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## National Weather Summary January 3 - 9, 2010

**Highlights:** Cold weather gripped most areas from the **Rockies to the East Coast**, maintaining stress on livestock across the **Plains** and **Midwest**, and threatening winter crops across the **Deep South**. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 10 to 20 degrees F below normal from the **Plains eastward**, except from the **Great Lakes region into New England**. Relative to normal, conditions were especially harsh (at least 15 degrees F below normal) across **Florida's peninsula**. Citrus, strawberry, and vegetable producers in **central and interior southern Florida** waged a week-long battle against the cold, mitigating the effects of multiple freezes but losing some crops especially during the latter outbreak. Relatively mild weather in **northern New England** (more than 10 degrees F above normal) was due to an atmospheric block. The blocking high-pressure system helped to force unusually cold air deep into the **South**.

The coldest mornings in **Florida's citrus belt** were January 6-7 and 10-12. As the second, stronger surge of cold air arrived, some frozen precipitation (sleet and snow) was observed across **central Florida** on the morning of January 9. On January 10-11, **Florida's northwestern tier of citrus-producing counties** reported lows generally ranging from 20 to 25 degrees F, hampering freeze-protection efforts. Across the remainder of **Florida's peninsula**, the coldest morning in many locations occurred on January 11. On that date, significant freezes were also noted in citrus, sugarcane, and vegetable areas west of **Lake Okeechobee**, and frost occurred as far south as the **Homestead winter vegetable region**. Elsewhere in the **Deep South**, producers monitored the effects of freezes in winter agricultural regions of **southern Louisiana** and **Deep South Texas**, starting January 9. Farther north, bitterly cold air overspread the **Plains** and **Midwest**. Wind-blown snow preceded and accompanied the Arctic surge from the **northern Plains into the Northeast**, disrupting travel. By week's end, **Midwestern** snow depths ranged from a few inches across the **southern and eastern Corn Belt** to as much as 1 to 2 feet across the **western Corn Belt**. In contrast, winter wheat lacked a protective snow cover on the **central and southern High Plains**, where sub-zero temperatures were reported on January 8 as far south as **western Oklahoma** and **northernmost Texas**. Elsewhere, milder air overspread the **Far West**, accompanied by seasonably showery weather in the **Northwest**. In **California**, mostly dry weather promoted winter fieldwork but maintained concerns about sub-par snow packs and below-normal reservoir storage. At week's end, the water content of the **Sierra Nevada** snow pack stood at 9 inches, approximately 75 percent of normal for this time of year.

Early in the week, heavy snow lingered across the **Northeast**, while bitterly cold weather covered the **north-central U.S.** Daily-record snowfall totals for January 3 included 16.4 inches in **Burlington, VT**, and 14.6 inches in **Syracuse, NY**. On the strength of 37.6 inches of snow from January 1-3, **Burlington's** month-to-date snowfall of 44.5 inches surpassed its January 1978 record of 42.4 inches. Daily-record lows included -37 degrees F (on January 3) in **International Falls**,

**MN**, and -29 degrees F (on January 4) in **Atlantic, IA**. By January 4, the first wave of cold air arrived in **Florida**, where daily-record lows dipped to 26 degrees F in **Apalachicola** and 30 degrees F in **Lakeland**. The **Southern** chill deepened by January 6-7, when consecutive daily-record lows were established in **Florida** locations such as **Lakeland** (28 and 27 degrees F), **Melbourne** (27 and 28 degrees F), **Daytona Beach** (28 and 29 degrees F), **Orlando** (31 and 30 degrees F), **Tampa** (27 and 36 degrees F), **West Palm Beach** (34 and 37 degrees F), and **Ft. Myers** (34 and 38 degrees F). Farther north, other **Southeastern** records included 15 degrees F (on January 6) in **Greenwood, MS**, and 18 degrees F (on January 7) in **Florence, SC**.

Meanwhile, precipitation spread across the **northern Plains** and the **Northwest** in advance of an Arctic cold front. With a 6.9-inch snowfall on the 5th, **Billings, MT**, experienced its snowiest January day since January 6, 1999. The following day, snowfall records for January 6 included 11.0 inches in **Watertown, SD**, and 4.4 inches in **Topeka, KS**. In fact, **Watertown's** total was a record for any January day in that location (previously, 10.0 inches on January 29, 1916, and January 25, 1925). By January 7, snow spread into the **Midwest**, where daily-record amounts reached 7.3 inches in **Milwaukee, WI**; 4.8 inches in **Mason City, IA**; and 4.1 inches in **Indianapolis, IN**. On January 8, **Anniston, AL**, received a trace of snow, while **Wallops Island, VA**, netted 3.0 inches. Across **central Florida**, some sleet and a few snow flakes were observed on the morning of January 9. Officially, a trace of sleet was observed in **Daytona Beach** and **Orlando**.

Farther north, the second wave of Arctic air arrived on January 7 across **Montana**, where daily-record lows plunged to -36 degrees F in **Simpson** and -34 degrees F in **Turner**. The following day, records for January 8 included -34 degrees F in **Pollock, SD**; -21 degrees F in **Valentine, NE**; and -13 degrees F in **Yuma, CO**. At week's end, the coldest outbreak in many years settled across the **South**. In **Texas**, for example **San Angelo's** low of 10 degrees F (on January 9) represented the lowest reading there since February 4, 1996, when it was 7 degrees F. Elsewhere in **Texas**, the coldest weather since early-February 1996 also affected locations such as **Huntsville** (15 degrees F on January 9 and 10) and **Galveston** (27 degrees F on January 9). Similarly, January 9 **Texas** lows of 14 degrees F in **Lufkin** and 13 degrees F in **Longview** and **Tyler** represented the lowest readings in those locations since December 24, 1989, December 25, 1990, and February 4, 1996, respectively. In **Alabama**, **Montgomery's** string of at least 10 consecutive days (January 3-12) with low temperatures below 25 degrees F demolished its former record of 7 days set in January 2001. In **southern Florida**, **Naples** set a record with at least 11 consecutive days (January 2-12) with lows at or below 45 degrees F (previously, 8 days in January 1977). Elsewhere in **Florida**, **Tampa's** temperatures remained below 60 degrees F on at least 10 consecutive days (January 2-11), topping its standard of 7 days set from January 8-14, 1956. *More details on the last 3 days (January 10-12) of Florida's cold snap will appear in next week's summary.* Meanwhile, warmth began to overspread the **West**, where **Olympia, WA** (57 degrees F), notched a daily-record high. In **Missouri**, however, **Kansas City's** snow depth remained at 5 inches or greater on at least 19 consecutive days from December 25 - January 12, the longest such streak there since the winter of 1978-79.

*National Weather Summary provided by USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board.  
For more information, call (202) 720-2397.*

## Agricultural Summary January 4 – 10, 2010

**Highlights:** An arctic cold front delivered cooler than normal temperatures to much of the country late in the week. Recordings in Florida dipped to as many as 20 degrees below normal. Elsewhere, temperatures in parts of New England reached as many as 15 degrees above normal. While much of the southern half of the country received below average precipitation, many areas in the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, and northern Great Plains experienced total accumulations of 150 percent or more above normal.

In Florida, freezing temperatures in the Panhandle brought fieldwork to a near standstill, although some producers were able to seed clover acreage where conditions allowed. Nursery growers were running irrigation to help minimize the effects of freezing temperatures, but significant damage occurred in the fern crop in the central Peninsula. Young sugarcane acreage in the southern Peninsula was burned back, while the tops in the older crop were frozen. Growers rushed harvest in some fields to help minimize the amount of sucrose loss. Several nights of sub-freezing temperatures caused extensive damage to many vegetable crops, with some reported as a total loss.

Wet fields and cold temperatures continued to slow fieldwork throughout much of Georgia. Growers trying to harvest their remaining cotton and soybean crops struggled as combines and pickers bogged down in excessively soggy conditions. Extremely cold temperatures have affected growth in winter wheat, as well as winter grazing in pastures.

Cooler than normal temperatures and a lack of available soil moisture stressed the winter wheat crop in the Northern High Plains of Texas, while oats in South Central Texas had developed rust due to excessive moisture. Cotton harvest was complete in the Southern High Plains and neared completion in the Northern Low Plains. Vegetable growers were busy preparing for spring planting and were taking precautions to protect their winter crops from recent cold temperatures.

Temperatures in Arizona were mostly warmer than normal, with little to no precipitation reported Statewide. Vegetable growers in the central and western parts of the State were busy shipping a variety of crops including arugula, broccoli, cabbage, cilantro, lettuce, and spinach.

As soil conditions allowed, producers in California were busy making ground preparations for spring row crop planting. Orchard growers were spraying to control pests in dormant peach and prune crops, while herbicide applications were made to almond and walnut groves. Vegetable growers spent the week cultivating, shaping beds, controlling weeds, and irrigating in preparation for spring planting.

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