

# Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

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**ALABAMA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil 15% very short, 48% short, 36% adequate, 1% surplus. Soybeans 80% harvested, 87% 1998, 70% avg. Wheat 48% planted, 51% 1998, 56% avg. Livestock 12% very poor, 16% poor, 39% fair, 31% good, 2% excellent.

**ALASKA:** DATA NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL 2000.

**ARIZONA:** Cotton harvest increased pace slightly with the continuing dry weather, but still remains 1 week behind 1998, 2 weeks behind the 5-year avg. Alfalfa harvest activity was reported as 49% not being harvested, 10% light, 18% moderate, 23% active. Alfalfa 7% poor, 28% fair, 55% good, 10% excellent. Sheeping off was reported as being light to moderate. Range, Pasture feed was reported as 1% poor, 15% fair, 58% good, 26% excellent. Small grains planting is behind normal. As of November 14, there were no reported plantings of Durum Wheat, Barley, Other Wheat, or Other Small Grains. Last week central Areas producers shipped bok choy, cabbage, cantaloupes, cilantro, dandelion, dill, endive, escarole, leaf lettuce, green onions, head lettuce, honeydew, kale, mixed greens, napa, parsley, spinach, swiss chard. Eastern Areas producers shipped apples, chile peppers, hot house tomatoes, head lettuce. Producers in western Areas shipped bok choy, cantaloupes, honeydews, kale, orange flesh melons, parsley, spinach. Western lettuce shipments included iceberg, romaine. Central Areas citrus producers harvested fairchild tangerines, grapefruit, lemons, western citrus producers harvested grapefruit, lemons last week.

**ARKANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork: 7. Topsoil 16% very short, 43% short, 41% adequate, 0% surplus. Temperatures for the state were well above normal for the entire state. Most areas were below normal precipitation for the month. Livestock were reported in fair condition. Many farmers were feeding supplemental hay early this year because of the summer drought conditions. The main farm activities were: Finishing harvesting cotton (some second pickings), harvesting soybeans, planting wheat. Other activities included: Liming, fertilizing pastures, harvesting hay, bush hogging, land leveling, overseeding small grains, preparing fall pastures, spraying fields for insects, weeds, preparing land for planting of annual forages such as rye, ryegrass, fields were being subsoiled, plowed, shredding cotton stalks, cleaning poultry houses, Brucellosis vaccinations, fall calving, pregnancy checking spring bred cows, selling cull cows, weaning calves. Corn 100% harvested; Cotton 100% harvested; Soybeans 100% shedding, 93% harvested; Sorghum 100% harvested; Wheat 86% planted, 61% emerged, 1% poor, 23% fair, 54% good, 22% excellent; Alfalfa 17% very poor, 30% poor, 41% fair, 12% good, Other Hay 22% very poor, 35% poor, 31% fair, 12% good, Range, pastures feed 19% very poor, 37% poor, 37% fair, 7% good

**CALIFORNIA:** Field activities were slowed somewhat by rains from the previous weekend. Seeding of small grains, winter forages, new alfalfa continued in the San Joaquin, Sacramento, coastal valleys. The additional soil moisture allowed dryland wheat, barley growers to begin planting. The rice harvest was complete, stubble was burned, incorporated. Straw decomposition methods were applied in rice fields where burning was not allowed. Cotton harvest was delayed a few days by the rain, but resumed in most fields by midweek. Plowdown of harvested cotton fields for pink bollworm control was ongoing. Blackeye

bean harvest neared the end. Harvests of corn for grain, silage were nearly completed. Sugarbeet harvest progressed in the San Joaquin Valley, new crop sugarbeets were being planted. Imperial Valley sugarbeets were treated for armyworms. Alfalfa, oat fields were sprayed for weeds. Alfalfa, sudangrass were cut for hay or greenchopped. Pruning, tree removal, planting of cover crops, other such work was active in the harvested stone fruit orchards. Growers were fumigating ground in preparation for new plantings of peach, prune, walnut, almond trees. The kiwifruit harvest was in full swing; some fruit was exhibiting problems related to late frost during the early growing stage. Pomegranate, persimmon, quince harvests were active in the San Joaquin Valley. Pecan harvest was also active. Grapes destined for wineries were still being harvested, mainly in the coastal areas. The olive harvest remained active. Grapefruit and lemons were picked in southern areas. In the San Joaquin Valley, picking of early variety new crop navel oranges, tangerines gained momentum. Fresh market tomato harvest was complete, with the exception of a few fields. A few strawberry growers were still picking, selling fruit. Broccoli, cauliflower were being harvested. Some broccoli sets were moved from hothouses to the fields. Brussels sprouts, cabbage were developing normally, with the recent cool temperatures. The end of season was rapidly approaching for Asian vegetables. Vegetable growers have started preparing hothouses for the winter season. Cucumber, eggplant picking continued, but packout volume was tapering off. Red pepper harvest was winding down. Taro root harvest will begin soon. The fall lettuce harvest peaked in volume. Growers continued to prepare fields for planting lettuce, garlic, onions. Some fields of lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower in southern areas were treated for loopers, aphids. Some additional vegetable crops harvested included sweet potatoes, cilantro, pumpkins, mushrooms, parsley, snap peas, sugar cane, mint, okra, radishes, squash, turnips, yam leaves. Water supplies remained plentiful, yet ranchers were anticipating the precipitation that will spur grass growth. Lower elevation pastures were declining under normal grazing. Supplemental feeding of cattle with hay, nutrient supplements continued. Cows were calving. Dairy men were stockpiling hay. The weather has been ideal for milk production. Sheep were grazing alfalfa fields. Beekeepers were preparing hives for the winter.

**COLORADO:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil 7% very short, 38% short, 54% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 31% short, 63% adequate, 0% surplus. Unseasonable warm, mild weather conditions last week allowed the harvest of late season crops to advance rapidly towards completion. Sugar beets 95% harvested, 86% 1998, 92% avg. Pasture, range feed 3% very poor, 8% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, 7% excellent.

**DELAWARE:** Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Topsoil 3% short, 94% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% short, 94% adequate, 1% surplus. Soybeans 69% harvested, 74% 1998, 60% avg. Sorghum 83% harvested, 74% 1998, 69% avg. Alfalfa hay 96% 4<sup>th</sup> cutting, 100% 1998, 98% avg.; 52% 5<sup>th</sup> cutting, 76% 1998, 65% avg. Hay supplies 23% short, 77% adequate. Pasture 3% poor, 9% fair, 80% good, 8% excellent. Barley 3% fair, 94% good, 3% excellent; 97% seeded, 100% 1998, 98% avg. Wheat 4% fair, 94% good, 2% excellent; 80% seeded, 80% 1998, 79% avg. Activities: Slightly drier weather allowed for wheat planting, soybean harvesting to make good progress.

**FLORIDA:** Warmer temperatures returned, averaging normal to 4° above. Daily highs averaged 70s, 80s at major stations. Lows mostly 50s Panhandle, northern Peninsula areas; 60s central Peninsula; 70s southern Peninsula. Tallahassee lows averaged 48°. Most localities received no rain. Ft. Pierce recorded about 0.33 in.; Pierson, Daytona Beach about 0.25 in.; Orlando area about 0.10 to 0.20 in. Moisture is mostly short to adequate with some areas very short or surplus. Winter wheat for grain planting starting. Sugarcane grinding active. Cotton harvest winding down. Peanut harvest is finished. Strong winds tossed some Dade County, East Coast vegetables; some plants stressed. Harvesting of endive, escarole, lettuce, radishes getting underway, Everglades. Fall tomato crop picking, Quincy, near end. Vegetables marketed: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, pickles, snap beans, squash, sweet corn, okra, eggplant, watermelons. Cool temperatures all citrus areas, very little rain, some irrigation. New growth slowed, good natural on-tree fruit coloring. Picking crews moving Navels, Ambersweet, Hamlin oranges, white, colored grapefruit, tangelos, a few K-Early Citrus Fruit. Caretakers cutting cover crops, spraying, fertilizing, pushing, burning dead trees, some resets being planted. Pasture feed 5% poor, 55% fair, 40% good. Cattle 40% fair, 60% good. Small grain winter pastures throughout State, especially Panhandle, held back by dry weather. Hay feeding active. North, Central; small grain forage, permanent pasture grass grew slower due to seasonally cooler weather, shorter days. Some locations received early frost. Central, south; hay production this season reduced due to poor weather.

**GEORGIA:** Days suitable for field work 6.7. Soil moisture 16% very short, 49% short, 34% adequate, 1% surplus. Rye 79% planted, 82% 1998, 84% avg. Sorghum 88% harvested for grain, 92% 1998, 88% avg. Soybeans 24% very poor, 35% poor, 28% fair, 12% good, 1% excellent. Other small grains 67% planted, 70% 1998, 67% avg. Onions 6% transplanted, 19% 1998, 17% avg. Pecans 6% very poor, 15% poor, 29% fair, 43% good, 7% excellent; 50% harvested, 53% 1998, 49% avg. Dry weather returned to the State last week. The dry weather helped crop harvesting, but hurt soil moisture. Soybean harvest remained behind 1998 pace. Condition declined from the previous week. Sorghum harvest progressed at the five year average pace. The cotton picking continued at 1998 pace. Peanut combining wrapped up. Winter wheat planting was active last week. Planting progress was slightly behind the five year average pace. Wheat was emerging at 1998 pace. The wheat condition changed slightly from the previous week. Rain is needed for small grains. Rye planting was behind both 1998. small grain planting was at the five year average pace. The dry conditions slowed some pasture planting. Pasture feed declined from the previous week. Farmers purchased hay to feed cattle. The pecan harvest was active last week, was slightly ahead of the five year average pace. The pecan condition changed slightly from the previous week. Other activities included: Mowing cotton, tobacco stalks, harvesting fall vegetables.

**HAWAII:** Weather conditions remained fair for agriculture. Skies were generally partly cloudy. Rainfall was light with moderate amounts at the start and middle portion of the week. Crops made mostly fair to good progress. Variable temperatures caused uneven maturing in some crops. Banana, papaya harvesting active. Cloudy skies and cooler temperatures slowed development of both crops. Head cabbage harvesting steady. Overall crop condition fair to good. Ginger root crop hampered by cloudy skies, showers.

**IDAHO:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil 15% very short, 52% short, 33% adequate. Weather across Southern Areas continues dry with above normal temperatures. Winter wheat emergence has lagged behind 1998, the five year average since late September. Corn harvested 56% for grain, 63% 1998, 68% avg. Sugarbeets 100% harvested, 98% 1998, 98% avg. Winter wheat 99% planted, 99% 1998, 99% avg.; 83% emerged, 91% 1998, 87% avg. Activities: Fall ground preparation, wrapping up fall harvest, marketing yearling cattle.

**ILLINOIS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil 38% very short, 54% short, 80% adequate. The dry weather has caused poor wheat stands, fire concerns, in addition to producers having to haul water to livestock. Other activities for last week included: Storing equipment, finishing fall tillage, fertilizer application.

**INDIANA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil 43% very short, 44% short, 13% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil 55% very short, 36% short, 9% adequate, 0% surplus. Conditions are very dry again in some counties. Winter wheat seeding is virtually complete. Winter wheat 3% very poor, 7% poor, 40% fair, 43% good, 7% excellent. Wheat 94% emerged, 92% 1998, 93% avg. Corn harvest is virtually complete, except for scattered fields in some counties. Soybean harvest complete, except for scattered fields around the state. Tobacco stripping is going slow. Activities: Applying fertilizer, nitrogen, spreading lime, seeding winter wheat, tillage of soils, chopping stalks, equipment cleaning, repair, hauling grain, feeding hay, caring for livestock.

**IOWA:** Days suitable for field work 7.0. Topsoil very short 57%, short 39%, adequate 4%. Subsoil moisture very short 48%, short 44%, adequate 8%. With harvest virtually complete, producers working on fall tillage, fertilizer application, machinery repair. Dry, dusty conditions continue after another week without measurable rainfall. Winter 95% wheat planted, 95% 1998, 97% avg. Fall 58% tillage, 43% 1998, 39% avg.; fall 48% fertilizer applied, 37% 1998, 34% avg. Grain movement 28% none, 44% light, 24% moderate, 4% heavy. Off-farm grain storage availability 32% short, 67% adequate, 1% surplus; on-farm storage 31% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Use of stubble fields for grazing 31% none, 26% limited, 35% moderate, 8% extensive. Hay, roughage availability 5% short, 84% adequate, 11% surplus quality of hay, roughage supplies 7% poor, 46% fair, 47% good.

**KANSAS:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil 25% very short, 57% short, and 18% adequate. Subsoil moisture 14% very short, 49% short, 37% adequate. Warm, dry weather across the State last week resulted in another drop in wheat condition. Insect pressure from grubs, cutworms, greenbugs, aphids has been reported in some areas, is also contributing to the decline in wheat condition. Some farmers may have to replant a portion of their wheat due to insect loss. Wheat 6% pastured, 3% 1998, 6% avg. With poor stands caused by the dry weather, the wheat crop is very marginal for grazing in some areas of the State. Sunflowers 98% harvested, 95% 1998. Range, pasture feed 2% very poor, 19% poor, 49% fair, 29% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies dropped from 78% adequate to surplus last week to 69% adequate this week. The continued lack of rainfall is causing water levels in stock ponds to become very low in some areas of the State. Major livestock activities last week included: Moving cattle to row crop stubble or wheat pasture, weaning, marketing spring calves, working fall calves. Some sickness has been reported in weaned spring calves due to extremely dusty conditions.

**KENTUCKY:** Day suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 22% very short, 53% short, 25% adequate. For the week, temperatures averaged 60°, 12° above normal, 6° warmer than previous week. Rainfall Statewide was 0.0 inches, 0.92 below normal for the week. Corn harvest is complete. Soybean harvest is nearing completion.

**LOUISIANA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Soil moisture 28% very short, 41% short, 31% adequate, 0% surplus. Pecans 1% very poor, 16% poor, 45% fair, 35% good, 3% excellent; 50% harvested, 54% 1998, 42% avg. Sugarcane 3% poor, 16 fair, 46% good, 35% excellent; 42% harvested, 38% 1998, 41% avg. Sweet potatoes 99% harvested, 96% 1998, 92% avg. Sweet potato harvest edged closer to completion. Wheat 89% planted, 82% 1998, 68% avg.; 59% emerged, 64% 1998, 44% avg. Wheat planting was slow, due to the lack of soil moisture. Livestock 3% very poor, 11% poor, 33% fair, 46% good, 7% excellent. Vegetables 5% very poor, 19% poor, 36% fair, 37% good, 3% excellent. Pastures 15% very poor, 23% poor, 39% fair, 22% good, 1% excellent.

**MARYLAND:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil 6% short, 89% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 7% short, 76% adequate, 7% surplus. Corn 95% harvested for grain, 93% 1998, 91% avg. Soybeans 73% harvested, 84% 1998, 74% avg. Sorghum 89% harvested, 94% 1998, 77% avg. Tobacco 21% stripped, 27% 1998, 21% avg. Clover, other hays 93% 4<sup>th</sup> cutting, 96% 1998, 92% avg. Alfalfa 73% 5<sup>th</sup> cutting, 79% 1998, 73% avg. Wheat 1% poor, 11% fair, 78% good, 10% excellent; 84% seeded, 93% 1998, 87% avg. Barley 15% fair, 80% good, 5% excellent; 96% seeded, 100% 1998, 99% avg. Rye 10% fair, 84% good, 6% excellent; 90% seeded, 93% 1998, 90% avg. Pasture

feed 1% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 64% good, 10% excellent. Hay 10% very short, 31% short, 58% adequate, 1% surplus. Activities: Corn harvesting nearing completion, wheat seeding making good progress.

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**MICHIGAN:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil 9% very short, 39% short, 52% adequate, 0% surplus; subsoil 28% very short, 40% short, 32% adequate, 0% surplus. Near record highs beginning week, but temperatures cooled going into weekend. Scattered rains welcomed in middle of week, but not enough fell to make a big impact on soils or crops. Great harvest weather continued as harvest neared completion. Corn harvest winding down as scattered fields still left to be harvested. Fourth cutting of hay completed. Sugarbeet harvest completed with good yields reported. Winter wheat germination, stand establishment would improve with more rains.

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**MINNESOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 18% very short, 34% short, 43% adequate, 5% surplus. Average temperatures for the week were over 13° above normal, only spotty rainfall was received. Substantial rains before the ground freezes would be welcome in most areas. Nearly all field work is completed. Crop producers have been busy with grain, oilseed hauling, other fall chores, with LDP paperwork. Livestock in outdoor facilities are generally benefitting from the mild, dry weather, but blowing dust has produced some respiratory problems.

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**MISSISSIPPI:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Soil moisture, 18% very short, 40% short, 38% adequate, 4% surplus. Soybeans 98% harvested, 99% 1998, 92% avg. Wheat 91% planted, 94% 1998, 87% avg.; 69% emerged, 68% 1998, 72% avg.; 2% very poor, 5% poor, 34% fair, 51% good, 8% excellent. Hay 51% short, 48% adequate, 1% surplus. Cattle 1% very poor, 12% poor, 34% fair, 47% good, 6% excellent. All row crop harvests are virtually complete. Many farmers are making preparations for next year.

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**MISSOURI:** Topsoil moisture remains very short to short. Dry weather continues throughout the State. Row crops are all harvested. Fall wheat seedings are in need of rain before freeze-up. Pasture are mostly in very poor to poor condition and stock ponds in many areas are short of water.

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**MONTANA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.40. Topsoil 44% very short, 33% short, 23% adequate. Subsoil moisture 28% very short, 54% short, 18% adequate. Cattle, calves moved from summer 88% ranges, 93% 1998, 90% avg. Sheep, lambs moved from summer 92% ranges, 94% 1998, 93% avg. Lack of moisture is damaging the winter wheat crop. There are some reports of producers having to replant to spring wheat next spring if moisture isn't received soon. Other farming activities: Occurring are fencing, shipping cattle to market, getting equipment ready for winter.

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**NEBRASKA:** Days suitable for field activities 7.0. Topsoil 54% very short, 36% short, 10% adequate. Subsoil moisture 38% very short, 37% short, 25% adequate. Temperatures across areas averaged 12 to 17° above normals for the week. There were no measurable precipitation reported. Corn 98% harvest, 89% 1998, 91% avg. Sorghum 99% harvest, 93% 1998, 94% avg. Wheat 11% very poor, 15% poor, 33% fair, 29% good, 12% excellent. Pasture, range feed 16% very poor, 26% poor, 41% fair, 16% good, 1% excellent. Dust in lots was a big problem as well as concerns of water supplies for those that were not on rural water lines. Livestock enjoyed the mild fall, good grazing weather. Main activities included: Cattle processing, caring for livestock, fencing, cleaning harvest equipment, moving hay to farmsteads, ordering seeds for next crop year, reviewing yield data from fall harvest, loans, LDP processing.

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**NEVADA:** DATA NOT AVAILABLE

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**NEW ENGLAND:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 5% short, 70% adequate, 25% surplus. Subsoil 8% short, 67% adequate, 25% surplus. Pasture feed 19% very poor, 13% poor, 37% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent. Rhode Island potatoes 99% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% avg.; Field corn 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% avg.; Second cut hay 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% avg.; Third cut hay 100% harvested, 95% 1998, 99% avg.; Apples 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% avg.;

size average to below average. Cranberries 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 100% avg. Major farm activities included: Chopping hay, corn; harvesting corn for grain; digging potatoes; picking apples; harvesting cranberries; spreading manure, lime, preparing equipment for winter storage.

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**NEW JERSEY:** Days suitable for field work averaged 7. Temperatures averaged 44° North, 48° Central, 51° South. Extremes were 76° at Pomona on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 20° at Charlotteburg on the 12<sup>th</sup>. No measurable rainfall was received during the week. Adequate topsoil moisture was reported in most areas. Pastures are between fair, poor condition. Farmers are busy cleaning up their fields after finishing harvesting their crops. Planting of cover crops (wheat, rye) is underway in many areas of the state. Harvest of corn, soybeans is winding down in the southern areas but still very active in the rest of the state. The remaining soybean fields are between fair, poor condition. Harvest of pumpkins, fall cabbage, lettuce, spinach, other minor fall vegetables is decreasing. Harvest of apples is also decreasing. Harvest of cranberries is near completion.

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**NEW MEXICO:** Days suitable for field work 6.9. Topsoil moisture declined further across the state from the warm, dry weather conditions. All areas experienced an unseasonably warm, dry week with temperatures at or near record-breaking levels. Afternoon temperatures topped 70° even at high-elevation stations such as Chama, Red River. Main farm activities were: Harvesting sorghum, red chile, cotton. Corn for grain harvest has been completed for the year. Cotton, sorghum harvest did increase during the week, but a hard freeze is still needed. Peanut harvest continued with excellent yields reported. Sorghum was in mostly good condition, while wheat conditions declined due to the dry conditions. Ranchers were busy with marketing calves, culling cows, maintenance activities. Pasture, Range feed 4% very poor, 11% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, 3% excellent. Cattle, sheep conditions continued in fair to good condition. Some supplemental feeding was reported.

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**NEW YORK:** Days suitable: 5.5. Soil moisture 95% adequate, 5% surplus. Pasture feed fair to good. Corn for grain, soybean harvest progressed under ideal conditions. Producers preparing machinery for winter storage, doing routine maintenance. Orchard clean-up continued. Apples, onions, potatoes moving from storage, graded, packed. Mild weather easy on livestock. Growers attending meetings, taking time off for hunting.

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**NORTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6. compared to 4.6 last week. Seasonably warmer weather combined with relatively little rainfall made for a productive week for areas farmers. Major gains were made in harvesting cotton, peanuts, although quality of both are a concern. After recent rains in the west, consecutive warm, dry weeks in the east, soil moisture levels have returned to near normal. Currently soil moisture across the State is rated 12% short, 70% adequate, 18% surplus. The harvest of corn is nearly finished. Limited progress was made in soybean harvest, wheat planting. Sweetpotato, sorghum harvest is drawing to a close with both at or near their respective five-year avg. Other activities during the week included: Shearing, marketing Christmas trees, marketing tobacco, harvesting vegetable crops, field equipment service, repairs.

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**NORTH DAKOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Topsoil 10% very short, 33% short, 55% adequate, 2% surplus. Dry conditions allowed producers to move toward the completion of the corn, sunflower harvest.

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**OHIO:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil 17% very short, 44% short, 38% adequate, 1% surplus. Soybeans 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 97% avg. Corn 96% harvested for grain, 91% 1998, 78% avg. Winter wheat 99% emerged, 100% 1998, 93% avg. Tobacco 32% stripped, 34% 1998. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 60% good, 15% excellent. Activities for the week include: Fall tillage, harvesting; land leveling; tiling; applying lime, fertilizer, manure; cleaning equipment; working on LDP loans; winterizing buildings; fencing corn fields for animal grazing; digging nursery stock; cutting firewood; inspecting livestock waste tanks; sowing cover crops hauling grain; building water sources; hauling water, hay to livestock; weaning, selling calves.

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**OKLAHOMA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Topsoil 36% very short, 37% short, 27% adequate. Subsoil moisture 21% very short, 54% short, 25% adequate. Warm weather encouraged growth of newly emerged wheat. Oats 14% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 40% good, 1% excellent; 82% planted, 87% 1998, 81% avg.; 43% up-to-stand, 71% 1998, 61% avg. Soybeans 88% harvested, 77% 1998, 77% avg. Peanuts 90% combined, 73% 1998, 81% avg. Alfalfa Hay 2% very poor, 10% poor, 29% fair, 57% good, 2% excellent; 90% 4<sup>th</sup> cutting, 89% 1998, 98% avg.; 34% 5<sup>th</sup> cutting, 33% 1998, 71% avg.; Livestock 5% poor, 25% fair, 67% good, 3% excellent; Pasture, range 7% very poor, 17% poor, 46% fair, 29% good, 1% excellent.

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**OREGON:** Activities: Winter wheat planting about finished. Still some fertilizing of grass seed fields as weather permits. Winter barley planting finished. Christmas tree harvest continued. Hazelnut harvest wrapping up. Livestock continued to be fed. Movement off rangeland nearly completed. Beginning to cleanup the barns, mend fences, other repairs as needed for next season.

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**PENNSYLVANIA:** Days suitable for field work 5.7. Soil moisture 2% very short, 15% short, 74% adequate, 9% surplus. Corn 78% harvested, 83% 1998, 74% avg. Soybeans 79% harvested, 83% 1998, 77% avg. Fall 89% plowing, 85% 1998, 88% avg. Wheat 97% planted, 96% 1998, 96% avg. Wheat 86% emerged, 85% 1998. Barley 99% emerged, 95% 1998. Apple 92% harvest, 99% 1998, 98% avg. Activities include: Harvesting corn, soybeans, apples, cool weather vegetables; planting wheat, cover crops; machinery maintenance; hauling, pumping, spreading manure; caring for livestock; cutting hay; plowing for the fall; spraying for weeds in alfalfa fields.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Soil moisture 5% very short, 26% short, 67% adequate, 2% surplus. Apples 100% harvested, 100% 1998, 99% avg. Livestock 4% poor, 27% fair, 56% good, 13% excellent. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 13% poor, 41% fair, 39% good, 5% excellent. Sorghum 87% harvested, 97% 1998, 89% avg. Sweet Potatoes 96% harvested, 100% 1998, 80% avg. Winter Grazings 89% planted, 88% 1998, 86% avg.; 81% emerged, 69% 1998, 73% avg.; 3% poor, 36% fair, 54% good, 7% excellent. Winter Wheat 38% planted, 39% 1998, 38% avg.; 24% emerged, 28% 1998, 24% avg.; 42% fair, 52% good, 6% excellent. Barley 79% planted, 98% 1998, 81% avg.; 60% emerged, 70% 1998, 68% avg.; 22% fair, 36% good, 42% excellent. Oats 80% planted, 77% 1998, 78% avg.; 56% emerged, 60% 1998, 63% avg.; 44% fair, 41% good, 15% excellent. Rye 80% planted, 76% 1998, 73% avg.; 69% emerged, 59% 1998, 59% avg.; 45% fair, 42% good, 13% excellent. Pecans 38% harvested, 52% 1998, 47% avg.; 58% fair, 42% good.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Days suitable for fieldwork, 6.7. Topsoil 25% very short, 46% short, 25% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 41% short, 41% adequate, 8% surplus. Sunflower 96% harvested, 92% 1998, 95% avg. Sorghum 95% harvested, 87% 1998, 91% avg. Sorghum 98% harvested for silage, 100% 1998, 100% avg. Winter rye 2% poor, 25% fair, 64% good, 9% excellent; 99% emerged, 100% 1998, 100% avg. Range, pasture 3% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair, 45% good, 9% excellent. Stock water supplies 4% very short, 15% short, 73% adequate, 8% surplus. Cattle 1% poor, 10% fair, 67% good, 22% excellent. Sheep 11% fair, 58% good, 31% excellent. Extremely dry conditions are putting stress on livestock health, fall seeded crops. These conditions are generating concern for winter wheat survival, grass/field fires throughout the state.

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**TENNESSEE:** Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil 24% very short, 35% short, 40% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 30% very short, 34% short, 36% adequate. Burley 62% stripped, 66% 1998, 62% avg. Winter wheat 87% seeded, 89% 1998, 81% avg.; 65% emerged; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 63% good, 10% excellent. Record high temperatures, coupled with mostly dry conditions allowed the State's soybean growers to make good progress with harvest. Harvest is currently running more than two weeks ahead of normal. In addition to soybean harvest, many producers were busy trying to wrap-up winter wheat seeding. The tobacco stripping process continues to be delayed

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by dry weather. Cattle producers continued feeding hay with many buying additional supplies for the winter.

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**TEXAS:** Harvest continued under generally dry, unseasonably warm, open conditions. South Areas received a few scattered showers. Land preparation continued slowly in most areas. Livestock forage conditions remained unfavorable, supplemental feeding continued to expand. General livestock condition continued to decline. Herd reduction continued to increase in many areas while herd sell out possibilities increased as hay supplies decreased. An application for drought declaration was submitted to the Governor by the Houston County commissioners court. Citrus harvest continued to gain momentum in the Rio Grande Valley while carrot, turnip harvest continued on the Plains.

**Crops:** Small Grains: Seeding of wheat, oats remained slow in most areas. Seeding death, poor stands continued as a result of inadequate moisture while germination has not occurred in many other locations. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 51% of normal compared with 70% 1998. Corn: Harvest was complete on the High Plains, land preparation for the 2000 crop began. Cotton: Harvest continued under generally dry, open conditions. On the High Plains spraying to aid in harvest was resumed in a few locations as some regrowth was occurring. Cotton stalk destruction remained active in many locations. Bolls 99% Opening Published, 99% 1998, 98% Avg. Peanuts: Harvest continued to be active on the Plains but was nearing completion in Central, South Areas. Rice: Harvest of the second crop was completed. Sorghum: Harvest continued active on the High Plains. Elevator capacity problems remained in a few locations. Growers that delayed on sorghum harvest while cotton was completed are beginning to harvest sorghum again. However, as a result of the delay, sprouting in the head became a problem in a few locations. Mature, 100% Published, 100% 1998, 100% Avg. Soybeans: Harvest of remaining fields on the High Plains neared completion. Yields remained favorable. Published 96%, 95% 1998, 94% Avg.

**Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans:** Rio Grande Valley, harvest remained active for bell peppers, greens, fall melons. Onions were progressing well while spinach planting was mostly completed, cabbage harvest began in a few locations. Citrus continued to ripen, harvest of early fruit continued. Quality was good, yields were average. Preparation for later planting of vegetables continued. Harvesting of sugar cane continued. San Antonio-Winter Garden, cabbage, onion planting was mostly completed, preparation for winter vegetables continued. East Areas, planting of fall crops, gardens remained slow. Planting of many fall garden vegetables has been discontinued as the conditions remain dry. Sweet potato harvest was completed. Pine tree harvest continued. A Pine saw fly outbreak was discovered. High Plains, bean harvest remained mostly completed. Generally good yields were reported. Carrot, turnip harvest continued to escalate. The pecan crop continued to mature and harvest activities continued to increase. Quality remained variable.

**Range and Livestock:** General livestock conditions remained poor in most areas. Herd reduction continued to increase and supplemental feeding increased in many areas as forage conditions continued to decline. Livestock sickness, mainly pneumonia, continued to increase as a result of the dry, dusty conditions. Some producers are close to heard liquidation. The market remained steady to slightly weakened. Statewide, fall grazing from wheat, oats was minimal. Hay supplies remained minimal and were decreasing in many areas as supplemental feeding began early. Native deer herds remained in poor condition as hunting season has started.

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**UTAH:** Days suitable for field work 7. Topsoil 30% very short, 47% short, 23% adequate. Corn 96% harvested for grain, 75% 1998, 86% avg. Weather throughout the state continues to be unseasonably warm and dry.

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**VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil 10% very short, 20% short, 65% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 15% very short, 21% short, 59% adequate, 5% surplus. Beef Cattle Forage Obtained from Pastures 68%. Milk Cow Forage Obtained from Pastures 11%. Sheep Forage Obtained from Pastures 69%. Pastures 7% very poor, 14% poor, 36% fair, 36% good, 7% excellent. Livestock 0% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 61% good, 8% excellent. Small Grain, Winter Grazing Crops 0% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 56% good, 11% excellent. Corn for Grain 93% harvested, 97% 1998, 91% avg. Soybeans 49% harvested, 69% 1998, 50% avg.; 5% very poor, 12% poor, 31% fair, 41% good, 11% excellent. Winter Wheat 63% seeded, 74% 1998, 67% avg. Barley 97% seeded,

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92% 1998, 94% avg. Peanuts 100% dug, 100% 1998, 100% avg.; 97% combined, 99% 1998, 99% avg. Cotton 56% harvested, 94% 1998, 74% avg. Apples, Winter 95% harvested, 97% 1998, 98% avg. Conditions were warm, dry, windy across much of the Commonwealth during the past week. Topsoil moisture levels diminished in many localities as a result of limited showers. Pasture feed remained much the same as the previous week. Some livestock producers reported providing supplemental hay to their herds. However, the majority of beef cattle, sheep, other livestock obtained the majority of forage requirements from grazing pasture acreage. Ninety-three percent of corn for grain has been harvested. The condition of Areas soybean acreage remained virtually unchanged this past week. Soybean producers made good progress this past week harvesting their crop. Forty-nine percent of the acreage has been harvested. Good yields have been reported. Wheat producers still lag behind the five-year average schedule with respect to seeding next year's crop. Much progress was made this week, however, due to favorable field conditions. Nearly all of areas barley acreage has been seeded. Aphid scouting began with a few cases already reported. Small grain producers have reported good emergence of previously seeded acreage. Peanut harvest is nearly complete. The entire crop has been dug, 97% has been combined. While peanut producers got off to a late start harvesting their crop, they were able to finish at the same time as the five-year average. Despite the excessive moisture prevalent during September, the first part of October peanut producers, graders have reported that this year's crop has yielded very well. Minimal frost damage was reported. It is still not determined how many acres will be abandoned as a result of the Hurricanes. Cotton producers were able to make great progress harvesting their crop during the past week. However, producers remain well behind a normal harvest schedule. Fifty-six percent of areas cotton acreage has been picked, compared to the five-year average of 74%. Harvest of winter apples is 95%, slightly behind the previous year, the five-year average. Other activities during the past week included: Grading of tobacco, tending to livestock.

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**WASHINGTON:** Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil was 5% very short, 25% short, 65% adequate, 5% surplus; subsoil moisture 12% very short, 46% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat 100% planted, 100% 1998, 98% avg.; 92% emerged, 99% 1998, 92% avg. Winter wheat planting was completed. Emerging winter wheat benefitted from mild temperatures, precipitation that fell across eastern areas last week. Hay, other roughage supplies were 60% adequate, 40% surplus. Range, pasture 15% very poor, 41% poor, 39% fair, 5% good. Soils were saturated due to the heavy rain that fell in western areas. Christmas tree harvest continued as u-cut farms were putting out signs. Nursery plants were being moved into plastic hoop houses for winter protection. CRP land was being planted, fall weaning of calves was almost complete. Carrots, sugar beets, corn for grain were all being harvested.

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**WEST VIRGINIA:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 18% very short, 55% short, 27% adequate. Hay 3<sup>rd</sup> cut 90%. Inadequate moisture supplies, subsequent hauling of water for livestock continued for most of the State. Less than one quarter inch of precipitation was recorded for all reporting weather stations. Corn 88% harvested, 90% 1998, 81% 5-yr avg. Soybeans 95% harvested, 95% 1998, 76% 5-yr avg. Wheat 98% planted, 92% 1998, 90% 5-yr avg.; 42% emerged, 80% 1998. Cattle 5% poor, 45% fair, 50% good. Sheep 2% poor, 78% fair, 20% good.

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**WISCONSIN:** Days suitable for fieldwork: 6.7. Soil Moisture 19% very short, 64% short, 17% adequate. The area corn crop has been nearly all harvested, is expected to average a record 148 bushels per acre, based on field observations, grower reports taken around November 1. Areas soybean average yield is expected to tie 1998 record at 47 bushels per acre. Corn storage shortages was reported as the primary reason for corn still being in the field. Temperatures for the week were more than 10° above the 30-year avg. Aided by the dry conditions, corn has been harvested at nearly ideal storage moisture. Scattered showers pushed through midweek in central, southern areas, but most locations received less than 0.5 inch of rain. The warm weather kept winter wheat from going dormant, it continued to grow. The dry conditions have prompted some areas to ban outside burning. Activities worked on last week: Maintenance of equipment, trimming trees back from fields, fall tillage in low areas usually too wet to easily get into. Fall tillage completed 71% 1999, 67% 1998, 58% avg. Deer season arrives next week, farmers are trying to complete as much of the fall chores as possible to take a much-needed break.

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**WYOMING:** Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil 8% very short, 63% short, 29% adequate. Corn 95% harvested, 44% 1998, 72% avg. Temperatures were well above normal with no precipitation reported across the State.