

March 25, 2019

Alabama: March temperatures were generally on par with historical averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.2 inches in multiple locations to 6.6 inches in Jackson County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 4.5 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to being free of abnormally dry conditions in the beginning of March. Tornadoes caused severe damage in several southern counties on March 3. Frequent rains in the first half of the month, coupled with already flooded fields from February rains, delayed row crop field preparations and small grain and winter grazing fertilizer and chemical applications. Dry weather during the third week of the month allowed producers to begin catching up on delayed fieldwork as well as to begin planting corn. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition. Livestock farmers continued to feed hay and supplements as pastures were slow to recover from the cold and wet winter conditions. Most producers had adequate supplies on hand at the end of the month. Livestock and pastures were in fair to good condition, depending on the severity of flooding on each farm. Sub-freezing temperatures in early March may have negatively impacted the peach and blueberry crops.