

For the Month of February 2017

**FLORIDA:** February maintained similar weather to January for most of the month, warm and dry. Nighttime temperatures dipped during the first week, with some areas receiving frost, but they warmed up for the remainder of the month. Although the Panhandle remained free of abnormally dry conditions, central and southern Florida did not. By the second week of the month all southern counties were considered abnormally dry, with the majority in a moderate drought. Producers began planting potatoes in Flagler and Putnam Counties toward the end of the month. Sugarcane harvest continued on schedule in Broward, Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties. A wide variety of vegetables, including collards, eggplant, strawberries, and zucchini were harvested across Florida and brought to market. Pasture quality continued to decline in most counties. Brevard and Indian River Counties, however, both reported some pasture improvement beginning in the third week and continuing through the end of the month. The cattle remained in mostly fair to good condition. Early and mid-season orange harvesting activities slowed down and are nearing the end for the season. Grapefruit harvest continues at levels lower than last season, but still coming in at a fairly steady pace each week. Honey and royal tangerines continued to be harvested for the fresh market. Grove work includes applying bactericides, hedging, fertilizing, and spraying. Irrigation is running heavily in all citrus growing areas.