

March 27, 2017

Alabama: Drought conditions have persisted in most parts of the state during the month of March. Rain has been infrequent and short, not enough to fully restore soil moisture lost in the fall. Pastures have not fully recovered, but are greening and in fair to good condition. Cattle responded well to the improved pastureland and are looking good. Despite increased grazing during March, cattle were still in need of supplemental feed but producers struggled to find more hay for their herds. While most small grains were in good condition, with some stands heading out, some of the crop sustained moderate to severe damage from recent frosts. Farmers took advantage of the mild conditions on these final days of the month by already beginning to plant corn and preparing ground to plant corn over the next few weeks. Cotton burndown also began. Most subsoil and topsoil was rated adequate. Average mean temperatures for the month ranged from 53°F in Guntersville to 63°F in Mobile. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from 2.31 inches in Opelika to 6.03 inches in Gainesville.