

January 30, 2012

KENTUCKY: The first week of January experienced above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall. The mostly mild weather continued from the previous 3 weeks of very mild winter conditions. But, unlike previous weeks, there was very little rainfall for the Bluegrass state. Temperatures for the period averaged 38 degrees across the state which was 4 degrees warmer than normal and 4 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 50 in the West to 46 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 30 degrees in the West to 27 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.01 inches statewide which was 0.88 inches below normal and 1% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.00 inches, Central 0.01 inches, Bluegrass 0.01 inches and East 0.03 inches, which was 0.93, 0.95, 0.75 and 0.88 inches below normal.

While average temperatures were above normal during the second week of January, Kentucky experienced some of the coldest temperatures so far this year. Also, a couple of snow events occurred. The most significant was an Alberta Clipper that moved through on Saturday, January 14, and brought a swath of snow to central and eastern Kentucky. Most of the snowfall occurred in about a 5 hour window and 1 to 3 inches was typical with localized amounts of 2 to 4 inches in south-central and eastern Kentucky. Temperatures for the period averaged 35 degrees across the state which was 2 degrees warmer than normal and 2 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 45 in the West to 42 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 27 degrees in the West to 28 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.09 inches statewide which was 0.22 inches above normal and 125% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.87 inches, Central 1.24 inches, Bluegrass 1.01 inches and East 1.24 inches, which was -0.04, 0.31, 0.26 and 0.34 inches respectively from normal.

The third week of January saw temperatures go up and down several times during the week with above normal rainfall. The week started off mild and wet, transitioned to cold and dry then finished the weekend mild. Eastern and east-central section received most of the rainfall last week. Temperatures for the period averaged 39 degrees across the state which was 6 degrees warmer than normal and 4 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 49 in the West to 48 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 31 degrees in the West to 31 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.93 inches statewide which was 0.1 inches above normal and 112% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.47 inches, Central 0.95 inches, Bluegrass 1.01 inches and East 1.29 inches, which was -0.41, 0.07, 0.29 and 0.44 inches respectively from normal.

Weather conditions for the last week of January continued to be mild and wet. The first half of the workweek was very mild with cooler temperatures toward the weekend. Measureable rainfall occurred 5 out

of 7 days last. The mild conditions continued from the previous week with temperatures into or near the 60s at least twice during the week. Temperatures for the period averaged 42 degrees across the state which was 9 degrees warmer than normal and 4 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 48 in the West to 54 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 35 degrees in the West to 35 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.69 inches statewide which was 0.91 inches above normal and 217% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 1.73 inches, Central 1.91 inches, Bluegrass 1.86 inches and East 1.27 inches, which was 0.9, 1.08, 1.18 and 0.49 inches above normal.

Farmers were kept busy tending to their livestock, but mild temperatures were favorable to their condition. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state.