

February 24, 2020

**FLORIDA:** February temperatures were on average 1 to 7 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.5 inches in multiple locations to 8.2 inches in Santa Rosa County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, less than 10 percent of the state had moderate drought conditions throughout the month. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good. Many pastures were dry throughout the first half of the month, and some supplemental feeding was reported. Cattle conditions remained mostly good. Some cattle herds were thinning out in the latter part of the month. Sugarcane harvest was ongoing. Pest and disease pressures were reported on strawberries throughout the month. Many vegetable growers wrapped up planting spring crops. A wide range of vegetable crops came to market including avocado, green beans, herbs, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. Citrus fruit harvested for the fresh market included white and red grapefruit, early and midseason oranges, tangerines, and tangelos. Packinghouses were packing midseason oranges, grapefruit, and several mandarin varieties. Early and midseason oranges were winding down for the season by mid-month. Field staff reported seeing color break on late variety oranges and signs of early bloom throughout the month. Citrus grove activities were normal for this time of year, which included mowing before harvest, spraying, hedging, irrigation, and fertilization.