



# 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: May 18, 2020

Issue: 09-20

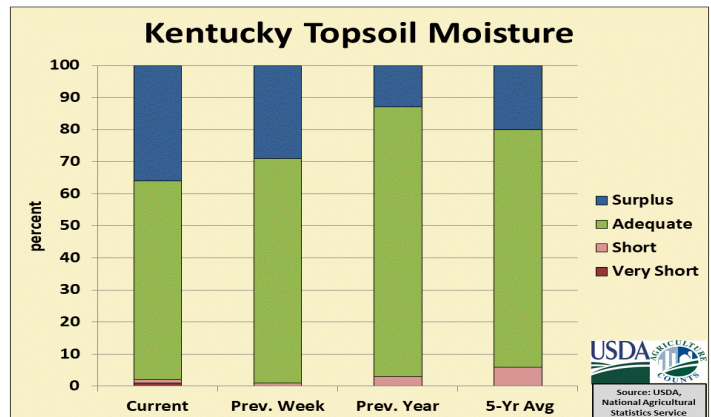
**Agricultural News:** Kentucky experienced below normal temperatures and rainfall over the past week. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.73 inches, 0.40 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 62 degrees for the week, 2 degrees below normal. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent very short, 1 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 36 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent very short, 1 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 29 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 3.6 out of a possible seven.

Primary activities for this week included planting of corn and soybeans, setting tobacco, and cutting hay. Fieldwork progress was slowed this week due to unstable weather. Cool temperatures at the beginning of the week gave way to warmer conditions accompanied by periodic rain. The weather stymied tobacco setting in particular when compared with last week. Corn planting remains ahead of last year, however is now behind the five year average for this juncture. Soybean progress is ahead of both the five year average and the previous year. The corn crop is 56 percent emerged at this time while soybeans are 24 percent emerged. Tobacco transplant supplies are 98 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

After the freeze event that occurred week before last, crops are still being evaluated for damage. Corn condition is rated mostly good currently, however damage from the freeze may become more evident this week. There were reports of stressed corn in certain areas and soybeans were in a susceptible stage at the time of the freeze. Winter wheat is 89 percent headed and the crop is in mostly good condition. Freeze damage to wheat was rated as 2 percent severe, 12 percent moderate, 36 percent light, and 50 percent with no damage. Fruits were subject to damage brought on by cold temperatures with some producers fearing a loss. Apple freeze damage was reported as 14 percent severe, 41 percent moderate, 21 percent light, and 24 percent with no damage. Freeze damage to peaches was reported as 18 percent severe, 27 percent moderate, 16 percent light, and 39 percent with no damage. Alfalfa freeze damage was measured as mostly light to no apparent damage. Strawberry condition was rated as mostly good. Pasture condition is mostly good, despite the cool temperatures and persistent rain.

**SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 05/17/20**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	1	1	62	36
Subsoil	1	1	69	29

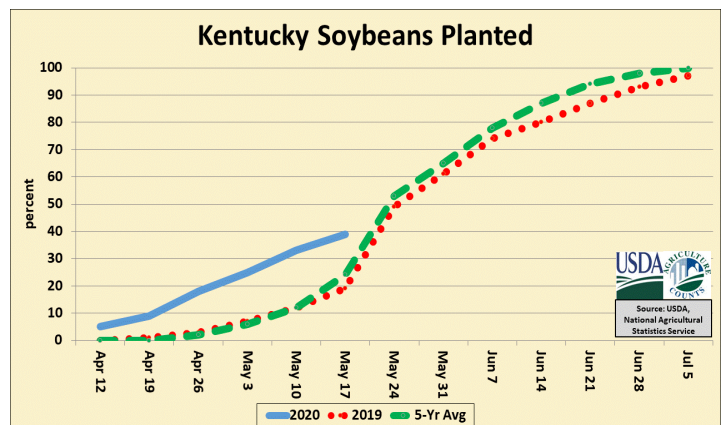
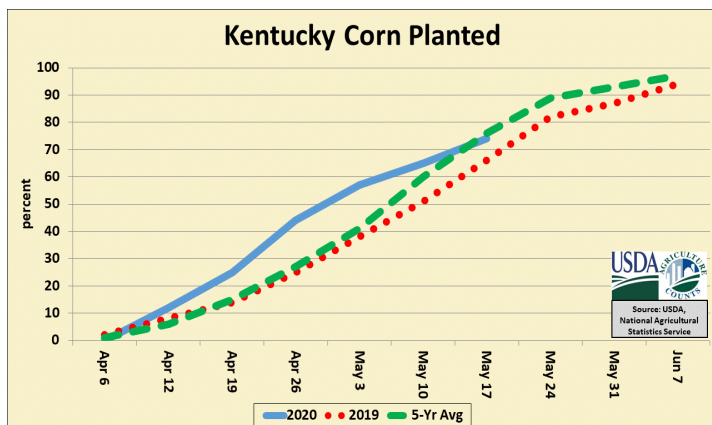


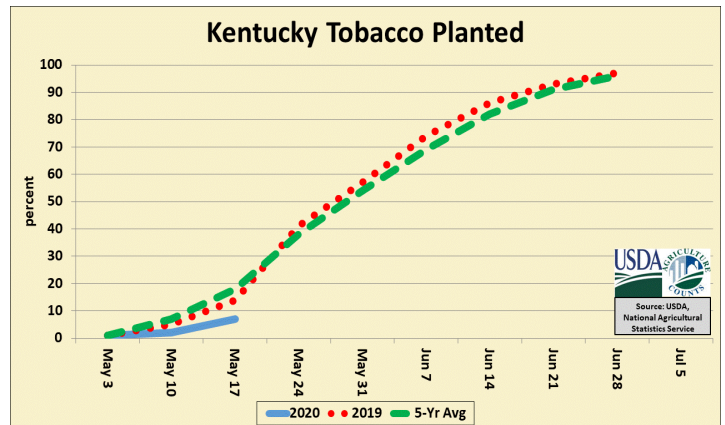
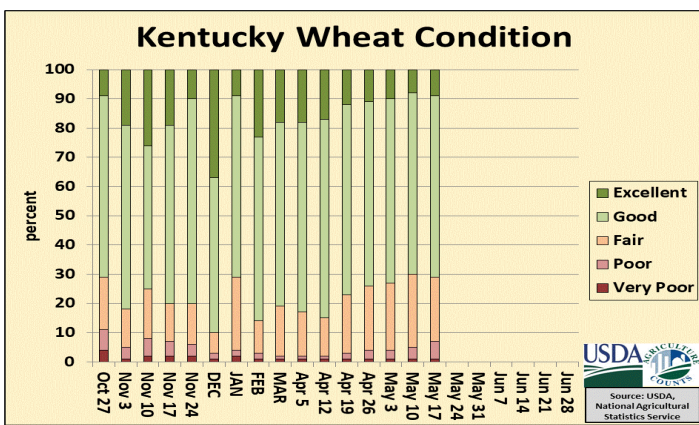
**CROP PROGRESS for week ending 05/17/20**

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn Planted	74	65	66	76
Corn Emerged	56	42	46	52
Soybeans Planted	39	33	19	24
Soybeans Emerged	24	16	7	7
Tobacco Set	7	2	14	18
Winter Wheat Headed	89	83	87	89

**CROP CONDITIONS for week ending 05/17/20**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Corn	1	3	15	70	11
Pasture	1	5	17	64	13
Strawberries	1	6	19	68	6
Wheat	1	6	22	62	9





**Kentucky Climate Summary  
For the Period May 11, 2019 to May 17, 2020**

Below Normal Temperatures and Rainfall:

The weather pattern flipped this week, starting the period with below normal temperatures in place and ending more like summer. The period opened with northwest flow limiting highs to the upper 40s to middle 50s for portions of the state. Frost was again an issue Monday night across Eastern Kentucky as lows dropped into the middle 30s. Cooler weather stuck around midweek along with a return of widespread light showers across the region. Total accumulations were higher across Western Kentucky with some exceeding an inch, but decreased significantly farther east. After the rain moved out, southerly flow ushered much warmer air into the Ohio Valley for the second half of the week. Highs consistently rose into the upper 70s to middle 80s from Thursday onward, even turning a bit muggy over the weekend. A more active pattern accompanied the warmer temperatures on Friday and stuck around through the end of the period. Multiple rounds of showers and storms traversed the state, mostly across the northern half with a front stalled across the region. While the state averaged 0.73 inches for the week, accumulations were much higher across Western Kentucky and North Central Kentucky where many saw 1 to 2+ inches. Those totals dropped dramatically to the east as Eastern Kentucky only averaged 0.26 inches for the week.

Temperatures for the period averaged 62 degrees across the state which was 2 degrees cooler than normal and 8 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 71 in the West to 71 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 6 degrees cooler than normal in the West to 5 degrees cooler than normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 55 degrees in the West to 50 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from near normal in the West to 1 degree warmer than normal in the East. The extreme high temperature for the period was 87 degrees at BIG SANDY and the extreme low was 32 degrees at CARLISLE 5SW.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.73 inches statewide which was 0.4 inches below normal and 64% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 1.36 inches, Central 0.63 inches, Bluegrass 0.67 inches and East 0.26 inches, which was 0.18, -0.56, -0.40 and -0.83 inches respectively from normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.03 inches at BIG SANDY to a high of 2.81 inches at POPLAR BLUFF ASOS.

**KENTUCKY TEMPERATURES AND RAIN FALL  
FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 05/17/20 4 p.m.**

Weather Station	Precipitation		Deviation From Norm Since Jan 1	Temperatures				Air Temp. Dev. From Normal	
	Last Week	Since Jan 1		Soil		Air			Wkly. Avg.
				4 In. Grass		High	Low		
				High	Low				
(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Degrees Fahrenheit)	(Degrees Fahrenheit)	(Degrees Fahrenheit)	(Degrees Fahrenheit)	(Degrees Fahrenheit)	(Degrees Fahrenheit)	
Bardstown	0.41	22.56	5.76	66	52	82	36	62	-4
Berea	0.17	24.29	7.34	--	--	84	36	60	-5
Bowling Green	0.72	24.87	4.79	69	54	86	41	64	-2
Bristol	0.08	25.40	9.59	--	--	86	34	60	-5
Buckhorn Lake	0.35	26.73	9.26	--	--	84	35	60	-5
Cape Girardeau	1.73	23.25	4.72	--	--	81	38	64	-4
Campbellsville	0.38	28.56	8.44	--	--	82	35	61	-5
Covington	0.27	18.03	2.41	--	--	81	33	60	-5
Dix Dam	0.20	21.62	4.08	--	--	82	36	61	-4
Evansville	1.95	24.01	6.90	--	--	83	39	62	-6
Glasgow	0.46	27.26	6.83	66	53	82	36	62	-4
Grayson	0.03	19.21	4.08	--	--	87	39	61	-4
Hardinsburg	0.57	22.12	3.17	--	--	83	36	62	-4
Henderson	2.21	20.74	3.10	--	--	84	37	62	-6
Huntington	0.60	20.47	5.42	--	--	86	37	61	-4
Jackson	0.25	26.98	9.19	--	--	87	38	63	-2
Lexington	0.33	19.22	2.42	67	52	82	35	60	-5
London	0.32	31.83	14.07	--	--	84	36	60	-5
Louisville	2.11	18.98	1.40	--	--	85	38	64	-2
Mayfield	2.06	24.68	3.10	--	--	83	38	64	-4
Nashville	0.13	24.35	5.04	--	--	87	40	67	1
Nolin Lake	0.44	33.27	13.71	--	--	85	36	64	-2
Paducah	1.89	26.27	6.46	76	56	84	38	65	-3
Princeton	2.44	24.10	3.41	77	54	82	35	63	-5
Quicksand	0.08	25.40	7.61	--	--	87	35	60	-5
Somerset	0.22	32.32	13.10	--	--	84	35	61	-4
Spindletop	0.23	19.05	2.25	69	52	83	37	62	-3
Williamstown	0.69	17.94	1.36	--	--	80	35	60	-5

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