

February 18, 2022

Alabama: February temperatures were generally on par with historic averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.8 inches in Geneva County to 6.5 inches in Blount County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 12 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 17 percent at the month's beginning. Winter pastures and cool season forages were in good condition, as mild weather conditions and adequate precipitation in the planting and growing season helped them to jump start and maintain. High fertilizer prices have prevented many producers from applying fertilizer to winter grazing as they normally would this time of year. Cattle have remained in fair to good condition as producers continued to supplement winter grazing with hay and feed when needed. Seasonal weather has allowed for fertilizer applications on wheat, oats and rye along with some herbicide apps. Wheat has emerged but needs fertilizer and warmer weather to be profitable. Strawberry conditions were mostly good. An early February freeze damaged the strawberry crop but is expected to recover by harvest. Farmers continued field activities in preparation for spring planting. Rising input prices were a concern of farmers across the state heading into the spring.