

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories

Released January 4, 2000, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin State Stories" call Mark E. Miller at (202) 720-7621, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

ALABAMA: Most of the state remained drier than normal with the bulk of rainfall arriving mid-month. Precipitation was mostly scarce during the later portion of the month. The January 1 chill-hours totaled 467 using a model that tabulates total hours below 45° since October 1. The 43 year average in Area is 613 hours. These hours are recorded at the Chilton County Substation in Clanton, AL.

ALASKA: NO DATA AVAILABLE UNTIL 2000.

ARIZONA: This years cotton harvest is virtually complete. Alfalfa harvest activity drops off slightly from last week. As of January 2, alfalfa harvest was reported as 67% not being harvested, 14% light, 10% moderate, 9% active. Alfalfa 7% poor, 24% fair, 64% good, 5% excellent. Sheeping off continued to be reported as moderate to active. Range, Pasture feed were reported as very dry with heavy supplemental feeding necessary. Livestock were reported as being in fair to good condition. The continued lack of rain have reduced both stock water, soil moisture levels. Stock water was reported as short to adequate, while soil moisture conditions were reported as short. Insect damage was reported as light to none. Range, pasture feed were reported as 1% very poor, 11% poor, 30% fair, 49% good, 9% excellent. Small grains planting only showed slight increases over last week, remains well behind normal. As of January 2, 32% Durum Wheat, 34% Barley, 30% Other Wheat, 27% Other Small Grains were reported as being planted. Last week producers from central Areas shipped a variety of vegetables including: Bok choy, broccoli, dandelion, dill, endive, escarole, flowering kale, kale, kohlrabi, mixed greens, napa, parsley, spinach, swiss chard. Eastern Areas producers shipped hot house tomatoes. Producers in western Areas also shipped a wide variety of vegetables including: Bok choy, broccoli, broccoflower, broccolini, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, endive, escarole, frisee, kale, mixed greens, napa, parsley, radicchio, salad savoy, spinach, swiss chard. Western lettuce, salad/salad mix shipments included: Boston, iceberg, leaf, romaine, specialty leaf. Central Areas citrus producers harvested lemons, navel, grapefruit, fairchild tangerines. Western citrus producers harvested grapefruit, lemons last week.

ARKANSAS: December was the warmest December since 1991, the wettest since 1990. The week ending December 6 had a low of 30°, this was the first freeze of the 1999-2000 season. It was the first freeze in Areas in 274 days. During the week ending December 12, the yearly rainfall passed 35.91 inches which assured that 1999 would not finish among the ten driest years on record despite a prolonged dry period from May through November. The main farming activities: Pruning fruit trees, preparing land for next season, cleaning, maintenance on equipment. Livestock was reported in fair condition.

CALIFORNIA: December was dry. Rain was badly needed in most areas. Seeding of irrigated wheat, barley, new alfalfa, forage crops was ongoing throughout the month. Many wheat fields required irrigation in order to germinate, emerge. Some dryland small grain growers postponed planting for lack of rain, some coastal valley wheat fields required re-seeding. Cotton growers were plowing down remaining fields. Grain sorghum harvest was completed. San Joaquin Valley sugarbeet growers placed mylar streamers in fields to deter birds. Alfalfa hay, seed alfalfa

were fertilized, irrigated, treated for weeds. Some older alfalfa fields were ripped out, readied for spring plantings. Fallow fields were sprayed with herbicides. Seedbeds were prepared for next year's spring planted row crops. Pruning, tree removal, planting of cover crops continued in the harvested stone fruit orchards. Vineyards were being prepared for winter, as growers were pruning vines, tying canes, spraying or cultivating for weed control. Ground was fumigated for new plantings of peach, prune, walnut, almond trees. With the season's lack of rainfall, many growers have found it necessary to irrigate vineyards, orchards. Picking of grapefruit, lemon crops was active in southern Areas. San Joaquin Valley's navel orange picking gained momentum in December. Satsuma tangerines were also picked. Cool nighttime temperatures enhanced citrus color, maturity. Processing tomato, melon fields were being prepared for planting. Some growers with sandy soils were awaiting more moisture. Sweet potato hotbed preparation, field fumigations continued. As the month progressed, most fields of garlic, onions, carrots were maturing well. Meanwhile, spring lettuce, broccoli fields that had already been planted were growing slowly. Spinach was progressing normally. Red onions were being planted. Some additional vegetables harvested during December included: Taro root, cilantro, peas, carrots, beets, mushrooms, parsley, radishes, kale, mint, squash, turnips, chard, mustard greens. The lack of rain in central, northern areas continued to cause problems for cattle, sheep operations that rely on foothill pastures for winter grazing. Grass was deteriorating in most areas. Limited water in stock ponds was also a major concern this month. Hay, nutrient supplements were being provided to cattle. Because of December's dry weather, sheep were being left on alfalfa pastures longer than normal to minimize supplemental feeding.

COLORADO: Topsoils were drying out in the winter wheat producing areas but fall growth has been good, winds have not been a factor. December weather has been milder than usual with daytime high's sometimes reaching the 60's. Major snow storms have been primarily in the mountain areas with limited moisture reaching into lower elevation areas, across the Eastern Plains. Mountain snowpack is currently below avg. The crop is in good to excellent condition without snow cover in most areas. Major activities are centered around feed, care of livestock, preparation for the upcoming lambing, calving activities.

DELAWARE: Average precipitation for the month of December was 2.8 inches, 0.8 inches below normal. Unusually warm, mild temperatures for December. All winter grain crops have been planted and are doing fine. Farmers are taking soil samples, purchasing hay due to low hay yields. Livestock, poultry conditions appear to be good.

FLORIDA: Mostly dry weather continued. Rain totaled from 0.10 to 0.33 in. with most stations recording no rain for week. Wildfire potential high northern areas, increasing some central, southern localities due to continued dry weather. Temperatures cool at start of week when Homestead recorded low of 39 on Monday, December 27 which produced a frost. Temperatures averaged normal at major stations. Most daytime highs 60s, 70s; most lows 30s, 40s, 50s. Some northern areas recorded lows in 20s at start of week. Moisture throughout State mostly very short to short with scattered areas of adequate moisture. Sugarcane grinding active. Cold temperatures caused no significant damage to vegetables. Wet conditions early in week delayed some vegetable fieldwork, southern Peninsula. Shipping for holiday very active with some work slowing for

holiday observance. Vegetables harvested: Tomatoes, peppers, endive, escarole, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, pickles, lettuce, radishes, snap beans, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, okra, eggplant. Some rain first of week all citrus areas, rest of week mild temperatures, dry, growers irrigating. Good on-tree color break for most early mid-fruit. Ideal weather for harvesting. Movement of oranges to processor very active, fresh packing houses shipping most types of early fruit. Caretakers cutting cover crops, hedging, topping, spraying. Pasture feed 30% poor, 35% fair, 35% good. Cattle 5% poor, 45% fair, 50% good. Panhandle: cool temperatures, lack of rain reduced small grain forages; Hay supplies being reduced rapidly. North: cool season forages progressing slowly due to dry soil, cool, freezing temperatures. Central: supplemental hay feeding seasonally active. Southwest: pasture, cattle feed fair to good.

GEORGIA: Soil moisture was short to very short for over half of the State. Rain is needed. Cotton, soybean harvests neared completion. Some areas were mowing cotton stalks. Pecan harvest wound down as over 90% of the crop was harvested. Planting of small grains was about complete. The small grain crops were in fair to good condition. Small grain top dressing occurred during December. Onion transplanting was almost complete. Condition was mostly good. Tobacco bed preparation continued as transplanting will begin shortly. More cold weather is needed to kill insects. Peaches need additional chill hours for a good bloom. Farmers continued to feed hay to livestock. Pasture feed was fair to good. Mild temperatures during December helped minimize stress to livestock, poultry. Other activities included: Land preparation for spring planting.

HAWAII: Generally dry weather was favorable for agriculture. Farmers took advantage of the dry weather to catch up on farm activities delayed by the previous week's rain. Fields remained soggy in low-lying areas. Spraying increased to prevent disease outbreaks. Most crops in fair to good condition. Cool temperatures slowed crop progress. Banana, papaya harvesting steady, but at seasonally low levels. Fields were in fair to good condition. Head cabbage harvesting steady. Crop in generally good condition. Dry conditions favored harvesting of 1999/2000 ginger root crop.

IDAHO: Irrigation supply is considered good across the state. Hay, roughage supply was reported 12% surplus, 87% adequate, 1% short. Most of the hay on hand is feeder hay with very little dairy quality hay. Winter wheat 2% excellent, 84% good, 12% fair, 2% poor. A light snow cover, extremely dry conditions last fall have had an undetermined affect on winter wheat. Activities: Repairing machinery, feeding, marketing livestock, early calving, lambing.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil 18% very short, 47% short, 34% adequate, 1% surplus. Rainfall across the state last month improved topsoil moisture supplies but nearly two-thirds of the state remains in the short or very short categories. There are also reports of low subsoil moisture, which could have a negative effect on the winter crops in the spring. Winter wheat has had slow growth due to lack of moisture, however, recent precipitation has helped. The mild weather has also been beneficial for livestock, has kept most lots dry.

INDIANA: Topsoil, subsoil moisture remain short to very short over most of the state. December temperatures were mild, averaging above normal around the State. Freezing temperatures arrived late in the month. Precipitation was minimal, but some portions of the state received measurable amounts of rain. Many areas are 7 to 10 inches short of precipitation since the dry conditions began last summer. Wells, ponds have gone dry on some farms. Hauling of water is necessary for livestock, some farms. Most of the State received from 1 to 2 inches of snow late in the month, heaviest amount on December 23rd. Tillage of soils, fertilizer application was winding down by mid-December. Winter wheat condition is rated mostly fair to good condition. Wheat is still green, most fields. Hay supplies being depleted rapidly. Marketing strategy, purchasing supplies, tax planning requiring much of farmers time. Low market prices is major concern. Tobacco stripping, baling active. Major activities: Spreading manure, equipment cleaning, repair, repairing tile, hauling grain, feeding hay, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Soil moisture availability 13% very short, 61% short, 26% adequate. Grain movement 24% none, 55% light, 19% moderate, 2% heavy. Warmer than average weather left farmers across the state calling for more snow and frost. Average depth of snow cover 1 inch. Average depth of frost penetration 4 inches. Livestock reported to be in good condition. Availability of hay, roughage supplies for livestock feed 1% short, 83% adequate, 16% surplus; quality of hay, roughage supplies 7% poor, 39% fair, 54% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 25% none, 21% light, 36% moderate, 18% extensive. Hog, pig losses 16% below avg.; 82% avg.; 2% above avg. Cattle, calf losses 20% below avg.; 79% avg.; 1% above avg.

KANSAS: The dry topsoil conditions have created a potential blowing problem for some fields, but little wind damage has occurred to date. Winter wheat remained in mostly fair to good condition across the State. Winter wheat 7% excellent, 32% good, 37% fair, 18% poor, 6% very poor. Condition at the beginning of December was rated 1%t excellent, 35% good, 42% fair, 17% 5% poor, very poor. The western half of the State received very little precipitation in December, is badly in need of rain or snow. Some areas have not had any measurable precipitation since September. With the lack of moisture in western areas, the wheat crop continues to suffer from moisture stress, stands in some areas remain spotty. The wheat crop lacks snow cover across the State, but with the mild temperatures during most of December, very little freeze damage has occurred thus far. With the warm, dry weather conditions across much of the State, there have been several reports of greenbug activity in the wheat crop. There is some concern that insect activity will increase if more winter-like weather does not move into the State in the near future.

KENTUCKY: December began warm, dry. Above normal temperatures through mid-month limited livestock stress, benefited fall seeded small grain growth. Rainfall increased the 2nd, 3rd week bringing much needed moisture to the State. The increased moisture allowed farmers to strip tobacco, helped improve soil moisture going into winter. Supplemental feeding of livestock remained heavy across the Commonwealth with hay supplies generally adequate but tight in all areas. Colder temperatures prevailed the last two weeks of December bringing the first two snowfalls of winter to portions of the State. Many areas of the State enjoyed snow just in time for Christmas. Burley tobacco stripping made good progress with the return of rain, increased humidity. Areas Gross Burley sales volume through 12/16 was 243.2 million lbs. with an average price of \$190.41 per cwt. High loan receipts continued to be the main focus at burley tobacco auctions before the holiday recess. The Burley Cooperatives received 33.5% of the gross sales, compared with 4.5% at the same point 1999. Burley sales are scheduled to resume January 10, 2000.

LOUISIANA: Dry conditions throughout the month allowed sugarcane producers to make excellent progress with harvest. Sugarcane mills were in full swing. Cattlemen were feeding cattle. Other activities included: Repairing, cleaning equipment.

MARYLAND: Rainfall is about seven-tenths of an inch below normal for the state. The western, lower Eastern Shore counties are the driest as they average over an inch below normal. Poultry appears to be in overall good condition, as well as livestock, however, in western counties, some beef cattle are being sold off due to the lack of pasture, water, feed supply. Hay, feed appear to be in adequate shape except for western counties. Weather conditions have been favorable for growth of barley, wheat. On Eastern Shore, farmers are hauling, storing poultry manure. Around the state, farmers are cleaning, repairing harvesting equipment, tax planning, purchasing seed, supplies.

MICHIGAN: The first two weeks of December brought mild temperatures with very little rainfall which helped get most field work completed. Marketing, moving grain was a common activity due to lack of storage space, railroad cars in late November. Other farm activities included: Manure hauling, getting equipment ready for the winter, routine equipment, building repairs. The second half of December brought below freezing temperatures, light snow covered most of the state by the end of the month. Farm activities slowed down due to the colder weather, holiday season.

MINNESOTA: While soil moisture supplies were low, the frequent freeze/thaw cycles conditioned the soil to become more absorbent for any precipitation that occurs. December average temperatures were about 7° above normal, with limited snow cover across the state. As of December 30, agricultural areas of the state had less than 4 inches of snow cover. The dry weather, above normal temperatures led to many areas of the state still having unfrozen soil as of the middle of the month. Large temperature fluctuations, minimal snow cover raised concerns about possible damage to over-wintered crops. Feedlots were generally dry, with good herd health, favorable forage supplies remaining for the colder months of winter.

MISSISSIPPI: Soil moisture 13% very short, 47% short, 40% adequate. Wheat 39% fair, 54% good, 7% excellent. Hay supply 51% very short, 49% short. Cattle, 1% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 6% excellent. Feed grain 5% very short, 93% short, 2% adequate. Most parts of the state are in need of precipitation. There are concerns about having adequate soil moisture for spring crops. Above normal temperatures were common across the state.

MISSOURI: At the end of December, Topsoil as 24% very short, 42% short, 33% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 10% poor, 44% fair, 39% good, 6% excellent. Livestock 3% poor, 24% fair, 65% good, 8% excellent. Hay supplies were 12% very short, 24% short, 57% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 23% very short, 35% short, 41% adequate, 1% surplus. Mild weather throughout the month has been beneficial for caring for livestock.

MONTANA: Topsoil 20% very short, 52% short, 27% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 20% very short, 62% short, 18% adequate. An upper level ridge of high pressure dominated much of the state for almost the entire month of December. This resulted in above average temperatures with very little moisture. It was mild enough for some producers to do fall tillage, but the lack of moisture in the soil made it difficult in some situations. The lack of snow cover in combination with little moisture, high winds took its toll on the winter wheat crop. Producers are needing colder temperatures to stop growth of the crop, snow cover to protect it from the elements. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 11% poor, 57% fair, 30% good, 2% excellent. Wind damage to winter wheat 39% none, 42% light, 15% moderate, 4% heavy. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 75% very poor, 17% poor, 8% fair. As a result of the mild conditions last month, livestock is reported to be in very good condition as there have been few reported problems. Even though there is a lot of open grazing, producers are giving supplemental feed to meet nutritional needs. At the end of the month, 73% cattle, calves 65% of the sheep, lambs were receiving supplemental feed. Livestock grazing 92% open, 7% difficult, 1% closed.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil, subsoil moisture supplies continued short. Temperatures during December averaged 6 to 7° above normals for the month. Due to the warm temperatures, the ground was not frozen in some reporting areas. Snow depth was generally less than 1 inch at the end of December. Precipitation during the month averaged less than one inch of moisture for most locations. Wheat 6% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 66% good, 0% excellent. Producers were looking for snow to provide moisture, protection from winds, temperature changes. Livestock producers allowed cattle to remain on stalks due to the open winter conditions, limiting supplemental feed needs. Feed grain 69% adequate, 31% surplus. Hay, forage 2% short, 71% adequate, 27% surplus. Producer activities included: Bookwork, tax accounting, general farm maintenance, livestock care.

NEVADA: December was mostly dry across areas with very light snow falling in the North, traces of rain in the South. Temperatures averaged a few degrees above normal for the month at most locations. Mountain snow accumulations lag well behind normal statewide, with nearly all stations currently at less than 50% of normal. Some late livestock marketing continued, hay shipping was active. Onion marketing, potato processing continued. Winter livestock feeding was minimal due to the continued open weather. Main farm, ranch activities: Equipment maintenance, livestock shipment, fence repairs, crop marketing

NEW ENGLAND: Snowfall was below normal, many fields were exposed to frigid temperatures. In Concord, NH no measurable amount of snowfall was received during OCT, NOV, or DEC. Christmas tree sales were brisk throughout the first half of the month across areas. Farmers tending livestock, preparing for winter. Moving apples, potatoes out of storage.

NEW JERSEY: Some farmers finished their 1999 season harvesting their remaining vegetables, soybean fields during the first days of December. Besides some field preparation, no other significant outdoor activities occurred until the final three days of the month, when the unusually warm temperatures permitted the harvest of some leeks, turnips in South Area. Some movement of apples, squash, sweet potatoes coming out of storage is occurring. Below normal precipitation was reported in most areas of the state.

NEW MEXICO: December started off dry, warm, but dry, cold conditions prevailed across the State during the last of the month, allowing for the harvest of pecans, cotton. Moisture did spread into the southern, central areas Christmas Eve as an upper level storm tracked northward from areas. A winter-type storm brought light precipitation to the northern part of the State during the last week of the month.

NEW YORK: No major weather events dominated during December. Farmers were occupied with normal farm maintenance activities: Preparing farm machinery for winter storage, caring for livestock, packing/grading fruits, vegetables, attending producer meetings.

NORTH CAROLINA: Currently, soil moisture across the State is 1% very short, 14% short, 74% adequate, 11% surplus. The last few weeks of 1999 were mostly mild for areas. Precipitation was adequate in most areas. There is very little soybean, cotton acreage left to harvest, the wheat is now almost fully emerged.

NORTH DAKOTA: The state had a mild December with very little snow. Average snow depth across the state was 1.5 inches. Snow cover was sufficient to protect only 24% of the alfalfa. Hay, roughage supplies were 0% very short, 1% short, 84% adequate, 15% surplus. Cattle feed were 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 73% good, 13% excellent. 90% of the cattle were receiving supplemental feed. Sheep 0% very poor, 0% poor, 10% fair, 74% good, 16% excellent. 96% of the sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Cattle sales were 2% below normal, 92% normal, 6% above normal.

OHIO: Farmer activities have been minimal during the month of December since many farmers finished their corn, soybean harvest early this fall. Activities include: Repairing machinery, hauling manure, tillage, marketing grain. There have been no problems reported with livestock although several mentioned hay reserves are low, farmers are searching for hay to buy. Pastures are in bad shape from overgrazing, lack of moisture, are expected to be short in the spring. The winter wheat crop is in fair to good condition as weather has been fair thus far. Some areas are beginning to catch up on the rain although most areas are still short.

OKLAHOMA: Weekly temperatures ranged from a low of 17° at Cooks December 28th to a high of 78° at Idabel on December 3rd. District precipitation averaged from none most districts to 0.05 in. Southeast. Individual Mesonet stations ranged from none at most stations to 0.21 in. at Broken Bow. Weekly soil temperatures averaged 40° at Miami, Nowata, Kenton, Boise City to 50° at Waurika, Ardmore. Lack of precipitation resulted in dwindling soil moisture supplies. Average price for feeder cattle decreased by nearly 50 cents per cwt. since early December.

OREGON: Activities: Nursery digging, container movement continued. Winter orchard pruning continued statewide. Winter farm, ranch activities continued. Cattle, sheep good. There has no major winter storms at this time. The snow pack is below normal at this time.

PENNSYLVANIA: The weather was mild during the month of December. Average high temperature were mostly in the 40's, the average low temperatures were mostly in the 20's. Despite some precipitation, dry conditions continue. Precipitation throughout the state was a little below normal for December. Some areas have received snow. A drought warning remains in effect for the western side of the state, a drought watch remains in effect for the eastern side. Major activities included: Fall plowing, corn harvesting, caring for livestock, hauling, spreading manure, fixing fences, machinery maintenance, pruning fruit trees, repairing barns.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Overall, December's temperatures were above normal. Statewide precipitation was below normal. Farmers were completing their harvesting of soybeans, pecans, cotton, their small grain planting; also, repairing, maintaining equipment, deer hunting. Pasture, livestock feed remain in fair to good condition.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Stock Water Supplies 1% very short, 11% short, 79% adequate, 9% surplus. Hay, Roughage supplies, 1% short, 67% adequate, 32% surplus. Winter rye 1% very poor, 13% poor, 56% fair, 29% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat 12% poor, 40% fair, 44% good, 4% excellent. Cattle 7% fair, 63% good, 30% excellent. Sheep 5% fair, 53% good, 42% excellent. Calf deaths 32% below avg.; 67% avg.; 1% above avg. Lamb deaths 32% below avg.; 67% avg.; 1% above avg. Average snow depth is 0 inches. Alfalfa snow cover is 98% poor, 2% adequate. Winter wheat snow cover is 99% poor, 1% adequate. Winter Rye snow cover is 98% poor, 2% adequate. Dry conditions have severely impacted fall planted winter wheat, creating spotty stands from poor germination. Many late seeded fields have not emerged, emerged stands are stressed. Crops will deteriorate further if cold weather arrives with no snow cover to protect them.

TENNESSEE: Weather conditions across the State during the month of December were very mild. Except for a short cold snap during the latter part of the month, temperatures averaged above normal. Some locations reported temperatures in the 70's. Rainfall amounts on the other hand, averaged below normal. The State's wheat crop was in good condition, farmers are finding very few aphids thus far. The State's cattle herd was also in good condition. Although there are ample hay supplies at this time, there continues to be concern over the availability of hay this winter due to the summer drought.

TEXAS: Harvest of remaining summer crops was completed following a wet, blowing snow that crossed the Plains in early December. The added moisture enhanced the wheat pasture on the High Plains, but had little effect in other areas. Elsewhere supplemental feeding, herd reduction escalated as the dry conditions prevailed. Land preparation for the 2000 crop continued but slowed, harvest for citrus, winter vegetables remained active.

UTAH: The state's weather has been mild, extremely dry for this time of year. The lack of moisture may hurt winter grains, is causing farmers to worry about the coming spring. Major activities included: Care of livestock, equipment maintenance. Livestock throughout the state were reported to be in good condition.

VIRGINIA: Warmer than normal temperatures, adequate moisture allowed for continued grazing of livestock with supplemental feed. Fall calving continued, progressed rapidly. Some small grain acreage was planted later than normal due to wet field conditions resulting from excessive amounts of precipitation during September, October. However, small grain producers report that mild weather in early December encouraged good growth, development. Producers remained busy scouting, treating for aphids. Soybean harvest began to wind down as the month reached the mid-point. Producers reported good yields overall. It has yet to be determined the exact number of acres that was abandoned. Experts do not believe, however, that the number will be as high as earlier reported. By mid-month harvest of most fall, summer crops was complete. Small grain, winter grazing crops had been seeded. Farmers turned much of their time towards record-keeping, tax preparations, planning for 2001 production. Crop producers were also busy attending pesticide re-certification meetings, extension seminars, producer association meetings. Cooler temperatures, some isolated light

snow deteriorated grazing conditions. Hay supplies, stockpiled fescue remained in fairly good supply. Feed supplies were stretched due in part to re-growth which occurred in early grazed pastures. Farmers continued to spend time feeding livestock, cleaning, maintaining equipment, spreading lime, fertilizer on pastures, cropland. Producers prepared for mid-winter top-dressing of small grain acreage. Burley, fire tobacco grading, marketing was active during December. Precipitation levels for the Commonwealth as a whole for December were close to normal. Some areas are reportedly suffering from dry soil conditions. A few producers report that their springs, wells have completely given out. This is a direct result of the extremely dry conditions that persisted during July, August. Temperatures during the end of the month ranged from unseasonably warm to extremely low with small amounts of snow. Accumulation was limited to mountainous areas of Southwestern Western Areas

WASHINGTON: Winter has gotten off to a mild start in eastern areas. Temperatures continue to be mild with some fields not freezing until late December. Precipitation was recorded throughout December, but, due to the dry summer, fall, more precipitation is needed for a good subsoil base in many areas. Winter wheat was in good condition, the mild temperatures were favorable for growth. Aphids had been detected in the early seeded winter wheat in western Whitman County. However a significant impact was not expected, so spraying had not started as of the 1st week of January. Tree fruit pruning was underway. Hay sales were starting because livestock were being fed on a daily basis. Cattlemen were also preparing for calving season.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil 1% very short, 25% short, 70% adequate, 4% surplus. The colder than normal temperatures of early December required heavier feeding of livestock. As the month progressed, unseasonable warm, rainy conditions improved pasture growth, slowed livestock feeding. Cold, icy conditions in most areas of the State the latter part of the month made field activities, livestock feeding difficult. Record high temperatures were set on January 2, 2000. Wheat 1% very poor, 1% poor, 87% fair, 10% good, 1% excellent; Wheat 81% emerged, 91% 1999. Cattle 1% poor, 33% fair, 59% good, 7% excellent. Sheep 18% fair, 76% good, 6% excellent.

WISCONSIN: During the first two weeks of December, temperatures averaged nearly 10° F warmer than the 30-year avg. Precipitation was below normal. Temperatures during the last half of the month dropped below normal the week of December 20th. Low temperatures plunged in Northern areas of the state below the -20° F level. Temperatures rebounded the last week of the month to above normal temperatures. Mild weather allowed many farmers to continue fall tillage, manure spreading, other winter farm activities in mid-December. Precipitation was below normal for the month. Snow levels were ranged from 2-11 inches in northern areas to 1-3 inches in southern. A trace of snow was recorded in the south east

WYOMING: Topsoil 11% very short, 80% short, 9% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 78% short, 12% adequate. Average depth of snow cover 1 inch with a foot of snow cover in some mountainous areas. Condition of winter wheat crop 43% fair, 56% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat wind damage 57% none, 43% light. Winter wheat freeze damage 92% none, 8% light. Cattle 1% fair, 88% good, 11% excellent. Sheep 2% fair, 93% good, 5% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 65% adequate, 35% surplus. Temperatures were mostly well above normal with light precipitation across the State.
