

January 29, 2024

FLORIDA: January temperatures were on par with historical averages, with the temperatures becoming gradually cooler towards the middle of the month but warming up near the end. The cooler temperatures did bring a hard freeze to many counties but no significant impacts to any crops were reported. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.7 inches of rain in Miami-Dade County to 6.7 inches in Franklin County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 4.1 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 13.8 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the state received moderate to heavy amounts of rainfall in January, which improved overall drought conditions in the state. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good; however, some pastures were overly saturated due to heavy and frequent rainfall throughout the month. Livestock remained in mostly fair to good condition as well but had to be supplemented with hay when pastures were too wet or growth was limited due to cold temperatures. Sugarcane operations progressed throughout the month but experienced some delays due to high winds and rainy weather. 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. Thirteen packinghouses were active in early January with twelve active in late January. Crops that were planted and harvested include sugarcane, tomatoes, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, eggplant, peppers, boniato, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and other tropical fruits.