VEGETABLES

WET conditions delayed some field activity and planting during the week. Central Peninsula producers picked blueberries with very light supplies available. Strawberry harvesting continued to slow seasonally around Plant City. Some early potato digging was curtailed by rains. Growers continued to harvest snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Light supplies of endive, escarole, and lettuce were also available.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and Northern areas, pastures are fair to excellent. Some pasture is flooded from recent heavy rains. Permanent pasture is starting to grow as temperatures increase. Cattle condition is poor to excellent. In the central areas, good rains this spring resulted in good pasture condition. Cattle condition is fair to good. Pastures in the southern areas are mostly good. Statewide, most of the cattle are in good condition.

FIELD CROPS: The ample rains over the Panhandle again delayed most land preparation and planting due to soggy fields with flooding reported in many localities. Recent heavy rains caused a lot of soil erosion in Jefferson County. Drier weather in scattered localities of the northern, central and southern Peninsula allowed field work to remain on schedule. Soil moisture supplies remained adequate to surplus in most Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Lesser amounts of rain over most central and southern parts kept soil moisture supplies adequate except for Citrus and Hernando counties, which reported short supplies, and some spots of the southeastern coast where supplies remained very short.

Citrus: This past week had fairly mild weather in citrus producing areas, with temperatures reaching the mid 80s during most days in all areas, and dropping down at night to the low to mid 50s. There was some rainfall recorded on Thursday morning in all areas. Totals were between less than one tenth of an inch in Tavares to almost two inches in Ft. Pierce. Oranges and grapefruit are in full bloom in all counties with petal drop in some. Growers continue to conduct post harvest herbiciding, fertilizing, aerial spraying and grove maintenance clean-up. Early and mid orange harvesting is relatively complete. Harvest of late oranges (Valencias) continues in full swing with most of the fruit being picked for processing. White and colored grapefruit harvesting, being picked for both fresh and processing, is decreasing. Tangelo harvesting is complete and Temple harvesting is winding down. Honey tangerine harvest slowed down some, but they are still being picked, primarily for the fresh market.

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In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.

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