

March 28, 2022

**Alabama:** March temperatures were generally on par with historic averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 3.8 inches in Montgomery County to 10.5 inches in Jefferson County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 18 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 25 percent at the month's beginning. Row crop farmers are behind schedule preparing for spring planting as frequent rain showers throughout the month saturated many fields in the state. Small grains were progressing well as many producers sprayed for weeds and prepped for anticipated fungicide pressure due to wet conditions. Corn planting began, but rain has limited progress in many areas. Most of the corn crop is anticipated to be planted over the upcoming weeks. Winter pastures and cool season forages continued to be in good condition, as mild weather conditions and adequate precipitation helped maintain them. Cattle have remained in good condition due to an abundant winter grazing crop and less hay needing to be fed. Strawberry conditions were fair. A mid-March freeze damaged strawberry crop but is expected to recover by harvest. Rising input prices continue to be a concern of farmers across the state heading into the spring.