

January 31, 2000

KENTUCKY: January began warm and wet with rainfall helping restore short stock water and ground moisture supplies statewide. Temperatures remained above normal until mid-month with a return of drier conditions. Above normal temperatures benefitted fall seeded small grain growth and limited livestock stress. The mild weather across the Commonwealth came to an end at mid-month, as very cold air and repeated snowfall events dominated the weather picture through the month's end. Farmers were left dealing with frozen stock water ponds and ice as they cared for their livestock. Light snowfall provided winter wheat some protection from the continued colder temperatures. Tobacco markets reopened after the holiday recess with a continuation of large volumes going to the Pool. Sales were lighter with 2 out of 24 markets closing for the season at month's end. Kentucky burley gross sales volume through 1/30 was 361.9 million lbs., avg. price \$190.29. The Burley Cooperatives received 35.7 percent of the gross sales so far this season.