



Crop Progress - State Stories

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ALABAMA: March temperatures were generally on par with historical averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.2 inches in multiple locations to 6.6 inches in Jackson County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 4.5 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to being free of abnormally dry conditions at the beginning of March. Tornadoes caused severe damage in several Southern counties on March 3. Frequent rains in the first half of the month, coupled with already flooded fields from February rains, delayed row crop field preparations and small grain and winter grazing fertilizer and chemical applications. Dry weather during the third week of the month allowed producers to begin catching up on delayed fieldwork as well as to begin planting corn. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition. Livestock farmers continued to feed hay and supplements as pastures were slow to recover from the cold and wet winter conditions. Most producers had adequate supplies on hand at the end of the month. Livestock and pastures were in fair to good condition, depending on the severity of flooding on each farm. Sub-freezing temperatures in early March may have negatively impacted the peach and blueberry crops.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: The following is for the entire month of March 2019. By the end of the month, cotton planting was 24 percent complete, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Ninety-five percent of barley was planted, 89 percent had emerged, and 21 percent had reached the headed stage compared with 32 percent last year. Barley conditions were rated mostly good. Fourteen percent of durum wheat reached the headed stage compared with 28 percent last year. Durum wheat conditions were rated mostly good. Alfalfa conditions were rated mostly good, depending on location last week with harvesting taking place on more than three-quarters of the alfalfa acreage across the State. For the entire State, pasture and range conditions were rated mostly good to fair.

ARKANSAS: The month of March has been wet and cool. The first of the month had a number of rainy days but the last half of the month welcomed warmer temperatures and drier conditions. During mid-month, temperatures for the State averaged 50.9 degrees and received an average of 1.57 inches of rainfall. Towards the end of the month, rainfall decreased with a weekly average of 0.33 inch and temperatures averaging 53.0 degrees for the State. Livestock, pasture, and hay conditions started to improve as the weather improved. Row crop producers finally started field preparation for the upcoming season. Many fields still need to be worked to remove ruts and prepare for planting. Very little planting of row crops has occurred.

CALIFORNIA: Topsoil moisture 90% adequate and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 30% adequate and 70% surplus. Winter wheat condition 5% fair, 20% good, and 75% excellent. Pasture and range condition 10% poor, 20% fair, 40% good, and 30% excellent. All estimates are for the week ending March 24, 2019. Throughout the month, California experienced temperatures slightly below average. Rainfall throughout most of the State was also slightly below average. Pastures started to green up, but livestock remained on supplemental feed. Peaches and prunes have started to bloom. Asparagus harvest was halted because of rain. Processed tomato transplanting has begun.

COLORADO: For the week ending March 24, topsoil moisture was 2% very short, 9% short, 82% adequate, and 7% surplus. For the week ending March 24, subsoil moisture was 3% very short, 15% short, 80% adequate, and 2% surplus. For the week ending March 24, barley planted was 1% compared to 1% in 2018. For the week ending March 24, winter wheat pastured was 16% compared with 9% in 2018; 5% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, and 13% excellent. For the week ending March 24, cows calved was 47% compared to 39% in 2018. For the week ending March 24, ewes lambled was 42% compared with 37% in 2018. For the week ending March 24, livestock condition was 1% very poor, 3% poor, 26% fair, 65% good, and 5% excellent. For the week ending March 24, cattle death loss was 13% heavy, 75% average, 12% light. For the week ending March 24, sheep death loss was 7% heavy, 57% average, and 36% light. For the week ending March 24, pasture and range condition was 2% very poor, 10% poor, 50% fair, 34% good, and

4% excellent. For the week ending March 24, feed and concentrate supplies were 1% very short, 22% short, 75% adequate, and 2% surplus. Soil moisture supplies improved considerably during March due to significant storms. Fieldwork remained stalled due to continued wet conditions. Heavy snowfall and blizzard conditions mid-March caused loss of livestock, particularly in northeastern and east central counties. Feed supplies in the San Luis Valley were noted as particularly tight. Overall, condition of winter wheat and rangeland improved due to received moisture. Reporters also noted losses during calving and lambing were more than normal due to cold temperatures and wet conditions in March. Statewide snowpack was 140 percent measured as percent of median snowfall as of March 21, 2019.

DELAWARE: The month of March saw a period of favorable ground conditions, allowing for progression in fieldwork across the State. Fieldwork activities included repairing fall ruts, planting of spring forage crops (including grass, alfalfa, and oats), top dressing/N-application on small grains, and spreading lime and poultry litter. Winter wheat has been greening. Farmers will continue to monitor fruit crops for damage caused by extreme temperature fluctuations over the winter months. The end of March brought more than 2.0 inches of rain for much of the reporting region, resulting in a return to saturation and some laying water. Vegetable producers will be planting peas when field conditions allow for it.

FLORIDA: Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.47 inches in Orange County to 15.67 inches in Palm Beach County. According to the March 21, 2019 U.S. Drought Monitor, 7.25 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions at the month's end, down slightly from 7.74 percent on February 26, 2019. The dry conditions are almost exclusively along the Atlantic coastal counties, from the mid to Southern Peninsula. Average temperatures were as much as 5.5 degrees above normal for the month. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good, improving most notably in the Southern Peninsula later in the month. Cattle remained in good condition throughout the month. Many growers were able to prepare the land for planting field crops, and by the end of the month corn was planted in multiple counties. Warmer temperatures and wet conditions continued to present disease pressures to fruit and vegetable crops throughout the State. A wide range of vegetable crops came to the market including broccoli, cauliflower, pepper, 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. Fresh market white grapefruit harvest finished by the end of the month. Some trees began to form fruit for next season's crop. Irrigation was run regularly throughout the month in all citrus producing areas.

GEORGIA: Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.33 inches in Bibb County to 6.30 inches in Gilmer County. Temperatures were above average in several counties this month. Wet weather persisted for the first half of the month in the Northern part of the State. Conversely, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions moved into many counties in the Southeastern part of the State, with moderate drought conditions impacting a few counties. Livestock producers throughout the State were feeding hay where grazing conditions were poor. Fertilizer, lime, and some pesticides were spread on pastures this month. Unseasonably cold temperatures and late frosts negatively impacted some peach and blueberry crops causing minimal losses. Many producers have begun preparing the land for planting field crops. Some growers in the Southern part of the State have already begun planting corn. There were reports in Southwest Georgia of cotton fields which were never harvested due to the wet winter.

HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

IDAHO: Idaho was waiting to start planting due to high moisture and low temperatures. Ground in Boundary County was still frozen with snow cover. Snow was melting rapidly on the Southern, Southwestern, and Southeastern slopes in Latah and Nez Perce Counties, but soils remained too saturated to work. Spring calving was nearing completion in Southwestern Idaho. Topsoil in Cassia and Minidoka Counties were dry, but subsoil continued to be very wet. Rangeland needed more heat before it became usable. Tractors recently started to enter fields in Jerome and Twin Falls Counties. Winter pastures were in poor conditions while spring pastures began to green. Camas County had at least three feet of snow in fields, while Bear Lake and Teton Counties had at least two feet of snow. The ground was thawing and snow was melting in Oneida County. Snow was melting with the welcoming of rain in Power County. Teton County experienced some minor flooding.

ILLINOIS: For the week ending March 24, 2019, topsoil moisture was 44% adequate and 56% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 45% adequate and 55% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 4% very poor, 10% poor, 45% fair, 36% good, and 5% excellent. Statewide, the average temperature in March was 34.9 degrees, 4.7 degrees below normal. Precipitation averaged 2.45 inches for the month, 0.16 inch below normal.

INDIANA: Topsoil moisture for the month of March was 1% short, 55% adequate, and 44% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month of March was 1% short, 60% adequate, and 39% surplus. Winter wheat condition for the month of March rated 3% very poor, 11% poor, 34% fair, 46% good, and 6% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 35.0 degrees, 4.2 degrees below normal for the month of March. Statewide average precipitation was 2.33 inches, 0.17 inch below normal. The month of March started off frigid, with the first week seeing temperatures well below average, before warming up slightly for the remaining weeks. While the State saw slightly below average precipitation for the month, the cold temperatures did little to dry out fields, and high soil moisture limited fieldwork in much of the State. There were reports of flooding in some fields, particularly in the Southern part of the State. Winter wheat condition remained mostly good to excellent, with most damage reports being confined to areas with extreme cold or standing water. Livestock were reported to be doing well, despite muddy conditions in some feedlots. Some farmers were able to spread fertilizer and top-dress wheat where fields remained frozen. Other activities for the month included hauling corn and soybeans to market, installing drainage tile, preparing equipment for the growing season, and visiting USDA-Farm Service Agency offices to certify production for the 2018 Market Facilitation Program.

IOWA: Recent snow melt and rain during the month of March caused flooding and standing water in fields throughout the State of Iowa. Almost all the snow has melted except for piles and drifts. Grain movement has been restricted due to soft gravel roads. There were a few reports of producers being able to apply manure and anhydrous before field conditions got too wet. Most producers are still waiting for soil conditions to dry out before entering their fields. Livestock producers have been busy with calving. However, the mud has created challenges, and cold to warm temperature fluctuations caused higher death loss than normal. Feedlots in the open have also struggled dealing with the mud. There were reports of cattle losing weight causing producers to supplement larger rations. Hay supplies are running short as pastures show little to no growth yet this season.

KANSAS: For the week ending March 24, 2019, days suitable for fieldwork were 2.3 days. Topsoil moisture was 0% very short, 1% short, 64% adequate, and 35% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 0% very short, 1% short, 72% adequate, and 27% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 3% very poor, 8% poor, 37% fair, 45% good, and 7% excellent.

KENTUCKY: For the month of March, Kentucky saw below normal temperatures and precipitation. After February was uncharacteristically wet, March offered some drier weather. Temperatures for the period averaged 42 degrees across the State which was 4 degrees cooler than normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 2.38 inches Statewide which was 1.04 inches below normal and 70% of normal. The State experienced a very wet fall and winter which has given way to drier conditions entering the spring. The majority of farmers are still contending with slowly drying soil presenting a hindrance to fieldwork and planting preparation. The persistent precipitation and heavy downpours during February caused flooding and erosion in pockets of the State. Although March has been much more favorable weather wise, in many instances the damage was done. Farmers sprayed fields and spread fertilizer where conditions allowed. Pasture ground was damaged due to the excessive rain last month leading to increased stress and death loss for cattle. For the month of March, livestock conditions were reported as 7% very poor, 19% poor, 34% fair, 36% good, and 4% excellent. Hay supply has remained mostly short with some farmers reporting poor quality as well. The shortage has caused an increase in prices creating further stress. Some cattle producers have turned to alternative mixtures to meet the nutritional needs of their animals. A few producers have even had to liquidate their herds due to pasture condition coupled with high hay prices. For the month of March, hay and roughage supplies were reported as 25% very short, 47% short, 26% adequate, and 2% surplus. Winter wheat remains in mostly good condition at this time. For the month of March, winter wheat conditions were rated as 2% very poor, 13% poor, 32% fair, 42% good, and 11% excellent.

LOUISIANA: Like February, the first part of March was wet and cool but the last half of the month welcomed some warmer drier conditions in some parts of the State. Sunshine and windy conditions set up for better conditions for fieldwork. Producers took advantage of the respite by catching up on corn and rice plantings. Rain was still an issue and other parts of the State leading to aerial applications of burn-down and rice water seeding. While still causing wet conditions, the State rainfall was down 1.28 inches with an average of 2.5 inches over the past four weeks, with the North Central, South Central, and Southeast districts receiving the most precipitation. Average temperatures for the month were in the mid-fifties, slightly down from the annual average. Most crops, including vegetables and fruits, seemed to be recovering from the early spring frosts. Crawfish producers struggled early in the month but will improve with more consistent temperatures. Hay stocks were exhausted affecting some livestock but spring pastures were beginning to green. Some producers were using rye to feed.

MARYLAND: The month of March saw a period of favorable ground conditions, allowing for progression in fieldwork across the State. Fieldwork activities included repairing fall ruts, planting of spring forage crops (including grass, alfalfa, and oats), top dressing/N-application on small grains, and spreading lime and poultry litter. Winter wheat has been greening. Farmers will continue to monitor fruit crops for damage caused by extreme temperature fluctuations over the winter months. The end of March brought more than 2.0 inches of rain for much of the reporting region, resulting in a return to saturation and some laying water. Vegetable producers will be planting peas when field conditions allow for it.

MICHIGAN: For the month of March, topsoil moisture was 1% short, 37% adequate, and 62% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 0% very short, 2% short, 58% adequate, and 40% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 6% very poor, 25% poor, 33% fair, 26% good, and 10% excellent. Precipitation for the month of March averaged 1.56 inches throughout the State, 0.10 inches below normal. Temperature for the month of March averaged 25.6 degrees, 3.9 degrees below normal. Most areas in the State experienced fluctuating temperatures and moderate levels of precipitation throughout the month, and counties in the Upper Peninsula reported having high levels of snow currently on the ground. However, in the Lower Peninsula warmer temperatures melted most of the snow resulting in flooding and standing water in certain 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. Livestock were reported to be doing well, and there were reports of some producers finishing up lambing. The maple syrup harvest was also reported to be going well. Fruit growers began pruning their trees, and some reported concerns about possible freeze damage. Other activities included early nitrogen and manure applications where weather permitted.

MINNESOTA: March started off with colder than normal temperatures throughout the State, followed by more seasonal temperatures as the month continued. Snow cover remains over much of the State, although melting resulted in reports of standing water in fields and localized flooding. Some producers were looking for additional hay due to short hay supplies. Livestock producers continued calving and lambing activities, with mixed reports of good calving conditions or struggles depending on the area. Livestock conditions have been harsher than normal this winter with some losses due to severe cold and structure failures. Reports of collapsed roofs on barns and other structures came in from across the State.

MISSISSIPPI: The beginning of March brought more rain for the State. This left producers in many areas unable to get land prepped for early season crops and caused delays in fieldwork. Many livestock producers experienced difficulty with fertilizing, seeding, and pasture management practices. Livestock and pasture conditions suffered due to saturated soils, cattle bogging, and limited grazing. Mid-March brought drier and warmer weather that allowed more fieldwork. Some producers were able to take advantage of the drying conditions and start getting in fields for burn-down applications and planting. Although the month had a late start, producers are hopeful for more conditions conducive to fieldwork.

MISSOURI: For the week ending March 24, 2019. Topsoil moisture was rated 55% adequate and 45% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1% short, 62% adequate and 37% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies were rated 32% very short, 35% short, and 33% adequate. Stock water supplies were rated 87% adequate and 13% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 2% very poor, 11% poor, 57% fair, 28% good, and 2% excellent. Conditions overall for the month were cold with the State averaging 2.57 inches of precipitation for the month, only 0.07 inches above average. Temperatures for the month averaged 37.9 degrees for the State, 5.7 degrees below normal. Some areas reported river flooding.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture for the month of March was 1% very short, 5% short, 75% adequate, and 19% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 1% very short, 12% short, 80% adequate, and 7% surplus. For the month of March, winter wheat - wind damage was 56% none 11% light, 32% moderate, and 1% heavy. Winter wheat - freeze and drought damage 31% none, 19% light, 47% moderate, and 3% heavy for the month. Winter wheat - protectiveness of snow cover for the month was 8% very poor, 11% poor, 16% fair, 34% good, and 31% excellent. Livestock grazing accessibility for the month of March was - 33% open, 25% difficult, and 42% closed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for the month was as follows - cattle and calves 95% fed, 98% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed - sheep and lambs 97% fed, 100% last year. Warmer temperatures and snow melt were widespread throughout Montana for the month of March, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Topsoil moisture conditions were 94 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 86 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions were 87 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 68 percent. Reporters throughout the State welcomed warmer temperatures, but that was accompanied by large amounts of snow melt. Eastern and Central areas of the State experienced flooding, however, much of the soil remains frozen, contributing to massive run off and standing water in fields. Winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remains high with 69 percent of reporters observing

freeze and drought damage, and 44 percent reporting wind damage. Winter wheat snow coverage for the state is rated 65 percent good to excellent, which aligns with the previous year. Winter wheat condition is rated 62 percent good to excellent, compared with 65 percent last year. Grazing accessibility was limited with 42 percent of grazing lands reported as inaccessible or closed, and 25 percent rated as difficult. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at a slightly lower rate than the previous year, with 95 percent of cattle being fed, compared to 98 percent at this time last year, and 97 percent of sheep being fed, compared to 100 percent at this time last year.

NEBRASKA: For the month of March 2019, topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 2% short, 47% adequate, and 51% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 4% short, 62% adequate, and 34% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 34% fair, 53% good, and 8% excellent.

NEVADA: All estimates are for week ending March 24, 2019. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% adequate and 95% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 5% adequate and 95% surplus. Pasture and range condition was rated 5% poor, 30% fair, 60% good, and 5% excellent. In Reno, precipitation and snowfall for the month were 1.01 and 0.4 inches, respectively. Temperatures were below average with temperatures returning to normal near the end of the month. Early planted hay and small grains began to emerge. Spring calving was ongoing.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather had been relatively mild without excessive temperatures or snowfall. During the month of March the region experienced average snowfall but later than normal. Most areas of the region reported snow covered fields. With the ground still frozen and packed with snow in the fields, no one had been out preparing for planting. Farmers were anxiously awaiting fields to be free of frost and dried out to begin field activities. Maple harvest was underway with sap off to a slow flow because of cold weather and snowpack. Fruit growers continued pruning fruit trees and were watching weather carefully for any signs of early bud break. The cranberry crop was still in the dormant phase and growers were preparing for the frost. Operators with greenhouse and high tunnel had begun seeding vegetables for transplant.

NEW JERSEY: For the month of March, field work on soil preparation for spring planting was active in some parts of the State, soil amendments to dry like fields were seen. Weather condition continued its regular pattern for the season, including wind, cold, and rain leaving some areas in muddy conditions. Orchard fruits and woody ornamental buds began to swell due to 35 to 50 F temperatures. Field work activity included fertilizer applications, pruning, and machine maintenance.

NEW MEXICO: This report for New Mexico is for the entire month of March 2019. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 52% short, 34% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 31% very short, 37% short, 31% adequate, 1% surplus. Alfalfa hay condition 3% poor, 63% fair, 33% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat condition 5% very poor, 44% poor, 26% fair, 22% good, 3% excellent. Chile planted 5% complete, 16% last year. Onions planted 21% complete, 52% last year; emerged 5% complete. Cows calved 29% complete, 14% last month, 25% last year. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 85%, 90% last month, 91% last year. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 18% poor, 52% fair, 23% good, 6% excellent. Ewes lambled 18% complete, 9% last month, 25% last year. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 71%, 78% last month, 78% last year. Sheep and lamb condition 16% poor, 57% fair, 27% good. Hay and roughage supplies 27% very short, 32% short, 40% adequate, 1% surplus. Stock water supplies 17% very short, 26% short, 56% adequate, 1% surplus. Average temperatures coupled with average to above-average precipitation in many locations led to a boost in soil moisture levels and winter wheat condition. Cool season grasses were becoming more prevalent which allowed ranchers to decrease the amount of supplemental feed being given to their herds. The increased moisture prompted many farmers to begin their spring fieldwork in preparation for row crop planting. Comments from Dona Ana County indicated that the lettuce crop planted during January was in excellent condition, with head sizes as large as a baseball. In addition, fall-planted onions were also in excellent condition. Reports from Union County indicated that recent rain and snow showers benefitted most dryland wheat that had been previously noted in very poor condition due to heavy grazing pressure. The United States Drought Monitor released on March 21 noted that exceptional drought (D4) was not present in the State for the first time since April 3, 2018. Severe to extreme drought (D2-D3) was reportedly covering 26.3 percent of the State, with 18.2 percent and 8.1 percent categorized as D2 and D3, respectively. This was a decline of 4.9 percent from last month. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse remained evident across 63.7 percent of the State.

NEW YORK: A few counties continued to experience some below average temperatures and receive periods of snow and rain mixes, creating muddy conditions. Operators; looking forward to warmer spring weather, spread manure but few were able to do any tillage. Winter wheat and hay seemed to progress through the month well. Colder night temperatures

allowed some maple syrup producers to start early but was short lived in some areas as weather was seasonal with some warmer days. Long Island vineyards and orchards throughout the state pruned and tied down fruiting wire.

NORTH CAROLINA: For the week ending March 24, topsoil moisture was 1% short, 59% adequate and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 58% adequate and 42% surplus. Barley condition was 3% poor, 34% fair, 62% good, and 1% excellent. Oats condition was 1% very poor, 7% poor, 41% fair, 47% good, and 4% excellent. Winter wheat condition was 7% very poor, 13% poor, 27% fair, 41% good, and 12% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies were 4% very short, 28% short, 66% adequate, and 2% surplus. Pasture and range condition was 3% very poor, 16% poor, 45% fair, 34% good, and 2% excellent. For the month of March, light rain and cooler temperatures slowed the growth of fall crops, pastures and hayfields. Some drier weather for the month was a welcome sight for most producers. In some areas of the State, soil conditions had dried sufficiently to allow some field preparations. Pastures were greening up nicely with warmer temperatures. The warmer weather was of some concern for fruit crops as buds are starting to swell and some fruit trees are starting to put out. Soil moisture had finally come down to average wet from saturated this past week. Winter was wet and warm. Wheat had been top-dressed and was looking good considering the wet winter we had. Tobacco greenhouses started to be clipped for the first time this week. Temperatures were near average with frost/freeze in am and near 60 in afternoons. Good working conditions existed on farms.

NORTH DAKOTA: For the month of March 2019, topsoil moisture rated 2% very short, 6% short, 76% adequate, and 16% surplus. Subsoil moisture rated 4% very short, 14% short, 72% adequate, and 10% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 1% very poor, 4% poor, 19% fair, 74% good, and 2% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions, 1% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 67% good, and 4% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss, 7% heavy, 67% average, and 26% light. Calving progress was at 25%. Sheep and lamb conditions, 1% very poor, 3% poor, 38% fair, 53% good, and 5% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss, 7% heavy, 70% average, and 23% light. Lambing progress was at 46%. Hay and roughage supplies, 6% very short, 21% short, 66% adequate, and 7% surplus. Stock water supplies, 4% very short, 5% short, 78% adequate, and 13% surplus.

OHIO: Topsoil moisture for the month was 38% adequate and 62% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 39% adequate and 61% surplus. Winter wheat condition for the month was rated 6% very poor, 22% poor, 41% fair, 29% good, and 2% excellent. The preliminary March 2019 Statewide average temperature was 34.4 degrees, 3.7 degrees below normal. Precipitation averaged 1.99 inches Statewide, which was 0.33 inches below normal for the month of March. The beginning of the month was much cooler than normal and slightly less wet than normal. There was a brief period of warmer than usual temperatures during the middle of the month while the State received less snow and rain than normal during that timeframe. The temperature at the end of the month was cooler than usual. The ground was still saturated for much of March despite lower than normal amounts of rainfall for the month. Wet fields slowed fieldwork like tilling and manure applications. Spring lambing and calving were on schedule, although wet conditions put producers behind schedule for activities like cleaning out barns and manure pits.

OKLAHOMA: March started with some of the coldest temperatures of the season along with ice and snow. Planting for the 2019 crop year was slowed by the amount of precipitation in the soil as well as strong winds. Winter wheat and rye were both behind the five year average while canola remained steady, but oats were progressing well. Livestock and pasture conditions were rated good to fair and the Drought Monitor shows less than one percent of the State is abnormally dry.

OREGON: Oregon exited the winter months with good snowpack and snow water equivalent well above average. Many watersheds in the Eastern part of the State were 130% (or greater) of normal. For the drought stricken areas of Klamath, Lake and Harney Counties, this was great news going forward in crop year 2019. Thanks to cool night-time temperatures, there were no reports of flooding Statewide. The snow cover stayed on the ground for much of March. In the North Central and North Eastern regions of the State, almost all spring planting was late. Producers rushed to get spring work completed. Although the water outlook was good for the spring crops, the lateness of planting spring grains was a concern for some producers. Winter canola crop looked excellent. Sherman County anticipated that it still might take a few weeks before producers could get equipment into some fields. Cattle producers were also impacted. Many livestock producers purchased extra hay. More calving loss was observed due to the winter storms that brought frigid temperatures and high winds. Much of the Northern coastal regions observed heavy snow in early March followed by a warm-up near the end of the month. The unexpected snow impacted some of the orchard crops. Broken limbs was the main issue. Most producers had finished pruning. Older orchards had the most damage. Since most grass seed and wheat fields had already

received the first application of fertilizer, several producers were uncertain how much of the application would be utilized due to heavy moisture. Like much of the rest of the State, spring crops were late in planting. In South Central and Southeastern Oregon, it was still early to assess pasture and range condition, with much of the region still covered in snow. Planting progress was spotty for all crops. Some Lake County livestock producers reported higher than normal calving death losses due to winter weather. In the Southern part of Klamath County, pasture conditions looked good. Fields were prepped for planting. In the Northern part of the county, there was still a lot of snow on the ground.

PENNSYLVANIA: Temperatures for March ranged from a high of 64(F) degrees to a low of 3(F) degrees. Average daily precipitation was reported as 0.12 inches with average snowfall for the month of reported as 10.4 inches. March began with a mix of wintery conditions followed by increasingly warmer weather. Snows have dissipated and temperatures have increased as the month progressed but reports of wet fields and, in some cases, flooding have prevented a complete return to field activities. As conditions slowly dry operators have again approached their fields in order to prepare for spring planting. Field activity varied throughout the State but included alfalfa seeding, tree pruning, manure spreading and rock removal.

SOUTH CAROLINA: March temperatures were generally on par with historical averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.6 inch in multiple locations to 5.1 inches in Oconee County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 28.9 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, up 3.2 percent from month's beginning. Additionally, 2.4 percent of the State entered into moderate drought conditions in March. The dry conditions were primarily confined to the coastline and the southernmost counties. Despite dry soil conditions in these counties, vegetables and strawberries were in good condition overall. Producers harvested a variety of vegetables. Strawberry harvesting was in full swing by the month's end. Rain delayed fieldwork in inland counties for much of the month, but drier conditions by month's end allowed for field preparations and some corn planting. Hay and pasture fields greened up once weather and soil conditions became favorable. Peach trees were in good condition and in full bloom. Minimal cold damage is expected for this year's crop. Tobacco planting is expected to begin on schedule in the next couple of weeks.

SOUTH DAKOTA: The following conditions were reported for the month of March, topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 1% short, 62% adequate, and 37% surplus. Subsoil was rated moisture was 0% very short, 3% short, 76% adequate, and 21% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 0% very poor, 3% poor, 53% fair, 43% good, and 1% excellent.

TENNESSEE: The week ending March 24, 2019, topsoil moisture 2% short, 63% adequate, 35% surplus. Subsoil moisture 57% adequate, 43% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 41% fair, 41% good, 9% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 3% very poor, 21% poor, 38% fair, 34% good, 4% excellent. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 53% good, 9% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 14% very short, 27% short, 51% adequate, 8% surplus. A week of drier weather in Tennessee has helped producers. Fields are drying out and producers are starting to prepare their fields for the upcoming growing season. Pasture and range condition is mostly poor to fair. Cattle condition is mostly fair to good. Hay and roughage supplies were mostly short to adequate.

TEXAS: Throughout the month of March, Texas experienced a wide range of temperatures with little to no rainfall in some areas. The month started out warm and dry, but then turned cold for most of the month, with some rainfall between Edwards Plateau and North East Texas. Overall, the cold windy weather slowed small grains progress in the Northern districts, while winter wheat suffered from the lack of moisture in many Southern districts. Corn, sorghum and cotton planting was underway in the beginning of the month continued slightly behind the normal pace throughout the month. Fruit and vegetable producers were continuing their harvest of spinach, cabbage and sugarcane, while fruit trees were blooming in the West. Some damages to fruits and vegetables due to the freezing temperatures was still being assessed across the State. Range and pasture condition remained constant throughout much of the State. However, some cattle producers were considering downsizing herds, while the use of supplemental feeding increased. Livestock conditions were mostly fair to good Statewide.

UTAH: This report for Utah is for the entire month of March 2019. Topsoil moisture 50% adequate and 50% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 77% adequate, 22% surplus. Pasture and range condition 12% very poor, 14% poor, 29% fair, 31% good, 14% excellent. Winter wheat condition 9% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, 7% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 9% very short, 31% short, 53% adequate, 7% surplus. Stock water supplies 7% short, 92% adequate, 1% surplus. Barley planted 1% compared with 8% last year Cattle and calves condition 7% poor, 28% fair, 65% good. Sheep and lambs condition 6% poor, 26% fair, 68% good. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 89% compared with 82% last year. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 68% compared to 66% last year. Cows calved 41%

compared to 40% last year. Ewes lambled-farm flock 44% compared to 36% last year. Ewes lambled-range flock 7%, 5% last year. Utah saw some moisture over the last few weeks, and snowpack levels remain well above normal, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Topsoil moisture level conditions rated surplus rose from 9 percent to 50 percent, with the moisture received. Barley planting progress is currently at 1 percent, slightly behind last year. Good condition ratings for cattle and calves fell from 76 percent to 65 percent and sheep and lambs from 74 percent to 68 percent. The percentage of cattle and calves receiving supplemental feed is 89 percent, compared to 82 percent from a year ago. Box Elder County reports good moisture over the last month, with excellent snowpack in the mountains. Wasatch County reports good snow cover. Uintah County reports beef producers have lost a high percentage of their calves due to deep snow. Beaver County reports lots of sick young calves with the wet, cold weather. Hay and roughage supplies were rated 9 percent very short, 31 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 7 percent short, 92 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

VIRGINIA: For week ending March 24, 2019, days suitable for fieldwork were 3.9 days. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 53% adequate, 46% surplus. Subsoil moisture 55% adequate, 45% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 8% poor, 41% fair, 45% good, 5% excellent. Barley condition 2% very poor, 9% poor, 45% fair, 42% good, 2% excellent. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 9% poor, 39% fair, 44% good, 6% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 10% very poor, 32% poor, 38% fair, 19% good, 1% excellent. Hay supplies 4% very short, 26% short, 67% adequate, 3% surplus. Percent of feed obtained from pastures 11%. Virginia experienced above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures in March. Persistent rainy conditions this winter and spring have resulted in significant damage to some pastures and feeding areas and caused delays in field work. Some producers that were able to react quickly between rain events have been able to get equipment out for field preparation. A few areas of the State are finally starting to experience some drier weather, however. Hay and roughage supplies were mostly short to adequate. Farming activities for the month included lime, fertilizer, manure, and burn down herbicide applications when the weather permitted.

WASHINGTON: Snowy days gave way to warmer conditions and melting snow in much of Washington. Fields in Western Washington started to dry out and field work started. Most fall planted crops around the Puget Sound survived the winter in good condition while spring crops had not yet been planted. Grass was green and growing. Vegetable growers were tilling fields and getting ready for spring planting. The warm weather was favorable for lambs and calves. Livestock were still on stored feed and soil temperatures were low on the Peninsula. Southwestern Washington was unseasonably warm and dry. Many ditches and wet spots dried out. There were three field fires in Lewis County and another three field fires in Grays Harbor County. Several apiaries in Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania Counties reported colony collapse up to 70% of total hives. Fall planted triticale was in good condition. Raspberries in Whatcom County had some crop damage due to freezing temperatures in February, but the extent of damage was unknown until warmer temperatures occur. Greenhouse starts and tulips were the first crops for farmers market in Jefferson County. Most CSA operations started seed flats and hardy early spring vegetables were planted in high-tunnels. Skagit County was extraordinarily warm and dry. Propagation houses in Snohomish County were crammed with starts waiting for suitable field conditions to transplant. Most pastures in the county recovered from the heavy snow cover. Warmer temperatures in Benton and Franklin Counties led to quick snow melts. Early vegetable plantings were delayed one month. Cropland in Chelan and Douglas Counties was still under snow. Calving continued, however several losses were reported due to harsh weather conditions. Most of the winter wheat was under snow cover, but some green wheat was seen around field edges. The eastern side of Klickitat County was dry while Klickitat Valley had snow. Pastures were not ready, leading ranchers to forage for more hay. There were localized floods in Yakima County, but no crops were impacted. Pruning and tree training activities were underway. Temperatures in Stevens County fluctuated between 60 degree days and freezing nights after a cold March. Snow melted throughout northeastern Washington, while wheat and fall grain crops emerged through the remaining snow cover. There were reports of winter kill due to temperature variations and loss of snow cover on hilltops. Calving issues were also reported due to the two winter storms in February. Winter wheat in Adams County was in good condition with limited damage. The Palouse was wet, and snow still covered the ground.

WEST VIRGINIA: For the week ending March 24, topsoil moisture 1% short, 80% adequate and 19% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% short, 80% adequate, and 18% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 16% very short, 36% short, 44% adequate, and 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 93% adequate, and 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 16% poor, 47% fair, and 36% good. Pasture condition 12% very poor, 31% poor, 29% fair, 27% good, and 1% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 2% very poor, 14% poor, 35% fair, 44% good, and 5% excellent. Calving was 66% complete. Sheep and lambs condition 1% very poor, 6% poor, 53% fair, 35% good, and

5% excellent. Lambing was 70% complete. Weather conditions for the month were a mix of colder and warmer temperatures with snow and rain. Some producers are short on hay and pastures are muddy. Farming activities for the month included calving and lambing; cow and calf deaths have been reported.

WISCONSIN: March temperatures to date at the five major weather stations were all below normal. They ranged from 2.5 degrees below normal in Green Bay to 8.2 degrees below normal in Eau Claire. Average highs ranged from 38.6 degrees in Milwaukee to 32.5 degrees in Eau Claire, while average lows ranged from 10.7 degrees in Eau Claire to 23.6 degrees in Milwaukee. Precipitation ranged from 0.88 inches in Madison to 1.86 inches in Eau Claire. The entire State experienced a cold snap on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th, with record low temperatures in many areas. Snow melt and additional precipitation led to reports of flooding and standing water. Farmers have begun applying manure and fertilizer as field conditions allow. Some reporters expressed concern about possible weather damage to winter wheat and alfalfa, while many felt it was too early to determine the condition of those crops. Maple trees have been tapped, and the sap is running. Calving was reported in Southern Wisconsin.

WYOMING: This report is for the entire month of March 2019. Topsoil moisture 11% short, 69% adequate, 20 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture 19% short, 70% adequate, 11 percent surplus. Barley planted 2%, 2018 1%. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 16% poor, 25% fair, 52% good, 4% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 15% very short, 22% short, 62% adequate, 1% surplus. Livestock condition 3 percent very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 64% good, 2% excellent. Stock water supplies 11% short, 69% adequate, 20% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 10% poor, 53% fair, 36% good. Cows calved 24% compared to 21% in 2018. Ewes lambled 18% compared to 17% in 2018. Sheep shorn 29% compared with 30% in 2018. Winter wheat condition is mostly good to fair and pasture and range is rated mostly fair to good. Temperatures were below 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

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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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