

January 27, 2020

FLORIDA: January temperatures were on average 1 to 8 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from trace amounts in multiple locations to 7.3 inches in Escambia 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 throughout the month. Pastures started to show normal signs of seasonal deterioration during the month but forage supplies remained adequate. Cattle condition remained mostly good. Unseasonably cool temperatures experienced in the beginning of the month helped improve cattle health and condition. Sugarcane harvest was ongoing throughout the month. Strawberry growers indicated higher than normal fungal disease pressure and were in need of drier, cooler weather. Vegetable land preparation and planting took place throughout the month. A wide range of vegetable crops came to market during the month including arugula, green beans, herbs, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. A cold front during the last week of the month affected many vegetable crops in the southern part of the state. Strong winds associated with the front knocked off vegetable blossoms and eroded yield potential. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of year. Cooler temperatures were beneficial to the citrus crop, helping to achieve cold hardiness for future cold snaps. Early orange harvest was in full swing at the beginning of the month. Fruit harvested for the fresh market included white and red grapefruit, early and midseason oranges, tangerines, and tangelos. Grove work included mowing before harvest, spraying, irrigation, and fertilization.