WEATHER SUMMARY: Cold conditions continued during the week of January 12 through 18. Temperatures averaged from five degrees below normal to ten below in the major cities. Lows varied from the 20s to the 50s with all northern, most central and a few southern Peninsula localities recording at least one low in the 20s. Highs were in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Most areas received only traces of rain for the week except from about a half inch to nearly an inch falling at Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. During the weekend of January 19 and 20, freezing temperatures dipped into the Everglades with some crop damage reported.

FIELD CROPS: Dry weather lowered soil moisture especially in the northern Peninsula and some localities of the Panhandle. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are rated short to mostly adequate. Very short soil moisture supplies are reported for the southeastern Peninsula, while some surplus still exists in the northeastern Peninsula. Sugarcane harvesting continues in the Everglades region with some leaf damage to new plantings and the ratoon crop caused by the cold temperatures. Plants are expected to recover slowly.

VEGETABLES: Freezing temperatures caused damage to some crops in the Everglades region with some minor supply shortages expected. Strawberry growers continued to run overhead sprinklers to form ice caps on plants as cold protection to save the plants and immature fruit during the colder nights. Vegetables available include snap beans, cabbage, celery, cilantro, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, miscellaneous herbs, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, strawberries and very light supplies of carrots.

FOLIAGE AND FLORICULTURE: Producers of leatherleaf ferns, other cut greens and potted foliage in the Pierson and Apopka areas used sprinklers and heaters to help protect most plants from the recent cold temperatures with some loss expected.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, cold weather slowed growth of winter pastures for grazing. Hay supplies are adequate for the present. In the north, small grains for forage are doing satisfactorily with compacted soils limiting some root growth. In some locations the poor condition of pasture is due to drought. Some disease is present in the rye fields. In the central counties, the condition of pasture ranges from very poor to good in most with poor to fair condition due to the cold and frost. In the south, range is poor to good with most range in good condition. Statewide, the condition of cattle and calves is mostly good.

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