

February 25, 2019

GEORGIA: Total rainfall for the month ranged from .088 inches in Chatham County to 13.11 inches in White County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Georgia remained free of drought conditions throughout the month. Temperatures were above average in several counties this month. A wet winter continued in February with excess rainfall reported throughout each region of the state. Livestock producers, field crops, fruit, and vegetable growers all noted negative impacts from too much moisture. The wet weather has resulted in premature fruit blooms in some species, which could result in crop losses this spring. Many cattle producers throughout the state were feeding hay because of the poor grazing caused by the rain. Several pastures in low lying areas flooded causing feed problems in some livestock. Poor hay quality and nutrition also has producers concerned about compaction. Growers in central and southern Georgia reported harvesting cotton, soybeans, and peanuts early in the month. As of the end of the month, nearly all harvesting has been completed. Growers noted lower grades in cotton and soybeans left to rot in fields due to the excess rainfall. Some small grains have been side dressed and had herbicide applications. Vegetable land preparation is ongoing, and planting was reported in the southern part of the state.