

February 25, 2019

Alabama: Temperatures averaged 4 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit above normal for the month, depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.2 inches in multiple locations to 14.4 inches in Lauderdale County. Frequent rainfall throughout the month created difficulty for producers, but more so for those in northern and central counties. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State was free of abnormally dry conditions and drought, unchanged from January. Since late-fall rains prevented some planting of small grains and winter grazing, there was less overall field activity in February. Small grains and winter grazing that were able to be planted in the fall were flooded or had standing water by February's end. This reduction in grazing potential caused many cattlemen to be reliant on hay. Most had adequate supplies on hand at the end of the month, though. Cattlemen had difficulty entering their fields to provide feed or apply nutrients. The consistently wet conditions in northern counties led to some cattle developing foot rot, and there was an increase in pneumonia in the cattle population. Only in the southern counties did producers report that small grains, pasture, and cattle were in good condition. By the end of the month, some spring tillage activities began in the southernmost counties where weather conditions were more favorable.