

January 27, 2020

GEORGIA: January temperatures were on average 3 to 9 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.2 inches in multiple locations to 11.1 inches in Rabun County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the state remained drought free throughout the month. Small grains for grain, cover crop, and pasture have been growing well throughout the month. Wet conditions have caused some late weed control issues in small grains. Pastures and hayfields were in fair to good condition. Hay supplies were short in many areas of the state due to drought conditions last fall. Livestock condition remained fair to good, but a little below normal due to animals being fed hay earlier than usual. Hay quantities were less than sufficient in many areas of the state and cattle producers were looking for additional winter grazing. Onions progressed well over the month. Consistent rains kept producers out of onion fields where they would normally be making fertilizer and fungicide applications. Vegetables planted in the fall were at or near harvest completion. Land preparation and plastic laying were being done to prepare for spring planted vegetables. Fruit and nut crops were in need of additional chill hours. Blueberry producers experienced a short freeze mid-month with minimal damage to plants reported. Field activities included harrowing, tilling, applying chemicals for pest management and soil fertility, burning hayfields, pruning, cotton stalk destruction, and laying beds for watermelons and vegetables.