

February 5, 2025

FLORIDA: January temperatures were much colder than normal which resulted in over 8 inches of snowfall in the Panhandle. Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.5 inches of rain in Lee County to 8.5 inches in Columbia County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 61.7 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 89.9 percent at the month's beginning. The snow received delayed field work for many producers. There were numerous reports of crop damage resulting from the extreme weather conditions, specifically for strawberries, leafy greens, small grains and winter grazing. Damage assessments continued to determine the damage to wheat, oats, and cover crops. In Palm Beach County, the damage was minimal for leafy vegetables, sweet corn and sugarcane. Pasture conditions were mostly fair last month, however the freezing temperatures and snow received did cause pasture conditions to steadily decline. As a result, many supplemented cattle with feed. Near the end of the month, as temperatures warmed up and snow melted, pasture conditions started to improve. Cattle remained in mostly good condition throughout the month. Sugarcane planting and harvest progressed well throughout January, with some delays due to windy conditions and wet fields. Near the end of the month, producers started to prepare for rice planting. Grove operations included fertilizing, minimal spraying, mowing after harvest, applying minimal herbicides and continued pushing up of abandoned groves and dead trees.