Agricultural News: Kentucky experienced above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall over the past week. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.96 inches, 0.13 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 74 degrees for the week, 4 degrees above normal. Topsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 10 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 5.5 out of a possible seven.

Primary activities for this week included the continued planting of corn and soybeans, setting tobacco, and cutting hay. Farmers were able to make a good deal of headway in the fields this week thanks to accommodating weather. Planting progress had been stunted by consistent rain in the prior weeks so drier conditions were a welcome change. There was a great deal of hay cut this week as the weather was conducive. Tobacco setting showed a big jump in progress this past week and sits just behind last year and the five year average. The freeze event that occurred several weeks ago has been alluded to often when discussing crop conditions. Despite this event, corn and soybeans remain in mostly good condition and appear to have been largely spared. Winter wheat was damaged in this event and there will be losses. With that being said, the overall wheat crop is mostly fair to good, however the margins are closer than corn and soybeans. Tobacco set is in good condition at this time. Pastures are doing well as the break in rain has allowed more growth with less damage from livestock traffic.

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The above information is provided by Tom Pridey, Kentucky Extension Agricultural Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agr't Weather Center (859) 218-4364.