ALABAMA: Total rainfall for the month ranged from 4.28 inches in Montgomery County to 12.16 inches in Tuscaloosa County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the State was 64 percent abnormally dry, an improvement from the 100 percent this time last month. Temperatures were above average for the month causing fruit trees to bud. Due to warm weather and plenty of rain, cool season pastures have started greening up. Field preparation was a little behind due to so much rainfall. Small grains looked good. Many producers were fertilizing winter rye grass. Livestock stress levels varied with temperatures. Hay stocks were adequate.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: For the month of February, 45 of the 50 weather stations reported some precipitation, with Yuma reporting the least at 0.01 inches while Willcox reported the most at 2.75 inches. Thirty-eight of the 50 weather stations reported above normal temperatures for the month of February. The highest temperature during the month was 87 degrees at Parker. The lowest temperature during the month was -17 degrees at Grand Canyon. Two percent of the cotton crop had been planted. Barley planting was complete on 85 percent of the acreage last month, compared to 95 percent last year and 71 percent of barley had emerged, compared with 79 percent last year. Barley conditions were rated mostly fair to good. Durum wheat planting was estimated at 80 percent complete, compared with 88 percent last year and 67 percent had emerged compared with 74 percent last year. Durum wheat conditions were rated mostly good to fair. Alfalfa conditions were rated mostly good to excellent, depending on location last week with harvesting taking place on three-quarters of the alfalfa acreage across the State. Pasture and range conditions were rated mostly poor to fair.

ARKANSAS: The month of February has been a mix of cold and wet weather conditions. There has been an abnormal amount of flooding this month. Recent rains have caused the Arkansas and Fouche Rivers to rise to flood levels. Winter forages were starting to recover from the recent freeze although some died. Farmers cut it close on hay stocks due to the heavy rainfall. Livestock conditions were fair but have declined due to cold weather and deteriorating forage conditions. Wheat crop was in fair to good condition. Most fields were hit hard by the recent flooding. The rainfall limited producers on planting spring forages or fertilizing forages that were planted in the fall such as wheat. Most farmers were behind on row crop herbicide burndown applications, which is expected with the current rainfall.

CALIFORNIA: During the week ending February 25, topsoil moisture was 10% very short, 30% short, 60% adequate. Subsoil moisture was 15% very short, 20% short, 65% adequate. Pasture and range condition was 5% very poor, 45% poor, 15% fair, 30% good, excellent 5%. The month started with the northern part of California receiving light rain. Afterwards, mild and dry conditions prevailed for most of the month. Above average temperatures were experienced across the State. By mid-month, the State experienced mild and dry conditions, as well as above average daytime temperatures. By the end of the month, a cold front pushed through which brought in cooler temperatures to northern California and scattered showers from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara counties in southern California. In the mountains, snow levels dropped to around 1,000 – 2,000 feet. The precipitation has been adequate for planting for some crops. However, it has not been enough to stop irrigating. Pasture and range conditions have improved somewhat.

COLORADO: For the month of February, topsoil moisture was 33% very short, 31% short, 36% adequate. For the month of February, subsoil moisture was 16% very short, 30% short, 54% adequate. For the month of February, winter wheat condition was 5% very poor, 22% poor, 42% fair, 28% good, 3% excellent. For the month of February, cows calved was 17%, 14% 2017. For the month of February, ewes lambed was 14%, 7% 2017. For the month of February, livestock condition was 3% poor, 21% fair, 72% good, 4% excellent. For the
month of February, pasture and range condition was 9% very poor, 27% poor, 31% fair, 31% good, 2% excellent. Soil moisture supplies declined during the month of February due to dry, windy weather and both warm and cold temperature extremes. Statewide, continued dry conditions were very concerning for pasture and winter wheat conditions. Nearly all counties experienced at least abnormally dry conditions. Reporters in eastern counties noted little snow cover on winter wheat along with cold, windy weather. They also noted small snow storms were beneficial, but much more moisture is needed going into spring. In the San Luis Valley, dry conditions were prevalent with supplemental feeding of livestock increasing due to pasture conditions. Reporters in southwestern counties noted some good moisture was received late in the month, but many areas continued to suffer from severe to extreme drought. The winter wheat crop in Montezuma County was reported to be in extremely poor condition with high rates of failure. Statewide, calving and lambing was underway with livestock noted to be in mostly good condition. As of February 23, 2018, snowpack was 73 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

**DELAWARE:** For the month of February the maximum registered temperature was 78°F (recorded in Wilmington, DE) and the minimum was 14°F (recorded in multiple weather stations). Instances of precipitation ranged from 12 to 16 days across the State with a maximum total of 6.00 inches of precipitation for the reporting period. According to reporter comments, weather conditions were conducive to slight growth of winter wheat, cover crops, and other commodity small grains. However, prevailing wet conditions prevented fieldwork. Other than farming, activities for the month included taking soil samples, repairing and cleaning up equipment, purchasing supplies, tax planning, and attending workshops as usual for the month.

**FLORIDA:** Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.1 inch in multiple counties to 14.0 inches in Okaloosa County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 7 percent of the State was in a moderate drought by month’s end, down 15 percentage points from the beginning of February. Average temperatures were as much as 11 degrees above normal for the month. Due to limited rain in numerous counties, pasture condition remained poor to fair throughout the month, and producers fed supplements to cattle. Cattle condition was fair to good. At the end of the month, producers began harvesting small grains and planting field corn. Sugarcane producers continued weeding, fertilizing and harvesting their crop. Vegetable growers prepared land for and began planting spring crops. Warm days accelerated the maturity of winter produce crops with a wide range coming to market, including avocados, beets, boniatos, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, herbs, leafy greens, malangas, onions, peppers, radishes squash, strawberries, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of year. Tangerines and tangelos were harvested throughout the month. Grapefruit harvesting continued, with a larger amount going to processing plants rather than fresh markets. Early and midseason orange harvest concluded. Fieldworkers across the State reported early blossoms beginning to emerge on some varieties of oranges, primarily Valencia.

**GEORGIA:** Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.1 inches in Glynn County to 11.0 inches in Gilmer County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 23 percent of the State was in a moderate drought by month’s end, down 32 percentage points from the beginning of February. Average temperatures were as much as 12 degrees above normal for the month. Small grains, pastures, and hayfields were in good condition with strong growth. Pest pressure was low to moderate overall, but some counties reported aphids in oats and heavy weed pressure in pastures and small grains. Livestock condition was good. Hay quantities were sufficient, in part because the rain and warmer temperatures improved the growth of winter grazing. Onions recovered well from their cold injury in January and ended the month in good to excellent condition. Fruit and nut crops were on track to accumulate enough chilling hours for the season, but with the unseasonably warm temperatures in late February, fruit trees began blooming early. Field activities included plowing, applying chemicals for pest management and soil fertility, and laying plastic for watermelons and other produce commodities. Corn planting began in some of the southernmost counties.

**HAWAII:** DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**IDAHO:** February was a continuation of Idaho’s long and snowy winter. Average temperature differences ranged from 5 degrees Fahrenheit below normal to 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. The highest temperature recorded this month was 69 degrees Fahrenheit in Grand View. The lowest temperature was -19 degrees Fahrenheit in Fairfield. Precipitation ranged from 2 to 20 days across the State. The highest
precipitation was 6.79 inches within 20 days in Northern Idaho and the lowest precipitation was 0.04 inch within 2 days in Eastern Idaho. February started off very nice. Temperatures were above normal until the last two weeks of the month. In fact, some acres of spring cereals were able to be planted. In the last two weeks of February, snow arrived throughout the State. Snow halted all field work except manure hauling. Livestock conditions had been very good with mild weather, very little precipitation and good conditions for calving and lambing. Moisture continued to be minimal throughout the State. Calving was going well. This winter was colder than normal, especially in the south, with the coldest in February. Precipitation was slightly below normal in the north and above normal in the south. The snowiest period was this month of February.

**ILLINOIS:** For the month of February topsoil moisture was 4% short, 59% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 2 very short, 20% short, 69% adequate, 9% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 8% very poor, 8% poor, 39% fair, 40% good, 5% excellent. Statewide, temperatures for the month of February averaged 29.4 degrees, 0.2 degree below normal. Precipitation averaged 4.90 inches, 3.20 inches above normal. Primary activities included livestock care, hauling grain, and equipment maintenance.

**INDIANA:** Topsoil moisture for the month of February was 1% short, 25% adequate, and 74% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month of January was 1% very short, 4% short, 33% adequate, and 62% surplus. Winter wheat condition for the month of February rated 2% very poor, 7% poor, 34% fair, 46% good, and 11% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 33.4 degrees, 3.5 degrees above normal for the month of February. Statewide average precipitation was 5.90 inches, 3.93 inches above normal. Large temperature fluctuations throughout the month of February have caused freezing then re-thawing of soils. Cold temperatures early in the month were bracketed by snow events. Above average temperatures, coupled with heavy rains and melted snow, and contributed to high soil moisture levels in the latter part of February. The wet and muddy conditions halted field activities the last full week of February. Rivers, open ditches and tile are running near or above capacity. Water completely covered many low-lying areas for over a week. There were reports of major flooding to cropland adjacent to the rivers and ditches. Some fields could be affected by sand deposits from the floodwaters. Before the soils were saturated, lime spreading and brush removal was observed. There were some concerns that above average temperatures could cause honey bees to become active and susceptible to future freezing conditions. Livestock are reported to be in fair condition but wet conditions have made care and calving difficult. The changing weather has caused some sicknesses in livestock but no prominent diseases. Hay inventory remains adequate. Farmers were staying busy selling and hauling corn and soybeans, attending grower meetings, completing pesticide applicator training, attending the National Farm Machinery Show, filing tax returns, visiting the local FSA office to enroll in the 2018 ARC/PLC program, and preparing for the spring planting season.

**IOWA:** Iowa experienced a mix of weather throughout the State with extreme fluctuation in temperatures for the second month in a row ranging from below 0 to 50+ degrees. Snow and ice throughout the State prevented some activities. Grain movement picked up this month as grain prices increased. Livestock producers have been busy with calving. Overall, livestock conditions were reported as normal with some reports of stress on livestock due to the large temperature swings. Ice in feedlots made them hazardous and slowed down movement. As the ice melted with rising temperatures, it created muddy feedlots.

**KANSAS:** For the month of February 2018, topsoil moisture was 36% very short, 38% short, 22% adequate, and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 26% very short, 45% short, 28% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 13% very poor, 36% poor, 39% fair, 11% good, and 1% excellent.

**KENTUCKY:** For the month of February, Kentucky saw well above normal temperatures and much above normal precipitation. The month started with several winter weather events that resulted in light snow accumulations and some freezing rain and ice. As temperatures increased and multiple rounds of rainfall occurred later in the month, extremely high precipitation totals were experienced. This led to several flood warnings and advisories across the State. Temperatures for the period averaged 45 degrees across the State which was 8 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 8.35 inches Statewide which was 5.11 inches above normal and 258 percent of normal. Soils became very saturated from the wet weather, and some fields remained flooded. Many streams and ponds were rising out of their banks. Low lying pastures were also waterlogged, and persistent rainfall hampered early season improvements and fertilization.
Farmers and producers continued to evaluate potential damages. Winter wheat conditions were impacted by the excessive moisture, and small grain nitrogen applications were delayed as well. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 1% very poor, 4% poor, 33% fair, 54% good, and 8% excellent. Many cattle producers were concerned about hay supplies, as cattle were consuming more than normal. Some producers were supplementing feed with grain to help maintain cattle condition as best as possible. Muddy conditions also made it difficult in moving and feeding cattle. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 4% very short, 13% short, 74% adequate, and 9% surplus. Livestock conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 5% poor, 18% fair, 68% good, and 8% excellent. Farmers prepared for spring planting, and made repairs to equipment. Most tobacco producers finished stripping their crop, the amount of tobacco stripped was reported at 96 percent.

**LOUISIANA:** The month of February was extremely cold with wet and windy weather conditions. There was fieldwork with dry conditions in between the heavy rainfall. Cold winter temperatures and wet conditions had sugarcane growers concerned about winter injury. However, by month’s end, sugarcane emergence was better than expected. Germination of ratoon sugarcane crop is looking normal with some field off-baring beginning. Ryegrass and clover pastures made a spring push and spring grass started to grow. Cattle producers were still putting out hay but are hopeful that warm season pastures will soon provide enough forage. Cattle are in fairly good condition overall with some showing signs of distress. Calves fared well through freezing weather but some are below the expected weight. Producers are behind getting burndown herbicides applied. Rice and soybean growers are starting to prepare for spring planting. The crawfish catch improved but prices dropped. Citrus trees budded out.

**MARYLAND:** For the month of February the maximum registered temperature was 84°F (recorded in Sharpsburg, MD) and the minimum was 3°F (recorded in Sines Deep Creek, MD.) Instances of precipitation ranged from 11 to 18 days across the State with a maximum total of 6.82 inches of precipitation for the reporting period. According to reporter comments, weather conditions were conducive to slight growth of winter wheat, cover crops, and other commodity small grains. However, prevailing wet conditions prevented fieldwork. Other than farming, activities for the month included taking soil samples, repairing and cleaning up equipment, purchasing supplies, tax planning, and attending workshops as usual for the month.

**MICHIGAN:** Topsoil moisture for the month of February was 39% adequate, 61% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month of February was 56% adequate, 44% surplus. Winter wheat condition for the month of February was 2% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 54% good, 20% excellent. Temperature fluctuations throughout the month of February were common across the region. Temperatures were below normal the first two weeks of February with more than 5 inches of snow fall each week. Some areas received over a foot of snow due to a snow storm the second week of the month. The frigid temperatures were then followed by above normal temperatures and excessive rainfall. The heavy rainfall and thawing snow contributed to widespread flooding across the region. Soil temperatures were also near freezing, exacerbating runoff. Mild temperatures and drier conditions marked the last week of February.

**MINNESOTA:** Adequate snow cover was reported throughout much of the State. Reporters described weather conditions during February as more typical of Minnesota winters. A strong winter storm brought widespread snow during the last weekend of February. The preliminary Statewide average temperature for the month was 7.6 degrees below average at 8.8 degrees. Precipitation for the month was 1.15 inches, which was 0.48 inches above normal. The highest temperature of 54 degrees was reported at Wheaton on February 15. The lowest temperature of -43 was reported at Embarrass on February 5. Conditions of fall seeded crops and alfalfa improved due to the snow cover. Activities included moving grain to market and manure spreading when weather conditions permitted. Readying of spring equipment and calving also continued during February.

**MISSISSIPPI:** Unlike the cold, dry conditions in January, the month of February brought about warmer weather with plenty of rainfall. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the State has been recovering from the drought it experienced over the past few months. The State is no longer considered to be in drought status, and central Mississippi has been reduced to now being classified as abnormally dry. During mid-month, temperatures for the State averaged 48.5 degrees and received 3.30 inches of rainfall. Aside from choosing when to apply fertilizer applications between rain showers, most field activity and livestock grazing remained normal. Towards the end of the month, rainfall continued with an average of 2.20 inches and temperatures
averaging 67.1 degrees for the State. Most producers report that cool season pastures and hay crops were performing well after recovering from the late planting last fall, as well as the snow events in early December and January. Some producers limited cattle grazing access to low-lying pastures that were too wet to avoid excessive forage losses. However, most livestock were in good condition due toavailability of grazing. Many gardeners, vegetable and row crop producers have prepared their seedbeds and are making necessary fertilizer applications.

**MISSOURI:** For the week ending February 25, 2018, topsoil moisture was 2% very short, 17% short, 63% adequate, 18% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 14% very short, 25% short, 51% adequate, 10% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies were 6% very short, 25% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies were 1% very short, 18% short, 76% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 9% poor, 56% fair, 32% good, 3% excellent. Conditions overall for the month were cold and wet with the State averaging 4.74 inches of precipitation for the month, 2.87 above average. The majority of the precipitation occurred in the bottom southeastern part of the State with some counties seeing as much as 10 to 12 inches of precipitation. Livestock producers in the northwest part of the State were having to buy hay due to dry conditions. Other parts of the State have also reported a shortage of hay to buy. A tornado hit Dunklin County with some damage to pivot irrigation systems reported.

**MONTANA:** Topsoil moisture for the month of February was 8% very short, 23% short, 47% adequate, 22% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 14% very short, 29% short, 45% adequate, 12% surplus. For the month of February, winter wheat – wind damage was 85% none 12% light, 3% moderate, 0% heavy. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 85% none, 11% light, 3% moderate, 1% heavy for the month. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover for the month was 3% very poor, 8% poor, 10% fair, 34% good, and 45% excellent. Livestock grazing accessibility for the month of February was – 6% open, 22% difficult, 72% closed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for the month was as follows – cattle and calves 100% fed, 99% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 99% fed, 100% last year. Livestock – Calving Progress was 3% for the month. Livestock – Sheep and Lambs Ewes Lambed was 2% for the month. Low temperatures and deep snow were widespread throughout Montana for the month of February. Topsoil moisture conditions were 69 percent adequate to surplus which is below last year’s 85 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions were 57 percent adequate to surplus which is below last year’s 82 percent. Reporters in Northwestern areas of the State welcomed colder temperatures in order to firm up the ground before calving gets underway. However, reporters in central areas of the State were concerned that the ground was not frozen deeply enough, noting concerns that run off may not be captured in pits or reservoirs once conditions begin to thaw. Reporters noted that heavy snow cover prevented them from confirming the condition of their winter wheat, but they suspected little to no wind or frost damage due to the heavy snow cover. Winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remained low with 85 percent of reporters observing no freeze and drought damage, and 85 percent reporting no wind damage. Winter wheat snow coverage for the State was rated 79 percent good to excellent compared with 26 percent at this time last year. Winter wheat condition was rated 54 percent good to excellent, compared with 51 percent last year. Grazing accessibility was limited with 72 percent of grazing lands reported as inaccessible or closed, and 22 percent rated as difficult. Livestock producers provided supplemental feed at similar rates as the previous year at this time with 100 percent of cattle and 99 percent of sheep being fed. Reporters noted that feed stores were depleting quickly with some ranchers selling cattle due to the long winter and low hay stocks following the 2017 drought.

**NEBRASKA:** For the entire month of February 2018, topsoil moisture measured at 4% very short, 22% short, 72% adequate, and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 3% very short, 28% short, 68% adequate, and 1% surplus. For the entire month of January 2018, Winter wheat condition 0% was very poor, 5% poor, 52% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent.

**NEVADA:** For the week ending February 25, topsoil moisture was 30% very short, 45% short, 25% adequate. Subsoil moisture was 35% very short, 55% short, 10% adequate. Pasture and range condition, 15% very poor, 30% poor, 50% fair, 5% good. Weather condition were dry during February. A few storms passed through without putting down much precipitation. Calving season was well underway in northern Nevada.
NEW ENGLAND: Regional monthly temperatures ranged from 2 degrees to 9 degrees above normal from historical averages. Monthly precipitation ranged from 0.70 to 7.53 inches throughout the region. New England States experiences a warm February with some rain and below average snow for the month. Some areas reported ice jams in the rivers causing widespread flooding, however no damage was reported. Warm temperatures meant an early start to the maple season for many areas of the region. However, cranberry producers are concerned that the unusually warm conditions will mean early plant emergence and an early frost season. The warmer temperatures changes during the month caused some concern for small fruits and tree fruit plants as they are sensitive to large temperature fluctuations. Operations continue to provide much of their focus to farm and equipment maintenance.

NEW JERSEY: Wet, cloudy weather prevailed across the region, and temperatures fluctuated widely, from as low as 6 degrees to as high as 80 degrees. Many concerns are reported due to the weather. New Jersey needs drying days and warmer soils. Outside soil preparation is being delayed due to wet weather which will delay early planting. There are worries that there may be compaction and/or another poor spring planting if seedlings rot in the ground or emerge too weak to survive due to lack of sunshine. Another concern is that the recent unseasonably warm weather will wake tree fruits and grapevines early from dormancy, which will weaken their cold hardiness during any potential early spring frost events. On a positive note, most greenhouses are full of transplants for early leafy green plantings. Plant quality looks good except for some aphids. Warm season plants (tomato, pepper, eggplant) are being seeded or will be over the next three weeks. High tunnels are being planted in warmer soils of around 50 degrees.

NEW MEXICO: The following is for the entire month of February. Topsoil moisture 50% very short, 38% short, 11% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 45% very short, 39% short, 15% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 33% very poor, 41% poor, 22% fair, 4% good. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 91%, 87% January, 82% last year. Cattle condition 4% poor, 47% fair, 46% good, 3% excellent. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 73%, 67% January, 75% last year. Sheep and lamb condition 1% very poor, 9% poor, 34% fair, 51% good, 5% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 4% very short, 22% short, 71% adequate, 3% surplus, compared with 2% very short, 16% short, 77% adequate, 5% surplus last month. Stock water supplies were reported as 19% very short, 39% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus, compared with 13% very short, 27% short, 60% adequate last month. Despite some accumulating precipitation, the lack of beneficial moisture was evident across much of the State, as soil moisture levels and many crop condition ratings continue to decline. Comments from numerous counties indicated a tremendous need for substantial moisture as high winds quickly dried out any rain or snow received. With the wheat crop struggling and native grasses in short supply, some livestock producers in Union County were noted to be planning herd reductions due to the lack of available feedstuffs. All but three weather stations, reported some amount of precipitation during the month but only one station reported three inches or more of rainfall. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degrees below normal to 12 degrees above normal. While moisture was received in some areas last month, extremely dry conditions were reported across the State. Daytime highs varied from 52 degrees at Chama and Los Alamos to 83 degrees at Carlsbad. Overnight lows ranged from -7 degrees at Los Alamos to 28 degrees at Alamogordo.

NEW YORK: The early part of the month of February experienced continued cold, wet, and icy conditions, making some ground saturated and muddy. Winter snow coverage was very good in some areas without any reported crop damage. A few areas broke record highs and warmer temperatures during the latter part of this month. The average range was 2 to 8 degrees above normal throughout the State. Total precipitation ranged from 1.09 to 5.94 inches. Vineyard crews pruned vines, maple trees were tapped, and orchards appeared to be doing well in most areas. Some areas reported damage to wheat from geese. Some growers were concerned about early budding of perennials and later cold.

NORTH CAROLINA: For the week ending February 25. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 55% adequate and 37% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% short, 69% adequate and 23% surplus. Barley condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 23% fair, 71% good and 4% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 14% short, 81% adequate and 5% surplus. Oats condition 2% poor, 27% fair, 70% good and 1% excellent. Pasture and range condition 3% very poor, 20% poor, 37% fair, 37% good and 3% excellent. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 20% fair, 74% good and 4% excellent. For the month of February, receiving close to 3 inches of rain has been
of benefit to hay, grazing, and wheat producers. With the warmer temperatures grass and wheat are beginning to grow. Weather conditions for February have been highly variable with normal temperatures early in the month but with record-setting warm temperatures late in the month. Wet soil conditions hindered field activities. Some fields dried enough this past week to allow producers to plow. Fertilizer applications began. Growers are seeding tobacco greenhouses. Warm weather is causing grass to start greening up early, but pastures will not be ready to graze for another month or two.

NORTH DAKOTA: For the month of February 2018, topsoil moisture was rated 15% very short, 38% short, 46% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 13% very short, 40% short, 46% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 4% very poor, 14% poor, 52% fair, 28% good, 2% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions were 0% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 67% good, 14% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss was 1% heavy, 53% average, 46% light. Calving progress was 9%. Sheep and lamb conditions were 1% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 73% good, 7% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss was 1% heavy, 49% average, 50% light. Hay and roughage supplies were 10% very short, 24% short, 57% adequate, 9% surplus. Stock water supplies were 5% very short, 16% short, 78% adequate, 1% surplus.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture for the month was, 1% short, 17% adequate, and 82% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was, 1% short, 29% adequate, 70% surplus. Winter wheat condition for the month was rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 61% good, and 10% excellent. The February, Statewide average temperature was 35.4 degrees, 5.9 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 5.44 inches Statewide, which was 3.45 inches above normal for the month of February. The beginning of the month started out extremely cold with some snow and ice events. Warmer temperatures near mid-month, followed by heavy rains, melted most of the snow cover and caused significant flooding in many parts of the State. Soil was extremely saturated and some crops were underwater. Although winter wheat condition continued to be good, some reported that the temperature fluctuations, excessive rainfall, and ponding were expected to have a negative effect on winter wheat, particularly in low-lying areas. The muddy conditions were not ideal for livestock and calving.

OKLAHOMA: Precipitation levels continued to be rated below normal throughout the State, with the largest departures recorded in the North Central district at 39 percent below normal. According to OCS Mesonet, the Statewide average precipitation for the full month of February was 3.85 inches. As of February 20th, 38 percent of the State was in the extreme to exceptional drought categories, up 38 points from the previous year and 89 percent of the State was in the severe to exceptional drought categories, up 62 points from the previous year. Statewide temperatures averaged in the high 30’s, with the lowest recording of -1 degree at Camargo on Monday, February 26th and the highest recording of 84 degrees at Freedom on Wednesday, February 14th. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to very short and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly very short to short.

OREGON: Statewide temperature differentials for the month of February ranged from 7 degrees Fahrenheit above normal to 4 degrees below normal. A low temperature of -12 degrees was reported in the south central region while a high temperature of 71 was reported in the southwestern region. Temperatures and weather conditions were relatively good during the first half of the month, permitting field work and pruning. The second half of the month followed with a sudden drop in temperatures and high winds in some parts. The sudden cold and freezing conditions damaged some crops, with some berry operations reporting losses already. Pasture conditions worsened due to the sudden cold as ranchers attempted to help the new calves survive. Unfortunately, some operations have reported calf losses due to the cold weather. A few seed crops were possibly damaged by the sudden cold as well. Winter wheat, on the other hand, appeared to be doing well due to most of it being under snow cover and dormant. Orchard operations, which budded early due to the early warm weather, were at the greatest risk of suffering damage due to the sudden cold. Overall, some operations reported early losses while others predicted losses due to the sudden change in weather.

PENNSYLVANIA: Temperatures ranged from a high of 82 degrees to a low of -3 degrees. Statewide, temperatures average 34 degrees. It is plenty wet and soil is very saturated so ponding/flooding and water standing in the fields is occurring. The warmer temperatures this week made the small grains and cover crops green up a little. Fruit growers were busy pruning their trees. Producers were readying equipment and getting their plans in order for when spring does arrive and getting ready for this year’s planting season. Producers
were attending training meetings for pesticides and soil management also this month. Tobacco stripping and baling was winding down. Some tobacco growers dealt with molding tips. Cover crops and winter grains were greening up with this recent warm spell.

**SOUTHERN CAROLINA:** Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.65 inches in Georgetown County to 5.67 inches in Greenville County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the State was 54 percent abnormally dry, an improvement from the 81 percent this time last month. Average mean temperature for the month ranged from 61°F in Charleston County to 50°F in Pickens County. Due to the warm weather and plenty of rain, pastures started greening up. Mild weather allowed farmers an excellent opportunity to prepare fields for planting tobacco and corn next month. Warm temperatures had some fruit trees blooming. Soil moisture were satisfactory allowing small grains and winter grazing to grow well during the month.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** The following conditions were reported for the month of February: topsoil moisture 21% very short, 42% short, 37% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 22% very short, 41% short, 37% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 28% poor, 49% fair, 19% good, and 0% excellent.

**TENNESSEE:** For week ending February 25, 2018, topsoil moisture was 22% adequate 78% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 1% short, 34% adequate, 65% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 2% poor, 35% fair, 53% good, 10% excellent. Pasture and Range condition was 3% very poor, 16% poor, 39% fair, 38% good, 4% excellent. Cattle condition was 5% poor, 28% fair, 57% good, 10% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies were 2% very short, 12% short, 72% adequate, 14% surplus. Tennessee experienced excessive amounts of rainfall across the State in February, with some areas receiving 10 inches over the month. Unusually warm temperatures paired with heavy rainfall have crop conditions varying across the State. In some areas pastures and winter wheat are doing well, while in other areas crops are in standing water. The current pasture conditions have increased from last month and are mostly fair to good. Cattle condition is currently fair to good with some working hard to keep up with the emerging grass. Hay and roughage supplies remain adequate to surplus. Producers were waiting for dry conditions for fertilizer and herbicide applications.

**TEXAS:** Temperatures have been varied during the month, ranging from temperatures in the low teens in the Plains to temperatures in the low 90s in South Texas and the Lower Valley. Pastures and small grain crops suffered from the lack of precipitation during most of the month. Much needed precipitation was received late in the month, however many areas of the Plains received only trace amounts of moisture. Precipitation in East Texas, the Blacklands, and the Upper Coast ranged from 5 to 15 inches, flooding cities and damaging the already fragile crops. The drought in the plains ranged from severe to extreme. Supplemental feeding of cattle occurred on a daily basis in many areas of the State.

**UTAH:** For the entire month of January, topsoil moisture was 17% very short, 35% short, 47% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 16% very short, 32% short, 52% adequate, 0% surplus. Pasture and range condition was 5% very poor, 10% poor, 47% fair, 38% good, 0% excellent. Winter wheat condition was 9% very poor, 21% poor, 49% fair, 19% good, 2% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies were 0% very short, 5% short, 87% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies were 5% very short, 27% short, 68% adequate, 0% surplus. Cattle and calves condition was 0% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 82% good, 2% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition was 0% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 75% good, 1% excellent. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle was 80%, 80% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep was 62%, 76% last year. Cows calved was 16%, 11% last year. Ewes lambed-farm flock was 16%, 15% last year. Ewes lambed-range flock was 1%, 3% last year. Utah saw some moisture over the last week, but snowpack levels remain well below normal. Cache County reported a very dry, mild winter, and death loss for new calves was much less than the previous year. Beaver County reports storms going through recently but snowpack was still in very bad shape. Iron County reports calving was progressing with some freezing due to cold temperatures and snow. Garfield and Kane Counties reported extremely dry conditions, as farmers and ranchers expected reduced water for irrigation and low production on ranges and pastures.

**VIRGINIA:** For week ending February 25, 2018, topsoil moisture was 2% short, 68% adequate, 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 1% very short, 20% short, 68% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 4% poor, 18% fair, 71% good, 7% excellent. Barley condition was 12% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, 2% excellent. Livestock condition was 4% poor, 35% fair, 57% good, 4% excellent. Pasture and Range condition was 8%
very poor, 26% poor, 41% fair, 24% good, 1% excellent. Hay supplies were 1% very short, 22% short, 75% adequate, 2% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures was 7%. Virginia experienced above normal precipitation and temperatures in February. Due to the much needed rain and warmer temperatures, farmers saw improvement in pastures and rapid growth in small grains in some areas. Hay and roughage supplies were mostly short to adequate. Primary activities for the month include seeding tobacco greenhouses, planting spring gardens, and scouting small grains.

WASHINGTON: The first half of the month was warmer than normal while the second half of the month was much colder than normal. Most of the State experienced large drops in temperatures, with some regions reporting temperatures having dropped to single digits during the night. Some regions even reported temperatures dropping down to as far as -14 degrees Fahrenheit. Meanwhile, the highest temperature reported in the region was only 69 degrees Fahrenheit. The largest amount of precipitation reported in a single region was only 5.10 inches, which was much less than last month’s amount. A large number of operations across the State were concerned that the sudden change in temperatures may have caused frost damage. Earlier warmer temperatures left orchards and crops exposed to the sudden bitter cold. Some operations have already reported losses due to the sudden cold, with damage observed on raspberry operations along with fall planted crops struggling to survive. A number of reports indicated there were still considerable amounts of water left in the fields, forming pools. A few regions reported large amounts of snow, damaging orchards and Christmas tree operations. There were cold snaps killing off cherry blossoms in a few areas. While the sudden cold had been harsh towards livestock operations, the calving season finished without much trouble. Overall, the warmer weather caused snow covers to melt, which may have exposed wheat and other crops to the harmful effects of the sudden cold.

WEST VIRGINIA: For the week ending February 25, topsoil moisture was 43% adequate and 57% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 2% short, 55% adequate, and 43% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies were 1% very short, 16% short, 70% adequate, and 13% surplus. Feed grain supplies were 2% very short, 11% short, 79% adequate, and 8% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 1% poor, 30% fair, 55% good, and 14% excellent. Cattle and calves condition was 2% poor, 22% fair, 65% good, and 11% excellent. Calving was 20% complete. Sheep and lambs condition was 2% poor, 13% fair, 77% good, and 8% excellent. Lambing was 26% complete. The month was rainy, making muddy conditions in the fields. Farming activities for the month included calving, lambing, planning for the next crop season, and taking classes.

WISCONSIN: February temperatures at the five major weather stations ranged from 0.5 to 7.1 degrees below normal. Average highs ranged from 22.3 degrees in Eau Claire to 32.4 degrees in Milwaukee, while average lows ranged from 1.2 to 17.5 degrees in those same cities respectively. Precipitation averaged from 1.20 inches in Eau Claire to 3.20 inches in Milwaukee. Milwaukee received the most total snowfall out of the major cities with 16.5 inches. Green Bay received the least, with 6.7 inches of snow. In some areas, the lack of snowfall has farmers concerned with winterkill, while in other areas there were abundant amounts of snowfall. Changing weather patterns from cold, to warm, to rain, to ice, and back to snow have been hard on livestock. In some areas there were reports of flooding. There were some reports of corn still in the fields to be harvested. Ice and freezing conditions are current weather concerns in many areas.

WYOMING: These ratings are for the month of February 2018. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 30% short, 58% adequate. Subsoil moisture 14% very short, 32% short, 54% adequate. Winter wheat condition 8% very poor, 15% poor, 54% fair, 19% good, 4% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 2% very short, 12% short, 81% adequate, 5% surplus. Livestock condition 2% poor, 20% fair, 75% good, 3% excellent. Stock water supplies 10% very short, 20% short, 70% adequate. Pasture and range condition 11% very poor, 16% poor, 36% fair, 37% good. Cows calved 9%, 2017 6%. Ewes lambed 7%, 2017 6%. Sheep shorn 11%, 2017 14%. Lambing and calving began. Winter wheat condition was mostly good to fair and pasture and range was rated mostly good to fair. Temperatures were below freezing for the entire State and precipitation levels were mostly above average.
Statistical Methodology

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

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

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch……………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 720-2127

Anthony Prillaman, Head, Field Crops Section……………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 720-2127
Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet………………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 720-9526
James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay……………………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 690-8533
Jeff Lemmons – Oats, Soybeans…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 690-3234
Sammy Neal – Peanuts, Rice ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 720-7688
Joshua O’Rear – Crop Weather, Barley……………………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 720-7621
Jean Porter – Rye, Wheat……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 720-8068
Bianca Pruneda – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum…………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds…………………………………………………………………………………………………………… (202) 720-7369

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov

- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.