



Crop Progress - State Stories

ISSN:

Released March 31, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ALABAMA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 67% adequate, and 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 69% adequate, and 28% surplus. Livestock condition 1% poor, 25% fair, 68% good, and 6% excellent. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 43% fair, 45% good, and 4% excellent. Winter wheat condition 1% poor, 32% fair, 55% good, and 12% excellent. The US Drought Monitor released on March 24, 2015 indicated the state of Alabama was 56.66 percent free from drought compared to 78.22 percent a year ago. The average mean temperature for the month ranged from 54.6 F in Huntsville to 64.2 F in Mobile; total precipitation ranged from 2.69 inches in Montgomery to 4.77 inches in Huntsville. Winter wheat was a few weeks behind schedule due to severe wet conditions, and nitrogen applications had difficulty staying on top of the ground. Some producers were able to dodge rain showers to get some burndown complete and plant early corn.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State were mostly above normal for the month of March. The temperatures for March were in the upper 90s in several parts of the State and a low of 2 degrees at the Grand Canyon. Only 19 of the 50 reporting stations finished the month of March with above normal precipitation. Page and Canyon De Chelly finished the highest at 195 and 176 percent of normal precipitation, respectively, and Desert Ridge finished the Lowest with 48 percent of normal precipitation. Cotton planting was under way in March. Alfalfa harvesting was active on about three-fourths of the alfalfa acreage and sheepling off continued on various alfalfa fields across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: The year started with relatively normal temperatures. March continued the trend of previous months with by starting with a strong cold front that brought rain, freezing rain, sleet, and snow throughout the state. Mid-month brought warmer temperatures, and what seemed like endless rainfall. Temperatures were roughly a degree warmer than normal, but precipitation levels were over 4 inches above normal for the month. Due to the volatile winter weather season and overly saturated soils, field preparations have been sporadic. Livestock producers were planting hay and preparing to fertilize pastures.

CALIFORNIA: Days suitable for field work was 7.0 days. Topsoil moisture 55% very short, 30% short, and 15% adequate. Subsoil moisture 40% very short, 45% short and 15% adequate. Pacific moisture streamed into the State early in the week, which led to light and scattered rainfall for the northern third of the State on Monday and Tuesday. Most amounts were very light, although isolated locations exceeded half an inch on Monday. Beginning Wednesday, the Pacific moisture influx shut off, and high pressure built over the West Coast, which resulted in the State remaining dry for the rest of the week. The buildup of high pressure corresponded with an increase in daily temperatures, as readings over the weekend were roughly 10 degrees warmer than last weekend. The valley typically saw highs in the 70s to 80s with lows in the 40s to 50s. Temperatures were similar along the coast, slightly cooler in the north and warmer in the south. The southern deserts saw summer like temperatures, with highs exceeding 100 degrees after Friday at a few locations. The mountains continued to stay cool, with highs in the 40s to 60s and lows in the single digits 20s and 30s. Warming temperatures continued to erode what is left of the mountain snowpack, which is getting hard to find, even at higher elevations. Alfalfa fields were baled and newly planted fields were irrigated. Forage crops continued to show good development with the warm weather. Winter forage crops were harvested. Wheat fields were irrigated. Wheat and barley started to head nicely in southern areas. Cotton fields were ready to be planted. The wheat crop was rated as 85 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 60 percent fair to good. Most fruit crops went through petal drop and are now fully leafed-out. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in fruit tree orchards. Bloom sprays were applied to some stone fruit orchards. Orchard replant continued. Early and mid-maturing varieties of grapes continued to leaf-out while some late varieties have yet to start. Fungicide applications on wine grapes continued. In San Joaquin

County, the cherry harvest was anticipated to begin up to two weeks early due to warm weather following a good bloom. In Tulare County, bloom continued with late varieties of stone fruit approaching the end of the bloom period while early varieties of nectarines were undergoing fruit thinning. Cherries and plum varieties were developing well. The citrus bloom was declared in the central part of the State. Some citrus groves continued to hedge rows, top and skirt. Navels, tangelos, tangos, sweet limes, and lemons continued to be harvested and packed. Olive trees were starting to bloom. Almonds have gone through petal drop and are now fully leafed-out. Almonds were maturing well, with touch up weed control and suckering continuing. Orchard replant continued. Due to warm temperatures older walnut trees have started to bloom and leaf-out while young walnut trees were being whitewashed to prevent sunburn. Micronutrients were sprayed on pistachios. In Colusa County, continued dry weather and above average temperatures lead to drying soils. Transplanting of row crops such as processing tomatoes continued. In Sutter County, weed control and field preparation for summer vegetables continued. Fields were prepared for processing tomatoes and cucurbits for seeds. In Monterey County, harvesting of broccoli and cauliflower was going strong. Asparagus season was in full swing and looked good. The head lettuce harvest started in a few fields and Romaine and leaf lettuce harvest was picking up. In San Mateo County, herbs were growing strong and seedlings continued to take hold for spring/summer crops. In Fresno County, growers continued planting processing tomatoes and Bell peppers. Carrot stands were reported as looking good. In Tulare County, growers began planting eggplants. Bell peppers and squash continued to grow well. Due to the continued dry weather, these crops were irrigated. Hilly, dry pastureland continued to be grazed by cattle. Some beehives were still in orchards. Reports of very dry weather have allowed for early cleaning of corrals at dairies. Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland conditions were degrading due to the lack of precipitation. Cattle were moved to areas where some green grass remained. Supplemental feeding continued.

COLORADO: Topsoil moisture 8% very short, 27% short, 64% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 15% very short, 34% short, 49% adequate, 2% surplus. Spring wheat planted 6% this week, 4% 2014, 11% avg. Barley planted 4% this week, 11% 2014, 17% avg. Onions planted 2% this week, 13% 2014, 19% avg. Potatoes outside SLV planted 9% this week, none 2014, 2% avg. Sugarbeets planted 6% this week, 5% 2014, 3% avg. Cows calved 59% this week, 63% 2014, 61% avg. Ewes lambled 54% this week, 49% 2014, 48% avg. Pasture and range condition 5% very poor, 37% poor, 24% fair, 31% good, 3% excellent. Livestock condition 3% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 9% excellent. Above normal temperatures were sustained last week while precipitation occurred in trace amounts, stimulating pasture growth and spurring opportunities for fieldwork in most districts. High winds impacted eastern districts while localized moisture stress was apparent in several instances. Calving and lambing progressed well amid warm and dry conditions. As of March 30, mountain snowpack statewide was 74 percent of average. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 60 and 66 percent of average, respectively.

FLORIDA: Fieldwork and soil preparation for spring plantings was active in Panhandle area. Flagler, Putnam county farmers started harvesting cabbage. By mid-month, farmers in Washington, Madison, and Suwannee counties began planting corn. Sugarcane harvest continued in Highlands, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Glades, and Hendry counties. In Suwannee County planting of watermelons, tomatoes, bell peppers began. Gilchrist, Levy, Madison, Dixie county farmers were setting watermelon sets. Strawberries were harvested in Polk County, blueberries in Glades County, and peaches in Charlotte County. The cabbage harvest continued in Flagler, Putnam, and St. Lucie counties. Potato planting was complete in Flagler and Putnam counties. Green beans, pole beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, boniato, malanga, strawberries, bitter melon, and herbs were harvested in Miami-Dade County. Cold weather in north Florida delayed growth of grass in pastures. Cattle were provided supplemental feed due to lack of forage crops. Ranchers fertilized pastures to revitalize them. By mid-month, warmer weather and longer days boosted pasture growth in Panhandle, north, and central Florida. Southwest Florida pasture quality declined due to dry soil conditions. In citrus growing counties, warm, dry conditions existed at the start of March. Processing plants finished with early and midseason oranges, began running grapefruit or transitioning to late orange harvesting. Valencia harvest lagging behind last season due to low maturity levels. Honey tangerines, colored grapefruit, white grapefruit, midseason oranges, Temples, and Valencias were going fresh. Early, mid-season orange harvest was complete. Grove activity included fertilizing, irrigating two to three times a week, some hedging and topping of trees after harvest, applying of herbicide, and removing brush. Citrus trees were in full bloom, petal drop began, and small pea size fruit was apparent on early variety citrus trees.

GEORGIA: March was warm as temperatures in southern Georgia were typically 3 to 6 degrees high than historical averages and 2 to 3 degrees higher in northern Georgia. Daily average temperature highs in northern Georgia were in the mid and high 60s and low to high 70s in southern Georgia. Lows in northern Georgia were in mid 40s and mid 50s for

southern Georgia. Most of the state has little or no drought as primarily northern Georgia is considered abnormally dry according to the U.S. National Drought Monitor. Comments from reporters describe winter plantings and grazing recovering nicely from a cold winter and producers having accommodating early planting conditions in the early part of the month.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: Temperatures for the month ranged between 3 and 11 degrees above normal. Northern Idaho received the most precipitation for the month, while south central Idaho received the least. The overall level of precipitation for Idaho was lower than normal. In parts of Idaho there has been a loss on winter wheat greater than 20 percent. In many other areas of Idaho fall planted crops looked good. Voles were a major pest problem for alfalfa and winter wheat. Pastures were dry in some areas of Idaho.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 5% short, 76% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil moisture 7% short, 82% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 9% poor, 36% fair, 44% good, 8% excellent. Statewide, precipitation averaged 2.41 inches for the month, 0.53 inches below normal. The average temperature in March was 37.3°F, 3.4°F below normal.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 59% adequate, 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 69% adequate, 29% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 10% poor, 34% fair, 44% good, 9% excellent. Temperatures for the month averaged 36.5°F, 3.8°F below normal. Statewide average precipitation was 3.62 inches. Farmers are anxious for spring to begin and temperatures to warm up to start planting for the season. The increased precipitation this month has made some roads difficult to haul grain and livestock. Ruts are prevalent in many fields and pastures. Concerns for the winter wheat crop are high in some areas, as it still remains dormant and is difficult to assess the condition. Some farmers have identified dead spots from excess water and are preparing to make the decision to keep or let the crop go. Hay stocks seem to be plentiful and in good condition, keeping livestock healthy moving into spring. Farmers have been selling livestock, calving, hauling grain, working on planters, and tilling fields when they can.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 19% short, 77% adequate, and 2% surplus. March brought activity to Iowa agriculture, including soil sampling, oat and alfalfa seeding, spring tillage, and manure spreading. Anhydrous applications were reported in the southern two-thirds of the State. Iowa grain movement saw an increase for the month of March as compared to February, with grain going to elevators located near the Mississippi river as well as processing plants. Livestock conditions were described as good for the month of March and hay and roughage supplies remained fairly steady from February.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture supplies rated 16% very short, 37% short, 46% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 19% very short, 42% short, 39% adequate, and 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 4% very poor, 13% poor, 44% fair, 35% good and 4% excellent; jointing, 15%, 5% 2014, 18% avg. Hay and Roughage supplies were rated 2% very short, 10% short, 84% adequate, 4% surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 14% very short, 26% short, 60% adequate, and 0% surplus. Cattle and Calves condition rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 31% fair, 60% good and 6% excellent. Cattle and Calves death loss rated 0% heavy, 72% average and 28% light. Sheep and Lambs condition rated 0% very poor, 0% poor, 29% fair, 65% good and 6% excellent. Sheep and lambs death loss rated 0% heavy, 63% average and 37% light. Temperatures averaged near normal. Light precipitation was reported. Producers reported an increase in field activities with the recent mild weather, including fertilizer and herbicide application, planting preparation, and moving cattle off crop residue. The lack of moisture was a concern in a number of counties.

KENTUCKY: The Bluegrass State experienced mixed weather conditions during the month of March. Both temperatures and precipitation have ranged from below to above normal. The first full week of March saw well below normal temperatures and much above normal precipitation. The second week brought spring like temperatures accompanied by excessive rainfall. The Commonwealth got a chance to dry out a little during the third week of March due to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The last full week of March ended with below normal temperatures and moisture. Wet conditions have put famers 10 days to 2 weeks behind schedule in many areas. Some bottom land is still flooded. The large amount of snow received in February along with recent rains has created wet conditions which creates a challenge for producers to treat small grains for weeds. Famers have begun spreading fertilizer and spraying herbicides where conditions allowed. Overall, wheat and canola producers are optimistic about the 2015 crop. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 17% fair, 67% good, 11% excellent. Hay supplies continue to run tight due to the cold,

snowy winter. Pastures have really started to green up and are growing well with the recent warmer weather. However, many producers are still feeding hay until pasture conditions show more improvement. Hay and roughage supplies 11% very short, 31% short, 55% adequate, 3% surplus. At the end of February, 67% of supplies were rated as adequate to surplus, compared to 58% currently. Winter was rough on livestock with some losses reported during the February cold spell. However, livestock are recovering well due to warmer conditions. Livestock producers are making management decisions in terms of placements this spring. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 7% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 6% excellent. Burley growers are faced with the decision of whether to raise tobacco this year as the US Burley contract volume will be reduced significantly. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state. Farmers were busy performing routine equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season.

LOUISIANA: The state averaged 5.8 inches of rain this past month. The entire state experienced a soil moisture surplus hindering producers to start the planting season. Row crops planting such as corn, rice and sorghum have been mainly affected. Producers were barely able to put anything in the ground where under the norms corn would started to emerge already. Winter wheat started to head in some part of the state. Due to flooded fields, vegetable and fruit producers delayed preparations; livestock producers were feeding hay and preparing to fertilize pastures.

MARYLAND and DELAWARE: Overall, the month of March continued a rainy, snowy and cold pattern on most part of the region. Both states experienced snow and rain precipitation in the ranges of 0.21 to 1.12 inches for a single day in the areas of Frederick, Maryland and Wilmington, Delaware respectably. Delaware registered maximum temperatures reaching 71.0°F and minimum temperature reaching 6.0°F. Maryland reported maximum temperatures reaching 77.0°F, and minimum reaching 0°F. Some reporters indicated farmers delaying field operations due to weather condition improvement to come. In some areas, muddy conditions have prevailed affecting livestock operations with feed needs and efficiency problems. Other farming activities for the month included feeding hay to livestock, making fertilizer decisions, planting and attending meetings.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 7% short, 80% adequate, and 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 13% short, 76% adequate, and 9% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 6% very poor, 7% poor, 43% fair, 40% good, and 4% excellent. Precipitation for the month of March averaged 0.71 inches throughout the state, 1.35 inches below normal. Temperature for the month of March averaged 28.0°F, 2.7°F below normal. While the ground is still frozen throughout the state, most snow cover was gone by mid-month as temperatures were warmer with the coming spring. Reporters noted that the ground has been soaking up water well without flooding. Wheat is still dormant in much of the state, but some earlier planted wheat is greening up in the southern parts of the state. Growers are largely prepping equipment and preparing for field work with the ground still frozen, but some are applying fertilizer to the frozen ground. With some rain and warmer temperatures, growers will begin field activity.

MINNESOTA: March started off colder than normal with high winds. Record cold maximum temperatures were set on the 4th at Duluth, International Falls and St. Cloud. Northern Minnesota cities reported record lows on the 5th, with Cotton reaching -40°F. Temperatures quickly warmed with record high temperatures in the 60's and 70's set across the State on the 10th and the 12th. Records continued to be set through the 16th, with the highest temperature of 78°F recorded in Browns Valley on the 15th. The statewide average temperature for March looks to be above average. Precipitation came in the form of snow across parts of the state March 3-4. Another storm March 22-23 brought wet snow to the central and southern parts of the State, setting new daily snowfall records in some areas. However, precipitation for the month remains below average. Recent favorable conditions allowed farmers to begin preparations for fieldwork, and in some cases, enter their fields.

MISSISSIPPI: March started off with a lot of rain during the first two weeks of the month. Temperatures for the month ranged from highs of 86.6°F in Collins during the third week to 25.1°F in Independence during the first week. The state averaged 6.1 inches of rain for the month of March which is 1.6 inches above norm. Corn and rice planting still behind due to the soil moisture from the rain and sleet. As of week ending March 29th, wheat headed was one percent compared to the five year average of eight percent.

MISSOURI: Topsoil moisture 6% short, 74% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 19% short, 72% adequate, 7% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 5% short, 86% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies 4% short,

89% adequate, 7% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 60% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 44% fair, 45% good, 2% excellent.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 3% last year; 22% short, 20% last year; 56% adequate, 70% last year; 16% surplus, 7% last year. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 3% last year; 23% short, 20% last year; 48% adequate, 72% last year; 23% surplus, 5% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 75% none, 76% last year; 18% light, 20% last year; 5% moderate, 4% last year; 2% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 70% none, 79% last year; 21% light, 17% last year; 7% moderate, 4% last year; 2% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 69% very poor, 8% last year; 17% poor, 13% last year; 14% fair, 53% last year; 0% good, 25% last year; 0% excellent, 1% last year. Winter wheat – 35% breaking dormancy. Livestock grazing accessibility – 67% open, 41% last year; 24% difficult, 19% last year; 9% closed, 40% last year. Livestock birthing – calving 23% completed, 47% last year. Livestock birthing – lambing 15% completed, 30% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle and calves 96% fed, 98% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 96% fed, 96% last year. The month ending March 31 in Montana was mostly mild with unusually warm temperatures for all but a few wintery days. High temperatures across the state ranged from the mid 60s to the mid 80s with the statewide high recorded in Mizpah at 85°F. Low temperatures ranged from -20°F to the lower teens with the statewide low temperature of -20°F recorded at West Yellowstone. All reporting stations received measurable precipitation during the month of March and Heron recorded the highest amount received with 4.20 inches of moisture. Soil moisture conditions decreased from the previous month due to comparatively low precipitation across the state. Winter wheat conditions improved from the previous month in the mild weather and began to break winter dormancy. Reporters are noting that spring crops will be seeded in good conditions over the coming weeks. Livestock producers are also benefitting from the warmer than normal temperatures which is both easing livestock birthing and allowing better grazing conditions than are typical for March in Montana.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil moisture 16% very short, 38% short, 45% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 13% very short, 29% short, 57% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 11% very poor, 18% poor, 37% fair, 31% good, 3% excellent. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 14% short, 83% adequate, and 1% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 90% adequate, 3% surplus. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 75% good, 10% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 70% good, 13% excellent. For the month of March 2015, temperatures averaged above normal with only limited precipitation falling in the western two-thirds of the State. Rainfall of up to an inch fell across much of the southeast and portions of northeastern Nebraska, but western areas were short, prompting concerns from winter wheat producers. Activities included fertilizer application and preparation for spring planting.

NEVADA: Temperatures in southern Nevada started out at an average of 57°F the first week of March. However, towards the end of the first week and into the second week temperatures climbed into the low 80s, which was above the historical average of 69°F. Above average temperatures continued reaching the low 90s by the latter part of the month. The first part of the month in northern Nevada was dry. Reported temperatures were between 45 and 68°F, which was below average. Later temperatures climbed to above average levels between 70 and 80°F during the remainder of the month. The average precipitation was 1.1 inches for the region.

NEW ENGLAND: Some scattered snowstorms occurred in New England throughout March, but produced less snowfall than previous snowstorms throughout January and February. The week of March 2nd – 8th saw temperatures ranging from 3 to 15 degrees below normal and precipitation between 0.03 to 2.26 inches in the region. The week of March 9th – 15th saw temperatures ranging from 6 degrees below normal to 9 degrees above normal, with precipitation ranging from 0 to 1.60 inches in the region. The week of March 16th – 22nd saw temperatures ranging from 2 to 14 degrees below normal, with precipitation ranging from 0.05 to 1.52 inches in the region. The week of March 23rd – 29th saw temperatures ranging from 4 to 15 degrees below normal, with precipitation ranging from 0.01 to 1.46 inches in the region. Snowpack was still covering some fields in the region, even though a lot of the snow had started to melt. Maple syrup tapping has begun throughout the region, although it started a little later than usual due to the snow and colder temperatures. Some sap producers indicated their sap was running slower due to the cold conditions and deep snow against the trees. The pruning of orchards has also been delayed some due to the snow and cold weather. Farm activities in March included tapping maple trees (CT, ME, VT), some pruning of orchards (CT, MA, NH), taking care of new livestock being born (NH), starting up greenhouses (NH), seeding some crops (NH), and livestock producers catching up with animal processing (NH).

NEW JERSEY: The weather for March is still colder than normal. There were some snow and icy condition during the 1st week of the month. The lowest temperature was 40°F and the highest was 60°F through March except there were two days where it was 70°F. Weather is getting better and people are starting to work the fields. Ag Meetings have continued without any interruption.

NEW MEXICO: Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 50% short, 45% adequate. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 24% short, 69% adequate. Chile planted 50% complete, 29% last year, 41% 5-year average. Onions planted 90% complete, 78% last year, 81% 5-year average. Alfalfa condition 17% fair, 46% good, 37% excellent. Winter wheat condition 50% fair, 40% good, 10% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 40% fair, 56% good, 2% excellent. Cows calved 16% complete. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 84%. Sheep and lambs condition 19% very poor, 18% poor, 14% fair, 49% good. Ewes lambled 8% complete. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 77%. Pasture and range condition 8% very poor, 7% poor, 36% fair, 36% good, 13% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 5% very short, 43% short, 49% adequate, 3% surplus. Stock water supplies 8% very short, 24% short, 68% adequate. Precipitation totals across much of the state fell well below normal during March. As a result, soil moisture and winter wheat conditions declined from a month ago. Northern areas have begun to see runoff from mountain snowpack, and as the days warmed up, new grass growth was starting to emerge. Apricot trees in Rio Arriba County were reported to be in full bloom.

NEW YORK: Cold weather continues through March. Temperatures have caused concern over new lambs and calves, has caused damage to vineyards, has delayed the maple season, has damaged bee colonies, and has caused freeze damage to pipes. On the other hand, continuing low temperatures have eased fears of an early thaw cutting the maple season short, and have prevented excessive runoff and moisture problems. In addition, temperatures have risen enough to allow spreading of manure. Maple, though a few weeks behind is of good quality. Vineyards, while reporting some worry of damage, are progressing well in Long Island. Field activities for the month include applying fertilizer, tending livestock, trees, and vines, and fixing and maintaining machinery, structures and infrastructure.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 3.4. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 45% adequate and 54% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 56% adequate and 43% surplus. The state received widespread precipitation this month with several areas receiving over 4.0 inches. Most of March was cold and wet, with the last couple of weeks reaching more normal temperatures. The average temperatures for the month were at normal or slightly below normal. Small grain conditions are rated very poor or poor in some locations due to the continued cold, wet conditions over the winter months. However, overall the small grain conditions are rated fair to good.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 27% short, 67% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 11% poor, 35% fair, 49% good, 4% excellent. Calving 26% complete. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 10% fair, 72% good, 17% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss 0% heavy, 43% average, 57% light. Lambing 43% complete. Sheep and lambs condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 66% good, 16% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss 0% heavy, 55% average, 45% light. Hay and roughage supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 80% adequate, and 18% surplus. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 6% short, 86% adequate, and 8% surplus. Above normal temperatures along with drier conditions were experienced statewide. The lack of snow cover had livestock producers concerned for grazing and haying potential. However, these same conditions allowed for good lambing and calving with minimal death losses. Crop producers welcomed the cooperative weather conditions and should be able to start planting their crops much earlier than the previous two years. Precipitation will be needed this spring in areas that lack adequate moisture.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 58% adequate, and 41% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 68% adequate, and 30% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 29% fair, 56% good, and 7% excellent. Precipitation for the month of March averaged 3.29 inches throughout the state, 0.55 inches above normal. Temperature for the month of March averaged 35.9°F, 3.4°F below normal. Reports noted that some wheat was still under snow cover, however ground is slowly beginning to thaw and drainage tiles were starting to flow last week. Livestock producers have noted that spring calving is underway, and pasture growth is slow this spring. Winter Wheat condition was 63% good to excellent, down slightly from 67% in February.

OKLAHOMA: Freezing temperatures in the single digits were experienced throughout the state earlier in the month, bringing along sleet, snow, and near zero wind chills. Moderate snowfall provided some moisture for winter wheat in areas of the Panhandle, while cold weather conditions delayed land preparations for spring crops in areas of the Southwest

district. Mid-month, the state experienced warm, spring-like temperatures with highs ranging between the mid 60's and the low 70's. Conditions of small grains improved gradually, and producers reported having more days suitable for fieldwork. Land preparations for corn however continued to be delayed in areas of the South Central district due to wet weather conditions. Throughout March, drought conditions continued to be rated extreme to exceptional across the western half of the state, with conditions most severe in the Southwest district. The most recent drought monitor indicates that the percentage of the state experiencing exceptional drought increased from 5.75 to 8.41 percent since the first week of March, a 46 percent increase. The majority of the state recorded precipitation departures below normal with exception of the South Central, Southeast, and East Central districts. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly short to adequate throughout the month.

OREGON: In western Oregon both wheat and grass seed have been growing well. There was very early flowering on blueberries. Tree fruits were continuing to bloom. Hazelnut spraying was in full swing. All pear trees were finishing bloom this week. Apple and blueberries were just starting to bloom. Wine grape buds were formed early. Livestock condition was excellent, and very few ranches were supplemental feeding. Grass was growing well in pastures. In eastern Oregon crops were doing very well. Spring field work has begun. Calving was about done, and most ranchers were finishing up branding calves.

PENNSYLVANIA: Varied weather conditions this March saw temperatures ranging from -1 to 68°F with a diverse accompaniment of rain, snow and sunshine. The average temperature for the month registered at 35.3°F, lower than the historical average by 6.1°F. Farms across Pennsylvania are prepping for spring field work despite awkward weather conditions that have left most fields cold and wet. Field activities have been minimal and seem to be limited to machine maintenance and fertilizer applications.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Topsoil moisture 4% short, 75% adequate, and 21% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 12% short, 54% adequate, and 33% surplus. The US Drought Monitor released on March 24, 2015 indicated the state of South Carolina was 95.94 percent free from drought, compared to 99.57 percent a year ago. Continued rain has been reported. Wheat is growing and looks good. Corn planting is slow because of the weather. If rains continues, corn will be replaced with cotton or soybeans. Low temperatures at the end of March caused some minor damage on peaches and strawberries, but that winter vegetables are growing well.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 19% very short, 45% short, 36% adequate. Subsoil moisture 14% very short, 44% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 5% very poor, 17% poor, 43% fair, 35% good. Stock water supplies 8% very short, 24% short, 66% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 3% poor, 90% adequate, and 7% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions 11% fair, 76% good, 13% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss 57% average, 43% light. Calving progress 34%. Sheep and lamb condition 15% fair, 72% good, 13% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss 51% average, 49% light. Lambing progress 70%. For the month of March 2015, above average temperatures and below average precipitation dominated the weather pattern.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable 3.0. Topsoil moisture 2% short, 64% adequate, 34% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 69% adequate, 29% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 27% fair, 53% good, 18% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 2% very poor, 19% poor, 44% fair, 32% good, 3% excellent. Extremely wet conditions delayed fertilizer applications and other field activities. A late week freeze may have damaged fruit crops.

TEXAS: Warmer temperatures began to flow towards Texas. Precipitation varied during March with 2.0 to 10 inches of rainfall across much of the state. North and South East Texas and the Upper Coast received the majority of precipitation. Winter wheat continued to develop, aided by precipitation and warmer weather in many parts of the state. Oats entered the heading stage of development in South Texas. Producers continued field preparations for cotton, corn and sorghum. Pecans continued to develop, with some orchards reporting trees beginning the bud break stage Vegetable planting continued throughout many areas of the state. Livestock were in fair to good condition with producers beginning to reduce supplemental feeding in most of the state.

UTAH: Topsoil moisture 10% very short, 52% short, 38% adequate. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 51% short, 38% adequate. Barley planted 44% complete, 9% last year, 21% 5-year average. Oats planted 25% complete, 6% last year, 9% 5-year average. Spring wheat planted 49% complete, 13% last year, 15% 5-year average. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, 11% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 15% fair, 72% good, 13% excellent. Cows calved 36% complete, 18% last year, 46% 5-year average. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 55%. Sheep and lambs condition

22% fair, 72% good, 6% excellent. Farm flock ewes lambled 18% complete, 14% last year, 34% 5-year average. Range flock ewes lambled 5% complete, 2% last year, 10% 5-year average. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 38%. Stock water supplies 3% very short, 25% short, 72% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 2% short, 93% adequate, 5% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 16% poor, 49% fair, 32% good, 2% excellent. With the arrival of an early spring, producers have been busy planting crops sooner than what is typical for Utah. Small grain seeding was advancing at a rapid pace. Most crops were reported to be in good condition as March drew to a close, but summer irrigation water supply shortages are expected as some producers had started their irrigation approximately six weeks ahead of normal. Cow pea aphid infestations were evident in some alfalfa fields due to the abnormally mild winter. Elsewhere, ground squirrels had caused damage to growing alfalfa. Peach and apricot trees were in full bloom in the northwestern part of the state. The mild weather has not only benefitted livestock in terms of calf and lamb deaths, but has allowed producers to decrease the amount of supplemental feed needed.

VIRGINIA: Winter wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 32% fair, 59% good, 5% excellent. Oats 2% very poor, 5% poor, 51% fair, 41% good, 1% excellent. Barley 1% very poor, 5% poor, 42% fair, 49% good, 3% excellent. Livestock very poor 2%, 10% poor, 35% fair, 46% good, 7% excellent. Pasture 5% very poor, 30% poor, 40% fair, 23% good, 2% excellent. March was a difficult month for Virginia's producers. Temperatures varied significantly throughout the month. Snow fall was also present throughout the month. The quick changes in the temperature, including some areas at subzero temperatures, contributed to some wine grape damage, increase in death loss for livestock, and slower than normal pasture growth. Hay stocks are tight, but in some areas pastures were able to be grazed. Towards the end of the month, fruit trees were in the bud swell stage; some peach growers are worried that subzero temperatures might have damaged the crop, but other growers are still optimistic that peach crop will be unaffected. Tobacco growers have begun seeding tobacco in greenhouses. Field work was limited due to wet and muddy fields; however, in some places small grains were topdressed with nitrogen, burn down chemicals were applied in preparing for row crops, and fertilizer and lime were applied on cropland. Other farming activities included starting vegetables under cover, tending to the strawberry crop, and maintaining farming equipment.

WASHINGTON: In western Washington some spring wheat was planted early. Blueberries were in bloom. Raspberry growers were busy pruning and applying chemical sprays when weather permitted. Pasture growth was good except in some wet areas. Standing water was in many fields this month. A few fields have been dry enough for field work. Dairy farmers were applying manure to dryer fields. In eastern Washington winter wheat was beginning to green up. Orchard and vineyard pruning was nearly complete by the middle of March. Apricots were at post bloom in some areas while peaches, nectarines and cherries were in full bloom. Calving was easier this spring due to warm temperatures. Some cattle have been turned out on spring pasture but most of them are still being fed.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 6% short, 92% adequate, and 2% surplus, compared to 1% short, 88% adequate, and 11% surplus last year. Subsoil moisture was 5% short, 85% adequate, and 10% surplus, comparison data not available. Hay and roughage supplies were 1% very short, 19% short, 78% adequate, and 2% surplus compared to 2% very short, 29% short, 66% adequate, and 3% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 5% short, 92% adequate, and 3% surplus compared to 5% very short, 20% short, and 75% adequate last year. Winter wheat conditions were 1% poor, 43% fair, 55% good, and 1% excellent. Cattle and calves were 6% poor, 27% fair, 66% good, and 1% excellent. Calving was 67% complete, compared to 71% last year. Sheep and lambs were 5% poor, 23% fair, 71% good, and 1% excellent. Lambing was 75% complete, compared to 74% last year. Farming activities for the month included lambing and calving; some producers report calf health issues. Cold temperatures have slowed forage growth. On Wednesday, March 4th, Governor Tomblin declared a State of Emergency due to winter storms and flooding.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures were around average for the month of March, ranging from -0.7°F below normal to 2.2°F above normal. The highest temperature of the month was 74°F on March 16th in Madison while the lowest temperature was -13°F on March 5th in Eau Claire. Total precipitation ranged from 0.62 inches in Eau Claire to 0.82 inches in Milwaukee. Average precipitation was less than half of normal in the major cities. Snowfall totals across the state were slightly below to moderately above average. Green Bay and Madison saw the least snow with 4.2 inches while La Crosse saw the most with 9.9 inches. Warm weather, limited snowfall and moderately dry weather allowed some farmers to haul manure, however the ground is still too hard for plowing in many areas.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 65% short, 31% adequate. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 55% short, 42% adequate. Barley planting 18%. Winter wheat condition 83% fair, 16% good, 1% excellent. Livestock condition 1%

poor, 2% fair, 83% good, 14% excellent. Stock water supplies 13% short, 87% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 84% adequate, 16% surplus. Calving progress 20%, 28% 2014, 37% avg. Cattle death loss 47% average, 53% light. Lambing progress 27%. Sheep shorn 28%. Sheep death loss 53% average, 47% light. Range and pasture condition 4% very poor, 17% poor, 37% fair, 40% good, 2% excellent.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates included in this report are based on survey data collected each week from early April through the end of November. Additionally, survey respondents are contacted four times during the winter season – once per month in December, January, February, and March. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from approximately 4,000 respondents whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these respondents subjectively estimate the progress of crops through various stages of development, as well as the progress of producer activities. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop and soil moisture conditions. Any weather data mentioned in this report is provided by outside sources such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Agricultural Weather Information Service (AWIS).

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