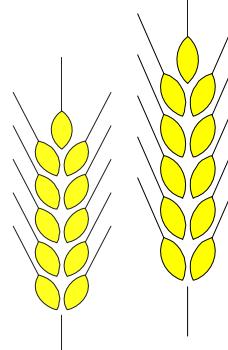


Grain Market News

**LIVESTOCK & GRAIN MARKET NEWS BRANCH
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1220 S.W. THIRD AVENUE, ROOM 1772
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204**

PACIFIC NORTHWEST



Weekly Edition

February 20, 2009
Volume 93 No. 8

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Grains: Cash closing bids, to arrive Pacific Northwest Coast, as of February 19

GRAINS:

GRAINS: Cash Grain Bids				
WHEAT: December delivery, exporter bids in dollars per bushel				
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	January Average
US 1 Soft White	5.55-5.70	5.60-5.80	12.60-12.70	5.76
US 1 White Club	7.05-7.40	7.10-7.49	12.60-12.70	7.05
<u>US 1 Hard Red Winter</u>				
Ordinary Protein	5.33-5.53	5.50-5.60	10.80-11.85	5.91
11% Protein	5.73-5.93	5.90-6.00	11.80-12.35	6.33
11.5% Protein	5.93-6.13	6.10-6.20	12.30-12.60	6.53
12% Protein	6.08-6.33	6.25-6.35	12.60-12.70	6.70
13% Protein	6.38-6.73	6.55-6.70	13.20-13.45	7.10
<u>13% Protein Montana Origin</u>				
Milling Quality	NA	NA	13.20-13.45	NA
<u>US 1 Dark Northern Spring</u>				
13% Protein	6.72-7.02	6.88-7.08	19.40-19.74	7.35
14% Protein	7.72-7.82	7.83-7.88	19.48-19.82	8.21
15% Protein	8.32-8.42	8.43-8.48	19.48-19.82	8.85

FEED GRAINS: December delivery in dollars per short ton

<u>US 2 Barley</u>				
Unit Trains & Barges	NA	NA	NA	NA
Single Rail Cars-Domestic	NA	NA	NA	NA
1/				
Inland Feeding Areas 2/	NA	NA	NA	NA
US 1 White Wheat, Export	185.00-190.00	186.75-193.25	420.00-423.25	192.00
US 2 Yellow Corn 3/	160.50-169.00	164.25-173.75	225.00-228.50	174.25
US 2 Yellow Corn 4/	164.00-164.75	168.25-168.75	224.25-233.00	176.25
US 2 Heavy White Oats	180.00 *	180.00 *	220.00	180.00

1/ Full coast, 48 pound test weight or better, any origin. 2/ Rail and truck delivered to Yakima, WA and Hermiston, OR. 3/ Rail and truck delivered to the Yakima Valley. 4/ Single Rail Car delivery to Portland. 5/ January delivery. * Not well tested.

GRAINS: Closing cash prices, delivered selected markets, as of February 19

GRAINS: Closing cash prices, delivered selected markets, as of February 19					DOLLARS PER TON
MARKET	WHEAT	DOLLARS PER BUSHEL	FEED GRAINS		DOLLARS PER TON
Great Falls	US 1 Hard Red Winter 11%	4.98	1/	US 1 Barley Malting	150.00
Great Falls	US 1 Dark Northern Spring 14%	6.82	1/	US 2 Barley	73.00 1/
Ogden	US 1 Hard Winter 11%	4.74	1/	US 2 Barley	125.25 1/
Minneapolis	US 1 Dark Northern Spring 14%	7.65	3/	US 2 Barley	102.00
Minneapolis	US 1 Hard Amber Durum	NA	4/	US 2 Oats Non-Milling	110.25 5/
Denver Area	US 1 Hard Winter, Ordinary	5.33		US 2 Yellow Corn	119.00 1/
Chicago	US 2 Soft Red Winter	4.24	1/	US 2 Yellow Corn	127.75 2/
Kansas City	US 1 Hard Winter, Ordinary	5.20		US 2 Yellow Sorghum	101.75 1/
New Orleans	US 2 Soft Red Winter	4.83	6/	US 1 Yellow Soybeans	317.25 6/

1/ Truck delivered. 2/ Processor bids. 3/ Milling quality. 4/ Choice milling quality. 5/ 20 days to arrive. 6/ Barge delivered.

WHEAT AND CORN BIDS LOWER

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MARKET SUMMARY: Cash wheat bids for February delivery ended the holiday-shortened reporting week on Thursday, February 19, moderately lower compared to last Thursday's levels.

March wheat futures ended the reporting week on Thursday, February 19, lower as follows compared to last Thursday's closes: Chicago 19-1/4 cents lower at \$5.19-1/2, Kansas City 16-3/4 cents lower at \$5.58-1/4, and Minneapolis 13-3/4 cents lower at \$6.25-3/4. Kansas City May wheat futures closed 17-3/4 cents lower at \$5.67 and Minneapolis May wheat futures closed 16 cents lower at \$6.12-1/4. Chicago March corn futures ended the reporting week 13 cents lower at \$3.53-1/4 and March soybean futures closed 84 cents lower at \$8.84-1/2. Lower corn and soybean futures for the week; heavy world wheat supplies; a higher U.S. Dollar; lower financial markets on Tuesday and Wednesday; and a disappointing inspected-for-export figure of 10.5 million bushels released by the USDA on Tuesday for the week ending February 12; were all factors that pressured wheat futures. On Thursday, the reporting week's close, higher corn and soybean futures, a lower U.S. Dollar, and concerns over dry weather in parts of the winter wheat producing areas of the U.S., provided support to wheat futures. Soybean futures closed sharply lower for the week, pressured by beneficial growing conditions in Argentina and indications that the farmers' strike in Argentina was being delayed for the time being; by a disappointing January crush report of 139.1 million bushels released by the National

Pacific Northwest Market Summary: (continued) Oilseed Processors Association; by trade expectations that increased U.S. acres will be planted to soybeans this spring; by lower crude oil and financial markets, and by the higher U.S. Dollar on Tuesday and Wednesday. Supportive factors were a good inspected-for-export figure of 47.6 million bushels released by the USDA on Tuesday; higher crude oil and financial markets, and a lower U.S. Dollar on Thursday. Corn futures were pressured by sharply lower soybean futures for the week and lower outside markets on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, the reporting week's close, higher outside markets, a lower U.S. Dollar, and profit taking were supportive to corn futures.

Bids for **US 1 Soft White Wheat**, any protein, for February Portland delivery were four to five cents per bushel lower than week ago bids. Bids for maximum 10.5 percent protein soft white wheat trended five to 10 cents per bushel lower. Soft white wheat bids were pressured by lower Chicago March wheat futures for the week, although an increase in export demand tempered declines. Exporters were not bidding a premium for maximum 10.5 percent protein for February delivery.

Bids for 11.5 percent protein **US 1 Hard Red Winter Wheat** for February Portland delivery were not well tested but were indicated as seven to 17 cents per bushel lower than last Thursday's noon bids in response to the lower Kansas City March and May wheat futures for the week. Some exporters switched their basis to over the May Kansas City wheat futures, while some were still over the March futures. Some exporters were not issuing bids for February delivery. On Thursday, bids were as follows: February \$5.93 to \$6.13, mostly \$6.06; March \$5.98 to \$6.13; April and May \$6.07 to \$6.15, and August new crop \$6.07 to \$6.22.

Bids for 14 percent protein **US 1 Dark Northern Spring Wheat** for February Portland delivery trended six to 11 cents per bushel lower than week ago bids. Lower Minneapolis May spring wheat futures weighed on bids although most exporters raised their basis in order to offset the lower futures. Most exporters were bidding premiums for dark northern spring wheat up to 16 percent protein. Exporters were bidding protein premiums of plus 15 cents each 1/4 of a percent of protein up to 16 percent protein and minus 20 to 25 cents each 1/4 of a percent of protein down to 12 percent protein. On Thursday, bids for 14 percent protein were as follows: February \$7.72 to \$7.82, mostly \$7.78; March \$7.72 to \$7.82; April \$7.67 to \$7.82; May \$7.67 to \$7.87; and August new crop \$6.77.

Pacific Northwest Export News: There were eight grain vessels in Columbia River ports on Thursday, February 19, with four docked compared to five last Thursday with three docked. Confirmed new export sales made during the week for Pacific Northwest shipment were to Japan, Taiwan, and to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) of the USDA. Japan purchased the following wheat in MT for April shipment: 19,000 of maximum 10.5 percent protein western white wheat, 28,000 of minimum 11.7 percent protein hard red winter wheat and 28,000 of minimum 14.0 percent protein dark northern spring wheat. Taiwan purchased the following wheat in MT for Mar 24 to April 24 shipment: 11,450 of white wheat, 27,650 of hard red winter wheat and 52,200 of dark northern spring wheat. Taiwan also purchased 23,000 MT of US corn and 12,000 MT of US soybeans for either March 8 to 22 shipment from the Gulf or March 23 to April 6 shipment from the Pacific Northwest. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) purchased 15,770 MT of hard red winter wheat for export distribution to Afghanistan, and 7,000 MT of minimum 9.5 percent protein soft white wheat for export distribution to Bangladesh, under the PL-480 Title II program. The wheat will be shipped during March 10-20.

Soft White Wheat: Bids for US 1 Soft White Wheat, any protein, for February Portland delivery ended the reporting week on Thursday, February 19, at \$5.55 to \$5.70, mostly \$5.65 for February delivery, four to five cents per bushel lower than last Thursday's bids of \$5.60 to \$5.74, mostly \$5.65 for February. Soft white wheat bids with a maximum of 10.5 percent protein were \$5.55 to \$5.70, mostly \$5.65 for February delivery. This trended five to 10 cents per bushel lower compared to last Thursday's noon bids of \$5.60 to \$5.80, mostly \$5.75. White club wheat premiums for any protein and maximum 10.5 percent protein were \$1.50 to \$1.75, mostly \$1.50 per bushel over any protein soft white wheat bids and maximum 10.5 percent protein soft white wheat bids. One year ago bids for any protein US 1 Soft White Wheat and white club wheat for February delivery were \$12.60 to \$12.70, mostly \$12.65. Nearby bids for any protein US 1 Soft White wheat began the holiday shortened reporting week on Friday at mostly \$5.70, then dropped to mostly \$5.52 on Tuesday, and continued to drop to mostly \$5.45 Wednesday, before jumping higher to mostly \$5.65 today (Thursday). Moderately lower Chicago March wheat futures for the week weighed on bids. Later in the week, moderate to good export demand supported bids. Nearby bids for US 1 Soft White Wheat with a maximum of 10.5 percent protein had a premium of zero to 15 cents, mostly zero cents per bushel over any protein soft white wheat during the reporting week. Bids for maximum 10.5 percent protein were mostly \$5.75 on Friday, mostly \$5.62 on Tuesday, mostly \$5.45 on Wednesday, then ended today (Thursday) at mostly \$5.65. New confirmed export sales of white wheat made during the week were to Taiwan, Japan and the CCC of the USDA for export distribution to Bangladesh. Forward month bids for any protein were as follows: March \$5.60 to \$5.70, April \$5.60 to \$5.73, May \$5.70 to \$5.75 and August New Crop \$5.23 to \$5.55. Forward month bids for soft white wheat with a maximum of 10.5 percent protein were as follows: March \$5.60 to \$5.80, April \$5.65 to \$5.80, May \$5.70 to \$5.75 and August New Crop \$5.23 to \$5.55.

Outstanding U.S. white wheat export sales as of February 12, 2009 for the marketing year beginning June 1, 2008 and ending May 31, 2009, totaled 767.9 thousand MT compared to 679.2 thousand on February 5, 2009, and 966.4 thousand one year ago. Outstanding white wheat export sales for the 2008-2009 marketing year were to the following countries in 1,000 MT: Philippines 171.5, South Korea 122.7, Yemen 102.5, Japan 81.9, Indonesia 61.0, Iran 60.0, Thailand 36.0, Guatemala 30.0, Nigeria 28.3, Taiwan 10.8, Singapore 8.0, Canada 1.8, Vietnam 0.4 and total unknown 53.0. Accumulated white wheat export shipments as of February 12, 2009, in 1,000 MT for the 2008-2009 marketing year, totaled 2,197.3 compared to 3,213.2 last year.

Outstanding U.S. barley export sales as of February 12, 2009 for the marketing year beginning June 1, 2008 and ending May 31, 2009, in 1,000 MT, totaled 24.1 compared to 25.2 on February 5, 2009 and 193.9 one year ago. Outstanding barley export sales were to the following countries in 1,000 MT: Mexico 12.6, Canada 11.3 and Japan 0.2. Accumulated barley export shipments as of February 12, 2009 were 203.8 thousand MT compared to 695.0 thousand one year ago.

Coarse Feeding Grains: Bids for **US 2 Barley** delivered to the coast in unit trains or barges during February through May were not well tested as most exporters were not issuing bids for barley. Bids for US 2 Barley delivered to the inland feeding areas of Hermiston, Oregon and Yakima, Washington were not well tested. Bids for **US 2 Yellow Corn** delivered to Portland in single rail cars were \$4.00 to \$4.25 per ton lower, from \$164.00 to \$164.75 compared to last Thursday's bids of \$168.25 to \$168.75. Bids for US 2 Yellow Corn truck delivered to the inland feeding areas of Yakima, Washington, and Hermiston, Oregon, were \$3.75 to \$4.75 per ton lower, from \$160.50 to \$169.00 compared to week ago bids of \$164.25 to \$173.75. Lower Chicago March corn futures for the week weighed on cash corn bids. Bids for **US 2 Heavy White Oats** for February delivery were not well tested in extremely limited trading, but were indicated as \$180.00, steady with last Thursday's noon bids.

*** 1ST CORRECTED COPY ***

PACIFIC NORTHWEST WHEAT EXPORTS BY DESTINATION JANUARY 2009 AND CUMULATIVE IN 1,000 BUSHELS

COUNTRY	MIXED		HAD		HRS		HRW		HDWH		SWH		TOTALS			
	Jan 2009	Jun 08 Jan 09	Jun 07 Jan 08													
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3823	0	3823	1786
Algeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bahamas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	532	1394	532	1394	11247		
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1540
China (Main)	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	365
Colombia	0	0	0	0	606	1818	0	0	0	0	0	0	606	1818	1660	
Congo (Braz)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	677
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	889
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2113
El Salvador	0	0	0	0	405	1911	984	5097	0	0	0	807	1389	7815	13078	
Eritrea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1378	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	0
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	414	0	683	0	0	0	0	332	0	1429	1620	
Hong Kong	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	1010	4179	0	8611	0	0	0	2205	1010	14995	27180	
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6549	0	6549	0	
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5500	0	0	0	0	0	5500	14713	
Japan	0	0	0	12	3531	36314	3807	21813	0	0	1741	18421	9079	76560	75482	
Jordan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kuwait	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	0	0	0	184	1632	342	342	0	0	0	0	700	526	2674	3655	
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0	0	919	919	0	0	0	0	919	919	0	
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1369	0	1369	0
Other Pac Is	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5539
Peru	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5400
Philippines	0	0	0	1023	21368	0	1146	0	0	1345	16579	2368	39093	32857		
Rep. So. Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	0	0	0	0	0	396	0	0	0	0	0	938	0	1334	1770	
Somalia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
South Korea	0	0	0	0	1180	7931	1317	6795	0	0	2229	12246	4726	26972	34880	
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	386	0	0	2122	4401	2122	4787	3222	
Sudan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Taiwan	0	0	0	0	2238	8160	874	3363	0	0	0	1655	3112	13178	25947	
Tanzania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1579
Thailand	0	0	0	0	2435	4767	1014	2112	0	0	786	4043	4235	10922	11217	
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Un.ArabEmirates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	417	0	417	2008	
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Venezuela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	287	0	0	0	0	0	362	0	649	1263	
Yemen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1876	6343	1876	6343	21766
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS	0	0	0	12	12612	89187	9257	58149	0	0	10631	82590	32500	229938	303473	1/

1/ Included 1 Mixed Wheat, 107405 Hard Red Spring Wheat, 81403 Hard Red Winter Wheat, 813 Hard White Wheat, and 113851 Soft White Wheat.

Correction: For January 2009, add 20 Soft White Wheat to South Korea.

WHEAT INSPECTED FOR EXPORT BY CLASS FROM PNW PORTS JANUARY 2009 AND CUMULATIVE IN 1,000 BUSHELS

PORT	MIXED		HAD		HRS		HRW		HDWH		SWH		TOTALS		
	Jan 2009	Jun 08 Jan 09	Jun 07 Jan 08												
COLUMBIA RIVER															
Portland	0	0	0	0	4007	40100	3739	20003	0	0	5726	44541	13472	104644	157045
Other	0	0	0	0	8512	47945	5498	37987	0	0	4747	36776	18757	122708	135476
PUGET SOUND	0	0	0	12	93	1142	20	159	0	0	158	1273	271	2586	10952
TOTALS	0	0	0	12	12612	89187	9257	58149	0	0	10631	82590	32500	229938	303473

WHEAT: Cash closing bids for wheat delivered to the Pacific Northwest in dollars per bushel for nearby delivery.

	US 1 SOFT WHITE WHEAT Week Ago	US 1 HARD RED WINTER WHEAT ORD. PROTEIN Week Ago	US 1 HARD RED WINTER WHEAT 11.5% PROTEIN Week Ago	US 1 HARD RED WINTER WHEAT 13% PROTEIN Week Ago	US 1 DARK NORTHERN SPRING WHEAT 14% PROTEIN Week Ago
Friday	1/ 5.36	5.57	4/ 5.75	5.87	5.75
February 13	2/ 0.34	- 0.23	- 0.20	-0.24	0.40
	3/ 5.70	5.80	5.55	5.63	6.15
Monday	- *	5.65	- *	5.95	- *
February 16	- *	0.15	- *	- 0.27	- *
	- *	5.80	- *	5.68	- *
Tuesday	5.16	5.56	5.51	5.89	5.51
February 17	0.36	0.14	- 0.16	- 0.25	0.44
	5.52	5.70	5.35	5.64	5.95
Wednesday	5.11	5.43	5.47	5.78	5.47
February 18	0.34	0.22	- 0.12	- 0.26	0.48
	5.45	5.65	5.35	5.52	5.95
Thursday	5.20	5.39	5.58	5.75	5.58
February 19	0.45	0.26	- 0.12	- 0.25	0.48
	5.65	5.65	5.46	5.50	6.06

1/ Closing Chicago **MARCH** wheat futures. 2/ Basis. 3/ Closing cash bids. 4/ Closing Kansas City **MARCH** wheat futures.5/ Closing Minneapolis **MAY** wheat futures. * Grain Markets closed due to Federal Holiday.**PACIFIC NORTHWEST TERMINAL GRAIN STOCKS WEEK ENDED February 13, 2009**

	(In 1,000 Bushels)					Percent of Total Export Terminal Capacity Filled
	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybeans</u>	<u>Sorghum</u>	<u>Barley</u>	
THIS YEAR	9,375	1,917	2,007	NA	184	51
LAST YEAR	7,656	2,717	1,027	NA	639	45

WEEKLY BARGE SHIPMENTS: Wheat/barley in 1,000 bushels, with comp-crop year June-May (weight at time of unloading).1/
WHEAT

	This Week	Week Year Ago	Current Total	Year Ago Total	This Week	Week Year Ago	Current Total	Year Ago Total
February 8	3,299	2,353	72,673	111,513	0	664	4,594	9,310
February 15	3,701	3,316	76,344	114,829	0	233	4,594	9,543
1/ Includes only grain inspected by the Federal Grain Inspection Service and the Washington State Department of Agriculture.								
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY February 9-15, 2009				USDA		Released 02/18/09		

In the western United States, 1 to 4 inches of precipitation fell over California and central New Mexico. In the east, light to heavy precipitation amounts were received from East Texas through the southern Delta into Florida's panhandle, the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys and into western New England. Temperatures throughout the week were warmer than normal east of the Rocky Mountain Range and cooler than normal to the west.

In California, as weather permitted, producers were cultivating, irrigating and applying herbicides. Wheat progressed well due to recent rains. Cotton fields were being bedded and rice growers were reshaping berms, fertilizing, and irrigating in preparation for spring planting. Almond blossoming was slowed due to wet, cold weather. Navel orange harvest continued with size and color reported as good, although some drying, due to over-maturity, was evident. Other citrus such as lemon, mandarins, pummelo, and Melo Gold grapefruit were being picked. Vegetable harvest and field preparations continued, but were slowed due to rain.

In Arizona, small grain plantings were nearly complete. Emergence had occurred on at least half of the durum wheat and barley acreage. Producers continued to harvest various vegetables, herbs, and citrus crop.

Wheat in the High Plains and Southern Low Plains of Texas continued to struggle due to lack of moisture while wheat in the Cross Timbers, Northern Low Plains, and the Blacklands responded well to the showers that passed through during the week. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly very poor to poor and oat condition was mostly very poor to poor as well. Pecans were being pruned and hedged. South Texas producers were harvesting spinach and cabbage while onion harvest began in the Lower Valley.

Lack of rainfall continued to stress the Georgia wheat crop. Producers were concerned that spring planting may be delayed as a result of dry weather, especially where irrigation is not available. Blueberries suffered additional freeze damage. Fieldwork was suitable for much of the week and farmers were spraying for weeds and applying nitrogen where possible.

In Florida, most vegetable growers reported minor damage to vegetables in the field due to recent freezing temperatures. Vegetable harvesting and planting were delayed due to the cooler temperatures and freezes. With seasonal weather returning to citrus-producing areas, growers implemented irrigating, fertilizing, and hedging programs and continued to harvest early and mid-season varieties of oranges and grapefruit. Although higher droppage and earlier maturity were noted in some groves, juice yields seemed to be unaffected by recent freeze in most areas.

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER AND CROP SUMMARY NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY**Washington, D.C. February 8-15, 2009 Released 02/19/09**

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably mild weather provided mostly favorable overwintering conditions for dormant winter grains but kept most crop areas in Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia snow free.

EUROPE: Rain and snow returned to central and northern winter crop areas, providing additional soil moisture for upcoming spring growth.

Washington, D.C.February 8-15, 2009Released 02/19/09

<u>MIDDLE EAST:</u>	Unseasonably warm weather reduced winter grain cold hardiness, although widespread rain boosted moisture reserves for dormant to semi-dormant crops.
<u>NW AFRICA:</u>	Dry, sunny weather returned to the western half of the region, providing a much-needed respite from recent record-setting rainfall.
<u>AUSTRALIA:</u>	Widespread, soaking rains provided a welcome boost in moisture supplies for reproductive summer crops.
<u>SOUTHEAST ASIA:</u>	Showers continued to aid rice in Indonesia, while drier conditions in eastern Malaysia eased wetness.
<u>SOUTH ASIA:</u>	Locally heavy showers across northern crop areas supplemented irrigation requirements for heading winter wheat.
<u>ARGENTINA:</u>	Heat stress returned to southern growing areas but heavy rain brought additional drought relief to Entre Rios and Santa Fe.
<u>BRAZIL:</u>	Beneficial rain fell throughout major farming areas of southern and central Brazil.
<u>SOUTH AFRICA:</u>	Conditions remained mostly favorable for corn and other summer crops advancing through reproduction.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Drier weather returned to the region's wheat belt, although wet conditions lingered in eastern crop districts. In Morocco, sunny skies provide a welcome reprieve from recent record-setting rainfall and allowed saturated fields to dry. The same held true for western Algeria, where dry, sunny weather was beneficial for vegetative winter grains. Early-week showers lingered, however, in eastern Algeria (5-30 mm) and northern Tunisia (20-85 mm), maintaining adequate to abundant soil moisture for wheat and barley. Temperatures averaged near normal across the entire region, with no hard freezes or excessive heat observed.

AUSTRALIA: Following a hot, dry start to the week, widespread soaking rains (35-100 mm, locally more) overspread southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. The rain provided a welcomed boost in moisture supplies for reproductive summer crops, increasing soil moisture for dry land sorghum and maintaining reservoir levels for irrigated cotton. Early in the week, maximum temperatures approached 40 degrees C in major summer crop areas, but by week's end cooler weather moved into the region (maximum temperatures generally in the lower to middle 20s degrees C), easing heat stress on crops.

ARGENTINA: Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather (temperatures averaging 2-3 degrees C above normal, with highs reaching the upper 30s degrees C) dominated La Pampa and western sections of Buenos Aires, renewing stress on reproductive to filling summer grains and oilseeds after a brief period of beneficial showers. Elsewhere in central Argentina, however, light to moderate showers and more seasonable temperatures (highs in the lower and middle 30s degrees C) were mostly favorable for development of immature summer grains and oilseeds, particularly second crop soybeans that were planted more recently. Rainfall totaled 5 to 25 mm in Cordoba and 25 to 50 mm or more in Santa Fe and Entre Rios. In the north, locally heavy rain (greater than 50 mm) benefited cotton and livestock from northern Santiago del Estero to Formosa, with drier weather prevailing in the vicinity of northern Santa Fe and eastern Chaco.

BRAZIL: Beneficial rain (greater than 25 mm) covered most southern soybean areas. The rainfall was especially welcome in Rio Grande do Sul, which had been trending dry for several weeks and where later-planted beans can take the most advantage of the moisture. Temperatures in these southern growing areas averaged about 1 degree C above normal, with highs briefly reaching the middle 30s degrees C in Rio Grande do Sul prior to the onset of the rain. To the north, moderate to heavy rain (25-100 mm or more) covered a broad area of the Center-West and Southeast Regions. Although soybeans are maturing, and early harvests are underway, the rainfall helped to maintain soil moisture reserves for establishment of safrinha corn and other second-season row crops in the Center-West (Mato Grosso, Goias, and Mato Grosso do Sul). In Sao Paulo and southern Minas Gerais, the rainfall improved mid-season moisture levels for sugarcane, citrus, and coffee, although the intensity of the rainfall may have renewed localized flooding. Scattered showers (10-50 mm or more) maintained mostly favorable conditions for immature soybeans and cotton in the northeastern interior (notably western Bahia and Tocantins) while in coastal areas, seasonably.

SOUTH AFRICA: Across the corn belt, scattered showers (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) maintained mostly favorable conditions for summer crops advancing through reproduction. Although a few dry pockets lingered in southern Mpumalanga, western Free State, and various locations in Northwest, below-normal temperatures (averaging 1-2 degrees C below normal, with highs mostly in the upper 20s degrees C) helped to mitigate the impacts of the dryness. Corn ranged from filling in the east to vegetative in the west, depending on planting date. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (25-100 mm) returned to KwaZulu-Natal after a brief dry spell, increasing moisture for sugarcane development. Unseasonably heavy rain (greater than 50 mm) covered a large swath of Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces, greatly increasing local irrigation reserves. Mostly dry, seasonably warm weather promoted growth of tree and vine crops in Western Cape.

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably mild weather prevailed across most of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, providing favorable overwintering conditions for dormant winter grains. Weekly temperatures averaged 4 to 8 degrees C or more above normal in most areas. In most of Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia, the combination of much-above-normal temperatures and light to moderate showers (10-25 mm or more) kept winter grain areas snow free but boosted moisture reserves. However, colder weather and snow were overspreading extreme western Ukraine at week's end, providing some increase in snow cover. Farther north, periods of rain, freezing rain, and snow (2-10 mm or more) fell from northern Belarus eastward across northern Russia (Central and Volga Districts), where winter grains remained insulated by a moderate to deep snow pack.

SOUTH ASIA: Showers in northern crop areas contrasted with dry, sunny conditions in central and southern India. A potent upper air disturbance triggered locally heavy showers and thunderstorms (10-45 mm) in northern portions of India and Pakistan, easing irrigation demands for heading winter wheat. In central and southern India, late cotton harvesting progressed without delay under sunny skies and near-normal temperatures.