

January 2, 2024

GEORGIA: December temperatures were 1.0 to 2.6 degrees warmer than historical averages depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.7 inches in Butts County to 12.3 inches in Rabun County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 48 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions, 28 percent had moderate drought conditions and 11 percent had severe drought conditions by month's end, compared to 62 percent abnormally dry, 41 percent with moderate drought, 20 percent with severe drought and 9 percent with extreme drought at the month's beginning. Good rainfall amounts helped improve overall field conditions throughout the state. Livestock were reported to be in good condition; however, hay supplies were reported to be running low due to the drought in the fall. The fall drought left many producers unable to establish adequate winter grazing, although some attempted late seeding throughout December that has yet to fully establish. For this reason, many cattle producers were also feeding supplements in hopes to extend hay supplies into the spring. Planting of winter wheat also carried on into December, with emergence aided by sufficient rainfall in most areas. Harvest of cotton continued throughout the month as conditions allowed. The Vidalia onion crop was reported to be looking good and progressing well.