

For the Month of March 2017

FLORIDA: Warm and dry conditions persisted across Florida in the month of March with the Panhandle area continuing to be the exception. Wind damage was reported to cause higher cull rates for vegetables that were harvested in early March. Cooler temperatures and multiple frosts in the third week of March damaged fruit and vegetable crops in northern and central Florida. A wide variety of vegetables were harvested and marketed during the month. Livestock producers relied on supplemental feed for their livestock as pastures remain dry and available drinking water is becoming an issue although cattle remain in good to fair condition. Sugarcane harvest was ongoing with approximately another month left of harvesting. Corn and peanuts were planted at the end of the month. Grapefruit harvest decreased towards the middle of the month while Valencia harvest ramped up in the second half of the month. All citrus trees were in full bloom or had begun petal drop. Growers have had some success fighting greening with bactericides and pesticides and pushing dead and dying trees and adjacent groves. Groves were irrigated heavily this month and other activities include fertilizing, hedging, and general maintenance.