

March 26, 2018

**FLORIDA:** Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.2 inches in multiple counties to 7.6 inches in Washington County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 12 percent of the State was in a moderate drought by month's end, up 5 percentage points from the beginning of March. Average temperatures were as much as 6 degrees below normal for the month. Due to a few frosts and limited rain in numerous counties, pasture condition remained poor to fair throughout the month, and producers fed supplements to cattle. Cattle condition was fair to good. By the middle of the month, producers in the panhandle were harvesting hay and baleage. Other fieldwork included planting field corn and preparing cropland for other plantings. Sugarcane producers continued harvesting their crop throughout the month. Vegetable growers prepared land for and began planting spring crops. A wide range of winter produce came to market, including blueberries, boniatos, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, herbs, leafy greens, malangas, peppers, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of year. Tangerines and tangelos were harvested throughout the month. Grapefruit harvesting continued, with a slightly larger amount going to processing plants than fresh markets. Valencia harvesting was in full swing by the end of the month.