

February 27, 2023

GEORGIA: February temperatures ranged from 6.2 to 8.2 degrees warmer than historical averages depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.1 inches in Muscogee County to 7.6 inches in Lowndes County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 10 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions and 3 percent had moderate drought conditions by month's end, compared to 21 percent abnormally dry and 9 percent moderate drought at the beginning of the month.

Georgia experienced unseasonably warm temperatures for February, which impacted many areas of agriculture across the state. Abundant rainfall in some areas delayed farmers from prepping fields for spring planting, although many areas reported that field work had begun. Winter grazing and cool season pastures benefitted from the recent mild winter weather and were showing growth with lime and fertilizer applications being made. Livestock conditions were mostly good; however, hay supplies ran low in some areas. The growth of wheat, rye and oats were reported to be good due to the warm conditions and good soil moisture levels. Wheat fields were top-dressed with nitrogen. The Vidalia onion crop was reported to be progressing well; however, yields are anticipated to be down this year due to the freeze event at the end of December. Many areas reported that corn fields are going to begin being planted in the next two to three weeks due to the warm soil temperatures. Peanuts were also noted to potentially be planted early if the warm temperatures remain. Many farmers are wary of a potential late season freeze after the warm weather of February.