

January 2, 2024

**FLORIDA:** December temperatures were on par with historical averages, with the temperatures becoming gradually cooler as the month progressed. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.5 inches of rain in Polk County to over 11 inches in Leon County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 8.1 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 21.1 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the state received moderate amounts of rainfall last month, which improved overall drought conditions in the state. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good, with pastures improving due to overall rain received. Livestock remained in mostly fair to good condition as well, improving as pasture conditions recovered. Sugarcane planting and harvest progressed well throughout December. Citrus grove activities throughout the month included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Eleven packinghouses were active in early December with thirteen active in late December. Crops that were planted and harvested include sugarcane, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, eggplant, peppers, boniato, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and other tropical fruits.