



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News (February): For the month of February, the Commonwealth saw near normal temperatures and above normal rainfall. The state saw an average of 4.86 inches for February, which was over an inch above normal. The month started out very active as a strong storm system pushed through the Lower Ohio Valley. Several lines of showers and storms led to some minor and short-lived flooding. Ahead of this system, temperatures soared into the upper 60s to low 70s in early February. Normal highs for this time of the year are only in the low to mid 40s. The 2nd week of the month brought a return to dry and much cooler temperatures. The state saw another significant winter storm on the 14th with totals ranging from 2 to 6+ inches across the area, with highest accumulations across the southern half of Kentucky. Activity then increased over the latter half of February with multiple rounds of widespread activity. Temperatures were up and down, but once again, the Bluegrass State saw temperatures rise into the 60s and 70s multiple times. This warm trend held true for much of this past winter. The last day of February signals the end of meteorological winter and based on preliminary data, the state was on average, 4 degrees above normal for the season. This would make the 2015-16 winter one of the warmest on record for the state of Kentucky.

Temperatures for the period averaged 39 degrees across the state which was 2 degrees warmer than normal. High temperatures averaged from 49 in the West to 46 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from near normal in the West to 3 degrees cooler than normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 32 degrees in the West to 32 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 3 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 7 degrees warmer than normal in the East. The extreme high temperature for the period was 76 at LOUISVILLE APT and the extreme low was 2 at PIKEVILLE 13S.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 4.86 inches statewide which was 1.2 inches above normal and 133% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 4.02 inches, Central 5.19 inches, Bluegrass 4.66 inches and East 5.56 inches, which was -0.06, 1.22, 1.49 and 2.12 inches respectively from normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 2.11 inches at POPLAR BLUFF ASOS to a high of 9.07 inches at OWINGSVILLE 4S.

Most tobacco producers have finished stripping their crop, but the remaining tobacco in the barns was being stripped as conditions allowed. The amount of tobacco stripped was 98 percent. Wheat producers are optimistic about the crop. The condition of winter wheat was reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

Hay supplies have tightened for some producers, but a relatively mild winter has helped most to have adequate stocks on hand. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 2 percent very short, 15 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. At the end of January, 86 percent of supplies were rated as adequate to surplus, compared to 83 percent currently. Livestock conditions have declined slightly from last month. Wet, muddy conditions for some producers have been stressful on livestock. The condition of livestock were reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 8 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.