

January 7, 2008

KENTUCKY: The first week of December experienced below normal temperatures and above normal rainfall. Two Alberta Clippers systems entered the northern half of Kentucky early in the week followed by a warm front from Texas that entered the state later in the week. Temperatures warmed up from the 30s to the 60s by week's end. Temperatures for the week averaged 37 degrees across the state, which were 3.4 degrees below normal and 5 degrees cooler than last week. The Clippers provided a mix of winter precipitation and rain as the warm front caused numerous showers. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.17 in. statewide, 0.13 in. above normal.

Above normal temperatures with above normal precipitation was experienced the second week of December. Temperatures approached 70 degrees for many locations on Tuesday. By Thursday temperatures for many locations had returned to seasonal normal but continued a downward trend into the weekend when a winter storm moved through the Ohio River valley. Temperatures for the period averaged 44 degrees across the state, which were 8 degrees above normal and 7 degrees warmer than the previous week. Precipitation for the week totaled 3.71 in. statewide, 2.75 in. above normal. Since the first of December some western and central locations had received nearly 10 in. of rainfall.

The third week of December experienced above normal temperatures and near normal rainfall. Early in the week seasonal temperatures warmed into the low 50s by mid-week. Slightly warmer conditions finished up the week. Temperatures for the week averaged 40 degrees across the state, which were 6 degrees above normal and 4 degrees cooler than the previous week. The week started off dry but turned wet by week's end. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.86 in. statewide which was normal.

Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation were experienced the fourth week of December. Temperatures the last week of 2007 started warmer than normal. Then seasonal temperatures continued through the weekend. Temperatures for the week averaged 38 degrees across the state, which were 4 degrees above normal and 2 degrees cooler than the previous week. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.70 in. statewide, which was 0.18 in. below normal.

During December farming activities moved indoors. With the excellent grain prices experienced this fall, farmers have been actively marketing their corn and soybeans. Tobacco producers continued to strip their burley tobacco as December rains made stripping favorable. Tobacco was delivered to Tobacco Contract Stations. Wet weather during December at times taxed operators that keep their cattle on pasture year round.