

February 22, 2021

FLORIDA: February temperatures were on average 3 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.1 inch in Monroe to 11.2 inches in Duval County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 33 percent of the state was in abnormally dry conditions at the end of the month. Pastures conditions declined at the beginning of the month due to frosts and overall cold conditions. As temperatures rose later in the month, conditions improved across the state as pastures started to green back up. Cattle conditions remained mostly good. Sugarcane harvest continued in the southern peninsula with minimal damage reported from frost in the middle of the month. Towards the end of the month, powdery mildew and worm pressure was reported in some crops. Vegetable growers continued planting spring crops but cold temperatures delayed planting early in the month. A wide range of vegetable crops came to market including avocado, green beans, herbs, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. Citrus fruit harvested for the fresh market included white and red grapefruit, early and midseason oranges, tangerines, and tangelos. At month's end, most plants had finished processing early and mid-season non-Valencia oranges. Citrus grove activities included fertilizing, mowing, hedging, applying herbicides, and minimal spraying.