



# Crop Progress and Condition

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**Agricultural News (January):** Kentucky experienced mixed weather conditions for the month of January. Through the first third of the month, above normal temperatures were reported. Temperatures then turned cooler and the last two weeks were much below normal. Up until the third week of January, winter had produced very little in the way of snowfall. Two storm systems during the week brought significant accumulations to many areas of the state. The first system produced highest amounts of snow across the western half of the state with 1 to 4 inches. A major winter storm worked through the Bluegrass State later in the week. The entire state went under a Winter Storm Warning. Initially, freezing rain led to some ice accumulations across portions of southern Kentucky near the Tennessee border. As the day progressed, all precipitation transitioned to snow with moderate to heavy activity. Higher accumulations were seen across South-Central and Eastern Kentucky with a widespread swath of 12 to 18+ inches.

Temperatures for the period averaged 33 degrees across the state which was near normal. High temperatures averaged from 43 in the West to 42 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from near normal in the West to 2 degrees cooler than normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 26 degrees in the West to 24 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 1 degree warmer than normal in the West to 1 degree warmer than normal in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 2.02 inches statewide which was 1.71 inches below normal and 54% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 2.29 inches, Central 2.31 inches, Bluegrass 1.38 inches and East 2.09 inches, which was 1.64, 1.68, 1.84 and 1.7 inches below normal.

Tobacco producers continued to strip the remaining crop in the barn when conditions allowed. The amount of tobacco stripped was 95 percent. The condition of winter wheat was reported as 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

Most producers still feel hay supplies are adequate, however some producers are looking for additional supplies to finish out winter. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 13 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Livestock are generally in good body condition. However, the winter storm during the third week of the month was stressful. There were reports of livestock deaths as well as the loss of structures due to the storm. The condition of livestock were reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

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.