



Crop Progress - State Stories

ISSN: 2470-9816

Released March 30, 2021, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ALABAMA: March temperatures were on par with or up to 7.9 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than historic averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.6 inches to 14.6 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions affected 19.9 to 42.4 percent of the state throughout the month. Additionally, moderate drought conditions affected 0.4 to 7.9 percent of the state. Heavy rain was received during the latter half of March, improving drought conditions and pond levels, but also halting fieldwork and causing flooding in areas. Two of the storm systems that brought heavy rainfall also brought tornadic activity, resulting in damaged storage barns, poultry houses, and greenhouses; downed fences; and fallen trees. Producers began cleaning up debris and making structural repairs from the tornadic damage. Additionally, producers heavily impacted by Hurricane Sally last September continued to repair fields and damaged structures. Standing water somewhat reduced winter wheat condition, which was in good to very good condition prior to the rain. Fieldwork in the first half of the month included applying burndown, fertilizer, and lime; cultivating fields; and planting corn. Pastures were coming out of dormancy and greening up. Fescue especially looked good, and many farmers were able to stop feeding hay to cattle. Hay stocks remained adequate. Overall, cattle condition was good.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: This report for Arizona is for the week ending March 28, 2021. By the end of the week, 35 percent of Durum wheat has headed compared with 34 percent last year, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Durum wheat conditions were rated mostly good to excellent. Fifty-six percent of barley has headed compared with 52 percent last year. Barley conditions were rated mostly good to fair. Alfalfa conditions were rated mostly excellent to good depending on location last week, with harvesting taking place on over three-quarters of the alfalfa acreage across the state. For the entire state, pasture and range conditions were rated mostly very poor to poor. Abnormal to exceptional dryness in the entire state continues to affect pasture and range conditions, forage growth, and stock tanks. Some forage growth improvement was reported in the north central and northwestern part of the state. The northwestern and north central part of the state received the most precipitation last week, but it was still not enough to improve pasture and range conditions. The southwestern part of the state recorded the highest temperatures during the week.

ARKANSAS: The month of March had slightly above normal temperatures with above normal precipitation. Some field work was possible on higher ground, but rain kept farmers mostly out of the fields during the latter part of the month. Ranchers were busy with calving season and herd health. Row crop producers continued to haul grain to commercial elevators. Retailers have seed and chemical ready to go as weather allows farmers to move forward. The State average rainfall was 4.94 inches for the month of March with an average temperature of about 55 degrees.

CALIFORNIA: Topsoil moisture 10% very short, 20% short, and 70% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 30% short and 60% adequate. Temperatures for the month averaged 50.7 degrees, 3.0 degrees below normal. Statewide average monthly precipitation was 1.28 inches. In the northern mountain region, grains were planted and began sprouting. Range and pasture condition improved due to rain and snow. In the Sacramento Valley, rice fields were prepared for planting. Green leaves covered orchard trees and some orchards were irrigated. In the San Joaquin Valley, winter wheat continued to mature well due to warmer weather. Most stone fruit trees have begun flowering and some fruit has set. Bee colonies remain in almond orchards and petal

drop has started. Onion and lettuce continued to be harvested. In the San Joaquin Valley and southern California, strawberries ripened and were picked. Across the state, grains are being treated for weed control.

COLORADO: This report for Colorado is for the week ending March 28, 2021. Topsoil moisture 10% very short, 34% short, 55% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 28% very short, 44% short, 28% adequate. Barley planted 12%, 7% 2020, 4% avg. Winter wheat pastured 13%, 8% 2020, 12% avg; jointed 4%. Winter wheat condition 13% very poor, 19% poor, 40% fair, 25% good, 3% excellent. Cows calved 69%, 60% 2020, 54% avg. Ewes lambed 55%, 56% 2020, 45% avg. Livestock condition 4% very poor, 7% poor, 26% fair, 57% good, 6% excellent. Cattle death loss 5% heavy, 51% avg, 44% light. Sheep death loss 2% heavy, 81% avg, 17% light. Pasture and range condition 24% very poor, 29% poor, 36% fair, 11% good. Feed and concentrate supplies 16% very short, 26% short, 57% adequate, 1% surplus. Spring fieldwork continued last week amid scattered precipitation events. Northeastern and east central counties received isolated moisture that supported soil moisture supplies, but warmer temperatures and high winds were also noted. Producers continued preparing for spring planting. Calving and lambing progressed, supported by mild weather. Concerns remained for pasture and range condition if more moisture isn't received to promote grass production. Dry, windy conditions also prompted more concern for condition of winter wheat moving forward. In western counties, snow and rain were observed late in the week, but soil moisture supplies remained short to very short. According to the latest U.S. Drought monitor report, western districts continued to experience mostly severe to exceptional drought conditions. The San Luis Valley experienced another dry week and barley planting continued. Dry conditions were notably concerning for barley germination and emergence. Mild weather supported producers calving and lambing and less disease stress was noted. In southeastern counties, more rain and isolated snowfall supported winter wheat and alfalfa, which continued to green-up. A county report noted irrigation canals started water in the area. As of March 26, 2021, snowpack in the state was 94 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 89 and 111 percent, respectively.

DELAWARE: The state received excessive precipitation again in March. Soil moisture increased from last month. Temperatures seems to be up one day and down the next complicating planting activities. Activities reported by farmers included application of fertilizer, manure, or lime applications when weather conditions permitted. There were limited reports of pea planting.

FLORIDA: March temperatures were on average 2.2 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from trace amounts of rain in a few locations to 6.5 inches in Okaloosa County. At the end of the month, the state was 49 percent abnormally dry and 1 percent in moderate drought conditions compared with 20 percent abnormally dry at the beginning of the month. Lack of rainfall combined with warmer temperatures dried out some pastures late in the month. Cattle conditions remained mostly good throughout the month. Sugarcane harvest continued. A variety of fruits and vegetables were planted and marketed. Producers planted field corn and prepared land for peanut and cotton crops in the Panhandle and northern part of the state. As temperatures increased, Whiteflies and pest pressure were noted on vegetable crops in the southern part of the state. Citrus fruit harvested for the fresh market included white and red grapefruit, Valencia oranges, as well as Honey, Tango, and Royal tangerines. The non-Valencia season concluded. After running behind last season, Mandarin harvest started to slow down at the end of the month. Citrus grove activities included fertilizing, spraying, hedging, topping, irrigation, and taking care of young trees.

GEORGIA: March temperatures were on average 3.4 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.3 inches in Macon County to 13.5 inches in Rabun County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 21 percent of the state was in abnormally dry conditions compared to 1 percent at the beginning of the month. A dry start to the month allowed producers to get into fields and start planting activities for row crops. Frequent rain showers throughout the latter half of month saturated many fields in the state and reduced field activities. Small grains were progressing well as many producers sprayed for weeds and prepped for anticipated fungicide pressure due to wet conditions. Producers in the southern part of the state noted fields beginning to dry out allowing them to return to the fields and continue planting preparations. Corn planting began, but rain has limited progress in many areas. Pastures started to green up as a result of the warm and wet conditions of the month. Peaches and blueberries were in full bloom. Vegetable growers planted some

fields while some held off due to potential freeze later in the coming week. Onion harvesting is expected to begin soon. In multiple counties, pecan trees began budding.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: The statewide temperatures in Idaho for the month of March varied a few degrees above and below normal. In northern Idaho, pastures started to green up in the lower elevation areas. Winter wheat looked good. Most fields were still too wet for significant fieldwork and soil temperatures still cold for extensive planting. In contrast, somewhat dry conditions were reported across southwest Idaho rangelands. Crop producers and livestock owners hoped for timely spring precipitation. South central Idaho received a little rain and snow moisture the last week in March. Cereal planting started to pick up. Some potatoes and beets were planted. Alfalfa fields also started to green up. Voles looked to be a problem. Winter cereals look good. Winter calving and lambing went well with mild winter weather since January. March conditions were mixed in eastern Idaho. It was still winter in Bear Lake and Teton Counties with snow on the ground. In Power County, it was just dry enough for spring work to start. Concerns over water storage eased slightly with the late March precipitation.

ILLINOIS: For the week ending on March 28, 2021. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 5% short, 65% adequate, 29% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 8% short, 75% adequate, 16% surplus. Statewide, the average temperature in March was 45.4 degrees, 5.0 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 4.06 inches, 1.31 inches above normal.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture for the month of January was 2% very short, 12% short, 63% adequate, and 23% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 5% very short, 17% short, 62% adequate, and 16% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 28% fair, 55% good, and 12% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 45.4 degrees, 5.4 degrees above normal for the month of March. Statewide average precipitation was 3.65 inches, 0.74 inches above normal. March began with unusually dry conditions, but heavy rainfall in the second half of the month led to above average precipitation overall. While the recent rainfall has led to conditions that are too wet for some field activities, other operations have reported that they have been able to begin spring fieldwork activities. Winter wheat conditions remained stable overall with some operations reporting that wheat is beginning to break dormancy. Both hay supplies and livestock were reported to be faring well overall. Other activities for the month included hauling grain to elevators and preparing equipment for planting season.

IOWA: Overall, the month of March has been fairly normal for the State. Much needed rainfall began at mid-month. Although much of the State needed precipitation, producers are anxious to see the sun and warmer temperatures. Temperatures have begun to rise, helping green up pastures and cover crops. However, field work has been limited due to wet field conditions from persistent rain and snow/frost melting. As field conditions allow, dry fertilizer/anhydrous applications and manure hauling have begun. Farmers are also preparing equipment for planting. There were a few reports of oats being seeded in the northwest and south central portions of the State. Grain movement continued to be strong due to good prices and clear road conditions. Calving continues across Iowa with no major issues. Muddy feedlots are an issue for some cattle producers. Hay supplies remain adequate.

KANSAS: For the week ending March 28, 2021, days suitable for fieldwork were 2.2, topsoil moisture supplies rated 4% very short, 8% short, 72% adequate, 16% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 6% very short, 14% short, 71% adequate, 9% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 4% very poor, 15% poor, 31% fair, 43% good, 7% excellent.

KENTUCKY: For the month of March, Kentucky saw above normal temperatures and precipitation. A dry stretch early in the month gave way to patches of heavy precipitation coupled with warm temperatures. There were some patches of severe weather and flooding in areas of the state. Temperatures for the period averaged 51 degrees across the State, which was 5 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 4.87 inches Statewide, which was 0.86 inches above normal and 121% of normal. The warm weather and precipitation has encouraged pasture growth and allowed farmers to retain their hay supplies. For the month of March, hay supplies 2% very short, 11% short, 79% adequate, 8% surplus. Livestock condition

improved as spring weather has taken hold. Livestock conditions 1% very poor, 4% poor, 19% fair, 67% good, 9% excellent. Condition of winter wheat 1% poor, 9% fair, 73% good, 17% excellent.

LOUISIANA: The month of March had above average temperatures and average rainfall. Dry conditions early in the month allowed for increased fieldwork. Corn and rice planting continued with quick emergence. Soybean producers started preparing for planting. Pastures started to green. The crawfish catch increased with warmer temperatures. Sugarcane growth was favorable following the freeze last month. Rainfall late in the month saturated fields and slowed work. The average temperature for the month was about 62 degrees with an average rainfall of 5.06 inches.

MARYLAND: During the month of March rain fell in some parts of the state while others experienced dry conditions. Temperatures were slightly above average across the State. For the most part, cover crops look good, spring fertilizer application was hampered by wet condition existing on the ground, other farmers were able to spread first application of manure, lime, potash, and nitrogen where needed in preparation for planting activities. Few reports of peas planting were received. Pastures were greening up, and cool season weeds were starting the process of growing as well.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 13% short, 70% adequate and 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 16% short, 72% adequate, and 8% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 63% good, and 11% excellent. Precipitation for the month of March averaged 1.59 inches throughout the State, 0.38 inches below normal. Temperature for the month averaged 36.3 degrees, 5.9 degrees above normal. The State experienced exceptionally warm temperatures throughout most of March. In contrast with February's excessively cold conditions, the mild spring-like weather was welcomed by producers. Cumulative precipitation showed a slight increase in March as most areas exhibited below average snowfall and rainfall. The warm conditions have made daily operations much more tolerable on most farms. Fruit growers continued to prune trees and maintain orchards. Weather conditions remained good for winter wheat with 74% of the crop rated in the good to excellent range. Other activities for the month included tending to livestock, hauling grain, and preparing equipment for spring. In a few rare cases tillage and planting operations have begun.

MINNESOTA: March was warmer than normal with mostly dry conditions reported throughout the State. Some much-needed moisture arrived later in the month, but soil moisture remained dry. The drier than normal conditions are a concern for producers. Snow cover has melted and frost depths have reduced. Grain movement was widespread. Feedstocks remained adequate. There were some difficulties calving in muddy areas. Overall, warmer temperatures improved livestock conditions. No livestock losses were reported. Farmers are readying equipment and supplies for planting when soil temperatures increase. Small grain planting may begin on sandy soil in the next two weeks. Potatoes could also be going in soon.

MISSISSIPPI: Conditions for most of the month of March have been conducive for fieldwork. Field preparations and planting have begun but are limited in some areas due to muddy conditions and excess moisture. Warm and moist conditions have allowed the growth of pasture grasses to begin. The state average rainfall was about 5 inches for the month of March with an average temperature of about 57 degrees. Overall, average temperatures for the state have been above normal for this time of year, and average rainfall has been greater than normal for March.

MISSOURI: For the week ending March 29, 2021. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 72% adequate, and 27% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 88% adequate, and 10% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 1% poor, 36% fair, 54% good, and 7% excellent. Statewide, precipitation averaged 5.73 inches for the month of March, 2.72 inches above average. Temperatures averaged 49.0 degrees, 4.7 degrees above normal.

MONTANA: This report for Montana is for the entire month of March 2021. Topsoil moisture 30% very short, 46% short, 23% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 27% very short, 44% short, 29% adequate. Winter wheat - condition 6% very poor, 10% poor, 30% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent. Winter wheat – wind damage 53% none, 21% light, 18% moderate, 8% heavy. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 65% none, 17% light, 15% moderate, 3% heavy. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 76% very poor, 17% poor, 5% fair, 2% good. Pasture and range - condition 28% very poor, 32% poor, 31% fair, 7% good, 2% excellent.

Livestock grazing accessibility – 71% open, 9% difficult, 20% closed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle and calves 86% fed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 89% fed. The month of March produced warmer winter conditions and minimal moisture across the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters across the state noted very little moisture was received in March and high winds have continued to dry out soil. Temperatures were unseasonably warm throughout the month, as temperatures stayed higher than the historical highs and lows for several days. Low temperatures ranged from the high teens to low 50s, while high temperatures ranged from the high 30s to mid-60s. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, approximately 80 percent of Montana is abnormally dry or in a current state of drought, with about 17 percent of the state in severe to exceptional drought.

NEBRASKA: For the week ending March 28, 2021, topsoil moisture supplies rated 5% very short, 14% short, 70% adequate, and 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 8% very short, 30% short, 58% adequate, and 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 5% very poor, 12% poor, 45% fair, 36% good, and 2% excellent.

NEVADA: Topsoil moisture 5% short, 95% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 90% adequate. Temperatures for the month averaged 40.7 degrees, 1.2 degrees below normal. Statewide average precipitation was 0.60 inch. Most alfalfa was still dormant, but some showed initial growth. Plant growth on rangelands started, but growth progressed slowly due to cool temperatures. In the northwest region, some areas had little or no growth from cheat grass, possibly due to a soil pathogen. The total affected area is unknown. Growth ranged from only a few young plants to almost 2 inches tall.

NEW ENGLAND: New England states have experienced a mild, relatively dry spring conditions this year. In the southeastern part of Massachusetts, most cranberry growers were not able to ice sand because of the dry conditions. This cultural practice needs to be completed every 3-4 years; thus, the concern is that the crop will be down as a result. According to a New Hampshire reporter, ground water conditions remain well below normal in the Connecticut River Valley. Below normal snowfall and lack of precipitation has continued to be a problem. Surface soils are sufficiently moist for now, but subsoil moisture is well below normal. Brooks and streams have remained below normal since last fall. One farm reported that the well for his farm was 8 feet below normal, leading to insufficient supplies to meet the needs of his livestock. Several farms around Grafton County are reporting similar issues. Snow cover has mostly melted, but there is still some frost in the ground, but much of that will dissipate within a couple of days. Further, maple sugar operations had a slow start for the season; however, the next few days will be below freezing in the morning with warming throughout the day. Vermont Spring conditions are moving forward nicely in Franklin County, Vermont. Frost is moving out of the ground quickly with very little flooding to date and some green grass showing up. If weather patterns continue as they are, we will have nice conditions for spring work ahead.

NEW JERSEY: The State experienced warmer temperatures for the month of March, which were around normal. Precipitation was slightly below normal at the start of the month, with more recent wet conditions towards the end of the month. The planting of herbs and vegetables was moving at an approximately normal rate. There has been some delay in a few areas with rains, but progress was about normal for this time of year.

NEW MEXICO: This report for New Mexico is for the month of March 2021, through March 28. Topsoil moisture 53% very short, 31% short, 14% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 59% very short, 34% short, 6% adequate, 1% surplus. Alfalfa hay condition 5% poor, 78% fair, 15% good, 2% excellent. Chile planted 8%, 2% last year. Onions planted 20%, 15% last year; emerged 10%, 5% last year. Winter wheat condition 64% very poor, 24% poor, 4% fair, 3% good, 5% excellent. Cows calved 40%, 30% last year. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 90%, 86% last year. Cattle condition 2% very poor, 17% poor, 42% fair, 31% good, 8% excellent. Ewes lambed 40%, 30% last year. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 89%, 74% last year. Sheep and lambs condition 25% very poor, 8% poor, 31% fair, 36% good. Hay and roughage supplies 38% very short, 34% short, 28% adequate. Stock water supplies 50% very short, 22% short, 27% adequate, 1% surplus. Precipitation received since March 1 has been below average for much of the State, although there were some pockets stretching from central New Mexico up to the northeastern corner of the State that accumulated above average moisture. The limited moisture totals continued to prohibit any meaningful improvement of soil

moisture levels or winter wheat condition. The first alfalfa condition rating noted that 17 percent of the crop was in good to excellent condition, compared with 52 percent last year. Supplemental feeding rates remained distinctly higher than last year. Producers were busy planting the 2021 chile and onion crops ahead of last year's pace. Reports from Union County noted some pasture grass green up following recent moisture. Farmers in the area were busy watering corn and wheat fields, and preparing fields for spring crop planting. Roosevelt County comments indicated extreme dryness, while Mora County reports noted a good, wet snow last week. In Lea County, excessively strong winds damaged power lines in some rural areas, leaving people without power for 2-3 days. Statewide, 88 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in very poor to poor condition, compared with 65 percent at the end of February and 4 percent in March 2020. For the period of March 1 – March 28, converted monthly moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – varied drastically around the State, ranging from approximately 6 inches in an extremely isolated area of northeastern Cibola County to merely a trace across much of southern New Mexico. According to the United States Drought Monitor for March 23, moderate drought or worse continued to plague virtually the entire State. Severe drought (D2) covered 19.5 percent of the State, and extreme drought (D3) remained entrenched across 26.8 percent. Exceptional drought (D4) stabilized somewhat, and now covered 64,901 square miles, or 53.4 percent of the State.

NEW YORK: The month of March was reported as having deep snow cover for most of the month in some counties as well as unseasonably warmer temperatures towards the latter half of the month. Most counties were reporting that drought conditions remained, and water levels were below normal. Some counties also reported potential developmental damage to crops from strong winds. Farmers have planted some spring grains, forage crop seedings, and vineyards were preparing to tie vines to fruiting wire.

NORTH CAROLINA: For the week ending March 28, 2021 - Subsoil moisture 1% short, 55% adequate, 44% surplus. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 49% adequate and 50% surplus. Barley condition 1% very poor, 22% poor, 53% fair, 22% good and 2% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 6% short, 90% adequate, 4% surplus. Oats condition 4% poor, 39% fair, and 57% good. Winter wheat condition 5% very poor, 14% poor, 42% fair, 33% good, and 6% excellent. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 40% fair and 50% good and 3% excellent. Throughout March, it has been above average in both temperatures and rainfall. Four degrees above average for temperature and 3" above average for rainfall. One dry spell for almost two weeks in the first part of the month, followed by a wet spell later in the month. Pastures are greening up and growing nicely.

NORTH DAKOTA: For the week ending March 28, 2021, topsoil moisture supplies, 52% very short, 35% short, 13% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies, 46% very short, 35% short, 18% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 11% very poor, 31% poor, 45% fair, 13% good, 0% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions, 2% very poor, 4% poor, 19% fair, 55% good, 20% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss, 1% heavy, 50% average, 49% light. Calving progress, 35% complete. Sheep and lamb conditions, 0% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 57% good, 25% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss, 1% heavy, 53% average, 46% light. Lambing progress, 57% complete. Shearing progress 73% complete. Hay and roughage supplies, 12% very short, 24% short, 58% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies, 28% very short, 33% short, 38% adequate, 1% surplus.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture for the month was 6% very short, 6% short, 66% adequate, and 22% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 4% very short, 13% short, 68% adequate, and 15% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 3% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, and 14% excellent. The statewide average temperature was 43.9 degrees, 5.0 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 2.75 inches statewide, 0.08 inch above normal for March. Some areas of the State experienced heavy rains, which caused ponding in areas where winter wheat was planted. During the month, farmers top dressed winter wheat, sprayed herbicides on cover crops, applied anhydrous, tilled fields, and seeded waterways.

OKLAHOMA: March started with temperatures in the 40's and has risen to stay in the 50's. Oats started jointing the second week of March and Canola started blooming the third week of March. Canola, Rye, and Oats are behind the five-year average, but wheat is progressing well. Livestock conditions is rated good to fair and pasture conditions is rated fair to good. The Drought Monitor shows less than one percent of the State is in exceptional drought.

OREGON: Moisture conditions through the state ranged from very wet to very dry. Temperatures were below normal to around normal. Benton and Lincoln Counties reported a good amount of sunny days with some rain for March. It was still too cold for crops, except winter wheat in Benton County. Pasture was in fair condition for introduced grasses, such as New Zealand Orchard Grass planted on high elevations. Much of the coastal pastures were underwater or in tidal zones and grazed in the late spring and summer months. Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties reported plenty of moisture. More frosts were predicted. Vegetable planting was on hold until soil warmth and moisture get closer to optimum planting conditions. Nursery plants came through winter in good condition, field crops looked generally good, and pastures started to push through where they were not overgrazed. In Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties, pears, apples, peaches and cherries were pushing buds. Plum crops were currently in full bloom. Blueberries were about ten days away from bloom. Wine grapes were still mostly dormant with a few varieties showing early buds. Tillamook and Clatsop Counties reported wet conditions for March, with grass growth progressing. Occasionally, some dairy herds were out on pasture. Soils were wet and saturated in some areas. North central Oregon reported an extremely dry winter with extremely dry topsoil. Pastures greened up. Cattle were calving with ideal conditions. Crops looked good for now, but needed more rain. Baker County reported wind gusts. Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties reported heading toward the worst water year ever for irrigators with the potential for large amounts of acres left fallowed. The warm winter in Ochoco Mountains meant snowmelt may end up in soil and not much runoff this spring. High winds did not help with moisture retention. Wheeler County reported it was extremely dry. Pastures were fine and cattle were calving, but the area needed spring rains. Lake County precipitation was below average, and there was concern about livestock producers receiving adequate irrigation. Malheur County reported good conditions for onion planting, but progress slowed due to a couple of storms. Adequate irrigation was expected. Northeast Oregon's recent precipitation and nearly complete infiltration of snow melt increased available soil water in fields. Winter canola was doing well. Southwest Oregon reported soil moisture levels good to surplus in nearly all areas. Field crops were in good shape.

PENNSYLVANIA: The state experienced fairly mild March weather, with average rainfall and temperatures slightly above average. Cover crops, small grains, and hay were reportedly greening or otherwise growing nicely. Previously snow-covered fields have cleared and allowed for some plowing, lime and manure spreading, and herbicide application. Producers were also performing machine maintenance in preparation for the Spring season.

SOUTH CAROLINA: March temperatures were on par with or up to 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than historic averages. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 0.8 inch to 12.0 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the State had no abnormally dry conditions throughout the month. The Upstate region received excess rain in March, while the rest of the State received sufficient rain levels. This rainfall pattern reversed the trend from the previous winter months, where all regions except the Upstate received excess rain. During March, most pasture and cropland were able to dry out to a workable level. To catch up on delayed row crop activities, field preparations began at a fever pace, with lime and fertilizer being spread, burndown and weed control being applied, land being cultivated, and the first corn acres being planted. Additionally, small grains received a much-needed topdressing of Nitrogen. Winter wheat was generally in good condition. Strawberry and vegetable crops remained behind schedule, despite the improved weather conditions in March. Relatively stable temperatures brought the beginning of a significant peach crop, with the early varieties beginning to set fruit. Cattle conditions was good, and winter grazing was fair to good. Summer pasture and hayfields started to green up from the warm temperatures and sunny days. Hay supplies were becoming short for some cattle producers.

SOUTH DAKOTA: For the week ending March 28, 2021, topsoil moisture supplies rated 22% very short, 44% short, 33% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 20% very short, 55% short, 25% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 3% very poor, 18% poor, 48% fair, 31% good, and 0% excellent.

TENNESSEE: For the week ending March 28, Days suitable 2.9. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 52% adequate, 47% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 61% adequate, 38% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% poor 25% fair, 60% good, 12% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 2% very poor, 13% poor, 39% fair, 40% good, 6%

excellent. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 26% fair, 60% good, 9% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 2% very short, 20% short, 71% adequate, 7% surplus. Tennessee experienced increase moisture and increased temperatures. Storms brought excessive rain. Localized flooding is present and causing concern. Delayed planting is expected. Hay and roughage supplies are mostly adequate. Winter wheat condition reported mostly good. Cattle condition is currently reported mostly good.

TEXAS: For the month of March, precipitation ranged from trace amounts to upwards of 10.0 inches. Small grains progressed due to increased moisture and warmer temperatures, but development varied across the state. Meanwhile, row crop producers all over Texas continued or began planting. Livestock condition continued poor to fair. Supplemental feeding continued statewide.

UTAH: This report for Utah is for the entire month of March, 2021. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 22% short, 72% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 13% very short, 25% short, 60% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture and range condition 19% very poor, 37% poor, 42% fair, 2% good. Winter wheat condition 6% very poor, 15% poor, 42% fair, 31% good, 6% excellent. Barley planted 4%. Hay and roughage supplies 8% very short, 25% short, 67% adequate. Stock water supplies 14% very short, 23% short, 63% adequate. Cattle and calves condition 4% poor, 27% fair, 65% good, 4% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 6% poor, 38% fair, 54% good, 2% excellent. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 72%. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 44%. Cows calved 27%. Ewes lambled-farm flock 16%. Ewes lambled-range flock 8%. Isolated areas throughout the state received precipitation in March, but not enough to alleviate drought conditions. Spring planting was underway in Box Elder county and farmers sprayed and fertilized fall grains. Calving continued and branding and vaccinations were underway. In Beaver county, livestock were doing well. Fields were prepared for planting and treated for pests, though field work was slowed due to storms. As of March 29, 2021, snowpack in Utah was 81 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

VIRGINIA: For the week ending March 28, 2021, Days suitable 4.7, Topsoil moisture is 1% short, 75% adequate and 24% surplus. Subsoil moisture is 2% short, 79% adequate and 19% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 14% poor, 44% fair, 34% good, 5% excellent. Barley condition 1% very poor, 17% poor, 42% fair, 37% good, 3% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 41% fair, 48% good, 5% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 4% very poor, 22% poor, 47% fair, 23% good, 4% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 4% very short, 14% short, 77% adequate, 5% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 13%. Virginia experienced slightly above normal temperatures and normal precipitation in March. Some areas had dry spells which allowed fields to dry out and farmers began fertilization. Other areas had more precipitation leaving them with saturated and muddy fields. Pasture conditions are in adequate condition and farmers had an increase of feed obtained from pastures relieving the pressure on hay stocks. Primary activities for the month include pasture seeding, manure applications and fertilizer applications.

WASHINGTON: The Statewide temperatures in Washington for the month of March were slightly above normal to below normal. In western Washington, the fields were too wet for fieldwork. Grass was putting on new growth. Winter crops were looking good, with the exception of where crops were drowned out from the winter ponded water. The temperatures were cool. Many operators with high tunnels planted crops and some of the spring vegetables were starting to show up. Some vegetable producers were able to do outdoor tilling. In Snohomish County, cane berries were mostly pruned and tied. In central Washington, apricot orchards were in full bloom. Peach orchards were showing pink buds and bloom had started for some varieties. Apple orchard trees were a half-inch green with some varieties showing buds at tight cluster. Buds on trees in pear orchards were at swollen bud stage and growers sprayed their blocks with oils and kaolin clay to discourage pear psylla. There was a fair amount of orchard tear-out still left to be disposed. Growers hilled asparagus blocks in anticipation of an early harvest. Vegetable fields had been tilled and were ready to plant. There was activity in the hop yards with workers tilling the groundcover, planting cover crops, rolling out irrigation lines, and stringing up the trellises. Winter wheat and alfalfa were presenting a vivid green color in an otherwise drab landscape. Vegetation along the irrigation canals was cleaned up and ready to receive water. Klickitat County and east central Washington had very dry conditions. Winter wheat was in mostly good condition, with a few areas that looked excellent and a few areas that looked poor. There was a significant amount of snow mold, but it was too early to know if the wheat will recover. In southeast Washington, snow showers were a weekly occurrence with

some freezing temperatures. Spring work commenced. Columbia and Walla Walla Counties were dry and needed moisture.

WEST VIRGINIA: For the week ending March 28, Topsoil moisture 15% short, 76% adequate, and 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 16% short, 81% adequate, and 3% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 12% short, 80% adequate, and 5% surplus. Feed grain supplies 12% short, 86% adequate, and 2% surplus. Pasture condition 4% very poor, 4% poor, 43% fair, 45% good, and 4% excellent. Winter wheat condition 49% fair, 50% good, and 1% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 2% poor, 26% fair, 67% good, and 5% excellent. Calving was 61% complete, 57% last year. Sheep and lambs condition 1% poor, 8% fair, 88% good, and 3% excellent. Lambing was 66% complete, 65% last year. Weather conditions for the month were mostly warmer with periods of rain, and some flooding from heavy rains. Farming activities for the month included preparing fields for planting, repairing fences, calving and lambing.

WISCONSIN: Early March brought warm weather to Wisconsin with many locations setting record highs on the ninth or tenth. Eau Claire received the most precipitation at 1.56 inches, while Milwaukee received the least at 0.84 inch. Monthly temperatures were all above normal. Temperatures ranged from 8.4 degrees above normal in Eau Claire to 5.1 degrees above normal in Madison. Average highs ranged from 46.8 degrees in Green Bay to 52.6 degrees in La Crosse. Average lows ranged from 27.6 degrees in Eau Claire to 33.0 degrees in and Milwaukee. La Crosse received the most snow of the major cities with 4.0 inches, while Milwaukee received the least with 0.8 inch for the month. The snow cover is mostly gone in northern Wisconsin, and the frost is starting to come out of the ground. In the southern part of the state the snow and frost are entirely gone. Central Wisconsin has mixed conditions. Manure spreading has begun, though some fields are still too muddy.

WYOMING: This report for Wyoming is for the entire month of March 2021. Topsoil moisture 30% very short, 25% short, 42% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 35% very short, 26% short, 38% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 14% poor, 70% fair, 11% good, 1% excellent. Barley planted 16%. Calving progress 30% cows calved. Sheep and lamb progress 18% ewes lambled, 26% sheep shorn. Hay and roughage supplies 23% very short, 22% short, 54% adequate, 1% surplus. Livestock condition 11% poor, 27% fair, 61% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 18% very short, 23% short, 58% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture and range condition 27% very poor, 35% poor, 28% fair, 9% good, 1% excellent. Cattle death loss 5% heavy, 89% average, 6% light. Sheep death loss 5% heavy, 91% average, 4% light. Despite a large snowstorm, the month of March brought little relief to Wyoming. Temperatures for the month were fairly mild for the majority of the State, remaining around average for this time of the year. Precipitation was scarce except for a winter storm in mid-March. Reports indicate the storm brought much needed moisture to the State, but a significant amount of spring precipitation is still desperately needed. Comments from Campbell County indicate some producers have already decided not to plant this spring because of the poor conditions. Comments from Albany, Sheridan and Platte counties indicated the March snowstorm was very hard on livestock, with numerous reports of significant livestock losses due to heavy snow and deep snow drifts. According to the United States Drought Monitor for March 25, 2021, 96.3 percent of the State is still experiencing drought conditions. Extreme drought conditions covered 19.3 percent of the State, compared to 24.8 percent last month. Severe drought was present across 27.4 percent of the State, a decrease of 11.4 percentage points from last month's percentage of 38.8 percent. Moderate drought was present across 24.4 percent of the State, a slight decrease from 27.7 percent last month. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 25.2 percent, compared to 6.5 percent last month.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates included in this report are based on survey data collected 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@usda.gov

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David Colwell – Current Agricultural Industrial Reports.....	(202) 720-8800
James Johanson – Barley, County Estimates, Hay	(202) 690-8533
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John Stephens – Peanuts, Rice.....	(202) 720-7688
Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369

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