

FLORIDA: December started mostly warm and dry. The Panhandle and northern counties were under abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions for the entire month. Cotton, soybean, and peanut harvesting all wrapped up at the beginning of the month. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties. Some winter cover crops and forages were able to be planted in the Panhandle and northern part of state early in the month. Vegetable producers harvested green beans, beets, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, kale, pepper, pole beans, squash, sweet potatoes, Swiss chard, tomatoes, yellow squash, watermelon, and zucchini. The dry conditions and warm temperatures had pasture quality and quantity declining steadily throughout the month. Some pastures were damaged by frost beginning in the middle of the month. The cattle, however remained in mostly good condition. Supplemental feeding was reported in several counties. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of the year. Early orange harvest activities increased at the beginning of month. Grapefruit harvest was in full swing by the end of the month. The majority of white grapefruit went to the export market, while red grapefruit was equally distributed between domestic use and export. All processing plants except one were open and accepting field-run fruit by the end of the month. Grove work included irrigating, mowing, spraying, topping and hedging, and fertilizing. Irrigation was used throughout most of the month.