

March 28, 2022

**South Carolina:** March temperatures ranged from .6 degrees to 6.0 degrees warmer than historic averages depending on location. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 0.6 inches to 8.4 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 30.9 percent of the state was experiencing drought conditions and an additional 19.5 percent was experiencing abnormally dry conditions. In the middle of the month, a freeze event hurt recently bloomed blueberries and strawberries, vegetables, and peaches. The extent of the damage is to be determined with varying reports depending on the county. Despite the dry conditions in over half the state, preparations for summer crops began. Most preplant burndown applications were completed and corn planting activities picked up across the state. Producers planned on planting tobacco in the next couple weeks. Spider mites and disease pressure was noted in some strawberry crops. Winter forages and grains were as expected for this time of year with limited to no damage noted from the freeze event. Positive pasture growth helped keep livestock conditions good while limiting the amount of supplemental hay needed.