

January 3, 2023

FLORIDA: December temperatures were on par with historical averages, although a cold spell at the end of the month brought significantly colder than normal temperatures. Total rainfall for the month ranged from trace amounts in Hernando County to over 9 inches in Pasco County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 41 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 33 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the state received little precipitation last month, which worsened drought conditions in the northern region of the state. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good, although the cold spell at the end of the month brought damage to pastures across the state. Livestock remained in mostly fair to good condition as well, but there were some reports of cattle death due to the cold spell. Sugarcane planting and harvest progressed well throughout December. Citrus grove activities throughout the month included mowing, fertilizing, maintenance hedging, spraying and general grove maintenance. Early oranges and red grapefruit that were not damaged by the hurricanes in the fall shipped to packinghouses. Vegetables that were planted and harvested during December include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, boniato, and avocados.