

March 29, 2021

Alabama: March temperatures were on par with or up to 7.9 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than historic averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.6 inches to 14.6 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions affected 19.9 to 42.4 percent of the state throughout the month. Additionally, moderate drought conditions affected 0.4 to 7.9 percent of the state. Heavy rain was received during the latter half of March, improving drought conditions and pond levels, but also halting fieldwork and causing flooding in areas. Two of the storm systems that brought heavy rainfall also brought tornadic activity, resulting in damaged storage barns, poultry houses, and greenhouses; downed fences; and fallen trees. Producers began cleaning up debris and making structural repairs from the tornadic damage. Additionally, producers heavily impacted by Hurricane Sally last September continued to repair fields and damaged structures. Standing water somewhat reduced winter wheat condition, which was in good to very good condition prior to the rain. Fieldwork in the first half of the month included applying burndown, fertilizer, and lime; cultivating fields; and planting corn. Pastures were coming out of dormancy and greening up. Fescue especially looked good, and many farmers were able to stop feeding hay to cattle. Hay stocks remained adequate. Overall, cattle condition was good.