



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: December temperatures were generally on par with historical averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.9 inch in Chilton County to 7.3 inches in Mobile County. The limited rainfall did alleviate drought conditions in the southern part of the State but most of the State remained in a drought. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 89.9 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 99.1 percent at the month's beginning. Some fall seeded crops were not planted because of the lack of rainfall and early planted crops were reported to have poor stand because of the lack of soil moisture. Fall forages were also slow to grow and the lack of growth caused producers to feed more hay than usual. Hay shortages were reported in parts of the State with some producers reporting they might run out of hay by the end of January. Producers were optimistic about completing off-season fieldwork before spring planting begins. Pastures were reported to be in fair to poor condition and needed rainfall to bolster growth. Cattle conditions were reported to be mostly fair as the lack of quality winter forage took its toll.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: This report for Arizona is for the month of December 2023. Responses were based on the entire month, with consideration for any weather-related impacts that are forecast between now and month's end. By month's end, Arizona cotton harvest had progressed to 99 percent complete, up one percentage point from the previous year's levels. Twenty-five percent of the State's barley has been planted, and 25 percent of the crop has emerged. Similarly, 20 percent of Arizona's Durum wheat has been planted; 18 percent of the crop has emerged. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 22 percent of the crop rated fair to poor. As native forages have fully matured or continue to mature toward vegetative dormancy, 23 percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 31 percent was rated poor, 35 percent was rated fair, and 11 percent was rated good. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 18 percent rated very short, 23 percent rated short, and 59 percent rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Throughout the month of December, measurable precipitation was received across much of the State. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, much of the precipitation received was realized throughout southern regions where approximately 1.25 inches was recorded while northern areas of Arizona received anywhere between 0.10 and 0.80 inch of precipitation. The drought information statements for southwest Arizona and southeastern California, northern Arizona, and southeastern Arizona all remained in effect and were updated on December 22, December 24, and December 30, respectively, in response to below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures. According to the National Weather Service, rainfall across southern portions of Arizona has been less than 50 percent of normal over the last six months. Despite a disappointing monsoon season, the seasonal precipitation outlook for January, February, and March of 2024 shows that odds are slightly tilted toward wetter than normal conditions throughout most of the State with the exception being southeastern Arizona. Subsequently, Arizona's long-term drought outlook shows that conditions are expected to improve or end throughout all areas of the State excluding southeastern regions. As of December 26, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a slight improvement from the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 36 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 20 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 28 percent, and extreme drought (D3) remained at 6 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Throughout the month of December, temperatures across much of the State increased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 2 to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from the low 40s in Coconino County to the low to mid-70s across southwestern regions of Arizona. Overnight lows ranged from 4 degrees below to 5 degrees above normal and ranged from 15 to 40 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

ARKANSAS: For the week ending December 31, 2023, topsoil moisture 5% short, 26% adequate, 69% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 5% short, 29% adequate, 66% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of

December were 17.0 days. December conditions for the State were mild with average rainfall. Soil samples are being taken from row crop fields and planning for the coming year is on the way. A lot of ground was prepared with good fall weather and will be ready to plant as conditions become favorable this spring. Livestock producers are feeding hay, for the most part, ground is dry.

CALIFORNIA: For the week ending December 31, 2023 - Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 85% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 20% short, and 75% adequate. Winter wheat condition 25% good and 75% excellent. As of December 29th, Snowpack content ranged from 1.4 to 2.7 inches in the Northern, Southern and Central Sierras, well below average for this time of year. Winter wheat and oats were planted. Winter forage planting continued. Alfalfa was bagged or put into piles for haylage. Cotton harvest was completed, and fields were shredded and disced under. Garlic, squash, broccoli, and brussel sprouts were harvested along the Central Coast. Lettuce was harvested in the Imperial Valley. Lemons, navel orange, tangerine, grapefruit, and lime harvests continued but were slowed at the end of December due to rain. Growers utilized micro sprinklers and drip irrigation to deliver warmer groundwater to the soil surface to raise field temperatures. Fans were used to prevent cold damage before harvest. Table grape, pomegranate, and persimmon harvests were winding down. Kiwi harvest was ongoing. Stone fruit orchards and vineyards were pruned. Blueberries and blackberries are now dormant and nursery stock was received for planting. Bee hives continued to be moved into the State for overwintering. Despite adequate rain, foothill pastures remained dry, and many ranchers fed their grazing cattle supplemental hay and/or feed.

COLORADO: This report for Colorado is for the entire month of December 2023. Topsoil moisture 16% very short, 29% short, 55% adequate. Subsoil moisture 12% very short, 34% short, 54% adequate. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, 5% excellent. Livestock condition 1% poor, 6% fair, 86% good, 7% excellent. Pasture and range condition 4% very poor, 8% poor, 16% fair, 67% good, 5% excellent. Above average temperatures and dry weather across the State during the month of December was interspersed with a few productive snowstorms. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor report published on December 28th, just over 63 percent of the State was abnormally dry or in a state of drought. Just under 9 percent of the State was in severe to exceptional drought, a better start than 2023 when over 30 percent of the State was under severe to exceptional drought conditions. Areas of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande counties are experiencing extreme drought conditions after continued below average precipitation. Productive snowstorms during the latter half of December improved moisture across the State, but moisture levels continued significantly behind the previous year. Temperatures across the State for the month of December trended above average. Several northeastern counties realized temperatures more than six degrees above normal. Most of the high country experienced above average temperatures, while areas of Mineral County realizing temperatures more than 2 degrees below average. Northeastern counties remained very dry, but received beneficial moisture at the end of December, accumulating at least one inch of precipitation in several areas. Reporters noted warm conditions have allowed cattle to thoroughly utilize corn stalks and winter grazing. Winter wheat conditions in the district are mixed, with earlier planted wheat in better condition and other areas yet to come up. Below average moisture in southwestern counties since the end of the growing season have worsened drought conditions, with most counties in a moderate drought or worse. Livestock producers continued to utilize winter grazing arrangements where available. In southeastern counties, recent snow events had provided good topsoil moisture. The San Luis Valley has received limited snowfall this winter, leaving soils dry and rangeland deteriorating. According to county reports, limited snow in the region has allowed open pastures and good livestock condition, and a good hay supply. Statewide, winter wheat condition declined, with 61 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, compared with 65 percent good to excellent from the previous report and 50 percent good to excellent last year. As of December 31, 2023, snowpack in Colorado was 69 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

DELAWARE: December temperatures were mild and overall, above freezing for most of the month. Soil temperatures finally started to drop below 60 degrees. Frost on ground many mornings but not below 20 degrees for extended times. Most days were dry, with few days experiencing rainfall. Rainstorms were heavy when they did occur, with several inches falling at a time, particularly at the beginning of the month. Farmers reported harvest problems with late soybeans still being green and not drying down.

FLORIDA: December temperatures were on par with historical averages, with the temperatures becoming gradually cooler as the month progressed. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.5 inches of rain in Polk County to over 11 inches in Leon County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 8.1 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 21.1 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the State received moderate amounts of

rainfall last month, which improved overall drought conditions in the State. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good, with pastures improving due to overall rain received. Livestock remained in mostly fair to good condition as well, improving as pasture conditions recovered. Sugarcane planting and harvest progressed well throughout December. Citrus grove activities throughout the month included spraying pesticides and nutritional, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Eleven packinghouses were active in early December with thirteen active in late December. Crops that were planted and harvested include sugarcane, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, eggplant, peppers, boniato, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and other tropical fruits.

GEORGIA: December temperatures were 1.0 to 2.6 degrees warmer than historical averages depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.7 inches in Butts County to 12.3 inches in Rabun County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 48 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions, 28 percent had moderate drought conditions and 11 percent had severe drought conditions by month's end, compared to 62 percent abnormally dry, 41 percent with moderate drought, 20 percent with severe drought and 9 percent with extreme drought at the month's beginning. Good rainfall amounts helped improve overall field conditions throughout the State. Livestock were reported to be in good condition; however, hay supplies were reported to be running low due to the drought in the fall. The fall drought left many producers unable to establish adequate winter grazing, although some attempted late seeding throughout December that has yet to fully establish. For this reason, many cattle producers were also feeding supplements in hopes to extend hay supplies into the spring. Planting of winter wheat also carried on into December, with emergence aided by sufficient rainfall in most areas. Harvest of cotton continued throughout the month as conditions allowed. The Vidalia onion crop was reported to be looking good and progressing well.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: The average temperatures in Idaho were above normal for the month of December. Accumulated precipitation was normal to below normal across the majority of Idaho, with parts of southeast Idaho slightly above normal. In northern Idaho, unusually warm weather and little moisture was reported. In Elmore and Owyhee Counties, all crops had been harvested. Subsoil moisture appeared deficient with frozen topsoil. An absence of measurable snow was reported at low to mid elevations. Beef cattle started to calve with favorable conditions. Jerome and Twin Falls Counties reported warm and dry conditions for the month, with some concern about the lack of winter moisture accumulation. Field activities included hauling manure from dairies to fields. Blaine County reported dry conditions which allowed livestock to graze longer into the winter months than normal. Bonneville and Madison Counties reported reservoir levels were good with an adequate snowpack. Hay stocks were adequate. Northeast Idaho had higher than normal temperatures with low snowfall for the year.

ILLINOIS: For the month of December 2023. Topsoil moisture supply was rated 8 percent very short, 20 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supply was rated 12 percent very short, 48 percent short, 38 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Statewide, the average temperature was 39.2 degrees, 9.4 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 2.85 inches; 0.16 inch above normal.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture for the month of December was 8% very short, 32% short, 54% adequate, and 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 14% very short, 41% short, 42% adequate, and 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 2% very poor, 4% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, and 10% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 39.7 degrees, 8.6 degrees above normal for the month of December. Statewide average precipitation was 2.26 inches, 0.80 inch below normal. Precipitation was all in the form of rain in December. There was no snow cover in Indiana. Subsoils are still very dry in most areas and additional precipitation is needed to replenish subsoils. Overall, winter wheat is in good condition. A warmer than normal early December should assist wheat planted later than normal. Hay is reported to be in short supply in some areas of the State. Some hay producers have sold out of all their hay. Other activities for the month included equipment maintenance, grain hauling, and getting paperwork ready for taxes.

IOWA: Significantly warmer than normal temperatures were experienced for much of December. The State received some much-needed precipitation during December after a very dry year. Many reporters described December as mild, which allowed more fertilizer, lime, and manure application. Some limited tile work also continued. Livestock conditions throughout the State were generally described as good, with no reports of death loss. Livestock producers' concerns included water and hay supplies, as well as pasture conditions going into next year. Grain movement was not hindered by

the weather, and there were reports of operators hauling grain. Soil moisture levels continue to be the primary concern as farmers look forward to the 2024 crop year.

KANSAS: For the week ending December 31, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 16% very short, 31% short, 46% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 23% very short, 36% short, 40% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 9% very poor, 12% poor, 36% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent.

KENTUCKY: For the month of December, Kentucky saw above normal temperatures and much below normal precipitation. The State has now received below normal precipitation for four months straight. There were periodic rounds of rain, but accumulation puts 2023 as one of the driest Decembers on record. The U.S. drought monitor places 87% of the State as abnormally dry. This December is also in the top 10 warmest recorded. With unseasonably warm weather, the South-Central portion of the State experienced tornadic activity around mid-month. Temperatures for the period averaged 43 degrees across the State, 5 degrees above normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 2.39 inches Statewide, which was 2.06 inches below normal and 54% of normal. Drought stunted fall pasture growth causing many farmers to begin feeding hay early. For the month, hay supplies 10% very short, 29% short, 57% adequate, 4% surplus. Livestock condition 2% poor, 27% fair, 64% good, 7% excellent. Condition of winter wheat 2% poor, 24% fair, 63% good, 11% excellent. Tobacco stripping 87% complete.

LOUISIANA: For the month ending December 31, 2023, Topsoil moisture supplies were 19 percent very short, 45 percent short, 34 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 31 percent very short, 41 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. There were 22 days suitable for fieldwork. Many operators are preparing for early spring planting and spring calving, flooding crawfish ponds, and placing crawfish traps. Throughout December, dry conditions persisted, and many cattle producers continued to reduce herds due to hay shortages. Sugarcane farmers near the end of harvest, with a significantly reduced yield due to drought conditions in summer and fall. No major cold events were reported. As a result, cattle are in generally good condition, and harvests were completed with minimal damage to crops.

MARYLAND: Temperatures in December were average to above average. Precipitation was adequate and alleviated minor drought conditions. Some areas experienced localized flooding due to two days of heavy precipitation during the third week of the month. Small grains, pasture, and cover crops look good for the most part. All grains were harvested.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 5% short, 46% adequate, 48% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 19% short, 62% adequate, 17% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 6% poor, 52% fair, 40% good, 2% excellent. Precipitation for the month of December averaged 1.94 inches throughout the State, 0.31 inch below normal. Temperature for the month of December averaged 35.4 degrees, 10.5 degrees above normal. Approximately 59 percent of the State experienced abnormally dry conditions or worse, with 7 percent experiencing moderate drought and 1 percent experiencing severe drought conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor. The driest areas include the Upper Peninsula and north and middle counties of the Lower Peninsula spanning from the west to east coast of the State. December has been unusually warm across the State and lack of snow has brought moisture concerns for spring to the forefront. Late plantings of winter wheat are showing emergence. Corn is still being harvested in the southeast with reports of vomitoxin being present. Many areas are waiting for a good freeze to finish harvesting. Other activities for the month included tiling work, purchasing seed, preparing equipment for spring, and tending livestock.

MINNESOTA: Above average temperatures and 2 to 4 inches of rain across the State created muddy feedlots. Lambing and calving were proceeding well, although there were some reports of respiratory illness in livestock. Farmers were able to complete more tillage and tiling with the mild weather.

MISSISSIPPI: For the week ending December 31, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies were 9% very short, 43% short, 45% adequate, and 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 16% very short, 44% short, 38% adequate, and 2% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of December were 18.0 days. Some fieldwork is being done to prep for spring. Overall, temperatures for most of December have been mild. Most of the State is experiencing drought conditions and are looking for rain. Cooler temperatures paired with below average moisture supplies have resulted in slow growth on winter grasses.

MISSOURI: For the week ending December 31, 2023. Topsoil moisture 6% very short, 22% short, 71% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 19% very short, 41% short, 39% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very

poor, 2% poor, 25% fair, 63% good, and 10% excellent. Statewide, precipitation averaged 2.91 inches for the month of December, 0.15 inch above average. Temperatures averaged 71.2 degrees, 8.1 degrees below normal.

MONTANA: This report for Montana is for the entire month of December 2023. Topsoil moisture 46% very short, 33% short, 21% adequate. Subsoil moisture 48% very short, 31% short, 21% adequate. Winter wheat condition 8% very poor, 13% poor, 36% fair, 26% good, 17% excellent. Winter wheat wind damage 24% moderate, 3% light, 73% none. Winter wheat freeze damage 27% light, 73% none. Snow cover 87% very poor, 10% poor, 1% fair, 2% good. Pasture and range condition 36% very poor, 24% poor, 17% fair, 21% good, 2% excellent. Grazing accessibility 87% open, 5% difficult, 8% closed. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 73%. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 72%. The month of December brought above average temperatures and mostly below normal precipitation to Montana. Data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) indicate that temperatures ran about 6 degrees above average in the west, and as much as 12-15 degrees above average moving north and east. Moisture received was about 0.75 inch below average to normal for the majority of Montana. In some parts of the northwest, moisture levels were as much as 1.5 inches or more below normal. Only isolated areas of the State received precipitation levels that were slightly above normal. Drought conditions changed significantly according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on December 28, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free fell to 44 percent, compared to 61 percent as reported on November 30. Abnormal dryness was found in 37 percent of Montana, compared to 26 percent on the same November release. Moderate drought stood at 16 percent, and severe drought was found in 3 percent of the State. These conditions were rated 8 and 5 percent, respectively, at the end of November. No major snow events have occurred in Broadwater County since October. The winter thus far has been very mild, especially as compared to last December. Producers were concerned about the future effects of the lack of moisture on the upcoming season. Temperatures were running well above normal in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Moisture levels were below normal. Snowpack in Ravalli County was reportedly 40 percent of normal. Foggy conditions and inversions occurred in Northern Ravalli County, and in parts of Missoula County. Livestock were doing well for this time of year. There was, however, a report of a wolf attack in Ravalli County that resulted in the death of a cow. Lack of moisture remained a concern for the new irrigation season. A reporter from Valley County also indicated that the winter has so far been mild, and moisture was needed.

NEBRASKA: For the week ending December 31, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 17% very short, 35% short, 44% adequate, and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 28% very short, 38% short, 34% adequate, and 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 4% very poor, 12% poor, 36% fair, 35% good, and 13% excellent.

NEVADA: For the week ending December 31, 2023 - Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil moisture 10% very short, 45% short, and 45% adequate. Subsoil moisture 35% short, 65% adequate. Pasture and range condition 55% poor and 45% fair. There was little to no precipitation during the month. The US Drought Monitor showed nearly 95% of the State had zero precipitation for the entire month. Temperatures remained normal to slightly above normal.

NEW ENGLAND: New England States experienced variable weather - snow, rain, and periods of warmth. Northern New England was among the regions with the greatest odds of seeing warmer-than-average conditions. A mid-December storm inundated the New England States under as much as 7 inches of rain and battered it with high winds. Some producers in Maine reported that their crop fields were flooded and filled with silt. Very little freezing reported in Vermont. However, continued wet weather and warm conditions could impact sod crops for 2024. Producers were looking forward to 2024 and how to deal with high input costs in crop production and changing weather patterns. Most producers spent time doing general farm maintenance as well as administrative activities such as income tax planning. Orchardists prepared for pruning apple trees and Christmas tree growers finished up their season. Fresh greens were sold at winter farmers markets. Farm activities varied in December and included combining corn and spreading manure (CT), shipping potato crops (ME), planning for the 2024 season (NH) harvesting some cold crops and seeding winter rye (RI), and some maple syrup production (VT).

NEW JERSEY: Rain was extremely heavy this month with no snow. Most land left dry from drought earlier in the year has absorbed this excess rain, however some major and minor flooding has occurred in some areas of the State. Temperatures were warmer than average. Overwinter crops appear to be looking good, with some harvest occurring of crops such as leeks.

NEW MEXICO: This report for New Mexico is for the month of December 2023. Topsoil moisture 50% very short, 32% short, 15% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 49% very short, 40% short, 10% adequate, 1% surplus. Pecans harvested 50%, 84% last year. Winter wheat condition 31% poor, 46% fair, 14% good, 9% excellent. Cattle condition

11% poor, 39% fair, 35% good, 15% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 2% very poor, 4% poor, 43% fair, 50% good, 1% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 38% very short, 43% short, 19% adequate. Stock water supplies 36% very short, 26% short, 37% adequate, 1% surplus. Snow helped with dry conditions in parts of New Mexico, but dry, warm weather prevailed in others during the month of December. Row crop harvest wrapped up in most areas. Cotton harvest at the end of the month was ahead of last year, while pecan harvest was behind last year's progress. Comments from several counties in the northeastern part of the State noted wet snow fell mid-month that helped with soil moistures. Southcentral counties noted conditions remained dry and windier than normal. Winter wheat condition declined, with 23 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 28 percent at the end of November and 20 percent for December 2022. Converted moisture totals during the past month ranged from no precipitation to approximately 3 inches. Significant precipitation was mostly confined to the central counties, but most of the State only received 1 inch or less. Most counties saw slightly below average precipitation during December. Isolated areas continued to register yearly rainfall accumulation at or below 50 percent of normal. Conversely, yearly precipitation for areas in northwestern and central part of the State totaled 150 percent of normal or more. Average temperatures during December were generally normal except for the southeastern corner of the State that were below normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for December 26, exceptional drought (D4) continued in parts of southern New Mexico including most of Eddy County and parts of Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 35 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 41 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 12 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 5 percent. Drought-free conditions covered less than 1 percent of the State. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 38 percent very short, 43 percent short, and 19 percent adequate, compared with 32 percent very short, 46 percent short, 21 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus on November 26. Stock water supplies were reported as 36 percent very short, 26 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 27 percent very short, 41 percent short, 31 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus on November 26.

NEW YORK: December overall experienced more mild temperatures for most areas with moderate to significant rainfall throughout the State. Some locations reported flooding in spots. In addition to a lack of snowfall, the mild weather was also a concern for keeping bee populations fed through winter as they were eating through feed much faster. Yields of corn were reported as excellent overall but that late harvested was hard to dry. There were positive outlooks on soybeans and winter wheat as well. Grapes had reports of low sugar content in one area with producers speculating cause as low light conditions due to forest fires in Canada.

NORTH CAROLINA: For the month ending December 31, 2023 - Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 4% short, 69% adequate and 25% surplus. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 3% short, 62% adequate and 33% surplus. Barley condition 3% poor, 20% fair, 72% good and 5% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 7% short, 86% adequate and 4% surplus. Oats condition 14% fair, 85% good and 1% excellent. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 12% poor, 38% fair, 47% good and 1% excellent. Winter wheat condition 1% poor, 14% fair, 84% good and 1% excellent. Throughout December, conditions have turned from very dry to very wet over the past two weeks. There are a few acres of soybeans remaining. It may be awhile before they can be harvested. Small grains are looking very good at this point.

NORTH DAKOTA: For the week ending December 31, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 6% very short, 21% short, 71% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 11% very short, 27% short, 61% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 0% very poor, 5% poor, 45% fair, 48% good, 2% excellent. Corn harvested 99%. Sunflowers harvested 97%. Cattle and calf conditions, 1% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 70% good, 5% excellent. Sheep and lamb conditions, 0% very poor, 5% poor, 30% fair, 59% good, 6% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies, 2% very short, 18% short, 75% adequate, 5% surplus. Stock water supplies, 2% very short, 14% short, 83% adequate, 1% surplus.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture for the month was 2% very short, 8% short, 66% adequate, 24% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 3% very short, 26% short, 61% adequate, 10% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 4% poor, 25% fair, 54% good, 17% excellent. The Statewide average temperature was 40.0 degrees, 8.3 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 2.48 inches Statewide, 0.44 inch below normal for December. Abnormally mild temperatures were observed across much of the State. The December monthly average temperature was the third highest on record, with negligible amounts of snow cover recorded. The moderate temperatures enabled growers to continue to harvest corn. A round of late-month rain events helped to replenish soil moisture. Reporters noted that field activities were hampered by the relatively warm and damp soil conditions. Livestock farmers described muddy and deteriorated pastures, with operations having transitioned to the use of stored forage.

OKLAHOMA: For the month of December, rainfall totals averaged 2.70 inches throughout the State, with the West Central district recording the highest precipitation at 3.40 inches and the Southeast district recording the lowest precipitation at 2.35 inches. According to the December 26th, US Drought Monitor Report, 46 percent of the State was in the abnormally dry to exceptional drought category, down 52 points from the previous year. Additionally, 21 percent of the State was in the moderate drought to exceptional drought category, down 69 points from the previous year. Statewide temperatures averaged in the upper 30's to upper 40's, with the lowest recording of 10 degrees at Kenton on Saturday, December 2nd, and the highest recording of 80 degrees at Burneyville on Friday, December 8th. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to short.

OREGON: Temperatures throughout the State were above average for the month of December. Moisture conditions throughout the State ranged from dry to wet for December. Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties reported below average rainfall, but sufficient for fall planted crops. Pastures were in good condition headed into the fall. Nursery and berry crops were also reported in good condition. Benton and Lincoln Counties reported that rainfall was lower than average throughout the month with mild temperatures. However, there were a few large storms that brought roughly 10 inches of rain within a few days and caused some localized flooding. There were no days reported with snow and a few days of freezing temperatures. Many livestock producers were operating under a feed shortage due to the summer drought and some operators sold livestock if they were not able to acquire enough hay to last through the winter. Clatsop and Tillamook Counties reported that manure was spread as a necessity due to tank overfill. The rain and temperatures were reported to be average. Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties reported warmer than normal temperatures for this time of year with a fair amount of precipitation. Livestock were doing well in the warmer temperatures and required less supplemental hay. Morrow County reported that December rainfall wet the seed-zone adequately. Mountain snow was limited and much less than last year. Baker and Grant Counties reported warm temperatures and very little snow compared to normal years. Umatilla County reported precipitation was well below average, and temperatures were above average, with snowpack in the Blue Mountains far below average for this time of year. Crops and livestock were doing well so far this season. Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties reported that pasture had ample water supply, steady rain, and average grazing conditions. Malheur County reported less than average precipitation with snow levels below average for this time of year. Temperatures were consistently above average which left the valley floors free of snow. Foggy conditions with high pressure systems created poor air quality for a portion of the month.

PENNSYLVANIA: The State has experienced a mild winter so far with rainy conditions. The warm conditions and frequent rains allowed for the soil to be able to get a good recharge of ground water. After a late planting season this year, some producers reported that the 2023 crop production was excellent along with good corn and soybean yields. The tobacco farmers were in the process of stripping and baling this year's crop, reporting that tobacco quality was good and prices were strong. Cover crops and small grains were continuing to grow due to warmer conditions.

SOUTH CAROLINA: December temperatures were 1.0 to 3.6 degrees warmer than historic averages depending on location. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 3.6 inches in Florence County to 14.0 inches in Georgetown County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 50 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions, 23 percent had moderate drought conditions and 5 percent had severe drought conditions by month's end, compared to 69 percent abnormally dry, 41 percent with moderate drought, 15 percent with severe drought and 3 percent with extreme drought at the month's beginning. Harvest of cotton and soybeans continued throughout the month as conditions allowed. Planting of winter wheat also carried on into December, with emergence aided by sufficient rainfall in most areas. Good weather conditions allowed farmers to start taking soil samples and begin preparing for the spring.

SOUTH DAKOTA: For the week ending December 31, 2023, topsoil moisture supplies rated 3% very short, 18% short, 71% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 5% very short, 26% short, 65% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 38% fair, 48% good, and 6% excellent.

TENNESSEE: For the week ending December 31, Days suitable 4.8. Topsoil moisture 7% very short, 37% short, 55% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 39% short, 52% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 6% poor, 38% fair, 40% good, 12% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 14% very poor, 30% poor, 40% fair, 15% good, 1% excellent. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 60% good, and 6% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies are 7% very short, 32% short, 57% adequate, 4% surplus. Tennessee experienced mild weather with minimal rainfall throughout the month. Temperatures have been near average or slightly above average. Re-seeded

pastures and winter wheat are a bit behind coming out of the fall drought, but soil moisture levels are slowly starting to recover. Producers report natural water sources remain below normal levels as well.

TEXAS: For the month of December, precipitation ranged from trace amounts to upwards of 6 inches, with the Northern Low Plains, the Blacklands, and the Upper Coast receiving the most. Cotton harvest was near complete across the State. Pecan harvest continued in the Cross Timbers and South-Central districts. Citrus, sugarcane, vegetable, and strawberries were being harvested in South Texas and the Lower Valley. Small grains planting was near completion, however, crop development was on track with fields benefiting from recent rains. Range and Pasture conditions were rated 65 percent poor to very poor. Supplemental feeding continued across the State.

UTAH: This report for Utah is for the entire month of December 2023. Topsoil moisture 5% very short, 7% short, 77% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 10% short, 79% adequate, 10% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% poor, 12% fair, 85% good, 2% excellent. Winter wheat condition 24% fair, 68% good, 8% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% short, 63% adequate, 36% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 1% short, 74% adequate, 24% surplus. Cattle and calves condition 10% fair, 75% good, 15% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 15% fair, 67% good, 18% excellent. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 65%. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 54%. Cows calved 1%. As of December 31, 2023, snowpack in Utah was 68 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. Beaver, Box Elder, Cache, and Grand Counties noted mild warm weather along with limited moisture. Beaver and Box Elders Counties noted that livestock producers were still grazing cattle instead of feeding hay due to mild weather. Box Elder County reports lack of snow cover for winter wheat before upcoming colder weather.

VIRGINIA: For week ending December 31, 2023. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 9% short, 77% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 29% short, 58% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% poor, 19% fair, 78% good, 1% excellent. Barley condition 43% fair, 57% good. Livestock condition 2% poor, 28% fair, 62% good, 8% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 4% very poor, 25% poor, 31% fair, 40% good. Hay and roughage supplies 6% very short, 31% short, 62% adequate, 1% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 17%. Virginia experienced above normal temperatures and precipitation in December. The rain was too late to stimulate grass growth, so pastures are short in many areas. Excessive rainfall in several areas has saturated the fields which resulted in muddy ground and standing water in some areas. Wet pastures are getting torn up by livestock that do not have alternative paddocks to move to. Hay and roughage supplies are mostly adequate to short. Primary activities for the month include equipment maintenance and purchasing seed and fertilizer.

WASHINGTON: Washington experienced warmer than average temperatures across the State. Accumulated precipitation varied from below average in western Washington to slightly above average in eastern Washington. Skagit County has had a mild winter to date and winter crops looked good. Whatcom County was drier than normal. Klickitat and Yakima Counties were warmer than normal with not many nights below freezing. A small amount of snow was received towards the end of the month, followed by rain. Fall seeding was halted due to wet fields. Many cattle were moved to feedlots for the winter, with any on pasture being heavily supplemented. Vegetable and fruit producers used the mild winter to clean up and prepare fields, orchards, vineyards and hopyards for next season. Tree and vine pruning activities took place over the month. Okanogan County reported a lack of snow cover and warmer than normal temperatures. Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties have had a mild winter to date. Some cattle were observed grazing. Winter crops looked to be in fair condition. Mild weather was reported, with no unusual weather systems for Grant County. Adams and Lincoln Counties experienced warmer than normal temperatures with good precipitation for the month. Asotin and Garfield Counties received a lot of rain with some snow at high elevations.

WEST VIRGINIA: For the week ending December 31, Topsoil moisture 14% very short, 14% short, 55% adequate, and 17% surplus. Subsoil moisture 17% very short, 20% short, 57% adequate, and 6% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 3% very short, 10% short, 79% adequate, and 8% surplus. Feed grain supplies 7% short, 89% adequate, and 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition 14% poor, 45% fair, 40% good, and 1% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 1% very poor, 4% poor, 21% fair, 59% good, and 15% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 1% poor, 24% fair, 66% good, and 9% excellent. Weather conditions for the month have been a mix of cold and warm temperatures with rain and snow. Farming activities for the month included preparing for cold weather and planning for the next growing season.

WISCONSIN: December was unseasonably warm across Wisconsin, averaging 32.1 degrees, 13.0 degrees above normal. The State averaged 1.56 inches of precipitation throughout the month, 0.22 inch above normal. However, most precipitation was rain due to warmer weather, and much of the State still lacks snow cover and frost. This allowed for

many farmers to finish their fall fieldwork such as tilling fields and applying manure. In some Northern counties, a little corn remained unharvested due to storage being at capacity. In warmer areas, some alfalfa fields broke dormancy, raising concerns about potential damage later in the winter.

WYOMING: This report for Wyoming is for the entire month of December 2023. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 34% short, 53% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 17% very short, 40% short, 43% adequate. Winter wheat condition 7% very poor, 7% poor, 53% fair, 32% good, 1 percent excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 12% short, 86% adequate, 1 percent surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 2% fair, 85% good, 11% excellent. Stock water supplies 3% very short, 11% short, 86% adequate. Pasture and range condition 4% very poor, 8% poor, 33% fair, 51% good, 4% surplus. Wyoming received little relief from the ongoing drought conditions during the month of December, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Rainfall was scattered and total accumulations varied, ranging from a trace to as much as 4 inches during the month, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Some areas received no measurable rainfall. Temperatures ran above normal for most of the State, ranging from no change to 8 degrees above average. There was little change in drought conditions during December according to the United States Drought Monitor report published on December 26, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free equaled 75 percent, compared with 88 percent on November 28, 2023. Abnormally dry conditions covered 22 percent of Wyoming, and moderate drought was found in 3 percent. Reports from Goshen County indicated the dry conditions have been favorable for cattle on feed. Platte County reporters noted little moisture received in the last month, with unseasonably warm weather for this time of year.

Statistical Methodology

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

Information Contacts

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

Chris Hawthorn, Acting Chief, Crops Branch	(202) 720-2127
Chris Hawthorn, Head, Field Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Irwin Anolik – Crop Progress and Condition	(202) 720-7621
Joshua Bates – Hemp, Oats, Soybeans.....	(202) 690-3234
Natasha Bruton – Barley, Cotton System Consumption and Stocks, Grain Crushings	(202) 690-1042
David Colwell – Fats and Oils, Flour Milling Products.....	(202) 720-8800
Michelle Harder – County Estimates, Hay	(202) 690-8533
James Johanson – Rye, Wheat	(202) 720-8068
Greg Lemmons – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet.....	(202) 720-9526
Becky Sommer – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum	(202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369
Jennifer Van Court – Peanuts, Rice	(202) 720-2127

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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@usda.gov.

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