



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: Temperatures experienced during the first two weeks of February were cold but began warming towards the end of the month. Topsoil moisture was adequate or surplus over most of the state. The US Drought Monitor released on February 25, 2014 indicated that 9.80 percent of the state of Alabama was abnormally dry, compared to 2.65 percent at the start of the calendar year and 11.44 percent a year ago. The remainder of the state rated free from drought conditions. The average mean temperature for the month ranged from 39.2°F in Moulton to 51.2°F in Geneva; total precipitation ranged from 3.95 inches in Anniston to 6.57 inches in Huntsville and Bankhead. With the precipitation received during the month, field preparation for spring planting was running behind schedule. The colder temperatures during the last two months have provided adequate chill hours for the peach crop. Winter grazing and forage crops were in fair condition. Livestock producers were still feeding hay and supplements as pastures had not yet begun to grow.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures fluctuated from normal in the first week of February, to mostly below normal in the second week, above normal in the third week and mostly above normal for the last week. Temperatures were in the 80s°F during the month, with the third week at 91°F. 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 poor to good condition, depending on location. Barley plantings were complete by February, while winter wheat is half planted. Alfalfa harvesting was active on about three-quarters of the fields and sheepling off continued on various alfalfa fields across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: February began with average temperatures somewhat below normal. Several winter storms occurred throughout the month bringing severe weather to many parts of the state. Northern Arkansas was wrought with snow and freezing rain for much of the month. Precipitation reports were mostly below normal near the end of the month. Temperatures, on the other hand, were up to 13°F higher than normal. Major field activities included applying fertilizers and pesticides to winter wheat and applying burn down herbicides. Livestock producers continued feeding hay.

CALIFORNIA: A low pressure system dropped southward from the Pacific Northwest and spread showers across the State providing showers primarily to the coastal regions of California and some light rain to the interior valleys during the first week of February. During the second week of February periods of heavy rain fell across much of the State, with focus across the Central Coast, the Sacramento Valley, and on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Dry and warm conditions were reported across Southern California during the third week of February due to a high pressure building, which resulted in widespread rainfall in the higher elevations in Northern California, with limited showers in northern valley locations. Towards the end of the month, a high pressure began to build off the West Coast which has produced a warming trend for the State with daytime highs reaching the upper 60s and lower 70s across the northern interior valleys, and reaching the low 80s in Southern California. Non-irrigated wheat and small grains have exhibited positive response to recent rains, but still lagged behind schedule. Dry land oat conditions remain below average due to early lack of precipitation. Harvest continued for oranges, tangerines, lemons, grapefruit and pommelo. Numerous reports were received of fruit crops blooming early due to unseasonably warm weather; these would include blueberries in San Joaquin Valley, grapes in the Central Valley experienced early bud swell, and stone fruit orchards which continued to bloom throughout the month of February. Canes were reported being tied to kiwi and grape vineyards beginning in mid-February. The winter shake was complete on pistachios the first week of February, with pruning remaining active on walnut, pecan, and pistachio orchards through the month. The almond bloom was well underway by the third week of the month. In Tulare County, fields were prepared and planted with winter vegetables. Onion, broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage continued to grow well. In Fresno County, the harvest of winter vegetables slowed due to wet conditions. In San

Joaquin County, early asparagus has begun to emerge. Range and non-irrigated pasture remain in fair to poor condition. Supplemental feeding of hay and grain for livestock continued. Many bee hives have been placed for pollination.

COLORADO: Precipitation during February was concentrated primarily along the Front Range and into higher altitudes west of the Front Range. Statewide, mountain snowpack is 111% of average as of February 26. Temperatures were near to below normal along the Front Range, above normal west of the Front Range, and below normal in large swaths of the East Central and Northeast districts. A local expert commented that snow protection was adequate for winter wheat as were soil moisture supplies. No concerns were noted regarding wind impacts on soil moisture or snow cover.

DELAWARE: Extremely cold weather was experienced during the month, snow is still covering much of the state. Some reporters are worried that the low temperatures may have damaged some fruit. Soil moisture levels remain mostly adequate throughout the state. Hay supplies were reported as ranging from very short to adequate. Pasture conditions are poor to good. Very little, if any, field activities occurred during the month as many counties still had too much snow cover to work.

FLORIDA: Icy, wet weather received first part of month hampered field work in Panhandle, delayed sugarcane harvest in south. End of month, Washington, Gadsden, Walton county farmers prepared land for peanut, corn planting. Rain received was none to four inches. Low temperatures 15 to 27 degrees, high temperatures 60s to 80s. Strawberry harvest continued in Bradford County. Rain, foggy weather early in month increased disease in vegetables, blight on tomatoes, potatoes in southwest Florida. By end of month, harvesting began green beans, tomatoes, squash, peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, Chinese vegetables, boniato (Cuban sweet potatoes) in Miami-Dade County. Gadsden County farmers laid plastic for tomatoes. Cabbage harvesting continued in Flagler, Putnam counties. Tomatoes being planted, harvesting of squash, strawberries continued. Vegetables, fruits marketed included tomatoes, peppers, herbs, cucumbers, eggplant, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, snap beans, radishes, escarole, lettuce, kale. Pasture, winter forage condition down due to cold temperatures, freezing temperatures. By end of month, pasture condition improving. Calving continued throughout State. Cattle condition primarily fair to good. Hay, supplements fed to cattle in majority of the State. In citrus growing area, February temperatures ranged from 50s to 80s. Rainfall scattered, generally light, dry season continued. Growers in Indian River area experimented with tenting young trees to eradicate or control psyllid population causing greening. By end of month, blooms noted in southern growing area signaling beginning of next year's crop. 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. Most packinghouses open, shipping small quantities of fruit. Sixteen of 19 processing plants open.

GEORGIA: The month of February started with temperatures near normal and ended with temperatures above normal. Precipitation continued to be below normal or near normal throughout the state. On February 11, a wintery mix of snow and ice also covered northern parts of the state. So far this year the amount of chill hours for fruit is nearly double the amount needed for blueberries and peaches. With the recent warm weather those crops are preparing to bloom and may be at risk if Georgia has a late frost. The cold weather has delayed growth of small grains. The use of hay and supplemental feed has increased. Other activities included preparing for spring planting, fertilizing, spreading lime, testing soil, completing rental contracts, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

HAWAII: The month of February began with approximately 55 percent of the state rated as abnormally dry or drier according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Throughout the month, several storm systems passed through the islands dropping large quantities of precipitation over brief periods of time. These heavy showers resulted in several flash flood warnings being issued within the various counties throughout the month. While storm systems were absent, typical trade wind weather prevailed with intermittent overcast skies and average daytime high temperatures in the mid eighties. As the month of February comes to a close, state irrigation reservoirs are filled to capacity, and overall drought conditions have decreased by 11 percentage points. Weekly summaries follow. During the first week in February, a large front brought heavy rains to Kauai Island on Thursday. The latter half of the week was marked by typical trade wind systems, with conditions fluctuating between overcast and clear. Daytime high temperatures were in the upper seventies to low eighties for most areas. The average weekly total rainfall across the state was 1.57 inches. The second week the average weekly total rainfall across the State was 1.11 inch of measurable precipitation with the bulk of total rainfall falling on Kauai Island on Thursday through Sunday. Other precipitation measurements were scattered throughout the week. The total drought-free area in the State was 43.06 percent on February 11, 2014, up 1.82 percentage points from previous week. Dry drought ratings were down 1.82 percentage points to the previous reference day and moderate drought ratings were

down 3.28 percentage points. Extreme drought was rated for a small northern portion of Molokai Island. Weather during the third week brought scattered showers. The average weekly total rainfall across the State was 0.85 inch of measurable precipitation. The total drought-free area in the State was 45.38 percent on February 18, 2014, up 2.32 percentage points from previous week. Extreme drought was rated for a small northern portion of Molokai Island. Pastures on the leeward coasts and slopes showed more forage growth due to recent rainfall. The final week in February was light in most areas except for mountainous areas of Hawaii Island. Weekly total rainfall across the state was 0.66 inches. Total drought-free area in the State was unchanged from the third week. Increased day length and precipitation have spurred growth of crops and pastures. Pasture conditions continued to be improving with increased rainfall and daylight length.

IDAHO: 45%, 38% 2013, 31% avg. Lambing complete: 47%, 38% 2013, 40% avg. University of Idaho extension educators from northern Idaho reported normal to above normal precipitation for the month of February. Jerome County respondent saw the first grain drill in the field over the weekend, signaling planting season has started. Reporter comments suggest February having major lambing activity. Calving is well under way while cool weather conditions and bare wet ground are posing challenges for ranchers.

ILLINOIS: For the month of February, topsoil moisture was rated at 2 percent very short, 14 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated at 6 percent very short, 32 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 18.8°F, 11.4°F below normal. Precipitation was slightly below normal in the Southwest and Southeast districts, but slightly above normal in the rest of the state. Statewide precipitation averaged 2.28 inches, 0.35 inches above normal.

INDIANA: The weather during February has been very cold in Indiana, with daily temperatures averaging 9.3°F below normal statewide. Average precipitation amounts of 2.31 inches were about normal for the state but fell mostly as snow and freezing rain, with northern districts seeing a surplus of around one inch. Nearly all winter wheat is observed to be in fair or better condition, but prolonged cold temperatures, ice accumulation, and a brief thaw in the third week of February have contributed to concerns about its viability. The extent of winter damage to wheat and alfalfa will not be known until the spring thaw after dormancy breaks. Soil and subsoil moisture levels are expected to be adequate or surplus, and conditions for pasture that hasn't ponded or iced over are likewise observed to be fair or better. Livestock continue to be stressed most by the frigid conditions, with higher than usual losses being seen during calving and lambing. Ongoing propane shortages and burst pipes are contributing to difficulties in many barns. Outdoor activity is limited to care of livestock and some limited application of fertilizers. Other activities include tax preparations, hauling grain, and attending trade shows.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture 14% very short, 39% short, 46% adequate, and 1% surplus. Iowa experienced below normal temperatures throughout most of February causing water lines to freeze. Precipitation fell often across the State in the form of snow. High winds blew throughout the month. Livestock losses have been mostly normal. Calving has started in parts of Iowa. Some pork producers are concerned about PEDV and the resulting heavier than normal losses.

KANSAS: For the month of February 2014, cold, snowy weather at the beginning of the month resulted in over a foot in some northeast areas. Monthly precipitation totals were within a half inch of normal across much of the state. Average temperatures were colder than normal, with most areas averaging six to ten degrees colder than normal. As the snow melted, wheat fields started to green up and show signs of growth. Some concerns continue regarding the potential for winterkill due to the extremely cold temperatures. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 17 percent very short, 38 short, 44 adequate, and 1 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 21 percent very short, 40 short, 39 adequate, and 0 surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 4 percent very poor, 18 poor, 44 fair, 32 good, and 2 excellent. Sheep and lamb conditions were 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 42 fair, 52 good, and 4 excellent. Sheep and lamb losses were 9 percent below normal, 88 normal, and 3 above normal. Cattle and calf conditions were 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 48 fair, 46 good, and 2 excellent. Cattle and calf losses were 8 percent below normal, 88 normal, and 4 above normal. Hay and forage supplies rated 7 percent very short, 10 short, 77 adequate, and 6 surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 14 percent very short, 21 short, 65 adequate, and 0 surplus.

KENTUCKY: The Commonwealth experienced mixed weather conditions during February. The state recorded temperatures from well below normal to unseasonably warm. The second and last weeks of February saw below normal rainfall, while precipitation for the first and third weeks of the month was above normal. Farmers were kept busy tending to their livestock and performing routine equipment maintenance. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and

attended various commodity meetings across the state. Farmers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2014 crop season.

LOUISIANA: Most of the state was in the adequate to surplus range as far as soil moisture is concerned. As a whole, temperatures were below normal. Field crop producers were preparing fields for spring planting as weather conditions permitted as well as getting equipment ready for the upcoming season. Strawberry producers continued harvesting and selling their crop. Crawfish producers were active but catches were light due to cool water temperatures. Livestock producers were feeding hay and preparing to fertilize pastures.

MARYLAND: Extremely cold weather experienced during the month, snow is still covering much of the state. Some reporters are worried that the low temperatures may have damaged some fruit. Soil moisture levels remain mostly adequate throughout the state. Hay supplies were reported as ranging from very short to adequate. Pasture conditions are poor to good. Very little if any field activities occurred during the month as many counties still had too much snow cover to work. There were reports from one Maryland county that was some frost seeding of legumes and grass seed on pasture and hay fields.

MICHIGAN: Persistent low temperatures and snow cover have limited field work while providing protection for wheat and alfalfa. Precipitation for the last four weeks ending March 2 ranged between 1.09 inches and 1.88 inches in the Upper Peninsula and between 1.58 inches and 2.19 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 16.7 to 26.4°F, with a state average of 21.9°F. Deep penetrations of frost have been observed even where there was thick snow cover. Winter wheat condition rated 4% poor, 32% fair, 56% good, and 8% excellent. Range and pasture conditions rated 31% very poor, 8% poor, 30% fair, 30% good, and 1% excellent. Despite the extreme temperatures, livestock are faring well although lambing and calving have been difficult with higher than normal death loss. A significant amount of time was spent spreading manure, plowing snow, and tending to livestock needs. Damage to fruit trees and bushes has been reported, but the extent is unknown. Also, the status of corn left standing is still unknown.

MINNESOTA: February 2014 ranked among the 8 coldest months of February since 1895. This has been the coldest winter since 1978-1979. Excluding Alaska, Minnesota reported the coldest temperature in the nation for 13 days during the month. Record monthly snowfall was reported in six locations. As February came to a close, unusual snow depths were reported in multiple locations including 37 inches at Grand Marais. High winds and blowing snow have frequently led to difficult traveling conditions. During the week ending February 9, the North Central District had an average temperature of -5.3°F. The Northeast District had the highest average precipitation during the second week and an average temperature of 3.0°F. Average temperatures increased in all districts during the third week in February, with the highest average temperature in the Southwest District at 23.2°F. A large winter storm during the third week contributed to all districts reporting their highest precipitation totals compared to the other weeks.

MISSISSIPPI: Average temperatures in Mississippi for the month of February ranged from the mid 30s°F in the northern part of the state to the low 50s°F near the Gulf Coast. Temperatures were almost entirely below normal for the month for the state. The highest areas of precipitation occurred in the southwest corner of the state with some areas recording over 10 inches of precipitation for the month. Farmers and ranchers spent the month caring for their livestock during the extreme cold periods and preparing for spring planting.

MISSOURI: February was colder and drier than normal. Average temperatures were 4 to 12°F below normal. February was the 9th coldest on record. Precipitation averaged 1.30 inches compared to the 30 year average of 2.27 inches. On February 4th and 5th, the northern half of Missouri received 4 to 12 inches of snow. The condition of dormant winter wheat crop ranges from poor to good with the majority rated fair. Above average temperatures in the middle of February improved wheat conditions.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 15% last year; 17% short, 30% last year; 73% adequate, 51% last year; 5% surplus, 4% last year. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 25% last year; 16% short, 35% last year; 76% adequate, 39% last year; 4% surplus, 1% last year. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% last year; 8% poor, 7% last year; 38% fair, 52% last year; 42% good, 36% last year; 11% excellent, 2% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 74% none, 65% last year; 19% light, 30% last year; 6% moderate, 4% last year; 1% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – freeze & drought damage 76% none, 69% last year; 16% light, 24% last year; 7% moderate, 6% last year; 1% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 6% very poor, 17% last year; 22% poor, 36% last year; 40% fair, 29% last year; 25% good, 16% last year; 7% excellent, 2% last year. Livestock grazing 17% open, 45% last year; 31% difficult, 22% last

year; 52% closed, 33% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle & calves 99%, 98% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep & lambs 97%, 98% last year. Livestock birthing – calving completed 12%, 16% last year. Livestock birthing – lambing completed 6%, 8% last year. Montana had a mild period mid-month that was bookended with two bitterly cold and snowy spells during the month of February. Alberton received the highest amount of precipitation for the month with 3.96 inches of moisture. Most other stations reported receiving 0.05 to 3.91 inches of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the upper 40s to lower 50s, with the state-wide high temperature of 53 degrees recorded at Billings, Joliet, Roundup, and Townsend. Most stations reported lows below 0 degrees with the coldest being Wisdom at -48 degrees, followed by West Yellowstone with -47 degrees.

NEBRASKA: For the month of February, 2014, temperatures 6 to 9°F below normal during the month were hard on livestock and created challenges for livestock producers. Crop producer activities revolved around tax work and machinery preparations for the spring planting season. Grains were being moved to market and seed was being delivered for the upcoming planting season. Available soil moisture continues to be a concern going into spring. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 15 percent very short, 42 short, 43 adequate, and 0 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 16 percent very short, 39 short, 45 adequate, and 0 surplus. Hay and forage supplies rated 1 percent very short, 7 short, 88 adequate, 4 surplus. Stock water supplies rated 6 percent very short, 8 short, 86 adequate, and 0 surplus. Winter wheat rated 3 percent very poor, 15 poor, 39 fair, 36 good, and 7 excellent. Cattle and calf condition rated 0 percent very poor, 4 poor, 19 fair, 70 good, and 7 excellent. Cattle and calf losses 5 percent below average, 91 average, 4 above average. Sheep and lamb condition rated 0 percent very poor, 0 poor, 23 fair, 73 good, 4 excellent. Sheep and lamb losses 1 percent below average, 97 average, 2 above average. Percentage of cows calved since Jan 1 was 18 percent.

NEVADA: Several storm systems passed through the State during February, greatly improving the water supply outlook for the coming season. Accumulated precipitation for the water year, however, remained well below normal. Precipitation during February ranged from .55 inch in Tonopah to 1.92 inch in Elko. Reno and Las Vegas had less than normal February precipitation while the rest of the State was generally above normal. Temperatures averaged about 4 degrees above normal statewide. Snotel measurements at the end of February showed the Sierra snowpack at less than 50 percent of normal and eastern Nevada notable better but still below normal. Calving and lambing were gaining momentum. Main farm and ranch activities were tending livestock, equipment repair, and marketing crops from storage.

NEW ENGLAND: Across the New England states, the average monthly temperature for February 2014 was 21.2 degrees Fahrenheit. That is 2.0 degrees below normal. The low temperature in the region was -4.0°F in Augusta, Maine, and the high was 55.0°F in Boston. Total precipitation for the month averaged 2.92 inches across the New England states. That is a 0.14 inch departure from normal. There were 19 days recorded at or below a maximum of 32 degrees in the New England States during February 2014. There were 13 days with precipitation greater than 0.01 inches and 8 days greater recorded with greater than 0.10 inches. There were 2 days with greater than 1.0 inches recorded in February at a New England weather station. Producers across the region completed some field work, attended meetings, and tended livestock.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures on average statewide in February were 5°F below normal. Precipitation was well above normal in every county, from 1.6 inches above normal in Sussex County to 3.3 inches above normal in Salem County. Every county received snow accumulation during the month. Producer activities included attending meetings, equipment repair, greenhouse work, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: February began with a warming trend that had temperatures normal to above normal. Temperatures increased well above average and so did winds, causing fire concerns statewide. Highest sustained winds reported were 48 mph for Clines Corner and 39 mph for Raton and Taos. Highest wind gusts reported were 61 mph at Clines Corner and 58 mph for Raton. February ended with a wind advisory ahead of a very active storm system. Northern and central New Mexico had snow and rain. Gallup, Chama and Cuba received over an inch of rain.

NEW YORK: New York has continued to stay cold throughout the month of February with significant amounts of snow accumulating in several parts of the state. There were some days of warming and thaw occurred, which then froze again as temperatures dropped below freezing towards the end of the month. Most of the crops in fields are buried under the snow still with farmers not stating too much about the condition of these crops. Farmers growing anything in greenhouses have had a hard time keeping the greenhouses warm with the extreme cold, which is having an impact on crops. There is some concern among dairy farmers about how the cold is affecting their cows and calves, while sheep farmers are worried about how the cold will affect the lambing season. Bee and honey producers are concerned about the survival of their bees and

hives after this harsh winter. The biggest affect of this winter seems to be hitting the fruit producers the hardest, as they are reporting significant damage to most fruit trees. Areas near the Great Lakes have reported damage to grape vines which may impact grape and wine production in the future. Overall, this cold, long, tough winter has been hard for many farmers in the Northeast this year and February did not change that pattern. Farmers are busy spreading manure, fixing machinery, moving crops to market, buying seed, attending workshops and starting to plan for this spring's planting season. There are reports of maple producers collecting sap. As of February 28, 2014, the Albany area received 28.1 inches of snow for the month, with the greatest snowfall on February 14th with 14.4 inches of snow. The highest temperature of 51°F occurred on February 22nd, while the lowest temperature of -8°F occurred on the 12th. The average temperature was 21.9°F, which is 4.0°F below normal. A total of 3.48 inches of rain fell, which is 1.28 inches above the average. Albany has dealt with fog or mist, sleet, rain and snow throughout most of the month of February.

NORTH CAROLINA: There were 3.6 days suitable for field work for the week ending March 2nd compared to 1.5 for the week ending February 2nd. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 2% short, 68% adequate and 30% surplus. The weather pattern during the month of February has been up and down. The state has experienced bitterly cold temperatures with sleet and snow and warm, sunny conditions with highs into the 70s all within the same week. The cold wet temperatures have kept farmers out of the fields in some parts of the state as well as delayed small grain growth. There have been some indications of freeze damage to fruit trees but the extent of the damage will take time to determine. However, tobacco greenhouses are being seeded in preparation for the 2014 crop year. Small grains are rated fair to good, hay supply is recorded as adequate and pasture conditions are rated at 44% fair. With another round of cold, wet conditions expected this coming week, farmers will have to plan on a day-to-day basis.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 83% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 5% short, 83% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat conditions 2% very poor, 5% poor, 46% fair, 43% good, 4% excellent. Cattle/Calf conditions 1% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 65% good, and 5% excellent. Calving 9% complete. Cattle/Calf death loss 12% below normal, 83% normal, 5% above normal. Sheep/Lamb conditions 1% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 66% good, and 8% excellent. Lambing 16% complete. Sheep/Lamb death loss 7% below normal, 91% normal, 2% above normal. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 4% short, 86% adequate, and 10% surplus. Hay & forage supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 79% adequate, and 14% surplus. Below normal temperatures and precipitation are causing a concern for winter wheat fields that are lacking snow cover. Livestock producers are also noticing the effect with increased feed requirements and possible increase in calving and lambing losses if conditions don't improve. Agriculture activities included caring for livestock and preparing equipment for spring.

OHIO: The February 2014 statewide average temperature was 22.9°F, 7 degrees below normal. February saw snowfall at the beginning and end of the month, bracketing a brief warm period where much of the snow cover melted. Producers are concerned about winter wheat condition, as there was a period after the snowmelt where winter wheat was exposed to extreme cold without snow cover. Melting also caused flooding in many fields, with some fields now encased in ice. In addition to wheat, here is also worry of damage to alfalfa fields, but it is too early to judge any damage to either crop due to current snow cover and overall winter conditions. Producers are having calves born. Livestock have been stressed by the continued winter conditions, and some reporters noted animal loss due to the extreme cold. Reports of pasture condition are mixed. Fruit growers are anticipating damage to bushes, vines and trees, but the extent of any damage is still unknown.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 51% very short, 36% short, 13% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 49% very short, 34% short, 17% adequate, 0% surplus. Wheat 6% very poor, 25% poor, 38% fair, 28% good, 3% excellent; grazed 42% this month, 26% last year, 36% average. Canola 15% very poor, 31% poor, 34% fair, 18% good, 2% excellent. Rye 9% very poor, 28% poor, 30% fair, 30% good, 3% excellent; grazed 70% this month, 37% last year, 60% average. Oats 11% very poor, 28% poor, 34% fair, 25% good, 2% excellent; grazed 30% this month, 14% last year, 21% average. Livestock 2% very poor, 9% poor, 39% fair, 44% good, 6% excellent. Pasture and Range 18% very poor, 28% poor, 40% fair, 13% good, 1% excellent. The month began with cold temperatures and several bouts of snow. Oklahoma welcomed the snow with hopes that the added precipitation would help to alleviate drought conditions. After the first few weeks of February, there was still no improvement. Producers in Roger Mills County were in desperate need of precipitation to bring small grain crops to harvest. During the latter part of the month, high winds and worsening drought conditions contributed the extreme fire danger and the overall damage to crops and topsoil moisture. Toward the middle of the month, temperatures increased slightly. Most areas of the state were in the 40's to 50's while the Panhandle reached a high of 70 degrees on the 24th. Wildfires occurred in parts of the state, but were not widespread. According to the most

recent drought monitor, the majority of the state was rated severe drought to abnormally dry, while the Panhandle and the far Southwest districts were rated in extreme to exceptional drought. Some canola was lost to winter kill. The Southeast district averaged just over an inch of rainfall for the month, while the Northeast district 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 fair to poor for the month of February. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated 87 percent and 83 percent short to very short, respectively. Thirteen percent of topsoil moisture and 17 percent of subsoil moisture were rated adequate and none were rated surplus.

OREGON: In Coos and Curry Counties grass growth had begun slowly. In Lane and Linn Counties winter wheat was showing signs of disease. In Klamath County grass and winter grains were starting to green up and showing a little growth. Fruits and Nuts: In Coos and Curry Counties early crop fruit trees had started to flower in some areas and pollination began. In Lane County hazelnuts were blooming. Nurseries and Greenhouses: In Yamhill County snow and freezing rain in the early part of the month damaged a few greenhouses. Livestock, Range and Pasture: In Linn County pastures were looking good. In Lake County spring calving had taken place.

PENNSYLVANIA: February saw below average temperatures for this time of the year. Most counties reported extreme winter weather. Snow started melting in the latter part of February but there are still more snow piles around than usual for this time of year. Producers have been busy with snow removal and preventing pipes from freezing in order to care for livestock. They are unsure of what wheat and barley crops look like since the majority has been covered by snow for most of the winter season. Producers are also working on farm equipment in preparation for the spring. Some have reported building damage due to the weight of snow. Overall, producers have stayed busy. As of February 28, 2014, the Harrisburg area received 21.6 inches of snow for the month, with the greatest snowfall on February 13th at 9.0 inches. The highest temperature of 54 degrees Fahrenheit occurred on February 22nd, while the lowest temperature of 2 degrees Fahrenheit occurred on February 12th. The average temperature was 27.1 degrees which is 5.8 degrees below normal. A total of 4.27 inches of rain fell, which is 1.88 inches above the average. There was also fog, mist, or haze throughout the month. High wind speeds were also an issue, with wind speeds approaching 43 miles per hour on the 19th of February.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Mild to warm temperatures were reported statewide on Monday, March 3, 2014. A wedge of colder air dropped south along the Eastern Seaboard on Tuesday with sharply falling temperatures. The back and forth character of the weather was quite evident on Wednesday when a warm boundary and areas of rain moved north into the state. The southern end of another cold front arrived on Thursday with pre-frontal showers. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was three degrees above the long-term average. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.4 inches. On Monday afternoon, February 10th, the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station reported a high temperature of 70 degrees. Wintertime returned overnight for the Piedmont and Midlands. At 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, light snow was falling in many areas. A more energetic winter storm arrived as the calendar day began on Wednesday. A band of heavy snow fell across the Foothills and into the northern Midlands. Heavy sleet fell over Lexington and Richland counties separating the snowfall from a damaging ice storm over the southern Midlands. The heaviest snowfall amount measured was at Clover with 10.0 inches. The blanket of snow near Silverstreet and Heath Springs was measured at 8 inches. Antreville, Chester, Winnsboro and Bethune received snowfalls of 6.0 inches. The town of Irmo measured 4 inches of sleet. Light snow ended on Thursday morning. Gentle southwest winds on Friday helped to diminish the ice cover. More agreeable weather was observed on a mostly clear Sunday. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was seven degrees below the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 69 degrees at Allendale and Charleston AP on February 10. The lowest official temperature reported was 21 degrees at Jocassee on February 12. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.00 inches at Cedar Creek and Georgetown County AP ending at 7:00 a.m. on February 13. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 1.6 inches. Middle 60-degree Monday, February 17th, afternoon temperatures moved into the 70's on Tuesday. Areas of rain moved through parts of the Foothills and Piedmont early Wednesday. At 2:00 p.m., a sunny Orangeburg reported 80 degrees with southwest winds of 25 mph gusting to 36 mph. Thursday was much the same with steady southwest winds and record high temperatures for the date. The Columbia Metro AP noted a record 84 degrees and Florence reached a record 83 degrees. A weak frontal boundary moved over the state on Friday morning with thundershowers. Freezing temperatures on Saturday were reported as far south as McCormick (32 degrees) and Cedar Creek (29 degrees). The state average temperature for the seven-day period was seven degrees above the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 84 degrees at Dillon and the Columbia Metro AP on February 20. The lowest official temperature reported was 26 degrees at Ninety Nine

Islands on February 17. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.38 inches at Caesars Head ending at 7:00 a.m. on February 21. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.6 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 20% short, 78% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 13% short, 83% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat conditions 4% very poor, 7% poor, 26% fair, 58% good, 5% excellent. Cattle/Calf conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 24% fair, 69% good, 5% excellent. Calving 11% complete. Cattle/Calf death loss 3% below normal, 94% normal, 3% above normal. Sheep/Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 75% good, 3% excellent. Lambing 42% complete. Sheep/Lamb death loss 4% below normal, 91% normal, 5% above normal. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 10% short, 86% adequate, 3% surplus. Hay & forage supplies 0% very short, 5% short, 89% adequate, and 6% surplus. Below normal precipitation and temperatures persisted across most of the state during the month of February. Agricultural activities included caring for livestock, marketing grain, and preparing for spring planting season.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable 4.0. Topsoil moisture 3% short, 80% adequate, 17% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 78% adequate, 20% surplus. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 35% fair, 52% good, 6% excellent. Extremely cold weather resulted in increased hay feeding, winter wheat damage. Wheat freeze damage 23% none, 44% light, 27% moderate, 6% severe. Farm activities included some wheat top dressing. Pasture conditions mostly fair to good.

TEXAS: Cold temperatures continued throughout Texas as several winter storms moved across the state. Areas of South East Texas, the Upper Coast and the Southern Low Plains received significant rainfall. The Coastal Bend received 1 to 1.5 inches of precipitation. Fertilizer was applied to recently grazed winter wheat fields. Preparations were underway in the Upper Coast for a late February corn planting date. In the Cross-Timbers pecan harvest wrapped up, with many growers placing nuts in cold storage due to low prices and a slow marketing period. Producers in the Northern High Plains prepared fields for corn, sorghum and cotton planting. Lice problems were causing some concern in the Northern High Plains and North East Texas. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in areas with declining pasture conditions. Cattle continued to graze on wheat and oat fields.

UTAH: Farm work in Beaver County was about a month ahead of normal because of mild weather. Farmers are concerned about the lack of water. Livestock were doing well. February was a great month for precipitation in Box Elder County as storms brought much needed water. Temperatures were warm causing mucky conditions for calving. The winter wheat looked good. There was some concern about early blossoming of fruit trees but apricot buds still appear tight. In Duchesne County, February temperatures were mild and late storms brought some much needed precipitation. Calving started and has gone well so far. Farm flocks began lambing. Extremely dry conditions persist in Garfield and Kane Counties. Some precipitation was received near the end of the month but a lot more is needed to get out of the moisture deficit. Dry conditions will hurt ranges, pasture, and cropland in the long run. Dry conditions have been good for calving. There were good fall rains in San Juan County but winter moisture has been short. Soil moisture is adequate and winter wheat looks good but more precipitation is needed to keep the crop going. The snow pack in the mountains is below normal. Mild weather in Utah County was conducive to calving. Mountain snowpack is still very low. More precipitation is needed before summer. Fruit trees are on schedule; early blossoming is not an issue at this point.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 64% adequate, 35% surplus. Subsoil moisture 72% adequate, 28% surplus. Beef cattle forage obtained from pastures 13%. Milk cow forage obtained from pastures 5%. Sheep forage obtained from pastures 8%. Livestock 4% poor, 34% fair, 59% good, 3% excellent. Small grain and winter grazing crops 2% very poor, 6% poor, 24% fair, 61% good, 7% excellent. February was another cold and snowy month for the Old Dominion. Nighttime lows were in the teens, with some areas much colder; parts of the Commonwealth approached record-breaking lows. Due to the abnormally long span of cold weather, most of Virginia was covered with snow during the month. However, there were occasional days of warm weather accompanied with rain. Livestock producers heavily supplemented feed for the month, and there was some concern of feed shortages. The majority of small grains were in good to fair condition. Some topdressing was done as the weather permitted, but there were applications that were delayed or missed due to the weather. Other farming activities for the month included pruning orchards and vineyards, maintaining farm equipment, and plowing snow.

WASHINGTON: In Western Washington, most farmers were busy getting their livestock undercover and on higher ground during the recent rain storm throughout the area. Blueberry and tree fruit pruning was halted due to the high ground water tables. Vegetable farmers were kept inside and began seedlings and transplanting in greenhouses. Sheep

farmers reported a great lambing season despite the torrential downpours and heavy frosts. Pastures were saturated with ponding in the lower areas. Many vegetable and grain producers began early season cultivation. Livestock producers prepared equipment for spreading lime. Many early tree fruit, like plums, were beginning to bud out a few weeks early. In Central Washington, average temperatures were generally colder than normal, varying from 26 degrees below normal to 8 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the month of February was about 1.43 inch. Fruit producers were completing their annual pruning and training of orchards. Conditions were rather dry with only a couple of snowstorms received since the start of the year. Precipitation in the mountain areas alleviated some of the concerns of drought. So far, there were no reports of crop damage. The month of February began with cold temperatures between 10 and 27 degrees below normal. Mild weather settled into the area mid-month bringing warmer temperatures and precipitation. The high for the month was 51 degrees and the low was -3 degrees. Some producers were concerned about winter kill during the cold spell. Most crops were in decent shape with no major losses reported.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 2% short, 81% adequate, and 17% surplus compared to 1% very short, 10% short, 87% adequate, and 2% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 3% very short, 10% short, 85% adequate, and 2% surplus compared to 21% short, 76% adequate, and 3% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 1% very short, 5% short, 93% adequate, and 1% surplus compared to 3% short, 96% adequate, and 1% surplus last year. Winter wheat conditions were 2% poor, 9% fair, 87% good, and 2% excellent. Cattle and calves were 2% poor, 20% fair, 76% good, and 2% excellent. Calving was 29% complete, compared to 27% last year. Sheep and lambs were 1% very poor, 2% poor, 32% fair, 62% good, and 3% excellent. Lambing was 33% complete, compared to 29% last year. The long, hard winter continued through the month of February; weather was mostly wintry with very cold temperatures, but there were some periods of warmer weather as several reporting stations reached daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s during the later part of the month. The state of emergency that was declared on Thursday, January 9th, by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin for nine counties after a chemical leaked into the water system in Charleston, officially ended on February 28th. For several days, residents in the counties were under a water ban. Farming activities included calving and lambing, increased feeding of livestock due to the cold weather conditions, and cleaning up after the winter storms.

WISCONSIN: February average temperatures ranged from 10 to 14 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 17 to 24 degrees. Average low temperatures ranged from -5 to 9°F. Full month precipitation ranged from 1.24 inches in Madison to 1.63 inches in Milwaukee. The entire state received snow in February. Of the reporting stations, Green Bay received the most snow, with 17.7 inches since February 1.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 22% short, 74% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 26% short, 72% adequate, 1% surplus. Average snow depth cover 3.70 inches. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 11% short, 87% adequate, and 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 22% short, 77% adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Cattle condition 3% poor, 27% fair, 68% good, 2% excellent. Calf losses 50% light, 50% normal. Sheep condition 5% poor, 30% fair, 65% good. Lamb losses 37% light, 63% normal. Winter Wheat condition 2% poor, 22% fair, 72% good, 4% excellent; wind damage 62% light, 3% moderate, 35% none; freeze damage 17% light, 83% none. Below normal temperatures covered the State. According to NRCS Monday morning snow report, the snow water equivalent is at 136 percent compared to 85 percent last year. February's high temperatures ranged from 41 degrees at Jackson Hole to 67 degrees in Torrington. Low temperatures ranged from negative 36 degrees in Lake Yellowstone to negative 3 degrees in Evanston. Lake Yellowstone received the most precipitation for the month at 2.97 inches followed by Afton at 2.40 inches. Supplemental feeding is in full swing. Johnson County reported livestock holding up despite cold conditions and no deep snow. Teton County reported 100 inches of heavy snowfall in the mountains. Converse County reported some brutal conditions for early calvers in February. The Laramie Mountain Range has an average snow pack. Niobrara County reported cold, windy and snowy for the month of February. Average temperatures ranged from 13 degrees at Powell, Worland, and Shirley Basin to 28 degrees in Rock Springs. Temperatures were below normal in 25 of the 33 reporting stations. Temperatures ranged from 13 degrees below normal in Powell, Worland, and Old Fort Laramie to 7 degrees above normal in Jackson Hole. All 33 reporting stations reported some precipitation, ranging from 0.13 inch in Jeffrey City to 2.97 inches in Lake Yellowstone. Twenty-one 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).

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