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KENTUCKY WEEKLY CROP & WEATHER REPORT

Prepared in Cooperation with:
Univ. of Ky - Agr'l Weather Center
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Cooperative Extension Service

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Issued 4:00 P.M., May 27, 2003 JAO 9-03

AGRICULTURAL NEWS: Farmers were anxious to get into their fields as the wet weather continued to put them behind schedule. Temperatures for the period averaged 62 degrees, 6 degrees below normal and 3 degrees cooler than the previous week. Rainfall totaled 0.78 inches statewide, which was 0.28 inches below normal. The main farming activities included cutting hay, equipment maintenance, and field preparation where possible. **Topsoil moisture**, as of Friday, May 23, was rated 34 percent adequate and 66 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture**, was rated 54 percent adequate, and 46 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 1.9 out of a possible 7 days.

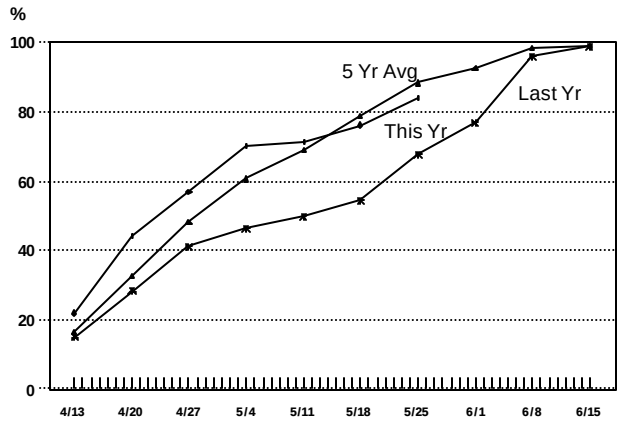
SMALL GRAINS: As of Friday, May 23, wheat condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Farmers continued to report increased grain lodging and disease due to the wet weather. The earliest date farmers expect wheat harvest to begin is June 16th. Harvest of the barley crop is expected to begin around June 4th.

TOBACCO: Farmers were setting their burley and dark tobacco as soil conditions permitted. As of Sunday, May 25, burley tobacco set was 24 percent, 4 percent behind the previous year, and 17 percent behind average. Dark tobacco was 28 percent set, 4 percent ahead of the previous year, and 16 percent behind average. Condition of the set tobacco crop was 5 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Some farmers are still having to mow their tobacco transplants due to its height and their inability to set plants.

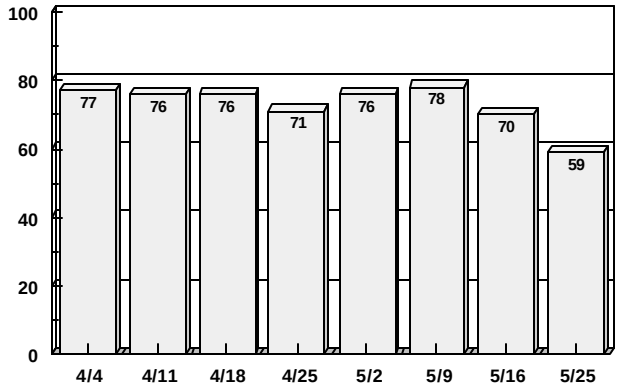
CORN AND SOYBEANS: Planting progress continued to be hampered last week by rainfall and flooded field conditions. As of Sunday, May 25, farmers had planted 84 percent of their intended corn acreage, 16 percent ahead of last year, and 4 percent behind average. Emerged corn was 76 percent, compared to 57 percent last year and the five year average of 76 percent. Average emerged corn height was 11 inches with the most advanced fields 18 inches tall. As of Friday, the corn emerged condition rated 1 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 40 percent good and 17 percent excellent. Soybeans were 15 percent planted, 1 percent ahead of last year, and 24 percent behind average. Eight percent of the crop had emerged.

OTHER CROPS: Farmers continued to be unable to harvest hay due to excess moisture. Hay crop condition was 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 26 percent excellent. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 31 percent excellent. Grain sorghum was 9 percent planted, compared to 14 percent last year, and the five year average of 40 percent.

CORN PLANTING PROGRESS



WHEAT CONDITION
% Good to Excellent



KENTUCKY CROP PROGRESS

WEEK ENDING MAY 25, 2003
WITH COMPARISONS

Crop Stage	This Week	Previous Year	5-Yr. Avg.	Previous Week KY	Previous Week U.S.
	Percentage				
Corn					
Planted	84	68	88	76	77
Emerged	76	57	76	67	43
Soybeans					
Planted	15	14	39	11	25
Emerged	8	6	25	0	9
Sorghum					
Planted	9	14	40	7	31
Burley Tobacco Set	24	28	41	12	NA
Dark Tobacco Set	28	24	44	11	NA

(NA) Data Not Available.

SOIL MOISTURE

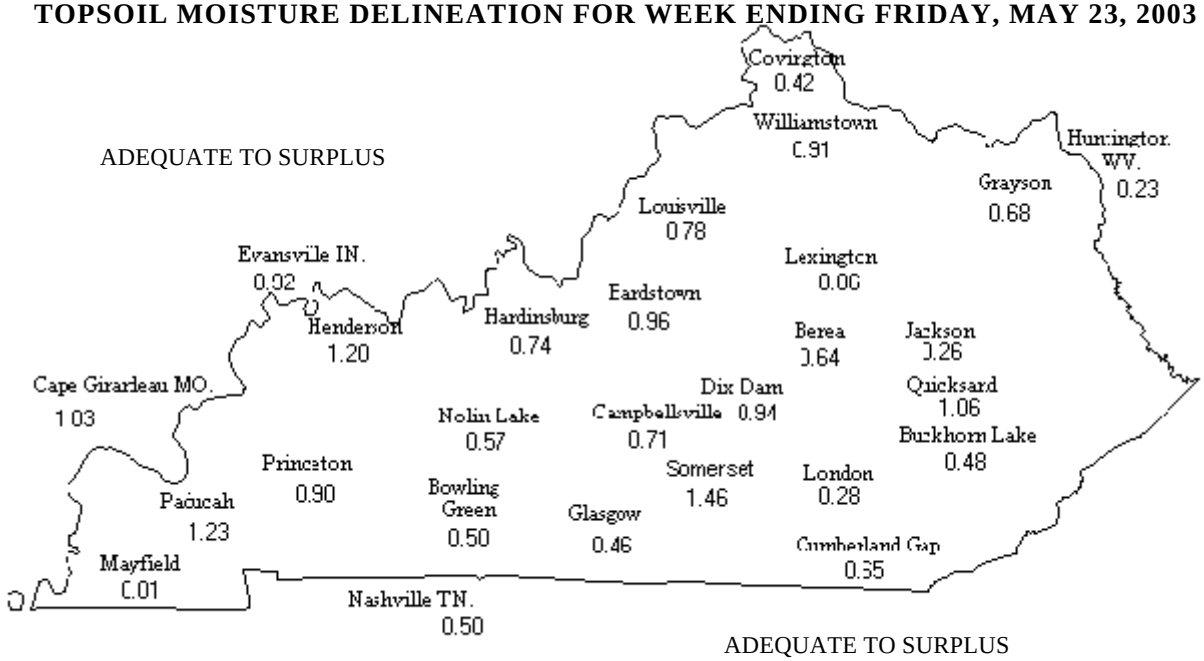
WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 2003
WITH COMPARISONS

	This Week	Previous Week
	Percentage	
TOPSOIL		
Very Short	0	0
Short	0	0
Adequate	34	38
Surplus	66	62
SUBSOIL		
Very Short	0	0
Short	0	1
Adequate	54	49
Surplus	46	50

KENTUCKY CROP CONDITIONS (Percent)

CROP	WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 2003 VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL-LENT	WEEK ENDING MAY 16, 2003 VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL-LENT
Corn Emerged	1	10	32	40	17	2	10	33	40	15
Wheat	1	9	31	39	20	1	7	22	45	25
Pasture	1	2	13	53	31	0	3	14	52	31
Hay Crops	1	5	20	48	26	1	3	18	53	25
Tobacco Set	5	2	27	50	16	0	4	29	56	11

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 25, 7:00 P.M.
TOPSOIL MOISTURE DELINEATION FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2003



KENTUCKY WEATHER SUMMARY, MAY 19 - 25, 2003:

BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES AND BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL:

Temperatures for the period averaged 62 degrees across the State which was 6 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged from 71 in the West to 69 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 11 degrees below normal in the West to 8 degrees below normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 54 degrees in the West to 55 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 4 degrees below normal in the West to 2 degrees below normal in the East.

Rainfall for the period totaled 0.78 inches statewide which was 0.28 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 1.01 inches, Central 0.67 inches, Bluegrass 0.80 inches and East 0.64 inches, which was 0.10, 0.44, 0.22 and 0.37 inches respectively below normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.23 inches at Huntington to a high of 1.46 inches at Somerset.

Tom Priddy

KENTUCKY TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL

FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 25, 7:00 P.M.

	Rainfall			Deviation From		Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days		
Weather Station	Last Week	Since April 1	Last Four Wks	Norm Since Apr. 1	Norm Last 4 Wks	High	Low	Wkly. Avg.	Dev. From Norm	Last Week	Since Apr. 1	Dev. Since Apr. 1
	(Inches)					(Degrees Fahrenheit)						
Bardstown	0.96	13.34	7.61	+5.86	+3.62	73	45	61.2	-7	80	711	+36
Berea	0.64	10.47	6.22	+2.33	+1.91	78	45	64.1	-3	100	762	+62
Bowling Green	0.50	10.47	5.24	+2.17	+0.82	78	47	62.7	-5	89	781	+81
Bristol	0.88	11.44	5.16	+4.99	+1.68	77	49	64.2	-3	98	669	+49
Buckhorn Lake	0.48	11.26	5.20	+4.20	+1.51	73	50	62.6	-5	86	712	+92
Cape Girardeau	1.03	13.17	9.59	+4.55	+4.96	80	45	62.5	-8	89	735	+10
Campbellsville	0.71	10.53	5.42	+1.60	+0.76	78	45	63.7	-4	98	808	+108
Covington	0.42	8.40	6.53	+1.20	+2.70	77	40	60.4	-7	76	593	+3
Cumberland Gap	0.65	12.61	5.34	+4.65	+1.05	75	52	63.4	-4	92	713	+93
Dix Dam	0.94	12.25	7.67	+4.21	+3.43	74	44	61.6	-6	84	723	+48
Evansville	0.92	9.69	6.06	+1.84	+1.83	75	47	61.1	-9	79	675	+5
Glasgow	0.46	10.24	5.27	+1.61	+0.73	81	45	65.1	-3	107	845	+205
Grayson	0.68	12.51	8.72	+5.44	+4.92	74	47	60.5	-7	73	676	+111
Hardinsburg	0.74	12.67	7.18	+4.43	+2.82	77	47	61.1	-7	80	736	+36
Henderson	1.20	11.80	7.34	+3.87	+3.24	76	47	62.1	-8	86	732	+32
Huntington	0.23	12.65	8.87	+5.61	+5.07	79	47	61.3	-6	80	666	+46
Jackson	0.26	9.64	4.55	+1.93	+0.53	78	50	61.4	-6	78	674	+54
Lexington	0.86	12.10	8.31	+4.62	+4.32	79	44	61.9	-5	85	652	+62
London	0.28	11.89	5.82	+4.53	+1.99	77	46	62.4	-5	86	691	+71
Louisville	0.78	13.56	7.50	+5.60	+3.35	79	47	61.8	-6	83	692	+22
Mayfield	0.01	8.86	3.79	-0.23	-0.76	75	47	62.4	-8	86	709	-46
Nashville	0.50	11.18	6.49	+2.87	+2.12	76	52	63.8	-4	95	815	+60
Nolin Lake	0.57	11.59	6.02	+2.64	+1.15	74	47	62.1	-6	86	784	+109
Paducah	1.23	12.17	7.21	+3.18	+2.73	78	48	63.5	-7	94	772	+47
Princeton	0.90	11.55	6.04	+2.75	+1.56	76	46	63.4	-7	95	795	+65
Quicksand	1.06	11.22	6.26	+3.51	+2.24	73	50	62.7	-4	87	728	+108
Somerset	1.46	11.78	5.49	+3.34	+0.97	76	45	62.9	-4	93	749	+74
Spindletop	1.05	9.37	6.36	+1.89	+2.37	72	45	59.5	-8	67	627	+37
Williamstown	0.91	8.16	5.80	+0.45	+1.83	78	42	62.5	-5	90	689	+99

The above information is provided by Tom Priddy, Kentucky Extension Agricultural Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agr'l Weather Center
(859)257-3000 ext 245. E-mail: priddy@uky.edu Additional Ky weather data available on Internet at: http://wwwagwx.ca.uky.edu/

A GUIDE TO GROWING DEGREE DAYS

For the 2003 growing season, the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the National Weather Service will provide weekly accumulated growing degree days (GDD) data.

These GDD are calculated according to the definition:

$$GDD = \frac{\text{Daily Max } (\leq 86^\circ F) + \text{Daily Min } (\geq 50^\circ F)}{2} - 50^\circ F$$

Maximum temperatures above 86°F are entered as 86° and minima below 50° are entered as 50°. This modification is designed to take into account the differing response of plants to quite high or quite low temperatures. There are several methods of calculating GDD, but the above formula is most widely accepted. This adjusted 50°F method of calculating GDD has been adopted by the Hybrid Seed Corn Industry as a basis for a uniform maturity rating system.

At 50°F corn grows hardly at all. As the temperature rises up to the range of 80° to 86°F, corn grows faster if moisture is adequate. When the temperature rises above 86°F the roots have increasing difficulty taking in water fast enough to keep plant cells turgid (full of water) and working at top speed. When soil moisture is short, the optimum temperature is less than 80°F. With perfect moisture supply the optimum temperature is likely 90° to 95°F.

The concept of growing degree days is still under study and refinement. In its short existence growing degree days has proven to be a much better gauge for rating corn maturity than the old "days of maturity" rating. The use and importance of GDD will improve as information is collected over the years.

Corn Percent Planted

State	May 18 2003	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
CO	70	43	80	80
IL	79	73	51	79
IN	61	58	13	70
IA	79	64	93	90
KS	90	80	93	91
KY	**76**	**71**	**54**	**79**
MI	39	35	50	71
MN	91	85	88	88
MO	81	71	78	80
NE	77	46	91	89
NC	92	82	99	94
ND	68	58	68	64
OH	86	86	21	70
PA	55	41	55	62
SD	69	47	77	67
TN	90	86	95	94
TX	98	92	98	95
WI	61	42	53	74
ALL	77	64	70	81

These 18 States planted 92% of last year's corn acreage.

Soybean Percent Planted

State	May 18 2003	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg.
AR	35	31	31	35
IL	21	10	10	43
IN	25	21	4	50
IA	19	6	51	54
KS	25	13	25	39
KY	**11**	**6**	**5**	**25**
LA	39	36	42	63
MI	11	8	23	39
MN	40	24	48	55
MS	78	73	71	73
MO	19	8	17	31
NE	22	6	41	46
NC	18	7	35	23
ND	18	10	30	28
OH	46	46	7	52
SD	15	7	26	28
TN	9	4	19	20
WI	20	8	27	36
ALL	25	16	28	44

These 18 States planted 96% of last year's soybean acreage.

This release and others can be viewed on the Internet at **http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky/** For a free E-Mail subscription of the Kentucky Weekly Crop & Weather report, send an E-Mail message to **nass-state-releases@news.usda.gov** with the following command in the body of the message: **subscribe ky-crop-weather <e-mail address>.** The E-Mail address is optional; leave the address blank unless subscribing for someone else. The default address is where you sent the message from. You would unsubscribe in a similar way but use the word unsubscribe.