

January 31, 2016

GEORGIA: Throughout the state, producers experienced mostly warm, wet conditions during January. Precipitation totals ranged from 2.3 inches in the southeastern region to 5.9 inches in the northern region. In light of heavy rains and flooding in December and January, producers continued to experience hardships with season-ending harvests and season-beginning land preparation and planting due to saturated soil. Producers were finishing up cotton, soybean, and peanut harvests throughout January, but were finding grade issues and decreased yields from the delayed harvest. While hay levels and quality have been good in some areas of the state, in other areas hay has been compromised due to heavy and enduring moisture on the ground and in the air. Some regions' hay inventories were low enough that farmers were not selling to new customers. While producers in the northern portion of the state have been seeing above average small grain conditions and growth, central and southern areas have experienced fair to poor conditions. Producers throughout the state have shown concern over increased disease, pest, and weed pressure, nutrient deficiencies, and soil saturation. Nitrogen levels are of particular concern since December and January storms washed out nutrient applications. Soil testing has been delayed due to soil moisture levels. The fruit crop has been behind on chill hours and some trees and shrubs have been flowering early. Onion condition and progress has been good. Despite some reports of muddy pastures and deteriorating hay supplies, cattle condition has been good.