

February 25, 2019

FLORIDA: Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.02 inches in Pinellas County to 8.3 inches in Palm Beach County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 3.24 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions at the month's end, up slightly from last month. Average temperatures were as much as 11 degrees above normal for the month. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good throughout the month. Some producers in the Panhandle noted inadequate winter forages due to excessive wet weather early in the month. Others in the northern and central peninsula experienced poor forages and grazing due to unseasonably warm and dry weather during the month, which resulted in many producers feeding supplements to cattle. Cattle condition remained mostly good. Sugarcane harvest was ongoing throughout the month. Potato harvesting was reported early in the month. Vegetable land preparation and planting took place throughout the month. Strawberry growers indicated angular leaf spot, leaf scorch, and botrytis blight may be an issue this year. A wide range of vegetable crops came to the market including green beans, herbs, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of year and included spraying, applying herbicide, and taking care of young trees. Tangerines were harvested throughout the month. Grapefruit harvesting continued, with a larger amount going to processing plants than fresh markets. Bloom was in various stages from trees just beginning to bloom, to those with open flowers by the end of the month.