

March 28, 2022

GEORGIA: March temperatures were on average 2.1 degrees warmer than historical values. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.7 inches in Chatham County to 8.7 inches in Glynn County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 61 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 40 percent at the month's beginning. Georgia saw varied temperatures across the state in March. Freezing temperatures on March 12th - 14th impacted many crops. Early blooming fruit trees and early season blueberry varieties saw significant damage that is anticipated to impact yield. The freezing temperatures caused a notable amount of burn to the onion foliage as they are beginning to be dug. Disease issues for onions are now a concern of producers after the freeze damage. Wheat, rye and oats were in fair condition. Some areas reported little to no damage from the extreme temperatures while others noted that they received some damage to the grain heads that will affect yield. Livestock conditions were mostly good; however, hay supplies ran low in some areas. Cattle were noted in to be averaging a lower body weight that this time last year in some areas. Grazing conditions in pastures continued to improve since the freeze and livestock have required less supplemental feeding as spring approaches. Most row crops haven't been planted yet due to cold soil temperatures and dampness of the soil. These conditions have also limited farmers from being able to get into fields for spraying, liming and fertilization. Early corn planting started in mid-March and most fields are expected to be planted over the next few weeks. Most early planted corn is not expected to be affected by the extreme cold temperatures.