



Satellite image with enhanced low ground and cloud-top temperatures for 6:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Wednesday - March 4, 2009**

- In the *West*, rain and snow showers continue from *central California* into the *northern Rockies* and *Pacific Northwest*, boosting mountain snow packs and water reserves. Much of *California* remains under moderate to extreme long-term drought despite the recent spell of wet weather.
- On the *Plains*, mild, windy conditions are expanding over the region. Locally severe drought coupled with strong winds and above-normal temperatures are causing considerable early-season stress on wheat and pastures across *southern crop areas*. As of March 1, *Texas*' winter wheat was rated 63 percent poor to very poor, while pastures were 76 percent poor to very poor.
- In the *Corn Belt*, southerly winds are bringing increasingly warm weather into the region. Today's high are expected to average as much as 20° F above normal in the *western Corn Belt*, while near-normal temperatures linger in the *Ohio Valley* for one more day.
- In the *South*, another unseasonably cold morning is greeting producers in the *Delta* and *Southeast*. Despite widespread readings in the upper 20s and lower 30s (°F), sensitive crop areas (sugarcane and citrus) in *Florida* remained above freezing.

**Outlook:** High pressure will provide dry, increasingly warm weather from the *central U.S.* to the *East Coast*. However, clouds and a few showers will develop in the *Corn Belt* as a warm front lifts across the region. In particular, daytime high temperatures are expected to average more than 20° F above normal across the *central and southern Great Plains*, with 90-degree heat possible in *Texas*. Out *west*, periods of rain and mountain snow will persist from the *Pacific Coast eastward* into the *central and northern Rockies*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 9-13 calls for warmer-than-normal weather across the *Southeast* and *Mid-Atlantic*, while colder-than-normal conditions are expected *over the western half of the nation*. Above-normal precipitation is anticipated over much of the *contiguous U.S.*, with drier-than-normal conditions confined to *Florida*, *western Texas*, and the *Pacific Coast States*.

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>