



Crop Progress and Condition



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Agricultural News (March): The Bluegrass State experienced mixed weather conditions during the month of March. Both temperatures and precipitation have ranged from below to above normal. The first full week of March saw well below normal temperatures and much above normal precipitation. The second week brought spring like temperatures accompanied by excessive rainfall. The Commonwealth got a chance to dry out a little during the third week of March due to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The last full week of March ended with below normal temperatures and moisture. Wet conditions have put famers 10 days to 2 weeks behind schedule in many areas. Some bottom land is still flooded.

The large amount of snow received in February along with recent rains has created wet conditions which creates a challenge for producers to treat small grains for weeds. Famers have begun spreading fertilizer and spraying herbicides where conditions allowed. Overall, wheat and canola producers are optimistic about the 2015 crop. The condition of winter wheat was reported as 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Hay supplies continue to run tight due to the cold, snowy winter. Pastures have really started to green up and are growing well with the recent warmer weather. However, many producers are still feeding hay until pasture conditions show more improvement. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 11 percent very short, 31 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. At the end of February, 67 percent of supplies were rated as adequate to surplus, compared to 58 percent currently. Winter was rough on livestock with some losses reported during the February cold spell. However, livestock are recovering well due to warmer conditions. Livestock producers are making management decisions in terms of placements this spring. The condition of livestock were reported as 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

Burley growers are faced with the decision of whether to raise tobacco this year as the US Burley contract volume will be reduced significantly. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state. Farmers were busy performing routine equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season.