

March 27, 2023

Alabama: March temperatures were generally on par with historical averages, although some locations saw slightly warmer temperatures than average. Despite this, there was a deep freeze in the month that negatively affected crops. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 2.9 inches in Dale County to 9.8 inches in Shelby County. The northern half of the state received a significant amount of precipitation in March, while the southern half of the state received average to below average amounts of rain. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 30 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 1 percent at the month's beginning. Drought conditions in the state were limited to the southern half of the state. Operators continued to plant row crops where conditions were dry enough, with heavy rainfall disrupting some planting activities. Reporters noted that operators who planted early due to warm temperatures were negatively impacted by the deep freeze. Winter wheat was reported to be in good condition overall, but yields are expected to be lower than average due to the freeze. Pasture conditions were reported to be good in the northern half of the state but poor to fair in the southern half due to the differences in precipitation. Cattle were reported to be in fair to good condition, with some operators in the southern half of the state having to supplement feed due to poor pasture conditions.