

Crop Production, 2002

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2002 Crop Summary: The average high temperature for January was 43.4 degrees, which was above normal. The average low temperature was 26 degrees which was also above normal. The average monthly temperature was 34.7 degrees. The highest temperature recorded for the month was in the high 60's on the 29th. The lowest was around 10 degrees which occurred on the 20th of the month. There were about 8 to 10 days with measurable precipitation in January. The majority of the precipitation occurred on the 6th of the month. Total precipitation for the month was from 1.30 to 3.20 inches which varied from county to county. The total precipitation for the year was slightly below normal. The average monthly measurable snowfall was 12.2 inches, however seasonal snowfall amounts were still below normal.

During February the average high temperature was 46.6 degrees which was above normal. The average low temperature was 26.4 degrees which was also above normal. The average monthly temperature was 36.5 degrees. The highest temperature of the month was in the mid 60's on the 20th. The lowest occurred on the 14th at 13 degrees. There were 6 to 8 days of measurable precipitation in February, with the majority occurring on the 10th. Most counties remained under a drought emergency or warning status, based on stream flow, ground water and long term precipitation conditions. Snowfall was just a trace for the month.

During March many areas of the state received generous amounts of rain, however not enough to cover the existing drought conditions. The states soil conditions remained short to mostly adequate for the month. The month of April started cold and rainy but ended with warm, favorable weather days. This led to a considerable improvement in pasture and wheat crop conditions. The month of May brought more precipitation and encouraged crop conditions, however many still remained behind the 5-year average. Scattered thunderstorms hindered progress in the field the first week of June, but corn and soybean condition remained good. Above normal temperatures, sunshine and humidity bolstered plant growth in row crops, hay and pasture and ripening and maturation in the small grain crops at the end of the month. Barley harvest was halfway complete heading in to the month of July.

July was a considerably drier month then June was with little precipitation received to help crop condition. Field crops were showing the stress effects of the absence of moisture combined with the warm temperatures. Wheat harvest started in early July and was complete by the first part of August. Crop conditions continued to decline as August started as little to no precipitation was received over the month. Despite the lack of precipitation corn development accelerated. Corn height was 72 inches, 6 inches above the 5-year average. Potato harvest started the second week of August and continued through October. Tobacco harvest also started and continued through

the end of September. Corn silage harvest started early in August and reminded well ahead of the average until completion the end of October. Corn harvest was well ahead of the average until completion in November. Soybean harvest started the beginning of October and was completed by the end of November despite the increase in snowfall and precipitation.

Small Grains: Production of winter wheat was 9,990,000 bushels, 20 percent above last year. Acreage harvested was 185,000 acres in 2002, 25,000 more than 2001. Yields were 54 bushels per acre, compared to 52 bushels per acre in 2001. Oats production was 7,015,000 bushels, down 6 percent from last year. Oats acres for harvest was 115,000 in 2002, remaining steady from 2001. Oat yields were 61 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from 2001. Barley production for 2002 was 4,440,000 bushels, up 6 percent. Acreage harvested was 60,000, steady from 2001. Barley yield was 74 bushels per acre.

Hay: Production of all hay in 2002 was 3,560,000 tons, 4 percent above 2001. Total acres harvested was 1,800,000, up 150,000 from 2001. Yield was 1.98 tons per acre, down from 2.08 tons in 2001. Alfalfa hay production was 1,768,000 tons, 6 percent above 2001's production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 680,000, up 10,000 from 2001. Yield was 2.60 tons per acre, up from 2.50 in 2001. Other hay production was 1,792,000 tons, up 2 percent from the 1,764,000 tons produced in 2001. Other hay acreage harvested was 1,120,000, up 140,000 from 2001. Yields of 1.6 tons per acre were down 11 percent from 2001. Haylage production for 2002 was 2,455,000 tons. Haylage harvested acreage was 500,000 with an average yield of 4.91 tons per acre.

Row Crops: Corn for grain production was 59,160,000 bushels. Corn acres harvested for grain amounted to 870,000 acres, down 12 percent. Yield was 68 bushels per acre, down 30 bushels from 2001. Corn silage production was 6,440,000 tons, 1,400 tons below 2001. Acres harvested for silage totaled 560,000 acres, up 14 percent from last year. Average yield was 11.5 tons per acre, down 4.5 tons from last year. Soybean production for 2002 was 9,100,000 bushels, 34 percent less than 2001. Soybean acres harvested was 350,000, down 45,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre was 26 bushels, down 9 bushels from 2001. Potato production was 2,590,000 cwt., 18 percent less than 2001. Acres harvested increased 1,500 acres to 14,000. Yield decreased 50 cwt. to 185 cwt. per acre. Total production of tobacco was 6,815,000 lbs., up 11 percent from 2001. Total acres harvested was 3,400,300 more than last year. All tobacco yield was 2,004 lbs. per acre, up 15 pounds from last year.

