

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

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ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 25% short, 61% adequate, 13% surplus. Corn 31% planted, 21% 1999, 28% avg. Wheat 0% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 59% good, 22% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 5% poor, 36% fair, 50% good, 8% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 9% excellent. Farmers are making soil preparations, planting corn. Some farmers in the northern portion of the state are switching to no-till cotton this year.

ARIZONA: Area continued to record above average temperatures with modest precipitation during the month of March. Weather conditions have minimal impact on crop, vegetable production due to irrigation. Livestock was reported to be in fair condition. Stock Water was reported as short to adequate while Soil Moisture was reported as short. Insect Damage was reported as none to light. Last week temperatures in Area were generally cooler than normal. Producers in central areas continued to ship a variety of vegetables including: Broccoli, cabbage, cilantro, dandelion, dill, endive, escarole, flowering kale, green onions, kale, kohlrabi, mixed greens, napa, parsley, spinach, swiss chard. Lettuce shipments included: Leaf, romaine. Eastern Areas producers shipped hot house tomatoes. Producers in western areas also shipped a wide variety of vegetables including: Anise, broccoflower, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, endive, escarole, mixed greens, napa, parsley, salad savoy, spinach, swiss chard. Western lettuce, salad/salad mixes shipments included: Boston, iceberg, leaf, romaine, spring mix. Central Areas citrus producers harvested lemons, navels, grapefruit, minneolas, fairchild tangerines, tangelos. Western citrus producers harvested grapefruit, lemons, tangelos last week.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork: 4.0. Soil moisture 17% short, 61% adequate, 22% surplus. Rice 1% planted, 0% 1999, 2% 5 yr. avg. Sorghum 4% planted, 2% 1999, 3% 5 yr. avg. Corn 36% planted, 1999, and 5 yr. avg not applicable; Wheat 6% headed, 1% 1999, 3% 5 yr. avg; wheat condition: 1% poor, 18% fair, 56% good, 25% excellent. Other Hay 4% very poor, 8% poor, 42% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. Pasture, Range 1% very poor, 8% poor, 39% fair, 43% good, 9% excellent. Livestock good condition. The main farm Activities: Row crop ground preparation, planting corn, rice, sorghum, wheat disease scouting, fertilizing wheat fields, pastures, vaccinating cattle. Slight hail damage, Extreme western Area Valley.

CALIFORNIA: Field activity picked up speed as the ground continued to dry. Fertilizers, herbicides were applied. Some insecticides were applied by air for weevil control. Dryland wheat, oats could use more rain to carry the crop through to full maturity. Small grain, winter forage crops were progressing well; some fields were heading. Irrigation was applied to ensure good soil moisture levels. In some areas wheat, oats were cut for silage. Damaged spots resulting from poor drainage during the rainy season remained obvious. Some fields of barley, wheat were still in the soft dough or boot stages. Alfalfa was being cut, chopped for feeding, silage, baled hay. Occasional fields of alfalfa were treated for aphids. Cotton planting continued; some growers were waiting for warmer temperatures. Many fields were being worked in preparation for cotton, corn planting. Several fields of corn for green chop were planted; earlier planted fields were emerging. Ground preparation for rice, wild rice was in full swing in many fields. Rice planting was expected to begin in most areas this month. A few fields of rice straw awaited burning. Pre-plant weed treatments were applied to fields of sunflower, safflower. Several

fields of safflower were planted. Sunflower planting was expected to begin next week. Spring sugarbeet harvest began in the earliest planted fields. The warm, sunny weather permitted fruit, nut growers to plant new trees, vines. Weed control, fungicide applications were some of the activities ongoing in stone fruit, almond orchards. Nut trees, stone fruit trees, grape vines were leafing. Picking of grapefruit, lemon crops was active in southern areas. The harvest of valencia oranges in the desert areas was active. San Joaquin Valley navel orange picking continued. Growers remained concerned about puff, crease, soft fruit. Minneola tangelos were also being picked. Strawberry fields were blooming, setting fruit. Vegetable field activities were in full swing through the week of dry weather. Ground preparation, weed treatments, planting of processing tomato seed, transplants continued. Northern areas honeydew melon, watermelon planting was expected to start within the next couple of weeks. Watermelon planting had already begun in Merced County. Radicchio harvesting, planting of new fields continued. Field work, harvesting was active in Monterey County artichokes, broccoli, asparagus fields. Fresno County growers were planting summer vegetables. Beans, onions, tomatoes, garlic fields were weeded, irrigated. The head lettuce crop was looking good, with only a few isolated problems. Sweet corn was being planted. Seedlings have emerged in the earlier planted fields. Harvesting of spinach, cauliflower, broccoli continued in Tulare County. Other crops being harvested this week included: Green, Napa cabbage, cilantro, mushrooms, parsley, radishes, turnips. Supplemental feeding of hay, nutrients was minimal, as forage growth has been good. Cattle are showing good weight gains. Additional cattle were being moved onto lower elevation pastures. Ranchers looked for some additional rain before dry weather establishes itself for the season. Conditions for milk production have improved as paddocks were dry. Sheep were moved to summer grazing areas. Preparations were being made to move bees out of prune, plum, almond orchards. Some hives were being placed in orange groves.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.0. Topsoil 0% very short 5% short, 86% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 17% short, 76% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition improved as snowstorms delivered additional moisture to most areas of the state. Recent field inspections detected higher than usual aphid populations as a result of the mild winter. Spring barley 30% seeded, 44% 1999, 31% avg. Dry onions 52% seeded, 53% 1999, 51% avg. Sugar beets 13%, 27% 1999, 17% avg. Spring wheat 16% planted, 40% 1999, 19% avg. Cows 65% calved, 62% 1999, 67% avg. Ewes 49% lambled, 52% 1999, 64% avg.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 69% adequate, 31% surplus. Subsoil moisture 100% adequate. Percent of acreage prepared for 18% planting of spring crops. Winter wheat 1% poor, 8% fair, 83% good, 8% excellent. Barley 3% poor, 11% fair, 78% good, 8% excellent. Potatoes 15% planted, 30% 1999, 33% avg. Green peas 24% planted, 30% 1999, 25% avg. Peaches 65% bloomed, 0% 1999, 33% avg. Strawberries 11% bloomed, 15% 1999, 6% avg. Pasture feed 26% fair, 69% good, 5% excellent. Hay supplies 17% very short, 47% short, 36%, adequate. Activities: Potato, pea planting continued, farmers spreading nitrogen on fields.

FLORIDA: Warm temperatures, spotty storms continued. Temperatures averaged 3 to 6° above normal for week. Most highs 70s, 80s. Most lows 50s, 60s. Miami, Orlando recorded at least one high at

91. Several Panhandle, northern, north central localities recorded at least one low in 40s. Storms brought varying amounts of rain. Pierson, Daytona Beach, southeastern coast reported 5.00 to over 7.00 in. However, most rain totals ranged from traces to 3.00 in. West Palm Beach reported no rain for week. Moisture in Panhandle, northern Peninsula short to adequate. Central, southern Peninsula moisture very short or short with scattered areas of adequate moisture. Sugarcane grinding virtually complete. Field corn planting active. Farmers starting to plant cotton, peanuts. Tobacco transplanting active. Rains have decreased wild fire index in some areas. Potato digging underway, West Central. Tomato harvesting slowing, Dade County, Southwest. Major vegetables available: Potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, endive, escarole, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes, snap beans, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, eggplant. Some rain most citrus areas, more moisture needed, growers irrigating. Lakes, ponds, streams very low levels. Early, mid orange harvest all but complete. Valencia, grapefruit movement increasing. Most Temples being processed. Honey tangerines being shipped for fresh use. Caretakers cutting cover crops, spraying, hedging, topping. Few burn permits issued due to dry conditions. Pasture feed 15% poor, 80% fair, 5% good. Cattle 5% poor, 85% fair, 10% good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 4.3. Soil moisture 4% very short, 16% short, 62% adequate 18% surplus. Corn 26% fair, 67% good, 75 excellent; 58% emerged. Hay 1% very poor, 7% poor, 39% fair, 49% good, 4% excellent. Sorghum 3% planted. Tobacco 22% fair, 69% good, 9% excellent; 24% transplanted. Wheat 89% jointing, 62% boot. Onions 4% poor, 18% fair, 72% good 6% excellent. Watermelons 2% poor, 62% fair, 33% good, 3% excellent; 39% planted. Apples 32% fair, 59% good, 9% excellent; 17% blooming. Peaches 22% fair, 43% good, 35% excellent; 89% blooming. Rains fell on much of the State last week, temporarily improved soil moisture. They also helped improve irrigation ponds. The rains slowed fieldwork in some areas. Rye crop was heading. Farmers scouted for cereal leaf beetles in wheat. Small grain disease pressure was high in some areas. The rains delayed tobacco, pepper planting in some areas. This may help relieve Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus pressure. Fertilizer, weed control chemicals were applied to pecan orchards. Routine care of livestock continued. Farmers were planting hayfields. Pastures were greening up, offered limited grazing. Other activities included: Preparing land for truck crop vegetables.

HAWAII: Weather conditions were fair for agriculture. A late-season cold front brought some much needed rain to the State. Windward areas of all the islands received between one to four inches of rain over the weekend. The heavy showers helped to relieve drought conditions in those areas. Leeward areas remained relatively dry, are in need of rain. Despite the recent showers, water conservation measures remained in effect for the entire island of Areas, the Upcountry area of Maui, parts of Molokai. Banana orchards benefitted from the added moisture. Strong, gusty winds behind the cold front shredded leaves, bruised fruits in exposed areas. Papaya harvesting is steady. Most orchards were in fair to good condition. Spraying to prevent disease outbreaks will start once weather permits. Head cabbage harvesting heavy and steady. Most of the crop in good condition. Dry onion harvesting increasing. Ginger root harvesting very active.

IDAHO: Days suitable for field work 4.6. Topsoil 2% very short, 8% short, 60% adequate, 30% surplus. The weather has been cool but relatively dry across the state. Eastern Areas received new snow mixed with rain last week. Spring work is progressing slowly but well. Calving is 84% complete, lambing 87%. Hay, roughage supplies were reported to be 11% very short, 7% short, 77% adequate, 5% surplus. Irrigation supply 40% excellent, 45% good, 13% fair, 2% poor. Onions 40% planted, 49% 1999, 41% avg. Dry peas 1% planted, 11% 1999, 5% avg. Oats 2% planted, 4% 1999, 5% avg. Potatoes 1% planted, 1% 1999, 1% avg. Sugarbeets 10% planted, 14% 1999, 17% avg. Activities: Planting sugarbeets, spring wheat, spring barley, onions, potatoes, dry peas, lentils, oats, sorting, shipping seed potatoes, feeding, caring for livestock, field preparation.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Topsoil 18 % very short, 48% short, 32% adequate, 2% surplus. Oats 59% planted, 55% 1999, 24% avg. Alfalfa 2% poor, 26% fair, 63% good, 9% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 8% poor, 35% fair, 50% good, 9% excellent. Farmers last week

were seeding oats, forage crops along with working their fields in preparation for corn, soybean planting. There were reports from various areas of the state that some farmers had begun planting corn, soybeans on a limited number of acres. Most areas of the state received some minor rain showers last week but the dryness of the soil accompanied by gusty winds quickly dried the topsoil out again. Dry subsoils continue to be the greatest concern of farmers right now, there will be enough moisture to get a crop planted but there is little reserve in the subsoil to sustain the crop during a short dry period. The southeast region of the state is primarily the only region where reports of excessive soil moisture were received. Vegetable planting has begun in the north, peaches, nectarines were blooming in the south. Other activities for the last week of March included: Applying fertilizer, herbicides, preparing equipment for planting, waiting for soil temperatures to warm up, visiting local FSA offices to certify wheat acres, sign up for the oilseed program and fill out LDP, price support applications.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil 16% very short, 35% short, 47% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 33% very short, 45% short, 22% adequate. Warm temperatures prevailed during the week. Soils are dry. Lack of precipitation, major concern. Farmers are plowing, tilling soils. Application of fertilizer, nitrogen continues. A few corn fields are planted, mostly southwest. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 55% good, 15% excellent. Winter wheat 18% jointed. Pastures greening up, growing. Range, pasture 13% very poor, 26% poor, 35% fair, 25% good, 1% excellent. Hay supplies mostly adequate. Farmers continue to purchase inputs. Livestock are in mostly good condition, calving, lambing active. Major activities: Tillage of soils, spreading chemicals, lime, preparing equipment, selling grain, ditching, seeding oats, hauling manure, feeding, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Very favorable, warm, dry weather, fieldwork running ahead of schedule. Corn planted 0%, 1999 0%, avg 0%, some farmers have fields ready, but waiting for more appropriate date to plant. Oats planted 15%, 99 57% avg. 15%. Fertilizer applied (including fall applications) 42%. Seedbed preparation (including fall preparation) 49%

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.1. Topsoil 5% short, 69% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 14% short, 73% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat condition continued to improve with warmer weather, recent rains. Wheat 2% very poor, 8% poor, 36% fair, 43% good, 11% excellent. Wheat jointing 44% 30% 1999, 24% avg. Winterkill 88% none, 11% light, 1% moderate. Wind damage 87% none, 11% light, 2% moderate. Freeze damage 92% none, 7% light, 1% moderate. Range, Pasture 1% very poor, 6% poor, 36% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Oats seeded 71%, 92% 1999, 86% avg.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 19% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 33% short, 57% adequate, 3% surplus. Pasture feeds 2% very poor, 11% poor, 41% fair, 37% good, 9% excellent. Above average temperatures were felt throughout the State for the 1st week of April. Land was being prepared for corn planting, tobacco beds were being seeded. About 65% of tobacco for transplants were seeded, corn planting began in the Southwestern part of the State. Areas gross sales through March totaled 413.7 million pounds, averaged \$189.82 per hundred pounds. Producers reported 3% loss in winter wheat, barley acreage due to winter kill. Alfalfa 3% loss, 5% red clover loss. Cattle in mostly good condition, with adequate hay supplies.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Soil moisture 3% very short, 12% short, 64% adequate, 21% surplus. Corn 61% planted, 49% 1999, 70% avg.; 58% emerged, 23% 1999, 38% avg. Rice 29% emerged, 11% 1999, 11% avg. Rice producers continued to plant. Spring plowing 71% plowing, 63% 1999, 62% avg. Sugarcane 1% poor, 11% fair, 46% good, 42% excellent. Sugarcane farmers were fertilizing, cultivating. Wheat 5% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 10% excellent; 85% headed, 45% 1999, 34% avg.; 7% turning color, 0% 1999, 0% avg. Livestock 1% very poor, 6% poor, 41% fair, 42% good, 10% excellent. Vegetables 9% poor, 45% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. Pastures 2% very poor, 15% poor, 34% fair, 42% good, 7% excellent. Pasture feed improved, providing much needed forage for livestock producers.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil 11% short, 71% adequate, 18% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 18% short, 72% adequate, 9% surplus. Percent of acreage prepared for 28% planting of spring crops. Winter wheat 1% poor, 16% fair, 61% good, 22% excellent. Barley 1% poor, 14% fair, 64% good, 21% excellent. Rye 1% poor, 13% fair, 71% good, 15% excellent. Potatoes 21% planted, 25% 1999, 15% avg. Green peas 32% planted, 40% 1999, 15% avg. Tobacco beds 88% planted, 80% 1999, 85% avg. Tomatoes 5% planted, 2% 1999, 1% avg. Apples 18% bloomed, 10% 1999, 6% avg. Peaches 60% bloomed, 25% 1999, 19% avg. Strawberries 18% bloomed, 15% 1999, 6% avg. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 61% good, 14% excellent. Hay supplies 9% very short, 37% short, 54% adequate. Activities: Potato, pea planting continued, tobacco auctions taking place in Southern Areas farmers spreading nitrogen on fields.

MICHIGAN: Soil moisture reserves across the state were at their lowest levels since the spring of 1988. Abnormally mild, dry weather has dominated the month with precipitation levels ranging from near normal down to little more than half of the monthly average. At the same time the temperature has ranged from 2° above normal in the southeast corner of the state to 7° above normal in the northwest area of the state. Many farmers took advantage of the nice weather by getting a jump on their spring field work top-dressing fertilizer, hauling manure, doing some tillage, repairing field tile, soil sampling. Some oats, sugarbeets were planted. The lambing season was coming to a close while calving is in progress throughout the state. Livestock were in good condition. Other activities occurring throughout the state have included: Boiling maple syrup, packing apples, pruning fruit trees, preparing equipment, obtaining supplies for spring planting.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil 20% very short, 32% short, 39% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil 26% very short, 31% short, 33% adequate, 10% surplus. Corn 4% ground prepared, 0% 1999, 5% avg. Soybeans 2% ground prepared, 0% 1999, 4% avg. Spring wheat 4% planted, 0% 1999, 0% avg. Oats 7% planted, 0% 1999, 0% avg. Barley 4% planted, 0% 1999, 1% avg. Green peas 3% planted, 0% 1999, 2% avg. Small grain planting began relatively early this year due to the mild dry weather this spring. Rains would be welcome across the state. Many are concerned about damage to overwintered crops due to the lack of snow cover for the majority of the winter, the early spring conditions. Calving, lambing have been doing extremely well with the mild weather, non-muddy conditions.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.5. Soil moisture 2% very short, 16% short, 49% adequate, 33% surplus. Corn 67% planted, 42% 1999, 41% avg.; 52% emerged, 15% 1999, 15% avg. Rice 1% planted 2% 1999, 5% avg. Wheat 83% jointing, 78% 1999, 74% avg.; 24% heading, 6% 1999, 5% avg.; 2% poor, 15% fair, 63% good, 20% excellent. Watermelons 28% planted, 17% 1999, 18% avg. Blueberries 4% poor, 26% fair, 52% good, 18% excellent. Cattle 1% very poor, 8% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, 10 excellent. Pasture 2% very poor, 10% poor, 32% fair, 47% good, 9% excellent. Most parts of the state received rainfall. Many parts of the state are waiting for dry conditions to continue planting of row crops.

MISSOURI: Mild weather conditions throughout most of the State allowed for farmers to have access to their fields. An average of 4.9 days were suitable for fieldwork during the week of Monday, March 27th through Sunday, April 2nd. This ranged from 6 days in the northern third to 3.3 days in the Bootheel west-central districts. By the end of the week 53% of the ground had been worked at least once for spring crops, excluding no-till, compared with 42% last year. The topsoil moisture supplies were rated at 14% very short, 34% short, 48% adequate, 4% surplus. Districts with the highest ratings were the west-central, the Bootheel with over 70% adequate, some surplus. Hay supply was reported as 7% very short, 26% short, 61% adequate, and 6% surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 16% very short, 37% short, 45% adequate, and 2% surplus. Five percent of the corn was planted, slightly ahead of the 3% 1999. The Bootheel led all districts with 23% planted. Winter wheat 3% poor, 34% fair, 49% good, and 14% excellent. West-central and east-central districts reported the best conditions with over 75% in the good to excellent category. The weekly precipitation averaged

0.34 inch with the most precipitation reported in the southwest district at 0.90 inch.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.9. Topsoil 15% very short, 45% short, 39% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 25% very short, 50% short, 25% adequate, 0% surplus. Some producers in some southern areas of the state are seeding crops while others are spreading fertilizer. Fieldwork in progress was rated 70% none, 23% just started, 7% well underway. Winter wheat emergence was 12% still dormant, 70% greening, 18% green, growing. The overall lack of snow cover over the winter in combination with little moisture, high winds has taken its toll on the winter wheat crop. Wind damage to winter wheat 51% none, 36% light, 11% moderate, 2% heavy. Freeze, drought damage to the winter wheat crop is minimal, is rated 52% none, 36% light, 8% moderate, 4% heavy. Oats 1% planted, 1% 1999, 0% avg. Sugar beets 0% planted, 4% 1999, 1% avg. As a result of the continued fairly mild conditions, livestock is reported to be in very good condition. Calving, lambing is making good progress as few problems have occurred, death losses are minimal. Calving 64% completed, 63% 1999, 67% avg. Lambing 53% completed, 33% 1999, 41% avg. Producers are continuing to give supplemental feed to meet nutritional needs. At the end of the week, 97% of the cattle, calves, 88% of the sheep, lambs were receiving supplemental feed. There is a concern of a shortage of water for livestock as a result of below normal precipitation. There are some reports of ponds, reservoirs being either low or empty due to a lack of snowfall, runoff.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil moisture supplies were mostly short to adequate while subsoil moisture supplies were mostly very short to short. Temperatures across the State averaged about 2 to 5° above normals during the week. Precipitation ranged from traces to sixty hundredths. Winter Wheat 3% very poor, 8% poor, 31% fair, 51% good, 7% excellent. Oat seedlings were 66% complete, compared to 30% 1999, 20% avg. Pasture, range 12% very poor, 20% poor, 44% fair, 22% good, 2% excellent. Calving was 78% complete, ahead of 1999 at 67%. Producer activities included: Crop planting preparations, livestock care.

NEVADA: The week began with temperatures averaging above normal, most locations received a trace of precipitation. Temperatures cooled to below normal midweek, then rose to well above normal at week's end. Water equivalent of the snowpack remained below normal at most watersheds, ranging from 73% of normal at the Carson River to 101% of normal for eastern Areas. Irrigation water supplies rated mostly adequate. Deliveries of surface irrigation water began in the Lovelock area. The mild, mostly open weather allowed early season fieldwork to advance rapidly. Field preparation was active, spring grain planting was underway. Spring grains had emerged in Lyon County, crop condition was mostly good. Weed control was underway. Range conditions were generally good, except where burned in last summer's wild fires. Calving, lambing continued. Some turnout to lower grazing allotments underway. Main farm, ranch activities: Field preparation, grain planting, weed control, branding, working cattle.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures above average for the week. Maple sugaring activities were winding down throughout the region. Darker syrup was being reported in some areas due to the content of the sap which may have been affected by the drought from 1999. Farmers tending livestock, repairing machinery, bringing tractors, trucks, implements out of storage in preparation of the spring planting season. Manure spreading by dairy farmers continues. Garden centers gearing up for spring.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures continue above normal. Land preparation activities include: Plowing, seed bed preparation. Fertilizer application on wheat, barley. Cumulative rainfall for year 2000 as much as 25% more than 1999 in the southern part of the state. Planting of peas, spinach, lettuce, cabbage, potatoes throughout the state. Apple, peach trees are being pruned with some peach trees beginning to bloom. Cutting of dandelions, leeks, spinach reported.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for field work. 5.2 Topsoil moisture was 30% very short, 18% short, 49% adequate, 3% surplus. For the second week in a row, an intense winter storm moved across area. Most of the

precipitation was confined to the northern half, with only a few spots receiving over a tenth of an inch in the south. In the north, Farmington, Chama, Raton, Capulin/Des Moines, Red River all collected over one inch (water equivalent). While conditions improved, more moisture is still needed, especially in the southeast, southwest areas of the State. Main farm activities during the week were: Planting chile, alfalfa, oats, land preparation for spring planting. Onions remained in mostly good to excellent condition. Chile was 60% planted, was in fair to excellent condition. Both irrigated, dryland wheat improved as a result of the moisture during the week. Ranchers were still having to supplement feed for cattle. Cattle continued in fair to good condition, while sheep were in poor to good condition. Pasture, range conditions improved last week are 14% very poor, 29% poor, 50% fair, 7% good.

NEW YORK: Days suitable 2.0. Soil moisture 50% adequate, 50% surplus. Pasture feed very poor. Pastures are dormant, not used this time of year. As they dry, begin to grow livestock will be moved onto them. Maple syrup making complete in all but northern most areas. Producers reported good sap runs in majority of state. Clean-up work was active. Machinery was being readied for upcoming season. Very little plowing done yet. Onions being planted in Orange County. Other major activities: Tending livestock, spreading manure, finalizing plans for this season.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work were 4.5 compared to 4.2 last week. Widespread rainfall continued in areas through the last week of March as most areas in the State received precipitation. The 4th fourth consecutive week of precipitation has pushed statewide soil moisture to it's current rating of 1% very short, 3% short, 80% adequate, 16% surplus. The moisture again limited outdoor activities Farmers who were able to get in the field continue to prepare land for corn, cotton, tobacco. Activities: Tilling land, applying burn down to no-till acres. Irish potato, cabbage plantings are both over 90% complete, well ahead of schedule. Other activities included: Scouting for pests, equipment maintenance, tending livestock.

NORTH DAKOTA: Cooler temperatures, light rains last week halted any fieldwork that was started. The average starting date for fieldwork is April 9th. Topsoil 5% very short, 20% short, 70% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 5% very short, 17% short, 72% adequate, 6% surplus. No durum wheat was planted. Cattle 0% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 73% good, 11% excellent. Calf 0% very poor, 0% poor, 16% fair, 70% good, 14% excellent. Calving was 56% complete. 94% of the cattle were receiving supplemental feed. Sheep 0% very poor, 0% poor, 12% fair, 75% good, 13% excellent. Lamb 0% very poor, 0% poor, 14% fair, 72% good, 14% excellent. Lambing was 64% complete, shearing was 78% complete. 85% of the sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Hay, roughage supplies were 0% very short, 3% short, 86% adequate, 11% surplus. Pasture, ranges were 75% open, 93% dormant.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork was 3.2 days. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 23% short, 64% adequate, 9% surplus. Oats 23% planted, 21% 1999, 12% avg. Winter wheat 9% jointed, 3% 1999. Tobacco 31% beds seeded, 25% 1999. Tobacco beds having 6% plants up, 4% 1999. Potatoes 5% planted, 2% 1999, 1% avg. Pasture 3% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair, 44% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 2% poor, 14% fair, 50% good, 34% excellent. Activities throughout the state included : Applying anhydrous ammonia, fertilizer, lime, hauling manure, plowing, chiseling, discing, applying pre-emergence herbicides, burning brush, clearing fence rows, equipment maintenance, preparation, installing tile, moving grain, sowing oats, alfalfa seedlings, planting grasses, legumes, buying seed. A Pickaway county reporter mentioned that pastures are starting to green up, but that stands are significantly reduced from the dry weather 1999. A Richland county reporter said that several pastures need to be re-seeded due to grass, legumes burning up during 1999 drought. Livestock producers reported good to excellent conditions with few exceptions. Mild winter weather conditions caused respiratory problems, death in cattle in portions of northern area.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.1. Topsoil 1 % very short, 7% short, 61% adequate, 31% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 14% short, 67% adequate, 13% surplus. Wheat 4% poor, 19% fair, 61% good, 16% excellent; 84% jointing, 83% 1999, 67% avg.; 8% headed, 1% 1999, 1% avg. Oats 2% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 57% good, 8%

excellent; 96% planted, 98% 1999, 99% avg.; 45% jointing, 47% 1999, 34% avg. Corn 65% seedbed prepared, 60% 1999, 67% avg.; 15% planted, 12% 1999, 11% avg. Sorghum 20% seedbed prepared, 28% 1999, 26% avg. Soybeans 50% seedbed prepared, 31% 1999, 30% avg. Peanuts 27% seedbed prepared, 37% 1999, 29% avg. Cotton 52% seedbed prepared, 54% 1999, 38% avg.; Pasture 1% very poor, 10% poor, 34% fair, 48% good, 7% excellent; Livestock 4% poor, 26% fair, 59% good, 11% excellent.; Cattle marketings average.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 3% short, 88% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil 13% short, 73% adequate, 14% surplus. Barley 71% planted, 52% 1999, 50% avg. Barley 23% fair, 77% good. Spring wheat 48% planted, 22% 1999. Winter wheat 23% fair, 76% good, 1% excellent. Range, pasture 15% poor, 32% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. Activities: Oregon's mild winter has been good for hay, grains planted last fall with fields starting to green. The mild winter was good for weeds, most winter cereals are being sprayed for weeds. More moisture needed for dryland crops. Spraying, Spring seeding dominated field work last week. Canola, sugarbeet planting started in eastern areas of the State. In western regions growers busy fertilizing, spraying grain crops, grass seed fields. Tillage underway for spring seedings. Good weather kept field work on schedule. Central valley mint, sugarbeet for seed fields looking rough; red clover, alfalfa growing well. Nurseries, greenhouses busy meeting demand brought by spring weather. Most of vegetable fields across State being prepared for planting. Activity mostly limited to soil preparation, fertilizer applications, application of pre-plant herbicides. In eastern areas, potato planting in full swing in Umatilla County with onion planting to begin in three weeks. Malheur County reported onions planted, potato planting to be in two weeks. In most of the Willamette Valley, vegetable planting slow due to wet fields. Some planting going on by truck gardens, lots of fields preparation for later plantings. Vegetable transplants growing in greenhouses, supplies of spring vegetables available for most needs. Corn ground preparation started. Snap peas up, doing well. Clackamas County reported rhubarb emerging. In Willamette Valley, fruit trees in various stages of bloom from just breaking to full bloom. Josephine County reported heavy frosts damaged peach, pear, plum trees that were in bloom, two nights of orchard heating reported from Jackson County. Dormant sprays completed, pink sprays started on early varieties of fruit. Vineyards still being pruned, cleaned. Berry crops coming out of dormancy, some cultivation underway; blueberry, cranberry growers hand weeding. Hazelnuts reported at kernel stage, being sprayed for Eastern Blight. Fruit trees in Umatilla County looked good though buds slow to emerge; no frost damage reported. More areas reporting livestock, pastures that are in good condition than there are areas reporting poor conditions.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for field work 2.6. Soil moisture 5% very short, 12% short, 65% adequate, 18% surplus. Plowing 20% complete, 15% 1999, 10% avg. Oats 8% planted complete, 7% 1999, 8% avg. Wheat 2% poor, 8% fair, 76% good, 14% excellent. Oat 3% very poor, 53% fair, 44% good. Alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures stand 1% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 65% good, 17% excellent. Timothy clover stand 4% very poor, 5% poor, 15% fair, 59% good, 17% excellent. Peaches 39% pink, 0% 1999, 4% avg. Cherries 12% pink, 0% 1999, 2% avg. Activities include: Spring plowing, planting oats, tobacco, fixing fences, machinery maintenance, ordering supplies, spreading lime, manure, caring for livestock, spraying herbicides, pruning trees, planting alfalfa.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Soil moisture 12% short, 86% adequate, 2% surplus. Barley 5% headed, 8% fair, 50% good, 42% excellent. Cantaloupe 20% planted, 17% 1999, 12% avg. Corn 50% planted, 43% 1999, 45% avg. Cucumbers 25% planted, 46% 1999, 32% avg. Grain hay 9% harvested, 8% 1999, 8% avg. Oats 15% headed, 16% 1999, 15% avg.; 21% fair, 69% good, 10% excellent. Peaches 6% fair, 43% good, 51% excellent. Rye 20% headed, 26% 1999, 19% avg.; 23% fair, 71% good, 6% excellent. Snap beans 30% planted, 29% 1999, 33% avg. Soybeans 1% planted. Sorghum 3% planted, 6% 1999, 2% avg. Soybeans 1% planted. Tobacco 6% transplanted, 5% 1999, 5% avg. Tomatoes 35% planted, 21% 1999, 33% avg. Watermelon 41% planted, 43% 1999, 37% avg. Winter grazing 1% poor, 34% fair, 55% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 6% headed, 14% 1999, 11% avg.; 1% poor, 12% fair, 78% good, 9% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for field work 4.6. Winter wheat 5% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, 11% excellent; breaking dormancy 95%. Winter rye 8% poor, 27% fair, 49% good, 16% excellent; breaking dormancy 74%. Oats 1% emerged. Spring wheat 3% emerged. Range, pasture 2% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 55% good, 10% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 13% short, 76% adequate, 10% surplus. Cattle 4% fair, 71% good, 25% excellent; moved to pasture 3%. Sheep 2% fair, 73% good, 25% excellent. Lambing 48%. Calving 41%. Calf deaths 48% below avg.; 51% avg.; 1% above avg. Sheep, lamb deaths 57% below avg.; 42% avg.; 1% above avg. Light showers across the state the middle of last week slowed spring seeding, tillage, without appreciably increasing soil moisture. Many reports of seeding into dry soil.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil 3% very short, 12% short, 75% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 32% short, 55% adequate, 3% surplus. Corn 14% planted, 3% 1999, 7% average. Tobacco 82% seeded, 71% 1999, 75% avg.; 50% plants up, 63% 1999, 43% avg. Wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 50% good, 32% excellent; 55% jointed, 41% 1999, 47% avg.; 96% top-dressed, 87% 1999. Apples 93% budding or beyond, 59% 1999, 65% avg.; 34% blooming or beyond, 27% 1999, 28% avg. Peaches 95% budding or beyond, 90% 1999, 84% avg.; 75% blooming or beyond, 77% 1999, 66% avg. Pastures 9% poor, 37% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent. Cattle 5% poor, 26% fair, 60% good, 9% excellent. Hay Stocks, 13% very short, 30% short, 53% adequate, 4% surplus. Ideal spring weather has allowed producers to make excellent progress with early season field work. Corn planting is progressing well, cotton planting should begin within the next few weeks, if weather cooperates. Livestock producers are currently fertilizing pasture land.

TEXAS: A weather front brought another round of thunder storms producing a few tornadoes, high winds, hail, rain with varied amounts to many areas of the state. Several hundred miles of fences were lost as a result of the storms. Considerable amounts of hail damage was received in some areas, replanting of some crops will be necessary. Land preparation continued but progress remained limited in areas where rains fell. Some areas missed the rain event entirely, others received only trace amounts of moisture. Pasture green up continued in areas where earlier rains fell, began in others with the aid of the recent rain showers. Supplemental feeding continued to decline in the wetter areas, but showed little change in other areas as the drought conditions prevailed. Livestock body condition was still not at optimum levels in many herds. Stock water was replenished in some areas as adequate run-off was received, however some stock ponds remained extremely low, others were dry. Cattle movement continued in areas where hay stocks, water reserves continued to be depleted. In the Rio Grande Valley, Winter Garden areas, vegetables continued to make good progress. Small Grains: Conditions for small grains remained varied throughout the state. Irrigated fields remain promising and recent rain showers benefitted some remaining dryland fields but some hail damage was also received. Hail damage was devastating in some locations. Statewide wheat 37% of normal compared with 69% 1999 year. Corn planting was complete in southern areas but remained active in the High Plains, North Central Areas. The planted crop was progressing nicely, however some hail damage was received re-planting may be necessary in a few locations, the 1st cultivation began for some growers. Statewide corn at 86% of normal compared with 77% 1999. Emerged Published 47%, 1999 41%, Average NA. Cotton: Planting continued to move northward where soil moisture, temperature was adequate, however activity slowed in some areas as rains fell. More moisture will be needed in some High Plains areas before planting can begin. Where earlier planting's occurred, emergence was favorable. Rice: Planting continued for some growers, flushing of some planted fields began for others. Emerged Published 27%, 1999 6%, Average 4%. Sorghum: Planting was mostly completed in the southern areas while planting continued to move northward as weather conditions allowed. Cultivation began in earlier planted fields, continued rainfall in many parts of the state aided the prospects for a good growing season. Soybeans: Land preparation continued where possible, planting remained active along the upper Coast, South Central Areas. Emerged beans were making good progress, stands were favorable. Published 11%, 1999 14%, Average 6%.

Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans: In the Rio Grande Valley, harvest remained active for greens, carrots, onions, cabbage. Spinach harvest was completed. Cantaloupe and melon planting continued, earlier planted fields were making good progress. Some citrus

remained to be harvested. San Antonio-Winter Garden, potatoes were making good progress, watermelon planting remained active, however some re-planting was necessary as a result of wind damage. Harvest remained active for cabbage, carrots, broccoli. Planting of green beans and chili peppers continued. East Texas, planting of onions, cabbage, potatoes and commercial tomatoes was nearing completion. Strawberry and watermelon planting continued, some fields were damaged by hail. In the High Plains, potato and onion planting was mostly completed. Land preparation remained slow where rains fell. Fruit trees continued to bloom in many locations. Peaches: Trees were in full bloom, leafing out in the southern areas. Fruit setting continued in these areas, however earlier frost damage became more evident. The amount of chill hours needed for good production is still a concern for some varieties. Pecans: Bud break continued to move northward and the first applications of zinc were applied by some producers. Bag worms remained a problem in some orchards.

Range and Livestock: Many areas of the state received additional rainfall along with high winds, hail in some locations. Some livestock was lost in a few areas as a result of flood waters. Green-up of range, pasture continued with the aid of the recent rains. Grass lost from dry conditions were planted in some locations. Run off was considerable in some locations where the rains fell. Supplemental feeding continued to decline where green-up was favorable. Hauling water to livestock remained necessary in a few locations.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 6. Topsoil 10% short, 86% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% short, 89% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat 1% poor, 21% fair, 72% good, 6% excellent; freeze damage 90% none, 10% light. Fall barley 29% fair, 65% good, 6% excellent; freeze damage 88% none, 11% light, 1% moderate. Pasture, range 7% poor, 33% fair, 59% good, 1% excellent. Spring wheat 34% planted, 1% emerged. Barley 32% planted, 1% emerged. Oats 6% planted. Apricots 97% full bloom or past. Cows 60% calved. Ewes lambing 58% on farm, 15% on range. Sheep sheared 45% on farm, 16% on range. Major farm, ranch activities included: Spring planting, spring tillage, spraying fruit, pruning fruit, shearing sheep, lambing, calving. Many counties have benefitted from the recent snow, rain storms.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 15% short, 74% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 36% short, 54% adequate, 7% excellent. Pastures 1% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, 9% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 18% fair, 63% good, 14% excellent. Other Hay 3% poor, 37% fair, 52% good, 8% excellent. Alfalfa Hay 1% poor, 24% fair, 61% good, 14% excellent. Corn for Grain 2% planted, 9% 1999, 5% avg. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 56% good, 15% excellent. Barley 6% poor, 21% fair, 51% good, 22% excellent. Tobacco greenhouse 98% planted, 98% 1999, 98% avg.; 1% poor, 3% fair, 74% good, 22% excellent. Tobacco plantbeds 99% planted, 96% 1999, 93% avg.; 4% poor, 30% fair, 66% good. Potatoes, Summer 90% planted, 81% 1999, 73% avg. Apples 28% fair, 46% good, 26% excellent. Peaches 9% very poor, 4% poor, 33% fair, 49% good, 5% excellent. Temperatures across the Commonwealth last week, were a few degrees above normal for most localities. Rainfall only allowed for four days of fieldwork in most areas, however, precipitation levels continue to be below normal. Pasture, hay conditions showed a slight improvement from the previous week, but remain in mostly fair to good condition. Wheat, barley are in mostly fair to excellent condition, progressing ahead of normal. Corn planting, due to weather conditions, has gotten off to a slow start this year. Many producers are working in between showers to prepare the land for planting. Tobacco plantbeds were rated in mostly fair to good condition, while tobacco greenhouses were rated in good to excellent condition. Nearly all the tobacco greenhouses, plantbeds had been seeded. Vegetable farmers continue to lay plastic, greenhouses have begun selling potted, bedded plants. Other activities for the week included: Applying fertilizer, lime, seeding grass, clover, spraying mulch on no-till vegetables, applying herbicides for no-till cotton, scouting, topdressing small grains.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Topsoil was 10% short, 70% adequate, 20% surplus; subsoil moisture 15% short, 84% adequate, surplus 1%. Winter wheat dryland 3% poor, 16% fair, 66% good, 15% excellent; irrigated 100% good. The 2000 winter wheat crop was generally off to a good start. However, the mild winter facilitated the growth of pests such as downy brome that required herbicide treatments. Spring wheat, dryland 1% poor, 92% fair, 7% good; irrigated 100% good.

Planted 25%, 21% 1999, 20% avg. Barley, dryland 1% poor, 91% fair, 8% good; irrigated 100% good. Planted 16%, 21% 1999, 18% avg. Planting of the spring cereal grains were well underway and conditions were reportedly good. Potatoes planted 15%, 4% 1999; 5% emerged, 0% 1999. Hay, roughage 1% short, 99% adequate. Range, Pasture 25% poor, 40% fair, 35% good. Spring planting, activities were underway throughout Washington. Pasture growth was improving due to the increase of the temperatures. Spray programs had been started by pear growers due to the high populations of pests that were not killed throughout the winter. Christmas tree growers were finishing planting, applying fertilizers, herbicides. Turf grass growers were busy harvesting. Dairymen were preparing equipment for the upcoming season, calving was well underway.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 5% very short, 37% short, 55% adequate, 3% surplus. Despite much needed rainfall, producers made good progress preparing fields for spring planting. Wheat 25% fair, 60% good, 15% excellent. Hay 5% very poor, 20% poor, 45% fair, 30% good. Intended Acreage Prepared for Spring 40% Planting, 27% 1999, 30% 5-yr avg. Corn 0% planted, 0% 1999, 1% 5-yr avg. Oats 20% Planted, 12% 1999, 18% 5-yr avg.; 5% emerged, 0% 1999, 2% 5-yr avg. Tobacco beds 60% seeded, 61% 1999, 54% 5-yr avg. Tobacco beds 25% emerged, 7% 1999, 6% 5-yr avg. Cattle 2% very poor, 10% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 3% excellent; 75% calved. Sheep 1% poor, 13% fair, 80% good, 6% excellent; 85% lambled. Feed grain supplies 5% very short, 15% short, 80% adequate. Hay, roughage supplies 15% very short, 50% short, 35% adequate. Activities: Field preparation, planting, calving, lambing, general maintenance.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Soil moisture 10% very short, 44% short, 45% adequate, 1% surplus. Spring tillage completed 11% 2000, 9% 1999, 3% 5-year average. The 2000 growing season has started with all regions of the state reporting relatively dry conditions. The need for rain was caused by below normal snowfall during the winter, dry conditions during March. March is usually characterized by a state average rainfall of 1.74 inches, but this year only 1.20 inches fell. Scattered, light showers the beginning of last week were not enough to help raise moisture levels. Most of the fieldwork that has occurred has been in the southern two-thirds of the state. Many producers were waiting for rain before tilling. Frost has been reported as mostly out of the ground, except in shady areas of fields in the north. Alfalfa, winter wheat have been reported as coming through winter in good condition with very little winterkill. Both crops were greening-up, beginning to break dormancy, but were in need of moisture. Comments on maple syrup production were mixed. Warm weather at the end of February, in early March caused intermittent flows, decreased yields, sugar content. Many farmers continued to haul manure, spread lime, fertilize pastures, wheat fields.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 7% very short, 42% short, 47% adequate, 4% surplus. Barley 42% planted, 59% 1999, 35% avg. Oats 5% planted, 17% 1999, 7% avg. Spring wheat 8% planted, 25% 1999, 13% avg. Spring calves 61% born, 60% 1999, 60% avg. Farm flock ewes 68% lambled, 66% 1999, 70% avg. Farm flock sheep 64% shorn 72% 1999, 74% avg. Range flock ewes 14% lambled, 9% 1999, 8% avg. Range flock sheep 30% shorn, 31% 1999, 29% avg. Range, pasture 2% poor, 56% fair, 38% good, 4% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 63% adequate, 37% surplus. Calves, lambs in good condition.