

FLORIDA: Dry conditions were experienced throughout much of the state in January. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, many counties in the Panhandle remain in a moderate to severe drought. Some cover crops were planted at the beginning of the month. Toward the end of January, a few producers reported planting oats and rye as wind breaks for melons. Pasture quality declined steadily throughout the month. Livestock producers were feeding supplements due to the poor pasture conditions. Cattle condition remained mostly good, but began a gradual decline toward the end of the month. Unseasonably cold temperatures in the middle of the month caused minor damage to some vegetable crops in southern Florida. Vegetable growers began preparing land for spring crops. Producers harvested a wide variety of crops this month, including avocado, beans, celery, collards, eggplant, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of the year. Fresh harvest of early tangerines and Navel oranges finished for the season by the end of the month. White and red grapefruit were going mostly to the export market. Processing plants were taking packinghouse eliminations and processing field run on early and mid-season oranges. Grove work included minimal spraying and harvesting. Growers continued irrigation practices throughout the month.