

January 2, 2024

**Alabama:** December temperatures were generally on par with historical averages. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.9 inches in Chilton County to 7.3 inches in Mobile County. The limited rainfall did alleviate drought conditions in the southern part of the state but most of the state remained in a drought. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 89.9 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 99.1 percent at the month's beginning. Some fall seeded crops were not planted because of the lack of rainfall and early planted crops were reported to have poor stand because of the lack of soil moisture. Fall forages were also slow to grow and the lack of growth caused producers to feed more hay than usual. Hay shortages were reported in parts of the state with some producers reporting they might run out of hay by the end of January. Producers were optimistic about completing off-season fieldwork before spring planting begins. Pastures were reported to be in fair to poor condition and needed rainfall to bolster growth. Cattle conditions were reported to be mostly fair as the lack of quality winter forage took its toll.