

AGRICULTURAL NEWS: March ended with very warm temperatures for the state. Temperatures averaged 8 degrees above normal. Rainfall was normal across the state except for the Western portion where the week ended wet. **Topsoil moisture**, as of Friday, April 2 was rated 10 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture**, was rated 10 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. **Days suitable for fieldwork** averaged 3.7 out of a possible 6 days. Primary farming activities included completing fertilization of winter wheat, seeding of traditional and greenhouse tobacco beds, plowing and preparing fields, and general repairs to machinery and fencing. Corn planting has begun in the western areas of the state.

TOBACCO: Seeding was 72 percent complete by Sunday, April 4. This compares with 51 percent in 1998, and 55 percent for the five year average. Kentucky burley gross sales through March totaled 638.6 million pounds and averaged \$190.25 per hundred pounds.

SMALL GRAINS & LEGUMES: A relatively mild winter helped keep Kentucky's winter wheat crop in mostly good to excellent condition. Producers report about 2 percent of wheat acreage lost due to winter kill. As of Sunday April, 4 wheat condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. About 1 percent of barley acreage was lost due to winter kill. Barley was rated 21 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Losses to alfalfa and red clover stands averaged 4 percent and 6 percent respectively.

PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK: Pasture condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Approximately 27 percent of the current roughage requirements for livestock are being met from pastures. About 79 percent of the State's farms with livestock currently have animals on winter feed. Hay supplies are holding well and are in surplus in Eastern counties with some farmers reporting hay for sale.

MARCH 1, 1999 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS-PLANTED ACRES, KENTUCKY & UNITED STATES

CROPS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	1998	Ind. 1999	1999 % of 1998	1998	Ind. 1999	1999 % of 1998
	(Thousand Acres)		Percent	(Thousand Acres)		Percent
All Tobacco <u>1/</u>	231.4	211.8	92	726.9	647.9	89
Burley Tobacco <u>1/</u>	220.0	200.0	91	315.4	289.8	92
Corn	1,300	1,350	104	80,187	78,219	98
Soybeans	1,220	1,170	96	72,375	73,105	101
All Sorghum	10	7	70	9,626	8,804	91
All Wheat <u>2/</u>	750	650	87	65,871	63,029	96
All Hay <u>1/</u>	2,350	2,400	102	60,016	60,093	100
Barley <u>2/</u>	8	9	113	6,340	5,274	83

1/ Harvested acreage. 2/ Includes acreage planted preceding fall.

KENTUCKY CROP PROGRESS
WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 1999
WITH COMPARISONS

Crop Stage	This Week	Previous Year	5-Yr. Avg.	Previous Week	
				KY	U.S.
Percentage					
Tobacco Beds Seeded	72	51	55	NA	NA

(NA) Data Not Available

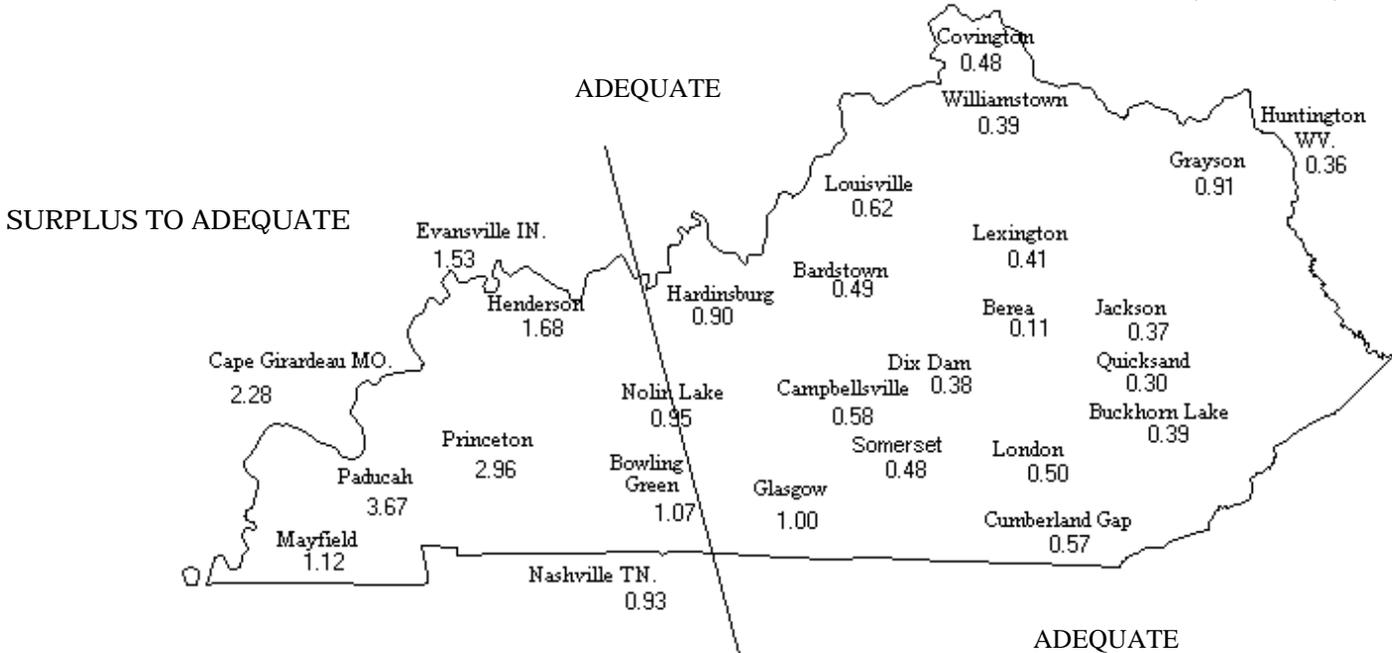
SOIL MOISTURE
WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 1999
WITH COMPARISONS

	This Week	Previous Week
TOPSOIL		
Very Short	0	NA
Short	10	NA
Adequate	71	NA
Surplus	19	NA
SUBSOIL		
Very Short	0	NA
Short	10	NA
Adequate	72	NA
Surplus	18	NA

KENTUCKY CROP CONDITIONS (Percent)

CROP	WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 1999					WEEK ENDING MARCH 26, 1999				
	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Wheat	0	1	20	63	16	No Survey Conducted				
Barley	0	0	21	69	10					
Pasture	2	14	38	38	8					

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 7:00 P.M.
TOPSOIL MOISTURE DELINEATION FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1999



KENTUCKY WEATHER SUMMARY, MARCH 29 - APRIL 4, 1999:

Very Warm and with Near Normal Rainfall except Wet for Western sections of the Commonwealth:

Temperatures for this past week averaged 59 degrees across the state which was 8 degrees ABOVE NORMAL and 16 degrees warmer than the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 71 in the West to 70 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 4 degrees ABOVE NORMAL in the West to 9 degrees ABOVE NORMAL in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 50 degrees in the West to 46 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 9 degrees ABOVE NORMAL in the West to 7 degrees ABOVE NORMAL in the East. Extreme high temperatures were near 80 degrees and extreme low temperatures were in the low to mid 30's. By week's end soil temperatures at a depth of 4 inches under a grass cover averaged in the low to mid 50's. Alfalfa weevil degree day (AWDD's) accumulations ranged from 171 at Covington to 393 AWDD's at Princeton.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the week totaled 0.97 inches statewide which was NEAR NORMAL (-0.03 inches). No snowfall was reported this past week. Rainfall totals by climate division, West 2.21 inches, Central 0.84 inches, Bluegrass 0.36 inches and East 0.48 inches, which was +1.11, -0.19, -0.60 and -0.45 inches respectively from normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.11 inches at Berea to a high of 3.67 inches at Paducah.

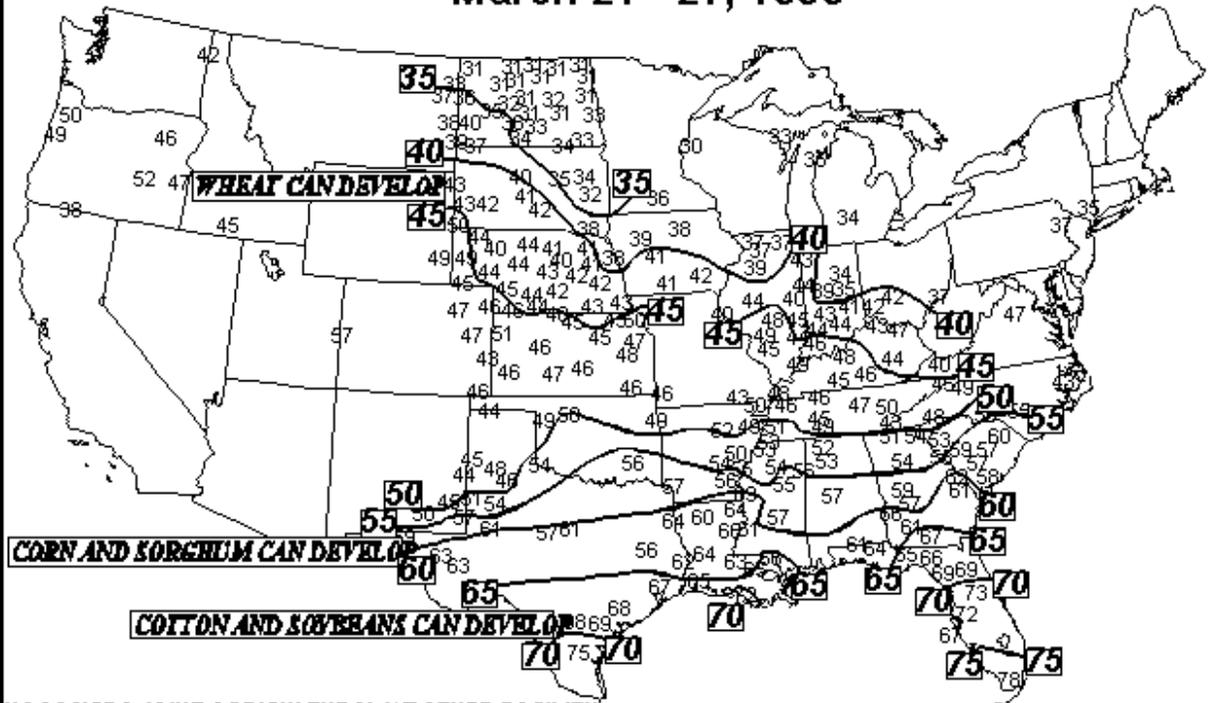
Tom Priddy

KENTUCKY TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 7:00 P.M.

Weather Station	Precipitation		Deviation From Normal Since Jan. 1	Temperatures					Air Temp.
	Last Week	Since Jan 1		Soil 4 In. Grass High	Soil 4 In. Grass Low	Air High	Air Low	Wkly. Avg	Deviation From Normal
	(Inches)			(Degrees Fahrenheit)					
Bardstown	0.49	12.93	+1.94	58	45	74	35	58.3	+7
Berea	0.11	8.07	-2.55	61	45	80	34	59.9	+10
Bowling Green	1.07	14.92	+1.29	--	--	80	35	58.6	+7
Bristol	0.44	10.36	-0.45	--	--	80	30	56.4	+7
Buckhorn Lake	0.39	10.61	-1.36	--	--	79	29	56.8	+7
Cape Girardeau	2.28	17.03	+5.19	--	--	78	34	60.3	+7
Campbellsville	0.58	13.94	+0.78	57	46	80	34	58.9	+8
Covington	0.48	10.76	+0.74	--	--	72	31	57.0	+7
Cumberland Gap	0.57	12.08	-1.84	59	46	82	32	57.9	+8
Dix Dam	0.38	10.42	-0.86	--	--	76	34	58.6	+9
Evansville	1.53	13.40	+2.37	--	--	77	34	57.6	+4
Glasgow	1.00	17.48	+3.76	55	46	84	36	62.0	+11
Grayson	0.91	12.59	+2.95	59	46	77	34	58.6	+9
Hardinsburg	0.90	15.78	+3.24	61	47	76	36	59.1	+8
Henderson	1.68	10.53	-0.92	61	48	78	37	59.9	+6
Huntington	0.36	12.51	+2.92	--	--	82	33	58.2	+8
Jackson	0.37	12.89	+1.11	--	--	79	41	60.1	+10
Lexington	0.41	12.07	+1.08	--	--	72	33	57.7	+8
London	0.50	12.60	+0.58	--	--	82	32	58.1	+8
Louisville	0.62	13.50	+2.12	--	--	74	36	58.1	+7
Mayfield	1.12	13.39	-1.06	60	48	77	36	60.0	+6
Nashville	0.93	16.11	+3.27	--	--	85	38	61.2	+10
Nolin Lake	0.95	15.36	+2.74	--	--	77	35	58.5	+7
Paducah	3.67	14.48	+1.72	59	47	80	28	60.7	+7
Princeton	2.96	17.58	+3.77	62	50	80	40	62.4	+9
Quicksand	0.30	10.62	-1.16	58	46	79	28	55.6	+6
Somerset	0.48	14.67	+2.00	51	47	79	31	57.1	+7
Spindletop	0.39	11.45	+0.46	61	45	73	35	57.4	+8
Williamstown	0.39	11.55	+0.99	60	42	70	39	58.0	+8

The above information is provided by Tom Priddy, Kentucky Extension Agricultural Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agr'l Weather Center (606)257-3000 ext 245. E-mail: tpriddy@ca.uky.edu Additional Ky weather data available on Internet at: <http://www.wagwx.ca.uky.edu/>

Average Soil Temperature (°F 4-Inch Bare) March 21 - 27, 1999



NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data