

February 28, 2000

**KENTUCKY:** The first full week of February 2000 continued the below normal temperatures and precipitation from the final weeks of January. Snowfall, mainly 1 to 3 inches with localized heavy snowfall in the Southeast along the Virginia border slowed farm activities. Widespread rainfall occurred during the next two weeks of February with northern and western locations receiving heavy downpours. The heavy rains brought muddy field conditions and caused flash flooding and flooding of low lying farm land. Temperatures were generally 6 to 9 degrees above normal causing winter wheat to show some growth by months' end. The month ended with continued warm temperatures reaching into the 70's and generally light scattered showers that continued to help moisture levels recover from the previous year's drought conditions. Burley Tobacco markets held sales through the months' end with clean-up sales scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup>. Kentucky gross sales totaled 409.3 million pounds and averaged \$189.96 per hundred pounds through February 25<sup>th</sup>, with 46% of net sales going to the coop pool. Pasture conditions were generally fair to good with most producers continuing to feed extra grain and hay. Cattle were in mostly good condition due to the mild weather conditions.