

March 27, 2023

FLORIDA: March temperatures ranged from 0.6 to 6.3 degrees warmer than normal depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.3 inches in Broward County to 5.9 inches in Alachua County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 88 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 80 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the state did not receive much precipitation in March, as only the northern third of the state received a significant amount. The lack of precipitation continued to worsen drought conditions across the state and negatively impacted pastures, with pastures reported as mostly poor to fair. Reporters noted that preparations for spring planting of row crops continued to progress well across the state, with operators taking advantage of the dry weather. Citrus grove activities throughout the month included mowing, fertilizing, spraying pesticides, removal of dead trees, and general grove maintenance. Fruits and vegetables that were planted and harvested during March include green beans, yellow squash, strawberries, watermelon, zucchini, sweet corn, pepper, and avocados. Rice planting progressed well throughout the month, as did harvest of sugarcane. Despite the lack of precipitation in much of the state, cattle were reported to be in mostly good to fair condition.