



Crop Progress and Condition



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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- Cooperative Extension Service, Washington State University
- Cooperative Extension Service, University of Idaho
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture
- Oregon State Department of Agriculture
- USDA, Farm Service Agency

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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.

Oregon

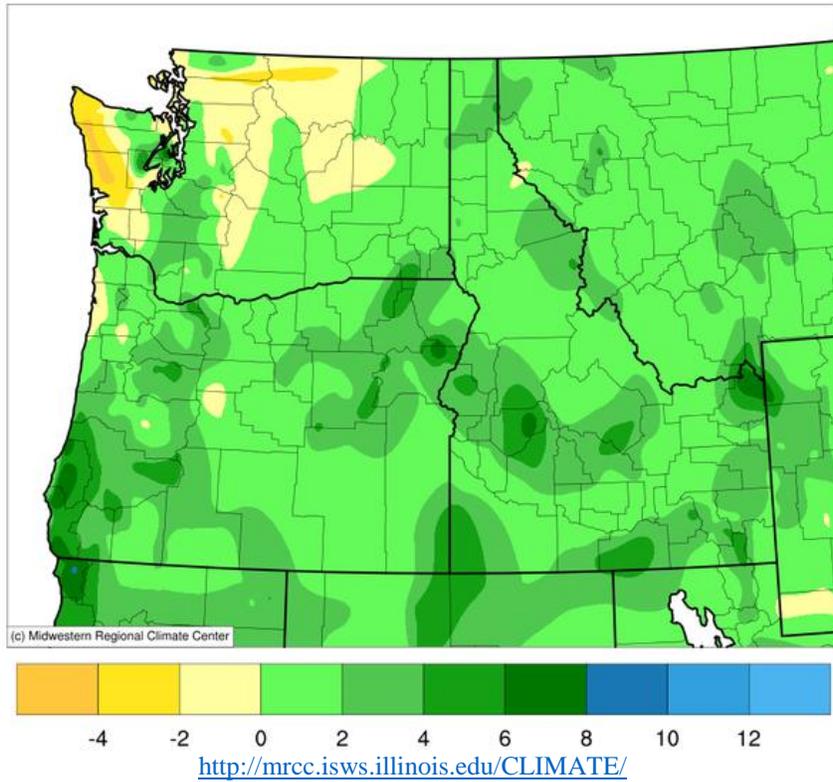
The snowpack received a much-needed increase Statewide. Several winter storms began to hit the State in early February. According to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, the entire State observed a 20 to 30 percent bump in snowpack and 2 to 3 times the normal precipitation since early February. 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.

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.

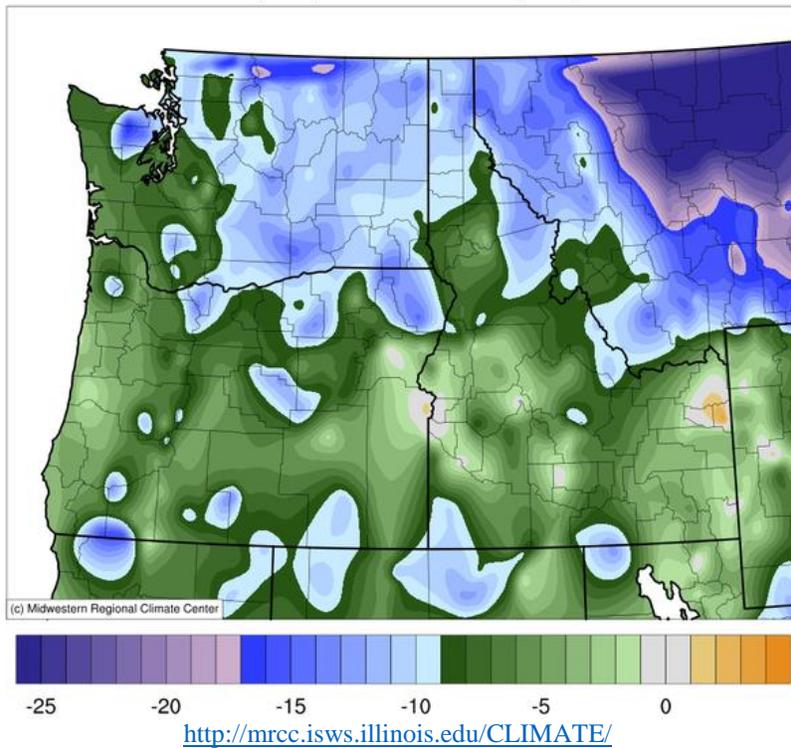
Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

February 01, 2019 to February 25, 2019



Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

February 01, 2019 to February 25, 2019



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