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Crop and Weather Information for the Month of December 2001

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: The annual precipitation is still a couple of inches below normal despite several days of stormy, wet weather. There were several days of heavy rain and high tides during the month of December, but there were no reports of damage due to the storms.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Above normal rainfall during the month replenished soil moisture levels. Seasonal flooding occurred twice during the month, which was an indication

that more normal weather patterns have returned.

Snohomish/N. King: Weather conditions during December were stormy, very wet and windy. A few beautiful clear days with crisp winter air reminded us that winter is here. Frosty mornings and late evenings were much more frequent in the last several weeks. Flood watches and warnings were issued on a few days, but there were no reports of crop damage.

CENTRAL

Douglas/Chelan: Precipitation received in December was welcomed. Most of the winter wheat was covered with snow. Temperatures were normal with no excessive cold noted, therefore; fruit trees were in good condition. All livestock are now on full feed for the winter.

Franklin: Temperatures were generally cold during December. Most fields had snow cover. There was little fieldwork being done.

EASTERN

Adams: Good fall precipitation improved subsoil moisture conditions, but more precipitation is still needed. Current frozen soil conditions may limit additional water infiltration. Winter wheat was smaller than normal, but remained in fair condition.

Adams (2nd Report): Mild conditions with temperatures above freezing, during most of early December, allowed producers to finish CRP grass seedings and most shrub plantings—a welcome change from 2000. Late fall moisture levels continued to please dryland grain producers, and although significant amounts of snow have come and gone, runoff has been nonexistent to date. Range conditions should be much better next season with the initiation of annual grass growth, as a result of the combination of warmer temperatures and late fall rains.

Lincoln: Moisture conditions looked promising for the upcoming year with fall precipitation, but subsoil moisture was still in short supply after the dry year. Winter wheat was smaller than normal but in fair condition.

Stevens: The county received snowfall and rainfall throughout the month of December.

Walla Walla: Timely rains fell during the month. Winter wheat progressed normally.

Whitman: Significant precipitation in the form of snow and rain came to much of the county during December, improving soil moisture conditions. Colder temperatures late in the month, increased supplemental feeding of cattle and sheep, but forage supplies seemed adequate for now. The condition of the winter wheat was mostly good to fair as the New Year approaches.