

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

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ALABAMA: Most of the state received rainfall but totals fell short of normal. The bulk of the precipitation received fell during the earliest, latest portions of the month. Above average temperatures the first two thirds of the month yielded to a cold snap that bolstered chill hour totals in many areas. The Chilton Area Horticulture Substation in Clanton reports 848 total chill hours for the winter season up through January 31. Last years total at this date was 598, the 43 year average total for this date is 1,040. For recording purposes, a chill hour is defined as any hour the temperature remains below 45° Fahrenheit.

ARIZONA: Alfalfa harvest was reported as 81% not being harvested, 13% light, 6% moderate. Alfalfa condition was reported as 4% poor, 27% fair, 61% good, 8% excellent. Sheeping off showed slight signs of slowing compared to the previous weeks, being reported as light to moderate. Range, Pasture feeds improved slightly as compared to previous weeks, even with the continued lack of substantial rain. Range, pasture feeds were reported as 5% very poor, 16% poor, 42% fair, 25% good, 12% excellent. Livestock was reported to be in fair to good condition for the month of January. Stock Water was reported as short to adequate while Soil Moisture was reported as short. Insect Damage was reported as none to light. As of January 30, 41% of Durum Wheat 42% of Barley 41% of Other Wheat 37% of Other Small Grains were reported as emerged. Central Areas producers shipped a variety of vegetables last week including: Bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, cilantro, dandelion, dill, endive, escarole, flowering kale, green onions, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, mixed greens, napa, parsley, romaine, spinach, swiss chard. Eastern Areas producers shipped hot house tomatoes. Producers in western areas also shipped a wide variety of vegetables including: Anise, bok choy, broccoflower, broccoli, broccolini, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, endive, escarole, frisee, kale, mixed greens, napa, parsley, radicchio, salad savoy, spinach, swiss chard. Western lettuce, salad/salad mixes shipments included: Boston, iceberg, leaf, romaine, spring mix. Central Areas citrus producers harvested lemons, navels, grapefruit, minneolas, fairchild tangerines, tangelos. Western citrus producers harvested grapefruit, lemons, tangelos last week.

ARKANSAS: For the week ending January 9th, the Northern, Western part of the state received above normal rainfall, all of the state experienced much above normal temperatures for the week. During the week ending January 16th, the temperatures were much warmer than normal with no precipitation. The week ending January 23rd, temperatures were above normal for most of the state, precipitation was below normal. The main farming activities were: Pruning fruit trees, preparing land for next season, cleaning, maintenance on equipment. Livestock was reported in fair condition.

CALIFORNIA: For most of the month, January was warm, dry. Moderate to heavy rainfall began shortly after mid-month. Most field activities were halted. Small grains, winter forages, new alfalfa, emerging sugar beets were fertilized, irrigated, sprayed for weeds. A few fields of new alfalfa were still being seeded in the San Joaquin Valley. Alfalfa hay fields received dormant weed treatments, some alfalfa fields were cut for greenchop. Sugarbeet planting was ongoing in the Sacramento Valley; some fields in the San Joaquin Valley were re-seeded due to poor germination caused by insufficient moisture. Fallow fields were sprayed for winter weed control. Discing, laser leveling, pre-irrigation for spring planted corn, cotton, safflower were being done where conditions permitted. January's normal winter cultural activities were slowed last

week due to wet weather. Where possible, growers were pruning, planting trees, vines. Picking of grapefruit, lemon crops was active in southern areas. San Joaquin Valley navel oranges were picked throughout the month. The rainfall improved the sugar-acid ratios. Satsuma tangerines were also picked this month. Strawberry nursery plant digging was active. Where conditions permitted, soil was fumigated in preparation for planting processing tomato fields. Late month rainfall was beneficial to developing spinach plants. As February neared, a small amount of cauliflower remained to be harvested. The long awaited rains have improved conditions of onions, garlic, some late planted vegetables. Some garlic growers were concerned that the wet conditions could cause rust problems next month. January's harvest of Napa cabbage was slowing as the month ended, other winter vegetables were being planted. Fallow ground for spring vegetables remained idle in some areas due to cold weather, wet conditions. Sweet potato field, hotbed fumigation continued. Carrot harvest remained active in Kern County. Additional crops harvested this month included: Radicchio, broccoli, beets, cilantro, leaf lettuce, kale, mushrooms, parsley, green onions, turnips. Late month rainfall in central, northern areas improved pasture feeds. Rain stimulated grass growth, especially in northern areas. Some stocker cattle were being background, many were expected to be turned out on foothill pastures as the month's end neared. With the onset of the winter rains, supplemental feeding of cattle was reduced. However, because of the lateness of the rainy season, hay feeding was still necessary in some central counties. Beehives were being moved to almond orchards in anticipation of February's bloom.

COLORADO: January temperatures were above normal for the month, precipitation has been limited. The Front Range, Eastern Plains received some snow during the month, but topsoil moisture remains low. Mountain snowpack has improved during the past few weeks, but is still below normal at this time. The 2000 winter wheat crop remains in mostly good to excellent condition. Producers are attending industry meetings, farm shows, caring for livestock, preparing income taxes.

DELAWARE: No major concerns for livestock producers. Received reports of substantial losses of poultry due to recent weather conditions. Farmers must keep temperatures, ventilation regulated in chicken houses with current dramatic temperature changes. Hay, feed appear to be adequate. Generous amounts of snow received towards end of month has provided adequate snow cover to protect crops, especially small grains. Concerns about chilly temperatures affecting ornamental, fruit trees. Farmers who stockpiled forage in pasture fields were presented with problem of deep snow, ice. Snow was too deep for cattle to graze, now farmers must feed hay.

FLORIDA: Topsoil moisture was mostly short to adequate with some areas very short throughout the month. Freezing temperatures dipped into central, some southern Peninsula localities during the last two weeks of January. Some vegetables, floriculture suffered slight amounts of damage with almost everything expecting to recover. Temperatures were mostly above normal during most of January. Sugarcane harvest, planting were active. Growers were taking care of their tobacco beds. Spring crop land preparation was underway. Pine tree planting was underway. Winter forages, wheat were in very poor condition in some areas due to lack of moisture. Citrus, strawberry, vegetable harvesting were active most of the month.

GEORGIA: Soil moisture was adequate for almost 70% of the State. The first half of January was warm, dry. Two winter storms in the latter half of January brought much needed rain to the State. The rain, cold weather limited fieldwork. The northern half of the State experienced frozen precipitation causing damage to trees, fences. Power outages occurred from down power lines. These outages combined with backup generator failures brought some poultry losses. Cattle farmers were feeding hay due to the cold, wet conditions. Pastures were mostly fair to good. Cotton, pecan, soybeans harvests were virtually complete. Small grains were in fair to good condition. Small grain were top dressed during January. Onion transplanting approached completion during January with the crop in mostly fair condition. Tobacco bed preparation was almost 90% complete. Tobacco plants were in fair to good condition. Land preparation for spring planting was almost 25% complete. Other activities included: Soil sampling as well as cleaning damaged trees, fences.

HAWAII: NO REPORT

IDAHO: Winter conditions across the state brought heavy mountain snow, valley rain/snow flurries. Irrigation supply is considered good to fair across the state. Calving is 16% complete, lambing is 28%. Recent thaws have created muddy conditions for feeding but no apparent problems with disease in young calves, lambs. Hay, roughage supply was reported 11% surplus, 65% adequate, 22% short, 2% very short. Snow cover in upper elevations has blanketed winter wheat fields. In Southeastern areas a lack of snow cover has potential to cause damage to winter wheat stands. Winter wheat 7% excellent, 73% good, 18% fair, 2% poor. Activities: Repairing machinery, feeding, marketing livestock, tax preparation, attending meetings.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil moisture 25% very short, 46% short, 29% adequate. The dry conditions across the state were somewhat relieved with the recent snowfall. Reports of low subsoil moisture continue to come in, which will have a negative effect on the winter crops next spring if there is no improvement. The recent snowfall was greatly welcomed for the winter wheat crop. With the lack of Fall moisture, some cold temperatures in January without snow cover, the growth of the wheat has been stunted. More moisture, continued snow cover are needed for the winter wheat condition to improve. The mild weather has been beneficial for livestock, keeping lots mostly dry, but many producers are having to haul or supply water because ponds, streams are very low. Other activities during the month have included: Hauling grain to market, snow removal, tax preparation. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 13% poor, 51% fair, 32% good, 2% excellent.

INDIANA: Topsoil, subsoil moisture remain mostly short, statewide. January temperatures averaged about 10° above normal during the first half of the month, but averaged 10° below normal the last half of January. Snow has covered most of the state during the last two weeks, limiting outside activities. Recent cold temperatures have placed stress on livestock. Precipitation was minimal during the month, except for snow, with the extreme northern areas receiving heavier lake effect snow. Hauling of water continues on some farms. Winter wheat was protected by snow on most farms during the cold temperatures. Hay supplies are rapidly declining in some areas. A lot of grain was moved early in the month with improved prices. Farmers are working on taxes, pricing inputs for the 2000 crop. Tobacco stripping, baling active. Major activities: Attending farm shows, meetings, spreading manure, equipment cleaning, repair, hauling grain, feeding livestock, snow removal, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Soil moisture 27% very short, 57% short, 16% adequate. Soil erosion 80% light to none, 19% moderate, 1% severe. Lack of moisture continues to concern farmers across areas. Several producers report pond levels are getting low. Average depth of snow cover 3 inches. Average depth of frost penetration 9 inches. Grain movement rated 12% none, 49% light, 35% moderate, 4% heavy. As a result of mild weather livestock continue to be in good to excellent condition. Availability of hay, roughage supplies for livestock feed 3% short, 75% adequate, 22% surplus; quality of hay, roughage supplies 7% poor, 39% fair, 54% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 30% none, 24% light, 28% moderate, 18% extensive. Hog, pig losses 19% below avg.; 78% avg.;

3% above avg. Cattle, calf losses 27% below avg.; 72% avg.; 1% above avg.

KANSAS: A winter storm January 27-28 blanketed the State with generally 2-4 inches of snow while a few locations received amounts closer to a foot, according to Areas Agricultural Statistics, the Area State University Research, Extension Service. Winter wheat condition declined slightly again 3% excellent, 30% good, 44% fair, 18% poor, 5% very poor. Condition at the beginning of January was rated 7% excellent, 32% good, 37% fair, 18% poor, 6% very poor. The moisture was desperately needed because the mild temperatures thus far this winter helped deplete the topsoil moisture. Spotty stands as a result of the dry conditions last fall had improved very little although some germination during December did occur. Prior to the snow, some areas had not had any measurable precipitation since September. The moisture will temporally alleviate the dry topsoil conditions which created a potential blowing problem for some fields, but little wind damage has occurred to date. The wheat crop lacked snow cover most of the month across the State, but with the mild temperatures, very little freeze damage has occurred thus far this winter. With the warm, dry weather conditions across much of the State, there have been several reports of greenbug activity in the wheat crop. The cooler temperatures are hoped to stall some of the insect activity.

KENTUCKY: January began warm, wet with rainfall helping restore short stock water, ground moisture supplies statewide. Temperatures remained above normal until mid-month with a return of drier conditions. Above normal temperatures benefitted fall seeded small grain growth, limited livestock stress. The mild weather across the Commonwealth came to an end at mid-month, as very cold air, repeated snowfall events dominated the weather picture through the month's end. Farmers were left dealing with frozen stock water ponds, ice as they cared for their livestock. Light snowfall provided winter wheat some protection from the continued colder temperatures. Tobacco markets reopened after the holiday recess with a continuation of large volumes going to the Pool. Sales were lighter with 2 out of 24 markets closing for the season at month's end. Area burley gross sales volume through 1/30 was 361.9 million lbs., avg. price \$190.29. The Burley Cooperatives received 35.7% of the gross sales so far this season.

LOUISIANA: The end of the month brought snow to the northern part of the State. Sugarcane farmers completed sugarcane harvest. Most producers were repairing equipment, preparing ground in preparation for this year's planting season. Cattlemen continued to feed cattle.

MARYLAND: Large amounts of snow received in the latter part of the month helped to provide adequate snow cover for small grains. Hay, feed supplies appear to be adequate for most of the state, except for the western portion of areas, some parts of the Eastern Shore, where most farmers are purchasing hay from Iowa, Nebraska, Canada. Concerns over poultry since recent temperature changes have farmers busy regulating temperatures, ventilation in chicken houses. Cold weather also has reduced the nematode populations.

MICHIGAN: The New Year began with unseasonably warm conditions with highs reaching in the mid-50's, quite unusual for areas in the winter. Most of the snow that fell in the month of December melted away in that first week, but then cooler temperatures engulfed the State as more snow fell starting on the second week of the month. Even though there has been snow off, on since the middle of the month, the total accumulation of snow for the State is short of the average for this time of year. Temperatures have been below freezing for the past two weeks keeping the snow on the ground. The snow has been doing a good job insulating winter wheat, other fall planted grains. Farm activities included: Hauling manure, clearing fence rows, working on farm record books getting ready for tax season. Livestock throughout the State is in good condition with a surplus of feed and hay.

MINNESOTA: January average temperatures were about 3.6° above normal. Snow cover is minimal in many agricultural areas of the state. State wide precipitation is avg. The mild weather, above normal temperatures has been excellent for livestock conditions, with little need for supplemental feed supplies. At mid-month there were still many

concerns about limited snow cover to protect over-wintered crops. Attendance at producer meetings has been excellent.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil moisture 1% very short, 41% short, 45% adequate, 13% surplus. Wheat 2% poor, 18% fair, 78% good, 2% excellent. Hay supply 48% very short, 51% short 1% surplus. Cattle 2% very poor, 16% poor, 36% fair, 39% good, 7% excellent. Feed grain 9% very short, 87% short, 4% adequate. Most parts of the state were warm early in January, with a dramatic decrease in temperature later in the month. There has been some precipitation across most of the state recently, including snow in the northern part of the state, rain in the southern. Concerns about adequate soil moisture for spring crops are easing.

MISSOURI: Mild weather throughout the month of January produced above normal temperatures, below normal precipitation except for the southeast district which averaged over 5 inches. Snow fell late in the month with most areas receiving 2-4 inches with heavier amounts in several central, southern counties. Cold temperatures followed but the snow cover will be helpful to fall wheat seedings. The mild winter to this point has been beneficial to livestock, helped to minimize feeding requirements where hay shortages exist.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 11% very short, 49% short, 39% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 13% very short, 55% short, 32% adequate, 0% surplus. The lack of snow cover in combination with little moisture, high winds took its toll on the winter wheat crop. Statewide, winter wheat 2% very poor, 7% poor, 69% fair, 21% good, 1% excellent. Wind damage to winter wheat 18% none, 48% light, 31% moderate, 3% heavy. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 16% very poor, 53% poor, 26% fair, 4% good, 1% excellent. As a result of the fairly mild conditions during January, livestock is reported to be in very good condition as there have been few reported problems. Calving completed was at 4% by the end of January, which is slightly less than 1999 estimate of 6%. Lambing completed was 2% finished, which is also slightly less than 1999 estimate of 3%. Even though there is a lot of open grazing, producers are giving supplemental feed to meet nutritional needs. At the end of the month, 93% of the cattle, calves, 90% of the sheep and lambs were receiving supplemental feed. Livestock grazing 66% open, 23% difficult, 11% closed.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures in the Panhandle averaged slightly above normals while the remainder of the State averaged one to three degrees below normals for the week. Dry conditions prevailed across area. A lot of field work was done early due to field accessibility, but may cause even dryer soil conditions. Ponds, creeks in the southeast were drying up. Winter Wheat crop 11% very poor, 14% poor, 37% fair, 37% good, 1% excellent. Reports indicated southwestern wheat to be at high risk due to dry conditions. Hay supplies were mostly adequate. However, there were concerns about pasture in the spring, possible shortage of forage during the summer. Currently producers have not been buying for possible shortage. Livestock producers reported excellent calving conditions with the open winter. Ranchers were able to keep cow-calf pairs in the stock fields to save hay. Feedlots were full with gains being excellent. Calving was just underway with 6% of cows calved in January same as 1999. Cattle, calves 7% fair, 65% good, 28% excellent. Farm activities included: Fertilizing, discing, taking cattle off stalks, preparing taxes, attending meetings, gearing up for cropping season.

NEVADA: The cold, dry weather of December persisted into the second full week of January when warmer weather accompanied the first significant storm system of the season into northern area. The initial storm system was followed by several more through the end of the month, alleviating some concerns over soil moisture. Snow pack at the end of the month remained about 20% short of normal in most watersheds, but the January improvement raised optimism of seasonal water supplies. Limited livestock marketing continued. Hay shipments continued moving to areas markets. Onion marketing continued out of cold storage. Winter livestock feeding needs remained minimal due to the continued mostly open weather in the lowlands. Main farm, ranch activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock shipment, fence repairs, crop marketing.

NEW ENGLAND: The new year started with cold temperatures. Significant snow fell across most of the area toward the end of January. Farmers stayed busy tending livestock, preparing for spring planting season, moving apples, potatoes out of storage.

NEW JERSEY: No significant outdoor activities occurred during the month of January. Warm temperatures permitted the harvest of some leeks, turnips in early January. Vegetables such as spinach, leeks, greens that were planted in the Fall are being wintered over. Many vegetable growers attended the 2000 Area Annual Vegetable meeting, Trade Show on January 18, 19, 20 in Atlantic City.

NEW MEXICO: Weather conditions remained extremely dry throughout the State during January. Record breaking temperatures, reaching into the low 80's in the Southeast occurred during mid-month. A storm system did bring heavy snow to higher elevations of the north during the last week of January. Winter wheat pastures are in generally very poor condition as a result of the warm, dry weather.

NEW YORK: Very cold temperatures, high winds prevailed during the week of January 17. Several snow storms occurred in January, each dumping significant accumulations. Farmers were occupied with normal farm maintenance activities: Caring for livestock, packing/grading fruits, vegetables, attending producer meetings.

NORTH CAROLINA: The new year started with typical weather for early January. Most of the State enjoyed mild weather with unseasonably warm temperatures during the middle of the month. However, a high pressure system from the North settled in the last two weeks of January, brought below normal temperatures across the State. Several low pressure systems moved through the State causing precipitation in the form of snow for parts of the areas. The most significant was a system from the Atlantic which collided with the high pressure, blanketed the Piedmont, Coastal regions with record setting snowfall in some areas. Inside activities have been the focus of farmers for the most of January.

NORTH DAKOTA: Average snow depth across the state was 1.4 inches. Snow cover was sufficient to protect only 13% of the alfalfa. Hay, roughage supplies were 0% very short, 2% short, 84% adequate, 14% surplus. Cattle were 0% very poor, 1% poor, 12% fair, 76% good, 11% excellent. 96% of the cattle were receiving supplemental feed. Sheep 0% very poor, 1% poor, 10% fair, 75% good, 14% excellent. 97% of the sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Cattle sales were 1% below normal, 91% normal, 8% above normal.

OHIO: The average temperature for January was 25.5°, 0.5° below normal. Ohio averaged 2.44 inches of precipitation, 0.27 inches above normal. Farming activities were minimal during January. Activities included: Stripping tobacco, installing waterways, caring for livestock, filing taxes, disaster aid applications, planning for the new crop year. Winter wheat is reported in good condition. No weather-related problems were reported for January.

OKLAHOMA: Soil moisture supplies increased because of the snow. Wheat was mostly dormant during January although mild temperatures early in the month permitted sporadic growth. Dry weather during the first three weeks finally gave way to snowfall of up to 18 inches during the final week.

OREGON: Activities: Nursery digging, container movement in high gear. Winter orchard pruning continued statewide. Winter farm, ranch activities continued. Cattle, sheep good. There was a major winter windstorm that hit the area coast on MLK weekend, causing damage along the coast, in the Willamette Valley. Most areas of the state have below normal snowpacks, precipitation levels, except for some areas in the Klamath Basin, Rogue River Valley, Northeast.

PENNSYLVANIA: January was a month of snow for most of area. During the second week of January, a major snow storm dumped snow on the Northern tier of counties. During the 3rd week, another major system came through, most areas of the state received snow. During the

last week, 2 major snow storms dumped large amounts of snow on the south central, southeastern regions of the Commonwealth. Overall, the eastern sections of the State received more snow than the western sections. Major activities: Caring for livestock; buying hay, corn; hunting; shoveling snow; hauling, spreading manure; attending the Farm Show, organizational meetings.

SOUTH CAROLINA: January temperatures averaged several degrees below normal; precipitation was above normal. Heavy rains fell on the 10th with a mix bag of rain, freezing rain, sleet, snow falling on the 18th. Some areas of the Pee Dee, the northern part of the state received up to a couple of inches of snow. The largest snow storm in a decade hit the State on the 24th, left snowfall amounts from a few inches along the coast to over a foot in western parts of the State. This was followed by another storm with sleet, freezing rain on the 29th, 30th. Scattered power outages, fallen trees were common, but no serious farm problems were reported. During January, farmers were busy repairing, maintaining equipment, caring for livestock, attending agricultural expos, seminars, starting to prepare for taxes with year end record keeping.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Stock water supplies 2% very short, 9% short, 78% adequate, 11% surplus. Hay, roughage supplies 2% short, 66% adequate, 32% surplus. Winter rye 8% poor, 45% fair, 37% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 11% poor, 43% fair, 38% good, 6% excellent. Cattle 5% fair, 66% good, 29% excellent. Sheep 1% poor, 4% fair, 69% good, 26% excellent. Cattle death losses 48% below avg.; 52% avg. Calf deaths 43% below avg.; 56% avg.; 1% above avg. Lamb deaths 38% below avg.; 62% avg. Average snow depth is 1.3 inches, 3.2 inches 1999. Snow cover on alfalfa is 73% poor, 25% adequate, 2% excellent. Winter wheat snow cover is 78% poor, 21% adequate 1% excellent. Winter rye snow cover is 54% poor, 43% adequate, 3% excellent. January began with warm conditions, open fields. Below normal snowfall was received during January. Fluctuating temperatures, dry, windy conditions prevailed across the state, increasing the threat of winter injury to crops.

TENNESSEE: The first half of January was unseasonably mild with temperatures averaging above normal. Winter weather soon returned during the second half of the month, with below normal temperatures, small amounts of rain, sleet, snow reported. Precipitation during January averaged below normal in West, Middle Areas, slightly above normal in the Eastern part of the State. The State's wheat crop remained in mostly good to fair condition with no major problems reported. Farmers continue to be concerned about the availability of hay, but cattle are currently rated in fair to good condition.

TEXAS: Generally the state has remained unseasonably warm, dry throughout most of the month. This condition has enhanced land preparation for the spring crops. The latest weather front that crossed the state brought the coldest weather of the season, which further stressed the already suffering small grain crops. Livestock producers continued with heavy supplemental feeding, many producers found it necessary to liquidate their herds as hay stocks were gone, available stock water was also depleted. Vegetable harvest progressed well in South Areas, spring vegetable planting continued. Many fruit, berry producers have expressed concern over the lack of chill hours as many fruit trees have begun to bloom.

UTAH: Major activities around the state have been feeding, caring for livestock, hauling manure. Calving has started in a few counties. This winter continues to be a mild one, livestock is reported to be in good condition.

VIRGINIA: Beef Cattle 9%. Milk Cow Forage 4%. Sheep Forage 13%. Pastures 25% very poor, 23% poor, 30% fair, 21% good, 1% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 10% excellent. Small Grain, Winter Grazing Crops 0% very poor, 7% poor, 36% fair, 48% good, 9% excellent. January started with milder temperatures across much of the Commonwealth. Precipitation was adequate in most localities. Pasture feeds were rated as mostly fair or better as the month started. Mild weather conditions allowed livestock producers to graze herds on available forage. Cattle, sheep exhibited mostly good to excellent body condition. Growth, development in the state's small grain crop was

slightly more advanced than normal in some fields. Temperatures began to drop as the month progressed. Daytime temperatures were highly variable with nighttime lows dipping into the teens. Isolated areas recorded lower temperatures. Wind chills made temperatures seem much colder than what was actually recorded. Livestock producers were forced to provide additional supplemental feed to their herds. Animals remained in good condition. Small grain producers reported their crop still in good condition, despite some concerns of freeze damage. Some producers applied small amounts of nitrogen, pesticides to their crop. Lime was applied to crop acreage that will be seeded in the spring. High winds caused some minor structural damage to farm buildings, removed tarpaulins, plastic coverings from stored hay. As the month drew to a close most of areas experienced above average amounts of snow, ice. Snow amounts ranged from a couple of inches to nearly two feet. Many areas also received freezing rain, sleet. The increased moisture will benefit farmers by replenishing soil moisture levels, groundwater supplies. The snow will also help to insulate small grains from freeze damage. Snow, ice made increased feeding of livestock a necessity due to reduced forage. Some producers experienced difficulty reaching their feed supplies, herds. Many livestock producers were also busy breaking ice, making sure herds had access to drinking water. Power outages were reported, particularly in the areas hardest hit by snow, ice.

WASHINGTON: Winter remained fairly mild throughout the month of January. Despite the lack of moisture last fall, precipitation from November through January was adequate for the winter wheat crop in eastern area. Mild temperatures prevented most of the winter injury to the winter wheat, but increased the cheatgrass infestations. Affected fields were sprayed. Little soil erosion has occurred due to the precipitation received. The mild winter also facilitated early pruning in fruit trees. Livestock were being fed daily, producers were attending workshops, conferences. They were also making decisions on CRP plantings. Some western areas reported standing water in fields but major floods were minimal.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture 8% very short, 36% short, 56% adequate. Colder than normal temperatures during late January required heavier feeding of livestock. Some livestock producers still searching for hay to feed. Some cattle being fed alternative feed sources, due to hay shortage. Wheat 1% poor, 84% fair, 15% good; Wheat emerged 100% , 99% 1999. Cattle 4% poor, 33% fair, 60% good, 3% excellent. Sheep 5% poor, 16% fair, 73% good, 6% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 12% very short, 50% short, 38% adequate. Feed grain supplies were mostly adequate.

WISCONSIN: During the first two weeks of January, temperatures averaged nearly 8° F warmer than the 30-year avg. Temperatures the third week of the month decreased to 5° F below normal. Low temperatures plunged in Northern areas of the state to nearly the -30° F level. Temperatures rebounded the last week of the month to near normal temperatures. Snow levels ranged from 3-19 inches in northern, central areas to 2-7 inches in southern.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 71% short, 21% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 74% short, 20% adequate, 1% surplus. Average depth of snow cover 5.1 inches. Most counties have 4 inches or less. Condition of winter wheat crop 42% fair, 58% good. Winter wheat wind damage 57% none, 43% light. Winter wheat freeze damage 68% none, 29% light, 3% moderate. Cattle 2% fair, 91% good, 7% excellent. Sheep 4% fair, 92% good, 4% excellent. Spring calves 3% born. Farm flock ewes 6% lambled. Farm flock sheep 9% shorn. Hay, roughage supplies 62% adequate, 38% surplus. Temperatures during January were well above normal with light precipitation, snowfall across the State.