



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: Temperatures during the month of March were mixed with cooler days and several warmer, spring-like periods. Topsoil moisture continued to be adequate to surplus over most of the State. The US Drought Monitor released on March 25, 2014 indicated that 21.78 percent of the state of Alabama was abnormally dry, compared to 2.65 percent at the start of the calendar year and 5.41 percent a year ago. The remainder of the State rated free from drought conditions with the exception of three counties in the northwest corner of the state which were rated as experiencing moderate drought conditions. The average mean temperature for the month ranged from 49.5°F in Huntsville to 55.9°F in Mobile; total precipitation ranged from 2.40 inches in Greensboro to 6.50 inches in Mobile. Field preparation for spring planting was still running behind schedule for this time of year. Planting of corn was underway. Winter grazing and forage crops were still in fair condition and should show improvement as temperatures continue to warm. Livestock producers were still feeding hay and supplements as pastures were not growing enough to provide adequate forage.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: During the month of March Arizona saw above average temperatures and below normal precipitation. Highs were generally in the 80s°F throughout the month, with some locations reaching the 90s°F by the last couple weeks of the month. Most weather stations recorded no precipitation for the month. Safford recorded the most precipitation at 0.21 inches for the month. By the end of the month, durum wheat was 99 percent emerged in the State, winter wheat was 91 percent planted and barley was 91 percent emerged.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures were normal during the first part of March. Most counties experienced significant rain and high winds in late March. The month ended with less precipitation and lower temperatures than normal. For many producers, field preparation was still halted due to wet conditions. Producers continued to apply nitrogen and herbicides to the wheat crop. Some warm days allowed for a little bit of forage growth. Livestock producers are still continuing to feed hay.

CALIFORNIA: A weather disturbance that spread showers all across the State moved out of California at the beginning of March. During the second week of March a new system spread showers all across the State. A weather disturbance occurred in the extreme northwest corner of the State during the third week, bringing the only rain to California. The fourth week of March brought extended dry and unseasonably warm weather for Southern California. Alfalfa fields were treated for aphids and weevils during the first and second weeks of March. First and second cuttings of alfalfa occurred in several counties. Wheat irrigation was ahead of schedule due to drought conditions. Winter wheat began to head out during the third week the month. Cotton fields were prepared for planting the second week of the month in Fresno. The cotton planting accelerated in the Central Valley the last week of the month, but over three-quarters of the crop had not been planted by month's end. Heavy rains in the first of March caused many stone fruit growers to begin applying fungicides to protect from brown rot. Clingstone peach bloom began the first week of March. Cherries started to show bud break. Navel orange, Murcott tangerine, lemon and Minneola tangelo harvests remained active throughout the month of March. Early bloom was noted in some citrus groves during the second and third week of the month due to the unseasonably warm weather. The almond bloom winded down during the first and second weeks of March. Growers applied fungicides to protect trees. Bud swell occurred on early varieties of walnuts during the second week of March. During the third and last weeks of March, nutlets were growing, walnut catkins developed. Bud swell increased on pistachio trees. Winter vegetable crops were harvested the first and second weeks of March in Fresno County. Asparagus began emerging in San Joaquin County the first week of March. Stanislaus County reported parsley, onion, spinach, and broccoli were growing well at the first of March. The carrot harvest continued. Melon and watermelon was planted at this time. Range and non-irrigated pasture were in poor to fair condition early in March, with extreme drought conditions across much of the State. Supplemental feeding of hay and grain for livestock continued throughout the month. Bees were

active in most almond orchards throughout the State. Bee hives were removed from almond, pear, and plum orchards in the Fresno area the last week of March.

COLORADO: Field preparations and small grain seeding occurred in greater frequency last week. Lower levels of precipitation were concentrated in and along the front range or at higher altitudes. Strong winds reportedly dried out moisture supplies in isolated areas while localized presence of grain mites and army cutworms were reported in the east central district. Days suitable for field work 6.0 days. Topsoil moisture 17% very short, 35% short, 46% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 24% very short, 33% short, 42% adequate, 1% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 30% fair, 57% good, 8% excellent. Winter wheat pastured 4% this week, 4% last week, 2% last year, 8% average; jointed 2% this week, last week not available, 0% last year, 4% average; condition 17% very poor, 16% poor, 33% fair, 30% good, 4% excellent. Pasture and range conditions 10% very poor, 26% poor, 34% fair, 29% good, 1% excellent. Spring barley seeded 12% this week, 4% last week, 14% last year, 19% average. Spring wheat seeded 5% this week, 1% last week, 9% last year, 13% average. Dry onions planted 14% this week, 5% last week, 19% last year, 24% average. Sugarbeets planted 6% this week, 2% last week, 0% last year, 3% average. Calving and lambing 64% and 50% completed, respectively. Statewide, mountain snowpack is 113% of average as of March 27.

DELAWARE: Growing concerns are being expressed over the current state of winter wheat currently in fields due to the unusually cool temperatures experienced during the month. A reporter in Sussex County noticed that small grain was just now coming out of the winter dormancy stages. Some fields in the State have been planted with peas, but due to the wet soils and cold temperatures potato planted is expected to be behind schedule. Forecast is predicting warmer weather in the upcoming week which will be welcomed by producers hoping to begin the spring field activities.

FLORIDA: Field preparation continued beginning of month but slowed for Panhandle, north Florida due to rain. By end of month in Panhandle some corn planting two weeks behind due to too wet fields. Rain received none to four inches. Low temperatures 26 to 32°F, high temperatures 60s to 90s°F. Flagler, Putnam counties; planting potatoes finished, harvesting cabbage continued. Dixie, Levy counties; planting watermelons finished. Miami-Dade County planting eggplant, green beans, herbs, peppers, yellow squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, Cuban sweet potatoes (Boniato), zucchini. Harvesting in Miami-Dade County green beans, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes. Vegetables, fruits marketed beets, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, peppers, strawberries, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, snap beans, squash, sweet corn, radishes, tomatoes. Warm temperature improved pasture condition by end of month. Calving continued. Cattle condition is primarily rated fair to good. Hay, supplements were fed to cattle in majority of the State. In citrus growing area, March daytime temperatures unseasonably warm, widespread rainfall. By end of month, full bloom evident in all areas on oranges, grapefruit. Grove activity included irrigating, hedging, topping, spraying. All but four packing houses open, shipping small quantities of fruit. Several processing plants closed temporarily, waiting for Valencia oranges to come in.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 2% short, 68% adequate, 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 2% short, 75% adequate, 22% surplus. Range and pasture condition 3% very poor, 11% poor, 47% fair, 36% good, 3% excellent. Blueberries full bloom 82%, 97% 2013. Blueberry condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 7% fair, 75% good, 18% excellent. Corn planted 34%, 28% 2013. Onion condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 10% fair, 89% good, 1% excellent. Oat condition 0% very poor, 7% poor, 48% fair, 44% good, 1% excellent. Peaches full bloom 94%, 90% 2013. Peach condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 4% fair, 93% good, 0% excellent. Rye condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 50% fair, 44% good, 3% excellent. Tobacco transplanted 1%, 16% 2013. Watermelons planted 24%, 14% 2013. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 34% fair, 56% good, 5% excellent. Precipitation estimates for the state ranged from 0.3 inches of rain up to 1.9 inches. Average high temperatures ranged from the low 60s to the low 70s°F. Average low temperatures ranged from the high 30s°F to the low 50s°F.

HAWAII: The month of March began with approximately 43 percent of the state rated as abnormally dry or drier according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Throughout the month precipitation fell primarily in light isolated areas the beginning of the month but increased and was more widespread towards the middle and end of March. The end of March ratings had 64 percent of the state rating as abnormally dry or drier according to the U.S. Drought monitor. Results of this rating rise of approximately 20 percentage points included more available pasture forage for livestock and less drought stress on crops. Average daytime high temperatures ranged from the low seventies to the mid eighties. During the first week in March, light winds with scatter showers prevailed in most areas. The bulk of measurable rainfall fell on Wednesday through Thursday. Average precipitation of selected weather stations was 0.66 inch. Most of the rainfall fell on Wednesday through Thursday. Overall drought conditions were unchanged from previous week, but reservoir levels

rose slightly. The second week of March brought high winds at the end of the week. Power outages, downed trees, blown roofs were some of the reported incidences in addition to affects of agriculture in unprotected areas. Average rain weekly rainfall was 2.01 inches of measurable precipitation. Drought condition ratings were unchanged from previous week. Showers were scattered but heavy in windward locations on Hawaii Island. Improved pastures growth was observed in response to recent rains. Weather during the third week in March consisted of heavy rainfall in many Maui and Hawaii County locations during the latter part of the week with some locations receiving over three inches of rainfall. Average weekly rainfall was 1.32 inch of measurable precipitation. Drought ratings improved 10 percentage points from previous week due to rainfall received in the more severely drought affected areas of Maui and Hawaii Counties. Reservoir levels were the same to slightly above previous week. The final week in March had trade winds and intermittent precipitation as the average weekly rainfall total was 1.82 inches received. Drought ratings improved approximately 9 percentage points from previous week due to widespread rainfall. Stream flows increased along with reservoir levels remaining constant to slightly above previous week. Excessive moisture caused vegetable production to decline in some areas along with delaying some field activities.

IDAHO: 75%, 83% 2013, 80% avg. Lambing complete: 70%, 81% 2013, 72% avg. Warm dry weather has supported calving and laming progress. Reports indicate that winter wheat has broken dormancy while spring showers continue to provide adequate moisture. Spring planting is well underway along with other activities that include hauling manure, spring tilling, and preparing irrigation systems. Teton county extension educator reported a foot of new snow.

ILLINOIS: For the month of March topsoil moisture was rated at 2 percent very short, 15 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated at 7 percent very short, 29 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 33.3°F, 7.6°F below normal. Statewide precipitation averaged 1.49 inches, 1.61 inches below normal.

INDIANA: Conditions were cold with below average precipitation for the month of March. Temperatures averaged 33.4°F, or 7.1°F below normal. Abnormally cold weather was most pronounced in northern parts of the state. Precipitation values averaged 3.25 inches for the state, which is 1.13 inches below historic values. Due to snowmelt and runoff, ground is exceedingly wet, with topsoil and subsoil conditions rating adequate or surplus throughout the state. Winter wheat in raised areas appears to be in fair to excellent condition, but a small portion of the crop is in fields that are submerged. About a third of pasture is currently in poor or worse condition due to mud and delayed greenup. Fieldwork has been very limited. Some farmers have taken advantage of early morning frosts to top dress their wheat. Some limited tilling has been observed as well. Farmers are still visiting trade shows, repairing machinery, and preparing for planting season generally.

IOWA: Soil moisture 15% very short, 41% short, 43% adequate, and 1% surplus. Iowa experienced below normal temperatures throughout most of March with occasional warm days. Precipitation fell across the State in the form of both snow and rain. Frost depth remained a concern with little moisture able to penetrate to subsoil levels. Livestock losses continued to be mostly normal. Some pork producers remained concerned about PEDV and the resulting heavier than normal losses. Fertilizer and anhydrous application has started in southern portions of the State, while the northern portions were hoping to start fieldwork soon.

KANSAS: March days suitable for fieldwork 20.4. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 24 percent very short, 44 short, 32 adequate, and 1 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 23 percent very short, 43 short, 34 adequate, and 0 surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 7 percent very poor, 18 poor, 43 fair, 30 good, and 2 excellent. Winter wheat 5% jointed, 12% 2013, 21% avg. Corn 1% planted, 0% 2013, 1 avg. Sheep and lamb conditions were 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 34 fair, 60 good, and 4 excellent. Sheep and lamb losses were 21 percent below normal, 77 normal, and 2 above normal. Cattle and calf conditions were 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 30 fair, 61 good, and 5 excellent. Cattle and calf losses were 24 percent below normal, 75 normal, and 24 above normal. Hay and forage supplies rated 4 percent very short, 13 short, 78 adequate, and 5 surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 13 percent very short, 23 short, 64 adequate, and 0 surplus. Dry conditions continued for western Kansas. March precipitation average less than 25 percent of normal over most of the state. Temperatures averaged 2 to 6°F below normal. Some farmers are planting cover crops and preparing row crop fields for planting. The wheat crop is in need of moisture in most areas. The dry, windy conditions have caused a drop in pond water levels and have been challenging for ranchers who burn pastures. The cool temperatures have slowed grass growth.

KENTUCKY: March weather has been true to form as a transition period. Overall, the Bluegrass State experienced below normal temperatures during March except for the second week which saw above normal temperatures. The

Commonwealth recorded below normal precipitation for most of March. Producers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2014 crop season. Costs of inputs are being weighed against anticipated selling prices. Farmers were busy performing routine equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season.

LOUISIANA: The state average precipitation was 1.04 inches below normal. Unusual cooler temperatures and heavier rain are causing producers to delay planting. Louisiana is experiencing a late planting season for corn and rice across the state. Winter wheat headed is also behind compared to previous years. Producers are harvesting strawberries and spraying to control diseases. Citrus producers faced damages due to the cold weather. The crawfish catch continues to improve with warmer weather. Livestock producers were feeding hay and fertilizing pasture.

MARYLAND: Unseasonably cool temperatures remain a concern for producers within the State as it pertains to winter wheat and barley. An abundance of soil moisture is being reported around the state; however soil temperatures are still too cold for much to be planted at this time. A very small percentage of wheat has received some nitrogen application and manure has been spread, but very few other field activities have been observed.

MICHIGAN: Continued snowfall and low temperatures have limited field work in the last month. Precipitation for the last four weeks ending March 30 ranged between 1.48 inches and 1.56 inches in the Upper Peninsula and between 1.23 inches and 1.55 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 14.9°F to 25.7°F, with a state average of 20.3°F. Snow cover is slowly melting with a chance of wheat damage from ponding and refreezing. Winter wheat condition is rated 2% very poor, 10% poor, 37% fair, 44% good, and 7% excellent. Range and pasture condition is rated 30% very poor, 17% poor, 28% fair, 24% good, and 1% excellent. Maple production is expected to be slow and delayed due to low temperatures. Fruit tree pruning and fertilizer applications are underway. Some damage has been found in wine grape varieties. Persistent winter conditions created difficulties for calving. Some corn remains standing.

MINNESOTA: March 2014 was cold and dry. The deep frost layer in the ground led to widespread freezing of residential water lines. This March has been one of the top ten coldest in history for Rochester, St. Cloud, and Duluth. On March 3rd a state record cold temperature for that date of -44°F occurred at Embarrass. During the week of March 3rd thru March 9th, the statewide average temperature was 12.1°F with 0.17 inches of precipitation. The Northwest district had the coldest average at 6.2°F. Temperatures warmed for the week ending March 16th to a statewide average of 28.0°F, with the Southwest region reporting the warmest average at 34.6°F. Temperatures during the week ending March 23 cooled again with statewide temperatures averaging 6.0°F below normal at 24.6°F. The North Central district was the coldest at 18.4°F, which was 9.0°F below normal for that region.

MISSISSIPPI: During the month of March, field preparation and planting begin in Mississippi. This year, colder than normal temperatures have delayed planting most row crops. The average temperature for March in northern Mississippi was 3.2°F below normal at 53.6°F with five days with low temperatures below 32°F. In central Mississippi, the average temperature for March was 4.2°F below normal with eight days with low temperatures below 32°F. The March average temperature for southern Mississippi ranged between 55.9 and 58.5°F, -4.2 and -1.9°F below normal respectively. For the month of March, northern and southern Mississippi had more rain than normal while central Mississippi was drier than normal. This month farmers focused on applying fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides and preparing fields for planting, while ranchers continued to take care of livestock.

MISSOURI: March was colder and drier than normal. Average temperatures were 3 to 8°F below normal. Precipitation averaged 1.62 inches compared to the 30 year average of 2.27 inches. There was no real significant snowfall or rainfall for the month of March. Frost has been reported as deep as 40 inches in northern half of the state, delaying planting of spring crops.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 16% last year; 20% short, 23% last year; 70% adequate, 57% last year; 7% surplus, 4% last year. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 22% last year; 20% short, 34% last year; 72% adequate, 43% last year; 5% surplus, 1% last year. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 3% last year; 7% poor, 10% last year; 43% fair, 43% last year; 47% good, 40% last year; 3% excellent, 4% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 76% none, 70% last year; 20% light, 24% last year; 4% moderate, 5% last year; 0% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – freeze & drought damage 79% none, 70% last year; 17% light, 22% last year; 4% moderate, 6% last year; 0% heavy, 2% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 8% very poor, 25% last year; 13% poor, 24% last year; 53% fair, 27% last year; 25% good, 22% last year; 1% excellent, 2% last year. Winter wheat – spring stages 78% still dormant, 71% last year; 22% greening, 26% last year; 0% green & growing, 3% last year. Livestock grazing 41% open, 50% last year; 19% difficult,

23% last year; 40% closed, 27% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle & calves 98%, 95% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep & lambs 96%, 97% last year. Livestock birthing – calving completed 47%, 49% last year. Livestock birthing – lambing completed 30%, 32% last year. The month of March started warm across Montana leading to flooding in some areas as recent snows melted, followed by cold and snowy conditions. West Glacier received the highest amount of precipitation for the month with 5.57 inches of moisture. Most other stations reported receiving 0.23 to 4.20 inches of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the lower 50s to upper 60s°F, with the state-wide high temperature of 70°F recorded at Broadus. Most stations reported lows below 0°F with the coldest being Opheim at -33°F, followed by Albion and Gold Butte with -31°F.

NEBRASKA: For the month of March, precipitation averaged less than 50 percent of normal across much of Nebraska, causing further depletion of soil moisture supplies. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4°F below normal for the month. Windy conditions dried soils and caused fire warning levels to remain high. Crop producers focused on spring field work preparations. Available soil moisture continues a concern going into spring. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 16 percent very short, 46 short, 38 adequate, and 0 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 18 percent very short, 42 short, 40 adequate, and 0 surplus. Hay and forage supplies rated 1 percent very short, 6 short, 90 adequate, 3 surplus. Stock water supplies rated 4 percent very short, 14 short, 82 adequate, and 0 surplus. Winter wheat rated 2 percent very poor, 11 poor, 32 fair, 48 good, and 7 excellent. Cattle and calf condition rated 0 percent very poor, 1 poor, 10 fair, 80 good, and 9 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, 14 fair, 82 good, 4 excellent. Sheep and lamb losses 0 percent below average, 99 average, 1 above average. Percentage of cows calved since Jan 1 was 52 percent.

NEVADA: Winter storms continued to pass through Nevada during March, but precipitation totals were spotty. Elko and Winnemucca received above-normal precipitation at 1.29 inch and .98 inch, respectively. Conditions were driest in the West and South; Reno received .08 inch and Las Vegas recorded no precipitation for the month. NRCS Snotel measurements of snow water equivalents serving principal watersheds show snow packs well below normal in the Sierra improving eastward across the State. Snowpack for the upper Humboldt River watershed are very near normal. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3°F above normal statewide in March. Forages were greening and irrigation was getting underway in warmer valleys of the West and South. Seedbeds were being prepared and onion seeding was getting underway in the Smith and Mason Valleys. Garlic plants were breaking dormancy and beginning spring growth. Some fields were being worked to prepare for spring planting. Calving and lambing were in full swing. Early contracts for livestock and hay were showing high demand. Main farm and ranch activities included tending livestock, irrigating garlic, onion planting, tilling fields.

NEW ENGLAND: Precipitation was mixed across New England in March. In Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island up to six inches fell, mostly as rain. Only one to two inches of water precipitation fell in the northern Connecticut River Valley. Precipitation in Northern New England was heaviest in western Vermont and within 100 miles from the Atlantic coast in New Hampshire and Maine. Winter precipitation varied widely across New England ranging from a trace in Connecticut to over 40 inches and counting in northeastern Maine. Snow depth remains significant across portions of northern New England. Major snowstorms on the 13th and 20th and the end of the month dropped most of the precipitation during March; warmer regions reported heavy rainfall. With high temperatures finally rising into the 40s and 50s°F and lows still in the 10s and 20s°F, syrup season is beginning later than normal in northern New England. In southern New England, high temperatures climbed into the upper 50s°F in the second half of the month and even reached 60°F in Boston and Providence.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures were below normal. Precipitation was below normal in most counties in the northern half of the state and above normal in most counties in the southern half of the state. Every county received snow accumulation during the month. Producer activities included preparing fields for planting where soil conditions permitted, equipment maintenance, greenhouse work, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: March began with windy conditions across the state. Winter wheat damaged by wind was reported. Several extremely windy days moved topsoil. Northern and central New Mexico had snow and rain. The storm system provided much needed precipitation, particularly the central mountain chain including Ruidosa, which recorded 0.84 inches. Drought conditions persisted, making it increasingly hard to maintain normal numbers of cattle in herds as the dryland wheat had played out in eastern New Mexico. The 1st cutting of alfalfa had begun. Chile and onion plantings were well along. March ended with near normal temperatures and minor precipitation.

NEW YORK: The month of March was another rough month for farmers in New York. Cold temperatures persisted throughout the month with that resulting in below average temperatures for March. There were some significant snowstorms in March which added more snow to the already snow covered fields. The last weekend in March, rain fell on some parts of New York which is causing some concerns about flooding possibilities. Throughout most of the state snow is still on the ground and the ground itself is still frozen so there is very little field work being done. Wheat and alfalfa stands are still buried under the snow in many places, so it hard for farmers to tell how these crops are doing but some damage is expected. Where wheat and alfalfa stands are not under snow, deer and other animals are feeding on them as it has also been a rough winter for wildlife. There are several reports that grape vines across the state have been hit hard from the cold temperatures with vine damage and bud mortality expected to be significant. Fruit producers are also reporting damages to fruit trees caused by the cold temperatures. Farmers have been able to get some pruning done in the few nice days in March. Reporters have commented about the maple season being delayed several weeks, with little production being done so far this year and maple producers are hoping that there is not a sudden rise in temperatures which would end the season early. Overall this has been a tough winter for farmers and producers in New York with the constant cold temperatures and above average snowfall that has occurred throughout the entire winter. After this long, cold winter farmers are anxious to get out into the fields and get to work.

NORTH CAROLINA: There were 3.3 days suitable for field work for the week ending March 30th compared to 3.6 for the week ending March 2nd. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 69% adequate and 31% surplus. The weather pattern during the month of March was very similar to February in that it has been up and down. The average temperatures for the month were below normal with temperatures ranging from 2 to 9°F below normal. The state has experienced both bitterly cold temperatures and warm, sunny conditions all within the same week. The cold wet temperatures have kept farmers out of the fields delaying land preparation as well as delayed small grain growth in some areas and delayed topdressing of wheat. Small grain conditions are rated good, Tobacco plant supply is rate adequate, and hay and roughage supply is rated between good to fair. Current forecast for the next few days is warm and sunny, so farmers are hoping to be able to get out in the fields.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 4% short, 90% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 6% short, 88% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat conditions 1% very poor, 8% poor, 45% fair, 45% good, 1% excellent. Cattle/Calf conditions 0% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 69% good, and 3% excellent. Calving 27% complete. Cattle/Calf death loss 10% below normal, 84% normal, 6% above normal. Sheep/Lamb conditions 2% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 65% good, and 5% excellent. Lambing 35% complete. Sheep/Lamb death loss 8% below normal, 86% normal, 6% above normal. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 2% short, 90% adequate, and 7% surplus. Hay & forage supplies 1% very short, 7% short, 84% adequate, and 8% surplus. Precipitation averaged 50 percent below normal across much of North Dakota. The month ended with blizzard conditions reported as high winds made travel difficult. Temperatures during the month averaged up to 10°F below normal across portions of the northeast and 2 to 6°F below normal elsewhere.

OHIO: The March 2014 statewide average temperature was 39.4°F, 6.5°F below normal. The month of March saw lower than normal temperatures with sporadic snowfall early in the month. The temperature increase from February melted snow and the ground began to thaw. The snowmelt has been slow, with reports of only sparse flooding. There appear to be areas in some field where the wheat has been killed off during the winter, but the problem is not widespread. Producers are beginning to apply fertilizer to wheat, though some wheat is still dormant. In some areas, it is too wet and muddy for producers to start on field work. Livestock have been negatively affected by the cold winter, with one report of higher than normal death-loss in beef cows.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 37% very short, 37% short, 25% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 41% very short, 40% short, 19% adequate, 0% surplus. Wheat 15% very poor, 29% poor, 39% fair, 17% good, 0% excellent. Canola 32% very poor, 30% poor, 28% fair, 9% good, 1% excellent. Rye 14% very poor, 21% poor, 55% fair, 10% good, 0% excellent. Oats 25% very poor, 28% poor, 26% fair, 18% good, 3% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 8% poor, 48% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and Range 22% very poor, 21% poor, 43% fair, 13% good, 1% excellent. During the first week of the month another winter storm brought snow, sleet and freezing rain to Oklahoma last week. North central Oklahoma received the most snow, with localized reports as high as 5-7 inches in parts of Grant and Alfalfa counties. However, by mid-month, spring-like temperatures brought about warmer weather, dry air and high winds, with wildfires being a major concern. Rains at the end of the month did little to change the drought conditions that afflicted most of the State.

OREGON: In Columbia County pastures were starting to pick up. In Klamath County spring growth of pastures was starting.

PENNSYLVANIA: March saw below average temperature this year. Counties are reporting varying temperatures in their areas but still below normal for this time of the year. Some counties, such as Adams County have reported at least 2 inches of rain and some reported up to 3 inches. March 30, 2014 saw daily record-breaking rainfall in Harrisburg at 2.02 inches of rain. The previous record was 2 inches in 1974. There was also sleet starting Sunday evening on March 30th going into Monday morning. Producers will not be in the fields soon in some counties because of the heavy rain during the last weekend of March. Instead, producers are continuing preparations of their equipment for the spring planting season in hopes of a good growing season for all crops. Fruit trees such as peaches, cherries, apricots, and plums have been affected to an unknown extent by this winter's extreme cold temperatures. As of March 26, 2014, the Harrisburg area received 1.0 inches of snow for the month with the greatest snowfall on March 25th at 0.7 inches. The highest temperature of 67°F occurred on March 11th, while the lowest temperature of 12°F occurred on March 1st and 4th. The average monthly temperature was 35.1°F which is 5.8°F below normal. A total of 0.6 inches of rain fell, which is 2.19 inches below the average. There was also fog, mist, or haze throughout the month. High wind speeds were also an issue, with wind speeds approaching 48 miles per hour on the 12th of March.

SOUTH CAROLINA: 00 a.m. on Monday, March 17th morning. Most of Wednesday was cloudy with afternoon temperatures in the 40s°F. Milder conditions were observed on Thursday. The vernal equinox, signifying the change of seasons, occurred shortly after the noon hour on Thursday. Sunny skies and nearly calm air allowed for moderate warming on Saturday. A boundary of colder air approached from the northwest on Sunday turning surface winds to the northeast and lowering afternoon temperatures back into the upper 50s°F and lower 60s°F for the Upstate. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was three degrees below the long-term average. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.3 inches. Early morning minimum temperatures fell to 28 degrees on Monday, March 24th at the Rock Hill AP, Sandy Springs and Chesnee. A sunny and windy Tuesday included brief showers, some mixed with small hail. Freezing air settled into the state on Wednesday. Thursday morning began at 28°F for Sandhill and 29°F in Lake City. Cloudy weather on Friday turned into rain. West to east passing of the cold front brought a 40 mph wind gust to the Columbia Metro AP on Saturday night. Additional rainfall totals ending Sunday morning included 2.40 inches at the National Weather Service cooperative site in Myrtle Beach, giving them a two-day total of 3.85 inches. AP The state average temperature for the seven-day period was 6°F below the long-term average. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.8 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 22% short, 74% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 16% short, 80% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat conditions 1% very poor, 13% poor, 28% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent. Cattle/Calf conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 17% fair, 76% good, 6% excellent. Calving 37% complete. Cattle/Calf death loss 7% below normal, 90% normal, 3% above normal. Sheep/Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 84% good, 4% excellent. Lambing 75% complete. Sheep/Lamb death loss 9% below normal, 90% normal, 1% above normal. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 9% short, 84% adequate, 6% surplus. Hay & forage supplies 0% very short, 7% short, 87% adequate, and 6% surplus. Below normal precipitation and temperatures persisted across most of the state during the month of March. Agricultural activities included calving and lambing, moving grain, and spreading fertilizer.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable 4.5. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 84% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% short, 85% adequate, 10% surplus. Pasture condition 6% very poor, 18% poor, 45% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent. Farmers are preparing for corn planting. Wheat is greening up as the weather gets warmer. Hay stocks are running low, but most livestock farmers have enough to get them through until pastures green up.

TEXAS: The month began with cold temperatures as a winter storm brought a variety of precipitation ranging from ice to snow and sleet to rain in many areas of Texas. By the middle of the month, weather patterns remained unsettled. Warmer temperatures were followed by a cold front, which produced thunderstorms in some areas. Areas of the Blacklands, East Texas and South Texas received 1-1.5 inches of precipitation. Windy weather brought cooler temperatures and dust storms to the Panhandle. By the end of the month, warmer weather along with thunderstorms, high winds, and increased humidity were reported in many areas of the state. Lack of precipitation slowed development of the winter wheat crop in the Southern Low Plains. Small grains in the Cross Timbers showed signs of recovery following recent precipitation. Both winter wheat and oats were beginning to head in South Texas. Many producers in the Northern

High Plains planted early season corn. Irrigation of cotton fields continued in the Trans-Pecos. Rice had been planted in the Upper Coast. In South Texas, corn planting was nearing completion and some had begun to emerge. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Producers began to move livestock to spring and summer pastures. Cattle prices remained strong and demand for replacement heifers remained high.

UTAH: Warm and dry conditions prevailed across Utah during most of March. Soil temperatures were warmer and drier than last year. The last week of the month a low pressure system crossed most of the State and provided some much needed precipitation. In Box Elder County there was good moisture in the beginning and end of the month. Snow pack in the eastern mountains of the county was good. The western part of the County is still dry. Weather was mild early in the month but a little cooler than normal at the end. This helped delay fruit trees from blooming. Some planting of spring grains and safflower was underway. Winter wheat was greening up. Weather was ideal for calving. Some field work began in Duchesne County during March. There was a little rain and snow at the end of the month. Lambing of farm flocks was going strong but range flocks had not began in earnest yet. San Juan County has been very dry this year with little or no snow pack in the mountains. Winter wheat looks good for the time being but more moisture will be needed to have a good crop. Cattle also look good but more precipitation is needed to green up range conditions and provide them with needed nourishment. In Utah County field preparation was underway with some alfalfa planting going on. Soil moisture was adequate for the time of year but the long term outlook was still short. Fruit trees were developing slightly ahead of schedule. There may have been some cold weather damage to apricots near the end of the month. Calving and lambing continued. Snow fell in Enterprise last week but most of Washington County remained dry. Much more precipitation is needed. Hay is starting to green up and grow in many locations of the County.

VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 4% short, 58% adequate, 38% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 64% adequate, 34% surplus. Beef cattle forage obtained from pastures 14%. Milk cow forage obtained from pastures 11%. Sheep forage obtained from pastures 9%. Livestock 1% very poor, 3% poor, 34% fair, 53% good, 9% excellent. Small grain and winter grazing crops 8% poor, 31% fair, 52% good, 9% excellent. The month of March was cold and wet for the Commonwealth. Most of Virginia experienced multiple snow storms, with long periods of colder than normal temperatures. During the last week of the month, temperatures were about 4 to 9°F below normal, and most of Virginia experienced one or more inches of rain. The majority of livestock was in fair to good condition; supplemental feeding during the cold winter took a heavy toll on hay stocks. Small grains were also affected by the cold and snowy weather; applications of fertilizer were delayed or missed as farmers worked around muddy fields. In some cases, a topdressing small grain was done on frozen ground. Other farming activities for the week included working on farming equipment, preparing beds for planting, and covering strawberry plants.

WASHINGTON: In Western Washington, heavy rains caused fields to be saturated, so producers were unable to do fieldwork. Berry cane tying finished up, and greenhouse crops were seeded and transplanted. Cattle were turned out for calving season, but had difficulty finding dry areas to lie down. In the Oso area there were downed fences and displaced livestock. In Central Washington, most of the month was rainy, causing standing water in many fields. Berry growers were concerned about potential root rot due to the excessive wet conditions. Small fruit growing operations were also affected by the rainy conditions. Dairy producers were able to apply dry manure to grass fields, and some fieldwork was done in between showers. Fruit tree pruning was completed during the warmer days in March. Delayed dormant sprays were applied to manage overwintering insect pests and reduce the incidence of disease. Most fruit trees were experiencing bud swell with soft fruit trees showing blossom color. In Eastern Washington, the area received some precipitation during the month. Temperatures were fairly mild, with only a few nights dropping below freezing. Crops looked good and spring planting was underway. Some producers were reseeding winter wheat crops that failed. In Whitman County, soil moisture was relatively good throughout the county.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 1% short, 88% adequate, and 11% surplus compared to 1% very short, 8% short, 66% adequate, and 25% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 2% very short, 29% short, 66% adequate, and 3% surplus compared to 4% very short, 7% short, and 89% adequate last year. Feed grain supplies were 5% very short, 20% short, and 75% adequate compared to 5% short and 95% adequate last year. Winter wheat conditions were 15% poor, 65% fair, and 20% good. Cattle and calves were 4% poor, 23% fair, 71% good, and 2% excellent. Calving was 71% complete, compared to 64% last year. Sheep and lambs were 4% poor, 20% fair, 75% good, and 1% excellent. Lambing was 74% complete, compared to 69% last year. March came in like a lion as a winter storm moved across West Virginia; all State agencies were closed on Monday, March 3rd due to extreme cold weather conditions.

Weather conditions fluctuated throughout the month; there were some warmer, spring like days with temperatures reaching the 60s and 70s°F. Farming activities included calving, lambing, vaccinating livestock, and feeding hay.

WISCONSIN: March average temperatures ranged from 7 to 9°F below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 32 to 36°F. Average low temperatures ranged from 13 to 21°F. Full month precipitation ranged from 0.72 inches in Eau Claire to 1.31 inches in La Crosse. The entire state received snow in March. Of the reporting stations, Madison received the most snow, with 8.2 inches since March 1.

WYOMING: With snowmelt occurring across much of Wyoming, producers were busy seeding some of their small grain crops. Snowpack was reported as being in good condition in many locations. Topsoil moisture 15% short, 81% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 24% short, 76% adequate. The average depth of snow cover as of March 30 was reported at 1.90 inches, compared with 3.7 inches at the end of February. Barley seeded 20%, 15% 2013, 27% 5-yr avg. Oat and spring wheat seeding had yet to begin despite most fields in the State being exposed as snowmelt occurs. Two-thirds of the winter wheat crop shows signs of light to moderate wind damage. Eighteen percent of the winter wheat crop was reported with light freeze damage. Pasture and range conditions 9% very poor, 16% poor, 16% fair, 58% good, 1% excellent. Spring grazing prospects are mostly fair to good. Spring calving 39 percent complete, compared with 13 percent last month. Calf losses 46 percent light, 54 percent normal. Forty-eight percent of farm flock ewes had lambed, while 5 percent of range flock ewes had lambed. Lamb losses 42 percent light, 58 percent normal. Ranchers had shorn 43 percent of their farm flock sheep, compared with 28 percent of range flock sheep. Stock water supplies 14% short, 85% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay and roughage supply 1% very short, 11% short, 87% adequate, 1% surplus. Cattle condition 3% poor, 20% fair, 75% good, 2% excellent. Calf condition 1% poor, 18% fair, 80% good, 1% excellent. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 17% fair, 76% good. Lamb condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 82% good.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates included in this report are based on survey data collected each week from early April through the end of November. Additionally, survey respondents are contacted four times during the winter season – once per month in December, January, February, and March. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from approximately 4,000 respondents whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these respondents subjectively estimate the progress of crops through various stages of development, as well as the progress of producer activities. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop and soil moisture conditions. Any weather data mentioned in this report is provided by outside sources such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Agricultural Weather Information Service (AWIS).

Information Contacts

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

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

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