



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: Average temperatures ranged from 2.4 to 14.5 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from trace amounts of rain to 11.1 inches in Limestone County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the State remained drought free throughout the month. Most of the State was affected by heavy rains throughout the month, delaying field preparations for many. In areas where rain slowed down later in the month, corn was planted, cotton and peanut fields had lime and fertilizer applied, and hay was being chemically burned for the new hay season. Herbicide and fertilizer applications for wheat were delayed due to excessive rain and flooding throughout the month. Some wheat fields were still under water, but starting to recover. The wheat crop was rated in fair to excellent condition, overall. Pastures were greening, but not fast enough for cattlemen that were at the end of their hay supplies and needing relief. However, cattle were still in good condition. Vegetable planting had begun and the strawberry crop was looking good.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: This report for Arizona is for the week ending Sunday, March 29, 2020. By the end of this week, 98 percent of Durum wheat has emerged, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Thirty-five percent has headed compared with 22 percent last year. Durum wheat conditions were rated mostly excellent. Ninety-five percent of barley has been planted, 91 percent has emerged compared with 93 percent last year, and 53 percent has headed compared with 34 percent last year. Barley conditions were rated mostly good. Sixteen percent of cotton has been planted compared with 25 percent last year. Alfalfa conditions were rated mostly excellent to good depending on location last week, with harvesting taking place on over three-quarters of the alfalfa acreage across the State. For the entire State, pasture and range conditions were rated mostly fair to good. In Arizona, adequate soil moisture is helping to improve forage growth, crop progress and conditions, and pasture and range conditions. During the week, no extreme or exceptional drought was reported in the State.

ARKANSAS: The month of March has been wet with slightly above average temperatures. County agents were reporting saturated lands and delayed planting preparations and conditions. This continued the trend of above average rainfall from January and February. Many agents reported little to no fieldwork completed for the winter as fields have been too wet to access. All major row crops are being reported as behind schedule for planting.

CALIFORNIA: Subsoil moisture 65% short, 30% adequate, and 5% surplus. Topsoil moisture 10% short, 30% adequate and 60% surplus. Temperatures for the month averaged 53.1 degrees, 1 degree below normal. Statewide average precipitation was 2.4 inches. Crop and livestock observations were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. The transplanting of process tomatoes is underway. Safflower, sunflower, corn and other row crop fields are being prepared and planted. Rice ground is being prepared. The Almond crop is off to a good start due to dry weather allowing bees to pollinate.

COLORADO: This report for Colorado is for the week ending March 29, 2020. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 22% short, 65% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 24% short, 67% adequate, 1% surplus. Barley planted 8%, 2% 2019, 4% avg. Winter wheat pastured 8%, 21% 2019, 12% avg; jointed 1%, 1% 2019; 1% avg; Winter wheat condition 11% very poor, 16% poor, 22% fair, 45% good, 6% excellent. Cows calved 62%, 55% 2019, 55% avg. Ewes lambed 58%, 53% 2019, 46% avg. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 60% good, 8% excellent. Cattle death loss 72% avg, 28% light. Sheep death loss 49% avg, 51% light. Pasture and range condition 4% very poor, 9% poor, 30% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Feed and concentrate supplies 1% very short, 8% short, 76% adequate, 15% surplus. Spring fieldwork picked up in

several localities last week amidst mostly dry and windy conditions. Much of the State, except central counties, was experiencing abnormally to severe drought conditions, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report. In northeastern counties, received moisture aided non-irrigated crop and rangeland conditions. Local reports noted winter wheat stands in areas were filling in and showing good growth. Crop producers were busy preparing for spring planting and livestock producers continued to benefit from mild weather. Concerns were noted for rangeland moisture needs going forward. In east central counties, high winds depleted soil moisture supplies and damaged winter wheat stands in areas. Reports noted winter wheat growth was behind normal due to long-term lack of moisture. In the San Luis Valley, no moisture was received last week and windy conditions were noted. Barley planting progressed in some localities while others had not yet started. Other spring field operations continued. Livestock were reportedly in good condition. In southeastern counties, reports noted no moisture was received and high winds prevailed. Although pastures were beginning to green up, growth was slow. Both winter wheat and rangeland need significant moisture moving forward to sustain growth. As of March 27, 2020, snowpack in Colorado was 109 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were both 100 percent.

DELAWARE: The month of March was mostly cloudy with scattered showers particularly towards the end of the month, but also sunny reaching high temperatures boarding 82.0 Fahrenheit degrees. Soil temperature averages were in the low 50 degree range. Small grains are at or past jointing stage and were top dressed in some part of the region where soil conditions permit. Forages are notably growing while Wheat has greened up and the condition looks good in most part of the State. Peach trees have bloomed early. Field activity was mostly in fertilizer application with early corn planting in mind. Strips for vegetables are being prepared and greenhouses for growing vegetable seeding production is underway. Asparagus harvest is also beginning.

FLORIDA: March temperatures were on average 1 to 10 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 3.7 inches in Leon County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the State went from 39.5 percent experiencing abnormally dry conditions at the beginning of March to 88.5 percent by the end of the month. Pasture conditions steadily declined throughout the month due to the dry soil and the increasing temperatures. Cattle conditions remained mostly good. Sugarcane harvest was ongoing. Pest and disease pressures were reported on strawberries and tomatoes throughout the month. A wide range of vegetable crops came to market but the impacts of COVID-19 began impacting producers due to the closing of restaurants and food service operations. Citrus fruit harvested for the fresh market included white and red grapefruit, Valencia oranges, as well as Honey, Tango, and Royal tangerines. Citrus grove activities were normal for this time of year, which included mowing before harvest, fertilizing, hedging, topping, and irrigation.

GEORGIA: March temperatures were on average 3 to 9 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.3 inches in Glynn County to 10.5 inches in Cherokee County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, less than 1 percent of the State had moderate drought conditions throughout the month. Although total rainfall for the State was less than February, it was still wetter than normal. Many low lying pastures, small grains, ponds, and fields throughout the State remained flooded through much of the month. Warmer conditions did allow for good hay and small grains growth throughout much of the State; however, the warm days combined with the wet conditions prevented many producers from being able to apply herbicides and nutrients. Producers in the southern part of the State were able to enter fields between rain events to continue planting preparations. Several growers were able to begin corn planting throughout the month. Cattle remained in good condition throughout the month. While pastures were greening up with the warmer weather, many producers were exhausting their hay supplies. Peaches and blueberries were in full bloom. Vegetable growers continued to battle disease problems brought on by the wet conditions. Onion harvesting is expected to begin soon. Pecan trees began budding out in multiple counties. Some vegetable producers expressed concern over labor shortages due to COVID-19.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: Much of the State was still reporting cool to very cold weather. Benewah, Kootenai, and Boundary Counties all reported warm spring conditions. Some producers were out fertilizing and planting. Pastures were greening up. The soil conditions were favorable for farmers to get into their fields much earlier than usual.

Spring calving was underway. In Jerome and Twin Falls Counties the weather remained cool. Spring cereal planting continued. Winter wheat looked good with no reported winter damage. Higher elevations remained under snow. Major activities included tillage, planting, hauling manure, burning ditches and aerating alfalfa fields. Winter vole damage was observed. In Clark and Fremont Counties it remained very cold. They had recently gotten the snow off the lower end of those counties, however there were still storms hitting the upper ends. Calving was in full swing and was winding down for most ranchers. Teton County reported there was still a lot of snow.

ILLINOIS: For the week ending on March 29, 2020. Topsoil moisture 44% adequate, 56% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 58% adequate, 40% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 45% good, 16% excellent. Statewide, the average temperature in March was 43.6 degrees, 3.0 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 4.08 inches, 1.13 inches above normal.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture for the month of March was 2% short, 45% adequate, and 53% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 3% short, 53% adequate, and 44% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 53% good, and 13% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 44.3 degrees, 4.1 degrees above normal for the month of March. Statewide average precipitation was 4.71 inches, 1.62 inches above normal. March was unseasonably warm throughout most of the month. While the first week of the month was relatively dry, the next three weeks saw a significant amount of rainfall. The saturated soil limited field activity for much of the State, delaying fertilizer and herbicide applications. Winter wheat conditions improved from the previous month, despite the unusual weather. Spring calving was in full swing, though muddy conditions were a concern. Supply and quality of hay were also concerns for some livestock producers. Other activities for the month included applying lime and fertilizer when possible, hauling grain, preparing equipment for planting, enrolling in farm programs with FSA, and attending digital Extension programs.

IOWA: Overall, the month of March has been fairly normal for Iowa. Temperatures have begun to rise, which has helped green up pastures and cover crops. However, field work has been limited due to wet field conditions from persistent rain and snow and frost melting. As field conditions allow, dry fertilizer and anhydrous applications have begun. Farmers are also preparing equipment for planting. There were a few reports of oats being seeded in the southern part of Iowa. There has been grain movement, but slow in some areas of the State. Calving continues across Iowa with no major issues. Hay supplies are still adequate and feedlots remain muddy.

KANSAS: For the week ending March 29, 2020, days suitable 4.1. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 5% very short, 11% short, 69% adequate, and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 5% very short, 11% short, 72% adequate, and 12% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 3% very poor, 9% poor, 38% fair, 43% good, and 7% excellent. Winter wheat jointed 3%.

KENTUCKY: For the month of March, Kentucky saw above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The State has now went four straight weeks with State average rainfall above normal. Temperatures for the period averaged 52 degrees across the State which was 6 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 6.50 inches Statewide which was 2.33 inches above normal and 156% of normal. Warm, wet conditions have promoted early pasture and hay growth allowing livestock to graze again. Good quality hay has been in short supply. For the month of March, hay supplies 7% very short, 34% short, 55% adequate, 4% surplus. Livestock conditions 1% very poor, 5% poor 17% fair, 65% good, 12% excellent. Despite the excess rain, farmers have taken advantage of a few consistently dry days to fertilize wheat which remains in mostly good condition. Condition of winter wheat 1% very poor, 1% poor, 17% fair, 63% good, 18% excellent.

LOUISIANA: The month of March has been wet and soils are saturated in many areas. Fieldwork has been slow with the consistent rainfall and it appears this is likely to continue for a few more weeks. Pastures are trying to dry out and grass is greening up and cows should be gaining conditioning. Producers have only been able to do a limited amount fieldwork due to the unstable field conditions and rain. Favorable conditions at the end of the month allowed more rice to be planted as well as soybeans. The amount of rainfall has been

unusual for this time of the year. Overall, average temperatures for the State are higher than normal for this time of year with seasonably cool and damp weather.

MARYLAND: The month of March was mostly cloudy with scattered showers, particularly on the 19th and towards the end of the month, but also sunny reaching high temperatures of 82 degrees Fahrenheit. Soil temperatures average were in the low 50 F range. Small grains are at or past jointing stage and were top dressed in some part of the region where soil conditions permit. Forages are notably growing while Wheat has greened up and the condition looks good in most part of the State. Peaches have bloomed early and Asparagus harvest beginning soon. Field activity were mostly in fertilizer application with early corn planting in mind. Strips for vegetables are being prepared and greenhouse for growing vegetable seeding production is underway. While taking steps to reduce risk of Covid-19, still farm markets, retail stands and direct to consumer retail sales have increased dramatically. Supply of local meat has been an issue for farm stands due to overwhelmed local USDA slaughter house capacity.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 2% short, 48% adequate and 50% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 2% short, 54% adequate, and 44% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 4% very poor, 7% poor, 33% fair, 44% good, and 12% excellent. Precipitation for the month of March to date averaged 2.85 inches throughout the State, 0.78 inches above normal. Temperatures for the month of March to date averaged 34.6 degrees, 3.9 degrees above normal. Temperatures across the State were well above normal during the first ten days of the month, while more seasonal temperatures arrived during mid-month. The last week of March was marked by a very gradual and slow warmup. While the Upper Peninsula did see some snow early in the month and significant rainfall during the middle of the month, much of the precipitation received during the first half of the month across other Midwestern States stayed south of Michigan. Rain activity picked up during the last week of the month with areas in the southern part of the Lower Peninsula receiving upwards of three inches while most of the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula saw between 1 and 1.5 inches of precipitation. Snow cover across much of the State is gone except in a few pockets of the Upper Peninsula and the northernmost counties of the Lower Peninsula. A warmer than normal winter allowed much of the winter wheat to survive and some has already turned green; however, late planting and persistent wet weather have some fields very wet, resulting in some drowned out areas with wheat that will not be harvestable. Some spring nitrogen applications have begun in wheat, but wet soil conditions are hindering fertilizer and herbicide applications in many areas. In the East Central region, early plantings of oats, alfalfa, an sugarbeets have begun for some producers with well-drained and well-tiled fields. There were a few reports of 2019 corn and soybeans remaining to be harvested by the end of the month in different parts of the State. Fruit trees in the Southwest were beginning to break dormancy and are showing almost no signs of winter damage. Other activities included pruning fruit trees, fixing machinery and conducting general repairs.

MINNESOTA: March brought fairly mild temperatures and very near average precipitation if not slightly below for much of Minnesota. Snowpack is disappearing with most snowmelt soaking into the soil, but there are still some concerns of localized flooding where frost is still in the ground. Reports of corn harvest from last fall's crop were received with considerable drops in moisture level and improved test weights. Corn harvesting activities were progressing well, but not quite completed. Many operators are still waiting for better conditions for fertilizer application, prior to the commencement of planting. Overall March livestock conditions have been reported as good, if not a little muddy, with reports of calving underway and going well. However, limited localized reports of higher than usual livestock losses and disease were reported due to fluctuating temperatures and wet conditions. Feed supplies were reported as adequate.

MISSISSIPPI: Conditions for the most of the month of March have been very wet, but rainy conditions have recently started to subside and have been more favorable for field activities. Fieldwork and planting have begun but are limited in some areas due to muddy conditions from excess rains. Producers are looking for some more sunny days and dry weather to continue field prepping and planting activities. Warm and moist conditions have allowed the growth of pasture grasses to begin. The State average rainfall was about 5 inches for the month of March with an average temperature of about 69 degrees. Overall, average temperatures for the State have been above normal for this time of year, and average rainfall has been greater than normal for March.

MISSOURI: For the week ending March 29, 2020. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 43% adequate, 56% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 53% adequate, 46% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 8% poor, 53% fair, 30% good, 7% excellent. Conditions overall for the month were warmer and wetter than normal with the State averaging 5.73 inches of precipitation for the month, 2.51 inches above average. Temperatures for the month averaged 47.4 degrees for the State, 2.9 degrees above normal.

MONTANA: This report for Montana is for the entire month of March 2020. Topsoil moisture 10% short, 72% adequate, 18% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 5% short, 71% adequate, 23% surplus. Winter wheat - condition 2% poor, 48% fair, 48% good, 2% excellent. Winter wheat – wind damage 23% none, 53% light, 20% moderate, 4% heavy. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 33% none, 42% light, 25% moderate. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 46% very poor, 31% poor, 12% fair, 9% good, 2% excellent. Livestock grazing accessibility – 47% open, 16% difficult, 37% closed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle and calves 94% fed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 98% fed. Cows calved 30%. Ewes lambled 25%. The month of March produced warm winter conditions with above average temperatures across the State of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Chouteau and Phillips counties noted it has been an unusual winter, with unseasonably warm temperatures and rapidly melting snow cover that could delay planting due to the increase of soil moisture.

NEBRASKA: For the month of March 2020, topsoil moisture supplies rated 1% very short, 8% short, 80% adequate, and 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 1% very short, 6% short, 86% adequate, and 7% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 16% fair, 71% good, and 8% excellent.

NEVADA: Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 25% short, 65% adequate and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 20% short, 70% adequate and 5% surplus. Temperatures for the month averaged 41.9 degrees, 0.8 degrees above below normal. Statewide average precipitation was 0.87 inches.

NEW ENGLAND: New England has experienced a mild spring so far, with some ups and downs in temperature. There is still up to a foot of snow in the foothills and more in the mountains. The melt is slow. According to a Massachusetts reporter, cool wet weather has certainly slowed progress following a warm stretch in mid-March. Many cranberry growers were preparing to protect from frost expected on April 1st. In New Hampshire, Orchardists pruned apple trees and some orchardists started pruning peach along with chopping bushes. Growers having large plantings of high-bush blueberries were pruning. Maple sugaring is done for the most part. Decent quantity of sap the last two weeks, just low on sugar. Vegetable operations started seeding and transplanting into high tunnels. Farms reviewing operations and making modifications for dealing with COVID-19. According to a reporter, COVID-19 is causing concerns about labor shortages.

NEW JERSEY: Abnormally warm March weather contributed to good field conditions and significant field work except in some areas where wet conditions have slowed activity. Winter small grains crops and over wintered vegetables are looking good. Farmers are spreading lime and prepping ground for planting. Fruit trees starting to bloom which is concerning. Early field seeding of certain vegetables started the last week of February. Transplanting started the second week of March. Direct seeded and transplanted vegetables look good. Overwinter crops such as cilantro and leeks are being harvested.

NEW MEXICO: This report for New Mexico is for the entire month of March 2020. Topsoil moisture 23% very short, 34% short, 42% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 22% very short, 37% short, 41% adequate. Chile planted 2%. Onions planted 15%; emerged 5%. Alfalfa hay condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 45% fair, 47% good, 5% excellent. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 53% fair, 34% good, 9% excellent. Cows calved 30%; 19% February. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 86%, 84% February. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 39% fair, 49% good, 5% excellent. Ewes lambled 30%; 20% February. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 74%, 74% February. Sheep and lambs condition 11% poor, 39% fair, 47% good, 3% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 14% very short, 40% short, 44% adequate, 2% surplus, compared with 24% very short, 22% short, 53% adequate, 1% surplus last month. Stock water supplies 10% very short, 31% short, and 59% adequate, compared with 4% very short, 26% short, 70% adequate last month. Weather conditions varied greatly between the northern and southern portions of the State during March. Below average moisture plagued most northern counties, while much of the south accumulated precipitation totaling

200 percent or more above normal. Statewide, temperatures were warmer than normal during the month. Reports from Rio Arriba and Taos Counties indicated that conditions remained dry following only light rain and snow showers, which has resulted in ranchers continuing to haul supplemental hay, feed, and water to their livestock. Elsewhere, it was noted that not only native pastures, but wheat fields as well, were in very good condition compared with the past several years, which has allowed producers to graze livestock for an extended period of time. In Curry County, reports indicated that some wheat fields were being harvested for silage. The United States Drought Monitor released on March 26 noted that the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4). Severe drought (D2) covered 11.4 percent of the State, unchanged from late-February conditions. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) – currently 14.9 percent – showed a 2.2 percentage point decrease from February 25. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 44.3 percent of the State, an improvement of 11.5 percentage points from February 25 conditions. Drought-free conditions were present across 55.7 percent of the State, the highest rating since early-October. In addition to native pastures, corn, hay, sorghum, and wheat are the main crops produced in the drought-affected areas, which could be weighing heavily on producer's minds as they finalize their planting intentions, and gear up to plant their 2020 crops.

NEW YORK: The month of March was reported as being primarily a warmer month generally throughout the State with some freezing temps in areas. Field work included application of fertilizer and manure with anticipation of tilling to begin in the next few weeks. Only a few fields were too wet. Maple sap flow was reported as doing well along with winter wheat. Alfalfa and spring grasses broke dormancy in some areas. One reported concern regarding the warmer temperatures this past month was early budding of fruit trees.

NORTH CAROLINA: For the week ending March 29, 2020; Subsoil moisture 3% short, 65% adequate, 32% surplus. Topsoil moisture 2% short, 70% adequate, 28% surplus. Barley condition 2% poor, 13% fair, 82% good, 3% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 10% very short, 22% short, 67% adequate, 1% surplus. Oats condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 64% good, 3% excellent. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 37% fair, 51% good, 5% excellent. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 65% good, and 11% excellent. Throughout March, weather has been relatively warm and wet. Most of the State received between 4.5"-5.5" of rain for the month. Conditions improved by late week to allow some field preparations. Pastures are really starting to green up with the warmer temperatures. Soil conditions are good for planting and some corn will go in likely this week. Already have some wheat beginning to head which is about 2-3 weeks earlier than normal. Hay supplies is getting short.

NORTH DAKOTA: For the month of March 2020, topsoil moisture supplies rated 0% very short, 1% short, 62% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 0% very short, 1% short, 67% adequate, 32% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 31% fair, 62% good, 6% excellent. Corn harvested 75%. Sunflowers harvested 91%. Cattle and calf conditions, 0% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 67% good, 16% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss, 2% heavy, 72% average, 26% light. Calving progress 31%, ahead of 25% last year. Sheep and lamb conditions, 0% very poor, 2% poor, 14% fair, 70% good, 14% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss, 1% heavy, 80% average, 19% light. Lambing progress 53%, ahead of 46% last year. Shearing progress 70%, well ahead of 40% last year. Hay and roughage supplies, 5% very short, 22% short, 65% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies, 0% very short, 2% short, 83% adequate, 15% surplus.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture for the month was 28% adequate, and 72% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 1% short, 35% adequate, and 64% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 63% good, and 12% excellent. The Statewide average temperature was 43.8 degrees, 4.6 degrees above normal. The warmest districts in the State were the southern districts. Precipitation averaged 5.2 inches Statewide, 2.4 inches above normal for March, much of which was in the form of rain. The west central, central, and east central districts received the most precipitation. Snowfall accumulation was down about 2 inches in the southern districts of the State while it was down around 12 inches in the northeast portion of State compared to the historic normal snowfall for the month. Fieldwork was stalled by wet conditions and pastures were saturated and muddy. Winter wheat has broken dormancy and is putting on the start of spring growth. Reports of standing water in low lying fields were widespread across the State.

OKLAHOMA: For the month of March, rainfall totals averaged 4.30 inches throughout the State, with the Southeast district recording the highest precipitation at 6.47 inches and the Panhandle district recording the lowest at 0.88 of an inch. According to the March 24, US Drought Monitor Report, 6 percent of the State was in the moderate to severe drought categories, up 4 points from the previous year. Just 1 percent of the State was in the severe drought category, compared to zero from the previous year. Statewide temperatures averaged in the mid 50's, with the lowest recording of 20 degree at Buffalo on Friday, March 6th and the highest recording of 100 degrees at Hollis on Thursday, March 26th. Crop, livestock, and pasture conditions were rated mostly good to fair for the month of March. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to short.

OREGON: The Statewide temperatures in Oregon for the month of March were near normal to below average throughout the State. Some storm activity brought added moisture to a good portion of the State in late March. The western half of the State was noticeably drier than average for the month of March. In the northern coastal region of Oregon, Polk County reported fewer disease and pest issues. Pasture grasses were adequate. The grass growth stayed ahead of the grazing. Fresh market farm irrigation was required in high tunnels due to fast growth. Transplanting was observed in cabbage, broccoli, kale, and chard. Field work started early in Clackamas County, but moisture late in the month put a damper on the amount of work accomplished. Organic dairy cows were put out to pasture. Mild conditions allowed some manure applications on pastures. Elsewhere in northern Oregon, cover crops on corn silage fields looked well established. Some spring grain went in before the weather returned to a typical wet cycle in late March. In north central Oregon, conditions were dry and windy for most of March. Producers planted some spring wheat and barley. Calving conditions remained good. In northeastern Oregon, a small amount of stripe rust was observed on winter wheat. Most acres received fungicide with spring herbicide application. Downy brome in winter wheat appeared better controlled than in the 2019 crop year. Winter canola was doing very well. In southwestern Oregon, field crops appeared to be in good shape. Orchard crops were pushing buds and flowering about 2-3 weeks earlier than average. Bartlett and D 'Anjou varieties were blooming. Apples were in the pink and pre-pink stage with early to mid-season varieties. Plums finished blooming and look to have an average set. Many peaches had mostly finished bloom. Bee activity in the mid to late day looked good after the cold morning warm up. Blueberry fields were about 7-10 days away from flowers opening and looked like a potentially very good bloom. Raspberry and blackberry fields were still in early bud break. In south central and southeastern Oregon, most irrigation districts were adequate, but behind last year's growing season. In the North Unit Irrigation District in Jefferson County 25% of the acres will be fallowed. Less hemp acres were planned for the 2020 crop.

PENNSYLVANIA: Warm March weather contributed to good field conditions and significant field work except in some areas where wet conditions have slowed activity. Winter small grains have sprouted as high as 6 inches with similar growth seen in oats and clover. Field work has involved manure spreading, nitrogen application and hay seeding. Reports suggest we're experiencing an "early spring" by as many as 2 weeks.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Average temperatures ranged from 1.4 to 11.9 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from no rain in select locations to 7.6 inches in Anderson County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the State remained drought free throughout the month. Heavy rainfall affected most of the State earlier in March but slowed down later in the month, allowing some producers to prepare fields for planting corn and cotton. Some corn was already planted in areas where soil was dry enough. Small grains were progressing well; however, nitrogen applications were delayed due to rain earlier in the month. Pastures were greening up, which provided relief to cattlemen who were beginning to run out of hay supplies. Sweet corn, tomatoes, and cucurbits had been planted and were progressing well. Strawberries were also looking good and harvest had begun. Fresh market growers were concerned about future sales due to COVID-19 restrictions.

SOUTH DAKOTA: For the month of March 2020, topsoil moisture supplies rated 0% very short, 1% short, 62% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 0% very short, 0% short, 61% adequate, 39% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 0% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 82% good, and 3% excellent.

TENNESSEE: For the month, Topsoil moisture 40% adequate, 60% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 41% adequate, 58% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 4% poor 33% fair, 46% good, 15% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 2% very poor, 10% poor, 34% fair, 45% good, 9% excellent. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 23% fair, 55% good, 13% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 9% very short, 30% short, 55% adequate, 6% surplus. Tennessee experienced above normal rainfall in March. Some report over 30 inches since January 1. The weather conditions resulted in continued saturated and muddy soils. Impacting both crops and livestock. Winter wheat condition reported mostly good. Cattle condition is currently reported mostly good despite stress from muddy conditions. Hay and roughage supplies are decreasing. Dwindling stocks have producers hoping spring grasses get a solid start.

TEXAS: Precipitation mostly ranged from trace amounts to upwards of 4 inches with isolated areas in East Texas, the Backlands, and the Cross Timbers receiving upwards of 15 inches. Small grains progressed due to increased moisture. Row crop producers in areas of the Lower Valley continued irrigation. Livestock condition continued fair to good. Supplemental feeding continued Statewide but slowed in some areas.

UTAH: This report for Utah is for the entire month of March, 2020. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 10% short, 79% adequate, and 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture 19% short, 76% adequate, and 5% surplus. Pasture and range condition 14% poor, 35% fair, 48% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 15% poor, 30% fair, 46% good, and 6% excellent. Barley planted 3%. Hay and roughage supplies 3% short, 85% adequate, 12% surplus. Stock water supplies 12% short, 81% adequate, 7% surplus. Cattle and calves condition 19% fair, 75% good, 6% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 2% poor, 27% fair, 63% good, 8% excellent. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 86%. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 51%. Cows calved 32%. Ewes lambed-farm flock 32%. Ewes lambed-range flock 4%. Mild winter temperatures along with isolated snow storms occurred throughout the State for the month of March. Sevier County reports dry winter conditions, but good snow pack in the mountains. Box Elder County reports producers are applying fertilizers to fields, and planting onions and small grain crops. Beaver, Box Elder, Garfield, and Kane Counties report livestock producers are busy with calving and lambing.

VIRGINIA: For week ending March 29, 2020, Topsoil moisture is 2% short, 83% adequate and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture is 1% short, 90% adequate and 9% surplus. Winter wheat condition is 1% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 67% good, 13% excellent. Barley condition is 2% poor, 20% fair, 68% good, 10% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 33% fair, 47% good, 13% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 1% very poor, 13% poor, 43% fair, 39% good, 4% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 17% very short, 32% short, 47% adequate, 4% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 28%. Virginia experienced above normal temperatures in March. Field prep is underway as growing conditions are starting up. Some above average precipitation keeps some fields too wet for work. Pasture conditions have increased and are starting to green up allowing some farmers to end supplemental hay feeding. Hay supplies are still tight due to the dry fall. Hay and roughage supplies are still mostly short to adequate. Primary activities for the month include applying manure corn field prep, nitrogen application to wheat, and spreading fertilizer.

WASHINGTON: Western Washington precipitation was below average in March. It was mild and dry across many counties in western Washington. Spring field preparation was under way. In Lewis, Grays Harbor, and Pacific Counties the weather had been erratic. Producers were spreading as much fertilizer as possible between the rain and hail. Winter calving was almost finished and spring calving had not started. Producers were anxious to start chopping haylage because dairy-quality organic hay had been difficult to find. In Thurston County the grass was not as green as producers were expecting. Jefferson County saw a lot of flooding due to increased rain activity in the later part of the month. In San Juan County some no-till drill pasture seeding had been attempted. Central Washington was dry. In Klickitat County there was very little pasture growing. The soil temperature remained low in Adams County because natural moisture was below average. In eastern Washington the winter wheat was in mostly good condition. Overall the conditions were average in eastern Washington.

WEST VIRGINIA: For the week ending March 29, Topsoil moisture 2% short, 77% adequate, and 21% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 83% adequate, and 15% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 16% short, 76% adequate, and 8% surplus. Feed grain supplies 11% short, 81% adequate, and 8% surplus. Winter wheat

condition 62% good and 38% excellent. Pasture condition 9% very poor, 1% poor, 23% fair, 59% good, and 8% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 2% poor, 36% fair, 56% good, and 6% excellent. Cows calved 67%. Sheep and lambs condition 1% poor, 36% fair, 60% good, and 3% excellent. Ewes lambled 72%. Weather conditions for the month have been a mix of warmer periods mixed with some colder ones. The month has had periods of rain, leaving some muddy conditions. Farming activities for the month included preparing fields, calving, fence repairs, and some brush removal.

WISCONSIN: Precipitation was plentiful in March with all 5 major weather stations reporting rainfall at least 50% over normal. Green Bay received the most rain at 4.36 inches, while Eau Claire received the least at 2.44 inches. Monthly temperatures were all above normal. Temperatures ranged from 3.9 degrees above normal in Green Bay to 5.7 degrees above normal in La Crosse. Average highs ranged from 41.1 degrees in Green Bay to 47.3 in La Crosse. Average lows ranged from 27.3 in Eau Claire to 32.1 degrees in both La Crosse and Milwaukee. Madison received the most snow of the major cities with 2.8 inches, while Milwaukee received the least with 1.1 inches for the month. The snow cover is gone from fields, with only scattered exceptions, though it is still too early to determine winter damage to small grains and alfalfa. Northern and central Wisconsin reported some harvesting of the last of the 2019 corn, but in general field conditions were too wet for field work. The maple syrup flow this year was reported as only moderate.

WYOMING: This report for Wyoming is for the entire month of March 2020. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 8% short, 83% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 9% short, 81% adequate, 6% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 67% good, 7% excellent. Barley planted 20%. Calving progress 21% cows calved. Sheep and lamb progress 10% ewes lambled. Sheep and lamb shorn progress 32% shorn. Hay and roughage supplies 2% very short, 10% short, 87% adequate, 5% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 7% fair, 90% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 94% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture and range condition 6% very poor, 15% poor, 31% fair, 47% good, 1% excellent. Cattle death loss 45% average, 55% light. Sheep death loss 1% heavy, 69% average, 30% light. Winter wheat condition is mostly good to fair and pasture and range is rated mostly good to fair. Temperatures were above normal for most of the State and topsoil moisture levels have gotten slightly wetter across the State from last month.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates included in this report are based on survey data collected 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@usda.gov

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Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet.....	(202) 720-2127
James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay.....	(202) 690-8533
Jeff Lemmons – Oats, Soybeans.....	(202) 690-3234
Irwin Anolik – Crop Weather.....	(202) 720-7621
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Chris Singh – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Barley, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369

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