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Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

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ALABAMA: Recent rainfall slightly improved crop conditions. Topsoil moisture 65% very short, 25% short, 10% adequate and 0% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Corn mature 93%, 100% 1998, 100% average. Corn harvested 76%, 92% 1998, 80% average. Cotton bolls opening 85%, 84% 1998, 70% average. Cotton harvested 25%, 19% 1998, 12% average. Soybeans blooming 92%, 100% 1998, 100% average. Soybeans setting pods 89%, 100% 1998, 99% average. Soybeans dropping leaves 51%, 57% 1998, 44% average. Soybean condition 55% very poor, 18% poor, 15% fair, 11% good, 1% excellent. Pasture condition 31% very poor, 27% poor, 28% fair, 13% good, 1% excellent. Livestock condition 9% very poor, 26% poor, 40% fair, 19% good, 6% excellent.

ALASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Cool, cloudy, and damp conditions continued to hinder the fall hay harvest. The end of the week brought the first widespread frost to the Palmer area and light snow to the Tanana Valley. Daytime high temperatures were mostly in the fifties with nighttime lows mostly in the thirties. Topsoil moisture supplies, 95% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies, 100% adequate. Oats, 85% harvested. Barley, 90% harvested. Second cutting hay harvest, 60% complete. Winter hay supplies 10% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Wind damage to crops, 70% none, 15% light, 10% moderate, 5% severe. Livestock condition, 5% poor, 40% fair, 40% good, 15% excellent. Commercial storage potato harvest, 85% complete. Major activities included: cutting hay, harvesting vegetables, grains, hay, silage, and potatoes, and machinery repair.

ARIZONA: Cotton harvest has begun throughout most of Arizona. Alfalfa harvest activity was reported as 21% not being harvested, 3% light, 32% moderate, and 44% active. Alfalfa condition was reported as 6% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, and 7% excellent. Last week central Arizona producers shipped a light volume of green onions.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures were cooler, but with a lack of moisture. Beneficial rainfall continues to elude the state with only scattered showers reported last week. Most of the state is in dire need of rainfall. The lack of rainfall continues to further aggravate our drought like conditions. Days suitable for fieldwork: 7. Topsoil moisture 39% very short, 49% short, 12% adequate, 0% surplus. Livestock were reported in fair condition. Many farmers were feeding supplemental hay early this year because of the drought. The main farm activities were: harvesting rice, sorghum, cotton, and corn and defoliating cotton. Other activities included finishing hay harvesting, preparing land for planting of annual forages such as rye, and ryegrass, liming pastures, and planning for fall pastures. Other activities: irrigating soybeans for the last time, spraying fields for insects and weeds, continued pea, harvesting, started wheat planting, treating crop lands for armyworms, fields were being subsoiled and plowed, tree fruit and small fruit harvesting, dusting and ear tagging cattle for external parasites, fall calving, giving vaccinations, pregnancy checking spring bred cows, selling cull cows, and weaning calves. Corn 95% harvest; Cotton 91% opening bolls, 20% harvested, condition 1% very poor 10% poor 41% fair 35% good 13% excellent; Soybeans 100% setting pods, 39% shedding, 13% harvested, condition 11% very poor 19% poor 30% fair 29% good 11% excellent; Sorghum 100% turning color, 99% mature, 91% harvested, condition 1% very poor 15% poor 38% fair 36% good 10% excellent; Alfalfa condition 5% very poor 34% poor 37% fair 24% good 0% excellent; Other Hay condition 15% very poor 33% poor 40% fair 12% good 0% excellent; Range and pastures condition 18% very poor 32% poor 38% fair 12% good 0% excellent.

CALIFORNIA: Field activities progressed normally despite light rain in some southern counties. Seedbed preparations for fall-seeded small grains and forage crops continued. Winter forage planting was ongoing, and small grain seeding was barely underway. Most wheat and barley growers were planning to begin planting following the first fall rains. Rice harvest was still slow to gain momentum; fields were late maturing. Blanking was evident in some rice heads and was attributed to cool temperatures during pollination. Cotton development continued to improve with the warm late summer weather, although most fields were still approximately ten days behind normal. Defoliation activity slowly increased in the San Joaquin Valley; most growers expected to wait until after October 1. Blackeye bean harvest was in full swing, while harvest of other dry bean varieties was winding down. Harvest of alfalfa seed and bermuda grass seed neared completion in the Imperial Valley. Sugarbeet harvest was ongoing in the San Joaquin Valley, while planting of new crop sugarbeets began in the Imperial Valley. Corn for grain and silage was harvested in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. Sunflower harvest was rapidly winding down in the Sacramento Valley. Alfalfa and sudangrass were cut for hay or greenchopped. The harvest of grapes for fresh consumption continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Varieties picked included Red Globe and Thompson Seedless. Harvesting grapes for raisins was active; approximately 25 percent were on open trays, 50 percent rolled, and 25 percent picked up. Picking of wine grapes continued. The stone fruit harvest was winding down. Fig harvesting continued. Picking of apples was active. The olive harvest began. Bartlett pear harvest was virtually complete. Asian pear harvest was active in the San Joaquin Valley. The prune harvest was making progress. Harvest of almonds and walnuts continued. Pistachio harvest was active. Valencia oranges and lemons were picked in southern California. New crop navel oranges were maturing well. Newly planted strawberry plants were enjoying excellent growing conditions. Strawberry growers were weeding and irrigating fields; plants were starting to bloom and fruit was forming. Processing tomatoes continued to be harvested. Several tomato fields were sprayed for worms. Insect pressure was still isolated and light in the Sacramento Valley. The summer vegetable season, which had been extended by the mild weather, was now gradually declining. Cucumber picking continued in late-planted fields. Honeydew melon harvest was in the last few weeks; quality was good. Fall planting of beets, carrots, radishes, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, Chinese cabbage, endive and lettuce was progressing under ideal weather. Developing fall melons were receiving occasional treatments for whitefly and mildew. Some fields of peppers, lettuce and broccoli were sprayed to control worms. Among the crops harvested were zucchini, Italian squash, watermelon, sweet corn, peppers, green beans, cucumbers, garlic, mint, snap peas, sugar peas, onions, okra, radishes, eggplant and sweet potatoes. The summer pasture season was winding down, with mountain pastures in poor to fair condition. Irrigated valley pastures were in fair to good condition. Sheep and beef cattle were moving from higher elevations to foothill pastures in central and northern California. Some livestock were receiving supplemental feed, mainly hay. Beef cows were calving in central and northern areas. Light rain fell in some areas, but not enough to stimulate early grass growth on foothill pastures. There was concern about the threat of rangeland fires with lightning strikes. Fire danger remained high due to continued hot weather.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 23% short, 67% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 27% short, 63% adequate, 5% surplus. Warm and mostly dry conditions prevailed during the week, pushing crops towards maturity and harvest. Spring wheat 84% harvested, 95% 1998, 88% avg. Corn 94%

dented, 98% 1998, 95% avg. Corn silage 79% harvested, 81% 1998, 75% avg. Dry onions 74% harvested, 79% 1998, 85% avg. Sugar beets 5% harvested, 5% 1998, 3% avg; condition 3% poor, 11% fair, 64% good, 22% excellent. Dry beans 91% cut, 91% 1998, 83% avg; 66% harvested, 77% 1998, 68% avg. Summer potatoes 88% harvested, 88% 1998, 84% avg.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil moisture 75% adequate, 25% surplus. Subsoil moisture 85% adequate, 15% surplus. Field corn 16% very poor, 19% poor, 36% fair, 28% good, 1% excellent; 95% dented, 94% 1998, 97% avg; 75% mature, 75% 1998, 71% avg; 40% harvested for grain, 38% 1998, 30% avg; 75% harvested for silage, 82% 1998, 83% avg. Soybeans 8% very poor, 10% poor, 46% fair, 36% good; 35% turned, 48% 1998, 42% avg; 12% shedding leaves, 20% 1998, 23% avg. Sorghum 20% poor, 72% fair, 8% good; 57% turned, 65% 1998, 66% avg; 32% mature, 12% 1998, 31% avg. Sweet corn 95% harvested, 90% 1998, 97% avg. Snap beans 88% harvested, 89% 1998, 92% avg. Lima beans 85% harvested, 71% 1998, 74% avg. Tomatoes 95% harvested, 88% 1998, 95% avg. Apples 9% poor, 18% fair, 73% good; 70% harvested, 71% 1998, 69% avg. Clover and other hay 92% 3rd cutting, 95% 1998, 92% avg. Alfalfa hay 58% 4th cutting, 67% 1998, 66% avg. Hay supplies 3% very short, 43% short and 54% adequate. Pasture 5% very poor, 10% poor, 52% fair, 33% good. Activities: Corn harvest slowed, barley and wheat being seeded, apple harvest active. potatoes 46% harvested, 35% 1998, 39% avg; condition 4% poor, 14% fair, 48% good, 34% excellent. Alfalfa 73% 3rd cutting, 75% 1998, 73% avg; 15% 4th cutting, 9% 1998, 11% avg; condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 19% fair, 58% good, 15% excellent. Pasture and range feed in mostly good condition.

FLORIDA: Tropical Storm Harvey brought significant rain to Dade county, some southwestern localities. Dade County reported sustained winds 50 mph, some gusts higher as Harvey passed. A tropical system passing from south to north over Peninsula brought more rain, end of week, and Sunday, September 26 with some flooding reported in coastal communities, low lying areas. Immokalee area received from 6.50 to 10.00 in. 19th through 25th; Homestead, 3.00 to about 4.25 in.; Palmetto-Ruskin region, about 0.50 to 2.00 in.; major stations, from about 0.50 in. at Tallahassee, Pensacola to over 3.00 in. at Jacksonville. Cloud cover kept temperatures 1 to 5 degrees below normal. Daytime highs 70s, 80s; nighttime lows 60s, 70s, with Pierson, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Pensacola recording at least one low 50s. Topsoil moisture throughout State mostly short to adequate. Tobacco marketing delayed by Hurricane Floyd. Soybean, sugarcane condition normal. Haying active. Cotton harvest starting. Forty-eight percent peanuts harvested. Peanut condition: fair 36%, good 63%, and excellent 1%. Watermelon harvesting underway Quincy, Palmetto-Ruskin. Pickle picking starting Zellwood. Cherry tomato picking beginning Palmetto-Ruskin. Tropical Storm Harvey delayed some vegetable fieldwork southern Peninsula and brought rain to southern most part of citrus belt Monday night, Tuesday. Grove moisture adequate to surplus. Abundant new growth. New crop fruit in good condition. Fresh fruit packing houses shipping white, colored grapefruit, Navels, Ambersweet oranges, some Fallglo. Caretakers cutting cover crops, spraying, fertilizing, pushing out dead trees, planting new trees. Pasture feed: very poor 5%, poor 5%, fair 40%, good 50%. Condition of cattle: fair 20%, good 80%. Panhandle, haying operations active. Pastures in many locations in fair condition as no rain received from recent weather systems. General pasture condition declined due to dry conditions. Central: Some pastures showing damage from armyworms but infestation level nothing like last year's. West central: Pasture grass growth slowing seasonally, ranchers spraying for armyworms. Southeast: Lots temporarily flooded due to Tropical Storm Harvey, some still underwater one week later. Statewide, cattle mostly good condition.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 5.7. Soil moisture 29% very short, 36% short, 33% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay 22% very poor, 34% poor, 34% fair, 10% good. Peanuts 55% dug, 34% 1998, 55% avg. Rye 10% planted, 14% 1998, 11% avg. Sorghum 65% harvested for grain, 62% 1998, 49% avg. Other small grains 9% planted, 4% 1998, 5% avg. Apples 4% very poor, 19% poor, 37% fair, 38% good, 2% excellent; 46% harvested, 56% 1998, 59% avg. Pecans 8% very poor, 15% poor, 32% fair, 39% good, 6% excellent; 0% harvested, 1% 1998, 1% avg. Scattered rains fell over the State last week. Most were less than 1 1/2 inch but there were reports of up to 5 inches. Top soil moisture increased. Fall tilling, small grain planting and pasture overseeding were encouraged in areas that received rain. Soil moisture continued short in

those areas that have been missed by the rain. Streams have been drying up and the situation has become critical. Cattlemen continued to feed their livestock and cull herds. Harvest of fall crops continued active. Some farmers will get another cutting of hay because of the rains. Pecans have not received timely or enough rain to fill the nuts. Peanut and cotton quality have been affected by the drought. There have been reports of white mold in peanuts. Cotton lint was not stringing from the open bolls which is making harvest difficult. The rains improved pasture conditions.

HAWAII: Variable weather conditions were fair for agriculture. Windward areas received a generally favorable mixture of sunshine and light to moderate showers. Areas sheltered from the trade winds were generally dry, although moderate showers occurred in spots over the weekend. Banana orchards made fair to good progress. Harvesting will be steady and of moderate to heavy volume. Papaya orchards were in fair to good condition. Most orchards received a good mixture of sunshine and showers. A few orchards were in need of additional rain. Harvesting will be steady. Harvesting of head cabbage, Chinese cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, and tomatoes will be active. Crop progress was good with moderate to heavy irrigation. Condition of other vegetables were fair to good.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil 12% very short, 43% short, 44% adequate, and 1% surplus. Conditions dry. Harvest progressing steadily. Irrigation supply 53% excellent, 42% good, 5% fair. Alfalfa hay 3rd cutting 88%, 1998 85%, avg. 75%. Oats harvested for grain 95%, 1998 99%, avg. 91%. Mint harvested 91%, 1998 99%, avg. 98%. Dry Beans harvested 84%, 1998 69%, avg. 72%. Corn harvested for silage 51%, 1998 40%, avg. 48%. Corn harvested for grain 4%, 1998 3%, avg. 2%. Sweet Corn harvested 88%, 1998 86%, avg. 91%. Onions harvested 69%, 1998 36%, avg. 60%. Peaches harvested 96%, 1998 87%, avg. 95%. Prunes & plums harvested 72%, 1998 57%, avg. 86%. Apples harvested 15%, 1998 14%, avg. 24%. Hops harvested 88%, 1998 79%, avg. 91%. Potatoes with vines dead/kill 88%, 1998 82%, avg. 92%; harvested 22%, 1998 23%, avg. 24%. Sugarbeets harvested 7%, 1998 6%, avg. 8%. Winter wheat planted 24%, 1998 25%, avg. 33%; emerged 5%, 1998 7%, avg. 10%. Activities: preparing seedbeds and fertilizing for fall planted grains, digging early sugarbeets, and harvesting potatoes, onions, silage corn, apples and grapes.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Topsoil moisture 42% very short, 47% short, 11% adequate. Corn harvest continued at a rapid pace last week. Harvest is nearest completion in the Southern districts, due to dry conditions. Farmers have begun seeding wheat but progress has been slow due to the continued dry conditions. Other activities last week included hauling grain, fall tillage and caring for livestock. Soybeans turning yellow 96%, 89% 1998, 86% avg. Alfalfa third cut 99%, 97% 1998, 96% avg.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil 75% very short, 22% short, 3% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil 70% very short, 26% short, 4% adequate, 0% surplus. Corn, soybean harvest in full swing. Corn harvest 17 days ahead of average. Soybean harvest 7 days ahead of average. Harvested corn moisture averaging around 18%, soybeans 11% moisture content. Virtually no precipitation during week. Fire major concern of farmers. Topsoil and subsoil extremely dry. Corn condition 29% good to excellent. Soybean condition 23% good to excellent. Pastures dried up. Range, pasture 57% very poor, 31% poor, 11% fair, 1% good. Feeding hay necessary. Tobacco harvest 91% complete, 84% 1998, 79% avg. Activities: seeding winter wheat, tillage of soils, chopping stalks, cleaning grain bins, hauling grain, purchasing wheat seed, harvesting tobacco, feeding hay, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for field work 6.9. Topsoil moisture: very short 23%; short 44%, adequate 33%. Subsoil moisture: very short 14%; short 38%, adequate 47%, surplus 1%. Harvest well underway across Iowa. In some areas, seed corn harvest moving to completion. Dry weather continued this week, causing plants to mature and dry down at a fast rate. Frost reported across much of Iowa, severely damaging or killing some plants in north central and west central Iowa; other sections of state only experienced minor damage to crops. Corn: mature stage 95%, 1998 96%, avg. 81%; harvested 9%, 1998 12%, avg. 6%. Percent moisture of all field corn averaged 26%; harvested corn averaged 21%. Corn condition: very poor 2%, poor 6%, fair 23%, good 51%, excellent 18%. Soybeans: leaves changing color 97%, 1998 98%, avg. 95%; leaves

dropping 77%, 1998 86%, avg. 76%; harvested 8%, 1998 21%, avg. 12%. Soybean condition: very poor 2%, poor 7%, fair 26%, good 48%, excellent 17%. Winter wheat planted 22%, 23% 1998, 21% avg. Livestock generally in good condition. Pastures short due to lack of rain; supplemental feeding begun in some parts of state. Flies, pinkeye continue to be a problem in south central district. Dust affecting cattle in feedlots and weaned calves in south east. Range, pasture condition: very poor 11%, poor 19%, fair 39%, good 26%, excellent 5%. Third cutting of alfalfa 94%, 1998 91%, avg. 93%.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Wheat seeding made good progress across the State last week. Topsoil moisture 9% very short, 35% short, 54% adequate, and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 30% short, 61% adequate, and 1% surplus. Sunflower condition 1% poor, 18% fair, 66% good, and 15% excellent. Ray flowers dry 96%, 99% 1998, NA average. Bracts turning yellow 80%, 92% 1998, NA average. Sunflowers mature 37%, 68% 1998, NA average. Sunflowers harvested 7%, 24% 1998, NA average. Fourth cutting alfalfa 86%, 80% 1998, 69% average. Hay and forage supplies 5% short, 87% adequate and 8% surplus. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 13% short, 84% adequate, and 1% surplus. Cattle continue to move from pastures to feedlots. In some areas, cattle are being moved to row crop stubble. Ranchers are busy fall calving, preconditioning and weaning calves, pregnancy checking cows, and selling calves and yearlings.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Topsoil moisture 83% very short, 16% short, 1% adequate. Subsoil moisture 88% very short and 12% short. Temperatures were mixed during the week starting out below normal then moderating to warm, summer-like conditions. Small amounts of rainfall were reported Statewide, however drought still grips the state. Corn harvest was in full swing while the soybean harvest gained momentum. Burley cut 95%, 90% 1998, 84% avg. Dark tobacco cut 95%, 89% 1998, 88% avg. Housed tobacco 6% very poor, 19% poor, 37% fair, 33% good and 5% excellent. Pasture condition 60% poor, 29% poor, 9% fair, 2% good. Hay being fed and water for livestock is being hauled. Livestock sales volume continued to be high due to short supplies of hay and water.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Soil moisture 41% very short, 32% short, 27% adequate, 0% surplus. Cotton harvest was in full swing. Hay 86% final cutting, 77% 1998, 87% avg. Soybeans 99% leaves turning, 92% 1998, 83% avg. Late soybeans were shedding leaves. Sugarcane 3% poor, 20% fair, 55% good, 22% excellent; 99% planted, 71% 1998, 79% avg. Sugarcane planting was almost complete. Sweet potatoes 2% very poor, 12% poor, 26% fair, 56% good, 4% excellent; 41% harvested, 39% 1998, 46% avg. Wheat 3% planted, 10% 1998, 3% avg. Livestock 2% very poor, 11% poor, 35% fair, 44% good, 8% excellent. Vegetables 7% very poor, 24% poor, 39% fair, 25% good, 5% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Subsoil moisture 12% very short, 21% short, 60% adequate, 7% surplus. Topsoil moisture 11% short, 81% adequate, 8% surplus. Corn 15% very poor, 26% poor, 35% fair, 21% good, 3% excellent; 92% dent, 98% 1998, 97% avg; 72% mature, 78% 1998, 73% avg; 32% harvested for grain, 48% 1998, 31% avg; 80% harvested for silage, 78% 1998, 70% avg. Soybeans 6% very poor, 11% poor, 29% fair, 44% good, 10% excellent; 42% turned, 61% 1998, 57% avg; 26% shedding leaves, 25% 1998, 30% avg. Sorghum 13% poor, 45% fair, 40% good, 2% excellent; 80% turning color, 70% 1998, 77% avg; 28% mature, 28% 1998, 35% avg; 25% harvested, 14% 1998, 11% avg. Tobacco 90% harvested, 94% 1998, 96% avg. Snap beans 95% harvested, 97% 1998, 97% avg. Lima beans 95% harvested, 91% 1998, 73% avg. Apples 15% fair, 85% good; 40% harvested, 37% 1998, 44% avg. Clover and other hays 89% 3rd cutting, 95% 1998, 82% avg; 61% 4th cutting, 57% 1998, 42% avg. Alfalfa 49% 4th cutting, 73% 1998, 73% avg. Pasture condition 2% very poor, 12% poor, 30% fair, 45% good, 11% excellent. Hay supplies 9% very short, 54% short, 36% adequate, 1% surplus. Activities: Harvesting of corn, hay and vegetables.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 44% very short, 39% short, 17% adequate, 0% surplus; subsoil 38% very short, 46% short, 16% adequate, 0% surplus. Hay 5% very poor, 15% poor, 26% fair, 35% good, 19% excellent. Hay third cutting 95%, 90% 1998, 82% avg. Hay fourth cutting 41%, 39% 1998, 26% avg. Dry beans harvested 83%, 91% 1998, 55% avg. Silage harvested 86%, 84% 1998, 53% avg. Soybeans mature 75%, 47% 1998, 30% avg. Rain fell on most of the

State but not enough to make a significant difference. Temperatures stayed on cool side for second straight week. A first frost has now occurred in most parts of the State. Corn harvest continuing but most farmers waiting for moisture to come down. Corn silage harvest in overdrive trying to get that finished up. Early soybean harvest continued this past week with beans having a low moisture content. Dry bean harvest continued as yield looked good, but dry weather caused some splitting problems. Rain can still help sugarbeet fields as lack of rain has caused yield potential to go down. Third cutting of hay coming to a close as some farms will not be having a fourth cutting this year. Planting of winter wheat started but many fields need rain to help germinate crop. Harvest of Empire, Golden Delicious, and Jonathan apples was in high gear; Red Delicious and Jonagold were spot picked. Harvest of Concord grapes will continue for another 10 days. Cantaloupe harvest continued. Carrot harvest continued with no problems reported. Celery yields good. Cucumber harvest winding down. Onion harvest progressed. Pumpkin harvest accelerating with smaller fruit reported but better yields than previously expected. Sweet corn harvest nearing completion. Processing tomato harvest winding down with about 85 percent of the harvest complete.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Topsoil 2% very short, 12% short, 69% adequate, 17% surplus. Soybeans 97% turning yellow, 99% 1998, 97% avg.; 53% mature, 82% 1998, 51% avg. Corn 86% silage cut, 96% 1998, 66% avg. Winter wheat 73% seeded, 95% 1998, 91% avg. Rye 87% seeded, 97% 1998, 87% avg. Dry beans 41% harvested, 87% 1998, 69% avg. Sugarbeets 9% harvested, 10% 1998, 9% avg. Sunflowers 0% harvested, 6% 1998, 9% avg. Potatoes 41% harvested, 43% 1998, 44% avg. Grain/Hay stubble plowed 69%, 79% 1998, 70% avg. Pasture feed 4% very poor, 17% poor, 25% fair, 44% good, 10% excellent. Sugarbeets 3% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 53% good, 16% excellent. Sunflowers 3% very poor, 14% poor, 35% fair, 41% good, 7% excellent. Dry beans 7% very poor, 13% poor, 40% fair, 34% good, 6% excellent. The first widespread occurrence of freezing temperatures, and the sunny days that followed, have resulted in an increase in harvesting activity. Most soybeans were mature enough that the frost was helpful in drying stems for easier combining. In fields where maturity was less advanced, frost may have been a damaging factor. The persistent rainy pattern in the Northwest District eased enough for most remaining fields of small grains to be combined.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Soil moisture, 53% very short, 38% short, 9% adequate. Corn 98% harvested, 99% 1998, 88% avg. Cotton 99% open bolls, 100% 1998, 94% avg.; 36% harvested, 33% 1998, 22% avg.; 5% very poor, 16% poor, 42% fair, 33% good, 4% excellent. Rice 95% mature, 97% 1998, 96% avg.; 71% harvested, 85% 1998, 76% avg. Sorghum 98% harvested, 95% 1998, 86% avg.; 99% silage harvested, 93% 1998, 88% avg. Soybeans 95% turning color, 94% 1998, 86% avg.; 86% shedding leaves, 78% 1998, 66% avg.; 48% harvested, 46% 1998, 33% avg.; 15% very poor, 20% poor, 33% fair, 27% good, 5% excellent. Sweet potatoes 45% harvested, 34% 1998, 42% avg.; 2% very poor, 11% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 2% excellent. Hay (warm-season) 93% harvested, 100% 1998, 99% avg. Cattle, 3% very poor, 11% poor, 36% fair, 46% good, 4% excellent. Pasture 25% very poor, 31% poor, 32% fair, 11% good, 1% excellent. Dry conditions continue to prevail across the state. Many farmers are waiting for precipitation before beginning fall fieldwork and fall planting of wheat and ryegrass.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. The topsoil moisture supply was rated at 70% very short, 23% short, and 7% adequate. Although even the latest maturing soybeans and sorghum are too advanced to gain significant benefit from additional moisture at this time, rainfall is urgently needed for fall pasture growth, winter wheat seedings, and restoring the water level in stock ponds. Missouri farmers made rapid progress with row crop harvesting during the past week as the dry weather continued. Ninety-four percent of the corn is mature, about two weeks ahead of normal for this date. Fifty percent of the corn is harvested, about a week ahead of last year and two weeks ahead of the 32% normal. Corn harvest in the Bootheel is virtually complete with 96% of the crop harvested. Eighty-five percent of all soybeans were turning color, 58% were dropping leaves and 30% have reached maturity. The maturing process is similar to last year but about 4 days ahead of average. Nine percent of the crop is harvested, 2 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of the 5-year average. Seventy-three percent of the sorghum crop was mature, 3 days behind last year but 5 days ahead of normal. Forty-two percent of the crop is harvested, seven days ahead of last year and about two weeks

ahead of the 25% normal. Harvesting is most advanced in the Bootheel with 81% complete, while progress in the northern two-thirds of the State averages less than 10% complete. Virtually all the cotton has open bolls, about the same as last year, but over two weeks ahead of the five-year average of 81%. Forty-two percent of the cotton was harvested, nearly 2 weeks ahead of both last year's 13% and the 5-year average of 11%. Winter wheat seeding for next year's crop has begun with 7% in the ground. Progress is virtually the same as the past two years for this date. Pasture and range condition was rated at 52% very poor, 24% poor, 16% fair, and 8% good. A high proportion of the pastures in the northeast, central, south-central, and southeast districts were reported in very poor condition. Precipitation for week ending September 26, 1999 avg. 0.24 in.

MONTANA: There were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork. The week was again warm with fairly little precipitation across much of the state. Topsoil moisture 20% very short, 36% short, 44% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 24% very short, 39% short, 37% adequate, and 0% surplus. Sugar beets harvested 16%, 8% 1998, 8% avg. Oats harvested 94%, 100% 1998, 97% avg. Corn for silage harvested 64%, 80% 1998, 70% avg. Potatoes harvested 12%, 19% 1998, 18% avg. Dry beans harvested 83%, 89% 1998, 87% avg. Alfalfa second cutting 94%, 99% 1998, 96% avg. Cattle and calves moved from summer ranges 41%, 27% 1998, 26% avg. Sheep and lambs moved from summer ranges 44%, 31% 1998, 30% avg. Ideal weather conditions allowed farmers to get out into their fields and make progress in harvesting crops and seeding winter wheat. However, late seedings of small grains in the spring in the north central, central, and northeast parts of the state delayed harvest as crops are not yet mature. Some fields are still green or too wet to harvest.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Dry, clear conditions again last week, pushing ahead harvest activities. Statewide, temperatures averaged from normal to two degrees below normal. Frost evident in portions of Nebraska early in week. Hard freezing temperatures had not ended growing season Statewide. Precipitation was light. Topsoil moisture condition declined and rated 14% very short, 36% short, 48% adequate, 2% surplus; subsoil moisture condition also moved lower and rated 11% very short, 32% short, 57% adequate, 0% surplus. Corn condition rated 2% very poor, 5% poor, 25% fair, 48% good, and 20% excellent; dryland corn rated 60% and irrigated corn rated 74% in good and excellent. Corn mature 84%, behind 91% last year, but well ahead of 66% avg. Harvest for grain 9%, 19% last year, 8% avg. Soybean conditions rated 4% very poor, 11% poor, 32% fair, 40% good, and 13% excellent; dropping leaves 75%, 89% last year, 72% average; harvested 8%, 13% last year and 11% avg. Sorghum turning color 95%, compared to 100% last year, 96% avg.; sorghum mature 55%, behind 84% last year and 59% average; harvest 5%, 5% 1998, 4% avg; sorghum condition 1% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 46% good and 12% excellent. Dry bean harvest 75%, ahead of 70% 1998, 71% avg. Millet harvested 63%. Alfalfa condition 2% very poor, 8% poor, 40% fair, 44% good, and 6% excellent; alfalfa fourth cutting 57%, ahead of 39% 1998, 42% avg. Wheat seeded 80%, 77% 1998, 69% avg; emerged 36%, 43% 1998, 36% avg. Limited sugar beet harvest. Pasture and range conditions rated 7% very poor, 16% poor, 30% fair, 40% good, 7% excellent. Supplemental cattle feeding underway in driest regions of the State. Producer activities included moving grain, harvest preparation and livestock care.

NEVADA: Temperatures in Northern Nevada were well above normal with cooling on Sunday that left most regions three to nine degrees below normal. Southern Nevada dipped into below normal temperatures on the 22nd and the 23rd. Las Vegas was the only station in the State to report precipitation, which was .25 inches. Harvest of third cutting alfalfa was near completion. Fourth cutting of alfalfa hay continued. Harvest of alfalfa seed reached beyond the half way point and was reported to be in good condition. Oat harvest continued, and most other grain crop harvest had been completed. Potato digging was in full force. More livestock movement was observed due to burned range lands. Cattle were being worked and preparations for weaning had begun. Preparations were being made to move cattle to winter range.

NEW ENGLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil 8% short, 68% adequate, 24% surplus. Subsoil 6% very short, 29% short, 64% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture feed 4% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 20% good, 18% excellent. Maine potatoes 30% harvested, 40% 1998, 35% average; condition excellent to good. Massachusetts potatoes 70% harvested, 75% 1998, 70% average; condition good to fair. Rhode Island potatoes 70% harvested, 75% 1998, 75% average; condition fair to poor.

Oats in Maine 95% harvested, 95% 1998, 90% average; condition good to excellent. Barley in Maine 99% harvested, 95% 1998; condition good to excellent. Field corn 70% harvested, 40% 1998, 35% average; condition good to fair. Sweet corn 99% harvested, 90% 1998, 95% average; condition good to fair. Shade Tobacco 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% average, condition good. Broadleaf Tobacco 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% average; condition good. Second cut hay 95% harvested, 90% 1998, 90% average; condition good to fair. Third cut hay 70% harvested, 65% 1998, 70% average; condition fair. Apples 60% harvested, 60% 1998, 55% average; size average to below average, condition good. Peaches 99% harvested, 99% 1998, 99% average; size average to below average, condition fair. Pears 40% harvested, 65% 1998, 70% average; size below average, condition fair to poor. Cranberries 15% harvested, 10% 1998, 15% average, size average, condition good. Highbush blueberries 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% average, size average, condition good to fair. Major farm activities included: harvesting tree fruits, potatoes, and late season vegetables; chopping silage corn; cutting hay; spreading manure and disking harvested fields.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures averaged near normal. Extremes were 81 at Toms River and Woodstown on the 26th and 38 degrees at Charlotteburg on the 26th. Weekly rainfall averaged 0.45 inches North, 0.40 inches Central, and 0.36 inches South. The heaviest 24 hour total was 0.50 inches at Pemberton on the 20th to the 21st. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 95 percent North, 87 percent Central and 83 percent South. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 61 degrees North, 63 degrees Central and 64 degrees South. Days suitable for field work averaged five days. Irrigation water supply is between adequate and surplus in most areas. Planting of small grains and cover crops continued across the state. Harvest of grain corn started earlier than normal. Well below average corn yields have been reported. Harvest of corn silage is near completion in Central and South Jersey with low tonnage per acre and poor quality being reported. Early planted soybeans are in poor condition in most areas of the state while the late planted crop is between fair and good condition. Soybean plants in South Jersey have started to drop leaves. Many soybean farmers are concerned about the consequences of having an early frost because the progress of the crop was significantly delayed during the dry summer months. The third cutting of alfalfa and other hay is underway and the crop has been rated between good and fair. Harvest of summer vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, snap beans, eggplant and escarole continued. Harvest of fall cabbage, lettuce and spinach is also underway. Excess moisture has caused disease problems in the remaining tomato and pepper fields across South and Central Jersey. The condition of the fall vegetables is between good and fair, however, some insect problems have been reported in cabbage and lettuce fields. Several late planted spinach fields were washed out by the recent heavy rains. Sweet potato harvest is underway and the overall quality is good, although some farmers have reported smaller than usual sizes. Harvest of apples is in full swing. Good quality, but somewhat smaller sizes have been reported.

NEW MEXICO: The week began with temperatures well below normal in many areas, then ended with temperatures near record-breaking high levels. Consequently, the average temperature for the week was within a few degrees of normal at most locations, and the statewide average was one degree above normal. On the 26th, many locations below 5000 feet hit 90 degrees, and Carlsbad reached 101°. Hit and miss showers reached slightly less than half the reporting locations during the week. Most precipitation totals were very light. Days suitable for field work averaged 6.7 days. Alfalfa farmers continued land preparation and planting new fields as harvest began to slow with most operators making their final cut of the season. Chile and corn silage harvest remained very active. Boll weevil control in cotton continuing. Sorghum and wheat conditions declined slightly with very little moisture received on dryland crops. Ranchers continued to monitor herd condition and prepare for marketing and shipping of livestock. Pasture and Range feed conditions were reported at 1% very poor, 5% poor, 31% fair, 54% good and 9% excellent. Cattle and sheep conditions remained in mostly good to excellent condition.

NEW YORK: Days suitable: 4.2. Soil moisture 27% short, 50% adequate, 23% surplus. Pasture condition 14% poor, 31% fair, 55% good. Alfalfa third cutting 94% complete, 80% 1998, 79% average. Silage corn 73% harvested, 58% 1998, 37% average. Dry bean harvest gained momentum. Potato harvest progressed. Soybeans yellowing and

beginning to drop leaves. Winter wheat and rye seedings underway. Vegetable harvesting wound down. Only late season crops remain. Grape harvest continued. Concord grapes 45% picked in Lake Erie region, 30% in Finger Lakes region. Apple crop in excellent condition as harvest picks up. Muddy pastures from hurricane lingered.

NORTH CAROLINA: North Carolina: Statewide, 5.0 days were suitable for fieldwork compared to 4.8 last week. Once again the extremes of wet weather in the east and dry weather in the west continue to dominate the farming activities in North Carolina. Farmers in the east were still busy assessing damage, repairing equipment and generally trying to recover from Hurricane Floyd when 1 - 4 more inches of rain fell. Very few of the crops in the field escaped some kind of damage from the hurricane, although the extent of the damage is still not known. As fields dried out, some farmers were able to harvest tobacco, corn and sweetpotatoes that were not damaged. Meanwhile farmers in the western part of the State were still experiencing dry weather that has plagued them all year. This lack of soil moisture has slowed down small grain plantings in some parts of the west and has resulted in some early feeding of livestock. Soil moisture levels are rated 12% very short, 15% short, 33% adequate, and 40% surplus. The major activities of the week were hurricane clean-up, tobacco harvesting and marketing, harvesting of sweetpotatoes, corn for grain and silage harvest. Other tasks included baling hay, harvesting apples and vegetables, tending livestock and land preparation and planting of small grains.

NORTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Warmer temperatures and clear skies the beginning of last week allowed producers to make good progress on the small grain, dry edible bean and potato harvests. However, rain showers by Friday and Saturday again halted most harvest progress. The harvest for all crops remain behind the 5-year average, except sugarbeets. Topsoil 0% very short, 8% short, 81% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 0% very short, 7% short, 79% adequate, 14% surplus. Durum wheat 69% combined, 100% 1998, 91% avg. Canola 85% combined, 100% 1998. Corn for grain 38% ripe, 88% 1998, 68% avg. Corn for silage 36% chopped, 70% 1998, 58% avg. Dry edible beans 67% cut, 98% 1998, 82% avg; 50% combined, 93% 1998, 67% avg. Flaxseed 61% combined, 97% 1998, 72% avg. Potatoes 85% vines killed, 97% 1998, 95% avg; 47% dug, 66% 1998, 58% avg. Soybeans 59% mature, 94% 1998, 92% avg; 5% harvested, 41% 1998, 33% avg. Sugarbeets 10% lifted, 9% 1998, 9% avg. Sunflowers 78% bracts turned yellow, 98% 1998, 97% avg; 39% bracts turned brown, 75% 1998, 70% avg. Condition ratings for row crops improved from last week. Emerged crop condition: durum 4% very poor, 18% poor, 38% fair, 38% good, 2% excellent; corn for grain 2% very poor, 5% poor, 19% fair, 63% good, 11% excellent; corn for silage 0% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 13% excellent; dry edible beans 2% very poor, 5% poor, 24% fair, 53% good, 16% excellent; flaxseed 1% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 52% good, 12% excellent, potatoes 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 46% good, 42% excellent; soybeans 3% very poor, 7% poor, 20% fair, 60% good, 10% excellent; sugarbeets 1% very poor, 1% poor, 10% fair, 58% good, 30% excellent; sunflower 1% very poor, 7% poor, 25% fair, 53% good, 14% excellent. Stockwater supplies rated 0% very short, 2% short, 91% adequate, 7% surplus.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Topsoil moisture 55% very short, 36% short, 9% adequate, 0% surplus. Soybeans dropping leaves 95%, 88% 1998, 75% avg. Soybeans mature 69%, 52% 1998, 39% avg. Soybeans harvested 28%, 18% 1998, 10% avg. Alfalfa hay 4th cutting 76%, 64% 1998. Other hay 3rd cutting 90%, 87% 1998, 74% avg. Corn mature 80%, 64% 1998, 36% avg. Corn harvested for silage, 78%, 56% 1998, 42% avg. Corn harvested for grain 16%, 8% 1998, 4% avg. Winter wheat planted 7%, 5% 1998, 6% avg. Fall and winter apples harvested, 49%, 41% 1998, 29% avg. Grapes harvested 60%, 47% 1998. Tobacco harvested, 81%, 84% 1998. Processing tomatoes harvested 90%, 83% 1998, 74% avg. Potatoes harvested 78%, 80% 1998, 61% avg. Pasture 26% very poor, 36% poor, 30% fair, 8% good, 0% excellent. Corn 9% very poor, 15% poor, 38% fair, 32% good, 6% excellent. Soybeans 7% very poor, 16% poor, 36% fair, 35% good, 6% excellent. Activities for the week include harvesting corn, soybeans; mowing; baling hay; sowing wheat; plowing; chopping silage; hauling grain; spraying Christmas trees; picking pumpkins, squash; planting barley, rye; cutting firewood; scouting new water sources; spreading manure, lime, fertilizer; fixing fences, clipping pastures. Reported weed pressures include yellow foxtail, pigweed, velvetleaf, lambs quarters, Canadian thistle, giant ragweed, Johnson grass, chickweed, mare's tail. Reported insects include spider mites on soybeans; leaf hoppers in potatoes; corn borers; stink bugs on

pumpkins, squash; beetles in soybeans, corn. Reported diseases include sudden death syndrome, white mold in soybeans; gray leaf spot, aflatoxin, fungus on corn; brown stem rot; Stewart's wilt in corn; mildew on vegetables. The fruit, vegetable harvest is in full swing as producers are trying to beat the frost. Producers are busy picking grapes, apples, pears, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, potatoes. Frost was reported in Sandusky county, low yields due to the drought were reported in Fulton county. Reporters continue to comment on poor pasture conditions with very little to no real signs of improvement. Cool weather has reduced stress on cattle. A Wayne county reporter mentioned milk production has risen slightly. A Harrison county reporter mentioned cattle lack conditioning, some calves are being weaned early. Lack of water is still a problem.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 26% short, 64% adequate. Topsoil moisture 9% very short, 25% short, 65% adequate, 1% surplus. Mild temperatures, dry weather allow peanut, cotton harvest to begin. Wheat 90% seedbed prepared, 74% 1998, 86% avg; Oats 89% seedbed prepared, 63% 1998, 78% avg; 14% planted, 12% 1998, 14% avg; Corn 98% mature, 100% 1998, 83% avg; 64% harvested, 88% 1998, 64% avg; Soybeans 1% very poor, 18% poor, 44% fair, 35% good, 2% excellent; 91% setting pods, 98% 1998, 98% avg; 47% mature, 78% 1998, 56% avg; 18% harvested, 31% 1998, 20% avg; Peanuts 27% mature, 55% 1998, 41% avg; Alfalfa Hay 3% very poor, 10% poor, 37% fair, 48% good, 2% excellent; 73% 4th cutting, 48% 1998, 77% avg; 18% 5th cutting, 6% 1998, 18% avg; Other Hay 70% 2nd cutting, 23% 1998, 75% avg; Livestock 3% poor, 27% fair, 65% good, 5% excellent. Feeder steer price \$1 to \$1.50 below last week.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Topsoil 48% very short, 48% short, 4% adequate. Subsoil 46% very short, 45% short, 9% adequate. Barley harvested 83%, 97% 1998, 96% average. Barley Planted 12%, 2% 1998, 2% average. Range & pasture 7% very poor, 25% poor, 32% fair, 35% good, 1% excellent. Activities: Eastern Oregon producers continued planting fall crop. Much of the crop may be "dusted in" or seeding delayed until rainfall is received. Northeast continued harvest of small grains. Western Oregon reported field preparations continued, as well as some haying operations. Willamette Valley silage corn cutting was underway & red clover seed harvest winding down. Irrigation continued at nurseries along with repotting & field planting of new nursery stock. On southern Oregon coast Easter Lily growers still transplanting bulbs & a few growers starting to dig commercial bulbs. Christmas tree growers flagging trees for harvest. Northeast potato harvest started & Klamath Basin reported 99% potatoes knocked down, 1% harvested. Late season potato harvest started in Northeast while onion harvest continued. Western Oregon reported sweet corn, onions, potatoes & other vegetable crops harvested. Weather been too warm for early cauliflower crop in Willamette Valley, but good for drying onions. Carrot & beet crops nearing harvest. Willamette Valley, evergreen blackberry harvest continued & other berry fields being prepared for winter. Pear & apple harvest continued & prune & plum harvest underway. Hazelnuts continued to drop. Rogue River Valley, pear & apple harvest continued. Grapes doing well. The crop may be shorter, but quality should be good. Milton-Freewater apple harvest continued. On south coast cranberry growers hand weeding. Hood River Valley, Anjou pears being harvested in all but highest elevation orchards. Gala apples being picked in mid valley orchards. Grass growth on ranges & pastures finished by hot weather during September, except at highest elevations in eastern mountains. Supplemental feeding started in most Willamette Valley counties. Livestock condition mostly good to fair. Cattle gathered off range in the northeast. Weaning, vaccinating, pregnancy checking & preconditioning started around the state.

PENNSYLVANIA: Fair week for field work. Days suitable for field work 4.3. Soil moisture 10% very short, 27% short, 54% adequate, 9% surplus. Corn dough 99% complete, 100% 1998, 99% avg. Corn dent 75% complete, 88% 1998, 83% avg. Corn mature 41% harvested, 38% 1998, 38% avg. Corn harvested 12% complete, 7% 1998, 7% avg. Ensilage corn harvested 65% complete, 57% 1998, 48% avg. Soybean crop condition 14% very poor, 26% poor, 37% fair, 20% good, 3% excellent. Wheat planted 13% complete, 12% 1998, 26% avg. Wheat emerged 6% complete, 2% 1998, avg. not available. Barley planted 49% complete, 33% 1998, 35% avg. Barley emerged 30% complete, 11% 1998, average not available. Tobacco harvest 80% complete, 100% 1998, 98% avg. Potato harvest 52% complete, 63% 1998, 55% avg. Alfalfa 3rd cutting 88% complete, 88% 1998, 85% avg. Alfalfa 4th cutting

55% complete, 52% 1998, 48% avg. Timothy clover 2nd cutting 91% complete, 92% 1998, 94% avg. Quality of hay made 8% very poor, 11% poor, 21% fair, 42% good, 18% excellent. Apple harvest 40% complete, 46% 1998, 46% avg. Apple condition 3% poor, 16% fair, 67% good, 14% excellent. Grape harvest 32% complete, 37% 1998, 40% avg. Fall plowing 42% complete, 45% 1998, 50% avg. Activities include harvesting corn, soybeans, fruits, vegetables, potatoes, corn silage and tobacco; planting barley, wheat and cover crops; machinery maintenance; filling silos; fixing fences; hauling, pumping and spreading manure; spreading lime; caring for livestock; cutting hay; and plowing for the fall.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Soil moisture 8% very short, 30% short, 45% adequate, 17% surplus. Apples 63% harvested, 50% 1998, 64% avg.; 28% poor, 63% fair, 9% good. Corn 98% harvested, 95% 1998, 89% avg. Livestock 1% very poor, 9% poor, 39% fair, 41% good, 10% excellent. Grapes 30% poor, 50% fair, 20% good. Pasture feed 16% very poor, 32% poor, 41% fair, 11% good. Sorghum 98% turned color, 99% 1998, NA avg.; 72% matured, 71% 1998, NA avg.; 50% harvested, 46% 1998, 51% avg.; 20% very poor, 40% poor, 36% fair, 4% good. Sweet Potatoes 20% harvested, 34% 1998, 23% avg.; 28% poor, 59% fair, 13% good. Tobacco 99% harvested, 100% 1998, 99% avg.; 80% stalks destroyed, 83% 1998, 78% avg. Winter Grazings 20% planted, 29% 1998, 25% avg.; 9% emerged, 21% 1998, 16% avg. Winter Wheat 8% planted, 13% 1998, NA avg.; 1% emerged, N/A 1998, N/A avg. Barley 7% planted, NA 1998, NA avg. Oats 5% planted, 6% 1998, NA avg. Rye 11% planted, 10% 1998, NA avg. Farmers in eastern, coastal counties are trying to recover from Hurricane Floyd. Western, mountain counties receive little or no rain and continue to suffer from the severe, extended drought.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork, 6.2. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 12% short, 72% adequate and 12% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 10% short, 75% adequate and 13% surplus. Alfalfa is 2% very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 55% good, 24% excellent; third cutting complete 81%, 83% 1998, avg. unavailable. Sorghum harvested for silage 37%, 47% 1998, 42% avg. Soybeans mature 40%, 74% 1998, 52% avg. Sunflower condition is 2% poor, 19% fair, 56% good, 23% excellent; ray flowers dry 93%, 100% 1998, 99% avg.; bracts yellow 77%, 94% 1998, 92% avg.; mature 33%, 66% 1998, 56% avg.; harvested 2%, 18% 1998, 7% avg. Flaxseed harvested 93%, 100% 1998, 97% avg. Corn dented 97%, 100% 1998, 96% avg., harvested for silage 81%, 85% 1998, 62% avg. Winter rye seeded 58%, 72% 1998, 78% avg.; emerged 33%, 45% 1998, 50% avg. Stock water supplies 5% short, 81% adequate and 14% surplus. Cattle condition is 1% poor, 6% fair, 62% good, 31% excellent. Sheep condition is 6% fair, 56% good, 38% excellent.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil moisture 67% very short, 26% short, 7% adequate. Subsoil moisture 68% very short, 26% short, 6% adequate. Corn 95% harvested for grain, 79% 1998, 62% avg. Burley 92% harvested, 83% 1998, 86% avg. Dark Fire-Cured 92% harvested, 88% 1998, 88% avg. Pasture 57% very poor, 32% poor, 10% fair, 1% good. Winter wheat 1% seeded, 4% 1998, 7% avg. Hay stocks 16% very short, 34% short, 46% adequate, and 4% surplus. Drought conditions persisted last week with well below normal rainfall amounts across most of State. The only exception was over portions of Middle Tennessee where rainfall actually averaged slightly above normal. With pastures rated in mostly very poor to poor condition, many cattle producers have been forced to feed hay and haul water to their herds. Producers, who are concerned they will run short of hay this winter, are moving light weight calves and some cows to auction markets. Last week's rains helped pastures some what, but more will be needed to keep forage supplies ahead of cattle needs this fall. Farmers continued making good progress with cotton, soybean, and tobacco harvest; while corn harvest was virtually completed last week. The dry conditions are also causing delays in this year's seeding of winter wheat and the overseeding of pastures and hay fields.

Texas: Temperatures continued to moderate throughout the state while light scattered showers fell in North Texas. Agricultural activities resumed in South Texas and remained active in the remainder of the State as showers had little impact. Land preparation remained slow in most locations due to continued dry conditions. Harvest activities continued to progress in the Plains. Livestock conditions remained fair to good, and supplemental feeding continued. Water available for livestock continued to decline in most areas and some herd reduction began. **Crops:** Small Grains: Seeding of wheat and oats continued under mostly dry conditions.

Irrigation continued where possible and scattered showers helped the emergence in some areas. Published 68%, 1998 30%, Average 22%. Corn: Harvest continued on the High Plains but was mostly completed in the remainder of the State. Markets continued to be weak. Dented, Published 99%, 1998 100%, Average 99%. Cotton: Generally good development continued on the Plains but slowed by cooler temperatures. Some concerns developed about new growth following some heavy rains on the Plains earlier in the month. Dry land fields continued to mature as a result of the increased moisture. Boll weevil eradication efforts continued in some areas. Harvest was winding down in the Coastal Bend. In the Blacklands and Central Texas harvest continued with good yields reported. Cotton stalk destruction continued in South Texas and harvest of early fields continued to expand on the High Plains. Statewide cotton condition was rated at 59 percent of normal compared with 46 percent last year. Peanuts: Harvest activities continued strong in Plains, Central and South Texas. Dry land fields on the Low Plains received some moisture from scattered showers. Irrigation was mostly discontinued. Statewide peanut condition was rated at 79 percent of normal compared with 54 percent last year. Rice: Harvest of the first crop was completed along the Upper Coast with very good yields and excellent quality reported. Flooding of the second crop continued. Sorghum: Harvest expanded on the Plains under considerably cooler conditions. Showers in some locations delayed harvest activities. Soybeans: On the Plains, Soybeans continued to dry down but was slowed by showers and cooler temperatures. Fields neared maturity and irrigation was discontinued in preparation for harvest. Harvest was completed in the Blacklands and Upper Coast.

Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans:

Rio Grande Valley, Peppers were progressing well, while tomato planting was underway. Onion planting will begin soon. San Antonio-Winter Garden, Cabbage planting continued and preparation for other fall vegetables continued. East Texas, sweetpotato and watermelon harvest was completed. Harvest of other vegetables and planting of fall crops remained slow due to the continued dry conditions. High Plains, pumpkin harvest was getting underway. Peaches: Peach harvest was completed on the High Plains. Pecans: Limb breakage continued in some areas as a result of a good set, however, recent dry conditions may affect nut filling. Nut drop was a continued problem in some areas. Also, Insects were still a problem in most areas.

Range and Livestock: Livestock water continued to decrease and supplemental feeding continued. Some herds were being culled as pastures continued to decline. Grass fires continued to be a problem in most areas of the State. Fall calving was underway.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 7. Top soil moisture 12% very short, 21% short, 67% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 22% short, 68% adequate. Pasture, range condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair, 48% good, 8% excellent. Corn: in dough stage 86%, 83% 1998, 68% avg; in dent stage 50%, 51% 1998, 43% avg; mature 19%, 17% 1998, 32% avg. Corn silage harvested 31%, 26% 1998, 35% avg. Winter wheat planted 49%, 69% 1998, 59% avg; emerged 5%, 17% 1998, 21% avg. Alfalfa hay: third cutting 91%, 88% 1998, 83% avg; fourth cutting 28%, 34% 1998, 30% avg. Alfalfa seed harvested 31%, 59% 1998, 46% avg. Peaches picked 82%, 87% 1998, 96% avg. Pears picked 86%, 71% 1998, 88% avg. Apples picked 22%, 15% 1998, 29% avg. Potatoes harvested 20%, 24% 1998, 31% avg. Onions harvested 51%, 49% 1998, 50% avg. Dry beans harvested 82%, 99% 1998, 79% avg. Cattle moved from summer range 28%, 26% 1998, 34% avg. Sheep moved from summer range 24%, 22% 1998, 30% avg. Irrigation water supply 2% very short, 16% short, 75% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 17% short, 79% adequate, 2% surplus. Major activities included harvesting hay and corn silage and moving livestock to winter ranges.

VIRGINIA: suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Topsoil moisture 10% very short, 15% short, 50% adequate, 25% surplus. Subsoil moisture 17% very short, 25% short, 44% adequate, 14% surplus. Pastures 10% very poor, 17% poor, 31% fair, 37% good, 5% excellent. Livestock 7% poor, 35% fair, 51% good, 7% excellent. Corn for Grain 94% dented, 96% 1998, 95% avg; 77% mature, 87% 1998, 80% avg; 42% harvested, 54% 1998, 42% avg; 13% very poor, 27% poor, 32% fair, 24% good, 4% excellent. Corn for Silage 83% harvested, 86% 1998, 72% avg. Soybeans 97% setting pods, 98% 1998, 97% avg; 20% dropping leaves, 25% 1998, 10% avg; 4% very poor, 12% poor, 23% fair, 51% good, 10% excellent. Winter Wheat 2% seeded, 12% 1998, 6% avg. Barley 6% seeded, 2% 1998, 7% avg. Tobacco, Flue Cured 70% harvested, 66% 1998, 76% avg. Tobacco, Burley 89% harvested, 76% 1998, 80% avg. Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured

92% harvested, 94% 1998, 94% avg. Peanuts 3% dug, 14% 1998, 18% avg; 0% combined, 3% 1998, 8% avg; 1% very poor, 1% poor, 59% fair, 33% good, 6% excellent. Cotton 52% bolls opening, 58% 1998, 65% avg; 0% harvested, 5% 1998, 2% avg; 1% poor, 70% fair, 21% good, 8% excellent. Apples, All 2% very poor, 10% poor, 38% fair, 42% good, 8% excellent. Apples, Fall 38% harvested, 37% 1998, 46% avg. Apples, Winter 10% harvested, 7% 1998, 11% avg. Many producers were able to resume field activities as drier weather conditions prevailed during the past week. However, field activities in many southeastern and eastern localities were limited by saturated fields and impassable roads. In spite of wet soil conditions, corn producers resumed harvest resulting in major ruts and soil compaction. Fall tillage for small grain seeding in these localities is expected to be difficult and delayed. Many vegetable crops, including pumpkins, are expected to be a total loss as a result of heavy rains, flooding and wind damage. Wet field conditions continue to delay harvest of field crops such as corn, tobacco, and peanuts causing reduced quality and yield. Pastures and hayfields in some localities received beneficial rains from Tropical Storm Dennis and Hurricane Floyd. Recent rains have helped green-up pastures and promote growth eliminating hay feeding in some localities. Some western localities remain dry despite recent rainfall received as water tables and streams remain below normal. Other field activities during the week included harvesting tomatoes and other vegetables, defoliating cotton, cutting hay, marketing cattle, and accessing crop damage.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil moisture was 28% very short, 49% short, 23% adequate; Subsoil moisture 13% very short, 69% short, 18% adequate. Winter wheat 67% planted, 69% 1998, 64% avg.; 39% emerged, 51% 1998, 45% avg. Winter wheat continued to be planted. Those fields that had been planted were emerging, however, many producers were waiting for additional moisture to finish seeding fields. Spring wheat 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% avg. Barley 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% avg. Potatoes 45% harvested, 44% 1998, 43% avg. Potatoes 10% fair, 35% good, 55% excellent. Hay, other roughage supplies were 5% short, 70% adequate, 25% surplus. Range, pasture 20% very poor, 45% poor, 25% fair, 9% good, 1% excellent. Harvest was completed for cereal grains such as spring wheat, barley. Harvest for sugar beets are expected to start within the next week, onion harvest was well on its way to being completed. Pumpkin farms were preparing fields to start u-pick harvest around the 1st of October. Strong demand for noble fir Christmas trees continues. Strong winds Saturday night damaged fruit in Central Areas by knocking the fruit off of the trees. Apple, pear harvest continues in full swing as advertisements for experienced pickers were sent out. Blueberry harvest was coming to a close. Sweet corn was still being harvested. Both grass, corn silage harvest continued, livestock growers were spraying for Canadian Thistle.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil moisture 40% very short, 41% short, 19% adequate. Crop harvest continues across the State. Livestock producers continue to cull cattle, feed hay, haul water as drought conditions persist. Hay condition 25% very poor, 44% poor, 27% fair, 4% good; Hay 2nd cut 86%, 95% 1998, 94% 5-yr avg; 3rd cut 52%, 70% 1998, 65% 5-yr avg. Corn 17% very poor, 50% poor, 31% fair, 2% good; Corn dent 74%, 65% 1998; Corn 62% mature, 50% 1998, 58% 5-yr avg; Corn 13% harvested, 16% 1998, 23% 5-yr avg. Soybeans 7% very poor, 23% poor, 46% fair, 24% good; Dropping leaves 70%, 79% 1998, 72% 5-yr avg.; 9% harvested, 7% 1998. Tobacco 19% very poor, 14% poor, 18% fair, 49% good; Tobacco 58% harvested, 75% 1998, 87% 5-yr avg. Apples 8% very poor, 24% poor, 52% fair, 16% good. Apples 40% harvest, 66% 1998. Cattle 3% very poor, 16% poor, 50% fair, 31% good. Sheep 1% very poor, 8% poor, 59% fair, 29% good, 3% excellent.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork: 6.4. Soil Moisture 19% very short, 35% short, 45% adequate, 1% surplus. Northern areas of Areas experienced the first killing frost of the season this past week. Frost signals the beginning of fall, the end of most home gardens. Maturity of crops were aided by the cold snap, causing corn to dry down, Soybeans to shed their leaves. Harvest of high moisture corn had begun last week in many areas with reports of good yields. Corn silage harvest progressed quickly last week due to the dry conditions. Southern areas of the state were finishing up silage harvest, while northern areas will be pushed to finish due to killing frost. Soybean harvest in the southern areas had started with soybean moisture varying, but many fields have been near 13%. Soybean 85% dropping leaves, 1999, 90% 1998, 59% avg. Soybeans 13% harvested 1999, 8% 1998, 2% avg. Soybean 0% very poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 52% good, 35% excellent. Hay harvest

continued last week with the 4th crop reduced due to the lack of rainfall. Haying in many areas will be quickly coming to an end. Fourth crop hay harvested 46% 1999. Winter wheat seeding continued last week, the crop is in need of rain for germination. Snapbean harvest in the north went at a feverish pace early in the week to get the crop harvested before frost damaged the crop. Dark red kidney bean harvest continued in Dunn County last week. Cranberry harvest of early varieties should begin by the end of this week. Reporters expect cranberry yields to meet or exceed 1998 crop. Cooler weather is now needed to add color to the berries. Pasture feed conditions 2% very poor, 17% poor, 42% fair, 33% good, 6% excellent.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 31% short, 67% adequate. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 38% short, 59% adequate. Spring wheat 98% harvested, 98% 1998, 99% avg. Barley 97% harvested, 96% 1998, 98% avg. Oats 92% harvested, 97% 1998, 96% avg. Corn 90% dented, 98% 1998, 97% avg.; 64% mature, 79% 1998, 75% avg. Corn 83% harvested for silage, 79% 1998; 78% avg. Dry beans 94% windrowed, 99% 1998, 98% avg.; 73% combined, 71% 1998, 78% avg. Sugarbeets 16% harvested, 2% 1998, 5% avg. Alfalfa 56% 3rd cutting, 61% 1998, 59% avg. Winter wheat 96% planted, 98% 1998, 94% avg.; 81% emerged, 76% 1998, 71% avg. Range, pasture feed 1% poor, 20% fair, 70% good, 9% excellent. Stock water supplies 11% short, 87% adequate, 2% surplus. Temperatures were generally warmer than normal with light precipitation.