WEATHER SUMMARY: Widespread, soaking rains fell in nearly all areas except for a few southern Peninsula localities during the first part of the week of January 13 through 19. A cold front crossing the State at the end of the week brought more showers mainly to some western Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Homestead and Miami recorded no rainfall; Alachua recorded almost three inches. Dover received about a third inch; Immokalee, about one and a third inches; and Ft. Pierce, nearly an inch. Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach recorded only traces of rain for the week. Temperatures at the major stations averaged from one degree below normal at Tallahassee to five degrees above at Miami. Most lows were in the 40s, 50s and 60s with Tallahassee daily lows averaging in the 30s. Tallahassee recorded at least one low in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS: The soaking rains early in the week eased dry soil conditions in most areas except for a few southern Peninsula localities. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions are rated short to mostly adequate. Sugarcane harvesting in the Everglades is active.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture and range condition improved slightly throughout the State. In the Panhandle and northern counties, light rain and warmer temperatures improved growing conditions of small grain winter forage. Permanent pasture grass (Bahia) in most locations was killed by recent frost. In the southwest, range and cattle conditions improved from the previous week. Statewide, the cattle condition is fair to good.

CITRUS: Daylong rains and a few thunderstorms covered most of the citrus belt Monday thru early Tuesday. Some southern counties received more rain the first two weeks of the new year than they did for many months. This additional moisture has greatly helped the trees get ready for the upcoming bloom season. New growth is starting to show in some of the younger tree groves. Early and midseason orange harvest is very active in all areas with most of this fruit going to the processors. Fresh fruit packers and shippers are also busy moving all types of early and mid oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, Temples and tangelos.

Caretakers are mowing, chopping and discing cover crops for fire protection. Some pre-bloom sprays are being applied in the warmer locations. Dead trees are being pushed out and burned. A few resets are being planted in the southern counties.

VEGETABLES: Soggy fields delayed the picking of some crops around Immokalee early in the week. Potatoes and cabbage around Hastings suffered no significant damage from the recent cold weather. Vegetables available include tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, celery, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, radishes, snap beans, squash, sweet corn and strawberries.

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