

February 2, 2009

**KENTUCKY:** The first week of January started off with above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall. Temperatures for the period averaged 37 degrees across the state which was 1 degree above normal. High temperatures averaged from 51 in the West to 50 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 30 degrees in the West to 31 degrees in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.27 inches statewide which was 0.67 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 0.06 inches, Central 0.11 inches, Bluegrass 0.46 inches and East 0.42 inches, which was 0.91, 0.89, 0.46 and 0.46 inches respectively below normal.

Above normal temperatures and rainfall were experienced the second week of January. Wet conditions continued as Kentucky received above normal rainfall for the fourth week out of the past five. After experiencing consistently below average temperatures in late fall, the Bluegrass State welcomed warmer weather. Temperatures were above average for the fourth straight week. Temperatures for the period averaged 36 degrees across the state which was 4 degrees above normal. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.97 inches statewide which was 0.99 inches above normal.

For the third week of January, the recent warming trend came to an end as temperatures and precipitation were both below normal. Some of the coldest temperatures of the past few winters invaded the Bluegrass State as arctic air moved south into the Ohio Valley accompanied by scattered snow flurries. Total precipitation was limited however. Temperatures for the period averaged 24 degrees across the state which was 7 degrees below normal and 12 degrees colder than the previous week. Precipitation for the period totaled 0.03 inches statewide which was 0.69 inches below normal.

Below normal temperatures and rainfall continued during the fourth week of January. The dry trend continued as the Commonwealth received below normal rainfall for the third time in four weeks. Temperatures for the period averaged 29 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees below normal. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.07 inches statewide which was 0.85 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 0.02 inches, Central 0.07 inches, Bluegrass 0.07 inches and East 0.10 inches, which was 0.97, 0.91, 0.74 and 0.79 inches respectively below normal.

Kentucky was hit by a winter storm during the last week of January that blanketed the state with a mixture of freezing rain, snow and sleet. The combination of wintry precipitation led to above normal rainfall totals for the first time in three weeks. Temperatures remained cold in the Bluegrass State as below normal values were reported for the third straight week. Temperatures for the period averaged 28 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees below normal. Rainfall for the period totaled 2.81 inches statewide which was 2.09 inches above normal.

Farmers were kept busy tending to their livestock as the winter storm and periods of cold weather caused stress to animals. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state. Fall seeded grains remained in good condition.