

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

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ALABAMA: Weather conditions allowed spring plowing, planting to progress in most areas. Much needed rainfall fell late in the month, allowing germination of early planted crops.

ARIZONA: Area continued to record above average temperatures with modest precipitation during the month of March. Weather conditions have minimal impact on vegetable production as the produce is irrigated. Crop conditions also remained relatively unaffected by the lack of rain, above average temperatures. Range, pasture feed continue to be poor to fair.

ARKANSAS: Wheat was being fertilized, with early herbicide applications being applied. Wheat green-up progressing well, with crop potential being good to excellent. Corn planting is in effect. The other farming activities were: Pruning fruit trees, preparing land for the growing season, cleaning and maintenance of equipment. Livestock were reported in fair condition. Broiler producers still calculating losses from a late January snow storm, which collapsed many roofs on broiler houses. March started with temperatures remaining above normal during the first week with a frontal passage bringing some much needed rainfall to the state. However, rainfall quantities remained below normal for the month. For the week ending March 12, a strong cold front returned below freezing temperatures to most of the state for the first time since early February. Overall, temperatures averaged above normal for the week. Rainfall remained below normal in most parts of the state. For the week ending March 19, the areas in the drought parched regions in Eastern, Southern Areas received the most rainfall from the week's two storms. Many areas of the state had frost in the morning during the week. For the week ending March 26, the temperature was warmer than normal with rain during the week. However, rainfall was below normal for the period.

CALIFORNIA: As the end of March neared, field crops were growing well under nearly ideal conditions. Dryland crops looked very good, but some areas could use more rain. The bulk of the month's rainfall fell during the first half two weeks. In the latter part of the month strong winds caused some lodging in wheat fields and reduced soil moisture. As April approached, some grain fields were still showing the effects of the early season's excessive rainfall. Some fields of early wheat, oats were in the boot stage. Winter wheat continued to mature. Wheat, oats were receiving applications of herbicides. Greenchopping of winter forage began. Fields were being prepared for corn planting. Cotton planting was underway by the end of the month, but most growers continued to bed up fields, spray for weeds. Alfalfa fields were treated for weevils and cut for greenchop. Alfalfa hay cutting was expected to begin soon. Sugarbeet fields were cultivated, fertilized; some fields were hand weeded. Pre-plant weed treatments were applied to sunflower, safflower fields. Planting should begin in April. Rice ground was being cultivated, spot burning was occurring as permitted. Continued sunny spring weather during the last half of the month allowed fruit, nut growers to plant new trees and vines. Other activities included: Weed control, application of fungicides to stone fruit, almond trees. Trees, vines were leafing. Southern area picking of grapefruit, lemon crops was active throughout the month. Valencia oranges were harvested in the desert area. San Joaquin Valley navel orange picking continued, but growers remained concerned about puff, crease, soft fruit resulting from the excess moisture early in the season. By the end, of the month strawberry fields were blooming, setting fruit in the San Joaquin Valley. Vegetable field activities were in full swing during the last half of March. Fresh and processing tomatoes were planted as seed or transplants. Tomato fields that were further along were irrigated, weeded, cultivated. Growers continued preparing fields for planting such summer vegetables as cucumbers, sweet corn, eggplant, tomatoes. Squash, eggplant seedlings were

placed under hot caps. Earlier fields of squash were pushing through hot caps as April approached. Processing spinach continued to be cut, as fields matured. Spinach quality this year has been good, except in areas that held standing water from February's rains. Fields of melons, beans, onions, garlic were being irrigated, weeded in Tulare County. Asparagus harvest was in full swing in the Stockton Delta area. Lettuce was harvested on the west side of Kings County. Carrot harvesting was active in Kern County. Head lettuce harvest continued in Fresno County; some fields had moderate problems with decay, were being treated for mildew. Other crops harvested included broccoli, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, cilantro, leaf lettuce, mushrooms, parsley, green onions, radicchio, radishes, turnips. Long anticipated sunny skies, warm temperatures provided good growing conditions for pastures, range grasses. Small amounts of supplemental feeding were reported as the end of the month neared. Cows were calving in some areas. Sheep, cattle were being moved to foothill pastures. Dairy conditions were improving rapidly with the return of dry weather. Bees were being moved from almond orchards; some hives were placed in apple orchards for April's apple blossoming.

COLORADO: March was generally warm with periodic snowstorms along the Front Range, Eastern Plains relieving soil moisture shortages in those areas. The mountains received additional snowfall during the month. Snowpack was above average in the northern mountains but below average in the southern mountains by the end of the month. The recent moisture improved the condition of winter wheat and prospects for spring seeded crops. Progress in seeding spring grains, sugarbeets was running slightly behind the normal pace but growers were able to plant onions a little earlier than usual. Calving, lambing was progressing behind the normal rate with below average death losses. Pasture, range feed mostly good to fair throughout the state. Stored feed supplies were mostly adequate reflecting the generally mild winter in most areas.

DELAWARE: As much as 5 inches of rain fell over the area in the latter part of the month. The early part of the month was marked by dry temperatures, concerns of development problems with small grains. The precipitation has alleviated those concerns. Hay supplies continue to be a problem for most counties as the drought in 1999 shortened hay yields, farmers were going elsewhere to purchase hay. Livestock conditions appear to be in good shape for the state. Farming activities for the month were: Fertilizing for small grains, pastures, chisel plowing, pea, potato planting have begun.

FLORIDA: Widely scattered showers dropped varying amounts of rain. Rainfall ranged from 0.00 in. to almost 2.00 in., Ft. Pierce; heavier amounts in isolated areas around Palmetto-Ruskin, Homestead. Wildfire danger high, most northern Peninsula counties, many southern Peninsula areas due to continued dry weather. Most temperatures for week averaged within 2 to 3° of normal. Most highs 70s, 80s; most lows 50s, 60s. Some northern localities recorded at least one low in 40s. Moisture in Panhandle, northern Peninsula short to adequate. Central, southern Peninsula moisture very short or short with scattered areas adequate moisture. Sugarcane grinding winding down, with most mills closed. Field corn planting gaining momentum. Farmers starting to transplant tobacco. Wild fire index high, increasing. Continued dry weather increasing vegetable irrigation. Major vegetables available: potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, endive, escarole, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes, snap beans, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, eggplant. Dry most of week, citrus areas. Irrigation continues, abundant new growth, bloom buds all citrus areas. Early, mid orange harvest nearly over, Valencia harvest increasing along with grapefruit as processors need the juice now. Most Temples going to processors, most Honey tangerines going fresh. Caretakers cutting cover crops, hedging, topping, limited

burning due to dry conditions, post bloom sprays getting started. Pasture feed 5% very poor, 40% poor, 55% fair. Condition of cattle 15% poor, 65% fair, 20% good.

GEORGIA: Temperatures were mild in March. Much needed rain fell during the week of March 19. As a result, most of the State had adequate soil moisture. More rain will be needed to alleviate drought concerns. Corn planting began in March, was about half done. Small grains were in fair to good condition. Small grain topdressing neared completion. Land preparation continued, but was slowed by the rain. Pastures, hayfields greened up. They were in fair to good condition. Peaches were completing their bloom. Some apples began blooming. Vegetable transplanting occurred. Onion condition was mostly good. Carrots looked good. Other activities included: Laying plastic for vegetables.

HAWAII: Weather conditions had a mixed effect on agriculture during March. Sunny, dry weather prevailed for most of the month. This was beneficial for irrigated crops which made mostly good progress. Non-irrigated crops made fair to poor progress. By mid-month, water conservation measures were in effect for the entire island of areas, Upcountry area of Maui island, parts of Molokai island. Farmers dependent on irrigation water in the affected areas are not seriously affected, are on voluntary conservation. Light to moderate showers during the final week brought some relief to windward, mountain areas. However, more rain is needed particularly in leeward areas. Banana harvesting increasing due to warming conditions. Soil moisture low, but adequate. Most orchards in good condition. Papaya harvesting increasing in major areas. Overall conditions good. Head cabbage yields, quality are good. Harvesting very active. Cucumber production increasing. Overall conditions fair to good. Dry onion condition improving. Currently good to very good. Harvesting expected to increase in coming weeks. Ginger root harvesting remained active. Dry weather beneficial to harvesting operations. Coffee flowering started in Kona district with arrival of rains. Macadamia nut conditions vary by location. Dry conditions adversely impacting orchards in leeward areas of the Big Island. Windward orchards in good condition. Pastures throughout the Big Island were in critical need of rainfall.

IDAHO: Producers are getting ready for spring ground work. Minimal planting has begun. Field work is progressing slowly due to wet soil conditions from melting snow, rain showers during the month of March. Storms throughout the month have brought water totals up to fairly good levels in Eastern Areas. Fruit trees are approaching bloom in Northern, South-Western Areas. Calving, lambing are progressing very well. Calving is 71% complete, 81% lambing. Hay, roughage supply was reported 6% surplus, 63% adequate, 18% short, 13% very short. Winter wheat 16% excellent, 67% good, 15% fair, 2% poor. Activities: Preparing ground for planting of sugarbeets, spring wheat, spring barley, onions, potatoes, dry peas, lentils, oats. Repairing irrigation systems.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 14% very short, 51% short, 31% adequate, 4% surplus. Warm temperatures with some scattered precipitation have been reported throughout the state so far in March. As of March 24, The concern of low subsoil moisture still lingers, since ponds, wells remain below normal levels. The winter wheat crop has improved since last month because of the needed moisture, the continued mild weather conditions. As of March 24, the wheat 5% poor, 30% fair, 49% good, 16% excellent. Many farmers have taken advantage of the mild conditions to get a head start on spring tillage, anhydrous, dry fertilizer applications, seeding oats. Calving season is in full swing, conditions are generally favorable for livestock care. Other activities during the month have included: Hauling grain to market, ordering seed, machinery preparation.

INDIANA: Warmer than normal temperatures prevailed around the state during most of March. Precipitation was below normal in most areas of the state. Snow fell on March 11th in the central, northern areas, rain arrived the following week. This helped relieve some of the dry topsoil conditions. Subsoil moisture remains short in most areas of the state. Farmers are concerned about lack of precipitation. Rainfall remains about 5 to 7 inches short during the past few months. Temperatures averaged above normal during the last two weeks with several days in the 60° range. Fieldwork is underway in most areas around the state. Farmers are plowing and tilling soils. Fertilizer, nitrogen applied on most fields. Hauling of water continues on some farms. Winter wheat is in mostly good condition, growing fast in southern counties. Hay supplies remain short in some areas. Farmers continue to purchase inputs. Sign up for farm programs continues at FSA offices. Cattle moved to pasture earlier than normal. Livestock

are in mostly good condition, calving, lambing active. Major activities: Tilling soils, spreading fertilizer, nitrogen, preparing equipment, hauling grain, seeding clover, oats, hauling manure, feeding livestock, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Summary for March 2000. No snow cover or frost remains in the State. Mild weather has resulted in excellent calving conditions. Pasture grass has begun to green. Precipitation has come primarily through scattered light showers. The entire State reports a need for further moisture. Spring tillage, small grain seeding, chemical applications have begun.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture 4% short, 63% adequate, 33% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 16% short, 71% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat across the State is rated in mostly good condition. During March, most of the State received some much needed precipitation, which helped improve the State's wheat condition rating. Wheat 2% very poor, 10% poor, 38% fair, 42% good, 8% excellent. Wheat 26% jointing, 13% 1999, 12% avg. Wheat freeze damage 1% moderate, 7% light, and 92% no damage. Wheat wind damage 2% moderate 13% light, 85% no damage. Greenbugs, Army cutworms continue to be reported, but infestations are declining due to the cool, rainy weather. Disease pressure remains minimal with a few reports of tan spot, wheat streak mosaic, barley yellow dwarf. Spring oat 70% seedings, 83% 1999, 77% avg. Range, pasture feed 53% good to excellent. Spring calving, lambing are progressing, but continued wet, muddy conditions are resulting in scour problems in some herds. Producers continue to move cattle, calves off wheat fields. Range burning continues as weather permits.

KENTUCKY: March began with record warm temperatures, below normal precipitation. Cold temperatures, wet weather returned briefly bringing snow, sleet, rain prior to mid-month. Mild weather finished out the month with weekly occurring rain showers adding to soil moisture levels. Fertilizing, field preparation for spring planting was possible between the weekly showers. Some producers began planting corn late in the month due to the favorable weather conditions. Above normal temperatures stimulated rapid pasture, winter wheat growth statewide. Fruit trees broke dormancy, began budding early. Pastures provided some nutrient value late in the month but supplemental feeding remained necessary. Cattle remained in generally good condition due to the mild weather conditions. Burley Tobacco markets closed for the season with clean up sales finishing at mid-month. Kentucky gross sales totaling 413.7 million pounds, averaged \$189.82 per hundred pounds. For the season, 39.7% of gross sales for the Burley Belt went to the Burley Cooperative compared with 11.4% the previous season.

LOUISIANA: Rain during the week slowed field activities. Corn producers continued to plant when soil moisture allowed it. Sugarcane farmers were spraying for weeds, fertilizing. Wheat headed made significant progress during the week. Pasture feed improved with the increase of precipitation.

MARYLAND: Much needed rain came later in the month, but was enough to bring precipitation levels to normal. Precipitation aided in improving soil surface moisture during an important time for small grain development. Hay supplies continue to be a problem for most counties as the drought in 1999 shortened hay yields, farmers were going elsewhere to purchase hay. Livestock feed appear to be in good shape for the state. Warm, mild weather during most of the month may cause fruit (especially peaches) to begin breaking dormancy. Farming activities for the month were fertilizing for small grains, pastures, chisel plowing, pea, potato planting have begun.

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

MINNESOTA: March average temperatures were at least 11° above

normal. There is no snow cover in the state. Large temperature variations have heightened concern about possible damage to over wintered crops. The prediction of a dry growing season has increased emphasis on starting crop work early. Small grain planting has begun in a few areas of the state. Spring calving, lambing is going well with mild temperatures, dry conditions.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Soil moisture 4% very short, 30% short, 50% adequate, 16% surplus. Corn 55% planted, 21% 1999, 21% avg.; 40% emerged, 3% 1999, 4% avg. Rice 1% planted, 1% 1999, 0% avg. Wheat 63% jointing, 61% 1999, 52% avg.; 6% heading, 3% 1999, 1% avg.; 1% poor, 17% fair, 65% good, 17% excellent. Watermelons 11% planted, 9% 1999, 12% avg. Blueberries 7% poor, 17% fair, 61% good, 15% excellent. Cattle, 1% very poor, 9% poor, 28% fair, 53% good, 9% excellent. Pasture 3% very poor, 11% poor, 34% fair, 43% good, 9% excellent.

MISSOURI: Mild winter has been beneficial for wheat, pastures. Snow the first week of the month, the recent rains have helped soil moisture supplies. Farmers are preparing fields for planting of row crops.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 11% very short, 46% short, 43% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 30% very short, 46% short, 24% adequate, 0% surplus. The overall lack of snow cover in combination with little moisture, high winds has taken its toll on the winter wheat crop. Some areas of the state received significant snowfall towards the beginning of the month which provided much needed moisture, protection to the winter wheat crop. Temperatures were relatively mild the entire month. However, overall moisture for the month was low, much more is needed to help not only the winter wheat crop, but also the intended plantings of crops this spring. Statewide, winter wheat 0% very poor, 2% poor, 36% fair, 60% good, 2% excellent. Wind damage to winter wheat 21% none, 77% light, 2% moderate, 0% heavy. Freeze, drought damage to the winter wheat crop is minimal, is rated 21% none, 79% light, 0% moderate, 0% heavy. As a result of the fairly mild conditions during March, livestock is reported to be in very good condition. Calving completed was at 49% by the end of March, which is less than 1999 estimate of 55%. Lambing completed was 36% finished, which is ahead of 1999 estimate of 29%. Even though there is a lot of open grazing, producers are giving supplemental feed to meet nutritional needs. At the end of the month, 100% of the cattle, calves 100% of the sheep, lambs were receiving supplemental feed. Livestock grazing 83% open, 10% difficult, 7% closed. Some producers started some fieldwork towards the end of the month as a result of the mild conditions. There have been some reports of fertilizer being spread as well as small grains being seeded. However, moisture will be needed soon to reduce future pesticide problems, help germinate already planted small grains.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil moisture supplies were mostly short to adequate while subsoil moisture supplies were mostly very short to short. Temperatures across the State averaged about 2 to 15 ° above normals during the month. March precipitation averaged a little more than 1 inch. Winter Wheat 3% very poor, 11% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, 3% excellent. Oat seedings were 26% complete, compared to 6% 1999, 4% average. Hay supplies, as well as feed grain supplies, were mostly adequate. Pasture, range feed 13% very poor, 20% poor, 39% fair, 26% good, 2% excellent. Calving was 66% complete by the end of March, the same as this time 1999, with calf losses at below avg. to avg. Producer activities included: Shredding stalks, anhydrous ammonia applications, other crop planting preparations.

NEVADA: Weather during March has been quite variable. Temperatures have oscillated from well above normal to much below normal as several storm systems passed through the State. Monthly precipitation accumulations in north-central, northeastern regions were near normal; precipitation in the western, southern areas was somewhat below normal. Water equivalent of winter snow pack approaching the end of March ranged from 81% of normal in the Carson River watershed to 149% in the Clover Valley watershed. Statewide, overall snow pack was near normal. Surface irrigation had commenced in western valleys. Plowing of fields for grain was underway, fall seeded grains were greening. Onion planting was underway. Hay marketing continued. Continued generally mild weather was easy on livestock. Calving was well along, branding was underway. Sheep shearing was well along, lambing was underway. Some range livestock movement to lower elevation allotments was underway.

NEW ENGLAND: Maple sugaring operations active throughout the region. Cool nights, warm days at mid-month provided excellent sugaring conditions. Some operations reported an increase in darker syrup this year due to the content of the sap which may have been affected by the drought from 1999. Farmers stayed busy tending livestock, repairing machinery, bringing tractors, trucks, implements out of storage in preparation of the spring planting season. Manure spreading by dairy farmers continues.

NEW JERSEY: Above average temperatures, clear skies during the first half of March permitted early land preparation activities such as :Plowing, seed bed preparation, application of fertilizers. Much need showers, locally heavy rains fell the 2nd, 3rd full week of March. Northern portions of the state continued to receive below normal amounts of seasonable precipitation. Many areas in southern area received above normal precipitation including Salem which received 7.20 inches as of

NEW MEXICO: NO DATA AVAILABLE

NEW YORK: Snowfall early in the month gave way to mild temperatures during the second half of the month. Maple syrup producers finished tapping trees, started making syrup. Sap flows were generally very good as temperatures dropped below freezing at night, warmed during the day. In some areas sugar content of the sap was lower than normal. Orange County onion growers started planting on the muck soils. In other regions of the state fields were still too wet to be worked. Other activities included: Tending livestock, grading, packing onions, potatoes, apples, preparing for spring plowing, planting activities.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work have allowed farmers in areas to get into the fields, prepare for the upcoming planting season. Mild temperatures, Three consecutive weeks of widespread rainfall have helped soil moisture levels to rebound, are currently 10% short, 59% adequate, 31% surplus. Planting of specialty crops, such as Irish potatoes, cabbage, are nearing completion. Other major activities have included: Top-dressing small grains, readying tobacco plant beds. Currently, all the small grains are in mostly good condition.

NORTH DAKOTA: Above normal temperatures, below normal snowfall created excellent calving, lambing conditions. Cattle 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 77% good, 9% excellent. Calving was 44% complete. Calf 0% very poor, 0% poor, 14% fair, 73% good, 13% excellent. 99% of the cattle were receiving supplemental feed. Sheep 0% very poor, 0% poor, 10% fair, 80% good, 10% excellent. Lambing was 58% complete, shearing was 59% complete. Lamb 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 75% good, and 13% excellent. 99% of the sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Hay, roughage supplies were 0% very short, 1% short, 86% adequate, 13% surplus. Grain, concentrate supply was 0% very short, 1% short, 86% adequate, 13% surplus. 98% of the pastures were still dormant.

OHIO: The average temperature for March was 44.1^o, 5.4^o above normal. Ohio averaged 2.27 inches of precipitation, 0.49 inches below normal. There is widespread concern that areas will face another drought this season, since subsoils are unusually dry. The Area Department of Agriculture is urging farmers to buy crop insurance and/or plant drought-resistant crops. Farmers in areas are busy planning for this year's season. Activities included: Constructing pipelines, troughs, buying seed, fertilizer, completing paperwork. Winter wheat is reported in good condition throughout the state.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.3. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 9% short, 75% adequate, 14% surplus. Topsoil moisture 3% short, 75% adequate, 22% surplus. Wheat 1% poor, 15% fair, 74% good, 10% excellent; 75% jointing, 71% 1999, 56% avg; Oats 3% poor, 28% fair, 55% good, 14% excellent; 95% planted, 97% 1999, 97% avg.; 40% jointing, 24% 1999, 25% avg. Corn 40% seedbed prepared 40% 1999, 53% avg.; 1% planted, 4% 1999, 7% avg. Sorghum 15% seedbed prepared 16% 1999, 14% avg. Soybeans 45% seedbed prepared, 27% 1999, 22% avg. Peanuts 20% seedbed prepared, 32% 1999, 23% avg. Cotton 51% seedbed prepared, 49% 1999, 30% avg. Pasture 3% very poor, 10% poor, 36% fair, 48% good, 3% excellent; Livestock 3% poor, 19% fair, 72% good, 6% excellent; Cattle marketings slightly below average.

OREGON: Field work has begun in some areas with some discing. Activities Weather has been fairly cool with some rain in areas. Fruit trees beginning to blossom in some regions. Seeding of onions, early potatoes starting. Seeding of spring barley, wheat continues. Transporting of large containers, the balling of large trees continues. Livestock being turned out in some areas, while hay feeding continues in others. The calving, lambing season is winding down.

PENNSYLVANIA: Much of the state received rain this month. The total amount, departure from normal depended on the area. The Northwestern Region was the most dry. Major activities for March were: Hauling, spreading manure, machinery maintenance, buying hay, feed, fixing fences, caring for livestock, preparing, finishing income taxes, attending farm organization meetings, planning for the 2000 crop season.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Top soil moisture reported as adequate. The state's average temperature from March 1st through March 26th averaged above normal at 59^o Fahrenheit. Statewide precipitation was normal at 4.6 inches. Heavy rains, hail were reported on the 10th. Pastures are in good condition. Small grains, fruit trees are off to a good start. Farmers are planting field corn, transplanting tobacco, preparing the land for planting, caring for livestock.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for field work 3.1. Average date field work started statewide March 17. Winter wheat 6% poor, 39% fair, 53% good, 2% excellent; breaking dormancy 90%. Winter rye 16% poor, 39% fair, 39% good, 6% excellent; breaking dormancy 49%. Barley 0% seeded. Oats 4% seeded; 1% emerged. Spring wheat 8% seeded; 1% emerged. Range, pasture 3% very poor, 5% poor, 31% fair, 50% good 11% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 15% short, 75% adequate, 9% surplus. Cattle 4% fair, 74% good, 22% excellent; moved to pasture 2%. Sheep 4% fair, 60% good, 36% excellent. Calving 29%, 25% 1999. Lambing 48%, 44% 1999. Calf deaths 44% below avg. 56% avg. Sheep, lamb deaths 49% below avg. 51% avg. Average snow depth 0.0 inch. The light rains during the weeks of the 15th and 22nd increased top soil moisture, warm sunny conditions have brought crops out of dormancy this week. While livestock are doing well, there is much concern for winter crops. Poor emergence, growth from months of drought, little or no snow cover all winter left crops susceptible to winter kill, subsoil moisture is short as we start the season.

TENNESSEE: Temperatures during the month of March averaged well above normal. The warmest period came during the second week when many locations either broke or came close to their record highs. Conditions were mostly dry during the first half of the month, but heavy rains did push into the State over March 18, 19 bringing much needed moisture. The wheat crop is in good to excellent condition, producers are now spraying for weeds, diseases, as needed. Field preparation for corn, cotton planting is proceeding well, with a small amount of corn already planted. Cattle continue to be in good condition due to the mild weather.

TEXAS: March began with only minor traces of rain in some locations. The plains experienced high winds, blowing dust and below normal precipitation in most locations. Land preparation moved ahead but continued to be slow as a result of the dry conditions. Planting began in southern areas including the Coastal Bend for Cotton, Sorghum, Rice, Corn, and spring vegetables. Fruit trees budded and leafed earlier than normal as a result of the above normal temperatures. In late month heavy rains fell across the Plains and North Central Texas with accumulations upward to ten inches. Lesser amounts fell in other areas across the state. Planting continued to move Northward as moisture and soil temperature allowed. Some pastures began minor recovery with the aid of recent rains and supplemental feeding of livestock diminished in some areas as soring green up was occurring. Hauling water to livestock remained necessary for some producers as no runoff had occurred.

UTAH: Major activities in some counties include planting crops, while other counties are just beginning to prepare fields for upcoming planting. Calving, lambing is also in progress. Recent snow, rain throughout the state has restored soil moisture that was much needed due to the dry winter. Most counties report livestock to be in generally good condition.

VIRGINIA: Pastures 2% very poor, 21% poor, 29% fair, 41% good, 7% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 6% poor, 21% fair, 61% good, 11%

excellent. Small Grain, Winter Grazing crops 1% very poor, 7% poor, 24% fair, 48% good, 20% excellent. Other Hay 2% very poor, 16% poor, 44% fair, 30% good, 8% excellent. Alfalfa Hay 3% poor, 30% fair, 52% good, 15% excellent. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 8% poor, 24% fair, 51% good, 16% excellent. Barley 1% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 48% good, 18% excellent. Tobacco greenhouse 15% fair, 54% good, 31% excellent. Tobacco plantbeds 7% poor, 35% fair, 44% good, 14% excellent. Apples 41% fair, 40% good, 19% excellent. Peaches 25% very poor, 8% poor, 35% fair, 23% good, 9% excellent. The month of March began with unseasonably warm temperatures across the Commonwealth. Many farmers were able to begin field work earlier than normal due to the favorable weather. Warm, dry conditions also allowed farmers to reseed pastures, hayfields that have been drought damaged. Small grains were showing lush growth, many producers are concerned about freeze damage. Some peach varieties that bloomed out early in the month have been hit by frost. No heavy damage has been reported as of yet. Much needed rains fell across the state around the middle of the month. Grass was growing earlier than normal, is responding to rainfall as it comes. Many cattle producers have been able to turn out their cattle onto grass. Some producers have been restocking cow herds that were liquidated last summer. The month has ended with normal temperatures which has allowed vegetable farmers to continue laying plastic mulch. Farmers are top dressing small grains, getting corn land ready. Vegetable producers are growing plants in greenhouses for transplanting. Potatoes have been planted in a timely manner this year and are reported in good condition. Strawberries remain covered for frost protection. Activities for the month include: Spraying for alfalfa weevils, land preparation.

WASHINGTON: March remained fairly mild, warm in most areas. Wet spring weather kept farmers from extensive field work. Mild temperatures prevented injury to the winter wheat, but downy brome infestations, high populations of volunteer peas, lentils were prevalent in winter wheat. Spraying was required. Small grain conditions were mostly good with some planting in eastern areas. Lower than normal precipitation over the winter caused some concern about lack of moisture later in the growing season. Early stone fruits began blooming. Wine grapes were being pruned, fruit tree pruning was mostly completed. Christmas tree growers applied lime. Livestock were being fed as pastures were not ready. Dairy farmers were fertilizing green chop fields. Some western areas reported standing water in fields.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 42% short, 56% adequate. Wheat 11% poor, 40% fair, 49% good. Unseasonable warm temperatures during March were favorable for livestock, field activities. Some livestock producers are still having problems finding alternative water, feed sources. Tobacco beds seeded 21%. Cattle 1% very poor, 8% poor, 29% fair, 58% good, 4% excellent; 59% calved. Sheep 1% poor, 26% fair, 67% good, 6% excellent; 57% lambled. Hay, roughage supplies 28% very short, 46% short, 25% adequate, 1% surplus. Feed grain supplies 13% very short, 18% short, 69% adequate.

WISCONSIN: During the first, second week of March, temperatures averaged nearly 13^o F warmer than the 30-year avg. Average temperatures the 3rd week of the month cooled to 1^o below normal. Warmer temperatures returned for the 4th week of the month, were 11^o F above normal. Cumulative precipitation since January has been slightly below normal, with the exception of Northwest, Northcentral regions which have been slightly above normal. By the end of March there was virtually no snow cover statewide. Spring seeding of oats was reported in the Southcentral region.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil 7% very short, 44% short, 45% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 55% short, 38% adequate. Barley 33% planted, 52% 1999, 25% avg. Oats 1% planted, 9% 1999, 3% avg. Spring wheat 3% planted, 16% 1999, 7% avg. Spring calves 55% born, 51% 1999, 50% avg. Farm flock ewes 63% lambled, 58% 1999, 61% avg. Farm flock sheep 62% shorn, 63% 1999, 66% avg. Range flock 10% ewes lambled, 6% 1999, 5% avg. Range flock 23% sheep shorn, 22% 1999, 19% avg. Range, pasture feed 57% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 24% short, 74% adequate. Ranchers were busy calving, lambing.