

February 28, 2016

GEORGIA: Throughout the state, producers have experienced frequent, heavy rain events during February that did not allow saturated fields to dry sufficiently before the next rain event occurred. Some flooding has occurred in the northern portion of the state. Precipitation totals for the month have ranged from 2.5 inches in the eastern central region to 7.4 inches in the northern region near Atlanta. For the majority of the state, rain and saturated soil have led to significant delays in fertilizer and pesticide applications, soil testing, field preparations, and planting. Widely fluctuating temperatures have also caused crops and pastures to suffer. Overall, above average temperatures have led to increased disease and pest pressure, while cold snaps have caused frost damage to some small grains. Despite difficulties, a few producers have been able to get into their fields to begin laying plastic for spring vegetables and planting corn. In the northwestern region, pasture grasses and small grains have been in relatively good condition despite the rain and flooding. In the rest of the state, the majority of producers have experienced fair to poor pasture and small grain conditions due to saturated soil, increased disease and pest pressure, frost damage, and nitrogen deficiencies. In light of unfavorable weather and wet pasture, cattle condition is fair to good. Due to inconsistent grazing, hay supplies are adequate to depleted, depending on the region. Fruit growers have begun pruning fruit trees. Fears have grown throughout the state about a late freeze damaging prematurely blooming fruit and nut trees. Onion condition is fair to good.