



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: The month of December brought an abundance of moisture and cool temperatures throughout the State. Many livestock producers were feeding hay and expressed concern about the unexpected hay shortage this winter. Although most row crops have been harvested, there were still a few acres of cotton remaining in the fields. The US Drought Monitor released on December 26, 2013 indicated the state of Alabama was 89.25 percent free from drought, compared to 40.07 percent at the start of the calendar year and 29.47 percent a year ago. The average mean temperature for the month ranged from 44.6 F in Haleyville to 53.3 F in Mobile; total precipitation ranged from 4.76 inches in Muscle Shoals to 9.22 inches in Anniston.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State started out mostly above normal for the first week and last two weeks of December. The second and third weeks were below normal for the month. The temperature extremes for December were a high of 83 degrees in Tucson and a low of -23 degrees at Grand Canyon. Precipitation was recorded until the last week of the month. Cotton harvesting was just over 95 percent complete by the end of the month. Alfalfa harvesting occurred on over three-quarters of the alfalfa acreage across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures started out warmer than usual the first part of December, but the second week in the month saw record low temperatures. Most counties experienced rainy, warm days in the first week of December, which quickly ended when a cold front moved into the state bringing freezing rain, snow, sleet, and ice to the majority of the state. For many producers, field preparation came to a halt as the ground froze over. The last two weeks of the month, had temperatures and precipitation amounts that rose slightly above the norm for this time of year. The extra rainfall and snow in the beginning and middle of the month, allowed for subsoil moisture to rise to adequate conditions for most of the state. Most farmers ended the month feeding hay to cattle, and preparing the best they could for the 2014 crop season.

CALIFORNIA: Cotton fields were plowed down and small grains crops were planted and continued to emerge. Wheat crop conditions declined during the course of the month due to dry winds and cold weather that stunted crop development. Alfalfa production was complete. Pruning continued in vineyards and stone fruit orchards. Disking, shredding brush and trellis work was also ongoing. Harvest finished for both wine grapes and table grapes across the State. Harvest neared completion for apples, grapefruit, kiwifruit, lemons, pears, persimmons, pomegranates, and pomelos. Citrus harvest was slowed due to freezing temperatures. Inspectors are still evaluating damage across the State. Pruning and other activities were wrapping up in almond, pistachio and walnut orchards. Nut trees were in dormancy for winter across the State. Harvest was ongoing throughout the State for bok choy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, daikon, green beans, lettuce, parsley, and peppers. Beds were prepared for onions and tomatoes. Range and pasture conditions improved slightly due to recent rains but remained mostly poor. Cattle were moved off irrigated pasture to reduce soil compaction and corrals were cleaned in preparation for winter. Calving season and lambing season were underway across the State. Beekeepers prepared for dormancy.

COLORADO: Eastern areas of the State received below normal precipitation during December. Higher elevations received significant snowfall during the month. Statewide, mountain snowpack is 110 percent of average as of December 19 with northern mountains closer to normal than southern. Temperatures averaged below normal the first half of the month and above normal the second half for most of the state. Winter wheat stands remain in mostly good to fair condition without snow cover. Soil moisture ratings continue as mostly adequate to short in most areas.

FLORIDA: Limited rain received for month. Temperatures warm for central, southern part of State. Cotton harvest completed. Soybean harvest almost complete by end of month. Planting oats, wheat, rye, winter grazing on-going.

Sugarcane harvesting Hendry, Glades, Palm Beach counties proceeding on schedule. Above seasonal average temperatures in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee accelerated growth of vegetables. Winter greens, cabbage planted. Ground ready for potato planting. Vegetables, fruits marketed included avocados, tomatoes, peppers, herbs, cucumbers, eggplant, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, snap beans, radishes, escarole, lettuce, kale. Frost in Panhandle ended warm season perennial pastures. Pasture condition down due to cooler temperatures, lack of soil moisture. Winter grazing stressed due to drought. Cattle condition good across the State. Hay, supplements fed to cattle in northern part of State. In citrus growing area, high temperatures for December began in low 80s, upper 70s, rose to lower, mid 80s by month's end. Rainfall scattered, generally light, as dry season continued. Dry conditions observed in citrus producing regions remained fairly consistent, leaving western area completely drought free. Field workers reported small sizes on all varieties. Grove activity included resetting new trees, pushing dead groves, replanting new citrus, mowing, fertilizing, psyllid control. Thirty-nine of 43 packinghouses had opened, begun shipping small quantities of fruit. Sixteen of 19 processing plants open.

GEORGIA: For the month of December, high temperatures for southern Georgia averaged 70 degrees and the average low was 49. Highs for northern Georgia were in the mid 50's while lows were in the 30's. Precipitation in the state has varied widely with SE Georgia receiving anywhere from 1 to 3 inches in December and is considered to be in a short term dry spell. SW Georgia received 5 inches, while the rest of the state received anywhere from 7-9 inches for the month. Moisture conditions for the state have improved significantly compared to last year as none of the state is considered in severe drought or worse compared to 68% this time last year. Field activities include wrapping up the harvests of pecans, sorghum, and soybeans and the planting of oats, winter wheat, and rye.

HAWAII: December weather conditions started out very dry with 85 percent of the state designated in some stage of drought. As the month wore on, trade winds delivered precipitation easing the drought conditions in some areas. Levels of some irrigation reservoirs operated by the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) declined due to dry conditions but some reservoir levels increased the final two weeks due to the received rainfall the final ten days of the month. No irrigation water restrictions were in force on the Waimea irrigation system on the Big Island of Hawaii. A 30 percent restricted use was still in effect for non-homesteaders drawing water from the Molokai Reservoir. The Waimea irrigation system 10 percent restriction remained in force the entire month. The Lower Hamakua irrigation system levels remained constant all month with no water restrictions in place. The first week of December was the third week running with 85 percent of the state in some stage of drought. Trade winds were light most of the week bringing very little precipitation. Other areas across the state experienced humid and foggy conditions due to lack of trade winds. Shortening days and cooler nights slowed the growth and progress of many crops, particularly at higher elevation sites. Pasture conditions remained very poor in most areas due to continued lack of moisture. During the second week, drought conditions continued. Trade winds picked up and were more active throughout the second week of December bringing much needed precipitation to some areas, particularly to the windward (eastern) side of the islands. Day length continues to shorten and nighttime temperatures continue to decrease as the winter solstice approaches. Some pastures received a boost from the rainfall this week, however much more is still needed to encourage re-growth of forage in areas which have been severely affected by the drought. The third week of December brought scatter showers mainly on Hawaii Island. Topsoil moisture ratings continued to be 18 percent very short, and 63 percent short statewide. Leeward areas received only isolated showers and continue to remain very dry. During the final full week of 2012, drought conditions again showed a slight improvement over those of the previous weeks. Most improvements in drought conditions occurred along the windward coast of the Island of Hawaii and the leeward coasts of Oahu and Kauai Islands. With the end of the year in sight, all yearly rainfall totals from monitored rain gauges measured below normal for the 2013 calendar year. This rainfall deficit is reflected by the current drought conditions, as 79 percent of the state remains abnormally dry or drier.

IDAHO: 3 days. Calving complete: 7%, 2% 2012, 1% avg. Lambing complete: 3%, 1% 2012, 1% avg. Hay and roughage supply: 0% very short, 4% short, 72% adequate, 24% surplus.

ILLINOIS: For the month of December, temperatures averaged 26.6 degrees, 3.4 degrees below normal. Statewide precipitation averaged 2.48 inches, 0.01 inches below normal. The dormant winter wheat crop condition ranges from fair to excellent with the majority in good condition.

INDIANA: The weather during December was significantly wetter than normal in Indiana, with variable temperatures throughout the month. An average rainfall of 4.34 inches was recorded for the State, over 50% higher than normal, with some locations receiving as much as 7.32 inches for the month. Much of the surplus precipitation fell in the southern

districts of the State. Temperatures ranged from -7 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit throughout December, but averaged only 1.6 degrees below historical trends for the month. Winter wheat was reported to be in mostly good to excellent condition, with snow cover protecting the crop through frigid temperatures in northern districts. Pasture condition is good but has been under snow or standing water for the majority of the month, leading many farmers to switch their livestock to hay early in the season. Other activities included purchasing inputs for 2014 crops, income tax preparations, clearing fence rows, repairing and installing drainage tile, hauling grain to market and tending livestock.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 39% short, 48% adequate, and 1% surplus. Iowa experienced below normal temperatures throughout most of December with occasional warm spots. Snow fell in varying amounts across the State in December and has stuck around with the cold temperatures. Livestock losses have been normal. Some pork producers are concerned with PEDV and heavier than normal losses.

KANSAS: For the month ending of December 2013, temperatures were below normal, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Snow fell in the eastern part of the state with totals up 12 inches. The western part of the state did not receive snow to protect the wheat from the cold temperatures. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 8 percent very short, 21 short, 68 adequate, and 3 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 13 percent very short, 27 short, 55 adequate, and 2 surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 36 fair, 51 good, and 7 excellent. Hay and forage supplies rated 4 percent very short, 8 short, 79 adequate, and 9 surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 8 percent very short, 17 short, 74 adequate, 1 surplus. Cattle were grazing crop residue and supplemented with minerals.

KENTUCKY: The Bluegrass State experienced mixed weather conditions during December. The state recorded temperatures from below normal to unseasonably warm. The Commonwealth experienced some periods of cold weather where wind chill values dropped well into the single digits and the livestock cold stress index was put into the emergency category. Average precipitation for the month was above normal. December rains improved soil moisture conditions, which was beneficial for fall seeded small grain growth.

LOUISIANA: Louisiana averaged 4.74 inches of rain for the month of December with higher averages in the Northern part of the state. Farmers are still harvesting sugarcane as well as strawberries. Winter wheat planting was completed around the first week of December. Citrus producers were spraying to control diseases. Livestock producers were fertilizing winter pastures and feeding hay. Crawfish producers were putting out traps. With major activities slowing down, farmers are mostly preparing for the upcoming crop year.

MARYLAND and DELAWARE: The weather in Maryland and Delaware has been very variable throughout the entire month of December. The temperatures have fluctuated between very cold days to then warm days, which seem to occur on a weekly basis. For this time of year, both states have received typical rainfall with some areas having seen abundant, above average rainfall. The western and northern counties in Maryland saw some snow early on in the winter which was unusual for that time of year. Farmers were able to get most crops harvested throughout both states while also planting winter wheat and barley for next year. Reports are that both winter wheat and barley are looking good for this time of year. Overall, December has been normal for Maryland and Delaware besides the fluctuating temperatures but all fall plantings seem to be doing well. Farmers are out in the fields spreading manure, fixing equipment and planning for next spring's plantings.

MICHIGAN: Precipitation for the past four weeks ending December 29 ranged from 2.03 inches to 2.31 inches in the Upper Peninsula and 2.22 inches to 2.61 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 53% good, and 15% excellent. Topsoil and subsoil moistures were mostly adequate to surplus. Temperature for the month of December averaged 20.3 degrees, 4.8 degrees below normal. Heavy snow cover protected winter wheat and alfalfa from below average temperatures in all but southeastern parts of the State, where only light snow cover was reported. Scattered fields of standing corn and unharvested soybeans were reported in northern and central parts of the State. Winter Storm Gemini struck the State on December 21st and downed trees, damaged buildings and left many areas without electricity for up to a week. This has caused hardships especially for dairy, cattle feeding, and poultry feeding operations.

MINNESOTA: December was a cold and wet month throughout the state of Minnesota. Statewide temperatures for the week ending December 22 were 4.0 degrees below normal at 10.4 degrees, with slightly above average precipitation. The week ending December 15 had an average temperature as low as 0.5 degrees statewide. The week ending December 9 showed average temperatures as low as 8.9 degrees below the normal 11.2 degrees, with a 0.49 inch greater than normal

precipitation. During this week, the North Central and Northeast districts reported as high as 1.19 and 1.03 inches of precipitation, respectively. University of Minnesota reported that many communities fell within their top ten coldest Decembers on record, with the Twin cities ranking its 17th coldest December. Most reporting stations had greater than average snowfall. Two Harbors reported its snowiest December in history with nearly 55 inches of snowfall, while Duluth recorded its third snowiest December. Other significant snowfall amounts were in Wright, totaling over 30 inches in December.

MISSISSIPPI: December started with an ice storm in northern Mississippi and rain in central parts of the state. Temperatures for the month ranged from highs of 82 degrees during the first week to 35 degrees during the second week. On December 21, central Mississippi experienced damaging winds, including 2 tornadoes, as well as large amounts of rainfall. Rainfall measured anywhere from 1 inch to 4 inches in western Mississippi. Total rainfall for December ranged from 3 inches on the Louisiana border up to 10 inches in some locations. Most of the state received around 6 inches. Harvest of peanuts and other crops was completed by the end of the first week in December. Winter wheat has been planted and the majority, if not all, of the wheat has emerged. Most farm and ranch work was geared towards preparing for planting in the spring and taking care of livestock.

MISSOURI: December was colder with some regions of the state seeing higher than normal moisture. Average temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees below normal. Precipitation averaged 2.44 inches compared to the 30 year average of 2.70 inches. The condition of dormant winter wheat crop ranges from poor to excellent with the majority rated fair. Heavy rain and moisture in some regions has caused wheat plantings to fail pushing winter wheat progress behind normal.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 16% last year; 21% short, 28% last year; 74% adequate, 53% last year; 1% surplus, 3% last year. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 27% last year; 23% short, 30% last year; 69% adequate, 43% last year; 4% surplus, 0% last year. Corn harvested for grain 88%, 93% last year. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 2% last year; 5% poor, 6% last year; 34% fair, 52% last year; 54% good, 38% last year; 6% excellent, 2% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 91% none, 79% last year; 8% light, 18% last year; 1% moderate, 3% last year; 0% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – freeze & drought damage 92% none, 78% last year; 6% light, 17% last year; 2% moderate, 4% last year; 0% heavy, 1% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 22% very poor, 7% last year; 3% poor, 21% last year; 46% fair, 49% last year; 26% good, 19% last year; 3% excellent, 4% last year. Range and pasture feed condition 8% very poor, 42% last year; 15% poor, 28% last year; 41% fair, 23% last year; 34% good, 7% last year; 2% excellent, 0% last year. Livestock grazing 25% open, 44% last year; 44% difficult, 22% last year; 31% closed, 34% last year. Livestock moved from summer ranges – cattle & calves 95%, 100% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle & calves 94%, 90% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep & lambs 93%, 96% last year. The month ending December brought cold, windy conditions with periods of milder weather throughout much of Montana. Huntley received the highest amount of precipitation for the month with 3.46 inches of moisture. Most other stations reported receiving 0.12 to 2.82 inches of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the mid 30s to lower 60s, with the state-wide high temperature of 61 degrees recorded at Choteau and Fort Benton. All stations reported lows below 0 degrees with the coldest being Chinook at -43 degrees, followed by Jordan with -42 degrees.

NEBRASKA: For the month of December 2013, temperatures averaged near normal across central and western counties, while being 4-6 degrees below normal across northern and southeastern areas. Precipitation in the form of snow occurred early in the month and again before Christmas, but most accumulations were light. This left many stalk fields open for grazing, with forage supplies adequate in most areas. Drought conditions continue across much of the western half of the state. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 8 percent very short, 25 short, 67 adequate, and 0 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 14 percent very short, 30 short, 56 adequate, and 0 surplus.

NEVADA: The first half of December was bitterly cold in Nevada. Daily low temperatures were well below normal; sometimes over twenty degrees below normal. Precipitation across the State was below normal as well. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.04 inch at Tonopah to 1.07 inch at Eureka. Fall-seeded crops remained in mostly good condition as low temperatures were not severe enough to damage them in most areas. Winter pastures and dormant hay fields continued to help meet livestock feed needs due to the lack of snow cover. Livestock marketing and shipping continued at a modest pace. Hay shipping remained quite active. Onion marketing was busy. Potato processing was ongoing. Main farm and ranch activities included hay shipping, potato processing and shipping, onion sorting and shipping, and livestock sorting and shipping. Equipment repair was common and industry groups were holding meetings.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures across most of New England ranged from 5 degrees below normal to 1 degree above normal during December. Precipitation during the month generally ranged from 2 to 5 inches. A large portion of the precipitation came in the form of snow, with above average snowfall totals ranging from 10 to 30 inches. Exceptions include some coastal locations that received less than 10 inches of snow and northern Maine receiving up to 44 inches of snow. The first few days of the month were seasonably cool across New England with snow showers taking place in northern Maine. Temperatures fluctuated moderately between December 5 and 11; rain and snow showers fell during this period depending on location. Mid-December was marked by a prolonged arctic blast; temperatures were 10 to 25 degrees below normal during these days. Snowstorms were present during mid-December and were responsible for a big portion of monthly snowfall totals. These storms caused record-breaking snow in parts of New England. After December 19, most of New England experienced temperatures that were 10 to 25 degrees above normal as well as significant rainfall. In contrast, northernmost latitudes remained cool enough for heavy winter precipitation. Seasonably cold weather returned by Christmas Day and temperatures fluctuated heavily throughout the rest of December.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures on average were slightly above normal in December. Precipitation was above normal throughout the state. Every county received snow accumulation during the month. Farmers finished their 2013 season harvesting of corn and soybeans. Other activities included attending meetings, equipment repair, greenhouse work, and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: December began with above average temperatures, but by mid-month strong arctic air from the northwest pounded the state with below freezing temperatures and snow in the central northern mountains and high winds across the eastern plains. Locations that had below zero temperatures were: Chama -1 degrees, Las Vegas -3 degrees and Moriarty -15 degrees. Late December saw average temperatures vary widely across the state, but stayed very close to normal. Precipitation was recorded at a few northern locations.

NEW YORK: New York for the month of December has experienced a wide variety of temperatures and weather patterns. There are reports that there is still some corn standing in fields as farmers were unable to finish harvest with wet field conditions which were then followed by snow in many parts of the state. Some winter wheat and rye was able to be planted but not as much as farmers would have liked to have planted. Before the snow arrived, winter wheat was said to have been in good condition. There is expected to be some loss of wheat and rye though, as some areas are experiencing cold temperatures with no snow to protect the cover crops from these damaging temperatures. Snow storms have hit much of New York where some areas have reported several inches of snow and other areas reporting up to almost a foot of snow from one storm. There was a warm up right before Christmas, this allowed the snow to melt in many areas which has caused some flooding in regions of the state. Overall reporters are happy with the winter weather so far this year, reporting that they expect minimal effects on agricultural products. Farmers are busy spreading manure, fixing machinery and starting to plan for next spring's planting season. As of December 29, 2013, the Albany area received 19.5 inches of snow for the month, with the greatest snowfall on December 14th with 6.5 inches of snow. The highest temperature of 54 degrees occurred on December 22nd, while the lowest temperature of -5 degrees occurred on the 17th. The average temperature was 28.1 degrees, which is 0.6 degrees below normal. A total of 3.36 inches of rain fell, which is 0.6 inches above the average. Albany has dealt with fog or mist, ice pellets, freezing rain and snow throughout most of the month of December.

NORTH CAROLINA: There were 2.6 days suitable for field work for the week ending December 29th compared to 3.3 for the week ending December 15th. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 2% short, 59% adequate and 39% surplus. Much of the state received heavy rainfall during the week with many areas receiving over 3 inches and some areas recording over 7 inches of precipitation. Average temperatures ranged from 2 to 6 degrees above normal. This was the second week in a row for substantial rainfall which greatly limited field work and is making the last of the soybean harvest extremely slow. As winter approaches farmers will turn their attentions to preparing for next year's crops.

NORTH DAKOTA: Winter wheat conditions 3% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 73% good, 8% excellent. Cattle/Calf conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 75% good, and 12% excellent. Sheep/Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 78% good, and 10% excellent. Stock water supplies 0% very short, 3% short, 90% adequate, and 7% surplus. Hay & forage supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 82% adequate, and 16% surplus. Colder than normal temperatures increased livestock feed usage across much of the state. A few farmers continued to harvest corn, as conditions allowed. Other activities during the month included drying grain, weaning calves, and marketing livestock.

OHIO: The December 2013 statewide average temperature as of the 29th of the month was 32.2 degrees, less than half a degree above normal but 5.8 degrees colder than 2012. Rainfall averaged 2.72 inches statewide, which was 49 percent more than the average for the month of December. Fifty four percent of topsoil was reported as having surplus moisture and forty five percent was reported as adequate. Some farmers have reported areas of standing water but winter wheat conditions remain high despite this. Only 3 percent of the crop was rated very poor or poor, 29 percent was fair, 55 percent was good, and 13 percent was rated as excellent. Livestock producers have reported that the pastures are generally good. Eighteen percent of the pasture was reported in poor or very poor condition, 36 was rated as fair, and 46 percent was good or excellent. Most producers have started to feed their winter rations earlier than normal.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 18% very short, 25% short, 54% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 27% very short, 23% short, 48% adequate, 2% surplus. Wheat 1% very poor, 7% poor, 29% fair, 52% good, 11% excellent; grazed 32% this month, 22% last year, 32% average. Canola 2% very poor, 8% poor, 31% fair, 44% good, 15% excellent. Rye 2% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 48% good, 9% excellent; grazed 68% this month, 30% last year, 57% average. Oats 5% very poor, 5% poor, 36% fair, 45% good, 9% excellent; grazed 28% this month, n/a last year, 15% average. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 62% good, 6% excellent. Pasture and Range 8% very poor, 14% poor, 45% fair, 30% good, 3% excellent. Multiple winter storms kept temperatures below normal for the month of December and brought winter precipitation of all types. December 5-6 a storm moved through in two waves, bringing freezing rain to southern Oklahoma and sleet changing to snow as it traveled northeast, with additional snowfall falling into Friday. Temperatures remained below freezing for the next few days in most of the state. Camargo recorded a low of five degrees below zero on the 10th. The third weekend of the month another winter storm brought snow to northwestern Oklahoma, rain to southeastern Oklahoma and ice to the rest of the state, with close to an inch of ice observed in Canadian County. Damage to some winter forage was reported, but overall the storms brought slow melting moisture across the state. The East Central and Southeast districts averaged more than three inches of precipitation for the month, while the Panhandle and West Central districts averaged less than half an inch. All nine districts were still below normal precipitation for the period since September 1st. Drought conditions remained in the western half of the state, with the worst conditions in far southwestern Oklahoma. Small grain and pasture conditions were rated mostly good to fair for December. This is a big improvement over the previous year, and allowed more grazing opportunities for livestock.

OREGON: 5.7 days. Winter Wheat Condition: 0% Very Poor, 0% Poor, 55% Fair, 44% Good, 1% Excellent. Field Crops: In Coos and Curry Counties grass growth slowed substantially. In Douglas County all crops were in dormancy due to cold temperatures. In Washington County winter wheat was doing well. In Klamath County some fall seeded grain was not in dormancy anymore and was growing. In some areas of Umatilla County the winter wheat was brown and appeared to be affected by the negative temperatures earlier in the month. Fruits and Nuts: In Northwestern Oregon producers were cleaning filbert pruning from orchards. Nurseries and Greenhouses: In Douglas County tall trees were being balled and burlapped by producers. Livestock, Range and Pasture: In Linn County pasture ground was in short supply. Grass seed fields do not have a lot of overgrowth which made livestock producers start purchasing feed due to limited grazing availability. In Washington County livestock was in good shape and there was supplemental feeding for all animals.

PENNSYLVANIA: There were several days during December where snowfall had reached over an inch in some areas. Both soybean and corn harvests were in the process of being completed. Finishing up these harvests may have been delayed due to the lack of available storage space. There were also several days where temperatures reached the high 60's in some areas right before Christmas. Farmers are currently catching up on building and equipment maintenance. Orchard owners are busy pruning trees, mowing, and controlling rodents. As of December 30, 2013, the Harrisburg area received 9.2 inches of snow for the month, with the greatest snowfall on December 14th. The highest temperature of 70 degrees occurred on December 22nd, while the lowest temperature of 17 degrees occurred on the 19th and 25th. The average temperature was 34.3 degrees, which is 0.1 degrees above normal. A total of 3.74 inches of rain fell, which is 0.68 inches above the average. There was also low visibility due to thick fog during many days throughout the month. High winds were also an issue, with wind speeds approaching 43 miles per hour on the 22nd of December.

SOUTH CAROLINA: December began with cool temperatures and sunny skies. Highs were in the fifties for most counties with a few southern counties in the low sixties. Seasonally cool temperatures for Saturday eased higher for Sunday, December 4th. The Charleston AP reached 74 degrees on Sunday afternoon. The warm temperatures led to showers on Tuesday night, with Jocassee Dam receiving 1.64 inches and Pickens 0.95 inches. Walterboro's Wednesday afternoon 81-degree high temperature plummeted 44 degrees to a Thursday morning low temperature of 37 degrees. High temperatures on Friday, December 9th, retreated back into the 50's and settled into that range for the weekend. Florence

and the North Myrtle Beach AP reached 57 degrees on Saturday afternoon. Sunday, December 11th, started with a frosty 31 degrees at Sandhill and McCormick. The State average temperature for the period from December 5th to December 11th was three degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.4 inches. A cold rain fell across the southern counties on Monday morning, December 12th. Tuesday's morning low temperature fell to 27 degrees at Saluda and Cedar Creek before much warmer air began to arrive from the south. Sandy Run and Pinopolis reported a mild 72 degrees on Wednesday. The string of unseasonably high temperatures continued on Friday, December 16th, for the central and eastern parts of the State with Columbia, Dillon, Hartsville and the Georgetown AP each recording 77 degrees. Mostly sunny, cool weather was observed over the last fall weekend of the year. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was seven degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the week was 0.1 inches. Milder air was observed on Tuesday, December 20th as Orangeburg, Pinopolis and the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station each reached 74 degrees. Evening showers fell over parts of the Piedmont and Upstate. By Wednesday morning, Pickens had measured 0.97 inches of rain. A boundary of cooler weather eased into the State on Christmas Eve. McCormick and Saluda recorded a Saturday high temperature of just 58 degrees. Christmas Day Sunday began with partly cloudy skies, then periods of light rain for central South Carolina and eastward to the coast. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was nine degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.6 inches. Monday, December 26th began with mostly sunny weather and Walhalla reporting a low temperature of 27 degrees. A boundary passed through the State overnight with periods of heavy rain and a few reports of thunder. Much of Wednesday saw cooler air spreading over the State. On Thursday morning, the temperature at Anderson, Greenwood, Sandy Run and Cades fell to 25 degrees with heavy frost observed across the Midlands. A gradual warming trend started on Friday, December 30th and continued through the year-ending weekend. The State average temperature for the seven-day period was five degrees above normal. The State average rainfall for the period was 0.8 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Winter wheat conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 28% fair, 63% good, 7% excellent. Cattle/Calf conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 76% good, 9% excellent. Sheep/Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 80% good, 6% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 10% short, 86% adequate, 3% surplus. Hay & forage supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 88% adequate, and 10% surplus. Below normal temperatures and average snowfall were experienced across most areas of the state. Agricultural activities included caring for livestock and marketing grain.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable 3.5. Topsoil moisture 3% short, 67% adequate, 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% short, 76% adequate, 20% surplus. Farm activities included tobacco stripping and feeding livestock. Pasture conditions mostly fair to good.

TEXAS: Precipitation across Texas during December was near normal. Some areas of the Cross Timbers, Edwards Plateau, Southern High Plains, and Trans Pecos received slightly above normal amounts of precipitation for the month, and some areas of South East Texas and the Upper Coast came in with amounts well below normal. Early in the month, ice storms affected areas of North Texas. Moisture aided the growth of cool-season grasses. More moisture was needed in many areas of the state to promote small grain crop development. Winter wheat and oat seeding, and cotton harvest, was mostly complete. Producers continued preparing cropland for spring planting.

UTAH: December weather was colder than usual. Farmers have been limited in field work and have spent much of their time caring for livestock and trying to keep water lines from freezing. In Box Elder County, there were some storms in the eastern half of the County but most of the county remained dry. Fall seeded crops were dormant but additional moisture will be needed. Cattlemen were feeding hay and there was some grazing on winter ranges but forage was poor due to dryness. In Millard County conditions were near normal. Snow cover is spotty allowing some cattle to graze on winter ranges. In Utah County, additional snow pack is needed in the mountains for irrigation next year. Crops are doing well. Fruit growers are preparing to prune fruit trees starting in January. Livestock there were doing well. In Iron County temperatures were below normal in December.

VIRGINIA: Beef cattle forage obtained from pastures 33%. Milk cow forage obtained from pastures 12%. Sheep forage obtained from pastures 41%. Small grain and winter grazing crops 4% poor, 29% fair, 60% good, 7% excellent. The month of December was wet with extreme ups and downs in the temperature. Some areas experienced near record highs, only to be followed with freezing temperatures and snow. The wet weather made pastures muddy; slightly less feed was obtained from pastures when compared to last year. Overall, the majority of livestock were in good condition. There has been limited fieldwork due to the wet weather; however, some progress was made on ditch maintenance, mowing field

borders, and machinery repairs. In preparation for a fall calf crop, artificial insemination was underway. Other farming activities for the month included taking soil samples, tax planning, pricing inputs for 2014, attending pesticide recertification workshops, purchasing equipment, and hunting deer.

WASHINGTON: Western Washington saw unseasonably cold temperatures throughout the month. Choose and cut Christmas tree growers reported good sales. Freezing temperatures led to increased sales of haylage and conventional baled hay. In central Washington relatively mild and dry conditions have led to minimal reports of winter crop damage. Some wheat growers are concerned about dryland wheat acreage without snow cover. In eastern Washington, growers are concerned about the damage of sub-zero temperatures on crops with no snow cover, but the full extent of the effects will not be known until early spring.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 2% short, 83% adequate, and 15% surplus compared to 5% short, 92% adequate, and 3% surplus last year. Hay and roughage supplies were 3% short and 97% adequate compared to 6% short, 93% adequate, and 1% surplus last year. Feed grain supplies were 100% adequate compared to 5% short and 95% adequate last year. Winter wheat conditions were 100% good. Cattle and calves were 1% poor, 7% fair, 90% good, and 2% excellent. Sheep and lambs were 4% fair, 95% good, and 1% excellent. The weather for the month of December varied between a mix of cold weather with snow and warmer weather with rain as various weather patterns have moved over the State. On Saturday, December 21st and Sunday, December 22nd, temperatures were unseasonably high and many records were broken. Farming activities included feeding hay, planning for the next crop season, and celebrating the holidays.

WISCONSIN: December average temperatures for the state of Wisconsin ranged from 4 to 7 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 21 to 30 degrees. Average low temperatures ranged from 4 to 14 degrees. Full month precipitation ranged from 1.45 inches in La Crosse to 1.88 inches in Milwaukee. The entire state received snow in December. Of the reporting stations, Green Bay received the most snow, with 26.2 inches since December 1.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 12% short, 84% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 21% short, 77% adequate. Average snow depth cover 2.60 inches. Hay and roughage supplies 2% very short, 7% short, 90% adequate, and 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 25% short, 74% adequate. Cattle condition 3% poor, 41% fair, 53% good, 3% excellent. Calf losses 62% light, 38% normal. Sheep condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 43% fair, 50% good, 1% excellent. Lamb losses 66% light, 34% normal. Winter Wheat condition 20% fair, 75% good, 5% excellent; wind damage 60% light, 40% none; freeze damage 2% light, 98% none. According to NRCS Monday morning snow report, the snow water equivalent is at 119 percent compared to 88 percent last year. December's high temperatures ranged from 35 degrees at Lake Yellowstone to 62 degrees in Torrington. Low temperatures ranged from negative 31 degrees in Shirley Basin to negative 10 degrees in Evanston. Lake Yellowstone received the most precipitation for the month at 1.57 inches followed by Casper at 1.12 inches, and Big Horn and Evanston at 1.09 inches. Lincoln County reported cold temperatures, but nothing unusual for this time of year. Uinta County reported mountain and valley snowpack is below normal for this time of year. Supplemental feeding is in full swing. Precipitation is needed county wide. Platte County reported no new crop calves or lambs being born yet. Hay production was adequate this year, but quality was spotty. Livestock producers that depend on purchased hay would have tight supplies on hand due to the high prices this year. Sheridan County reported heavy winds this past weekend and blizzard conditions. Crook County reported 1 to 1.5 feet of snow in the bear lodge hills and 2 to 2.5 feet in the Moskee area. Average temperatures ranged from 10 degrees at Lake Yellowstone and Shirley Basin to 27 degrees in Cheyenne, and Torrington. Temperatures were below normal in 30 of the 33 reporting stations. Temperatures ranged from 8 degrees below normal in Wheatland to 1 degree above normal in Torrington. All 33 reporting stations reported some precipitation, ranging from 0.05 inch in Torrington to 1.57 inches in Lake Yellowstone. Eighteen stations are reporting above normal precipitation for the year thus far.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates included in this report are based on survey data collected each week from early April through the end of November. Additionally, survey respondents are contacted four times during the winter season – once per month in December, January, February, and March. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from approximately 4,000 respondents whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these respondents subjectively estimate the progress of crops through various stages of development, as well as the progress of producer activities. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop and soil moisture conditions. Any weather data mentioned in this report is provided by outside sources such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Agricultural Weather Information Service (AWIS).

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet	(202) 720-9526
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