

March 29, 2021

South Carolina: March temperatures were on par with or up to 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than historic averages. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 0.8 inches to 12.0 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the state had no abnormally dry conditions throughout the month. The Upstate region received excess rain in March, while the rest of the state received sufficient rain levels. This rainfall pattern reversed the trend from the previous winter months, where all regions except the Upstate received excess rain. During March, most pasture and cropland were able to dry out to a workable level. To catch up on delayed row crop activities, field preparations began at a fever pace, with lime and fertilizer being spread, burndown and weed control being applied, land being cultivated, and the first corn acres being planted. Additionally, small grains received a much-needed topdressing of Nitrogen. Winter wheat was generally in good condition. Strawberry and vegetable crops remained behind schedule, despite the improved weather conditions in March. Relatively stable temperatures brought the beginning of a significant peach crop, with the early varieties beginning to set fruit. Cattle conditions was good, and winter grazing was fair to good. Summer pasture and hayfields started to green up from the warm temperatures and sunny days. Hay supplies were becoming short for some cattle producers.