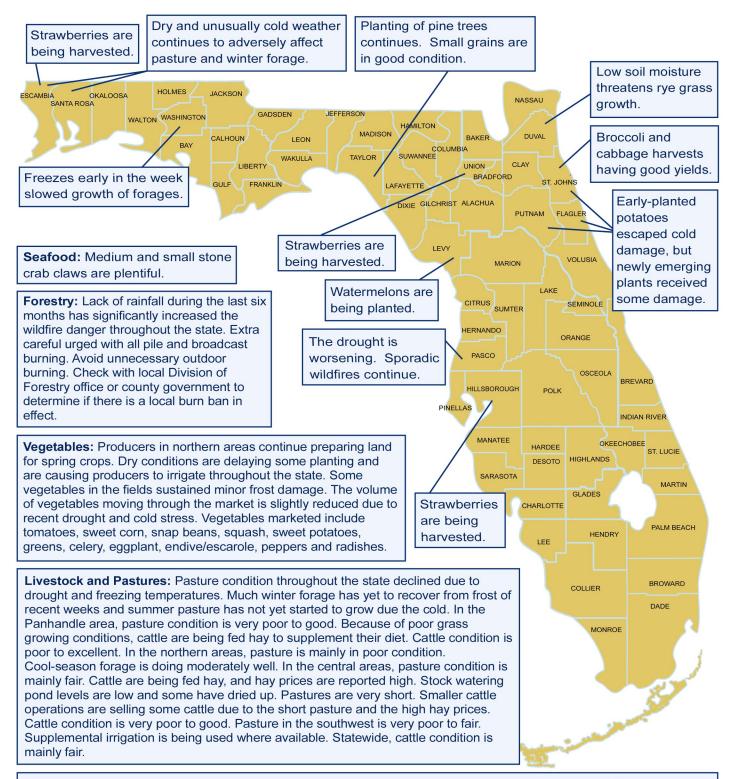
The Week in Florida Agriculture March 2-8, 2009



Citrus: A cold front moved across the state early Sunday morning bringing with it much cooler temperatures throughout the citrus-producing areas. Kenansville and Palmdale both recorded early morning lows in the high 20s. A gradual warming trend returned Tuesday with temperatures climbing to the low 80s in the central and southern regions. Many areas, especially in the south, have not had any appreciable precipitation in two months and are experiencing drought conditions. Fort Pierce has lacked significant rainfall since December. With the warmer temperatures returning many trees are showing new growth, new leaves, and a small amount of bloom. Hedging, topping, irrigating, fertilizing, aerial spraying, and mowing continue. The Valencia harvest has begun with packinghouses taking late oranges in small quantities while the processing of the early and midseason varieties has slowed significantly. Honey tangerine harvest expected to finish early.