WEATHER SUMMARY: Cool and mostly dry weather prevailed during the week of December 1 through 7. Most temperatures in the major cities averaged four to seven degrees below normal. West Palm Beach and Miami temperatures averaged normal to three degrees above, respectively. Daytime highs were mostly in the 60s and 70s. Nighttime lows ranged from the 30s to 60s. Hard freezes occurred in some Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Rainfall varied from none to about an inch for the week. On December 8 and 9, a cold front crossing the state and a disturbance over the southeastern and extreme southern coast brought more rain totaling from a tenth to over two inches. Most localities received some rain from these systems.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are mostly short to adequate with some very short supplies reported for the southeastern coastal counties. The mostly clearer, drier weather over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula enabled producers to pick some cotton as well as dig a few peanuts. Sugarcane harvesting in the Everglades is progressing normally.

VEGETABLES: The cool and mostly dry weather in the major vegetable producing areas allowed field work to progress normally. Vegetables available include snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, okra, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes and very light supplies of Chinese cabbage and watermelons.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, small grain winter forages are emerging. Some forage was set back by heavy frosts but should recover with warmer weather. Some early planted oats were damaged by a virus. Small grain plantings need rain to promote germination. In the north, the pasture condition is poor as the warm season grass is gone and the cool season forage is too young. Small grain growth is hindered by short soil moisture in some localities. In the central area, pasture and range are in poor to fair condition due to heavy frosts and drought. Rainfall is needed for proper growth of the winter small grain forage. In the south, pasture is in poor to good condition. Statewide, cattle are in mostly good condition.

CITRUS: Most of this week was mild with a fast moving cold front moving through the State Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Low temperatures on Thursday and Friday were in the upper to mid 70s. There were a few thunderstorms associated with the cold front. Growers and caretakers are irrigating where needed. Most well-cared-for groves are in very good to excellent condition. There is very little new growth except on some young trees in the southern part of the citrus belt. Harvest of early and midseason fruit is very active in all areas. Fresh fruit packers are shipping Navels, other early oranges, white and colored grapefruit, tangelos and tangerines. Most processors are working long hours to move some of the lower acid and higher ratio fruit.

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