



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News (January): Weather conditions were variable during January, with above normal temperatures and precipitation for the month. During the first week colder temperatures were experienced for most of the state, with 1 to 3 inches of snowfall and wind chills below zero in some areas. Following this cold spell, temperatures were abnormally higher with widespread rainfall. The month ended with temperatures declining more in line with seasonal averages.

Temperatures for the period averaged 42 degrees across the state which was 9 degrees warmer than normal. High temperatures averaged from 49 in the West to 49 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 6 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 5 degrees warmer than normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 36 degrees in the West to 36 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 11 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 13 degrees warmer than normal in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 4.04 inches statewide which was 0.54 inches above normal and 115% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 3.42 inches, Central 4.42 inches, Bluegrass 4.07 inches and East 4.24 inches, which was -0.26, 0.68, 1.05 and 0.68 inches respectively from normal.

Tobacco producers near completion on stripping tobacco. The amount of tobacco stripped was at 95 percent, consistent with the previous year. Winter wheat was rated in mostly good condition. The mild winter so far has allowed winter wheat to green-up early, with some farmers beginning nitrogen applications. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 3% very poor, 6% poor, 23% fair, 59% good, and 9% excellent.

Most producers still feel hay supplies are adequate, however poor quality has some supplementing with grain or protein. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 4% very short, 15% short, 72% adequate, and 9% surplus. Livestock was rated in mostly good condition, although feeding areas and pastures are very muddy from the excess rainfall. Livestock conditions were rated as 1% very poor, 3% poor, 19% fair, 66% good, and 11% excellent.

Farmers have been busy soil sampling and working on equipment to prepare for spring planting.