

March 25, 2019

South Carolina: March temperatures were generally on par with historical averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.6 inches in multiple locations to 5.1 inches in Oconee County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 28.9 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, up 3.2 percent from month's beginning. Additionally, 2.4 percent of the State entered into moderate drought conditions in March. The dry conditions were primarily confined to the coastline and the southernmost counties. Despite dry soil conditions in these counties, vegetables and strawberries were in good condition overall. Producers harvested a variety of vegetables. Strawberry harvesting was in full swing by the month's end. Rain delayed fieldwork in inland counties for much of the month, but drier conditions by month's end allowed for field preparations and some corn planting. Hay and pasture fields greened up once weather and soil conditions became favorable. Peach trees were in good condition and in full bloom. Minimal cold damage is expected for this year's crop. Tobacco planting is expected to begin on schedule in the next couple of weeks.