



# Crop Progress - State Stories

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**ALABAMA:** Temperatures averaged 4 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit above normal for the month, depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.2 inches in multiple locations to 14.4 inches in Lauderdale County. Frequent rainfall throughout the month created difficulty for producers, but more so for those in northern and central counties. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State was free of abnormally dry conditions and drought, unchanged from January. Since late-fall rains prevented some planting of small grains and winter grazing, there was less overall field activity in February. Small grains and winter grazing that were able to be planted in the fall were flooded or had standing water by February's end. This reduction in grazing potential caused many cattlemen to be reliant on hay. Most had adequate supplies on hand at the end of the month. Cattlemen had difficulty entering their fields to provide feed or apply nutrients. The consistently wet conditions in northern counties led to some cattle developing foot rot and an increase in pneumonia in the cattle population. Producers in southern counties reported that small grains, pasture, and cattle were in good condition. By the end of the month, some spring tillage activities began in the southernmost counties where weather conditions were more favorable.

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**ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

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**ARIZONA:** The following is for the entire month of February. By the end of the month, cotton planting was 2 percent complete compared to 2 percent last year. Fifty-five percent of barley has been planted compared with 85 percent last year and 41 percent has emerged compared with 71 percent last year. Barley conditions were rated mostly good. Sixty-six percent of durum wheat has been planted compared with 80 percent last year and 42 percent has emerged compared with 67 percent last year. Durum wheat conditions were rated mostly good. Alfalfa conditions were rated mostly good to fair, depending on location last week, with harvesting taking place on almost three-quarters of the alfalfa acreage across the State. For the entire State, pasture and range conditions were rated mostly fair to poor.

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**ARKANSAS:** The month of February has been wet and muddy conditions. There has been an abnormal amount of flooding this month. During mid-month, temperatures for the State averaged 43.9 degrees and received an average of 2.85 inches of rainfall. Towards the end of the month, rainfall continued with a weekly average of 3.14 inches and temperatures averaging 40.7 degrees for the State. Some areas experienced almost 7 inches of rainfall. Livestock producers are fighting muddy conditions and shrinking hay inventories. Winter wheat and cereal rye grasses are not doing as well because of wet muddy conditions. Row crop producers are trying to pull soil samples in between rain showers. Fields need to be worked to remove ruts and prepare for planting, but wet fields preventing late season fertilizer application, and spring pasture weed control.

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**CALIFORNIA:** During the week ending February 24, topsoil moisture 5% short, 35% adequate, 60% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% short, 40% adequate, 55% surplus. Winter wheat condition 80% good, 20% excellent. Pasture and range condition 5% very poor, 5% poor, 15% fair, 45% good, 30% excellent. All estimates are for the week ending February 24, 2019. Throughout the month, California experienced temperatures below average. Rainfall throughout most of the State was well above average. More dry conditions near the end of the month allowed for some plants to flower and bulbs to grow. Top dress fertilizer and herbicides were applied to wheat.

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**COLORADO:** For the month of February, topsoil moisture was 3% very short, 27% short, 67% adequate, 3% surplus. For the month of February, subsoil moisture was 5% very short, 30% short, 65% adequate. For the month of February, winter wheat condition was 1% very poor, 9% poor, 40% fair, 47% good, 3% excellent. For the month of February, cows calved was 13%, 17% 2018. For the month of February, ewes lambled was 10%, 14% 2018. For the month of February, livestock condition was 1% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 66% good, 7% excellent. For the month of February, pasture and range condition was 7% very poor, 16% poor, 50% fair, 25% good, 2% excellent. Snowfall across the State during February boosted snowpack and brought relief to drought-stressed areas. However, nearly all counties were still

experiencing abnormally dry conditions or worse at month's end. Reporters in northeastern counties noted winter kill of wheat was a concern due to lack of good snow cover and moisture in areas. Livestock were reportedly doing well and pastures were in good shape, but more moisture is needed before spring. In eastern counties, recovery from last year's drought was aided by recent moisture. A Kiowa County reporter noted winter wheat condition was good in areas, but some fields did not achieve a good stand before dormancy. In southwestern counties, big moisture-making storms made a dent in the worst drought conditions. A reporter in Montezuma County noted livestock death loss was above average due to wet and freezing conditions. In the San Luis Valley, a reporter noted soil moisture conditions were an improvement from last year, but still below normal. Livestock condition was also noted as poorer than normal due to very tight feed supplies. Southeastern counties also received beneficial wet snow during February, with soil moisture looking good prior to spring planting. Statewide, calving and lambing were well underway. As of February 24, 2019, snowpack was 116 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

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**DELAWARE:** The month of February has been marked by unseasonable temperature fluctuations and excessive precipitation, resulting in very high water tables and fully saturated soils. Reporters expressed delays in fertilizing small grains and cover crops, drowned out portions of fields, and damaged pastures as a result of the continued wet weather. Farmers will be monitoring fruit for damage caused by extreme cold temperature points reached in the last couple weeks. Late topdressing will be the only option for many in the State but some farmers may choose to kill wheat crop as a result of damage from standing water in their fields. Concern over delayed planting for pea and potato crops given the weather conditions was also noted.

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**FLORIDA:** Total rainfall for the month of February ranged from 0.02 inches in Pinellas County to 8.3 inches in Palm Beach County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 3.24 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions at the month's end, up slightly from last month. Average temperatures were as much as 11 degrees above normal for the month. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good throughout the month. Some producers in the Panhandle noted inadequate winter forages due to excessive wet weather early in the month. Others in the northern and central peninsula experienced poor forages and grazing due to unseasonably warm and dry weather during the month, which resulted in many producers feeding supplements to cattle. Cattle condition remained mostly good. Sugarcane harvest was ongoing throughout the month. Potato harvesting was reported early in the month. Vegetable land preparation and planting took place throughout the month. Strawberry growers indicated angular leaf spot, leaf scorch, and botrytis blight may be an issue this year. A wide range of vegetable crops came to the market including green beans, herbs, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of year and included spraying, applying herbicide, and taking care of young trees. Tangerines were harvested throughout the month. Grapefruit harvesting continued with a larger amount going to processing plants than fresh markets. Bloom was in various stages from trees just beginning to bloom to those with open flowers by the end of the month.

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**GEORGIA:** Total rainfall for the month of February ranged from .088 inches in Chatham County to 13.11 inches in White County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Georgia remained free of drought conditions throughout the month. Temperatures were above average in several counties this month. A wet winter continued in February with excess rainfall reported throughout each region of the State. Livestock producers, field crops, fruit, and vegetable growers all noted negative impacts from too much moisture. The wet weather has resulted in premature fruit blooms in some species, which could result in crop losses this spring. Many cattle producers throughout the State were feeding hay because of the poor grazing caused by the rain. Several pastures in low lying areas flooded causing feed problems in some livestock. Poor hay quality and nutrition also has producers concerned about compaction. Growers in central and southern Georgia reported harvesting cotton, soybeans, and peanuts early in the month. As of the end of the month, nearly all harvest activities were complete. Growers noted lower grades in cotton and soybeans left to rot in fields due to the excess rainfall. Some small grains have been side dressed and had herbicide applications. Vegetable land preparation is ongoing, and planting was reported in the southern part of the State.

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**HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

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**IDAHO:** After a January that was milder than average, winter storms arrived in the early part of February and increased the snowpack in Idaho. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Idaho snowpack improved considerably since 2019 began. NRCS data, as of mid-February, showed snowpack at more than 90 percent of the long-term average in many Idaho river basins, including some at 100-plus percent. Much of the northern section of Idaho was snow covered for the majority of the month. Benewah and Kootenai Counties received 2.5 to 3 feet of snow in the

last 3 weeks. The crops were snow covered. Winter calving was in full swing in Idaho County. Calving also progressed well in southwest Idaho. Mountain snowpack looked good. Feeder hay supplies were tight and hay prices were reported higher than normal for that class of hay. In southwest Idaho, winter also showed up in force in February with considerable snow and colder temperatures. No field work was done. Calving started. In Lincoln County, cattle looked good despite the heavy snow and rain the past few weeks. Blaine County also reported a lot of snow. Most all of the southeast Idaho reported temperatures colder than normal and plentiful snow. Some cattle producers were busy calving, but several waited until next month due to freezing temperatures.

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**ILLINOIS:** Statewide precipitation, for the month of February, averaged 3.33 inches for the month, 1.69 inches above normal. The average temperature in February was 29.2 degrees, 0.1 degrees below normal. For the week ending February 24, topsoil moisture supply was 45% adequate, 55% surplus. Subsoil moisture supply was rated at 1% short, 58% adequate, 41% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated at 2% very poor, 11% poor, 41% fair, 40% good, 6% excellent.

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**INDIANA:** Topsoil moisture for the month of February was 1% short, 42% adequate, and 57% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month of February was 1% short, 51% adequate, and 48% surplus. Winter wheat condition for the month of February rated 2% very poor, 7% poor, 39% fair, 47% good, and 5% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 32.6 degrees, 2.9 degrees above normal for the month of February. Statewide average precipitation was 4.48 inches, 2.57 inches above normal. Frigid temperatures in the latter half of the month followed what had been a relatively mild start to February. Above average precipitation for the month contributed to high soil moisture levels and halted field activities for much of the State. There were reports of extensive flooding in some fields, particularly in the southern portion of the State. Winter wheat condition was a concern in some areas due to cold temperatures and little snow cover. Livestock were reported to be doing well and calving was underway, though fluctuations in temperatures and muddy conditions caused some stress. Hay inventory was reported low in some areas. Farmers were staying busy hauling corn and soybeans to market, attending Extension meetings and farms shows, visiting USDA Farm Service Agency offices to enroll or certify production, and preparing equipment for the 2019 planting season.

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**IOWA:** Cold weather and record amounts of snow were reported across much of the State by the third week of February. Despite a brief warming period in the first week of the month, the following weeks have been cold and windy with frequent storms leaving measurable snowfall Statewide. Snow piles are becoming excessive and many are running out of places to move new snow as it comes. Frozen and snow covered fields have limited fieldwork activities to spreading manure on accessible parcels. Snow and icy road conditions have slowed livestock and grain transportation. With extended periods of very cold weather, producers have fed more hay than normal this winter with supplies running short in some areas. The wintry conditions have been challenging for calving and feedlot operators have had extra work with ice and snow removal.

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**KANSAS:** For the entire month ending February 25, 2019, topsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 57% adequate, and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 2% short, 74% adequate, and 24% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 7% poor, 40% fair, 45% good, and 6% excellent.

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**KENTUCKY:** For the month of February, Kentucky saw well above normal temperatures and much above normal precipitation. Multiple rainfall events occurred during the month, leading to several flood warnings and advisories across the State. Temperatures for the period averaged 44 degrees across the State which was 7 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 9.08 inches Statewide which was 5.98 inches above normal and 293% of normal. The State has experienced an extremely wet winter so far, with local flooding, standing water, and very saturated fields and pastures. Farmers are monitoring weather forecasts very closely in planning and preparing for spring crops; some soybeans have yet to be harvested from 2018 due to the persistent moisture. Excessive mud, cattle exhaustion, thin body conditions, and nutrient deficiencies are contributing to cattle stress and deaths in many livestock classes. For the month of February, livestock conditions were reported as 6% very poor, 19% poor, 34% fair, 37% good, and 4% excellent. Scarce hay supplies, high prices, and poor quality have many farmers continuing to search for hay to purchase. Some cattle producers are feeding corn fodder or wheat straw mixed with concentrates to try and meet nutritional needs. A few cow herds have even been liquidated due to the inability to find adequate hay or supplemental feed. For the month of February, hay and roughage supplies were reported as 24% very short, 45% short, 29% adequate, and 2% surplus. Milder temperatures have contributed to wheat progressing at a faster pace, leading to concerns of

potential damage from a late frost. For the month of February, winter wheat conditions were rated as 2% very poor, 10% poor, 26% fair, 53% good, and 9% excellent.

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**LOUISIANA:** Similar to January and last fall, the month of February brought continued rainfall affecting all aspects of agriculture. The State rainfall averaged almost 4 inches over the past four weeks, with the central and east central regions receiving the most precipitation. Some parishes reported localized flooding with many fields having standing water. Monthly temperatures averaged at 56.0 degrees slightly warmer than the normal. Most producers are reporting little or no fieldwork in prep for spring planting. However, burn down herbicide applications have been flown in. Some producers struggle with crops still in the field having issues with higher incidence of disease. Vegetables are especially affected. Winter wheat and pastures have been damaged in some parishes and hay is nearly exhausted. Low temperatures and shortage of forage are affecting cattle not being able to keep up with high energy demands. On the better side, some sugarcane producers were able to get some fieldwork done early in the month. All producers are needing drier and warmer conditions with light wind to dry the fields soon.

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**MARYLAND:** The month of February has been marked by unseasonable temperature fluctuations and excessive precipitation, resulting in very high water tables and fully saturated soils. Reporters expressed delays in fertilizing small grains and cover crops, drowned out portions of fields, and damaged pastures as a result of the continued wet weather. Farmers will be monitoring fruit for damage caused by extreme cold temperature points reached in the last couple weeks. Late topdressing will be the only option for many in the State but some farmers may choose to kill wheat crop as a result of damage from standing water in their fields. Concern over delayed planting for pea and potato crops given the weather conditions was also noted.

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**MICHIGAN:** For the entire month of February 2019, topsoil moisture 0% short, 64% adequate, and 36% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 3% short, 74% adequate, and 23% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 6% very poor, 23% poor, 36% fair, 28% good, and 7% excellent. Precipitation for the month of February averaged 2.80 inches throughout the State, 1.57 inches above normal. Temperature for the month of February averaged 21.1 degrees, 0.3 degrees below normal. After record setting cold temperatures due to the polar vortex that occurred during the end of January, most areas in the State experienced warmer temperatures to start the month. Since then, temperatures have fluctuated drastically, bringing multiple snow and ice storms throughout the rest of the month. These harsh winter conditions led to power outages and ice cover on many fields. The large amount of precipitation had a negative effect on winter wheat conditions, due to many fields being underwater and then frozen at some point. Despite the cold temperatures and high winds, livestock were reported to be doing well.

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**MINNESOTA:** Many climate observation sites, at only halfway through the month, reported their snowiest February in history according to the University of Minnesota. Hastings topped the list at 26.7 inches of snow by February 15. Other locations that had already surpassed snowfall records by mid-month include Lake City, Theilman, Leech Lake, Minnesota City and Wabasha. The preliminary average temperature for the Twin Cities was 6 degrees below average at 14.2 degrees. Precipitation for the month was 2.44 inches, which was 1.82 inches above normal. The highest temperature of 39 degrees was reported at on February 2. The lowest temperature of -12 was reported on February 9. Activities included plowing record snow amounts, moving grain when conditions allow and manure spreading where permitted.

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**MISSISSIPPI:** The month of February brought excess rainfall for the State. During mid-month, temperatures for the State averaged 53.0 degrees and received an average of 1.27 inches of rainfall. Towards the end of the month, rainfall continued with a weekly average of 5.71 inches and temperatures averaging 52.3 degrees for the State. Some areas experienced almost 14 inches of rainfall. This left producers in many areas unable to get land prepped for early season crops and caused delays in fieldwork. Livestock is seeking higher ground and supplemental feeding has been necessary in some areas. Many livestock producers are experiencing difficulty with fertilizing, seeding, and pasture management practices. With more rain in the forecast, the overall impact on progress and intentions is still unknown, but producers are hopeful for more suitable conditions.

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**MISSOURI:** For the week ending February 24, 2019, topsoil moisture 41% adequate, 59% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 69% adequate, 30% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 32% very short, 35% short, 32% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 85% adequate, 15% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 15% poor, 64% fair, 18% good, 1% excellent. Conditions overall for the month were cold and wet with the State averaging 3.66 inches of precipitation for the month, 1.87 inches above average. The majority of the precipitation occurred in the Southeast part of the State.

Temperatures for the month averaged 32.3 degrees for the State, 1.4 degrees below normal. Livestock producers across the State were having to buy hay due to a reported shortage.

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**MONTANA:** For the entire month of February 2019, topsoil moisture for the month of February was 2% very short, 12% short, 81% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 6% very short, 16% short, 73% adequate, 5% surplus. For the month of February, winter wheat – wind damage was 71% none 15% light, 13% moderate, 1% heavy. Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage 61% none, 21% light, 17% moderate, 1% heavy for the month. Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover for the month was 0% very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 53% good, and 28% excellent. Livestock grazing accessibility for the month of February was – 13% open, 39% difficult, 48% closed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for the month was as follows – cattle and calves 99% fed, 100% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed – sheep and lambs 100% fed, 99% last year. Livestock – Calving Progress was 4% for the month. Livestock – Sheep and Lambs Ewes Lamed was 2% for the month. Freezing temperatures, high winds, and deep snow were widespread throughout Montana for the month of February, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. Reporters noted that heavy snow cover prevented them from confirming the condition of their winter wheat, but the below zero temperatures and high winds caused more winter freeze and wind damage. Reporters in Northwestern areas noted the colder weather is causing calving and lambing issues as well as grazing issues.

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**NEBRASKA:** For the entire month of February 2019, topsoil moisture measured at 1% very short, 7% short, 77% adequate, and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 6% short, 83% adequate, and 10% surplus. For the entire month of February 2019, winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 37% fair, 51% good, 9% excellent.

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**NEVADA:** For the week ending February 24, topsoil moisture 5% very short, 5% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 5% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. Pasture and range condition 5% fair, condition 55% good, 40% excellent. All estimates are for the week ending February 24, 2019. In Reno, precipitation and snowfall for the month were 3.74 and 17.2 inches, respectively. Temperatures were well below average. Pastures remained in good condition, despite harsh weather. Snowy and cold conditions resulted in some loss of calves.

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**NEW ENGLAND:** New England States experienced very variable weather cold days, snow, rain, ice, and a couple of warm days. In New Hampshire, some maple sugar operations were tapping. Freezing rain appears to have had minimal impacts on the trees in most sugar bush areas. Growers are getting ready for the season ordering seeds, fertilizers, and other farm supplies. Orchards are pruning apple trees and starting to prune blueberry bushes. For the most part, it has been a mild winter with below normal snowfall figures being reported across Massachusetts. Despite the below average snowfall figures, rainfall appears have been above normal. According to a Maine reporter, the big worry will be snow melt and flooding. The winter has been relatively mild without excessive temperatures or snowfall throughout Rhode Island as well. However no reports of adverse impacts on healthy livestock populations. Vermont maple producers are worried about no sign of weather for good sap flow.

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**NEW JERSEY:** For the month of February, soil cultivation in preparation for spring planting was delayed by wet weather. Some crops still remained in the fields to be harvested from the 2018 crop year. Excessive precipitation from October to present has created very high water tables and saturated soils. Temperatures have not been extremely cold so grape and blueberry growers were not concerned about these crops. Lettuce and greens transplant production was underway in greenhouses, as well as floriculture crops being sown in greenhouses and high tunnels, nursery stock harvesting, and field prep where feasible. Temperature fluctuations to date have not been detrimental to perennials.

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**NEW MEXICO:** For the month of February 2019, topsoil moisture 40% very short, 27% short, 32% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 29% very short, 39% short, 32% adequate. Winter wheat condition 6% very poor, 41% poor, 33% fair, 19% good, 1% excellent. Cows calved 14% complete, 17% last year. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 90%, 91% last year. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 62% fair, 25% good, 6% excellent. Ewes lambed 9% complete, 15% last year. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 78%, 73% last year. Sheep and lamb condition 15% poor, 54% fair, 31% good. Hay and roughage supplies 10% very short, 37% short, 52% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 12% very short, 28% short, 60% adequate. Winter temperatures and moisture have been sporadic, not only across the State, but also throughout individual counties, creating a plethora of problems for producers depending on location. Comments indicated that unbearably cold temperatures coupled with low body weights in mother cows following the dry summer created calving difficulties on some ranches. Additionally, hay supplies were running short in some areas due to an increased need for supplemental feeding. Generally, February's weather pattern left an abundance of precipitation in

the northwestern part of the State that tapered off toward the southeastern corner where much of the area received less than 5 percent of normal moisture. Heavy grazing pressure coupled with lacking soil moisture led to the decline of many wheat fields since fall. The United States Drought Monitor released on February 21 categorized exceptional drought (D4) rooted across 1.5 percent of the State, a decrease of 13.5 percentage points since the last weekly Crop Progress and Condition report was released at the end of November. Severe to extreme drought (D2-D3) was reportedly covering 31.3 percent of the State, with 17.8 percent and 13.5 percent categorized as D2 and D3, respectively. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse remained evident across 61.2 percent of the State following a less-than-stellar November 2018 – January 2019 precipitation total for much of the State.

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**NEW YORK:** The month of February 2019, has come with some challenges in many areas due to heavy snowfall and precipitation while some areas were seasonal. Manure spreading was particularly difficult where there was high, gusting winds with snow and ice. There was concern for crop damage due to windy conditions in north central counties.

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**NORTH CAROLINA:** For the week ending February 24, 2019, topsoil moisture 19% adequate and 81% surplus. Subsoil moisture 23% adequate and 77% surplus. Barley condition 5% poor, 53% fair, 39% good and 3% excellent. Oats condition 7% poor and 76% fair and 17% good. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 12% poor, 44% fair, 40% good and 2% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 2% very short, 22% short, 68% adequate and 8% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 15% poor, 55% fair and 29% good. For the month of February, frequent rainfall continues to saturate soils. Field work of any kind was prohibited. Pastures growing poorly due to saturated soil conditions but adequate hay and feed available. Only a limited number of tobacco producers have seeded greenhouses for transplant production. Excessive rain has hurt the germination and growth of small grains. Livestock producers are starting to get close on hay supply. Pastures will need renovation due to excessive rain. Christmas tree growers have not had any days in February suitable for spraying horticulture oils. Too wet to top dress wheat. Too cloudy to get pasture grass to green up. Too wet to do any pre-plant weed control.

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**NORTH DAKOTA:** For the month of February 2019, topsoil moisture rated 2% very short, 9% short, 79% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture rated 4% very short, 16% short, 75% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 1% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 67% good, 1% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions, 1% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 68% good, 3% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss, 8% heavy, 58% average, 34% light. Sheep and lamb conditions, 2% very poor, 4% poor, 35% fair, 52% good, 7% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss, 4% heavy, 63% average, 33% light. Hay and roughage supplies, 2% very short, 15% short, 76% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies, 4% very short, 8% short, 83% adequate, 5% surplus.

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**OHIO:** Topsoil moisture for the month was, 2% short, 23% adequate, and 75% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was, 2% short, 31% adequate, 67% surplus. Winter wheat condition for the month was rated 3% very poor, 11% poor, 50% fair, 34% good, and 2% excellent. The preliminary February 2019 Statewide average temperature was 32.8 degrees, 3.4 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 4.73 inches Statewide, which was 2.79 inches above normal for the month of February. The beginning of the month was warmer than normal and slightly wetter than normal. Cooler, more typical temperatures arrived near mid-month along with more snow and rain than normal. The ground was saturated for much of February, especially in the south and southwest portions of the State. Wet fields reportedly had forced a few operators to delay harvest of remaining corn and soybeans. Wet conditions have caused ponding in low-lying fields and have slowed fieldwork.

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**OKLAHOMA:** For the month of February 2019, all districts recorded above normal precipitation with Statewide rain fall totals averaging 1.59 inches. The South Central district recorded the largest departures at 76 percent above normal, while the Northeast recorded the lowest at 6 percent above normal. Overall, the precipitation for the month has been 40 percent above normal. According to OCS Mesonet, drought conditions were rated 8 percent abnormally dry to exceptional, unchanged from the previous month. Statewide, temperatures averaged in the high 30's, with the lowest recording of 0 degrees at Beaver on February 8th. The highest temperature was 83 degrees recorded at Hollis on February 3rd. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to surplus.

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**OREGON:** The snowpack received a much-needed increase Statewide. Several winter storms began to hit the State in early February. According to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, the entire State observed a 20 to 30 percent bump in snowpack and 2 to 3 times the normal precipitation since early February. As of mid-month, Oregon's total snowpack was 93 percent of average, compared to 73 percent at the end of January and 40 percent at this time last year. In the Northern coastal regions of Oregon, a very cold February followed a warmer than normal January. Some

crops and pasture plants were left confused. Field operations required the right weather mix to get some herbicide and fertilizer work done. Small fruits looked good but some producers expressed concern that the mixed weather pattern may lead to more disease. Pastures were mostly in good shape. Mixed results for survival of cover crops were observed on some corn silage acreage. In the north central region, recent snow storms were a welcome source of moisture for Morrow and Sherman County wheat producers. Crop year precipitation was approximately one inch below the long term average. In Sherman and Hood River counties, February brought severe winter weather. The wind caused the snow to drift and several county roads were closed. Some cattle producers struggled with calving in the inclement weather. Some producers reported calf loss due to the severe conditions. The northwest, southwest, and southeastern regions all reported the start of some limited calving with a few adverse issues noted. Some producers in Lake County reported higher than normal newborn calf losses due to heavy snowfall, winds, and cold temperatures. Many of the drought stricken counties in these regions reported most drainages at or near normal snow pack. Any and all run off were being captured in the reservoir systems. Over this past weekend, Prineville accumulated 10-11 inches of snow and the snow continued. Powell Butte area accumulated 13 inches of snow. The Cascade and Ochoco mountains received considerable snow in February and were approaching an average year. The snowpack trend was heading up and crop producers were hopeful that would continue.

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**PENNSYLVANIA:** Temperatures for February ranged from a high of 55(F) degrees to a low of 3(F) degrees. Average daily precipitation was reported as 0.11 inches with average total monthly snowfall of 9.5 inches. Snow, sleet, and freezing rain peppered Pennsylvania this month accompanied by small pockets of unseasonably warm weather. This caused accumulated snow to melt and saturate fields leaving them muddy and difficult to work in. As a result, field activities were very limited with a focus on snow removal.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Temperatures averaged 2 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit above normal for the month, depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.1 inches in multiple locations to 11.0 inches in Greenville County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 15 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to being free of abnormally dry condition in the beginning of February. The abnormally dry conditions were confined to the coastline where relatively little agriculture is conducted. Rainy conditions in several agricultural counties kept fieldwork at a minimum and prevented weed control and fertilizer treatments for small grains. When conditions permitted, some farmers began applying chicken litter and fertilizers in preparation for spring planting.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA:** The following conditions were reported for the month of February, topsoil moisture 0% very short, 4% short, 79% adequate, 17% surplus. Subsoil moisture 0% very short, 14% short, 73% adequate, 13% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 52% fair, 44% good, and 2% excellent.

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**TENNESSEE:** For week ending February 24, 2019, topsoil moisture 3% adequate, 97% surplus. Subsoil moisture 8% adequate, 92% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 23% poor, 51% fair, 20% good, 2% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 8% very poor, 26% poor, 39% fair, 25% good, 2% excellent. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 11% poor, 35% fair, 44% good, 9% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 12% very short, 25% short, 57% adequate, 6% surplus. Abnormally high rainfall in Tennessee has left the State saturated with some areas of flooding and landslides. Cool temperatures and increased rainfall have created concern for pasture conditions, feeding conditions, and the upcoming season. Pasture and range condition is mostly poor to fair. Cattle condition is mostly fair to good. Hay and roughage supplies are mostly adequate.

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**TEXAS:** Throughout the month of February Texas experienced a roller coaster of temperatures and little rainfall. The month started out cold, began to warm, but then had a cold front drop to temperatures below freezing in several areas of the State. Overall, small grains benefited from the early warming, except for winter wheat, which suffered from the lack of moisture in some areas. Wet fields early in the coastal regions delayed completion of the cotton harvest as well as the planting for the new season. Fruit and vegetable producers were concerned over the cold snap damaging crops but temperatures warmed quickly; allowing the completion of the pecan harvest and the planting of potatoes and cabbages. Range and pasture condition remained constant throughout much of the State. However, some areas were in need of warmer temperatures and moisture for optimal growth. Livestock conditions were mostly good Statewide. However, many producers continued supplemental feeding through the month.

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**UTAH:** For the entire month of February, topsoil moisture 91% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 11% short, 83% adequate, 6% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 17% poor, 27% fair, 54% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat condition 4% poor, 32% fair, 58% good, 6% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 30% short, 69% adequate. Stock water supplies 3% short, 94% adequate, 3% surplus. Cattle and calves condition

4% poor, 20% fair, 76% good. Sheep and lambs condition 5% poor, 21% fair, 74% good. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 93%, 80% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 67%, 62% last year. Cows calved 12%, 16% last year. Ewes lambed-farm flock 21%, 16% last year. Ewes lambed-range flock 1%, 1% last year. Utah saw a good amount of moisture for the month of February, with snowpack levels well above normal. Box Elder County has had a wet winter, with producers reporting standing water in fields as well as difficult calving conditions. Cache County reported very cold winter conditions. Duchesne County reported livestock were being fed due to deep snow in Basin rangeland. Beaver County reported snowpack was in great shape but the snowy conditions have led to higher than normal calf deaths. Iron County reported that the snow has helped with the drought conditions but calving was difficult.

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**VIRGINIA:** For week ending February 24, 2019, days suitable 0.6. Topsoil moisture 18% adequate, 82% surplus. Subsoil moisture 29% adequate, 71% surplus. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 10% poor, 45% fair, 39% good, 4% excellent. Barley condition 2% very poor, 23% poor, 50% fair, 23% good, 2% excellent. Livestock condition 6% poor, 48% fair, 38% good, 8% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 9% very poor, 39% poor, 36% fair, 14% good, 2% excellent. Hay supplies 4% very short, 34% short, 57% adequate, 5% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures was 7%. Virginia experienced above normal precipitation and varied temperatures in February. The excessive rain has resulted in muddy conditions and delays in field work. Livestock and small grain conditions have declined due to the wet conditions. Hay and roughage supplies are mostly short to adequate. Primary activities for the month include attending winter production meetings and applying fertilizer and herbicide when the weather permitted.

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**WASHINGTON:** Heavy, wet snow hit western Washington in early February. Lewis County had several outbuildings collapse, including a dairy barn and two empty poultry buildings. Calving started, however many producers had trouble sourcing hay for their livestock. Producers were concerned about seed crops in Skagit and Island Counties. Jefferson County had saturated ground and pastures leading to poor rangeland. Indoor greenhouse seeding began. Most early season plant life budded out in San Juan County. The cold and wet temperatures damaged some winter crops in Skagit County. Snohomish County had many vegetable farmers harvest past their regular window due to the mild temperatures earlier in the season. The February snow storm collapsed high tunnels, greenhouses, sheds, and barns in Snohomish and King Counties. Benton County reported 30 foot drifts from the snow with freezing temperatures to cement them. Spring wheat planting was delayed. Calving began in Chelan County, with minimal calf deaths reported. Temperatures with wind chill in Okanogan and Ferry Counties were not above -20 degrees Fahrenheit for three consecutive days. Canola and wheat crops died as winds blew snow cover off of fields. Ranches in Klickitat County had difficulty keeping calves alive in the snowstorm. Yakima County was mostly spared from the snow with only 1.25 inches of snowfall. However, sustained winds from the storm caused over 1,000 dairy cows to die. There were isolated reports of bud damage in some peach and nectarine orchards. Stevens County had single digit and negative temperatures for the first part of February, followed by a foot of snow. Higher than average winds caused cover to be removed from fall planted grains in Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties; some winter kill on fall grains was reported. Calving issues also ensued due to the inclement weather. Columbia County had slow winter wheat emergence and progress. Livestock were under stress and feed stocks were running low. Winter wheat in Whitman County was in good condition. The warm and wet fall and early winter helped emergence. Late seeded crops had some winter damage. Spring seeding was delayed. Some livestock producers lost calves.

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**WEST VIRGINIA:** For the week ending February 24, topsoil moisture 37% adequate and 63% surplus. Subsoil moisture 44% adequate and 56% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 19% very short, 28% short, 50% adequate, and 3% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 93% adequate, and 1% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 16% poor, 53% fair, and 30% good. Cattle and calves condition 2% poor, 36% fair, 58% good, and 4% excellent. Calving was 29% complete. Sheep and lambs condition 3% poor, 33% fair, 61% good, and 3% excellent. Lambing was 38% complete. The month was very wet with flooding. Conditions in the fields are extremely muddy, limiting fieldwork and making it difficult on livestock. Farming activities for the month included calving, lambing, and spreading hay on land to help with the muddy conditions for livestock.

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**WISCONSIN:** February temperatures at the five major weather stations ranged from 0.3 degree above normal in Green Bay to 4.7 degrees below normal in Eau Claire. Average highs ranged from 23.0 degrees in Eau Claire to 32.1 degrees in Milwaukee, while average lows ranged from 4.3 degrees in Eau Claire to 17.7 degrees in Milwaukee. Precipitation ranged from 1.95 inches in Madison to 2.60 inches in Eau Claire. Eau Claire received 33.8 inches of snow in February, breaking their previous record for February snowfall. Continuous snow storms in February have left most of Wisconsin covered in snow, but concerns of winterkill on alfalfa and winter wheat remain due to storms in January and February that covered

some fields in ice. Some reports indicated that the snow depth has made it difficult to get feed to livestock in fields and pastures. There were also reports of collapsed roofs on barns and sheds due to the weight of snow.

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**WYOMING:** These ratings are for the month of February 2019. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 29% short, 69% adequate. Subsoil moisture 13% very short, 20% short, 67% adequate. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 16% poor, 29% fair, 48% good, 4% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 6% very short, 11% short, 82% adequate, 1% surplus. Livestock condition 3% poor, 30% fair, 65% good, 2% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 12% short, 86% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 53% fair, 36% good. Cows calved 5%, 2018 9%. Ewes lambed 4%, 2018 7%. Sheep shorn 4%, 2018 11%. Winter wheat condition is mostly good to fair while pasture and range is rated mostly fair to good. Temperatures were near normal for most of the State and moisture levels have improved from last 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@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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Chris Hawthorn– Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet.....	(202) 720-9526
James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay.....	(202) 690-8533
Jeff Lemmons – Oats, Soybeans.....	(202) 690-3234
Jannety Mosley – Crop Weather, Barley.....	(202) 720-7621
Sammy Neal – Peanuts, Rice.....	(202) 720-7688
Jean Porter – Rye, Wheat.....	(202) 720-8068
Chris Singh – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369

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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@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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