

April 2, 2025

FLORIDA: March temperatures were slightly warmer than normal compared to historic averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.1 inches of rain in Sarasota County to 9.6 inches in Escambia County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 58.3 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 63.6 percent at the month's beginning. Cover crops and winter grazing continued to improve with the warmer temperatures and sporadic rain showers. At the beginning of the month, many producers continued to spend time on field preparations for spring planting. By the middle of the month, many had begun spring planting for crops such as corn, melons, and vegetables. Producers were also burning down cover crops to prepare for planting in April. Near the end of the month, some producers started land preparation for peanuts and cotton. For many watermelon producers, planting was wrapped up near the end of the month, as blueberries were ready for harvest. Sugarcane harvest continued through March and was almost wrapped up, while rice planting progressed. General citrus grove maintenance included widely observed spraying, hedging and topping, taking out dead trees, resetting, and robust irrigation schedules. The citrus bloom and flowering stage were finished, with trees emerging into the petal drop stage and developing small marble fruit. Cattle conditions were mostly good last month. Pastures improved as temperatures increased and more frequent, rainfall was received. Smaller operations in Jackson County were still supplementing cattle with hay but were starting to graze as well.