

March 26, 2018

**GEORGIA:** Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.7 inches in Camden County to 7.4 inches in White County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 50 percent of the State was in a moderate to severe drought by month's end, up 23 percentage points from the beginning of March. Average temperatures were slightly below normal for the month. Small grains, pastures, and hayfields were in good condition overall. Early warm temperatures in February brought on a flush of perennial and annual forage growth followed by a cold snap that set progress back in March. Pest pressure was low to moderate overall. Livestock condition was good. Hay quantities were sufficient. Onions remained in good condition. Strawberries began to ripen, and producers harvested a few fields. Early-season peaches were significantly damaged by freezes, and mid-season peaches saw mild to moderate damage. Likewise, blueberries experienced moderate damage and crop loss. Field activities included burning down cover crops, tilling, applying nutrients and herbicides on forages, and processing soil and litter samples. Laying plastic for watermelons and other produce commodities was mostly completed by the end of the month. Corn planting began in some counties, but was delayed by cold, wet weather in other counties.