

March 30, 2009

KENTUCKY: The first week of March was very dry for the majority of the Commonwealth with many locations receiving zero rainfall. Rainfall was below normal for the 4th time in the past 5 weeks as the dry trend continued. Temperatures during the period were above normal as southerly winds ushered in warm, humid air for much of the period. Late in the week, temperatures reached 80 degrees in some locations. Temperatures for the period averaged 47 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees above normal and 9 degrees above the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 59 in the West to 56 in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.08 inches statewide which was 0.95 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 0.18 inches, Central 0.00 inches, Bluegrass 0.00 inches and East 0.06 inches, which was 0.94, 1.19, 1.00 and 1.00 inches respectively below normal.

The second week of March experienced above normal rainfall and temperatures. Multiple weather systems moved through the state bringing showers and a few thunderstorms. Some locations in the southeastern part of the state received over two and a half inches of rain while northern portions of the Bluegrass State received under a quarter of an inch. Temperatures during the period remained mild with above normal values being reported for the 2nd straight week. Temperatures for the period averaged 45 degrees across the state which was 1 degree above normal and 2 degrees below the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 57 in the West to 55 in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.40 inches statewide which was 0.48 inches above normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 1.21 inches, Central 1.61 inches, Bluegrass 0.88 inches and East 1.75 inches, which was 0.30, 0.63, 0.00 and 0.84 inches respectively above normal.

Relatively warm and dry conditions continued during the third week of March. The Commonwealth received below normal rainfall for the 5th week out of the past 7. Southeastern portions of the state continued to receive the majority of the total rainfall. Temperatures continued to be mild as above normal values were reported, although low temperatures did drop down to frost/freeze levels late in the week. Temperatures for the period averaged 50 degrees across the state which was 3 degrees above normal and 5 degrees above the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 65 in the West to 61 in the East. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.22 inches statewide which was 0.89 inches below normal. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 0.04 inches, Central 0.06 inches, Bluegrass 0.28 inches and East 0.43 inches, which was 1.06, 1.13, 0.79 and 0.65 inches respectively below normal.

The last week of March was a much needed wet week with some locations receiving well over 2 inches of rainfall. Temperatures remained above normal for the 4th straight week, but lows did drop to frost/freeze levels during the evening of March 29th. Temperatures for the period averaged 55 degrees across the state which was 6 degrees above normal and 5 degrees above the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 65 in the West to 63 in the East. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 1.97 inches, Central 1.67 inches, Bluegrass 1.40 inches and East 1.66 inches, which was 0.96, 0.76, 0.61 and 0.83 inches respectively above normal.