



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 49% adequate, and 48% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 67% adequate, and 30% surplus. Livestock condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 76% good, and 7% excellent. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 12% poor, 56% fair, 29% good, and 1% excellent. Winter wheat was rated in mostly good condition. Several storm systems brought much needed rain to all counties over the past month recharging ground water supplies. In some cases heavy downpours caused some erosion of topsoil. December was generally warm and wet providing adequate conditions for winter forages to grow and meet livestock nutrition needs. Farms without available winter forages were substantially short of grazing requiring the use of hay and other stored feed supplements. Hay supplies were getting short in some areas. The US Drought Monitor released on December 30, 2014 indicated the state of Alabama was 62.49 percent free from drought, compared to 97.35 percent a year ago. Drought ratings still leave over 40 percent of the state rated as abnormally dry or higher. The average mean temperature for the month ranged from 44.6 F in Hamilton and Moulton to 55.3 F in Robertsedale; total precipitation ranged from 4.36 inches in Robertsedale to 9.48 inches in Bessemer.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the State started out mostly above normal for the first three weeks of December and finished below normal in the last two weeks of the month. The temperature extremes for December were a high of 90°F in Yuma and a low of -7°F at Anvil Ranch, Paloma and Paradise. Twelve of the 40 reporting stations we have previous data for finished the year with above normal precipitation. Yuma finished the lowest at 51 percent of normal precipitation and Buckeye finished the highest with 141 percent of normal precipitation. Cotton harvesting was virtually complete by the end of the month. Alfalfa harvesting was occurred on two-thirds of the planted acres and sheepling off continued on the alfalfa fields across the State. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

ARKANSAS: The weather in Arkansas has been very variable throughout the entire month of December. The temperatures have fluctuated between very cold and warm days, which seem to occur on a weekly basis. Precipitation was below normal although there were a couple of heavy rain days and temperatures were above normal for the month. By the end of the month, precipitation was subpar, with deficits over two inches in the southeast half of the state. The average temperature for the month was 44°F. Most farmers ended the month attending to their cattle, and preparing for the 2015 crop year.

CALIFORNIA: Days suitable for field work was 6.3 days. Topsoil moisture 40% very short, 30% short, 25% adequate and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 30% very short, 50% short and 20% adequate. Two main weather features dominated the weather across the State this week. The first was cold high pressure centered over the Great Basin. The primary effects were dry weather and bitterly cold temperatures. While the valley saw highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s each day, parts of the mountains dropped below zero, and sub-freezing weather reached as far south as the Joshua Tree National Park area. By mid-week the jet stream had shifted to a pattern that began ushering in relatively warmer, moisture-laden air from the Pacific. This resulted in a moderation of nocturnal lows and an influx of moisture, manifesting itself as marine stratus/fog events, particularly along the coasts. As a result, coastal temperatures remained in the 50s across the north and 60s across the south. The combination of clear skies in the valley and moisture influx led to the formation of dense radiation fog on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Widespread frost affected the agricultural zones in the valley early this week, with patchy frost continuing through the weekend. Rain fell across the continually parched southern reaches of the State on Thursday, but rain totals were under half an inch. Portions of the Sierras saw snow showers mainly on Tuesday, but little to no accumulation came of this event. Elsewhere, little to no precipitation fell across the State this week. Heavy rain has saturated some fields and limited access. Some wheat and triticale fields were irrigated. Some fields were sprayed to kill old alfalfa. The wheat crop was rated as 80 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 35

percent good to excellent. Orchard and vineyard activities were slowed as growers waited for saturated fields to dry out sufficiently to be worked. In Fresno County, 60% of grapes were pruned. After pruning, fields were shredded and disked. Navel oranges, mandarins, lemons, grapefruit, and finger limes continued to be packed for export and domestic markets. Shelling and processing of stored walnuts continued. Mummies were knocked off almond trees. There was some pruning and shredding in almond orchards. Tree removals were ongoing and land was prepared for tree planting. In Monterey County, some brassicas were planted though production was very slow due to the cold. Due to the host free period for Lettuce Mosaic Virus (December 7 through 21) and Celery Mosaic Virus (January), lettuce and celery production were eliminated until late February. In Sutter County, rain delayed the cultivation of vegetable and seed crops. In Fresno County, dehydrator onion planting was finished, while fresh onion planting continued. Organic onions were fertilized and weeded. The second harvest of organic broccoli was underway. The first of the tomato plant orders were shipped to greenhouses. Rangeland and pasture conditions were improving. The continuing rain helped with the germination and development of foothill grasses and forbs, but more is still needed. Livestock supplemental feeding of hay and grain continued.

COLORADO: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 26% short, 69% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% very short, 22% short, 69% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% poor, 37% fair, 52% good, 10% excellent. Pasture and range condition 3% very poor, 13% poor, 24% fair, 55% good, 5% excellent. Livestock condition 7% fair, 75% good, 18% excellent. Conditions during the month of December were variable with near record high and low temperatures. Many locations broke or tied low temperature records the last week of the month. The weather patterns with cold temperatures also brought snow that helped insulate winter wheat fields limiting concerns of excessive winterkill. High winds and blowing snow were reported in the mountains and eastern districts. Mountain snowpack statewide was 103 percent of median at the end of the month. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 77 percent and 72 percent of median, respectively.

DELAWARE: The state experienced good weather in terms of precipitation for the month of December compared to last year with minimal showers in most of the region. The state registered a maximum temperature of 70 F with a daily average high of 50 F and a minimum of 22 F with a daily average low of 35 F. Precipitation was recorded with heavy rains around Christmas Eve, and a reported maximum of 1.43 inches in some areas of the region. The weather contributed to pastures greening, and to farmers decreasing supplement feeding. There was visible growth on the overwintered small grain crops and the majority of small grains were in fair to good condition. The wet weather made pastures muddy, particularly Christmas Eve; overall, the majority of livestock were in good condition and many producers were able to continue to graze their livestock. Lack of snow cover may hurt wheat stands due to potentially cold temperatures in January. Other farming activities for the month included taking soil samples, cleaning equipments, attending pesticide recertification workshops tax planning, pricing inputs for 2015, and purchasing equipment.

FLORIDA: December started warm, dry. Mid-month brought welcomed moisture. Cotton, soybean harvest ongoing at beginning of month. Panhandle, northern part of State planted oats, wheat for grain, winter forage. By end of month, fields in Panhandle too wet to work. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades and Hendry counties. Flagler and Putnam counties began harvesting cabbage and potatoes. Farmers in southwest harvested green beans, beets, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, kale, peppers, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, and watermelon. Palm Beach County farms used ditches, canals, and other equipment to irrigate. Miami-Dade County harvested green beans, pole beans, tomato, peppers, eggplant, yellow squash, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, zucchini, boniato, bitter melon, malanga, and avocado. Low precipitation and warmer temperatures improved pastures which reduced livestock stress. Southern areas reported standing water in low lying areas. Cattle condition was good across State. Pasture condition fair to good. Mid-month cattlemen provided supplemental feed to compensate for declining available pasture. By end of month, calving was underway in Marion County. Cattle across State being fed hay and supplements. Pastures in Panhandle and Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties had standing water. Pasture quality and quantity declining seasonally. Early orange harvest activities increased the beginning of month. White grapefruit was harvested for processing while colored grapefruit harvested for fresh market. Sunburst tangerines reaching full maturity were harvested. Fruit quality was good, but on the small side. By end of month, most processing plants open. Navel oranges, white, and colored grapefruit harvest schedule slightly lagging behind last season. Sunburst tangerines, Orlando tangelo, and Honey Bell harvest was almost complete. Honey tangerine harvest started. Grove work includes irrigating, mowing, spraying and fertilizing, new groves, and resets being planted. Old non-productive groves were being pushed and cleared.

GEORGIA: Georgia received considerable rainfall during December as most of the state received at least 4 inches, with southwest Georgia close to 9 inches. Most of the state received at least an extra inch compared to a normal December. Additionally, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes were reported across the state as a storm front blew through Christmas week. The average temperature ranged from the mid 40s in north Georgia to the high 50s across south Georgia, about 3 degrees higher across the state than typical December temperatures. Average high temperatures ranged from the mid 50s in north Georgia to the low 70s in the south. Average lows ranged from the high 30s through much of the state and mid to high 40s for southern Georgia. Field activities included soybeans, cotton, pecans, and sorghum all being harvested and small grains and spring onions being planted.

HAWAII: Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 32% short, 68% adequate, 0% surplus. On December 30, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported that 32.03 percent of the State was abnormally dry or drier. The rainfall averaged 1.24 inches across the state. On the Big Island, macadamia nut trees, Albizia, Eucalyptus and Norfolk trees were some of the trees commonly reported to be toppled by the wind. Some normal field activities were hindered and cleanup efforts in fields were carried over the weekend. In Kamuela, farm structures were damaged by the high winds. Water service was periodically halted over the weekend prohibiting agricultural irrigation in some areas of North and South Kohala, Hamakua and Kau. Toppled trees blocked access to coffee fields in Kau and prevented cherry picking at a heavy harvest time. On Maui, washing of some fields affected production depending on the stage of development. Damage from strong gusty winds affected banana plantings and orchard crops.

IDAHO: Temperatures were in the single digits and mid-teens for multiple days throughout the northern region of the state. Snowfall and moisture arrived adding some much needed moisture. Manure and compost spreading progressed on viable days. Payette County reported warm conditions and may have resulted in sugarbeet loss in storage. Major activities throughout the month included feeding livestock no livestock problems were reported. Frozen water lines and cold weather problems were reported in the south east region.

ILLINOIS: Statewide, precipitation averaged 1.90 inches for the month, 0.79 inches below normal. The average temperature in December was 33.4 degrees, 3.5 degrees above normal. Winter wheat condition was rated at 8 percent poor, 68 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Topsoil moisture supply was rated at 8 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supply was rated at 10 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture 1% short, 61% adequate, 38% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 78% adequate, 20% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 1% very poor, 5% poor, 35% fair, 50% good, 9% excellent. Temperatures for the month averaged 34.2 degrees, 3.1 degrees above normal. Statewide average precipitation was 2.66 inches. Mild winter temperatures and continual rainfall made it challenging for farmers to complete corn and soybean harvest throughout the month of December. By the end of the month, there were a few scattered corn fields that remained standing. Some of the late-planted winter wheat has been slow to emerge and there are concerns of winter damage as there has been little to no snow coverage to protect the crop from below-freezing temperatures. Most livestock has been reported to be in good condition despite the sloppy pastures. Other activities included some tillage, spreading manure, clearing fence rows, livestock care and purchasing inputs for 2015.

IOWA: Topsoil moisture 0% very short, 9% short, 87% adequate, and 4% surplus. Iowa experienced above normal temperatures throughout most of December, which allowed operations to catch up on fieldwork activities. There was more grain movement reported this December as compared to the previous year. Average snow depth for December was 1 inch.

KANSAS: Topsoil moisture supplies rated 11% very short, 27% short, 62% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 14% very short, 31% short, 55% adequate, and 0% surplus. Hay and Roughage supplies were rated 2% very short, 8% short, 84% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 7% very short, 22% short, 71% adequate, and 0% surplus. Temperatures averaged 4 to 6 degrees above normal across the State. All of Kansas received some precipitation, with heaviest amounts in the east. Livestock were mostly grazing on crop residue, with some supplemental feeding reported.

KENTUCKY: After a very cold November, Kentucky experienced above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation during the month of December. Dry conditions continued with the US Drought Monitor reintroducing abnormal dry conditions to portions of Western and Central Kentucky. Precipitation for the month averaged 3.05 inches, 1.40 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 2.61 inches, Central 2.95 inches, Bluegrass 3.31

inches and East 3.34 inches, which was 2.27, 1.87, 0.56 and 0.89 inches below normal respectively. Temperatures for the period averaged 40 degrees, 2 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged from 46 in the West to 47 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 35 degrees in the West to 34 degrees in the East. Harvest of corn and soybeans is mostly complete, but some are waiting for a freeze to allow them to get back in the fields to finish up. Tobacco producers continued to strip their tobacco when conditions allowed. The amount of tobacco stripped was 77 percent. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 71% good, 11% excellent. Most producers feel hay supplies are adequate, however quality may not be the best due to rains which forced the first cutting of hay to be harvested well past maturity. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 13% short, 77% adequate, 9% surplus. Livestock are in good condition due to a relatively mild December and plentiful forage supplies. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 13% fair, 73% good, 10% excellent.

LOUISIANA: December was a cold and wet month throughout the state. Precipitation average for the month was 3.14 inches. There had been an abundance of rain during the first week and third of December which caused a delay in sugarcane harvest. Some of the unprotected vegetables like tomatoes were destroyed by the cold temperatures. Winter wheat planting was completed around the second week of December. Farmers continue to harvest sugarcane as well as early strawberries. Most mills will finish grinding around the second week of January. Citrus producers were selling produce. Crawfish producers were putting out traps. Most producers are now preparing for the upcoming crop year.

MARYLAND: The State experienced good weather in terms of precipitation for the month of December, compared to last year with minimal showers in most of the region. The state registered a maximum temperature of about 69 degrees Fahrenheit with a daily average high of 47 degrees Fahrenheit and a minimum of 20 degrees Fahrenheit with a daily average low of 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation was recorded with heavy rains around Christmas Eve, and a reported maximum of 1.79 inches in some areas of region. The weather contributed to pastures greening, and to farmers decreasing supplement feeding. There was visible growth on the overwintered small grain crops and the majority of small grains were in fair to good condition. The wet weather made pastures muddy, particularly Christmas Eve; overall, the majority of livestock were in good condition and many producers were able to continue to graze their livestock. Lack of snow cover may hurt wheat stands due to potentially cold temperatures in January. Other farming activities for the month included taking soil samples, tax planning, pricing inputs for 2015, attending pesticide recertification workshops, purchasing equipment, and hunting deer.

MICHIGAN: Topsoil moisture 3% short, 65% adequate, and 32% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 1% short, 74% adequate, and 24% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 4% very poor, 11% poor, 35% fair, 41% good, and 9% excellent. Precipitation for the month of December average 1.79 inches throughout the state, 0.46 inches below normal. Temperature for the month of December averaged 28.2 degrees, 3.4 degrees above normal. December was warmer than average throughout the month, especially in the lower parts of the state. This allowed growers to continue to harvest corn and do some fall tillage. There are few fields left standing with corn at this point. The warm weather was mostly good for the winter wheat crop. Though there was not snow cover this month for most of the state, temperatures have been warm enough that most growers are confident there hasn't been damage to the winter wheat crop.

MINNESOTA: December started off cold and ended cold, but most of the month was mild. The statewide average temperature for December was 22.1 degrees, 5.5 degrees above average. New all-time daily minimum and maximum temperatures were set during the middle of the month at several locations. December 15th saw a new record high dew point at 49 degrees; it was the warmest dew point so late in December. December had two extended stretches of cloudy weather from December 7th to the 16th and from December 18th to the 26th. Snow fell across the southern half of the state from the 26th to the 27th with 6 inches reported at Circle Pines, downtown St. Paul, and Farmington. Precipitation for the month was 0.12 inch below average.

MISSISSIPPI: December started off cold and ended with rain throughout the state. Temperatures for the month ranged from highs of 81 degrees during the second week to 30.2 degrees during the third week. On December 23, southern central Mississippi experienced deadly tornadoes in Marion, Jones, and Lamar counties. Rainfall measured up to 5 inches in the Mississippi with most of the rain occurring in the last two weeks. The northern half of the state received a majority of the rain. Harvest of peanuts and other crops was completed by the end of the first week in December. Winter wheat has been planted and the majority, if not all, of the wheat has emerged. Most farm and ranch work was geared towards preparing for planting in the spring and taking care of livestock.

MISSOURI: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 10% short, 74% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 15% short, 77% adequate, 5% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 3% short, 87% adequate, 10% surplus. Stock water supplies 5% short, 92% adequate, 4% surplus. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 15% poor, 51% fair, 30% good, 2% excellent. Winter Wheat condition 2% poor, 47% fair, 48% good, 3% excellent.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 4% last year; 13% short, 21% last year; 76% adequate, 74% last year; 8% surplus, 1% last year. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 4% last year; 13% short, 23% last year; 71% adequate, 69% last year; 11% surplus, 4% last year. Winter wheat – wind damage 86% none, 91% last year; 9% light, 8% last year; 3% moderate, 1% last year; 2% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 85% none, 92% last year; 13% light, 6% last year; 2% moderate, 2% last year; 0% heavy, 0% last year. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover 5% very poor, 22% last year; 11% poor, 3% last year; 21% fair, 46% last year; 47% good, 26% last year; 16% excellent, 3% last year. Livestock grazing accessibility – 36% open, 25% last year; 36% difficult, 44% last year; 28% closed, 31% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – cattle and calves 90% fed, 94% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 94% fed, 93% last year. The month ending December 31 in Montana was a mix of extremes alternating from dry, record high temperature periods to a return of winter with snow and temperatures below average across the state. High temperatures across the state ranged from the lower 40s to upper 60s with the statewide high recorded in Yellowtail at 67 degrees. Low temperatures ranged from the mid -30s to the lower -10s with the statewide low temperature of -35 recorded at West Yellowstone. Most reporting stations received at least some measurable precipitation for the month of December and Heron recorded the highest amount received with 3.39 inches of moisture.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 20% short, 75% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 18% short, 72% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 4% poor, 39% fair, 50% good, 7% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 92% adequate, and 1% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 0% very short, 4% short, 93% adequate, 3% surplus. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 75% good, 10% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition rated 0% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 77% good, 8% excellent. Temperatures averaged 0 to 4 degrees above normal in central and western parts of the State, and 4 to 6 degrees above normal in the east. Over one foot of snow was received in the Panhandle, providing protection from cold temperatures for winter wheat. Warmer temperatures in the east prevented the accumulation of snow, allowing field work to continue.

NEVADA: The first half of December was exceptionally warm in Nevada. Many weather stations reported average temperatures in excess of 10 degrees above normal during the period. There were moderate showers in Reno, Tonopah and Las Vegas during the first week of the month, but the majority of the State was relatively dry until the week leading up to the Christmas holiday. Elko, Ely, Eureka and Winnemucca each experienced showers during this period that eventually shifted to snow storms during the last week of the month. Reno, Elko and Ely each reported more than 2 inches of snow for the month. Fall-seeded crops were in good condition due to high temperatures and minimal weather damage. Hay shipping remained active as growers and dealers continued to sell to California dairies trying to meet feed demand. Main farm and ranch activities included hay shipping, onion shipping and livestock sorting and shipping. Equipment repair was common.

NEW ENGLAND: Average temperatures throughout most of New England ranged from 3 to 10 degrees above normal during the month of December. Total precipitation for the month ranged from 2.49" in Frenchville, ME to 13.41" in Machias, ME. A winter storm affected several areas of the region on Tuesday, December 9th. Coastal areas received mostly rain, while areas further inland received mostly snow. The storm's rainfall set a daily record in Providence, RI of 2.74". Additionally, the storm's top snowfall totals included 18" near Carrabassett Valley, ME; 19.5" in Orwell, VT; 19" in Killington, VT; 13" in Pinkham Notch, NH; and 16.9" in Savoy, MA. Aside from this snowstorm, December weather conditions overall were warmer than usual across New England. Connecticut experienced some days with 50 degree weather. In most of Maine, snow accumulation has been minimal so far. The thawing of ground halted many woods operations due to soft ground conditions in Maine. Additionally, producers reported that the little to no snow cover during December may cause some winter kill on perennial forage in some areas of Maine. Most of Massachusetts also experienced minimal snowfall, making it one of the warmest Decembers in recent history. In New Hampshire, early snowpack dwindled away to just a trace of snowpack by the end of the month. Like Maine, the ground thaw in New Hampshire made logging more difficult. The warm, wet conditions in Rhode Island allowed for sod to be harvested during December. Vermont received a lot of rain December 24th, making farmers concerned about winter-kill or pushing alfalfa crowns out of the ground if there is too much frost. Farm activities in December included pruning fireblight damage out of

orchards (CT), completing the late harvest of grain corn (ME), selling Christmas trees (NH) and selling produce at farmers' markets (NH), growing greens in season extension tunnels and greenhouses (NH), and harvesting sod (NH).

NEW JERSEY: December 2014 was seasonably cold, with adequate moisture to make for normal conditions at this time of year. Sub-freezing temperatures limited field activity most of December. A week of warmer temperature allowed some field harvesting of sugar beets, leeks, kale/collards, and some late season high tunnel crops. Most greenhouses and high tunnels have been cleaned out in preparation of January planting for spring transplants (greenhouses) or greens (high tunnels). Micro greens, baby lettuce and radish production are taking place in controlled greenhouse environments. Farm clean up and planning for the spring are taking place. The weather has been warmer than average allowing planted cover crops extra time to grow and establish well before freeze up. Most Grain has been harvested at this point. About mid December the areas that were hit by super storm Sandy got hit by Nor'easter Damon, which- brought minor to moderate coastal flooding to New Jersey seashore. There was also cold air and up to a quarter of an inch of freezing rain was reported.

NEW MEXICO: Early-winter moisture helped to improve both winter wheat and pasture and range land when compared with late-November conditions. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate to surplus as December ended, and showed a slight increase from last month. Topsoil moisture 20% very short, 25% short, 43% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil moisture 22% very short, 28% short, 50% adequate. Winter wheat condition 17% fair, 74% good, 9% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 1% poor, 16% fair, 74% good, 9% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 2% poor, 67% fair, 31% good. Pasture and range condition 19% very poor, 6 % poor, 26% fair, 20% good, 29% excellent.

NEW YORK: December 2014 weather has been mild to normal in most areas despite the impact of Winter Storm Damon midmonth. Most crops have finished harvest though there are a few reports of some corn and soy still standing. Comments on end of year yields are largely good. Winter wheat is progressing well. Grape growers started their pruning this month. Dairy reports are mixed. Despite ample feed quantity, some quality issues have been reported. Further, unseasonal swings in temperature have been hard on cattle in some counties. These factors combined in certain areas to give farmers concern. Field activities for the month include completing harvest, applying fertilizer, tending livestock, trees, and vines, and fixing and maintaining machinery.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 3.3. Topsoil moisture 2% short, 57% adequate and 41% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% short, 68% adequate and 28% surplus. The state received widespread rainfall this month with some areas receiving over 4.0 inches. Average temperatures were above normal for this time of the year. Reported crop progress data for the week showed soybeans harvest at 96% and sorghum at 97%.

NORTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 16% short, 76% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 5% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 80% good, 6% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 76% good, 7% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 0% very short, 2% short, 84% adequate, and 14% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 88% adequate, and 6% surplus. Above normal temperatures and limited precipitation occurred statewide. With temperatures below zero near the end of the month, the lack of snow cover in many areas was cause for concern for winter wheat and hay crops. Livestock producers continued allowing herds to graze corn stalks where possible, while others were moving cattle to market.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture, 23% surplus, 73% adequate, 4% short. Subsoil moisture, 19% surplus, 72% adequate, 9% short. The December 2014 statewide average temperature as of the 31st of the month was 34.9 degrees, 3.2 degrees above normal. Rainfall averaged 2.56 inches statewide, which was 36 percent less than the average for the month of December. Wheat condition was 2% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 57% good, and 8% was excellent. Some areas reported that wheat didn't appear to have entered dormancy yet, and the lack of snow is a concern as the temperature is due to drop drastically. Livestock operations noted the mild winters thus far have caused a lot of muddy conditions.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil moisture 11% very short, 33% short, 53% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture 24% very short, 36% short, 39% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter Wheat 2% very poor, 10% poor, 34% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent; grazed 41% this month, 32% last year, 32% average. Canola 7% very poor, 21% poor, 36% fair, 34% good, 2% excellent. Rye 2% very poor, 9% poor, 41% fair, 44% good, 4% excellent; grazed 70% this month, 68% last year, 60% average. Oats 4% very poor, 32% poor, 32% fair, 30% good, 2% excellent; grazed 30% this month, 28% last year, 23% average. Livestock 1% very poor, 3% poor, 34% fair, 56% good, 6% excellent. Pasture and Range 5% very poor, 20% poor, 45%

fair, 28% good, 2% excellent. Conditions of small grains throughout December were rated mostly fair to good with the exception of oats, with 62 percent being rated fair to poor. Producers in areas of the Panhandle and Central Oklahoma reported limited moisture for the wheat crop due to fairly dry and mild conditions. The East Central and Southeast districts averaged more than two inches of rainfall last month, at 2.76 and 3.29 inches, respectively. Other districts received less than 2 inches of precipitation throughout the month. Much of the state's rainfall was experienced during the second week of December, with five districts recording at least 1 inch of rainfall. Overall, all nine districts were below normal precipitation levels for the month with exception of the Northeast District. Drought conditions remained across the western half of the state, with the poorest conditions seen in the Southwest and West Central districts. Temperatures averaged in the low 40's across the state, with the lowest temperature recorded at -6 degrees at Kenton on Wednesday, December 31st and the highest temperature recorded at 75 degrees at Burneyville on Friday, December 5th. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to short.

OREGON: In western Oregon crops were doing well so far. However, some crops were damaged by the cold weather. A recent break in the weather provided some opportunity for waste management activities on drier fields. Forsythia bushes were blooming very early. Soil moisture recharge was going well. Pasture grass was actively growing. Soil was in very good condition. In eastern Oregon most crops were looking good. Some canola seeded in the summer had failed due to temperature swings. Fruit tree damaged had occurred due to the weather.

PENNSYLVANIA: Temperatures for the month of December ranged from highs between 50 and 66 degrees and lows between 15 and 30 degrees. Precipitation ranged from 0.32 inches to 1.38 inches. A good deal of geographic variation was due to Winter Storm Damon, a slow-moving nor'easter, which cut through the middle of Pennsylvania placing the East and West portions of the State on opposite sides of a jet stream late in the second week of December. While some districts did receive brief snow, most precipitation quickly transitioned to cold or icy rains. Some unharvested corn and soybeans remain standing due to high moisture content while most small grain and cover crop plantings have begun to emerge. Producers have taken advantage of the lack of snow cover to spread lime and manure, repair farm equipment and catch up on fall tilling or late corn and soybean harvests.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Mild temperatures were observed on December 1. At 2:00 p.m., Spartanburg and Mt. Pleasant both reported a sunny 73 degrees. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was seven degrees above the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 81 degrees at Walterboro on December 1. The lowest official temperature reported was 29 degrees at Jocassee 8WNW on December 7. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.00 inches at Keowee Dam and Catawba ending at 7:00 a.m. on December 5. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.2 inches. Cold, gray conditions were observed on Monday, December 8. The thermometers at Darlington and Johnston indicated an afternoon high temperature of just 45 degrees. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was two degrees below the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 72 degrees at Hardeeville on December 14. The lowest official temperature reported was 18 degrees at Cedar Creek on December 12. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.30 inches at Summerville ending at 7:00 a.m. on December 9. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.0 inches. The Kingstree AP Monday (December 15) morning temperature reached a freezing 32 degrees before recovering into the afternoon with a high temperature of 70 degrees. A weak boundary made its way from west to east during the overnight hours with some light showers for the Upstate. Clouds and light rains dominated the state's weekend weather. Rainfall measurements for the twenty-four hours ending on Saturday morning included 0.23 inches at Clarks Hill and 0.12 inches at Saluda. Saturday, the last full day of Autumn 2014, was cold and cloudy. Areas of rain began moving into the southernmost counties late Sunday night. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was three degrees above the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 74 degrees at Jamestown on December 16. The lowest official temperature reported was 24 degrees at Sandy Springs and Cedar Creek on December 15. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.37 inches at Jocassee 8WNW ending at 7:00 a.m. on December 16. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 0.3 inches. Rains and or all-day cloudiness were observed on Monday, December 22. Allendale measured a twenty-four-hour rainfall amount of 1.10 inches and 1.09 inches fell at Edisto Beach. The thermometer at Aiken Municipal Airport remained at 43 degrees for 17 consecutive hours on Tuesday. Tuesday's rains became heavy overnight and mixed with thunder. Some clearing was observed during the late afternoon hours on Wednesday for western counties but areas of rain kept falling for the coastal plain. With the exception of a few hours of partial sunshine for the beaches and brief showers across the Midlands, most of the state ended the holiday weekend cloudy. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was five degrees above the long-term average. The highest official temperature reported was 81 degrees at

Hardeeville on December 28. The lowest official temperature reported was 24 degrees at Jocassee 8WNW on December 26. The heaviest official 24-hour rainfall reported was 3.25 inches at Johnston ending at 7:00 a.m. on December 24. The state average rainfall for the seven-day period was 2.9 inches.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 16% short, 82% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 18% short, 79% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1 very poor, 5 poor, 36 fair, 52 good, and 6 excellent. Stock water supplies 5% very short, 11% short, 79% adequate, 5% surplus. Hay and forage supplies 0 very poor, 2 poor, 84 adequate, and 14 excellent. Cattle and calf conditions 0 very poor, 0 poor, 9 fair, 82 good, 9 excellent. Sheep and lamb condition 0 very poor, 1 poor, 44 fair, 48 good, 7 excellent. Above average temperatures dominated the weather pattern and precipitation totaled over one inch in most areas of the state.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.1. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 52% adequate, 47% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% short, 64% adequate, 33% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 4% poor, 24% fair, 58% good, 14% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 5% very poor, 18% poor, 46% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent. Wet, cold conditions during week caused pasture saturation. Other activities included feeding hay.

TEXAS: Precipitation across Texas during December was above normal in many areas. Areas of East Texas received up to ten inches of rainfall. The Blacklands, the Upper Coast, and South Central Texas received upwards of 3 inches of precipitation in some areas. Parts of the Cross Timbers and the Plains observed up to two inches of moisture, while the rest of the state received an inch or more of rainfall. Early in the month, cotton harvest was wrapping up in many areas of the state. Cotton in the Northern Plains benefitted from a warmer-than normal fall. Livestock producers were restocking herds and cattle had grazed on available wheat fields.

UTAH: Topsoil moisture 10% short, 90% adequate. Subsoil moisture 29% short, 71% adequate. Winter wheat condition 5% poor, 11% fair, 84% good. Cattle and calves condition 7% fair, 79% good, 14% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 4% fair, 85% good, 11% excellent. Stock water supply 21% short, 79% adequate. Pasture and range condition 34% fair, 66% good. Early-winter precipitation led to marked improvements in both topsoil and subsoil moisture levels across much of the state. Snowtel snowpack levels were reported as being above average for portions of northern Utah as of the end of December. In Cache County, wintry weather has stopped all field work. Livestock, in most cases, were being fed hay since most grazing was covered with snow. Livestock were reported in good condition, with calving and lambing underway.

VIRGINIA: Winter wheat 1% poor, 22% fair, 72% good, 5% excellent. Oats 1% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 70% good, 3% excellent. Barley 1% very poor, 1% poor, 28% fair, 68% good, 2% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 5% poor, 22% fair, 58% good, 14% excellent. Pasture 4% very poor, 22% poor, 28% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. Percent of feed obtained from pasture 45%. Overall, the month of December was mild for Virginia. Most locations received over 3 inches of rain during the month, but the majority of rainfall was in the later part of the month. Due to December being mild, livestock producers were able to get more feed from pastures than initially thought; however, mud has made pasturing livestock difficult. Except in a few places, soybean growers were able to complete the soybean harvest by the end of December. For some livestock producers, corn was intentionally not harvested; the unharvested corn will be fed directly to livestock. Other farming activities for the month included taking soil samples, repairing and cleaning up equipment, preparing taxes, purchasing supplies for 2015, and attending workshops.

WASHINGTON: Western Washington reported December was drier than normal, temperatures were mild, and no flooding problems were reported. Christmas tree farms had good business throughout the month. Cattle were home and were on feed preparing for February/March calving season. Reports throughout the state indicate most precipitation this winter has come in the form of rain instead of snow. December consisted of some warm weather during the middle of the month followed by some single digit lows. Some producers fear the single digit weather with little to no snow cover may have an adverse affect on winter wheat conditions. Reservoirs seem to be in good shape for 2015 crops. Yakima country reports the second and third weeks of December allowed for some dormant season orchard tree pruning.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil moisture was 2% short, 90% adequate, and 8% surplus, compared to 2% short, 83% adequate, and 15% surplus last year. Subsoil moisture was 4% short, 91% adequate, and 5% surplus, comparison data not available. Hay and roughage supplies were 9% short, 84% adequate, and 7% surplus compared to 3% short and 97% adequate last year. Feed grain supplies were 5% short, 90% adequate, and 5% surplus compared to 100% adequate last year. Winter wheat conditions were 1% poor, 24% fair, 72% good, and 3% excellent. Cattle and calves were 1% poor,

21% fair, 73% good, and 5% excellent. Sheep and lambs were 17% fair, 77% good, and 6% excellent. Farming activities for the month included performing general maintenance on equipment, purchasing seed, and planning for the new crop year. Some producers have begun dormant pruning in apples.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures were warmer than average for the month of December, ranging from 4.4 to 6.4 degrees above normal. Average highs ranged from 29.4 in Eau Claire to 36.4 in Milwaukee, while average lows ranged from 17.5 to 26.4 in those same cities. Precipitation ranged from 0.68 inches in Eau Claire to 1.68 inches in Green Bay. Snowfall totals were well below average. Eau Claire received the most snowfall out of the major cities with 6.3 inches. Madison witnessed only 0.1 inches of snow for the month, far less than the 13.5 inch historical December average for that city. Warm temperatures and rain caused a complete loss of snow cover across the southern half of the state, allowing last minute field activities to continue well past their normal ending dates. Half or more of the days in December were classified as “foggy” and “cloudy” in the five major cities.

WYOMING: Topsoil moisture 3% very short, 24% short, 68% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 22% short, 73% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat condition 100% good. Livestock condition 1% poor, 5% fair, 82% good, 12% excellent. Stock water supplies 99% adequate, 1% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 78% adequate, 22% surplus. Pasture and range condition 2% poor, 19% fair, 74% good, 5% excellent.

Statistical Methodology

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

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