

March 5, 2025

**FLORIDA:** February temperatures were slightly warmer than normal compared to historic averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.3 inches of rain in Miami-Dade County to 8.6 inches in Monroe County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 63.6 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 61.7 percent at the month's beginning. With overall drier conditions, many producers were able to spend time on field preparations for spring planting. The rainfall that was received did improve conditions for crops like small grains, winter grazing and cover crops. In Okaloosa County, there were some losses to strawberries and other fruits and vegetables as the temperature dipped at the end of the month. In Levy County, producers prepared for and planted watermelons during the month. Sugarcane planting was nearly wrapped up at the beginning of the month. Sugarcane harvest continued as planned and was nearly complete at the month's end. Producers worked on field preparations for rice planting at the beginning of the month with planting underway by the end of the month. Citrus grove operations included fertilizing, spraying, mowing after harvest, applying herbicides and continued pushing up of abandoned groves and dead trees. Beekeepers prepared for citrus bloom season. Pasture conditions were mostly fair last month, with pastures improving near the month's end. Cattle remained in mostly good condition throughout the month.