Agricultural News: Kentucky experienced below normal temperatures and much below normal rainfall over the past week. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.11 inches, 0.74 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 64 degrees for the week, 2 degrees below normal. Topsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 27 percent short, and 72 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 20 percent short, and 79 percent adequate. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 5.9 out of a possible seven.

Primary activities for this week included harvesting corn, soybeans, tobacco, and hay. Winter wheat planting has begun, however the majority of the crop is not yet in the ground. Dry weather of late has allowed farmers to push forward with all manner of fieldwork. As the soybean and corn harvest continues, there is some optimism for yields in areas of the state. With that said, later planted and double cropped soybeans could be subject to stress as dry weather persists.

Both corn and soybeans are doing well overall as both crops saw an increase in the amount reported as in excellent condition. Housed tobacco condition is mostly good as the houseburn reported was light. Despite the dry conditions, pastureland and livestock are in good shape. Hay supply is adequate at this juncture and is being aided by the continuing growth in pastures.
Kentucky Climate Summary
For the Period September 21, 2020 to September 27, 2020

Below Normal Temperatures and Much Below Normal Rainfall:

Weather conditions have trended dry recently. The state only averaged about a tenth of an inch this period, marking a second straight week with most of the area seeing very little to no rainfall. The rainfall that was seen occurred over the second half of the workweek as the remnants of another tropical system, Beta, progressed across the southern half of Kentucky. The highest accumulations were primarily across extreme Southeastern Kentucky. Over the past 14 days, data at the Ag Weather Center shows the state has averaged 0.12 inches, which is about 1.5 inches below normal for this time of year. Despite the dry conditions, the Commonwealth did see pleasant fall weather with below normal high temperatures in place for much of the workweek and only warming slightly to seasonable norms over the weekend.

Temperatures for the period averaged 64 degrees across the state, which was 2 degrees cooler than normal, and no change to the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 73 in the West to 72 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 56 degrees in the West to 53 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 1 degree warmer than normal in the West to 1 degree warmer than normal in the East. The extreme high temperature for the period was 84 degrees at COLUMBIA 3N and the extreme low was 38 degrees at CARLISLE 5SW.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.11 inches statewide, which was 0.74 inches below normal and 13% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.13 inches, Central 0.06 inches, Bluegrass 0.01 inches and East 0.22 inches, which was 0.73, 0.87, 0.0 and 0.73 inches below normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.00 inches at ALEXANDRIA 5NW to a high of 1.16 inches at COLUMBIA 3N.

The above information is provided by Tom Priddy, Kentucky Extension Agricultural Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agr1 Weather Center (859) 218-4364.