Agricultural News: Kentucky experienced near normal temperatures and below normal rainfall over the past week. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.88 inches, 0.19 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 60 degrees for the week, unchanged from normal. Topsoil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 3.8 out of a possible seven.

Primary activities for this week included continued planting of corn and soybeans along with working cattle. Tobacco setting has begun in a small portion of the state as weather has permitted. In some areas fields remained very wet and halted planting progress. With that being said, corn and soybean planting is moving rapidly and both are ahead of last year and the five year average. The corn crop is 28 percent emerged at this juncture. Soybeans are 9 percent emerged. Tobacco transplants are in mostly good condition with 24 percent less than two inches, 53 percent two to four inches, and 23 percent larger than 4 inches. Supply of tobacco transplants was rated as 5 percent short, 90 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus.

The average height of winter wheat was 23 inches with the condition mostly good despite a light freeze several weeks prior. The average height of alfalfa is 14 inches at this time. Hay condition was reported as mostly good with supplies rated as 7 percent very short, 34 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Rain and seasonably warm weather has kept pastureland in good condition. The condition of strawberries was reported as 5 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.
Kentucky Temperature and Rain Fall For the Period April 27, 2019 to May 3, 2020

The above information is provided by Tom Priddy, Kentucky Extension Agricultural Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Ag’r Weather Center (859) 218-4364.