United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

News Release

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NORTH DAKOTA CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

FARGO, ND March 25, 2013 – For the month of March 2013, colder than average temperatures and decent snowfall totals during March have producers in the eastern part of the state concerned with the potential of spring flooding, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. However, producers impacted by drought across the state in 2012 welcomed the additional precipitation. Agricultural activities during March included hauling grain to market, calving and lambing, and marketing cattle.

Compared to nearly ideal conditions in March 2012, when there was 1 percent of spring wheat planted on average statewide, there were no days suitable for fieldwork this year. Reports indicated that, on average, producers intended to begin fieldwork by April 22, compared to April 2 in 2012. The 2013 anticipated start date was still ahead of the 2011 average start date of May 7.

Statewide, average snow depth was 12.2 inches on March 24, compared with almost no snow cover on March 25, 2012 and 12.2 inches on March 27, 2011.

Weather Report: Precipitation and temperature data are now being provided through the High Plains Regional Climate Center. See link below for the latest updates. A link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor graphic is also provided.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: As of March 24, calving was 34 percent complete, while lambing was 51 percent complete, compared to 8 percent and 17 percent, respectively on February 24, 2013. Shearing was 78 percent complete, compared to 40 percent last month. Cattle and calf conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Sheep and lamb conditions were rated 5 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 15 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus.

Data for this news release were provided at the county level by USDA Farm Service Agency and NDSU Extension Service.

Access the High Plains Region Climate Center for Temperature and Precipitation Maps at:
http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update_region&state=ND&region=HPRCC

Access the US Drought Monitor at:
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM_state.htm?ND,HP