

February 5, 2001

**KENTUCKY:** The new year started out very cold, dry with temperatures 4 degrees below normal. Mild temperatures compared to December finally melted the snowcover in state, provided a January thaw at mid-month with temperatures several degrees above normal. Seasonal temperatures and snowfall returned as a mid-winter snowstorm provided from 1 inch in the west, up to 6 inches in north, eastern locations. The month ended with temperatures and precipitation slightly below normal. Despite generally below normal precipitation soil moisture remains adequate. Livestock producers continued to deal with frozen stockwater supplies, mildly muddy conditions. Livestock remain in mostly good condition with adequate hay, feed supplies. Tobacco markets reopened after the holiday recess with modest sales volumes. Sales were lighter with 4 out of 23 markets closing for the season at months end. State burley gross auction sales volume through 2/1 was 160.6 million lbs. avg. price \$196.27. Tobacco contracted directly from the producer for the burley belt amounted to 83.3 million lbs. and averaged \$198.41.