



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: December was generally warm and wet, providing adequate conditions for pastures and grazing in most of the state. Heavy rainfall was reported throughout the entire State in December, with flooding occurring late in the month in several counties. There were some reports of flood damage in terms of soil erosion and fences destroyed by high waters. The majority of spring and summer crops were harvested prior to the rainfall, so there was minimal impact on what little harvesting was left of the cotton, peanut, and soybean crops. Fortunately, the wet conditions do not appear to have damaged much of the winter wheat, with most reports showing wheat to be in fair to good condition. Livestock and pastures have been reported as being in fair to good condition. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from 5.64 inches in Gainesville to 19.02 inches in Opelika. Average mean temperatures for the month ranged from 51.9°F in Moulton to 60.2°F in Mobile.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State were mostly below normal for the month of December with the only exception being the second week of the month where only three of the 50 weather stations were below normal. The temperature extremes for December were a high of 85 degrees in Sahuarita and a low of -15 degrees at the Grand Canyon. Twenty-three of the 50 reporting stations finished the year with above normal precipitation. Desert Ridge finished the lowest at 57 percent of normal precipitation and Pipe Springs finished the highest with 160 percent of normal precipitation. Cotton harvesting was virtually complete by the end of the month. Alfalfa harvesting had occurred on at least two-thirds of the planted acres. Barley planted was 30 percent complete and Durum wheat planted was 15 percent complete at the end of December. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: Throughout December temperatures were above the normal range and participation was also well above normal for the month. The farmers finished planting all winter wheat and are currently finishing up field preparations for next year. Cattle producers are continuing hay feeding.

CALIFORNIA: A dry air mass moved over the State from the east, allowing for some of the coldest temperatures yet this season. Snowpacks were in good shape across the northern mountains and the Sierras, with little to no snowmelt and up to 2 to 4 inches of new snowfall in various locations. Field cultivation continued. Small grain forage were developing. In Fresno County, alfalfa went dormant due to frost. In Tulare County, winter crops such as wheat were thriving with a good mixture of rain and sunshine. Post-harvest pruning and orchard removal continued in all deciduous tree fruit orchards and vineyards. Pushed-out orchards and vineyards continued to be cleaned up with burning, ripping, and fumigation in preparation for spring planting. Natural condition prunes and pomegranates continued to be packed and shipped. Kiwifruit were packed for the domestic market. Exports of citrus fruit have slowed after Christmas and with the New Year holiday. Navel oranges continued to be exported. Blood oranges were starting to enter the markets. Mandarin oranges, Cara Cara oranges, lemons, Gold and Oro Blanco hybrid grapefruit, and pomelos continued to be picked and packed. Frost protection measures continued due to the cold weather. Some immature orange trees remained covered to protect them from freezing temperatures. Almonds, pistachios, shelled and in-shell walnuts, and shelled pecans continued to be packed and shipped. Nut orchards continued to be pruned, irrigated, and treated in preparation for their dormant season. Orchard replanting continued. In Fresno County, winter carrot harvest finished last Thursday. Processing tomato fields were about 90 percent ready. Dehydrator onions planting finished and other onions will be planted soon. Early seed was up to a good stand and herbicide was applied. Organic kale for seed stand was a little spotty. Conventional kale, arugula, and mazuna for seed looked good. Ditches and preparations were underway for rain the next 10 days or so. In Madera County, some onions for seed were planted. In Tulare County, strawberry fields looked to be in good shape for spring harvest. Blueberries were still being planted. Some winter vegetables were well established. Fall vegetable harvest was ending and fields were prepared for late winter and spring plantings. In Sutter County, recent rains continued to benefit lower

elevation pasture growth. Sheep and goats continued to graze in fallow fields and on stubble alfalfa. In San Luis Obispo County, cattle were still being supplemented. In Fresno County, conditions in permanent pastures have improved but rains have caused problems for dairies in their corrals hindering the clean-up of corrals.

COLORADO: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 23% short, 74% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 26% short, 72% adequate. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 8% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, 6% excellent. Livestock condition 1% poor, 12% fair, 80% good, 7% excellent. Winter wheat condition 4% poor, 42% fair, 43% good, 11% excellent. Moisture events varied as snow cover was abundant in some localities yet limited in others. Several instances of concern were expressed regarding inadequate snow cover protection for winter wheat. As of December 22, snowpack was at 106 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

DELAWARE: For the month of December maximum registered temperatures in some part of the region were in the high 75 degrees Fahrenheit with daily average of 58 degrees Fahrenheit and minimum 21 degrees Fahrenheit with daily average of 40 degrees Fahrenheit. There were 14 instances of precipitation with near maximum of 4.49 inches of rain and one day of very light snow. The weather conditions contributed to pasture and cover crop growth and soybean growers were able to complete the soybean harvest by mid-December. Pastures have been soft and animals were damaging the forage present. Many producers were feeding hay to prevent further damage even with the available forages. No freeze kill has occurred to the tillage radishes that were planted yet to date. December goes in the books as one of the warmest, foggy and cloudy December's on record. One caution is the tall barley that may suffer if it continues to grow and gets a heavy smothering snow late in the winter. Dairy cows are enjoying these temperatures and additional feed is not needed to help keep animals warm. Other farming activities for the month included taking soil samples, repairing and cleaning up equipment, purchasing supplies, tax planning, pricing inputs for 2016, and attending workshops as usual for the month.

FLORIDA: December started warm, dry. Mid-month brought welcomed moisture with heavier amounts in northern portions of State while a cold front arrived the end of the month bringing cooler yet more seasonable weather conditions. Average days suitable per week was 6.1. Cotton, soybean harvest ongoing at beginning of month. Panhandle, northern part of State planted oats, wheat for grain, winter forage. By end of month, fields in Panhandle too wet to work. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades, Hendry counties. Unseasonably warm weather promoted sugarcane growth. Harvest season expected to be ten days longer than normal. Flagler, Putnam counties began harvesting cabbage, potatoes. Farmers in southwest harvested green beans, beets, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, kale, peppers, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, watermelon. Palm Beach County farms used ditches, canals, other equipment to irrigate. Miami-Dade County harvested green beans, pole beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, yellow squash, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, zucchini, boniato, bitter melon, malanga, and avocado. Low precipitation, warmer temperatures improved pastures which reduced livestock stress. Southern areas reported standing water in low lying areas. Cattle condition good across State. Pasture condition fair to good. Mid-month cattlemen provided supplemental feed to compensate for declining available pasture. By end of month, calving underway in Marion, Okeechobee Counties. Cattle across State being fed hay and supplements. Pastures in Panhandle and Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee counties had standing water. Pasture quality and quantity declining seasonally. Early orange harvest activities increased beginning of month. White grapefruit harvested for processing, red grapefruit harvested for fresh market. Sunburst tangerines reaching full maturity harvested. Fruit quality good, but on small side. By end of month, most processing plants open. Navel oranges, white, red grapefruit harvest schedule slightly lagging behind last season. Sunburst tangerines, Orlando tangelo, and Honey Bell harvest almost complete. Honey tangerine harvest started. Grove work includes irrigating, mowing, spraying, fertilizing; new groves, resets being planted. Old non-productive groves being pushed, cleared.

GEORGIA: The beginning of December saw normal conditions. During the last two weeks of the month, most of the State experienced heavy rains and flooding, except for the SE corner. For the month of December, the NW corner of the state received the most rain at 12.7 inches, and the SE corner received the least with 0.82 inches. Rains led to delayed harvests, reduced yields, crop loss and decreased quality of soybeans, cotton, and peanuts in many areas. By month's end, many producers were still attempting to get into fields to harvest crops and assess damage. Winter crops were recovering from excess rain while producers were concerned about soil erosion and deposits. Despite heavy rain, temperatures were unseasonably warm with highs in the upper 70s and lower 80s, which led to fruit crops budding prematurely. The combination of warm, very wet weather created a wide range of hay and grain conditions, from excellent to completely flooded. Some small grains remain unplanted due to saturated soil. All sweet onion planting has been completed. Livestock condition for the state is good to fair.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: December brought lower than average temperatures throughout most of the state. Snow has been plentiful in most regions providing a great snow pack over crop fields. Respondents reported that much needed moisture from precipitation will help recharge soil moisture levels. Hay stocks were high. Very wet conditions in Boundary, Washington and Ada Counties resulted in some flooding early in the month causing difficulty keeping livestock bedded and fed. Some areas reported ranchers feeding the cattle more than normal and starting earlier due to the bitter cold. Cassia County reported having difficulty with calving. Other counties reported minor difficulties, but despite the extreme cold and snow, most livestock were doing well.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 43 percent adequate, 57 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture 1 percent short, 59 percent adequate, 40 percent surplus. Winter wheat condition 3 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 48 percent good, 10 percent excellent. Statewide, precipitation averaged 6.7 inches for the month, 4.01 inches below normal. The average temperature in December was 40.6 degrees, 10.8 degrees above normal.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture 4% short, 62% adequate, 34% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 5% short, 71% adequate, 23% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 1% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 57% good, 16% excellent. Temperatures for the month averaged 31.1 degrees, 11.1 degrees above normal. Statewide average precipitation was 5.53 inches. A surge of rainfall arriving late in the month brought floods to some areas. Unseasonably warm temperatures and excessive precipitation has kept farmers unusually busy laying and replacing tile in the fields. Winter wheat is faring well with the mild winter, but some farmers are concerned that the lack of snow cover leaves it susceptible to damage once colder temperatures arrive. Mild conditions helped some fields planted under less than ideal conditions become established. However, much of the crop hasn't entered dormancy, and the additional growth has increased freeze damage susceptibility. Some of the crop is under water from excess rainfall throughout the month. Livestock is reported to be in good condition with some still able to graze in still-green pastures. Other activities included hauling grain, applying lime, purchasing seed, cleaning and repairing equipment, cleaning ditches, and enrolling in 2016 FSA programs.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 1% short, 68% adequate, and 31% surplus. Iowa experienced above normal temperatures throughout December, however operations struggled to catch up on fieldwork activities as the month of December also saw much higher than normal precipitation totals. Grain movement reported this December was slightly down compared to the previous year. Hay and roughage supplies are comparable to last year at this time. Average snow depth for December was 5 inches.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture supplies rated 5% very short, 14% short, 71% adequate, and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 6% very short, 19% short, 71% adequate, and 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 38% fair, 46% good and 8% excellent; Hay and Roughage supplies were rated 0% very short, 3% short, 85% adequate, 12% surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 4% very short, 10% short, 84% adequate, and 2% surplus. Cattle and Calves condition rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 30% fair, 63% good and 6% excellent. Sheep and Lambs condition rated 0% very poor, 0% poor, 23% fair, 75% good and 2% excellent. Temperatures averaged six to eight degrees above normal in eastern half of the State and near normal in the west. All of Kansas received some precipitation, with heaviest amounts in the east. Livestock were mostly grazing on crop residue, with some supplemental feeding reported.

KENTUCKY: The State experienced well above normal temperatures and rainfall for the month of December. By the end of the month, the US Drought Monitor showed no signs of drought conditions across the entire state. Precipitation for the month totaled 6.74 inches, 2.46 inches above normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 7.19 inches, Central 7.68 inches, Bluegrass 6.93 inches and East 5.60 inches, which was 2.62, 2.85, 2.95 and 1.73 inches above normal respectively. Temperatures averaged 49 degrees for the month, 11 degrees above normal. Temperatures averaged from 48 in the West to 49 in the East. Departure from normal temperatures ranged from 11 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 12 degrees warmer than normal in the East. Harvest of corn and soybeans is mostly complete, but some are waiting for a freeze to allow them to get back in the fields to finish up. Tobacco producers continued to strip their tobacco when conditions allowed. The amount of tobacco stripped was 87 percent, compared to 66 percent last year. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 6% fair, 74% good, 19% excellent. Most producers feel hay supplies are adequate, however quality may be an issue in some areas due to weather conditions experienced throughout the year. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 9% short, 83% adequate, 7% surplus. Livestock are in good condition due to a relatively

mild December and good pasture conditions. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 12% fair, 74% good, 12% excellent.

LOUISIANA: Average rainfall total for the month of December is inconclusive due to the holidays. Temperatures dropped down into the low 40's. Wet and muddy conditions have delayed some fieldwork. Farmers are still harvesting sugarcane as well as strawberries. Citrus producers were spraying to control diseases. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures and feeding hay. Crawfish producers were putting out traps. With major activities slowing down, farmers are mostly preparing for the upcoming crop year. Other activities included repairing and cleaning equipment.

MARYLAND: For the month of December maximum registered temperatures in some part of the region were in the high 75 degrees Fahrenheit with daily average of 58 degrees Fahrenheit and minimum 21 degrees Fahrenheit with daily average of 40 degrees Fahrenheit. There were 14 instances of precipitation with near maximum of 4.49 inches of rain and one day of very light snow. The weather conditions contributed to pasture and cover crop growth and soybean growers were able to complete the soybean harvest by mid-December. Pastures have been soft and animals were damaging the forage present. Many producers were feeding hay to prevent further damage even with the available forages. No freeze kill has occurred to the tillage radishes that were planted yet to date. December goes in the books as one of the warmest, foggy and cloudy December's on record. One caution is the tall barley that may suffer if it continues to grow and gets a heavy smothering snow late in the winter. Dairy cows are enjoying these temperatures and additional feed is not needed to help keep animals warm. Other farming activities for the month included taking soil samples, repairing and cleaning up equipment, purchasing supplies, tax planning, pricing inputs for 2016, and attending workshops as usual for the month.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 2% short, 71% adequate, and 27% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% short, 83% adequate, and 9% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 57% good, and 21% excellent. After one of the warmest Novembers on record, above average temperatures continued into December, and many areas of the State reported record mild winter conditions this month. Temperatures across the State averaged more than 10°F above normal throughout the month of December. During an incredibly warm three-day period from December 12-14, daily maximum temperatures felt more like October than December, and average temperatures were nearly 20°F above normal across much of the lower peninsula. Precipitation levels were also well above normal in most parts of the State. The Upper Peninsula and northwest Lower Peninsula received more than four inches of precipitation in December, more than 2 inches above normal. By month's end, all areas of the U.P. were no longer in moderate drought status or even abnormally dry; however, many counties in the southern Lower Peninsula remained either abnormally dry or in moderate drought status. Counties along the Lake Michigan coast reported having some snow cover, which was welcomed by fruit growers to help insulate trees and vines. In other areas of the State, the lack of snow cover hasn't hurt the winter wheat crop, as average nighttime temperatures have remained warm. Warmer December temperatures have caused concern for the possibility of spoilage in sugarbeet piles, while maple producers were concerned that the lack of cold temperatures this winter could hinder sap flow in the spring. Additionally, alfalfa growers in areas with high moisture with no snow cover were concerned for their fields. Some producers took advantage of the warmer temperatures to do some field work, including planting additional cover crops, fall tillage, spreading lime and manure, and repairing and installing drainage tile. Other activities throughout the month included holiday festivities, finishing year-end book work, farm shop work, and attending winter meetings.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were mostly mild in the first part of December. Numerous high temperatures were set for daily maximum and minimum temperatures during the first half of the month. Marshall recorded the highest temperature for the month at 53 degrees Fahrenheit. Average daily cloud cover of over 80 percent and high water vapor air content accompanied the warm temperatures. Average temperatures were cooler at the end of the month. The preliminary statewide average temperature for the month was 10 degrees above average, making it the warmest December on record. Some lakes and rivers were not completely frozen over. December started off wet with record rainfall and snowfall amounts in several cities. Lake Wilson recorded 12.0 inches of rain on December 1. Storms on December 13-14 brought record rainfall amounts in some areas. A snowstorm across most of the southern half of the State passed through on December 28-29. Snow cover was very light in northern parts of the state at the end of the month, raising concerns about possible winterkill in alfalfa and fall seeded crops. The preliminary statewide average precipitation was 1.58 inches above average for December. Livestock conditions have been good with the milder temperatures and limited snowfall during the month.

MISSISSIPPI: The month began with rainfall throughout the state and temperatures right around their averages. As the weeks progressed, rain halted and temperatures began to rise statewide. For the week ending December 27th, the state experienced unusually warm weather with the average for the state over 17 degrees higher than the norm.

MISSOURI: Topsoil moisture 42% adequate, 58% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 3% short, 65% adequate, 31% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 13% short, 79% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies 67% adequate, 33% surplus. Pasture and range condition 3% very poor, 19% poor, 60% fair, 18% good. Winter Wheat condition 2% very poor, 10% poor, 38% fair, 46% good, 4% excellent.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 3% last year; 16% short, 13% last year; 76% adequate, 76% last year; 4% surplus, 8% last year. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 5% last year; 26% short, 13% last year; 63% adequate, 71% last year; 4% surplus, 11% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 91% none, 86% last year; 8% light, 9% last year; 1% moderate, 3% last year; 0% heavy, 2% last year. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 88% none, 85% last year; 10% light, 13% last year; 2% moderate, 2% last year; 0% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 6% very poor, 5% last year; 13% poor, 11% last year; 28% fair, 21% last year; 35% good, 47% last year; 18% excellent, 16% last year. Livestock grazing accessibility – 24% open, 36% last year; 38% difficult, 36% last year; 38% closed, 28% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle and calves 97% fed, 90% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 98% fed, 94% last year. The month of December was mostly cold with periods of snow for the State, though there were above average temperatures toward the beginning of the month. Low temperatures ranged from -20 degrees to the lower teens. Precipitation in the form of snowfall was present across the State but in variable amounts, with the highest recorded this month in Heron with 4.20 inches of moisture. So far winter damage to winter wheat is fairly minimal and snow coverage for the state is rated 53 percent good to excellent compared with 63 percent at this time last year. Cold weather and snow have more producers providing supplemental feed at higher rates than the previous year with 97 percent of cattle and 98 percent of sheep being fed, compared with 90 percent and 94 percent, respectively, last year. Reporters are noting that even in areas where pastures aren't under snow cover that livestock producers are having to feed due to a lack of grass leftover from summer.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 13% short, 80% adequate, and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 18% short, 77% adequate, and 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 3% poor, 38% fair, 51% good, 8% excellent. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 7% short, 89% adequate, and 2% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 92% adequate, 4% surplus. Cattle and calf conditions 0% very poor, 0% poor, 13% fair, 75% good, 12% excellent. Sheep and lamb conditions rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 20% fair, 76% good, 3% excellent. Temperatures averaged four to six degrees above normal across the eastern half of the State and near normal elsewhere. At mid-month, rainfall accumulations totaled three or more inches across the eastern third of the State. As the month closed, snow cover was present in many areas, limiting fieldwork activities and livestock grazing. The combination of snow and rain left many feedlots muddy until cold temperatures late in the month caused soils to freeze.

NEVADA: Temperatures throughout the State were below average for late December. A weak low moved through the north/central portions of the State, dropping a small amount of snow. Temperatures turned lower following the front's departure. Central areas received several winter storm warnings during December with some moisture falling from those storms. Temperatures in the southern region were in the high 40s and low 50s during the day with cooler temperatures occurring during the evenings. Cloudy with scattered rain showers occurred the last week of December in the south region of the State. Cattle were reported to be seen foraging in Lincoln and Winnemucca counties during the month.

NEW ENGLAND: Average temperatures throughout most of New England broke record highs and ranged from 0 to 20 degrees above normal during the month of December. All states within the New England region reported unusually warm weather. Additionally, producers reported their concern that little to no snow cover or moisture during December may cause some winter kill on perennial forage in areas throughout the region. Connecticut has delayed covering plants until cold temperatures remain near freezing. In most of Maine, snow accumulation has been minimal so far and caused issues for berry crops over the last two months. Most of Massachusetts set record temperatures with only a reported 550 chilling hours for Cranberries. In New Hampshire, orchardists were concerned about the warm weather effects on the 2016 crop and delayed pruning. Rhode Island's climate was described as being abnormally dry with a minimal snow covering at the end of the month. Vermont received the mildest month on record for December. Farm activities varied in December and included combining corn and spreading manure (CT), shipping potato crops (ME), planning for the 2016 season (NH)

harvesting some cold crops and seeding winter rye (RI), and some maple syrup production (VT). In Vermont, the winter manure spreading ban has gone into effect so field activity came to a halt.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures have been above normal for the month of December. Record high temps of 75 F. in central east NJ. Lots of rain/cloudy/fog Perennials that have a short chilling requirement are showing bud swell and with a few flowering. With the warmer conditions up until January 1, 2016 pastures and forages have had some growth, but producers should be advised that most of the growth has very little forage/feed value and as such producers should not skimp on supplemental and normal winter feedings although energy needs for the animals may be less due to the warmer weather conditions. It is too early to determine if this will have any adverse effect. Some vegetables are still being harvested such as leeks, kale, broccoli and cauliflower. Growers have started greenhouse for early plant production. Fruit trees and flowers are budding/blooming crabapple/cherry/misc and daffodils/forsythia - like spring. This could bode badly if tender buds break dormancy and then are frozen off in mid-Jan. as spring bloom could suffer. Crops have been all harvested and cover crops emerged well. Deer population is high.

NEW MEXICO: Winter storm Goliath dumped tremendous amounts of snow on parts of New Mexico toward month's end, leaving cattle, goat, and sheep ranchers struggling to not only find animals, but also to assess what the total death loss may be. Producers have been unable to deliver supplemental feed and water to their surviving livestock, while blowing winds left some dairy producers digging through snow drifts searching for their cattle. Preliminary estimates from those within the NMSU Extension system suggest milking cow losses at 5 percent, and young or replacement stock at possibly 10 percent. In addition to death losses, many dairies were forced to dump 1 to 2 days' worth of milk because snow-covered roads prohibited truck access to the farms. Row crop harvesting that was not complete at the end of November was reported as complete by the end of December. Winter wheat condition were reported as 21 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Statewide, monthly temperatures hovered near-normal. Daytime highs ranged from 52 degrees at Chama and Red River to 82 degrees in Carlsbad. Overnight lows fell well below 0 degrees at several weather stations. Most notably, Chama, Eagle Nest, and Moriarty all recorded a low of -9 degrees at some point during December. Monthly precipitation totals varied drastically, and ranged from 0.09 inch in Carlsbad to 1.42 inches at Red River. Across the State, only four weather stations – Alamogordo, Artesia, Santa Fe, and Truth or Consequences – had year-to-date moisture totals that fell below normal. Conversely, Clayton and Clovis ended the year with a precipitation surplus of 16.82 and 10.43 inches, respectively. Stock water supplies were reported as 2 percent very short, 9 percent short, and 89 percent adequate. Feed and concentrate supplies were reported as 3 percent very short, 14 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 28 percent surplus.

NEW YORK: Temperatures were mild with a record warm dropping at end of month to a hard frost Dec 27th. There has been no to little snow with an increase in rain. The harvest season ended well and the unusual conditions have been good to cover crops. However concerns have been voiced over the impact the conditions will have on garlic, fruit trees, hay, winter wheat, and weed growth. Pastures have had a little growth and some browning. In some locations animals still on pasture. Others are on stored forage. Field activities for the month include fall tillage, applying manure, tending livestock, trees, and vines, and fixing and maintaining machinery and structures.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 1.3. Topsoil moisture 45% adequate and 55% surplus. Subsoil moisture 55% adequate and 45% surplus. North Carolina experienced above normal temperature and precipitation during the month of December. Winter wheat condition 7% very poor, 15% poor, 36% fair, 35% good, 7% excellent. Oats condition 5% very poor, 11% poor, 46% fair, 35% good, 3% excellent. Barley condition 6% very poor, 10% poor, 46% fair, 36% good, 2% excellent. Although the increase in rainfall resulted in some flooding, overall pasture conditions have improved. Pasture conditions 8% very poor, 16% poor, 48% fair, 26% good, 2% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 13% very short, 38% short, 47% adequate, 2% surplus.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 27% short, 64% adequate, and 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 28% short, 60% adequate, and 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 5% poor, 22% fair, 70% good, and 1% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 76% good, and 12% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 77% good, and 11% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 81% adequate, and 17% surplus. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 14% short, 83% adequate, and 1% surplus. Temperatures averaged above normal with precipitation limited statewide. Winter wheat had only light snow cover to protect against subzero temperatures. Livestock stress was minimal due to the mild winter.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture was reported as 28% surplus, 67% was reported as adequate and 5% was reported as short. 12% of subsoil had surplus moisture, 78% adequate, 8% short and 2% was very short. The December 2015 statewide average temperature as of the 31st of the month was 43.4 degrees, 11.7 degrees above normal. Rainfall averaged 4.26 inches statewide, which was 46 percent more than the average for the month of December. Wheat condition was 2% poor, 23% fair, 62% good, and 13% was excellent. Livestock operations reported the mild winter thus far has caused a lot of muddy conditions, as well as respiratory issues. Wheat is still quite green, and is in generally good condition.

OKLAHOMA: The State experienced some of the worst weather of the year in December. The heaviest rain was in the East Central and Southeast districts. According to the Mesonet, flooding was the main concern across east and freezing rain left more than 200,000 without power. Numerous tornado warnings were issued in the central and eastern areas and large hail was also reported. Record rainfall in December has left the state drought free, compared with last year when 62 percent of the state was in the moderate drought category or worse. Precipitation averaged 6.05 inches across the state, ranging from 1.60 of an inch in the Panhandle district to 13.16 inches in the Southeast district. Statewide temperatures averaged in the mid 40's, with the lowest recording of 0 degrees at Kenton on Thursday, December 17th and the highest recording of 80 degrees at Waurika on Friday, December 11th. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to short. Conditions of pasture and range were rated at 84 percent good to fair. Livestock condition was rated at 91 percent good to fair.

OREGON: There were heavy rains early in December with continued rains throughout the month. The abundant precipitation helped to recharge groundwater aquifers. The rain also put a halt to all winter spraying and pruning field work for orchards, vineyards, and berry crops. More eastern regions received snow providing decent crop cover. Temperatures were about average for the season. Flooding in the northwest was higher than normal, but negative effects on crops were typical with normal replanting of fall-seeded fields as needed. Growers had concerns about late planted crop seed being pounded out of the ground under the heaviest downpours, but no unusual damage yet reported. Snowpack on mountains and at Crater Lake was above normal which was good for irrigators. Water levels in creeks remained high, but typical for the season. Cattle were moved off the bottomlands due to soft and muddy conditions. Livestock issues were minimal with some mud issues reported.

PENNSYLVANIA: Weather continued to be unseasonably warm through the month of December resulting in mix of delight and concern from operators, depending on their flavor of business. Cattle are still able to roam pastures and milk production continues unimpeded by the usual winter weather. Field activities such as manure hauling and fall plowing have been able to continue thanks to the unexpected warm weather. In contrast, excessive cover crop growth looks likely to result in smothering once snow finally appears. Fruit growers share concern that a sudden frost would be devastating to their trees which, in some cases, have begun to flower rather than harden as they normally would during a normal winter transition. Combined with the lingering warmth, high moisture has allowed for the development of shed mold on some tobacco leaves according to growers in Lancaster.

SOUTH CAROLINA: December was generally warm and wet throughout the State which has wheat and other small grains progressing normally in those areas where farmers were able to plant. Above average rainfall has most of the state showing soil moisture to be adequate or surplus. Continual flooding and wet conditions have prevented farmers in some areas from accessing fields to plant winter grains for 2016. For the most part, any cotton, peanut, and soybean crops which had not been harvested prior to December are likely to be left in the fields and destroyed as a result of October's historic flood and still soggy field conditions. Livestock has been reported in fair to good condition. Average mean temperatures for the month ranged from 51.3°F in Slater-Marietta to 62.5°F in Charleston. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from 3.39 inches in Charleston to 12.07 inches in Slater-Marietta. It is of note that the rainfall received this year is currently 12.49 inches above the 30 year average in Orangeburg, 14.12 inches above the 30 average in Florence, and 24.52 inches above the 30 year average in Charleston.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 22% short, 72% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 20% short, 72% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 28% fair, 66% good, and 5% excellent. Stock water supplies 3% very short, 11% short, 85% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 0% very poor, 1% poor, 92% adequate, and 7% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 75% good, 9% excellent. Sheep and lamb condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 34% fair, 52% good, 12% excellent. For the month of December 2015, temperatures averaged above normal statewide except for portions of the southwest, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Precipitation was also above normal across most of the State.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable 2.3. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 53% adequate, 46% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 67% adequate, 32% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 17% fair, 57% good, 24% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 5% very poor, 9% poor, 41% fair, 42% good, 3% excellent. Cattle condition 2% poor, 19% fair, 69% good, 10% excellent. Hay supplies 5% short, 81% adequate, 14% surplus. Extremely muddy conditions prevented cattle grazing. Producers fed hay. At least 2 days of rainfall across all areas of the state and temperatures 5 to 17 degrees above normal.

TEXAS: Precipitation across the State during December was above normal in many areas. Areas of the Blacklands and Northeast received ten or more inches of rainfall. The Upper Coast, and Southeast received upwards of eight inches of precipitation in some areas. Parts stretching from the Cross Timbers to The Lower Valley received up to two inches of moisture, while the rest of the state received an inch or more. Throughout the month, snow storms affected many areas of the state. Across the State, cotton harvest and planting of winter wheat and oats were mostly complete. Producers continued preparing cropland for spring planting.

UTAH: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 0% last year; 8% short, 10% last year; 85% adequate, 90% last year; 5% surplus, 0% last year. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 0% last year; 33% short, 29% last year; 58% adequate, 71% last year; 0% surplus, 0% last year. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 0% last year; 11% poor, 0% last year; 34% fair, 34% last year; 52% good, 66% last year; 1% excellent, 0% last year. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 0% last year; 2% poor, 5% last year; 29% fair, 11% last year; 55% good, 84% last year; 14% excellent, 0% last year. Hay and roughage supplies 0% very short, 0% short, 63% adequate, 37% surplus year. Stock water supplies 8% very short, 0% last year; 15% short, 18% last year; 77% adequate, 82% last year; 0% surplus, 0% last year. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 0% last year; 0% poor, 0% last year; 18% fair, 7% last year; 71% fair, 79% last year; 11% excellent, 14% last year. Sheep and lambs condition 0% very poor, 0% last year; 0% poor, 0% last year; 20% fair, 4% last year; 66% good, 85% last year; 14% excellent, 11% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 59%, and livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 38%. Cold temperatures have stopped all field and crop work. There have been several good snow storms that have improved soil moisture.

VIRGINIA: Barley conditions were 1% poor, 15% fair, 71% good, and 13% excellent. Oats conditions were 27% fair and 73% good. Winter wheat conditions were 3% poor, 21% fair, 62% good, and 14% excellent. Livestock conditions were 7% poor, 21% fair, 66% good, and 6% excellent. Pasture and range conditions were 3% very poor, 19% poor, 28% fair, 43% good, and 7% excellent. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 35%. This December has been abnormally warm, with some areas reaching multiple record high temperatures for this time of year. In addition, this month has also been very wet and rainy, leaving the pastures noticeably greener than the norm for December. These combined warm and wet conditions have enabled farmers to graze their livestock for a longer period than usual and save the hay they would normally use to feed. The weather has also had a positive influence on the growth of wheat. Farming activities for the month included feeding hay, spraying chemicals, and deciding what to plant next.

WASHINGTON: Respondents reported below average temperatures and above average precipitation for the month of December. The western part of the State reported excessive rain in December resulted in some flooding of crops near rivers and streams. Livestock were eating stored feed and moved to high ground to avoid saturated soil. Rain and significant snowfall in higher elevations during the month have significantly helped the drought conditions. The eastern portion reported winter wheat condition showed improvement because of increased precipitation throughout the month. Snow cover was adequate and helped protect winter wheat from severe cold conditions. Much needed precipitation benefited cattlemen with native pastures. Livestock were on fall pastures during the early days of December due to mild weather conditions. Field workers made progress on orchard pruning. Single digit temperatures were reported across the east in late December. No reports of crop damage or livestock loss due to weather conditions were reported.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 6% short, 87% adequate, and 7% surplus, compared to 2% short, 91% adequate, and 7% surplus last year. Subsoil moisture was 1% very short, 8% short, 90% adequate, and 1% surplus, compared to 3% short, 93% adequate, and 4% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 4% short, 93% adequate, and 3% surplus compared to 8% short, 86% adequate, and 6% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 2% short, 96% adequate, and 2% surplus compared to 4% short, 92% adequate, and 4% surplus last year. Winter wheat conditions were 5% very poor, 18% poor, 32% fair, 41% good, and 4% excellent. Cattle and calves were 2% poor, 18% fair, 72% good, and 8% excellent. Sheep and lambs were 16% fair, 78% good, and 6% excellent. This month has been unseasonably warm with rains that have caused flooding and muddy conditions. The warmer weather has allowed some grazing, reducing the

amount of hay being fed, the blooming of a few plants, and lambing. Farming activities for the month included cleaning up after the heavy rains and preparing for winter weather.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures were significantly warmer than average for the month of December, ranging from 11.2 to 13.0 degrees above normal at the five major weather stations. Average highs ranged from 36.2 in Eau Claire to 42.7 in Milwaukee, while average lows ranged from 25.3 to 32.7 in those same cities. This was the warmest December ever recorded in Milwaukee (breaking the previous record of 37.6 in 1877) and several other cities also saw daily high temperature records broken. Total precipitation was above average at all stations, while snowfall totals ranged from slightly above average to moderately below average. Precipitation ranged from 3.33 inches in Madison to 5.71 inches in Green Bay. Green Bay received the most snowfall out of the major cities with 13.7 inches. Madison received the least, with 7.4 inches of snow for the month. The majority of this snowfall occurred during a major winter storm on December 28th. Farmers attempted to harvest the last of the corn crop but wet conditions made fields soggy and difficult to access. There was little to no snow cover most of the month, causing some operators to be concerned about freeze damage to winter wheat and hay stands. Reporters noted above adequate forage supplies for the winter feeding season due to excellent yields on crops. However, muddy fields and rainy, damp conditions caused stress on cattle.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 37% short, 56% adequate. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 38% short, 54% adequate. Winter wheat condition 25% fair, 74% good, 1% excellent. Livestock condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 76% good, 12% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 21% short, 78% adequate. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair, 56% 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
Angie Considine – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Tony Dahlman – Oats, Soybeans.....	(202) 690-3234
Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet.....	(202) 720-9526
James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay.....	(202) 690-8533
Scott Matthews – Crop Weather, Barley.....	(202) 720-7621
Jean Porter – Rye, Wheat.....	(202) 720-8068
Bianca Pruneda – Peanuts, Rice.....	(202) 720-7688
Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369

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