

January 5, 2009

KENTUCKY: December 2008 experienced near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation on average. However, active weather patterns occurred throughout the Bluegrass state resulting in wintry weather, wind advisories and fluctuating temperatures (record highs and extended spells of very cold temperatures). Wet conditions prevailed with the first two weeks seasonably cold and the later half of the month seasonably mild.

Temperatures for the period averaged 37 degrees across the state which was 0 degrees from normal. High temperatures averaged from 45 in the West to 46 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 28 degrees in the West to 29 degrees in the East. Precipitation for the period totaled 5.04 inches statewide which was 0.99 inches above normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 4.64 inches, Central 5.86 inches, Bluegrass 5.29 inches and East 4.37 inches, which was 0.37, 1.50, 1.66 and 0.45 inches respectively above normal.

Farmers were kept busy feeding and caring for their livestock as extended periods of cold weather caused stress to animals. Tobacco producers continued to strip their burley as December rains made conditions favorable. Wet weather improved soil moisture conditions which was beneficial for fall seeded small grain growth.