

**January 3, 2017**

**Alabama:** The long lasting drought conditions of 2016 eased throughout the state in December. Much needed rainfall came, with some areas receiving significantly more than others. The heaviest rainfall was in the lower part of the state, with too much falling too fast, causing some flooding issues. It has been scattered elsewhere, with producers in those areas still needing more rain for emerging small grains and replenishing water supplies. Pasture conditions are improving in some areas, but for many, they have already gone dormant as the rain came too late. Cattle conditions are fair as they are continuing to be fed due to lack of grazing. Hay supplies are running low, critically low in some areas, with producers seeking more for the remainder of the winter. Small grains plantings were lower than usual, and stands have been vulnerable to either not having enough moisture or being washed out. Temperatures have fluctuated between below normal and above normal. Average mean temperatures for the month ranged from 44°F in Hamilton to 58°F in Mobile. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from 3.28 inches in Gainesville to 16.29 inches in Mobile.