



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News (December): After a very cold November, Kentucky experienced above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation during the month of December. Dry conditions continued with the US Drought Monitor reintroducing abnormally dry conditions to portions of Western and Central Kentucky. Precipitation for the month averaged 3.05 inches, 1.40 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 2.61 inches, Central 2.95 inches, Bluegrass 3.31 inches and East 3.34 inches, which was 2.27, 1.87, 0.56 and 0.89 inches below normal respectively. Temperatures for the period averaged 40 degrees, 2 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged from 46 in the West to 47 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 35 degrees in the West to 34 degrees in the East.

Harvest of corn and soybeans is mostly complete, but some are waiting for a freeze to allow them to get back in the fields to finish up. Tobacco producers continued to strip their tobacco when conditions allowed. The amount of tobacco stripped was 77 percent. The condition of winter wheat was reported as 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Most producers feel hay supplies are adequate, however quality may not be the best due to rains which forced the first cutting of hay to be harvested well past maturity. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 13 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Livestock are in good condition due to a relatively mild December and plentiful forage supplies. The condition of livestock were reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.