CONTINUED COLD AND DRY CONDITIONS

The month of January brought cold temperatures and some snow to parts of the State, according the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Georgia Field Office. Precipitation continued to be below normal for the month. Topsoil moisture is holding but irrigation ponds and stream levels are very low. Topsoil conditions rate 0% very short, 17% short, 71% adequate and 12% surplus.

The cold weather, along with hard freezes has negatively affected pastures and delayed growth of small grains. There have been reports of winter kill in some small grain fields. The use of hay and supplemental feed has increased. Range and pasture conditions rated 12% very poor, 29% poor, 44% fair, 14% good and 1% excellent.

Other activities included breaking the ice on water troughs, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

The next monthly report will be published on February 28, 2011. We will resume publishing the weekly reports on March 6, 2011.