

March 29, 2021

FLORIDA: March temperatures were on average 2.2 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from trace amounts of rain in a few locations to 6.5 inches in Okaloosa County. At the end of the month, the state was 49 percent abnormally dry and 1 percent in moderate drought conditions compared with 20 percent abnormally dry at the beginning of the month. Lack of rainfall combined with warmer temperatures dried out some pastures late in the month. Cattle conditions remained mostly good throughout the month. Sugarcane harvest continued. A variety of fruits and vegetables were planted and marketed. Producers planted field corn and prepared land for peanut and cotton crops in the Panhandle and northern part of the state. As temperatures increased, Whiteflies and pest pressure were noted on vegetable crops in the southern part of the state. Citrus fruit harvested for the fresh market included white and red grapefruit, Valencia oranges, as well as Honey, Tango, and Royal tangerines. The non-Valencia season concluded. After running behind last season, Mandarin harvest started to slow down at the end of the month. Citrus grove activities included fertilizing, spraying, hedging, topping, irrigation, and taking care of young trees.