



# Crop Progress - State Stories

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**ALABAMA:** January temperatures were generally lower than historical averages, particularly in the northern half of the State. Temperatures ranged from 0.5 to 6.0 degrees colder than historical averages. In addition to lower temperatures, the State was impacted by multiple deep freeze events in the month. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.9 inches in Baldwin County to 12.8 inches in Wilcox County. Parts of the State received a significant amount of snowfall, with Lauderdale County receiving up to 6 inches. The rainfall helped alleviate drought conditions in parts of the State, but most of the State remained in a drought. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 78.4 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 89.9 percent at the month's beginning. The cold and dry conditions continued to prevent winter crop planting and negatively impacted the crops that were planted. Winter grazing conditions were reported to be generally poor due to unfavorable weather conditions. Reporters noted that many livestock operators had to feed supplemental hay to cattle.

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## ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**ARIZONA:** This report for Arizona is for the month of January 2024. Responses were based on the entire month, with consideration for any weather-related impacts that are forecast between now and month's end. By month's end, 65 percent of Arizona's barley had been planted and 64 percent of the crop has emerged, up 29 and 33 percentage points respectively from the previous year's report, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Following the previous year's trend, Arizona barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 33 percent of the crop rated fair. Fifty-four percent of Arizona's Durum wheat has been planted, of which 44 percent had emerged, up 26 and 25 percentage points respectively from the previous year's levels. Similarly, Durum wheat was also rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 8 percent of the crop rated fair. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 17 percent of the crop rated fair to poor. Reports from south-central and south-eastern counties stated that precipitation received throughout the month helped to improve pasture and range conditions. Sixteen percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 6 percent was rated poor, 27 percent was rated fair, 44 percent was rated good, and 7 percent was rated excellent. A Pima County reporter stated that some native forages had started to become vegetatively active whereas reporters from Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties have yet to observe active forage growth. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 9 percent rated very short, 9 percent rated short, 70 percent rated adequate, and 12 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Throughout the month of January, measurable precipitation was received across much of the State. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), almost all areas of Arizona received 2 to 3 inches of precipitation excluding areas within or in proximity to the Painted Desert which received anywhere from 0.25 to 0.50 inch. The drought information statements for southwest Arizona and southeastern California as well as northern Arizona were withdrawn as drought conditions improved in the area, however, the drought information statement for southeastern Arizona was updated on January 23 in response to below normal average precipitation. According to the National Weather Service, Arizona has experienced several widespread rain events over the last 30 days. Despite recent precipitation, the seasonal precipitation outlook for February, March, and April of 2024 shows equal odds for either above, near, or below normal seasonal total precipitation for most areas excluding western regions, where odds are slightly tilted toward wetter than normal conditions. Subsequently, Arizona's seasonal drought outlook shows that conditions are expected to persist throughout central and eastern regions of the State. Streamflow conditions in the Salt, San Pedro, and Upper Gila River Basins has declined over the last month and continues to be well below normal. As of January 23, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 31 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 29 percent, severe drought (D2) enveloped 29 percent, and extreme drought (D3) remained at 6 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Throughout the month of January, temperatures across much of the State decreased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona

ranged from 5 degrees below to 4 degrees above normal and ranged from the low 40s in Coconino and Apache Counties to the mid-to-high 60s across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 8 degrees below to 4 degrees above normal and ranged from 15 to 35 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

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**ARKANSAS:** For the week ending January 28, 2024, topsoil moisture 1% very short, 4% short, 20% adequate, 75% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 5% short, 26% adequate, 68% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of January were 13.0 days. January conditions for the State were above average for precipitation. In mid-January, the whole State experienced an arctic blast that produced temperatures that were well below normal for this area. These temperatures were extremely low and sustained. During the last few days, most areas received over 3 inches of rain on the ground that was already saturated. Fields were wet and unworkable. Some were underwater. Producers were busy hauling grain or tending to livestock. Calving season has started.

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**CALIFORNIA:** For the week ending January 28 - Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 75% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% short, 80% adequate, and 15% surplus. Winter wheat condition 35% good and 65% excellent. Pasture and range condition 55% fair, 40% good, and 5% excellent. As of January 29th, snowpack content ranged from 4.9 to 10.7 inches in the Northern, Southern and Central Sierras, well below average for this time of year. As of January 23rd, around 96% of the State was not in drought. Planting neared completion for winter wheat, barley, and oats for grain and forage. Recent rain accelerated the germination and growth of newly planted fields. Alfalfa fields were cut and harvested for haylage. Cotton was ginned. Garlic, squash, cauliflower, celery, kale, and broccoli were harvested along the Central and Southern Coast. Onions and Broccoli were growing in Tulare County. Carrots were harvested in Kern County. Lettuce was harvested in the Imperial Valley. Beets, lettuce, and parsley were sprayed for insects in Stanislaus County. Lemon, Navel orange, tangerine, and grapefruit harvests continued. Growers utilized micro sprinklers and drip irrigation to deliver warmer groundwater to the soil surface and raise field temperatures. Fans were used to prevent freeze damage before harvest. Apple harvest continued. Pomegranate and persimmon harvests were winding down. Stone fruit trees, persimmon trees, and grape vines were pruned. The first almond bloom opened on January 27. Blueberries and blackberries are now dormant and nursery stock was received for planting. Bee hives continued to be moved into the State for overwintering and preparation for spring pollination. Sheep grazed on retired cropland and harvested grain and alfalfa fields.

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**COLORADO:** This report for Colorado is for the entire month of January 2024. Topsoil moisture 11% very short, 12% short, 63% adequate, 14% excellent. Subsoil moisture 15% very short, 14% short, 61% adequate, 10% excellent. Winter wheat condition 5% very poor, 6% poor, 26% fair, 56% good, 7% excellent. Livestock condition 2% very poor, 3% poor, 11% fair, 72% good, 12% excellent. Pasture and range condition 2% very poor, 3% poor, 19% fair, 71% good, 5% excellent. Below average precipitation and cooler temperatures were widespread in January across the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 39 percent of the State is showing no signs of drought, up from 35 percent at the beginning of the month. Just under 7 percent of the State was in severe to exceptional drought, a better start than last year when over 11 percent of the State was under severe to exceptional drought conditions. Areas of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande counties continue to experience extreme drought conditions after continued below average precipitation. Most of the State received less than one inch of moisture throughout January, and areas of the high country received upwards of five inches of moisture. In northwestern counties snowfall was abundant early in the month, but windy conditions have created snow drifts and bare ground. Northeastern and east central counties remained dry with below average temperatures. Reporters in southwestern counties noted the warm temperatures have led to concern for fall-seeded crops and potential impacts of an early spring freeze. Reporters in southeastern counties noted a storm that brought more than 50 mile per hour winds and more than a foot of snow to the district in early January. The San Luis Valley remains dry, and the open winter has allowed for extended grazing. Livestock are in good condition and supplemental feeding has occurred in the Valley. Snowpack in the area continued below average in January and is currently 69 percent of median snowfall. The Statewide, winter wheat condition improved slightly, with 63 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, compared to 61 percent good to excellent from the previous report, and 38 percent good to excellent last year. As of January 29, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 88 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

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**DELAWARE:** January temperatures averaged between the mid-30s to the low-50s. There was a snow accumulation of approximately six inches over a four-day period. The last week of the month saw high winds and temperatures above normal, averaging in the low-60s. Soils have become saturated from snow melt and heavy rains. Near the bays, saltwater damage to crops is a concern but no major damage has been reported. Spots of wheat and barley fields have become

drowned out from the periods of heavy precipitation. Very few issues with cover crops and emergence have been reported. With the cooler weather, producers have started to remove some of the radishes, which is necessary for spring planting.

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**FLORIDA:** January temperatures were on par with historical averages, with the temperatures becoming gradually cooler towards the middle of the month but warming up near the end. The cooler temperatures did bring a hard freeze to many counties but no significant impacts to any crops were reported. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.7 inch in Miami-Dade County to 6.7 inches in Franklin County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 4.1 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 13.8 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the State received moderate to heavy amounts of rainfall in January, which improved overall drought conditions in the State. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good; however, some pastures were overly saturated due to heavy and frequent rainfall throughout the month. Livestock remained in mostly fair to good condition as well but had to be supplemented with hay when pastures were too wet, or growth was limited due to cold temperatures. Sugarcane operations progressed throughout the month but experienced some delays due to high winds and rainy weather. Citrus grove activities throughout the month included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Thirteen packinghouses were active in early January with twelve active in late January. Crops that were planted and harvested include sugarcane, tomatoes, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, eggplant, peppers, boniato, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and other tropical fruits.

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**GEORGIA:** January temperatures ranged from no difference to 2.7 degrees cooler than historical averages, depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.5 inches in Bulloch County to 13.7 inches in Rabun County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 22 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions and 9 percent had moderate dry conditions by month's end, compared to 53 percent abnormally dry, 29 percent moderate drought and 12 percent severe drought at the beginning of the month. Most of the State saw plenty of rainfall during the month which helped to alleviate drought conditions that had persisted since the fall. The rain did cause flooding in some areas and limited field activities. Cattle were noted to be in a good overall condition, however cooler temperatures and excess rain made it difficult for producers to meet the nutritional needs of cattle. Producers were feeding hay but noted that supplies were running low. Both small grain and winter grazing progress was noted to have slowed down due to the cool temperatures.

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#### **HAWAII: DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

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**IDAHO:** The average temperatures in Idaho were above normal for the southern regions, but below normal for the northern regions for the month of January. Accumulated precipitation was normal to below normal across most of Idaho, with parts of southern Idaho slightly above normal. Clearwater, Idaho, Adams, and Valley Counties reported calving had begun for producers. Temperatures recovered after the deep freeze received at the beginning of the month. The rise in temperatures caused significant snow to melt on croplands. Ada and Owyhee Counties reported that calving and lambing were well underway. Temperatures and precipitation were above normal. Hay stocks were in good condition, with plenty of hay in all classes. Elmore County reported isolated snowstorms and accumulated drifts. Temperatures hit below freezing for one week this month but warmed up since, with some runoff observed. The subsoil frost line was not as deep as anticipated, so the moisture from the snow melt and rain showers soaked in. Jerome and Twin Falls Counties reported average to above average temperatures, with significant snow and rainfall across the valley. Most of the snow had melted except what was in the drifts. Fields were too wet for any field activity, including hauling manure. Bonneville and Madison Counties reported that snowpacks remained at average levels. Forage stocks were adequate for typical winter and spring needs. Calving season had begun. Clark, Custer, and Lemhi Counties reported that ranchers were starting to calve. Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties reported that temperatures ranged from below average to above average. Some intense snowstorms helped snowpack in the middle of the month, with less snow than usual. Bannock, Bingham, and Butte Counties reported that lambing and calving operations were proceeding well.

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**ILLINOIS:** For the month of January 2024. Topsoil moisture supply was rated 0% very short, 4% short, 57% adequate, and 39% surplus. Subsoil moisture supply was rated 1% very short, 13% short, 73% adequate, and 13% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 20% fair, 57% good, and 18% excellent. Statewide, the average temperature was 24.9 degrees, 0.1 degree above normal. Precipitation averaged 4.25 inches, 2.53 inches above normal.

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**INDIANA:** Topsoil moisture for the month of January was 1% very short, 7% short, 59% adequate, and 33% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 5% very short, 23% short, 57% adequate, and 15% surplus. Winter Wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 26% fair, 57% good, and 12% excellent. Statewide temperatures averaged 26.9 degrees, 0.9 degree above normal for the month of January. Statewide average precipitation was 5.31 inches, 3.11 inches above normal. The average precipitation for January was abnormally high compared to previous years. Most Indiana growers received a mix of rain and snow events. Many throughout the State hope that increased precipitation will support subsoil moisture replenishment, which is still lacking for some. Winter wheat condition improved from the previous month despite a lack of protective snow cover for many. Most livestock have been reportedly doing well despite instances of volatile temperature fluctuation, although a few growers reported lost calves during extreme cold snaps. Other activities for the week included waterline maintenance, pesticide training, farm shows, and grain hauling.

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**IOWA:** January started off mild but turned wintry in mid-January. A blizzard rolled through most of the State, coming from the southwest and moving towards the northeast, bringing totals of around one to two feet of snow over the course of a week. After the initial blizzard, temperatures dropped significantly for a week with a lot of wind which raised concerns about soil erosion in the northern part of the State. However, warmer temperatures prevailed during the last part of January with rain moving across the State which helped melt much of the snow. The blizzard also brought a temporary halt to grain movement and stressed livestock. Feedlot conditions have been challenging with the bitter cold in the middle of the month, and now sloppy conditions with the end of the month warm-up. However, few reports of significant weather-related livestock death loss were received. Some calving was reported. Most reporters are hopeful soil moisture supplies will improve given the lack of frost in the ground under the snow, but there are still concerns for water levels in ponds.

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**KANSAS:** For the week ending January 28, 2024, topsoil moisture supplies rated 4% very short, 16% short, 65% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 11% very short, 32% short, 49% adequate, 8% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 4% very poor, 11% poor, 31% fair, 46% good, 8% excellent.

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**KENTUCKY:** For the month of January, Kentucky saw near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The above normal precipitation breaks a four-month long stretch of Kentucky receiving below normal rainfall, alleviating many concerns of drought for the time being. January also saw the first heavy snowfall of the winter, with parts of south-central Kentucky receiving 4 to 6 inches of snow. Temperatures for the period averaged 33 degrees across the State, close to normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 5.58 inches Statewide, which was 2.19 inches above normal and 165% of normal. Portions of the State saw poor yields for second or third cuttings of hay in 2023. This combined with frigid temperatures and snowfall has caused stress on hay stocks. For the month, hay supplies 12% very short, 32% short, 53% adequate, 3% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, 8% excellent. Condition of winter wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 12% fair, 65% good, 20% excellent. Tobacco stripping 97% complete.

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**LOUISIANA:** For the week ending January 28, 2024, topsoil moisture supplies were 0% very short, 15% short, 46% adequate, and 39% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 13% very short, 18% short, 45% adequate, and 24% surplus. There were 16 days suitable for fieldwork during the month of January. Much of the State received over 6 inches of rain, ending several months of extremely dry conditions, and causing localized flooding in low areas without drainage. Sugarcane harvests were complete in early January, prior to a substantial freeze experienced by much of the State in mid-January. Cattle producers were challenged by cold weather combined with continued hay shortages, and the crawfish catch has been scarce. Pastures are rebounding following the freeze, and ryegrass and clover are beginning to make good growth.

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**MARYLAND:** January was characterized by cold and rainy weather. Temperatures were average to slightly above average. Precipitation was above normal and included heavy rains and snow showers. Additionally, some areas experienced minor localized flooding. Soil moisture levels have been replenished and are above typical levels, resulting in drought concerns being minimized. Field conditions have become less workable due to the rains and snow and ice melt. Cover crops are still in good condition.

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**MICHIGAN:** Topsoil moisture 2% short, 45% adequate and 53% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 64% adequate, and 28% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 40% fair, 39% good, and 13% excellent. Precipitation for the month of January averaged 2.72 inches throughout the State, 0.89 inch above normal. Temperature for the month of January averaged 23.9 degrees, 4.6 degrees above normal. Approximately 52 percent of the

State experienced abnormally dry conditions or worse, with 5 percent experiencing moderate drought and 1 percent experiencing severe drought conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor. The driest areas include the Upper Peninsula and north and middle counties of the Lower Peninsula, spanning from the west to east coast of the State. The beginning of January brought plenty of snow and frigid temperatures. By the end of the month, above average temperatures had melted most snow cover. Other activities for the month included equipment maintenance, purchasing seed, and tending to livestock.

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**MINNESOTA:** Above average temperatures at the start and end of January bookended a cold stretch in the middle of the month. Lack of snow cover caused some concern with winterkill. Respiratory illness and muddy feedlots continue to stress some livestock.

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**MISSISSIPPI:** For the week ending January 28, 2024, topsoil moisture supplies were 1% very short, 7% short, 58% adequate, and 34% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 2% very short, 10% short, 63% adequate, and 25% surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork during the month of January were 16.0 days. Conditions for most of January were mild, but mid-to-late January brought wet, cold, and rainy conditions. Ponds were beginning to recoup some water, but more rain is still needed to offset drought conditions. Livestock conditions were poor due to flooding from the past snow, and forages were short. Soil moisture levels were improving with the rainfall received. Many livestock producers were selling cows due to feed expenses and lack of hay. Overall, with more rainfall across the State throughout the month of January, crops were mostly in good condition, but more rainfall is still needed to balance out the drought conditions from previous months.

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**MISSOURI:** For the week ending January 28, 2024. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 15% short, 65% adequate, and 19% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 20% short, 70% adequate, and 5% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 1% poor, 34% fair, 59% good, and 6% excellent. Statewide, precipitation averaged 3.74 inches for the month of January, 2.07 inches above average. Temperatures averaged 25.7 degrees, 3.0 degrees below normal.

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**MONTANA:** This report for Montana is for the entire month of January 2024. Topsoil moisture 14% very short, 54% short, 30% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture 23% very short, 46% short, 28% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% poor, 56% fair, 41% good. Winter wheat wind damage 15% moderate, 37% light, 48% none. Winter wheat freeze damage 1% severe, 20% moderate, 32% light, 47% none. Snow cover 8% very poor, 54% poor, 21% fair, 17% good. Pasture and range condition 19% very poor, 35% poor, 40% fair, 5% good, 1% excellent. Grazing accessibility 50% open, 35% difficult, 15% closed. Cows calved 4%. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 92%. Ewes lambing 3%. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 95%. Montana experienced a cold January, Temperatures were, on average, in a range of 4 to 8 degrees below normal for most of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). A few isolated areas experienced temperatures as much as 10 degrees below average. Precipitation levels were at or below average for much of the State. Some areas received slightly higher amounts of moisture. Certain northern and central areas received as much as 0.75 inch of moisture above normal. Drought conditions deteriorated according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released for January 23, 2024. The amount of land rated drought free fell to 20 percent, compared with 44 percent as reported on December 26. Abnormal dryness was found across 41 percent of Montana, compared with 37 percent on the same December release. Moderate drought stood at 26 percent, up 10 percentage points from December. Severe drought was found in about 13 percent of the State, also up 10 percentage points from December. Beneficial snow fell in Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties earlier in January. With the ongoing warm conditions however, the snow cover was expected to melt. Farmers did not see much snow this winter until January in Valley County. More moisture was needed. Winter wheat was suffering with current snow depth at 4 inches at the most. The existing snow was expected to dissipate with the upcoming warmer weather forecasts.

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**NEBRASKA:** For the week ending January 28, 2024, topsoil moisture supplies rated 5% very short, 21% short, 69% adequate, and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 11% very short, 35% short, 52% adequate, and 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 2% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, and 11% excellent.

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**NEVADA:** For the week ending January 28 - Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil moisture 35% adequate and 65% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% short, 35% adequate, and 60% surplus. Pasture and range condition 25% fair, 10% good, and 65% excellent. As of January 28, the US Drought Monitor showed 94% of the State was not in drought. Snowstorms and scattered rain throughout the month have led to a surplus of moisture in most of the State.

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**NEW ENGLAND:** New England States experienced a bit of a roller coaster of a weather pattern with warmer-than-average temperatures more days than normal. During this time, there was not much snow cover but lots of freezing rain and sleet for the month. One reporter from Massachusetts was concerned that cranberry vines may be injured or killed by severe winter weather. Currently the vines are dormant, but danger of a winter injury is always going to be there when there is a warming of temperatures mid-season followed by a cold spell. Most cranberry growers in Massachusetts put on their winter floods in early January to help protect the plants from desiccation once the soil has frozen. New plantings (first year) are less susceptible to winterkill but should still be protected in severe conditions. Maine has had a very wet winter and not much snow cover. There has been debris on the fields from the multiple windstorms and severe rain. The ground is frozen but not deep. Farmers will have a lot of field work to cleanup. Farmers are still struggling to find feed for their livestock due to the multiple rainstorms and historical flooding in 2023. Vermont experienced some rough weather events for January, with damaging winds causing extended power outages and damage to roof buildings. Maple Orchards caught most of the damage with trees down taking maple tubing with it. Freezing and thawing continues with little snow cover that remains. This will cause much winter kill being that the soils have remained saturated from wet summer and fall conditions. Farm activities in January included finishing record keeping for the 2023 growing season, attending meetings, repairing equipment and buildings, pruning apple trees and blueberry bushes (New Hampshire), and planning for the 2024 growing season.

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**NEW JERSEY:** January has seen an abundance of moisture, leading to wet soil conditions from both rain and snow over the course of the month. Temperatures were slightly warmer than average. Growers were reported to be seeding greenhouses to prepare for spring transplanting. As of yet, there were no reports of greenhouse disease problems.

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**NEW MEXICO:** This report for New Mexico is for the month of January 2024. Topsoil moisture 37% very short, 43% short, 20% adequate. Subsoil moisture 37% very short, 48% short, 15% adequate. Pecans harvested 75%. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 43% poor, 25% fair, 25% good, 5% excellent. Cows calved 3%. Cattle receiving supplemental feed 88%. Cattle condition 6% very poor, 17% poor, 48% fair, 14% good, 15% excellent. Ewes lambled 2%. Sheep receiving supplemental feed 63%. Sheep and lambs condition 2% very poor, 17% poor, 52% fair, 19% good, 10% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 28% very short, 45% short, 25% adequate, 2% surplus. Stock water supplies 21% very short, 30% short, 49% adequate. Most counties saw below average precipitation throughout January. Pecan harvest was behind last year's progress. Measurable moisture was recorded throughout New Mexico during the month of January. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, the western half of the State accumulated between 0.5 inch and 1.5 inches of precipitation in January. The eastern half was a bit drier, with an observed 0.01 inch to 0.25 inch of precipitation. Most counties saw slightly below average precipitation during January, however, the area between Socorro and Lincoln Counties, as well as Valencia County totaled 150 percent or more of normal precipitation. Curry and Quay Counties also saw over 150 percent of normal precipitation for the month. Average temperatures during January were generally normal except for the southeastern corner of the State where temperatures dipped 1 to 5 degrees below normal, and isolated areas in the northwest that were just above normal. Comments from a reporter in Union County noted significant swings in nightly lows and daytime highs, with temperatures ranging from 0 to low 30s at night, and below freezing to mid-50s during the day. According to the United States Drought Monitor for January 23, exceptional drought (D4) continued in parts of southern New Mexico including most of Eddy County and parts of Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 29 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 37 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 21 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 6 percent. Drought free conditions covered 1 percent of the State. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 28 percent very short, 45 percent short, 25 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 38 percent very short, 43 percent short, and 19 percent adequate, on January 2. Stock water supplies were reported as 21 percent very short, 30 percent short, and 49 percent adequate, compared with 36 percent very short, 26 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus on January 2.

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**NEW YORK:** January was generally characterized as experiencing continued milder temperatures for most areas during the first part of the month with colder dips later. As a result, fields had little snowfall, and rain and wet conditions were more prevalent. Of concern were wheat and hay fields being impacted by the number of wet conditions, as well as geese. The large temperature swings in some areas also caused concern for honeybee hives and fruit crops. One county reported a winter storm with damaging winds. Another county reported flooding and excessive water saturation on soil.

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**NORTH CAROLINA:** For the week ending January 28, 2024 - Subsoil moisture 1% short, 72% adequate and 27% surplus. Topsoil moisture 1% short, 56% adequate and 43% surplus. Barley condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 12% fair,

83% good and 2% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 8% short, 87% adequate and 4% surplus. Oats condition 33% fair, 65% good and 2% excellent. Pasture and range condition 3% very poor, 3% poor, 54% fair, 37% good and 3% excellent. Winter wheat condition 3% poor, 25% fair, 70% good and 2% excellent. Throughout January, consistent weekly rainfall has kept growers out of fields. Wheat looks good.

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**NORTH DAKOTA:** For the week ending January 28, 2024, topsoil moisture supplies, 8% very short, 30% short, 60% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies, 7% very short, 29% short, 62% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition, 1% very poor, 2% poor, 37% fair, 60% good, 0% excellent. Cattle and calf conditions, 0% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 71% good, 11% excellent. Cattle and calf death loss, 0% heavy, 57% average, 43% light. Calving progress, 3% complete. Sheep and lamb conditions, 0% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 66% good, 11% excellent. Sheep and lamb death loss, 0% heavy, 70% average, 30% light. Lambing progress, 9% complete. Shearing progress, 15% complete. Hay and roughage supplies, 0% very short, 7% short, 85% adequate, 8% surplus. Stock water supplies, 3% very short, 15% short, 81% adequate, 1% surplus.

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**OHIO:** Topsoil moisture for the month was 1% very short, 1% short, 36% adequate, 62% surplus. Subsoil moisture for the month was 1% very short, 3% short, 60% adequate, 36% surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 30% fair, 54% good, 11% excellent. The Statewide average temperature was 29.0 degrees, 2.4 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 4.33 inches Statewide, 2.01 inches above normal for January. Severe cold conditions were observed across the State during the middle of the month, followed by unseasonably warm temperatures. Abnormally warm temperatures in the last week of the month accelerated ground thaw and limited opportunities for field activity. Reporters in western counties noted that field activities were hampered by excess soil moisture conditions. Wheat fields had negligible snow cover by the month's close, with water ponding reported in northern counties. Fruit producers near the lakeshore noted concerns about the effect of January's temperature volatility on fruit crops. Livestock producers described saturated, muddy pastures.

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**OKLAHOMA:** For the month of January, rainfall totals averaged 2.21 inches throughout the State, with the Southeast district recording the highest precipitation at 3.77 inches and the Panhandle district recording the lowest precipitation at 0.93 inch. According to the January 23, US Drought Monitor Report, 33 percent of the State was in the abnormally dry to exceptional drought category, down 65 points from the previous year. Additionally, 15 percent of the State was in the moderate drought to exceptional drought category, down 74 points from the previous year. Statewide temperatures averaged in the upper 20s to mid-30s, with the lowest recording of -15 degrees at Vinita on Tuesday, January 16, and the highest recording of 72 degrees at Waurika on Thursday, January 11. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to surplus.

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**OREGON:** Temperatures in the northern region of the State were below average, with the southern region above average for the month of January. Moisture conditions throughout the State ranged from dry to very wet for January. Polk County reported below average temperatures with above average precipitation. Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties reported saturated soil with flooding in some regions due to ice and heavy rain. The cold cycle damaged some container nursery stocks while other crops were still being assessed. Cane berries and Marionberries were at risk, but indications were optimistic. Agronomic crop damage was negligible. Clatsop and Tillamook Counties reported above average precipitation with field conditions too wet for activity. Pasture growth remained dormant. Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties reported that the start of the month was an average winter. Towards the middle of the month, temperatures dropped below freezing, and a foot of snow was received, followed by freezing rain. The snow covered the crops, which protected them from the frigid temperatures. Temperatures at the end of the month warmed up, causing snow to melt. Morrow County reported adequate precipitation that improved yield potential and increased the probability of a significant stripe rust outbreak. Baker County reported that temperatures were subzero at the beginning of the month. Still, temperatures and precipitation were above average towards the end of the month.

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**PENNSYLVANIA:** The State continued to experience a mild winter so far. There was some cold weather and snow this month, along with several days of rain. Conditions were muddy due to saturated soil, and water levels were high in some areas. Overall, cover crops and small grains continued to look good. Farmers were caring for livestock, planning for spring, and attending meetings.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA:** January temperatures were generally on par with historical averages depending on location. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 2.7 inches in Marion County to 14.0 inches in Pickens County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 2 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 39 percent

abnormally dry and 16 percent moderate drought at the beginning of the month. Excessive rainfall made for wet field conditions which has delayed much field work and preparation. The rain did help to alleviate drought conditions that had persisted since the fall. Overall crops were noted to be faring well despite the unseasonably cold temperatures. Small grains were noted to be in good condition with some producers applying pesticides and nitrogen to wheat as field conditions permitted. Cattle producers were feeding hay but noted that supplies were running low.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA:** For the week ending January 28, 2024, topsoil moisture rated 6% very short, 19% short, 73% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture rated 7% very short, 28% short, 63% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 42% fair, 51% good, and 2% excellent.

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**TENNESSEE:** For the week ending January 28, Days suitable 1. Topsoil moisture 2% short, 38% adequate, 60% surplus. Subsoil moisture 5% short, 69% adequate, 26% surplus. Winter wheat condition 3% very poor, 12% poor, 35% fair, 41% good, 9% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 6% very poor, 23% poor, 43% fair, 26% good, 2% excellent. Cattle condition 1% very poor, 7% poor, 33% fair, 51% good, and 8% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies are 6% very short, 30% short, 57% adequate, 7% surplus. Tennessee received moderate snowfall and frigid temperatures in the first half of January with some areas receiving around 11 to 12 inches of snow. Warmer temperatures and heavy rainfall moved into the region this past week, melting the snow but limiting any fieldwork. Producers were steadily feeding extra hay during the winter blast, depleting some forage stores. The excess moisture from the rain and snow has helped the State recover from drought conditions in the fall, but now once dried up soils have been replaced with thick mud, and some areas have experienced minor flooding and power outages.

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**TEXAS:** For the month of January, precipitation ranged from trace amounts to upwards of 15 inches, with East Texas, South Central and the Upper Coast districts receiving the most. While wheat and oats were still in need of additional moisture, the crops have responded well to recent rains. Range and pasture conditions were mostly rated poor to fair. Supplemental feeding continued across the State due to limited pasture forage.

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**UTAH:** This report for Utah is for the entire month of January 2024. Topsoil moisture 3% short, 82% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% short, 82% adequate, 12% surplus. Pasture and range condition 7% poor, 19% fair, 71% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat condition 11% poor, 17% fair, 59% good, 13% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 74% adequate, 22% surplus. Stock water supplies 83% adequate, 17% surplus. Cattle and calves condition 1% poor, 5% fair, 79% good, 15% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 1% poor, 8% fair, 73% good, 18% surplus. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for cattle 84%. Livestock receiving supplemental feed for sheep 72%. Cows calved 3%. Ewes lambed-farm flock 1%. Ewes lambed-range flock 1%. Mild temperatures along with snowstorms occurred throughout the State for the month of January. Snowpack in Utah, according to Natural Resources Conservation Service as of January 29, 2024, was 99 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. Box Elder County reports above normal temperatures along with average snowpack. Beaver County reports noted that livestock producers were dealing with no calving and lambing issues.

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**VIRGINIA:** For week ending January 28, 2024 - Topsoil moisture was 2% short, 56% adequate, 42% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 1% very short, 6% short, 80% adequate, 13% surplus. Winter wheat condition was 1% very poor, 4% poor, 42% fair, 51% good, 2% excellent. Barley condition 1% poor, 20% fair, 71% good, 8% excellent. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 3% poor, 35% fair, 55% good, 6% excellent. Pasture and Range condition 6% very poor, 27% poor, 36% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent. Virginia experienced varied temperatures and above normal precipitation in the month of January. Pastures continue to be muddy and hoof diseases are a concern. Many farmers began using feed inventories much earlier in the fall, and feed expenses continue to be above normal. Hay supplies are mostly adequate to short, and the percent of feed obtained from pastures is 11%. Farming activities for the month included feeding hay, attending educational meetings, checking on animals, and preparing burley and dark tobacco for market as final sale days approach.

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**WASHINGTON:** Western Washington saw a cold snap in the first half of the month. There was less precipitation than normal, but most fields were wet and oversaturated with the snowmelt. In central Washington, there was significant rain and snow. Snow was still on the ground, but temperatures rose above freezing daily, and the snow settled. Crops had good cover. The ground under the snow was not frozen, so moisture soaked through and should be helpful to crops. In Yakima County, there was precipitation in both snow and rain. Patches of snow were still left in hop yards, orchards, and corn fields. There was a cold stretch during the middle of the month, but during the warmer days, there was pruning in stone fruits. In east central Washington, crop conditions were normal for this time of year. Snow levels receded with the recent warmer weather and rain. Northeastern Washington had cold weather in mid-January with little snow to cover



crops. Calving was on the way in some areas. In southeast Washington, January started with record low temperatures, which potentially caused some livestock deaths. Snowpack in the mountains was below normal.

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**WEST VIRGINIA:** For the week ending January 28 - Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 3% short, 37% adequate, and 58% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 4% short, 45% adequate, and 49% surplus. Hay and roughage supplies 9% very short, 15% short, 66% adequate, and 10% surplus. Feed grain supplies 11% very short, 15% short, 64% adequate, and 10% surplus. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 5% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, and 10% excellent. Cattle and calves condition 2% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 65% good, and 7% excellent. Sheep and lambs condition 4% poor, 39% fair, 51% good, and 6% excellent. Weather conditions for the month have been wet with a mix of rain and snow, and windy conditions. Farming activities for the month included preparing for the next growing season and monitoring livestock.

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**WISCONSIN:** January temperatures through January 28th in Wisconsin averaged 19.4 degrees, 6.1 degrees above normal. The State averaged 1.24 inches of precipitation throughout the month, 0.10 inch above normal. A snowstorm in mid-January left over a foot of snow in some areas, with heavier precipitation occurring in the central and southern counties. However, much of the snow has already melted due to the unseasonably warm temperatures. There are concerns about future winter freeze damage due to the lack of snow cover.

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**WYOMING:** This report for Wyoming is for the entire month of January 2024. Topsoil moisture 12% very short, 47% short, 41% adequate. Subsoil moisture 11% very short, 52% short, 37% adequate. Winter wheat condition 4% very poor, 7% poor, 62% fair, 26% good, 1% excellent. Hay and roughage supplies 1% very short, 1% short, 97% adequate, 1% surplus. Livestock condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 2% fair, 95% good, 1% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 1% short, 97% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture and range condition 1% very poor, 2% poor, 56% fair, 40% good, 1% surplus. Wyoming received little relief from the ongoing drought conditions during the month of January. Precipitation was scattered and total accumulations varied, ranging from a trace to as much as 6 inches during the month, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Some areas received no measurable moisture. Temperatures varied across the State, ranging from 10 degrees below average to 6 degrees above average. Drought conditions worsened during January according to the United States Drought Monitor report published on January 23, 2024. The amount of land rated drought free equaled 41 percent, compared with 75 percent on December 26, 2023. Abnormally dry conditions covered 53 percent of Wyoming, and moderate drought was found in 6 percent.

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

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Natasha Bruton – Barley, Cotton System Consumption and Stocks, Grain Crushings .....	(202) 690-1042
David Colwell – Fats and Oils, Flour Milling Products.....	(202) 720-8800
Michelle Harder – County Estimates, Hay .....	(202) 690-8533
James Johanson – Rye, Wheat .....	(202) 720-8068
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Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369
Travis Thorson – Peanuts, Rice .....	(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@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

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