

January 8, 2025

**FLORIDA:** December temperatures were on par with historical averages, with some parts of the state experiencing freezes near the beginning of the month. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.2 inches of rain in Sarasota County to 8.6 inches in Broward County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 89.9 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 57.3 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the state received very little rainfall near the beginning of last month, with some parts in the Peninsula experiencing heavier rainfall at the end of the month. However, this did not improve overall drought conditions in the state during December. Pasture conditions were mostly fair to good last month. At the beginning of the month, many producers reported the dry, cold weather caused pastures to steadily decline. As a result, many supplemented cattle with feed. Near the end of the month, producers reported pasture conditions improved with rainfall received. Cattle remained in mostly good to fair condition throughout the month. Sugarcane planting and harvest progressed well throughout December, with no reported delays in field operations. Grove operations included fertilizing, minimal spraying, mowing after harvest, applying minimal herbicides and continued pushing up of abandoned groves and dead trees. Crops that were planted and harvested included strawberries, eggplant, squash, peppers, tomato, snap beans, boniato, sweet corn, ethnic vegetables and tropical fruits.