

**February 27, 2017**

**South Carolina:** A warm and somewhat dry month for the state as the United States Drought Monitor estimates the state at forty-three percent drought free compared to fifty-five percent on January 31, 2017. The northwestern corner of the state is still the only area that remains under drought conditions. Comments from other parts of the state describe adequate soil moisture but more rain will be needed soon if warm weather persists. Producers in the central and eastern part of the state are preparing ground to plant corn but most are holding off from planting in an anticipation of cold snaps. Pasture and small grains have responded well to the warm weather. Comments describe decreased small grain plantings due to dry conditions during early winter. Livestock is reported to be doing well across the state and clean-up from Hurricane Matthew is still ongoing. Average maximum temperatures ranged from the mid 70s in eastern South Carolina to the mid 60s in the west. Average minimum temperatures ranged from the high 40s in the east to mid 30s in west. Precipitation estimates for the month range from 2.83 inches near Allen Hills to 2.0 inches in Charleston.