

January 29, 2018

GEORGIA: Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.5 inches in Butts County to 8.9 inches in Rabun County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the percentage of the State in a moderate drought increased 15 percentage points to 55 percent in January. Eighteen percent of the State moved into the severe drought category. Average temperatures were below normal for the month. Small grains, pastures, and hayfields were in fair to good condition, but their development was delayed from cold temperatures and minimal precipitation. Pest pressure was negligible overall. Livestock condition was good, but animals were stressed by cold weather. Hay quantities were sufficient, but depleting quickly because of impeded growth of winter grazing. Cold weather injured onion foliage in many fields. Vegetables sustained mild to significant freeze damage. Fruit and nut crops were on track to accumulate enough chilling hours for the season. Field activities included harrowing, tilling, applying chemicals for pest management and soil fertility, burning hayfields, and laying beds for watermelons and vegetables.