farmers are starting to plow in preparation for spring planting. Utah County reported the storms have helped dry land crops and fall planted grains. Fruit growers, on the other hand, are starting to worry about freezing temperatures. Duchesne County farmers are worried about the soil not having much moisture. Warm temperatures have allowed producers to get their crops planted much earlier this year and most spring grain and field work are under way.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 7% short, 76% adequate, 15% Surplus. Subsoil moisture 7% short, 89% adequate, 4% surplus. Beef Cattle Forage Obtained from Pastures 34%. Milk Cow Forage Obtained from Pastures 14%. Sheep Forage Obtained from Pastures 46%. Livestock 3% poor, 23% fair, 61% good, 13% excellent. Small grain and winter grazing crops 1% poor, 14% fair, 63% good, 22% excellent. Exceptionally warm weather has graced Virginia throughout the month with temperatures in many areas in the 70's to 80's during the day and down in the 50's at night. Some areas need more moisture but many areas have received steady rain over the past few weeks. Small grains are well ahead of schedule but there is a fear of another heavy frost. Many growers are preparing their fields to plant corn. Hay consumption by livestock has been down in a few areas since the pastures are so strong. Strawberry growers are seeing an early bloom and set due to the warm weather. Growers are providing maintenance on their equipment and preparing their fields for the spring crops.

WASHINGTON: March produced enough moisture for most producers in western counties to be oversaturated, in Lincoln and Adams County to remain under saturated, and in the rest of the counties happy with the moisture profile going into spring. In Yakima County, mild temperatures allowed vegetable and hop growers to prepare fields for the growing season. Fruit growers d most of the orchards and vineyards pruned during the dormant season. Delayed dormant sprays were applied to manage overwintering insect pests and reduce the incidence of disease.

Most fruit trees were experiencing bud swell with apricots showing bloom already. In Adams County, spring wheat seeding was started and with favorable weather could be completed in the next week. Winter wheat stands were looking good in Grant County. Fresh peas were also being seeded down in the Mattawa area. There was a lot of early spring field work such as disking corn stalks, plowing, and spraying of chemicals being done in Grant County. Cattle producers continued calving under mixed conditions in Stevens County without major problems. Christmas tree growers welcomed the cool temperatures and wet conditions as they finished up planting new fields in Thurston County. Commercial raspberry growers took advantage of several days with no rain to finish pruning and tying canes. Commercial blueberry growers were applying copper sulfate fungicide sprays. Dairy producers were pumping manure lagoons for application on forage fields.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 3% short, 87% adequate and 10% surplus compared to 3% short, 78% adequate, and 19% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 3% short, 78% adequate, and 19% surplus compared with 3% very short, 23% short, 62% adequate, and 12% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 2% short and 98% adequate compared with 4% very short, 13% short, and 83% adequate last year. Winter wheat conditions were 8% fair and 92% good. Cattle and calves were 2% poor, 18% fair, 75% good, and 5% excellent. Calving was 69% complete, compared with 70% last year. Sheep and lambs were 1% poor, 10% fair, 86% good, and 3% excellent. Lambing was 75% complete, compared to 73% last year. The month of March has been mild and unseasonably warm. The warm weather has grass at peak growth and fruit trees in full bloom. Farming activities included turning livestock out on pasture, preparing fields for planting, feeding hay, repairing fences, repairing livestock feeding areas, calving, and lambing.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures ranged from 16.0 to 18.5 degrees above normal. Precipitation ranged from 0.76 inches in La Crosse (0.80 inches below normal) to 2.81 inches in Milwaukee (1.09 inches above normal). Snowfall totals ranged from 0.50 inches in Eau Claire and La Crosse to 8.10 inches in Green Bay. Though the whole State received snow this month, unseasonably high temperatures melted snow cover soon after it fell.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 36% short, 57% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 33% short, 57% adequate. Average depth of snow cover 0.4 inches. Barley planted 34%. Wheat condition 29% fair, 71% good. Winter wheat wind damage 49% none, 38% light, 13% moderate. Winter wheat freeze damage 89% none, 11% light. Spring calves born 29%. Farm flock ewes lambing 34%. Farm flock sheep shorn 29%. Range flock ewes lambing 2%. Range flock sheep shorn 6%. Calf losses 42% light, 58% normal. Lamb losses 49% light, 51% normal. Cattle condition 5% fair, 94% good 1% excellent. Calves condition 1% fair, 98% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 8% fair, 92% good. Lamb condition 5% fair, 95% good. Range and pasture condition 7% very poor, 3% poor, 39% fair, 51% good. Spring grazing prospects 15% poor, 46% fair, 38% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 10% short, 84% adequate, 5% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 6% short, 90% adequate, 1% surplus. Warm and dry conditions across State. Wyoming has experience above normal temperatures and below normal moisture for most of March. Weston County has experienced above normal temperatures and the last measureable moisture was received in late February. Producers are experiencing very dusty conditions. Fire danger is high. Some green up has occurred due to warm temperatures. Uinta County reports snowpack below 100% and a need for moisture. Albany County reports unseasonably warm and dry. Open winter conditions has put the livestock in good condition and left hay supplies in good shape. Concern is for summer grazing conditions.

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 18-24, 2012

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Much-needed showers provided some soil moisture for wheat and barley in Spain, but were too light to ease drought concerns.

WESTERN FSU: Mild weather promoted fieldwork in Belarus and Ukraine, while cold, snowy conditions persisted in Russia.

MIDDLE EAST: Sunny skies returned, although below-normal temperatures kept winter crops dormant in northern portions of the region.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Late-week showers provided only limited soil moisture for reproductive winter grains in Morocco.

SOUTH ASIA: Heat intensified across India with the continuation of sunny, seasonably warmer weather.

EAST ASIA: Widespread rain boosted moisture supplies for winter wheat and rapeseed, while also benefiting spring corn and rice.

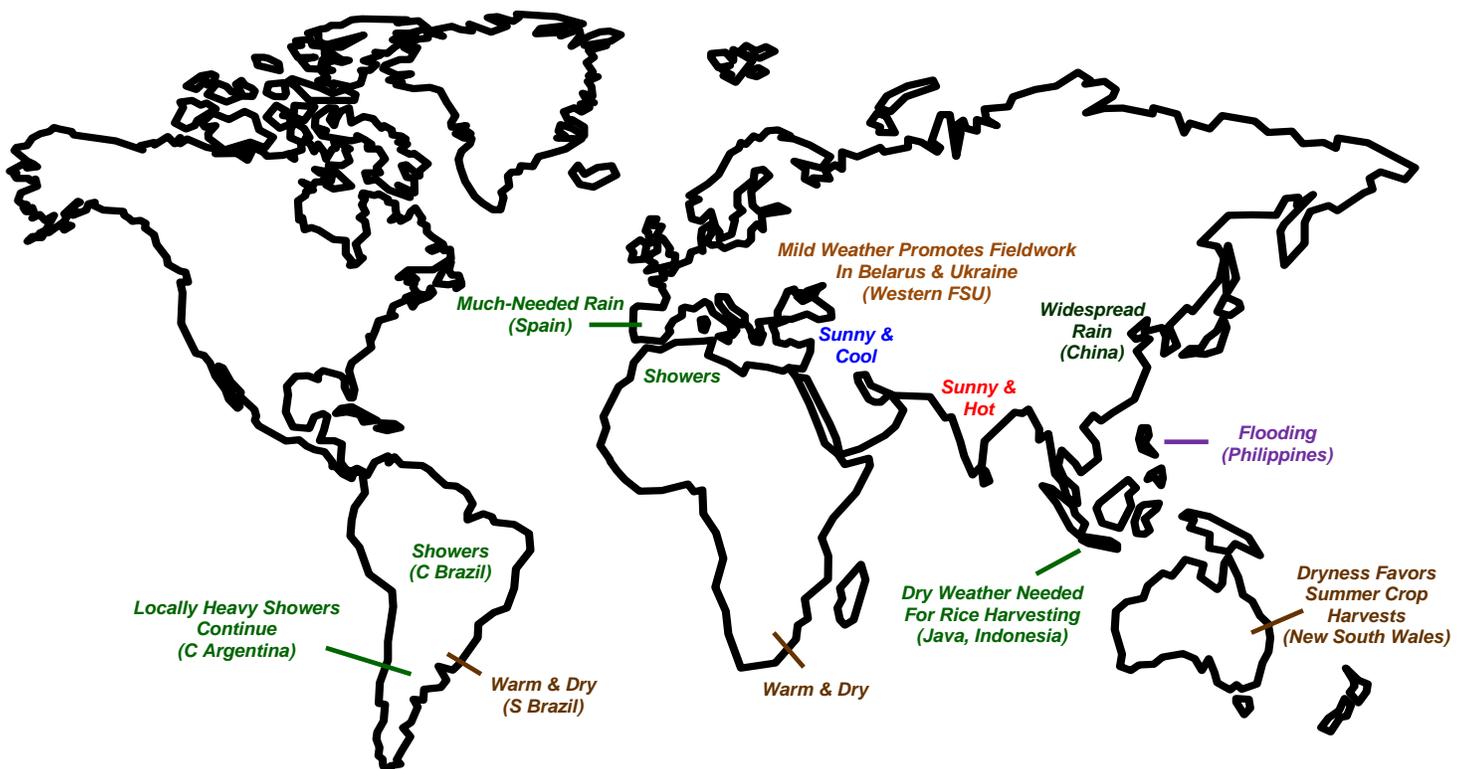
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Flooding returned to parts of the Philippines, while drier weather would be welcome for rice harvesting in Java, Indonesia.

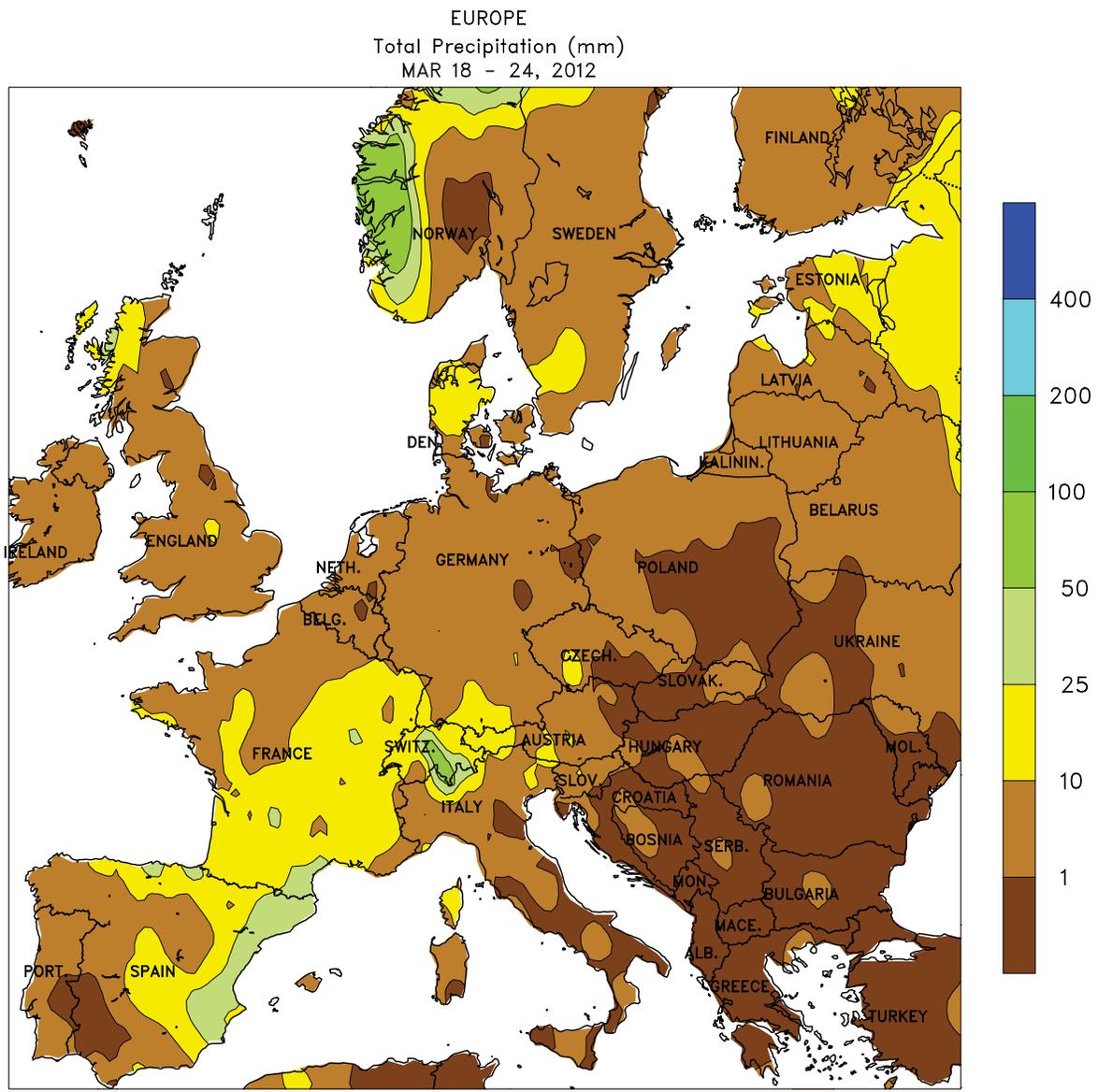
AUSTRALIA: Widespread showers in Queensland hampered summer crop drydown, while mostly dry weather in New South Wales favored maturation and harvesting.

SOUTH AFRICA: Warm, dry weather dominated the corn belt, fostering rapid maturation of rain-fed summer crops.

ARGENTINA: Locally heavy showers increased moisture for late-planted corn and soybeans but continued to hamper seasonal fieldwork.

BRAZIL: Pockets of dryness persisted in the south, reducing moisture for late-planted summer crops and secondary corn.





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

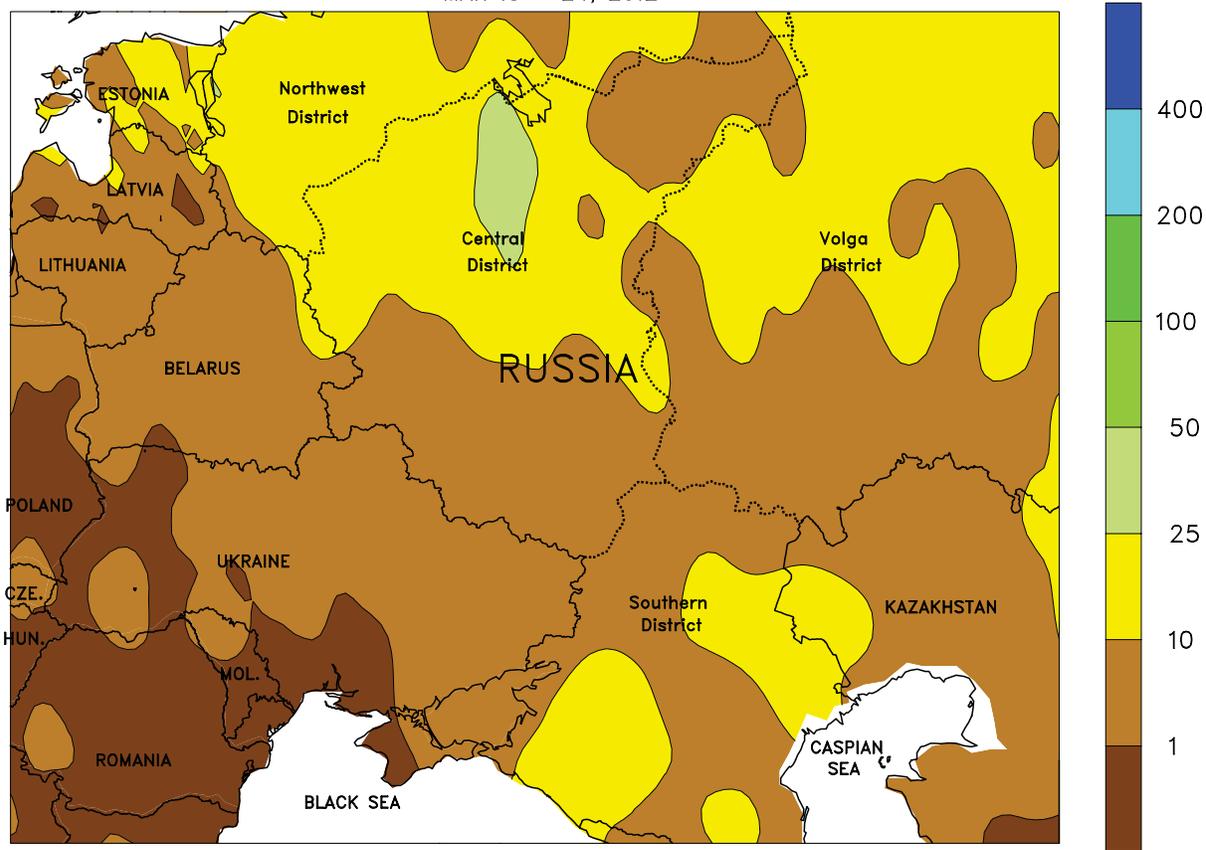


EUROPE

Much-needed rain arrived in southwestern Europe, while dry, mild weather prevailed across central and eastern growing areas. A slow-moving disturbance generated showers and thunderstorms on the Iberian Peninsula, although the heaviest rain fell outside the primary wheat and barley areas. In north-central and southern Spain, weekly precipitation totaled mostly less than 5 mm, offering little substantial benefit to vegetative to reproductive winter crops. Central Spain recorded 10 to 25 mm, providing localized soil moisture and drought relief. Showers

(2-20 mm) were more widespread in southern and western France, improving soil moisture for vegetative winter crops and summer crop establishment. Meanwhile, dry, mild conditions in Italy promoted corn planting but reduced irrigation reserves. Elsewhere, sunny skies and above-normal temperatures (up to 7°C above normal) ushered winter crops out of dormancy across Poland and the Balkans. Winter grains and oilseeds over northern and eastern Europe have broken dormancy up to 3 weeks earlier than normal in most growing areas.

WESTERN FSU
Total Precipitation (mm)
MAR 18 - 24, 2012



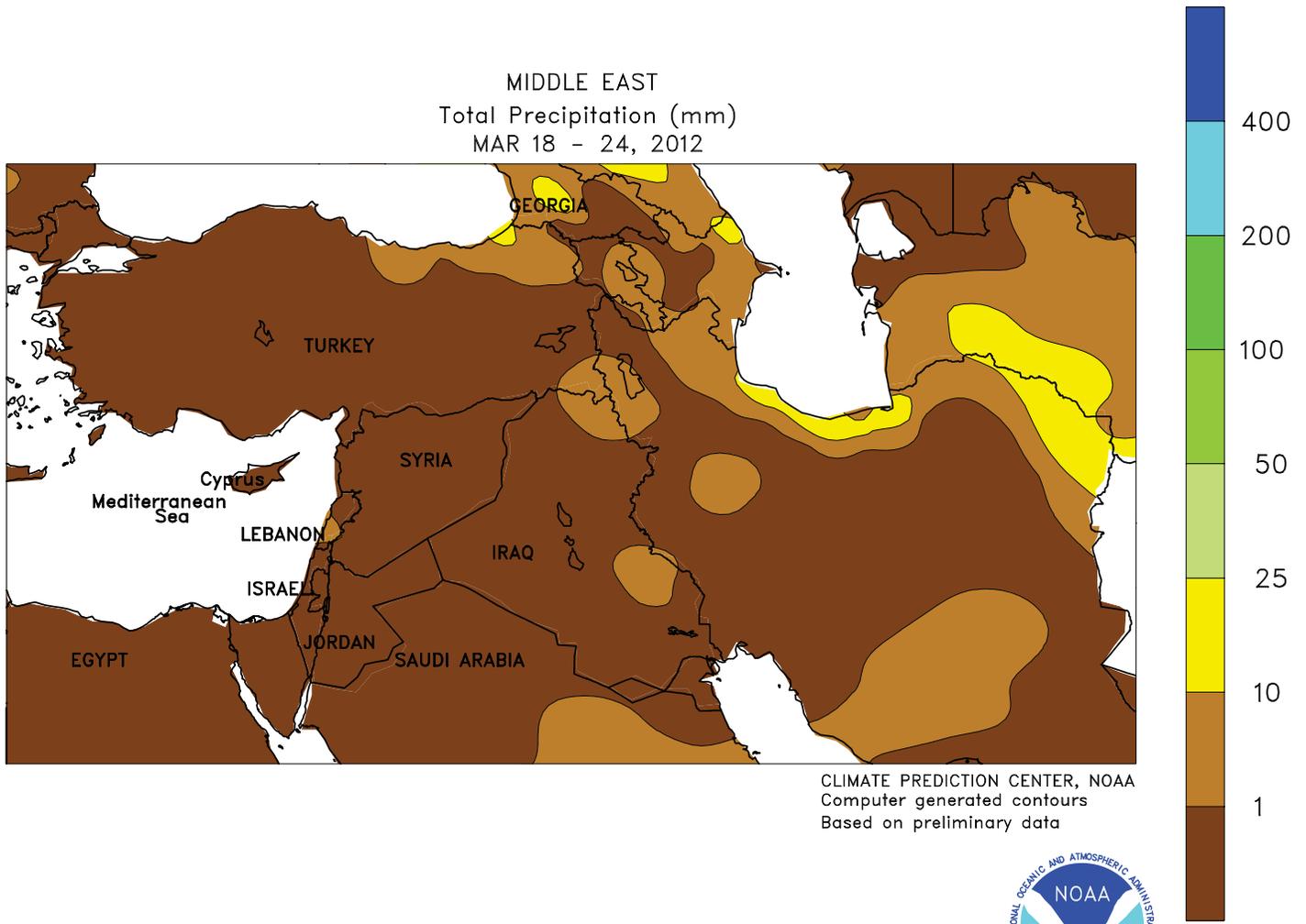
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data



WESTERN FSU

Mild, dry conditions in the west contrasted with snowy weather in eastern crop districts. Temperatures averaged 2 to 8°C above normal in Belarus and Ukraine, promoting fieldwork and encouraging some greening of winter grains and oilseeds. Meanwhile, cold weather (nighttime temperatures as low as -12°C) led to additional snowfall (2-20 mm liquid

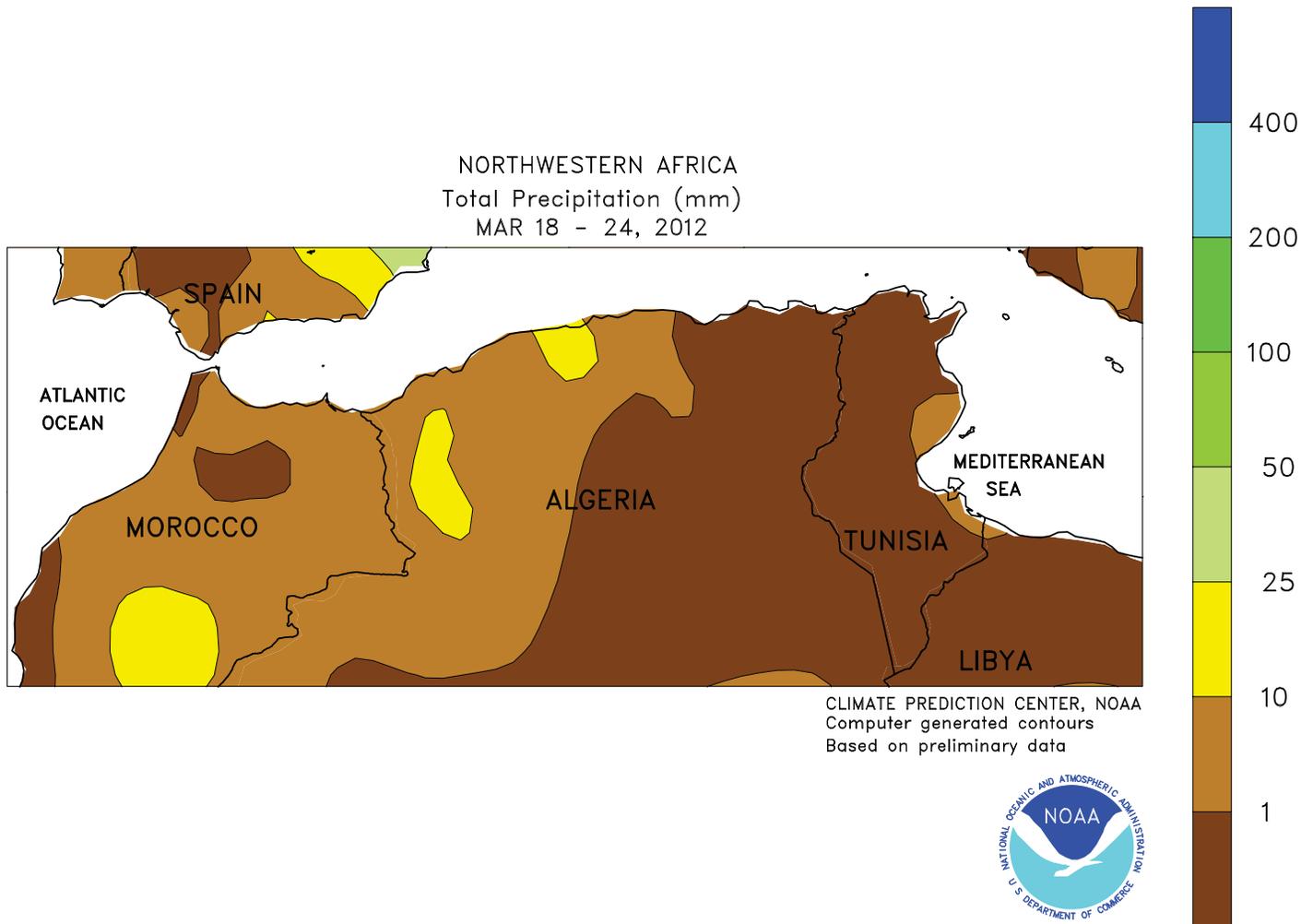
equivalent) across northern and central Russia, keeping winter crops dormant under a moderate to deep snowpack (locally more than 50 cm). In Russia's Southern District, rain (10-20 mm) maintained favorable soil moisture reserves for dormant winter wheat, although northern portions of the district are still covered by 10 to 30 cm of snow.



MIDDLE EAST

Dry weather returned to the Middle East after several weeks of rain and snow. Sunny skies favored heading winter grains from the eastern Mediterranean Coast into southern portions of Iraq and Iran. Meanwhile, below-normal temperatures (2-5°C

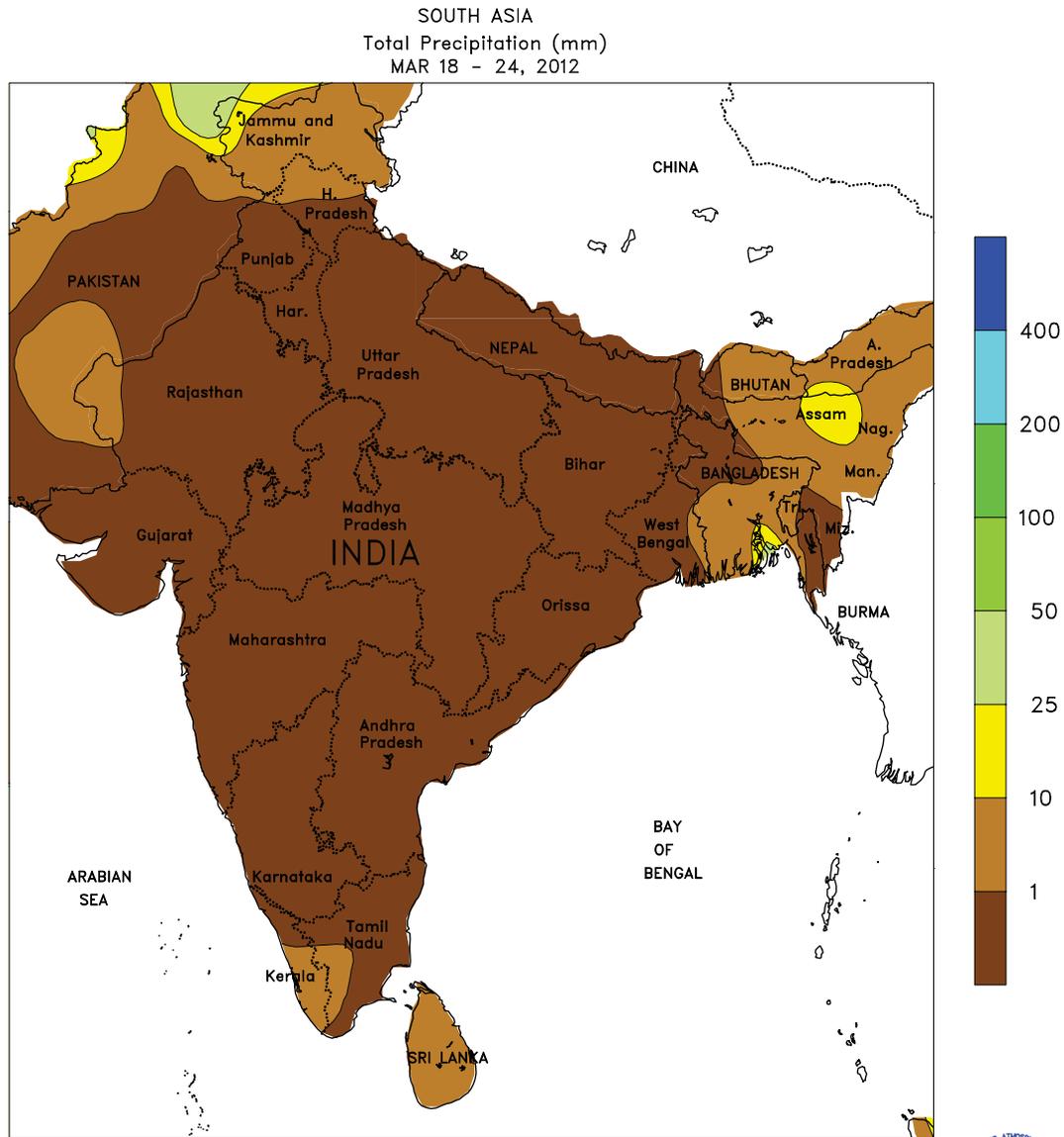
below normal) from eastern Turkey into northern Iran kept winter crops dormant. Somewhat milder conditions (up to 4°C above normal) in western Turkey eased winter crops out of dormancy.



NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Much-needed showers arrived in Morocco, while favorably dry weather prevailed in eastern growing areas. A late-week disturbance triggered scattered showers (2-10 mm) across Morocco's primary wheat areas, providing localized moisture for reproductive winter grains. However, the rain was not

widespread or heavy enough to alleviate drought concerns, which have arisen due to a lack of consistent rainfall since late January. Dry weather prevailed, meanwhile, in eastern Algeria and northern Tunisia, favoring fieldwork and crop development on the heels of recent heavy rain.

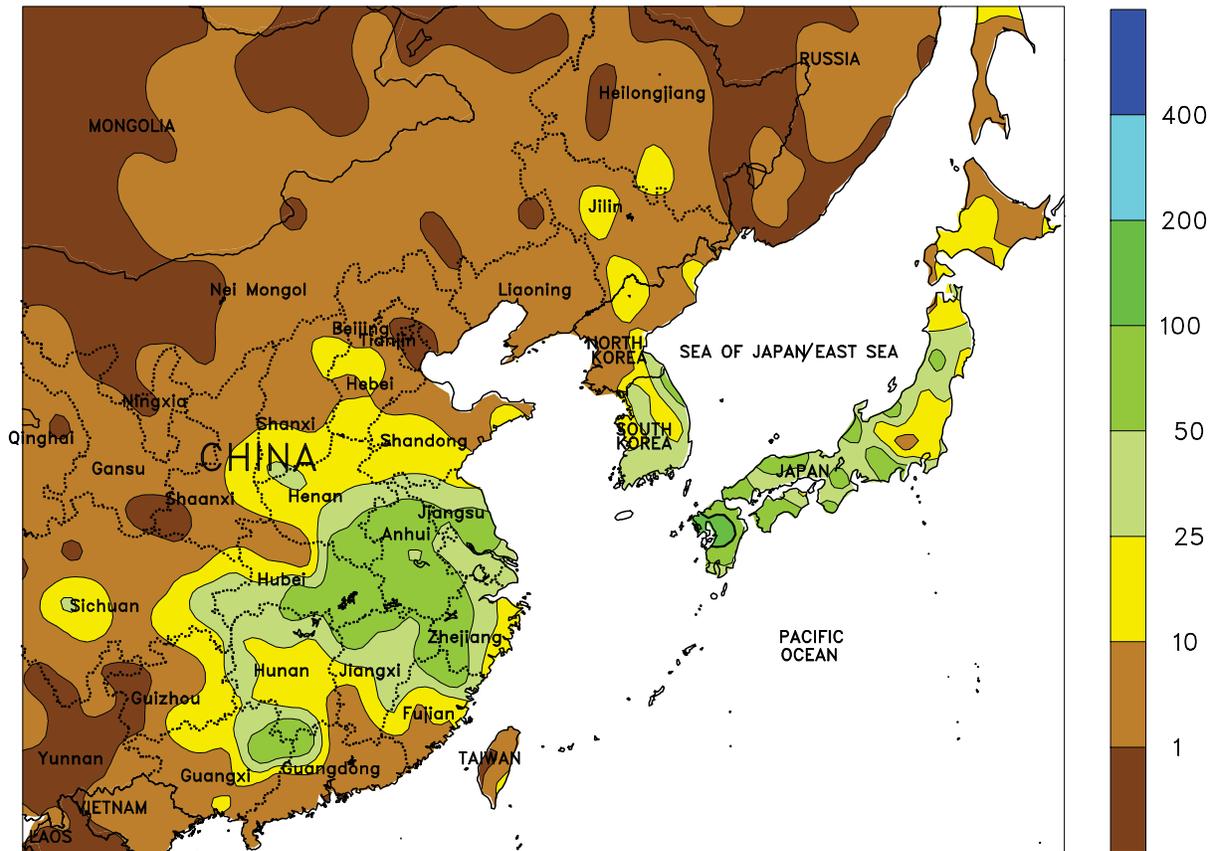


SOUTH ASIA

Little if any rainfall occurred in the region, which is not unusual for this time of year. High pressure, which dominates the region through the winter, was promoting heat in central India as spring sunshine intensified and seasonal warming advanced. Daytime highs reached 40°C in multiple states of

India, with almost all states experiencing temperatures in the upper 30s (degrees C). Winter rapeseed harvesting was nearing completion, while wheat and rice harvesting were still underway. Cotton planting typically begins in northern areas by mid-April.

EASTERN ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
MAR 18 - 24, 2012



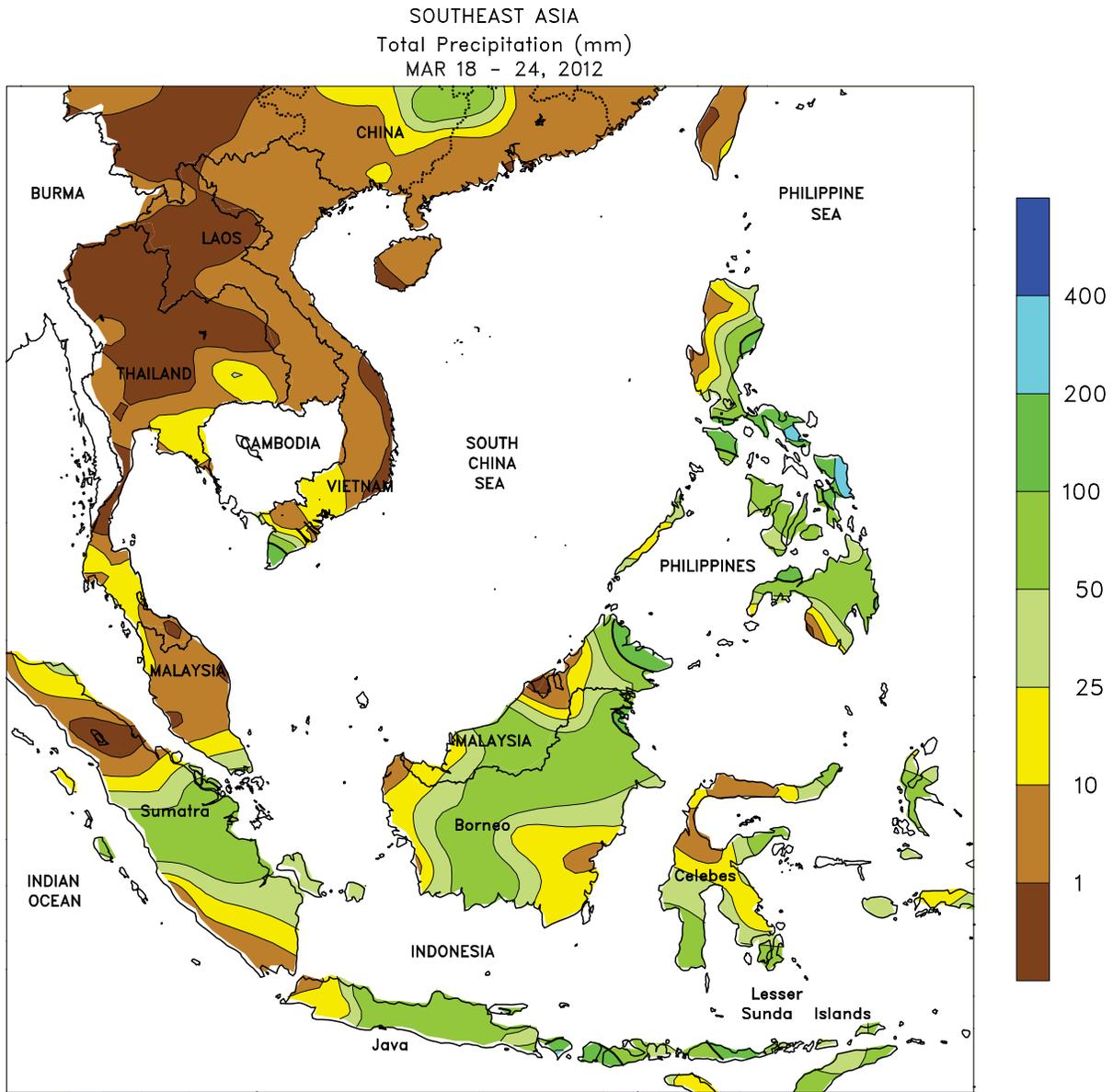
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data



EASTERN ASIA

The East Asian Monsoon boundary was well established across the Yangtze Valley over the past week. Heavy rainfall (amounts approaching 100 mm) occurred early in the week, providing beneficial moisture to reproductive winter rapeseed as well as newly transplanted early double-crop rice in parts of Hunan and Jiangxi. While rainfall totals were less (upwards of 30 mm) in eastern Sichuan, the moisture was still favorable for spring corn. Meanwhile on the North China Plain, greening

winter wheat benefited from a passing mid-week system that produced 10 to 20 mm of rain. Weekly minimum temperatures were above freezing in most active growing areas, with the exception of a few outlying northern areas. Weekly average temperatures between 5 and 10°C supported development of cool-season crops, while warmer weather (weekly temperatures averaging over 10°C) promoted corn and rice development in the south.



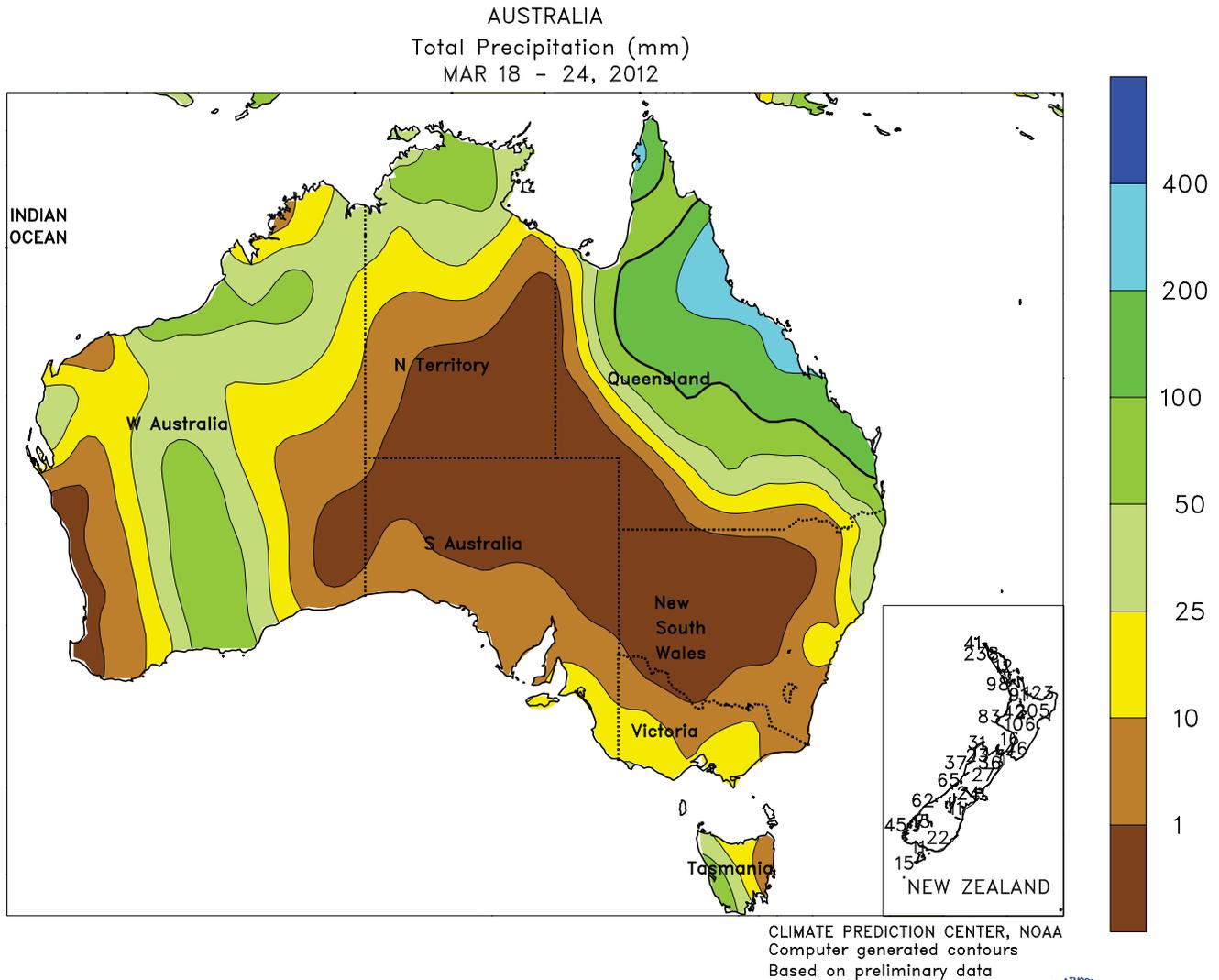
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data



SOUTHEAST ASIA

Flooding rains returned to mountainous areas of the east-central Philippines with totals easily exceeding 200 mm and approaching 400 mm. The flooding occurred outside major production areas of the Philippines, while more seasonable rainfall amounts (25-100 mm) maintained favorable moisture supplies for rice and corn in Luzon and Mindanao. Seasonable showers (50-100 mm) prevailed in Java, Indonesia, aiding late-developing rice but slowing harvesting where rice was already

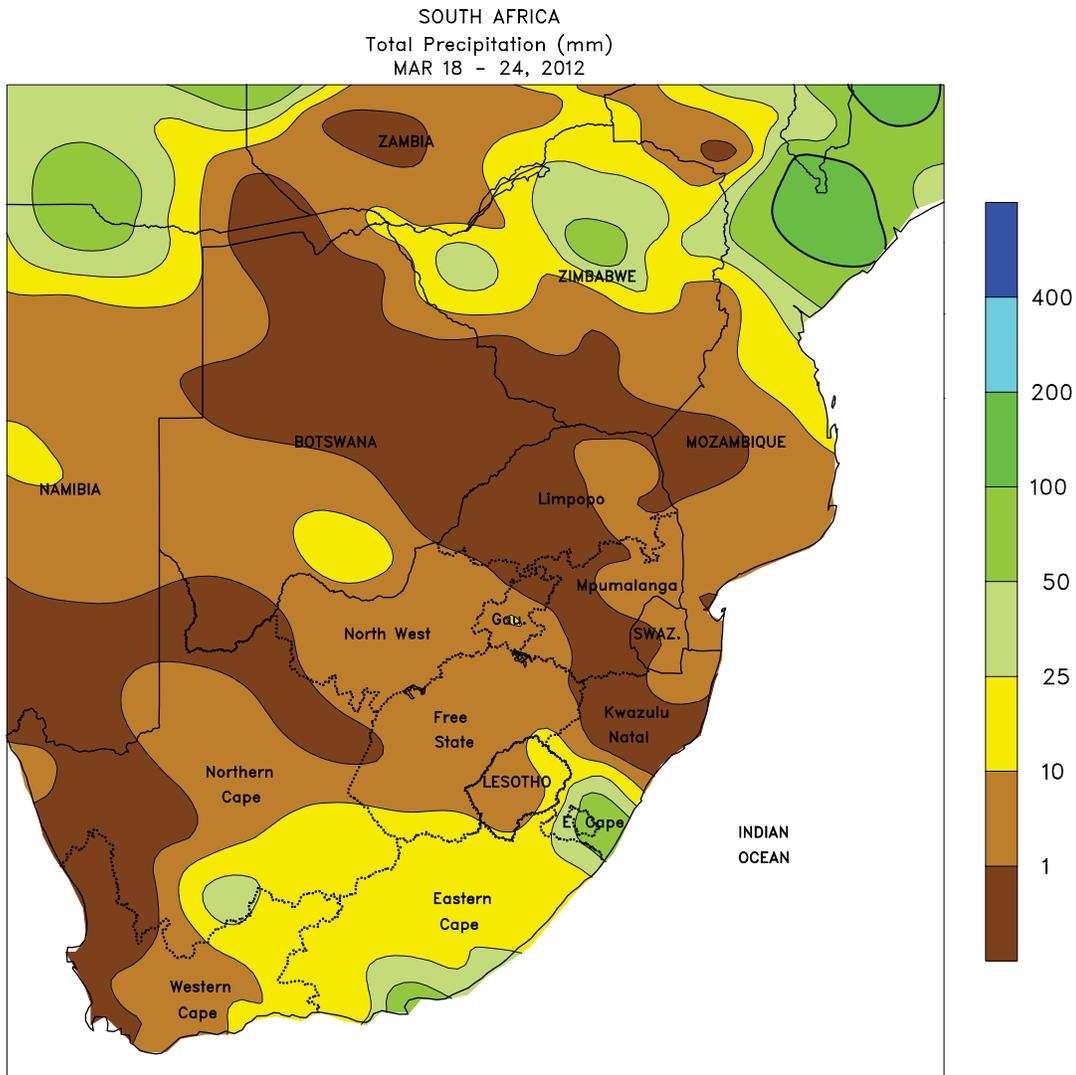
mature. Elsewhere in Indonesia, 25 to 75 mm of rain maintained abundant moisture supplies for oil palm across Sumatra and Kalimantan with few harvest delays. In Malaysia, mostly sunny weather promoted oil palm harvesting. In Vietnam, periodic showers caused minor delays in spring rice harvesting across the south, while light showers (less than 10 mm) maintained adequate moisture supplies for vegetative spring rice in the north.



AUSTRALIA

In central and most of southern Queensland, widespread showers (5-50 mm or more) hampered the drydown of maturing cotton and sorghum and delayed local fieldwork. In contrast, mostly dry weather (less than 5 mm) in extreme

southern Queensland and northern New South Wales favored summer crop maturation and harvesting. Temperatures in eastern Australia averaged 1 to 2°C below normal.



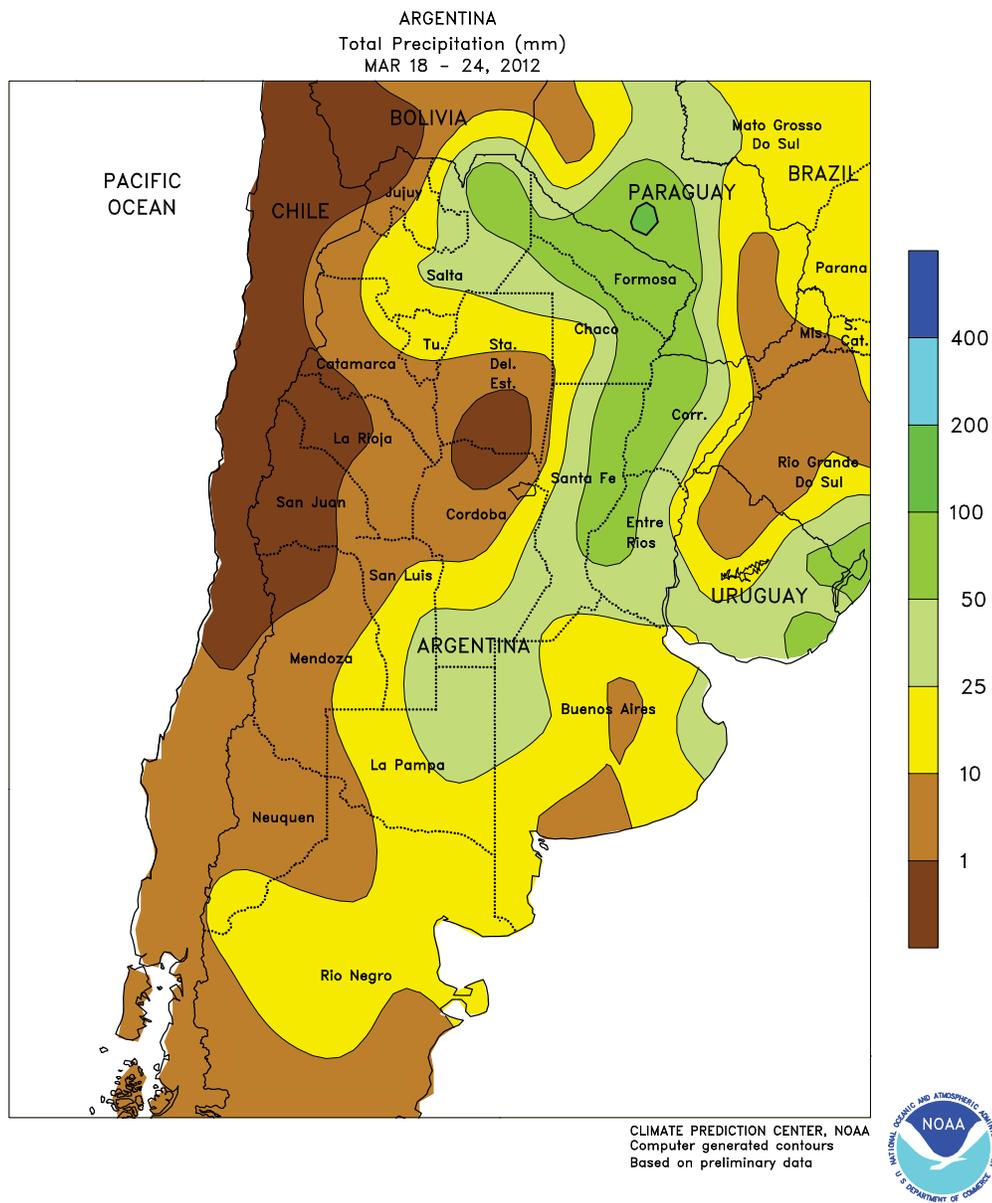
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data



SOUTH AFRICA

Warm, mostly dry weather gripped the corn belt, hastening maturation of rain-fed summer crops and, in general, exacerbating the drought situation that has intensified since the beginning of summer. In all major commercial production areas (North West, Free State, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga), sparse rainfall was accompanied by above-normal temperatures (daytime highs reaching the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C). Similar conditions prevailed in outlying production areas of Limpopo and northern KwaZulu-Natal. At this point in the season, additional rain would not significantly improve corn prospects; however, moisture will be needed soon for winter wheat, and the

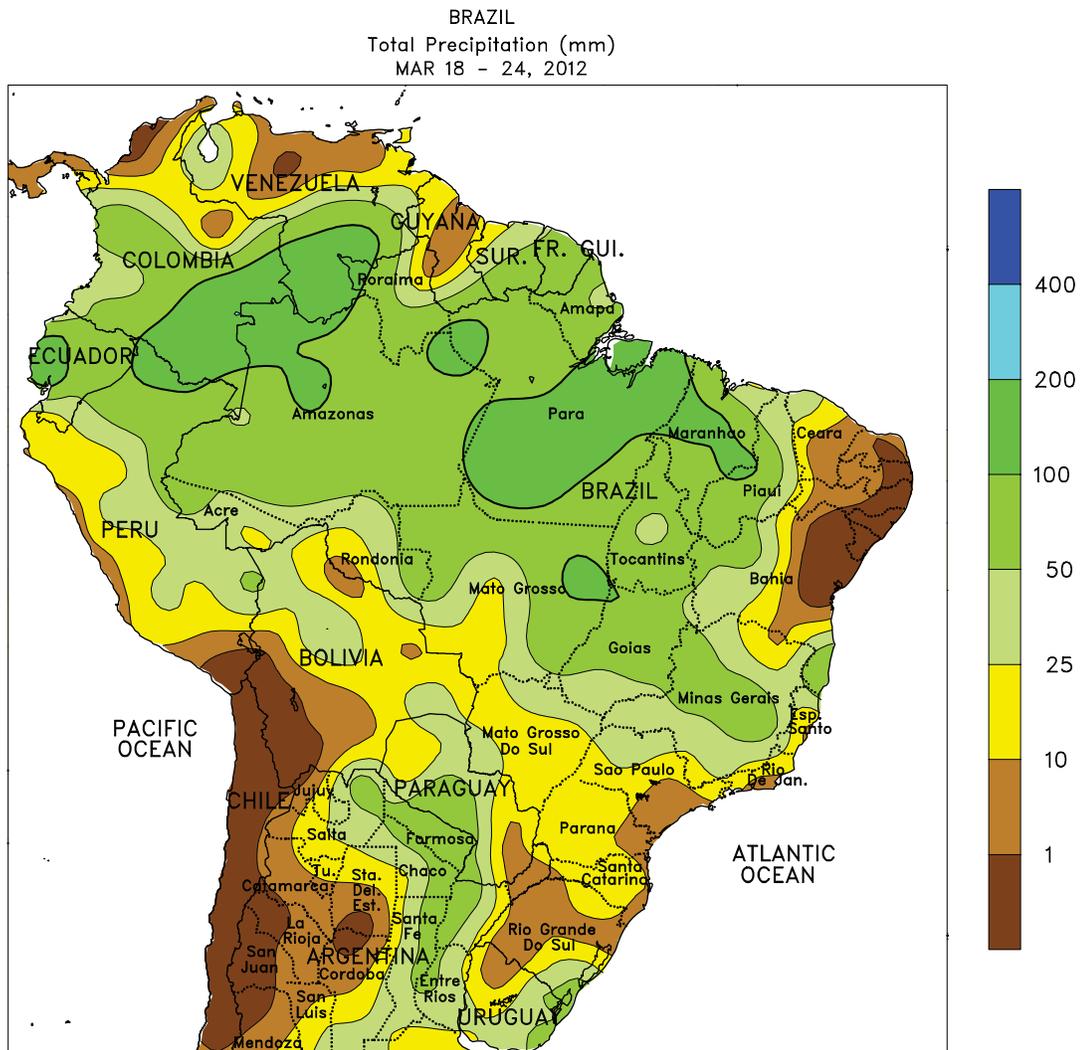
entire region would welcome a boost in moisture ahead of the climatologically drier winter months. Elsewhere, a cold front sweeping across the southern half of the country brought locally heavy rain (10-25 mm or more) to parts of the Cape Provinces and southern KwaZulu-Natal. The rainfall gave a late-season boost to rain-fed sugarcane and helped to replenish local moisture levels for crops, pastures, and livestock. The front also ushered cooler weather into the region, dropping daytime highs at many locations from the lower and middle 30s into the lower and middle 20s. Vineyards and orchards of Western Cape remained mostly dry, aiding seasonal harvests.



ARGENTINA

Scattered showers and thunderstorms continued throughout much of country, maintaining adequate to abundant levels of moisture for late-seeded summer crops but hampering seasonal fieldwork. As in recent weeks, the stormy weather came as the result of a strong frontal passage that generated moderate to heavy rain after several days of unseasonably high temperatures. Rainfall totaled 10 to 50 mm in most of central Argentina; pockets of drier conditions, favorable for sunflower harvesting and other seasonal fieldwork, were mostly confined to southern Buenos Aires. Daytime highs reached the upper 20s and lower 30s (degrees C) before the onset of the rain and were mostly in the lower and middle 20s afterwards. Traditionally cooler locations in southeastern Buenos Aires recorded their lowest

temperatures of the season, with lows briefly falling into the low single digits. Farther north, the heaviest rain (greater than 50 mm) was concentrated in previously dry eastern farming areas of Chaco and Formosa; otherwise, showers were highly variable, with pockets of dryness (rainfall below 10 mm) centered over northern Cordoba and southern Santiago del Estero. Weekly average temperatures were 1 to 2°C above normal across the north, with daytime highs reaching the middle and upper 30s on several days. According to Argentina’s Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 69 percent harvested as of March 22, 13 points ahead of last week’s pace but still lagging last year (82 percent). Corn harvesting was progressing at the same pace as last year (16 percent).



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



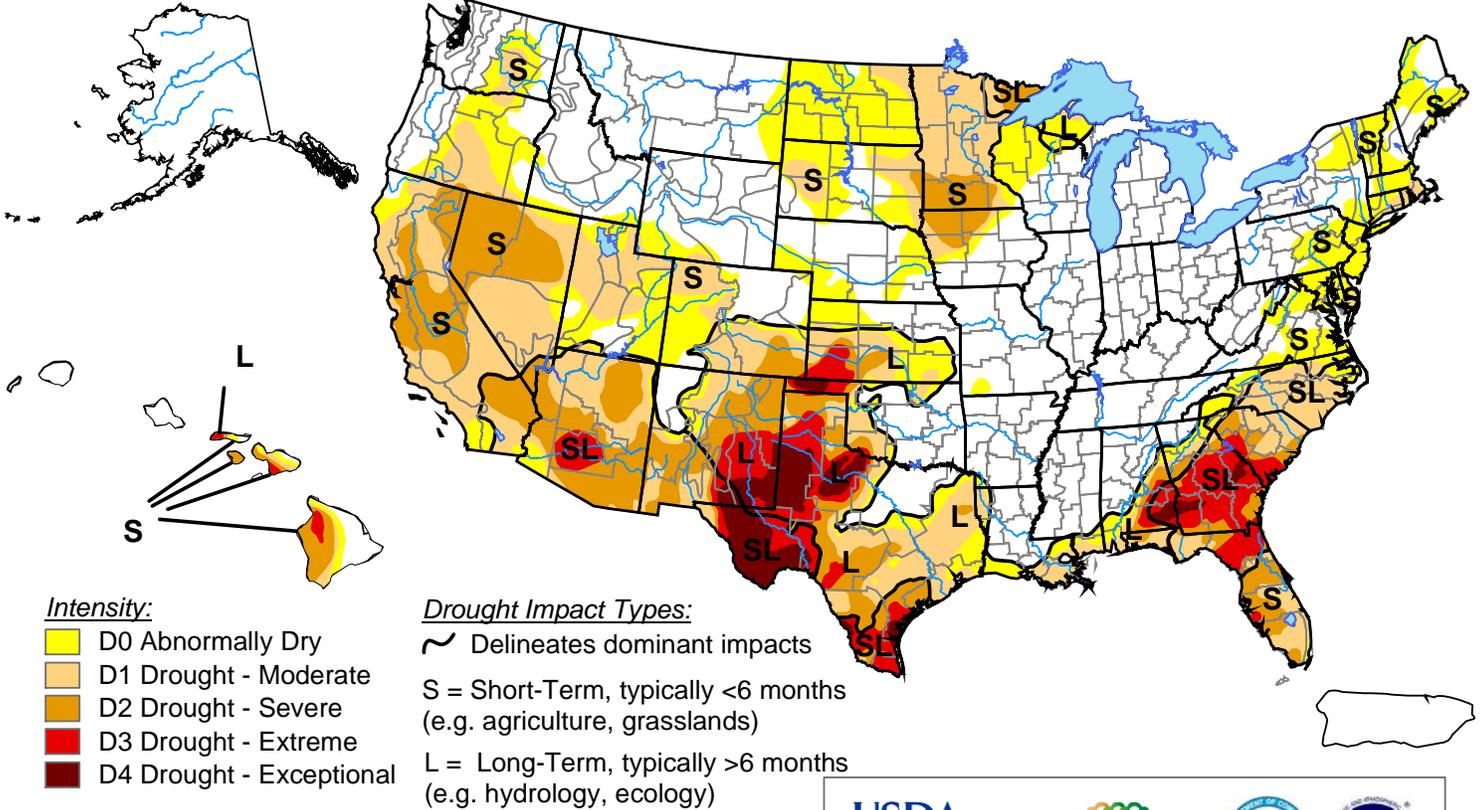
BRAZIL

Pockets of dryness persisted over parts of the south, aiding soybean harvesting but limiting moisture for late-maturing summer crops and emerging secondary (safrinha) corn. Rainfall totaled below 10 mm throughout the main northern farming areas of Rio Grande do Sul, and many locations as far north as Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul recorded amounts below 25 mm; similar conditions were observed in eastern Paraguay. Weekly average temperatures were about 1°C above normal, with daytime highs reaching the middle 30s (degrees C). A late-week frontal passage generated the region’s aforementioned light to moderate rain and lowered temperatures to more seasonable levels (highs generally from 25-32°C). Elsewhere, seasonably heavier rainfall (25-

50 mm or more) continued from Mato Grosso southeastward through Minas Gerais, maintaining overall favorable moisture levels for safrinha corn, cotton, and other regionally important crops. Similar amounts were recorded in previously dry locations in the northeastern interior (including western Bahia), boosting late-season moisture for cotton and late-planted soybeans. Meanwhile, seasonably drier conditions prevailed along Brazil’s northeastern coast, aiding fieldwork that included the latter stages of sugarcane and cocoa harvesting. Weekly average temperatures were near to slightly above normal throughout central and northeastern Brazil, with highs ranging in the lower and middle 30s.

U.S. Drought Monitor

March 20, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

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

Drought Impact Types:

-  Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

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

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Released Thursday, March 22, 2012

Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* (ISSN 0043-1974) 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. The contents may be redistributed freely with proper credit.

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: brippey@oce.usda.gov

The *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* and archives are maintained on the following USDA Internet URL:

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Weekly/Wwcb/index.htm>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

World Agricultural Outlook Board

Managing Editor.....**Brad Rippey** (202) 720-2397

Production Editor.....**Brian Morris** (202) 720-3062

International Editor.....**Mark Brusberg** (202) 720-3508

Editorial Advisors.....**Charles Wilbur and Brenda Chapin**

Agricultural Weather Analysts.....**Tom Puterbaugh, Harlan Shannon, and Eric Luebehusen**

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Agricultural Statistician and State Summaries Editor.....

Julie Schmidt (202) 720-7621

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service/Climate Prediction Center

Meteorologists.....**David Miskus, Brad Pugh,**

and Adam Allgood

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-Free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).