

March 30, 2001

KENTUCKY: March began with below average temperatures and moderate rain which kept soil moisture adequate to surplus. Warmer temperatures before mid-month stimulated early growth of pastures and winter wheat and light scattered showers helped maintain adequate soil moisture. A series of below freezing cold fronts crossed the State during the last two weeks bringing periods of below normal temperatures followed by showers and slightly warmer temperatures. Weather conditions allowed farmers to spread lime, fertilize small grains, mend fences and prepare machinery for spring planting. Farmers continued to tend to livestock, providing hay as cool temperatures limited early spring pasture growth. Cattle remained in fair to mostly good condition. Tobacco growers prepared the ground and began seeding traditional plant beds while greenhouse growers prepared to seed flats for float bed produced tobacco plants.