

February 26, 2018

GEORGIA: Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.1 inches in Glynn County to 11.0 inches in Gilmer County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 23 percent of the State was in a moderate drought by month end, down 32 percentage points from the beginning of February. Average temperatures were as much as 12 degrees above normal for the month. Small grains, pastures, and hayfields were in good condition with strong growth. Pest pressure was low to moderate overall, but some counties reported aphids in oats and heavy weed pressure in pastures and small grains. Livestock condition was good. Hay quantities were sufficient, in part because the rain and warmer temperatures improved the growth of winter grazing. Onions recovered well from their cold injury in January and ended the month in good to excellent condition. Fruit and nut crops were on track to accumulate enough chilling hours for the season, but with the unseasonably warm temperatures in late February, fruit trees began blooming early. Field activities included plowing, applying chemicals for pest management and soil fertility, and laying plastic for watermelons and other produce commodities. Corn planting began in some of the southernmost counties.