



# Crop Progress - State Stories

ISSN:

---

Released March 3, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**ALABAMA:** Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 5% short, 49% adequate, and 44% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 6% short, 54% adequate, and 38% surplus. Livestock condition 1% poor, 32% fair, 61% good, and 6% excellent. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 18% poor, 43% fair, 37% good, and 1% excellent. Winter wheat condition 1% poor, 31% fair, 67% good, and 1% excellent. The US Drought Monitor released on February 24, 2015 indicated the state of Alabama was only 29.07 percent free from drought, compared to 90.20 percent a year ago. The average mean temperature for the month ranged from 35.2 F in Moulton to 47.8 F in Robertsedale; total precipitation ranged from 2.16 inches in Mobile to 6.70 inches in Gadsden. While moisture supplies have improved, the state is still running behind normal with 8 counties in Southwest Alabama rated in moderate drought conditions. Several weeks of freezing temperatures have kept livestock producers busy feeding and tending to livestock. Winter grazing has seen minimal growth. Winter Wheat condition saw a slight decline, but still rated mostly good.

---

**ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

---

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures fluctuated during the month of February. Highest temperatures were in the 80's during the month. Much needed precipitation fell in the beginning of the month and continued throughout February. More precipitation is needed to help drought conditions. Pasture areas are in very poor to good condition, depending on location. Durum Wheat plantings were complete and barley plantings were two-thirds complete by the end of February. Alfalfa harvesting was active on about two-thirds of the fields and sheepling off continued on various alfalfa fields across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

---

**ARKANSAS:** The weather in Arkansas has been immensely interesting for the month of February. The month began with temperatures almost 6 degrees warmer than usual. Precipitation was slightly lower than historic trends. By the second week in February, temperatures began to fall as most of the state prepared for massive wintry mixes that included snow, sleet, and ice. By the end of the third week, the state was almost 15 degrees colder than normal. Although the week's precipitation was slightly up for the state, it was still over an inch less than historic levels. The month ended with cold temperatures and rainfall. Farmers ended the month waiting for fields to dry out, attending to livestock, and preparing for the 2015 crop year.

---

**CALIFORNIA:** Days suitable for field work, 6.3. Topsoil moisture 45% very short, 35% short, 20% adequate. Subsoil moisture 30% very short, 55% short, 15% adequate. The week started off with high pressure dominating the southwestern United States, which led to dry conditions and slightly above-average temperatures for the State. Highs were seasonable for this time of year, with 60s and 70s for the valley, 60s for the coasts, and cooler in the mountains. Lows were comparable, with lower 40s common in the valley and along the coasts, and cooler in the mountains. By midweek, the major weather pattern began to change, as large-scale ridging began to transition to broad troughing. This change in pattern led to slightly warmer temperatures on Wednesday before an onshore surge of Pacific moisture cooled temperatures. This moisture brought rainfall to areas that needed it the most. On Friday, the coasts missed out on the rain, but the mountains received heavy snow that exceeded a foot in places. On Saturday, the coasts received most of the rain, while on Sunday, the far southern reaches of the State saw the most rainfall. Most locations outside the mountains saw at least a third of an inch of rainfall, with the highest amounts falling in the Los Angeles basin and just inland from San Diego. The central Sierras received nearly 2 feet of snow, helping to rebuild what is still a meager snowpack for this time of year. The northern and southern Sierras received up to a foot of snow. Wheat, oats, and other winter forage crops continued to grow well, especially with the recent rain. Alfalfa fields were cultivated and planted. Field preparations were underway for the spring planting of corn and cotton. Winter wheat continued to progress. Fields in Yolo and Solano Counties showed excellent color and growth due to nitrogen intake and adequate moisture levels and warm sunny weather. The wheat crop was rated as 80 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 60 percent fair to

good. Pruning and herbicide applications continued in tree fruit orchards and vineyards. Growers prepared to plant young fruit trees. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in fruit tree orchards and vineyards. Grapes were developing a couple of weeks earlier this year. Pears were irrigated due to dry weather. Cherries were about ten days from budding. Peaches were beginning to bud and early varieties were beginning to flower. Grape bud break occurred, some up to one inch. Orange trees were being topped in advance of the bloom. Seedless Mandarins and Murcotts were being covered with netting to prohibit cross pollination. Kiwifruits, Navel oranges, Cara Caras, Moro Blood oranges, Mandarins, Minneola Tangelos, lemons, and grapefruits continued to be packed and shipped. Pruning and shredding continued in nut orchards throughout the central portion of the State. In San Joaquin County, the almond bloom was almost complete with petal drop increasing. In Tulare County, early almond varieties were showing full bloom in some areas. In Fresno County, the almond bloom was mostly over for the nonpareil variety. Pistachios, almonds, and walnuts continued to be exported. Fields were prepared for spring and summer planting. Early varieties of summer vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and eggplant) were germinated in greenhouses. Summer squash was planted in the fields under hot caps. Spinach and broccoli were progressing well. Onions continued to grow well with the recent rains. Strawberries were progressing well with the recent spring-like weather conditions. Blueberries were blooming, and some early varieties were developing fruit. Growers harvested their first rotation of cauliflower and broccoli. Strawberries were flowering but not in production. Spring planting of vegetables started early due to warm temperatures. In Colusa County, livestock continued to feed on abundant grass provided by earlier rains. While in other areas of the State, ranchers continued to graze sheep and cattle on rangelands and alfalfa fields. Beehives were delivered for orchard pollination in stone fruit and almond orchards.

---

**COLORADO:** Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 22% short, 70% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 17% very short, 34% short, 49% adequate. Winter wheat condition 11% poor, 41% fair, 41% good, 7% excellent. Pasture and range condition 5% very poor, 43% poor, 19% fair, 31% good, 2% excellent. Livestock condition 2% poor, 25% fair, 66% good, 7% excellent. Above normal temperatures were sustained through much of February. However, declining temperatures and heavy winter storms were pervasive toward month's end. Snowfall resulted in improved winter wheat protection for producers in large swaths of Colorado where accumulation was abundant. Several localities in the northeast were impacted less severely by winter storms while other areas are reportedly without snow cover. As of March 2, mountain snowpack statewide was 88 percent of average. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 69 and 84 percent of average, respectively.

---

**FLORIDA:** Field work and soil preparation for spring plantings continued in Panhandle. Second week of month, standing water was present in fields. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades, Hendry counties. Flagler, Putnam county farmers continued planting cabbage, potatoes. By end of month, potato planting was complete. In Bradford County strawberries, onions, greens, cabbage, Swiss chard was harvested. Blueberry bushes in Marion County showed signs of blooms. Vegetable harvest in Southwest part of State slowed due to cooler weather. Third week of month, freezing weather caused concern for crops. Gadsden County farmers tilled soil in preparation for corn, peanut planting. Planting of late cabbage, harvesting of strawberries, onions, greens occurred in Bradford County. Flagler, Putnam county farmers harvested cabbage. Minimal damage to vegetables noted in southwest counties due to freeze. Farmers applied fungicides to protect crops from frost and wind damage. St. Lucie County vegetable growers used helicopters to force warm air onto crops to minimize frost damage. Miami-Dade County harvested green beans, pole beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, boniato, malanga, avocado, bitter melon, herbs. Some pastures were in poor condition due to standing water, frost. Orange, Seminole County farmers had trouble finding hay. Ranchers providing supplemental feed due to lack of forage crops. Lowest temperatures of season recorded across the citrus growing area. Abnormally dry conditions in Collier, Hendry, lower half of Indian River counties. Citrus processing plants ran at full capacity. Early and midseason oranges were harvested and processed. Harvesting of Hamlin, Navel, and Pineapple oranges, early tangerines over for the season. Valencia oranges, Honey tangerines, colored grapefruit, a small amount of white grapefruit, and midseason oranges were being harvested for fresh fruit. Grove activity slow, irrigating, mowing, fertilizing, some are hedging and topping after harvest.

---

**GEORGIA:** February was cold as most of the state has been 6 or 7 degrees colder than Georgia historical averages. Daily average temperature highs in northern Georgia were in the high 40s and low 60s in southern Georgia. Lows in northern Georgia were in mid 20s and high 30s for southern Georgia. Most of the state has little or no drought concern as only a few spots in the state, primarily in the north, are considered abnormally dry according to the U.S. National Drought Monitor. Comments from reporters confirm this as they described cooler temperatures for the month of February with

north Georgia receiving more snow than normal and soil moistures looking good. Reporters in southern Georgia had two days of hard freeze in the middle of February and described winter wheat condition as improved.

---

**HAWAII:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil moisture 100% short. On February 24, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported that 100.00 percent of the State was abnormally dry or drier. The rainfall averaged 0.70 inches across the state. On the Big Island, heavy rainfall caused stream flow to reach above normal flow rates in the Alakahi and Kawainui streams near Kamuela. Various crops and orchards benefitted from the precipitation. Many fruit and nut trees such as mango, avocado, macadamia nut and litchi trees had numerous blooms and continued to progress. Pastures in the Hilo and Puna districts had greened up from the daily light precipitation received over the last week. Citrus trees started to flower with fruit harvest slowing in some areas. On Maui, the variable wind conditions did not allow for the usual rainfall in the water shed area to receive steady replenishment of the Upcountry reservoirs. Irrigation water continued to be sufficient for the demand. Increased daylight helped growth and development for crops. Steady planting and harvesting was observed. Orchard crops were flowering, however fruit set might have been detrimentally affected by the strong wind conditions and rainfall received over the past weeks.

---

**IDAHO:** February consisted of higher than normal temperatures throughout the state. Respondents reported that moisture conditions on crop ground were adequate but future precipitation will be needed to get farmers through the season. Reports indicate field erosion due to heavy rains in Latah County during the month of February. Lewis County extension agent reports some winter kill on winter canola due to extreme winter temperatures. The extent of the damage is not yet known. Lambing and calving season is in full swing with warmer winter conditions benefiting calving. Major activities consisted of field prepping and spring planting.

---

**ILLINOIS:** Topsoil moisture 1% short, 83% adequate, 16% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% short, 85% adequate, 9% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 12% poor, 40% fair, 45% good, 2% excellent. Statewide, precipitation averaged 1.54 inches for the month, 0.39 inches below normal. The average temperature in February was 18.6 degrees, 11.6 degrees below normal.

---

**INDIANA:** Topsoil moisture 2% short, 72% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% short, 77% adequate, 20% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 11% poor, 36% fair, 44% good, 8% excellent. Temperatures for the month averaged 18.9 degrees, 11.5 degrees below normal. Statewide average precipitation was 1.6 inches. February was a frigid and snowy month, limiting outdoor work and challenging farmers across the state. The sub-zero temperatures along with gale winds have raised some concerns about the winter wheat condition where snow cover was inadequate, and whether it will be viable in spring. Livestock has also become stressed due to the weather which led to increased losses in calves. However, hay stocks continued to be in good supply to help keep the animals fed through the rest of the winter. Farmers have continued to haul grain to market, prepare equipment for spring planting, spread fertilizer and manure in fields when the weather permits, and attend meetings.

---

**IOWA:** Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 9% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Little fieldwork was accomplished during February due to cold temperatures. Little if any commercial fertilizer has been spread, but there have been accounts of manure and ethanol by-products being spread. Iowa grain movement saw a slight slowdown for the month of February as compared to January. Cold weather and disappointment in spot prices were cited as reasons for light grain movement. Calving and lambing were reported across much of the State with a few areas reporting losses due to extremely cold temperatures. Average snow depth for February was 3 inches.

---

**KANSAS:** Topsoil moisture supplies rated 12% very short, 30% short, 58% adequate. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 18% very short, 35% short, 47% adequate. Winter wheat condition rated 2% very poor, 10% poor, 44% fair, 41% good and 3% excellent. Hay and Roughage supplies were rated 1% very short, 8% short, 86% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 8% very short, 27% short, 65% adequate. Cattle and Calves condition rated 2% poor, 31% fair, 60% good 7% excellent. Cattle and Calves death loss rated 75% average, 25% light. Sheep and Lambs condition rated 30% fair, 64% good, 6% excellent. Sheep and lambs death loss rated 66% average, 34% light. Temperatures in the eastern half of the state averaged 4 to 8 degrees below normal, while the western portion remained near normal. All of Kansas received some precipitation with the heaviest amounts in the northeast. Livestock continued to graze on crop residue with supplemental feeding reported. Cold temperatures caused livestock producers to increase care.

---

**KENTUCKY:** The Bluegrass State experienced record breaking cold temperatures during the month of February. Up until the third week of the month, dry conditions persisted across the state. Kentucky had seen seven straight weeks of

below normal precipitation. By this time, the US Drought Monitor had placed over half of the state in Moderate Drought. A major winter storm pushed through the area on the 16th. Significant snowfall was seen across the entirety of the state with totals of 8 to 12 inches common. This was followed by an Arctic front the following night that dropped another 1 to 2 inches. Behind the snow, dangerously cold air built into the Commonwealth. Precipitation for the month averaged 3.45 inches, 0.21 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 3.86 inches, Central 3.98 inches, Bluegrass 2.37 inches and East 3.58 inches, which was -0.22, 0.01, -0.80 and 0.14 inches respectively from normal. Temperatures for the period averaged 27 degrees, 10 degrees below normal. Based on preliminary data, this would be the fourth coldest February on record with data going back to 1895. High temperatures averaged from 37 in the West to 37 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 20 degrees in the West to 18 degrees in the East. Most tobacco producers have finished stripping their crop, but the remaining tobacco in the barns was being stripped as conditions allowed. The amount of tobacco stripped was 97%. Wheat and canola producers are optimistic the crop was safe from extreme cold temperatures in February due to the snowfall providing much needed insulation. However many fields in western Kentucky had begun to 'green-up' prior to the cold conditions, so some damage is expected. To determine if freeze damage has occurred to the wheat, experts recommend waiting until there has been at least 4 days above 40°F to assess damage. Therefore, farmers are waiting for warmer temperatures before assessing wheat freeze damage. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 6% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, 6% excellent. Hay supplies have tightened due to weather conditions in February. Many producers are now running short. Hay and roughage supplies 7% very short, 26% short, 64% adequate, 3% surplus. Livestock conditions have declined from last month. Weather conditions during the last two weeks of February have been stressful. Many reports of cow/calf operations experiencing higher than normal death losses on newborns during the extreme cold conditions. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 6% poor, 26% fair, 60% good, 6% excellent. 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 3.04 inches of rain the last four weeks. Temperatures dropped below the norms mainly during the last two weeks of the month. Cooler temperatures slowed down preparations for spring planting. Strawberry harvest continues and producers are spraying to control diseases and taking all precautions necessary in case of any freeze damage. Crawfish producers are still putting out traps and livestock producers feeding hay and fertilizing pasture.

---

**MARYLAND AND DELAWARE:** Overall, the month of February was rainy, snowy and cold on most part of the region with historical single digit low temperature. Both states experienced snow and rain precipitation in the ranges of 0.16 to 0.079 inches for a single day in the areas of Hagerstown, Maryland and Wilmington, Delaware respectively. Delaware registered maximum temperatures reaching 62.0 degrees Fahrenheit with daily average of 36.0 degrees Fahrenheit, and minimum temperature reaching -4 with daily average of 17.0 degrees Fahrenheit. Maryland reported maximum temperatures reaching 54.0 degrees Fahrenheit, daily average 34.0 degrees Fahrenheit, and minimum reaching -6 degrees Fahrenheit with daily low average 17.0 degrees Fahrenheit. Some reports of poor, drowned out spots have been reported in small grain fields. Farmers have not been able to get in the fields as much as they would want with this weather. 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, and attending meetings.

---

**MICHIGAN:** Topsoil moisture 80% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 5% short, 75% adequate, 19% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 5% very poor, 7% poor, 38% fair, 42% good, 8% excellent. Precipitation for the month of February averaged 1.12 inches throughout the State, 0.30 inches below normal. Temperature for the month of February averaged 8.0 degrees, 13.9 degrees below normal. Two storms dumped large amounts of snow across the Lower Peninsula of Michigan between February 1-4. During the following week, the Upper Peninsula saw between 3-8 inches of snow. Storms that brought significant snowfall to most Midwestern states during February 15-17 and February 20-22 missed most of Michigan; however, lake effect snow showers did bring significant precipitation to counties along the Lake Michigan coast and the Upper Peninsula. With colder than normal temperatures prevailing throughout the month of February, snow cover remained good in most areas of the State. With temperatures for the month 10-15°F below normal along the Great Lakes, Lake Erie and Huron were almost completely ice covered, while Lake Superior had only a small portion of open water remaining. By the third week of the month, average low temperatures across the state were below 0°F. Some producers expressed concerns about the effect of extreme low temperatures on winter wheat and alfalfa in areas where the snow pack was thinner, and in many areas, respondents indicated that they would need to wait until the snow melts and the ground thaws to make to better assess the crops. Dairy operations reported challenges with teats

freezing, pipeline washing, and manure handling. Orchardists expressed worry about damage to cold sensitive fruits, such as peaches and vinifera grapes, for the second year in a row. Maple producers have not yet begun tapping.

---

**MINNESOTA:** February started off colder than normal with temperatures comparable to early January. Temperatures warmed up from February 7-10 but quickly returned to below normal. New record daytime cold maximums and nighttime lows were set in various locations during mid-February. The statewide average temperature for February was 7.3 degrees, 9.8 degrees below average. Snow fell across the central and southern parts of the state on the 3rd, with Rochester reporting a new daily record snowfall of 3.9 inches, and Faribault reporting as much as 10 inches. Another storm came February 10-11 bringing freezing rain to the southern part of the state, but record daily snowfall around 5 inches to areas in the northern part of the state. Precipitation for the month, at nearly one-half inch, was almost a quarter of an inch below average. The lack of snow cover combined with colder than normal temperatures has farmers concerned about winter kill of alfalfa.

---

**MISSISSIPPI:** February started off a little rainy and ended with frequent rain occurring the last two weeks of the month. Temperatures for the month ranged from highs of 70.2 degrees in Hattiesburg during the second week to 16.3 degrees in University during the third week. Rainfall occurred 1 to 2 days of the first week in Mississippi averaging about a half an inch. The second week in January had little rain. Most farm and ranch work was geared towards preparing for planting in the spring and taking care of livestock. It's been too cool and rainy to do much else.

---

**MISSOURI:** Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 10% short, 72% adequate, 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 22% short, 71% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 3% short, 90% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 13% short, 85% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture and range condition 6% very poor, 34% poor, 39% fair, 19% good, 2% excellent. Winter Wheat condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 57% fair, 31% good, 1% excellent.

---

**MONTANA:** Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 5% last year; 16% short, 17% last year; 75% adequate, 73% last year; 6% surplus, 5% last year. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 4% last year; 16% short, 16% last year; 68% adequate, 76% last year; 12% surplus, 4% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 71% none, 74% last year; 22% light, 19% last year; 5% moderate, 6% last year; 2% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 65% none, 76% last year; 25% light, 16% last year; 8% moderate, 7% last year; 2% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 37% very poor, 6% last year; 31% poor, 22% last year; 25% fair, 40% last year; 7% good, 25% last year; 0% excellent, 7% last year. Livestock grazing accessibility – 49% open, 17% last year; 24% difficult, 31% last year; 27% closed, 52% last year. Livestock birthing – calving 10% completed, 10% last year. Livestock birthing – lambing 5% completed, 5% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle and calves 96% fed, 99% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 97% fed, 97% last year. The month ending February 28 began unseasonably warm and dry and ended cold with scattered snow showers. High temperatures across the state ranged from the lower 40s to 70 degrees with the statewide high recorded in Hardin, Roundup and Yellowtail at 70 degrees. Low temperatures ranged from the mid -20s to the upper teens with the statewide low temperature of -25 recorded at Jordan and West Yellowstone. All reporting stations received at least some measurable precipitation for the month of February and Olney recorded the highest amount received with 5.76 inches of moisture. Soil moisture conditions decreased from the previous month due to limited precipitation across the state. Winter wheat conditions suffered from a lack of adequate snow cover and a return to freezing temperatures during the last week of the month. Conversely, reporters are noting that livestock are overwintering well due to the warmer than normal temperatures.

---

**NEBRASKA:** Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 30% short, 66% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 26% short, 65% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 35% fair, 57% good, 5% excellent. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 8% short, 91% adequate, and 1% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 0% very short, 6% short, 92% adequate, 2% surplus. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 73% good, 13% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 13% fair, 76% good, 11% excellent. For the month of February 2015, temperatures averaged below normal across the eastern two-thirds of the State. Snow cover was light as the month came to a close, allowing livestock continued access to stalk fields. Calving was underway with producers taking additional care to protect the newborn from the cold. Crop producers were focused on bookwork and preparations for spring field work.

---

**NEVADA:** The first part of the week of February in northern Nevada was dry, with some gusty winds picking up early in the week. Towards the end of the first week and on into the second week, a light precipitation occurred in the

North/Central regions of Nevada. Temperatures in southern Nevada were above average for the first three weeks of the month, with temperatures hovering between 65 and 79 degrees. A record temperature of 64 degrees was reached in Reno during the second week of the month, with 0.03 inches of precipitation reported in the area during this time. During the last two weeks of February, a light snow fell in some of the higher northern regions of Nevada. The last week of February brought above normal temperatures to the southern Nevada region, temperatures were above normal except for Sunday and Monday, where it fell to 49 and 59 degrees, respectively, which was below this historical average of 64 degrees.

---

**NEW ENGLAND:** Several snowstorms affected New England throughout the month of February. The snowstorm that occurred from February 7-9 brought snowfall amounts of 31 inches in Rockland, MA; 21.5 inches in Woodford, VT; 18.5 inches near Weare, NH; 13.5 inches in Winsted, CT; 16.1 inches in North Foster, RI; and 18 inches in Newburyport, ME. On February 15th, a blizzard warning was in effect for coastal communities from Rhode Island to Maine until the 16th. This storm brought nearly 2 feet of snow to the region, including 24 inches in Lubechad, ME; 22 inches in Acushnet, MA; and 20.5 inches in Salisbury, MA. The total snowfall that occurred in New England during February has helped set some all-time records in parts of the region. February 2015 brought a total of 64.8 inches of snow to Boston, MA, as well as 53.4 inches to Worcester, MA, and 58.3 inches to Newport, RI, making it their snowiest month on record. The snowfall total of 42.4 inches in Bangor, ME made February its fifth snowiest month on record. In Connecticut and New Hampshire, the pruning of orchards has been delayed due to the deep snow. In Maine as well as all of New England, farmers continued to have an excess of snow on the ground and on roofs, creating concern for the operations throughout the remaining winter. Several greenhouses and high tunnels in the region collapsed due to the snow (CT, NH, RI). Farmers in the region were also concerned about frozen water lines and the potential for winterkill on crops. Orchardists were on guard for potential winter damage to fruit-bearing trees. Farm activities in February included tapping Southern-sloping sugarbush (CT), clearing snow and keeping livestock fed and dry (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT), and planting some seedlings in greenhouses (ME).

---

**NEW JERSEY:** Severe cold and snow/sleet/ice have made for difficult travel or field work. Animals have needed special care and shelter. Some snow plowing money has helped farmers and landscapers. Ag Meetings have continued without much interruption. Cold weather may have damaged peach and grape buds. Greenhouses have been started for early spring production. Winter storm Linus brought lots of heavy snow to Northeast region during the month of February.

---

**NEW MEXICO:** Late-month cold fronts delivered beneficial snow to much of New Mexico, improving snow pack levels and the spring irrigation water outlook. Ranchers across the state were preparing for calving and lambing. Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 6% short, 85% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 6% short, 83% adequate. Winter wheat condition 5% fair, 80% good, 15% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 2% very poor, 2% poor, 40% fair, 54% good, 2% excellent. Cows calved 4% complete. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 90%. Sheep and lambs condition 25% very poor, 17% poor, 5% fair, 53% good. Ewes lambed 4% complete. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 91%. Pasture and range condition 11% very poor, 8% poor, 33% fair, 32% good, 16% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 10 percent very short, 15 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 5 percent very short, 10 percent short, and 85 percent adequate.

---

**NEW YORK:** Cold February weather is causing livestock and perennial forage condition concerns, water flow problems and manure spreading difficulties. Snow cover continued or arrived depending on the area. While mostly beneficial, structure damage has been reported. Maple season is late and there are fears it may be cut short by a quick thaw. 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 0.9. Topsoil moisture 21% adequate and 79% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 50% adequate and 49% surplus. The state received widespread precipitation this month with some areas receiving over 4.0 inches. The last two weeks of February were especially cold with snow and ice. The cold, wet conditions have increased feed consumption, delayed farm activities and may have an adverse affect on the quality of small grains. Average temperatures for the month were below normal across the state with some areas averaging 10 degrees below normal.

---

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 28% short, 67% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 18% short, 76% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 4% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 77% good, 9% excellent. Cattle and calf death

loss 0% heavy, 49% average, 51% light. Sheep and lambs condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 73% good, 7% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss 0% heavy, 46% average, 54% light. Hay and roughage supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 83% adequate, and 15% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 4% short, 87% adequate, and 8% surplus. Below normal temperatures were experienced statewide with light precipitation in the central portion of the State. The lack of snow cover, combined with cold temperatures, continued to be a concern for winter wheat crops. Extreme cold temperatures caused concern for early calving.

---

**OHIO:** Topsoil moisture 2% short, 69% adequate, 29% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% short, 75% adequate, 20% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 26% fair, 59% good, 8% excellent. Precipitation for the month of February averaged 1.50 inches throughout the state, 0.76 inches below normal. Temperature for the month of February averaged 16.9 degrees, 13.1 degrees below normal. Reports noted that wheat was well insulated by snow cover so sub-zero temperatures aren't expected to have caused many problems. Most areas are reporting adequate snow cover, and temperatures have been bitterly cold. Livestock producers have been dealing with frozen water and livestock loss. Some fruit tree damage expected as temperatures reached record lows. Winter Wheat condition increased to 67% good to excellent whereas the month prior it was 59%.

---

**OKLAHOMA:** Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 41% short, 44% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 28% very short, 43% short, 28% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter Wheat 4% very poor, 12% poor, 42% fair, 41% good, 1% excellent; grazed 45% this month, 42% last year, 39% average. Canola 3% very poor, 27% poor, 46% fair, 24% good. Rye 3% very poor, 13% poor, 55% fair, 28% good, 1% excellent; grazed 72% this month, 70% last year, 63% average. Oats 4% very poor, 33% poor, 45% fair, 17% good, 1% excellent; grazed 32% this month, 30% last year, 25% average. Livestock 2% very poor, 7% poor, 39% fair, 47% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and Range 5% very poor, 28% poor, 42% fair, 24% good, 1% excellent. Precipitation levels continued to be rated below normal throughout the state, with the largest departures seen in the North Central and Southwest districts. The state received no more than 2 inches of rainfall throughout February with the exception of the Southeast District, which averaged 2.03 inches. Recent snow events provided light moisture in areas of the Panhandle and Central Oklahoma, while freeze damage may have affected wheat and canola in the Southwest district. Drought conditions worsened across the western half of the state, with areas of the Southwest and West Central districts experiencing extreme to exceptional drought. Temperatures averaged in the mid 30's across the state, with the lowest temperature recorded at 1 degree at Kenton on Tuesday, February 24th and the highest temperature recorded at 85 degrees at Arnett on Saturday February 7th. Temperatures were lowest during the first and last week of February, with several Mesonet locations experiencing freezing temperatures in single digits. Warmer temperatures were experienced mid-month throughout the state. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly short to adequate.

---

**OREGON:** In western Oregon grass fields for hay production were ahead of schedule. Warmer temperatures have helped start spring grass growth. Slug activity in grass seed fields required multiple treatments. Spring wheat and oil seed plantings have gone well. Many tree fruit crops were well along in bloom. Mild weather pushed along bud break with tree fruit and berry crops. Plum trees were in bloom presently with peach and nectarine orchards just beginning to bloom. Pastures were continuing to improve. Currently, there was moderate pasture productivity and most livestock producers had calves on their pastures. In eastern Oregon winter wheat was looking good. Winter kill on canola was confirmed in some fields, and those fields were replanted to wheat. Roses were beginning to leaf out.

---

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Cold temperatures this February broke record lows in Harrisburg with a mean temperature of 20.9 degrees(F), the previous record being 21.4 degrees(F). An Arctic Blast, dubbed the "Siberian Express" brought extreme cold temperatures. Fortunately Pennsylvania dodged much of the snowfall experienced by surrounding States. The high temperature for this February (Harrisburg) was reported at 42 degrees(F) while the low was reported at -4 degrees(F) with snowfall totaling 11.2 inches.

---

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** The state average temperature for the month of February was six degree below the long-term average. The state average rainfall for the month was 0.6 inches. In District 10 livestock are doing pretty good. The District was extremely wet during the month of February, with rain, sleet, snow and freezing rain. Due to the wet ground very little soil preparation has occurred. In District 20 activities are proceeding at a normal pace. The Wheat crop is fair to good right now in this area. In District 30 February has been cold and wet. Small-grain growth has been slowed by the cold weather which leaves very little for grazing. Hay usage for cattle growers has been higher. The peach crop seems to be ready to bloom as soon as warmer weather appears. Not much land has been prepared for corn planting because of the wet weather and cold conditions. Currently little if any top dress N has been applied. Soil is extremely wet, and does not

look it will dry out in the short term. In District 50 they have had a lot of cold weather this month, with around 4 in of rain, and some frozen precipitation in some areas. This has caused some damage to winter vegetable crops such as collard, kale, mustard/turnip, and cilantro/parsley. Strawberries have been covered in the coldest events and have fared well. Land prep has been affected somewhat by the wet weather but is proceeding close to normal. Some early planting of cabbage, broccoli, collard, and kale transplanted has been delayed due to the threat of severe cold weather. Some wheat has been top dressed but a lot has not. In District 80 February has been a month of icy weather and frequent rains keeping most field work stalled in the area. Many growers report that they have not been able to apply fertilizer and nitrogen to small grain crops and cannot attempt much field work due to boggy soils. As a result, most small grain crops appear yellow and not progressing well in growth. More rain is forecasted for the first week of March. Most growers say they are quickly falling behind in getting necessary work completed. Sunshine and fair weather is needed.

---

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Topsoil moisture 10% very short, 35% short, 55% adequate. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 36% short, 56% adequate. Winter wheat condition 7% poor, 44% fair, 49% good. Stock water supplies 5% very short, 20% short, 72% adequate, 3% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 3% poor, 89% adequate, 8% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions 9% fair, 84% good, 7% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss 1% heavy, 58% average, 41% light. Sheep and lamb condition 1% poor, 12% fair, 77% good, 10% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss 1% heavy, 51% average, 48% light. For the month of February 2015, near average temperatures were experienced in the western half of the State, while temperatures were well below average in the east. Light precipitation occurred throughout most of the State.

---

**TENNESSEE:** Days suitable for fieldwork 0.5. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 2% short, 43% adequate, 53% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 10% short, 48% adequate, 39% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 2% poor, 38% fair, 46% good, 14% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 7% very poor, 32% poor, 47% fair, 12% good, 2% excellent. Much of the state was still feeling the effects of the recent ice storms. Livestock producers were forced to feed extra hay and are concerned about the condition of their herds.

---

**TEXAS:** Precipitation varied during February with 0.1 to 6.0 inches of rainfall across much of the state. North East Texas received the highest levels of the precipitation. Winter Wheat and oats progressed through the state. Cotton harvest reached 100 percent. Field preparation began for cotton and sorghum planting. Corn planting commenced in areas of the Blacklands, the Coastal Bend, and the Lower Valley. Vegetable planting remained active throughout the month of February. Livestock were in fair condition with producers relying on supplemental feeding throughout the state. Range and pasture rated fair to good during the month of February.

---

**UTAH:** Following a drier-than-normal January, February weather conditions did little to improve upon producer expectations for adequate summer water supplies. Current reservoir levels remained a large concern for producers across the state. Scofield reservoir, which serves Carbon County, was below 20 percent of average storage capacity. Mild temperatures in the northwestern portion of the state, where some producers were applying fertilizer and seeding spring wheat, jumpstarted fall barley and winter wheat green up approximately one month ahead of normal. In Weber County, the alfalfa crop had come out of dormancy, and producers were planning herbicide applications nearly 3 weeks ahead of normal. 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. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 41% short, 58% adequate. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 39% short, 51% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% poor, 24% fair, 71% good, 4% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 9% fair, 77% good, 14% excellent. Cows calved 15% complete. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 57%. Sheep and lambs condition 17% fair, 76% good, 7% excellent. Farm flock ewes lambed 12% complete. Range flock ewes lambed 1% complete. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 53%. Stock water supply 1% very short, 16% short, 83% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 1% short, 88% adequate, 11% surplus. Pasture and range condition 13% poor, 40% fair, 44% good, 3% excellent.

---

**VIRGINIA:** Winter wheat 3% poor, 47% fair, 50% good. Oats 73% fair, 27% good. Barley conditions 4% poor, 42% fair, 54% good. Livestock 1% very poor, 7% poor, 35% fair, 48% good, 9% excellent. Pasture 11% very poor, 30% poor, 40% fair, 18% good, 1% excellent. Except for a few warm days at the beginning of the month, February was a cold and snowy month. In several places, lows were recorded at sub-zero, breaking records in some counties. Snow on the ground limited feed obtained from pastures; hay stocks were quickly being depleted. Hay from out of the State was being shipped in. Prices on hay climbed upwards due to the limited supply. Small grains showed little growth due to the weather; however, good weather is expected to compensate for losses and improve conditions. Cattle showed some weight loss because of the weather. Spring calving was under way; higher than normal death losses were reported. Other farming

activities for the month included preparing greenhouses for tobacco starts, making market and production plans, and attending conferences.

---

**WASHINGTON:** Respondents reported that February temperatures were above average for the month. Above average temperatures promoted early growth of crops and pastures. Fruit growers have expressed concern that trees and vines emerged from dormancy approximately two weeks earlier than normal. Some winter crops came out of dormancy which could cause vulnerability to frost. Calving is underway and has been running smoothly due to the mild winter. Hay exporters are working fast to satisfy first cutting contracts. Field and equipment preparation were reported as major activities to get ready for the 2015 crop season. Some reports indicate damage to yield for dryland winter wheat due to extreme fluctuation of temperatures over the winter. Respondents reported the need for increased precipitation in the coming months.

---

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil moisture was 4% short, 72% adequate, 24% surplus, compared to 2% short, 81% adequate, and 17% surplus last year. Subsoil moisture was 1% very short, 8% short, 73% adequate, and 18% surplus, comparison data not available. Hay and roughage supplies were 3% very short, 15% short, 75% adequate, and 7% surplus compared to 3% very short, 10% short, 85% adequate, and 2% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 5% short, 89% adequate, and 6% surplus compared to 1% very short, 5% short, 93% adequate, and 1% surplus last year. Winter wheat conditions were 3% poor, 30% fair, 62% good, and 5% excellent. Cattle and calves were 5% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, and 11% excellent. Calving was 34% complete, compared to 29% last year. Sheep and lambs were 1% very poor, 4% poor, 28% fair, 62% good, and 5% excellent. Lambing was 35% complete, compared to 33% last year. Farming activities for the month included lambing and calving; some cattle and sheep producers have lost calves and lambs due to the extremely cold temperatures.

---

**WISCONSIN:** Temperatures were well below average for the month of February, ranging -10.3 to -12.2 degrees below normal. Average highs ranged from 17.2 in Eau Claire to 21.9 in Milwaukee, while average lows ranged from -1.3 to 6.8 in those cities. Total precipitation was below average in most cities, from 0.22 inches in Eau Claire to 0.81 in Milwaukee. Snowfall totals across the state were slightly below to moderately above average. Milwaukee received the most snowfall out of the major cities with 19.6 inches, exactly twice the historical February average of 9.8 for that city. Eau Claire experienced only 3.9 inches of snowfall, nearly half the 7.3 inch historical average for the city. Despite the very cold temperatures, a lack of snowfall and moderately dry weather allowed a few farmers to continue harvesting crops.

---

**WYOMING:** Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 46% short, 51% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 43% short, 52% adequate. Winter wheat condition 3% fair, 97% good. Livestock condition 1% poor, 2% fair, 82% good, 15% excellent. Stock water supplies 12% short, 88% adequate. Hay and roughage supplies 89% adequate, 11% surplus. Calving progress 12%, 12% 2014, 13% avg. Lambing progress 22%, 15% 2014, 13% avg. Sheep shorn 22%, 17% 2014, 14% avg. Range and pasture condition 7% very poor, 10% poor, 40% fair, 41% 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).

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch.....	(202) 720-2127
Anthony Prillaman, Head, Field Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Brent Chittenden – Oats, Rye, Wheat.....	(202) 720-8068
Angie Considine – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Tony Dahlman – Crop Weather, Barley.....	(202) 720-7621
Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet.....	(202) 720-9526
James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay.....	(202) 690-8533
Bianca Pruneda – Peanuts, Rice.....	(202) 720-7688
Travis Thorson – Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369

## Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).