

February 22, 2021

Alabama: February temperatures were on par with or down as much as 9.3 degrees Fahrenheit below historic averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.4 inches to 9.4 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions affected 35 to 41 percent of the state throughout the month. Additionally, moderate drought conditions affected 5 to 8 percent of the state during February. Producers in northern counties struggled with ice and snow that delayed fieldwork and made providing feed and water to livestock difficult. Furthermore, the sale of livestock was delayed as weather conditions temporarily closed auction barns. In southern counties, rain and saturated fields delayed cattle from being released onto winter grazing. However, occasional breaks in the rain permitted fieldwork to progress on schedule. Some producers continued to work on repairing fields and pond dams that were damaged by Hurricane Sally. Throughout the state, winter wheat growth and condition ranged from poor to good, depending on localized weather. Likewise, winter grazing ranged from depleted to adequate. Hay stocks remained adequate, despite hay consumption being greater than normal due to below-average temperatures. Livestock producers continued to provide supplemental feed. Overall, livestock were in fair to good condition.