



Crop Progress and Condition

USDA, NASS, Kentucky Field Office

David Knopf, Director
PO Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
(502) 907-3250 or 1-800-928-5277
Email: nassrfoemr@nass.usda.gov

In Cooperation with:

Univ. of KY – Agr'l Weather Center
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Cooperative Extension Service

Released: February 26, 2018

Issue: 03-18

Agricultural News (February): For the month of February, Kentucky saw well above normal temperatures and much above normal precipitation. The month started with several winter weather events that resulted in light snow accumulations and some freezing rain and ice. As temperatures increased and multiple rounds of rainfall occurred later in the month, extremely high precipitation totals were experienced. This led to several flood warnings and advisories across the state.

Temperatures for the period averaged 45 degrees across the state which was 8 degrees warmer than normal. High temperatures averaged from 52 in the West to 56 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 3 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 8 degrees warmer than normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 36 degrees in the West to 39 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperatures ranged from 8 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 14 degrees warmer than normal in the East.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 8.35 inches statewide which was 5.11 inches above normal and 258% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 8.42 inches, Central 8.98 inches, Bluegrass 7.96 inches and East 8.03 inches, which was 4.82, 5.46, 5.17 and 4.99 inches above normal.

Soils have become very saturated from the wet weather, and some fields remain flooded. Many streams and ponds are rising out of their banks. Low lying pastures have also been waterlogged, and persistent rainfall has hampered early season improvements and fertilization. Farmers and producers continue to evaluate potential damages.

Winter wheat conditions have been impacted by the excessive moisture, and small grain nitrogen applications have been delayed as well. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 1% very poor, 4% poor, 33% fair, 54% good, and 8% excellent.

Many cattle producers are concerned about hay supplies, as cattle are consuming more than normal. Some are supplementing feed with grain to help maintain cattle condition as best as possible. Muddy conditions are also making it difficult in moving and feeding cattle. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 4% very short, 13% short, 74% adequate, and 9% surplus. Livestock conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 5% poor, 18% fair, 68% good, and 8% excellent.

Farmers have been preparing for spring planting, and making repairs to equipment. Most tobacco producers have finished stripping their crop, the amount of tobacco stripped was reported at 96 percent.