

ALASKA'S 2006 CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW

January & February – January temperatures were quite cold with mean daily temperatures averaging from 15 to 30 degrees colder than normal for much of the state. Precipitation was generally light in most regions, averaging 50% or less of the normal amount. February saw quite a change from January with warmer than normal temperatures on average across the state. Precipitation was above normal, with the Tanana Valley receiving twice the normal amount of precipitation in some areas.

March – Colder than normal weather dominated the state with average monthly temperatures in the interior being eight or more degrees below normal. Precipitation varied by location with Tanana Valley reporting below normal precipitation but South Central receiving slightly above normal levels of snow.

April – Cooler than normal weather continued into April with average temperatures below average for most areas of the state. Despite the cooler than normal temperatures, there were significant reductions in snowpack for the Fairbanks and Anchorage areas. Precipitation was above normal for much of the state.

May – Temperatures were near to slightly above normal for most growing areas. Precipitation levels were below normal across the state with the exception of Southeast. By month's end the barley and oat crops were 95% and 85% planted, respectively, and were reported as 35% and 20% emerged. Potatoes were 50% planted and vegetables were being transplanted in the major growing areas.

June – Most the state experienced temperatures slightly cooler than normal in June. Fairbanks set new record lows with snow flurries. Precipitation was only half of the normal amount in the Tanana Valley while South Central was above normal for

precipitation. By month's end barley was reported as 50% headed, while oats were 20% in-boot. Potatoes were 65% emerged and the first cutting of hay was reported as less than 15% complete.

July – Temperatures were below normal again for much of the state except in South Central where temperatures were near normal. Precipitation was above normal up north but below normal in South Central. Barley was reported as 15% turning color at month's end; oats were 35% in dough and potatoes were 40% in bloom. First cutting of the hay harvest was 90% complete.

August – The weather remained cooler and wetter than normal across most of the state. Some areas received twice the normal rainfall and flooding was reported in the Mat-Su Valley at mid month. By month's end the potato harvest was just underway in the Mat-Su Valley. Barley was 10% harvested and oats were 75% turning color. The second cutting of hay was held up by the rainy conditions.

September – Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal in the Tanana Valley and Kenai but near normal in South Central. By the end of the month the second cutting of hay was 80% complete. Statewide the winter supplies of hay were reported as 35% short, 65% adequate. Barley was 95% harvested, while oats were 70% harvested. Potatoes were 90% harvested at month's end.

October, November & December - October was warmer than normal for most growing areas, however precipitation was slightly below normal for most growing areas. November, was generally colder and drier than normal. December was generally warmer and drier than normal in the Tanana Valley and warmer and wetter than normal in South Central