



# Crop Progress - State Stories

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**ALABAMA:** The month of January experienced a range of frigid temperatures along with a winter storm that moved through the state the last week of the month. Many areas of the state experienced wintery mix of ice and freezing rain, followed by snow. The frigid conditions caused power outages, hazardous road conditions, and halted road travel for a few days until warmer temperatures could provide relief. The US Drought Monitor released on January 28, 2014 indicated that 43.51 percent of the state of Alabama had become abnormally dry, compared to 2.65 percent at the start of the calendar year and 56.68 percent a year ago. The remainder of the state rated as free from drought conditions. The precipitation occurring the last week of January should help relieve the drought ratings in some areas. The average mean temperature for the month ranged from 30.9°F in Hamilton to 46.2°F in Dauphin Island; total precipitation ranged from 0.96 inches in Demopolis to 4.00 inches in Clayton. Livestock producers were concerned with the freezing cold temperatures and the costs to maintain feed for their animals. Cattle producers were busy buying extra hay and supplemental nutrients to sustain energy levels, and poultry producers were busy keeping birds at optimum temperatures to promote growth.

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**ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures were above normal the month of January, with highs in the upper 70s°F and low 80s°F. Temperatures in January ranged from 2°F below normal to 11°F above normal. Grand Canyon recorded the coldest temperature at 0°F, the first week of the month. During the third week, the warmer temperatures ranged from 2°F below normal to 9°F above normal with highs reaching 81°F in Parker and Yuma. Cold temperatures improved moisture during the first week of the month. Conditions dried out as warm temperatures continued to climb the remainder of the month. Cotton harvesting was complete by the end of January. Alfalfa harvesting was active on about half the fields and sheeping off continued on various alfalfa fields across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month. Conditions were favorable for field work throughout the month of January.

**ARKANSAS:** Temperatures were mostly above historic values during the month of January. Temperatures have risen to the 60s°F more than a few times already this month; however, those highs are followed with temperatures in the teens. January precipitation was below average for the lower regions in the state, but hit normal rates for the rest of the districts. The month ended with temperatures a few degrees lower than normal. Precipitation continued to be lacking at the end of the month, keeping the burn ban in effect. For many producers, field preparations were still halted and equipment repairs are the main focus. Many farmers ended the month conducting normal agricultural activities in advance of a looming cold front.

**CALIFORNIA:** Drought continued throughout January with only slight precipitation coming at the end of the month. A high pressure ridge persisted over the West Coast and brought dry and mild conditions to the State. This pattern, combined with a high pressure center located over the Great Basin, resulted in an offshore wind pattern which developed into a moderate Santa Ana wind episode across Southern California. Daytime highs were generally above normal for the month. Non-irrigated silage and wheat plantings suffered from drought conditions and failed to germinate. Some oat fields were replanted and alfalfa fields remained dormant. Harvest continued for oranges, tangerines, mandarins, lemons and avocados. Kiwi and grape vines were pruned. Orchards and vineyards were irrigated throughout the month due to the lack of rain. Almond, walnut and pistachio orchards were pruned and irrigated. Harvest was ongoing for broccoli, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, collard greens, kale, lettuce and winter squash. Range and non-irrigated pasture remained in fair to poor condition. Calving season ended, sheep grazed some alfalfa fields and bees were moved in preparation for almond pollination.

**COLORADO:** Precipitation during January was concentrated primarily along the Front Range and into the Northwestern district—higher altitudes generally experienced the most precipitation events. Statewide, mountain snowpack is 94% of average as of January 28. Temperatures were below normal in the San Luis Valley, Northwest and northern tip of the southwest district. Temperatures elsewhere were mostly near to slightly above normal. The winter wheat crop condition was good overall with some isolated patches of poor snow cover. Localized high winds have had minimal impacts on wheat at the state level. The majority of soil moisture ratings were adequate for topsoil, but subsoil moisture was lacking.

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**DELAWARE:** Some of the coldest nights in recent memory were experienced throughout the state. The unusually cold nights and prolonged period of below freezing temperatures were hard on the livestock. Near the end of January low temperature records were broken in Sussex County. Two-thirds of the state reported the county being covered by several inches of snow. There was very limited agricultural activity during the month.

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**FLORIDA:** Limited rain received first part of month. Last week the majority of State received rain. Low temperatures ranged from 14 to 23°F. Soybean harvest completed. Planting oats, wheat, rye, for winter grazing. Sugarcane harvesting Hendry, Glades, Palm Beach counties on schedule. Potato, cabbage planting completed in northern part of State. Okeechobee County harvesting cabbage. Varying degrees of losses on vegetables, strawberries reported throughout the State due to freezing temperatures. North Florida strawberries, collards, and turnips had frost damage, fungal disease due to freezing conditions. Central Florida strawberries hit by freeze. Cold winds battered vegetable crops in southwest growing area, requiring replanting of okra, sweet potatoes, green beans, strawberries. Palm Beach County farmers reported damage to green beans, some sweet corn acreage lost due to freezing temperatures. Anticipate yield lower than normal. Vegetables, fruits marketed included avocados, tomatoes, peppers, herbs, cucumbers, eggplant, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, snap beans, radishes, escarole, lettuce, kale. Pasture condition down due to cooler temperatures, lack of soil moisture. Winter grazing stressed due to drought, freezing temperatures. Cattle condition primarily fair to good across the State. Hay, supplements fed to cattle in majority of the State. In citrus growing area, high temperatures for January began in low 80s, upper 70s, decreased to lower 70s and lower 80s by month's end. Rainfall scattered, generally light, as dry season continued. Dry conditions in citrus producing regions remained fairly consistent, with western area completely drought free. Field workers reported small sizes on all varieties. Grove activity included harvesting, resetting new trees, pushing dead groves, replanting new citrus, mowing, fertilizing, psyllid control. Thirty-nine of 43 packinghouses had opened, begun shipping small quantities of fruit. Fifteen of 19 processing plants open.

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**GEORGIA:** For the month of January, high temperatures for southern Georgia averaged from the high 50s to low 60s°F while the lows were in the mid 30s to as high as 40°F. Precipitation in southern Georgia was varied as the Georgia-Florida border received 5 to 6 inches of rain while the Savannah area received around 2 inches. Northern Georgia had daily highs average in the mid to high 50s°F and lows in the low to mid 20s°F. Precipitation in north Georgia was also varied as the Athens area received 3.5 to 4.5 inches of rain while the Atlanta area received around 2 inches. Moisture conditions compare favorably to last year as none of the state is considered to be in drought compared to 61% in a severe or worse drought in January 2013. Most agricultural activity in the month of January has been livestock and cover crop related.

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**HAWAII:** January 2014 started the year off with 57 percent of the state designated in some stage of drought. Throughout the month, precipitation fell mostly in heavy passing showers. These heavy showers occurred most frequently in windward areas, and were more isolated in most leeward areas. Overall, the increased rainfall this month continues to improve the drought conditions for most areas. Some leeward areas, particularly in Hawaii and Maui Counties, continue to be very dry, have received little to no precipitation this month, and still have a drought rating of extreme. Irrigation reservoirs operated by the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) remain sufficiently full and continue to service areas where service is available. The month of January ends with a large storm system bringing a great amount of precipitation to many areas across the state. The first week of January saw an increase in rainfall over the past several weeks. Trade winds were consistent most of the week, bringing heavy rains to windward locations and lighter more isolated showers to leeward areas. Pasture conditions remained very poor in most areas due to continued lack of moisture. Across the state, average weekly total rainfall was 1.18 inch. During the second week, overall drought conditions improved with the eastern areas of Kauai and central areas of Oahu having the drought classification removed. This improvement in drought conditions was tempered by an increase in the drought intensity levels on leeward areas of Maui and Molokai. Trade winds were strong throughout much of the second week in January continuing to bring much needed precipitation to many areas, particularly to the windward (eastern) side of the islands. The average weekly total rainfall this week was 0.51 inch. Pastures received a boost from the rainfall this week, however much more is still needed to encourage re-growth of forage in areas which have been severely affected by the drought. Rainfall totals increased slightly

during the third week of January as compared to the previous week. Slight improvements in drought conditions were observed along the southern shore of Kauai. While, along the western areas of the Island of Hawaii, drought levels saw an increase in rating by one category due to lack of precipitation in these specific areas. While the amount of precipitation received this week varied by location, average weekly total measured by monitored National Weather Service automatic rain gauges was 0.55 inch across the state. During the final week of January, drought conditions again showed a slight improvement over those of the previous week. Improvements in drought conditions occurred along the southern coast of Kauai and the South Point area on the Island of Hawaii. Trade winds remained steady throughout the week with the occasional stronger gust; however precipitation totals decreased to an average weekly total of 2.63 inches. As the month of January comes to a close, a large storm system is currently situated over the state bringing heavy rains to many areas, both windward and leeward locations. Statewide the average monthly rainfall was 4.43 inches with only the Hana Station on Maui Island recording above normal monthly January rainfall.

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**IDAHO:** 15%, 12% 2013, 15% avg. Lambing complete: 14%, 18% 2013, 15% avg. Winter wheat emerged: 100%, 100% 2013, 100% avg. The Benewah County Extension Educator reports snow is protecting winter wheat from extreme cold conditions. Franklin County Extension Educator reports below average precipitation levels with good livestock conditions.

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**ILLINOIS:** For the month of January, temperatures averaged 18.5°F, 6.2°F below normal. Statewide precipitation averaged 1.78 inches, 0.15 inches below normal. The majority of the dormant winter wheat crop is rated in fair to good condition.

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**INDIANA:** The weather during January was significantly colder than normal. Average temperatures across the state ranged between 5 and 8°F lower than historic averages. Precipitation varied across the state from 2.22 to 2.81 inches. Northern districts experienced a surplus of precipitation 30 to 40 percent above average, with southern districts experiencing a deficit of 20 to 30 percent. Most of the state has experienced snowfall of over 18 inches for the month. Persistent snow cover shielded wheat and alfalfa but limited field activities. Poor road conditions have made essential transportation problematic for many as well. In extreme cases, multiple days of milk production were dumped when hauling was not possible. Livestock owners have had to run through hay stocks faster than anticipated to keep livestock fed in the cold weather, and many areas are experiencing a propane shortage. Other activities included income tax preparations and attending farm shows.

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**IOWA:** Topsoil moisture 18% very short, 39% short, 43% adequate, and 0% surplus. Iowa experienced below normal temperatures throughout most of January. Little participation fell across most of the State except in the northeast. High winds throughout the month have caused soil erosion. Livestock losses have been normal. Some pork producers are still concerned with PEDV and heavier than normal losses.

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**KANSAS:** For the month of January 2014, dry conditions prevailed across most of Kansas. The snowfall during the month did not bring much moisture, as most of the State saw less than half the normal precipitation. Average monthly temperatures were cooler than normal for most of the eastern two thirds of Kansas. The western third of the State saw around normal temperatures, with the warmest being in the far northwest. Farmers in areas with little to no snow cover were concerned with winterkill on their wheat crop. Some farmers began top dressing their wheat and got an early start to applying anhydrous ammonia. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 19 percent very short, 38 short, 42 adequate, and 1 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 20 percent very short, 37 short, 43 adequate, and 0 surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 3 percent very poor, 17 poor, 45 fair, 33 good, and 2 excellent. Declining stock water supplies and extreme weather swings were the biggest concerns of livestock producers. Sheep and lamb conditions were 1 percent very poor, 1 poor, 39 fair, 56 good, and 3 excellent. Sheep and lamb losses were 18 percent below normal, 81 normal, and 1 above normal. Cattle and calf conditions were 1 percent very poor, 2 poor, 36 fair, 58 good, and 3 excellent. Cattle and calf losses were 13 percent below normal, 85 normal, and 2 above normal. Hay and forage supplies rated 5 percent very short, 10 short, 77 adequate, and 8 surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 11 percent very short, 19 short, 69 adequate, and 1 surplus.

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**KENTUCKY:** Kentucky experienced mixed weather conditions during January. The state recorded temperatures from below normal to unseasonably warm. The Commonwealth experienced some periods of dangerously cold weather where wind chill values dropped below -20°F at times. Except for the second week of January which saw well above normal rainfall, precipitation for the remainder of the month was below normal. Tobacco producers continued to strip their

tobacco when conditions allowed. Farmers were kept busy tending their livestock during cold spells which caused stress to animals. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state.

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**LOUISIANA:** The state averaged 2.11 inches of rain during the month of January, 2.88 inches below normal. Field crop producers continued to prepare for spring planting as weather conditions allow. Louisiana experienced temperatures in the teens along with freezing rain and snow in some part of the state. Strawberry producers took precautions to avoid any major freeze damage as night temperatures dipped into the mid 10s°F and high 20°F s during January. Livestock producers continued supplemental feeding. Crawfish producers continued to put out traps as early harvest began.

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**MARYLAND:** Extremely cold weather was experienced by much of the State in January with many respondents reporting their county being under several inches of snow. The colder than normal temperatures resulted in higher heating cost for maintaining livestock. The cold weather and snow cover has prevented many normal field activities. Soil moisture is not much of a concern as most of the state is in a deep freeze with some counties reporting a freeze depth of up to one foot. Hay supplies are tight, but are not of concern yet.

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**MICHIGAN:** Low temperatures and regular snowfall have created a persistent snow cover that has given some protection to wheat and alfalfa but brought field activities to a standstill. Precipitation for the last four weeks ending February 2 ranged between 2.02 inches and 2.28 inches in the Upper Peninsula and between 1.94 inches and 3.53 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 12.7 to 23.5°F, with a state average of 19.2°F. Topsoil and subsoil moistures were mostly adequate to surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 13% poor, 28% fair, 49% good, and 9% excellent. Range and pasture conditions rated 18% very poor, 5% poor, 38% fair, 38% good, and 1% excellent. The harsher than usual winter temperatures have complicated lambing and calving. Road conditions created obstacles for hauling of milk and hay and the delivery of grain. The effect of weather on corn left standing is still unknown.

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**MINNESOTA:** January was cold, snowy, and windy. Snowfall amounts for the month were normal to above normal throughout the State, with frequent measurable events. International Falls had 17 days with measurable amounts of snow. The State's coldest temperature was -47°F reported at Babbitt on January 3rd. During the week ending January 5th, the North Central district's weekly average temperature was 21.5 °F below normal at -14.9°F. The Northwest district experienced an average temperature of 0.3°F during the week ending January 12, with no measurable precipitation. The statewide average temperature for the week ending January 20 was 13.8°F, which was 2.8°F above normal. The fourth week in January was much colder, with a statewide average temperature of 3.5°F, 8.0°F below normal. Several daily record snowfall amounts were set on January 30th including 6.4 inches at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

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**MISSISSIPPI:** January in Mississippi was a month of variable temperatures. Highs ranged from 28°F to 68°F, sometimes in the same week. Record breaking cold, with lows in the single digits and teens, occurred multiple times throughout Mississippi during January, leading to hard freeze warnings. Windy and dry conditions across much of the State, several counties instituted burn bans later in the month with fire weather conditions developing and red flag warnings. During the last week of January, many counties in central and southern Mississippi experienced snow and sleet. Snowfall ranged from 0.5 inches around the Interstate 20 corridor while areas around Puckett received 4 inches. Sleet was more prevalent as you moved into southern Mississippi, with some areas reported upwards of 3 inches. Farmers and ranchers spent the month caring for their livestock during the extreme cold periods and preparing for spring planting.

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**MISSOURI:** January was colder and drier than normal. Average temperatures were 2 to 6°F below normal. Precipitation averaged 1.04 inches compared to the 30 year average of 2.06 inches. The condition of dormant winter wheat crop ranges from poor to excellent with the majority rated fair. Cold weather and ice covering the winter wheat crop has deteriorated conditions. Some late planted winter wheat in the southeast district has failed.

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**MONTANA:** Topsoil moisture 9% very short, 16% last year; 16% short, 22% last year; 73% adequate, 57% last year; 2% surplus, 5% last year. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 27% last year; 20% short, 29% last year; 71% adequate, 43% last year; 1% surplus, 1% last year. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 2% last year; 5% poor, 7% last year; 48% fair, 50% last year; 43% good, 39% last year; 3% excellent, 2% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 76% none, 76% last year; 20% light, 18% last year; 4% moderate, 5% last year; 0% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – freeze & drought damage 78% none, 74% last year; 15% light, 19% last year; 6% moderate, 6% last year; 1% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 3% very poor, 14% last year; 11% poor, 20% last year; 72% fair, 49% last year; 12% good, 14% last year; 2% excellent, 3% last year. Livestock grazing 23% open, 45% last year; 34% difficult, 22% last year; 43% closed, 33% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle & calves 95%, 97% last year. Livestock receiving

supplemental feed – sheep & lambs 96%, 98% last year. Livestock birthing – calving completed 3%, 3% last year. Livestock birthing – lambing completed 1%, 1% last year. The month of January was mild with high winds during the first half of the month in most of Montana. Weather much turned colder with snow storms for the second half of January. Stanford received the highest amount of precipitation for the month with 2.41 inches of moisture. Most other stations reported receiving 0.04 to 2.35 inches of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the upper 30s°F to lower 60s°F, with the state-wide high temperature of 62°F recorded at Fort Benton. Most stations reported lows below 0°F with the coldest being Scobey at -30°F, followed by Plevna with -29°F.

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**NEBRASKA:** For the month of January, 2014, dry weather conditions caused soil moisture supplies to decrease throughout the month. Several days with very strong winds also contributed to the dry conditions. The lack of snow allowed cattle to continue grazing corn stalks. Producers were busy feeding livestock, hauling grain, and performing maintenance. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 16 percent very short, 44 short, 40 adequate, and 0 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 18 percent very short, 38 short, 44 adequate, and 0 surplus. Stock water supplies rated 6 percent very short, 12 short, 82 adequate, and 0 surplus. Hay and forage supplies rated 1 percent very short, 4 short, 91 adequate, 4 surplus. Winter wheat rated 3 percent very poor, 15 poor, 36 fair, 40 good, 6 excellent. Cattle and calf condition rated 0 percent very poor, 1 poor, 10 fair, 83 good, 6 excellent. Cattle and calf losses 4 percent below average, 91 average, 5 above average. Sheep and lamb condition rated 0 percent very poor, 0 poor, 6 fair, 94 good, 0 excellent. Sheep and lamb losses 3 percent below average, 94 average, 3 above average.

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**NEVADA:** January was abnormally dry and warm in Nevada. Temperatures for the month averaged 3 to 8°F above normal with significantly cold weather only arriving at the end of the month. Precipitation ranged from a trace in Las Vegas to .79 inch in Ely and Eureka. Precipitation totaled .42 inch in Elko, .38 inch in Reno, and .11 inch in Tonopah; all well below normal. Concerns over continuing drought intensified and contingency planning for crops and livestock intensified. Nevada was in severe to exceptional drought with much of the north in extreme drought. No reports of freeze damage were received. Winter pastures were largely depleted, making supplemental livestock feeding necessary. Hay continued to move to California dairy markets. Additional livestock culling was taking place due to high maintenance costs. Onion shipping continued to California ports for export and local markets. Potato processing was ongoing. Main farm and ranch activities included hay shipping, potato processing, onion and shipping, and livestock culling. Equipment repair was common and industry groups were holding meetings.

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**NEW ENGLAND:** Temperatures across most of New England ranged from 3°F below normal to 3°F above normal during January, with the above average temperatures limited to the State of Maine. Precipitation during the month generally ranged from 2.5 to 4.5 inches of water with the majority of New England reporting 9 to 22 inches of snow. Southern New England received above average snowfall for the month of January; the city of Boston received 22 inches. The first week of the month was dominated by an extreme cold wave associated with a southward shift in the polar vortex, bringing a snow storm, high winds, and abnormally frigid temperatures 20 to 35°F below average. During the second week, temperatures wildly fluctuated between bitterly cold readings and warm temperatures in the 50s°F and even 60s°F. An extended mild period with temperatures that were 10 to 25°F above average followed during the middle of January. A large portion of liquid precipitation fell during January 11 and January 14. A cold front moved across the region during January 18-19, resulting in a minor snowstorm and a return to persistently cold temperatures that slowly began moderating by the end of the month.

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**NEW JERSEY:** Temperatures on average statewide in January were about 5°F below normal. Precipitation was below normal in every county except Warren County, where it was above normal. Every county received snow accumulation during the month. Producer activities included attending meetings, equipment repair, greenhouse work, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

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**NEW MEXICO:** January began with dry weather, with temperatures near or a few degrees above normal. A big weather change occurred, as an upper level disturbance from the northeast pushed across the state, dropping temperatures and bringing a few snow showers. Cold temperatures gradually moderated and warmed, with very isolated precipitation reported. The month ended with normal to above normal temperatures. A few rain and snow showers in the higher elevations were received across the eastern plains.

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**NEW YORK:** New York experienced very cold temperatures with average snowfall in January 2014. Cold temperatures and high winds have combined for an extreme wind chill factor on many days. Most reports indicate below zero

temperatures during nighttime and temperatures in the teens during the daytime. The winter has been extremely challenging for some growers because of sustained cold. Some crop loss is expected for high tunnel winter greens. Reports indicate greens of all types are growing slowly. Peach growers around the state are also concerned about the 2014 crop. Initial reports have indicated some concern for alfalfa in some lower snowfall areas. Very few acres of corn or soybeans remain un-harvested, lack of snow cover may also hurt wheat stands due to cold temperatures. Additionally, there are reports of beef cow deaths due to being immobilized in frozen or icy conditions. As of January 31, 2014, the Albany area received 15.0 inches of snow for the month, with the greatest snowfall on January 2nd producing 7.1 inches of snow. The highest temperature of 56 degrees occurred on January 11th, while the lowest temperature of -12.0 occurred on January 4th. The average temperature was 19.7 degrees which is 2.9 below normal. A total of 2.31 inches of rain fell, which is 0.28 inches below normal. Albany also received fog, mist, and haze during the month of January.

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**NORTH CAROLINA:** There were 1.5 days suitable for field work for the week ending February 2nd compared to 2.6 for the week ending December 29th. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 3% short, 57% adequate and 40% surplus. During the past week much of the Piedmont and Coastal areas received snowfall. The weather pattern also brought in abnormally cold, bitter temperatures causing concerns with freeze damage. For the month of January most of the state received over 2 inches of precipitation with some areas recording over 4 inches. The average temperatures for the month were below normal with some areas recording lows in the single digits or below zero. The cold temperatures along with wind chill factors have created harsh conditions during the month. Small grain conditions for wheat, barley and oats are currently rated fair to good. Most farmers are in a holding pattern now, waiting for the land to dry out and warmer temperatures before they can get back outside and work in the fields.

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**NORTH DAKOTA:** Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 86% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 4% short, 85% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat conditions 2% very poor, 1% poor, 31% fair, 58% good, 8% excellent. Cattle/Calf conditions 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 68% good, and 10% excellent. Cattle/Calf loss 13% below normal, 87% normal, 0% above normal. Sheep/Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 72% good, and 11% excellent. Sheep/Lamb loss 7% below normal, 92% normal, 1% above normal. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 89% adequate, and 9% surplus. Hay & forage supplies 0% very short, 4% short, 78% adequate, and 18% surplus. Average temperatures were below normal in the eastern two-thirds of the state and normal in the west. Agriculture activities included feeding livestock and moving grain to market.

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**OHIO:** The January 2014 statewide average temperature was 19.4°F, more than 7°F below normal. The month also saw heavy snowfall throughout the State. Livestock were stressed by the cold. Persistent snow cover over most of the State protected wheat from the extreme cold and some high winds. There was a warmer period in December which caused ponding in some fields, and there may be some wheat fields now encased in ice. There is also anticipation of damage to fruit buds from the cold, and in some cases to the bushes, vines, and trees themselves, though the magnitude of any damage is unknown. Livestock operations and greenhouses dealt with increased energy demands during a propane shortage. Adverse weather created transportation issues and interrupted hauling of milk, hay, and livestock as well as delivery of grain.

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**OKLAHOMA:** Topsoil moisture 34% very short, 38% short, 28% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 37% very short, 35% short, 28% adequate, 0% surplus. Wheat 4% very poor, 20% poor, 40% fair, 31% good, 5% excellent; grazed 41% this month, 22% last year, 35% average. Canola 2% very poor, 26% poor, 39% fair, 28% good, 5% excellent. Rye 0% very poor, 24% poor, 55% fair, 20% good, 1% excellent; grazed 69% this month, 31% last year, 58% average. Oats 0% very poor, 30% poor, 33% fair, 34% good, 3% excellent; grazed 29% this month, 10% last year, 19% average. Livestock 2% very poor, 8% poor, 38% fair, 47% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and Range 9% very poor, 23% poor, 44% fair, 23% good, 1% excellent. January started out with frigid temperatures. Nowata recorded a low of -12°F on the 6th. During the second week of the month, temperatures increased, most areas of the state were in the 70s°F. Grandfield recorded a high of 80°F on the 12th. The warmer temperatures mixed with high winds and low humidity, significantly increased the risk of wildfires. Wildfires were experienced in parts of the state, but were not widespread. In the Northeast district, several acres were burned causing damage to pastureland. Overall the month of January was categorized as high winds and little to no precipitation. According to the most recent US Drought Monitor, the majority of the state was rated abnormally dry to no drought at all, while the Panhandle and the far Southwest district were rated an extreme to exceptional drought. Due to the limited amount of moisture, wheat grazing was inadequate. Some canola and winter wheat have also experienced freeze damage. The Southeast district averaged just over an inch of rainfall for the month, while the Panhandle and West Central districts averaged less than half an inch. All nine districts were still below normal

precipitation for the period since September 1st. Small grain condition ratings and pasture conditions were mostly good to fair for January. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were both rated 72 percent short to very short, 28 percent adequate and none were surplus. Conditions of small grains and canola declined over the past month. Small grains and canola were rated mostly good to fair. Forty-one percent of the wheat crop was being grazed, six points ahead of the five-year average, and 19 percentage points more than during January 2013. Sixty-nine percent of rye was reported as grazed, 38 points more than the previous year and 11 points higher than normal. Twenty-nine percent of oats were being grazed, compared to the five-year average of 19 percent. Pasture and range conditions continued to be rated mostly good to fair for the month of January. Grazing of small grains decreased this month with limited moisture conditions. Producers were also providing hay and supplementary feed to herds as needed. Livestock conditions continued to be rated mostly good to fair.

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**OREGON:** In Coos and Curry Counties grass growth had basically stopped. In Polk County many farmers were able to plant crops in areas where tiles were present or in upland areas that were well drained. These were being planted with both no till and conventional tillage. In Coos County there was no reported damage to berry crops due to the cold weather. In Lane County hazelnuts were blooming and pollen was a bit late on many varieties. The pruning of tree fruits and nuts was going on in many orchards. In Yamhill County hazelnuts had put out good catkins. In Clackamas County Crop losses were being reported for cabbage for seed due to cold temperatures. In Baker County ranchers were starting to calve out cows.

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**PENNSYLVANIA:** January saw several days of extreme cold. Average temperatures of 20°F or below combined with a wind chill factor produced extreme below average cold. The low temperatures have made it difficult to care for livestock and equipment as producers are concerned about their health. Small grains seeded in the fall were mostly covered with snow during January. Other activities included hauling manure, pruning, and thawing pipes. Producers are also getting equipment ready for spring and planting season. As of January 31, 2014, the Harrisburg area received 11.8 inches of snow for the month, with the greatest snowfall on January 2nd at 4.8 inches. The highest temperature of 50°F occurred on January 13th, while the lowest temperature of 0°F occurred on January 7th. The average temperature was 23.2°F which is 6.7°F below normal. A total of 2.44 inches of rain fell, which is 0.44 inch below average. There was also fog, mist, or haze throughout the month. High wind speeds were also an issue, with wind speeds approaching 41 miles per hour on the 6th of January.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Overcast skies on Tuesday, January 1, kept most locations in the 50s°F during the afternoon hours. On Thursday morning, Edisto Beach measured a 24-hour rainfall total of 1.11 inches. The Thursday high temperature at Johnston of 53°F fell to a Friday morning minimum of 23°F. Light rains moved into the state from Georgia on Sunday night just ahead of an approaching cold wave. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was 2°F below the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 71°F on January 5. The lowest official temperature reported was 9°F on January 3. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.30 inches on January 3. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.5 inches. Orangeburg recorded west winds gusting to 44 mph on Monday afternoon, January 6, as arctic-sourced cold overran the state. On Tuesday morning, Long Creek reported a minimum temperature of 2°F, the coldest "statewide" day in South Carolina since December 23, 1989. Thursday afternoon high temperature at Beaufort and Charleston was a mild 64°F. Lake City, Kingstree and Beaufort warmed to 73°F for a Friday high temperature. The unsettled weather continued on Saturday with scattered thunderstorms embedded in the passing rains. Cooler, more seasonal weather was observed on Sunday. Maximum temperatures ranged from 57°F to 65°F. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was 3°F below the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 77°F on January 10. The lowest official temperature reported was -5°F on January 7. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.87 inches on January 11. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 1.4 inches. On Monday afternoon, January 13, high temperatures at the Georgetown AP, Charleston AP and Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station reached a mild 68°F. On Thursday morning, Cedar Creek and Batesburg recorded 27°F. Saturday returned back to seasonal winter cold with most locations only reporting high temperatures in the 40s°F. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was near the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 69°F on January 13. The lowest official temperature reported was 16°F on January 16. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.60 inches on January 14. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.3 inches. A welcomed break in the cold was observed on Monday, January 20, with much of the state reporting afternoon high temperatures in the middle to upper 60s°F. Sharply falling temperatures arrived on Wednesday. Caesars Head reported periods of snow flurries. The sunrise temperature at Sandy Springs fell to 18°F. Successive and colder waves

entered the state on Thursday and Friday. Saturday morning proved to be "date record" cold for Columbia Metro AP at 11°F, Florence Regional AP at 12°F and N Myrtle Beach AP at 13°F. Mostly sunny weather on Sunday was accompanied by brisk southwest winds and seasonal temperatures. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was 6°F below the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 70°F on January 20. The lowest official temperature reported was -2°F on January 24. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.20 inches on January 22. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.0 inches.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 16% short, 81% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 11% short, 85% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat conditions 3% very poor, 13% poor, 24% fair, 53% good, 7% excellent. Cattle/Calf conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 22% fair, 70% good, 7% excellent. Cattle/Calf loss 12% below normal, 84% normal, 4% above normal. Sheep/Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 70% good, 6% excellent. Sheep/Lamb loss 8% below normal, 88% normal, 4% above normal. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 10% short, 87% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay & forage supplies 1% very short, 4% short, 87% adequate, and 8% surplus. Average temperatures were below normal on the eastern part of the state and above normal in the western part. Monthly precipitation was below an inch in most areas. Agricultural activities included caring for livestock, marketing grain, and preparing for spring planting season.

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**TENNESSEE:** Topsoil moisture 4% short, 83% adequate, 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% short, 84% adequate, 13% surplus. Extremely cold weather slowed wheat development, increased hay feeding. Farm activities included some wheat top dressing. Pasture conditions mostly fair to good.

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**TEXAS:** Cold temperatures were experienced across the state as several winter storms found their way to Texas. Many areas in the Northern Low Plains, the Cross Timbers and North East Texas experienced significant rainfall. South East Texas received 2 inches of precipitation. Producers continued to irrigate winter wheat and oat fields. Producers prepared fields for corn and sorghum planting. Some had already begun planting in the Northern Plains and the Blacklands. Cotton harvest was completed and most of the 2013 crop had been ginned. Producers resumed cabbage harvest as more fields matured. Livestock producers were encouraged by the record prices being received for their sold livestock.

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**UTAH:** January weather moderated slightly from December. Warmer temperatures melted some of the snow pack in the mountains. A storm late in January helped to relieve some of the dryness but more moisture is needed. Sheep producers in Box Elder County benefitted from the late storm as it reduced the need to haul water out to sheep on winter ranges. Farmers spent much of their time caring for livestock, working on farm improvements, and planning for the coming year. In Cache County, the weather has been cold and dry. More precipitation is needed or the outlook for next year could be desperate. Calving has started with minimal losses. Above average temperatures have reduced the snow pack in Millard County exacerbating an already dry situation. Calving is underway. Moderating temperatures have benefitted livestock in Uintah County this January. Most ranchers are feeding cattle due to lack of winter ranges. There is little snow in the mountains. In Washington County conditions are extremely dry. Cattle look to be in good condition.

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**VIRGINIA:** Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 59% adequate, 38% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 4% short, 64% adequate, 31% surplus. Beef cattle forage obtained from pastures 15%. Milk cow forage obtained from pastures 6%. Sheep forage obtained from pastures 15%. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 63% good, 8% excellent. Small grain and winter grazing crops 2% very poor, 6% poor, 36% fair, 49% good, 7% excellent. January was a cold, wet, and snowy month. Most areas experienced snowfall, with some areas reporting as much as 9 inches of snow. Colder than normal temperatures persisted throughout much of the month; in some places nighttime lows dropped below 0°F. Fieldwork was limited throughout the month due to the adverse weather. The weather contributed to farmers increasing supplement feeding. There was very little visible growth on the small grain crop; however, the majority of small grains were in fair to good condition. Other farming activities for the month included maintaining farm equipment, purchasing supplies, attending meetings, preparing taxes, taking soil samples, and moving grain to the elevators as the weather permitted.

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**WASHINGTON:** In western Washington unseasonably cold temperatures early in the month brought a light covering of snow throughout the rural landscape. Evening temperatures as low as 12°F were reported, and daytime temperatures did not rise above freezing. Choose and Cut Christmas tree growers reported brisk sales as consumers enjoyed snow covered fields and naturally "flocked" trees. In central Washington, the lowest nighttime temperatures ranged from -2 to 3°F, but fruit trees and perennial crops were in dormancy, so minimal freeze damage was anticipated. Mild winter temperatures

allowed field crews to make significant progress in pruning perennial crops. In eastern Washington, moisture levels were still slightly below normal levels for this time of year. Most producers were happy with their fall planted crops going into the winter and no crop damage has been reported to date.

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**WEST VIRGINIA:** Topsoil moisture was 5% short, 68% adequate, and 27% surplus compared to 1% very short, 4% short, 86% adequate, and 9% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 2% very short, 15% short, 72% adequate, and 11% surplus compared to 8% short, 91% adequate, and 1% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 1% very short, 3% short, 93% adequate, and 3% surplus compared to 4% short and 96% adequate last year. Winter wheat conditions were 2% poor, 7% fair, 13% good, and 78% excellent. Cattle and calves were 4% poor, 18% fair, 70% good, and 8% excellent. Sheep and lambs were 3% poor, 16% fair, 77% good, and 4% excellent. January weather has been harsh. As weather systems fluctuated during the month, separate polar fronts moved through the State, plummeting temperatures near to and below zero degrees, bearing stress upon livestock and producers. Of note, on Thursday, January 9th, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin declared a state of emergency for nine counties after a chemical leak in Charleston. For several days, residents in the counties were under a water ban. Farming activities included cleaning up after the winter snow and ice and monitoring livestock; producers have been feeding additional hay and watching breeding animals closely for signs of delivery.

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**WISCONSIN:** January average temperatures for the state of Wisconsin ranged from 7 to 9°F below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 17 to 23°F. Average low temperatures ranged from -5 to 6°F. Full month precipitation ranged from 0.65 inches in Madison to 1.58 inches in Eau Claire. The entire state received snow in January. Of the reporting stations, Eau Claire received the most snow, with 24.8 inches since January 1.

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**WYOMING:** Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 23% short, 73% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 25% short, 74% adequate. Average snow depth cover 3.20 inches. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 10% short, 88% adequate, and 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 22% short, 77% adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Cattle condition 4% poor, 32% fair, 62% good, 2% excellent. Calf losses 62% light, 38% normal. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 37% fair, 57% good. Lamb losses 52% light, 48% normal. Winter Wheat condition 20% fair, 75% good, 5% excellent; wind damage 59% light, 1% moderate, 40% none; freeze damage 17% light, 83% none. According to NRCS Monday morning snow report, the snow water equivalent is at 113 percent compared to 75 percent last year. January's high temperatures ranged from 33°F at Lake Yellowstone to 60°F in Big Horn. Low temperatures ranged from -24°F in Lake Yellowstone, Worland, and Casper to 4°F in Evanston. Lake Yellowstone received the most precipitation for the month at 2.11 inches followed by Afton at 1.16 inches, and Buford at 1.11 inches. Supplemental feeding is in full swing. Many counties are in need of moisture. There is some concern about the lack of snow pack affecting summer irrigation water supplies. The mild winter has helped manage hay supplies. Average temperatures ranged from 13°F at Lake Yellowstone to 31°F in Torrington. Temperatures were above normal in all 33 reporting stations. Temperatures ranged from 1°F above normal in Shirley Basin to 9°F above normal in Greybull, Buffalo-Johnson, Sheridan and Rock Springs. All 33 reporting stations reported some precipitation, ranging from 0.05 inch in Big Piney to 2.11 inches in Lake Yellowstone. Seventeen stations are reporting above normal precipitation for the year thus far.

## **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)

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Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet.....	(202) 720-9526
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