Agricultural News: Kentucky experienced below normal temperatures and rainfall over the past week. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.17 inches, 0.83 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 52 degrees for the week, 4 degrees below normal. Topsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 5.4 out of a possible seven.

Primary activities for this week included planting corn and soybeans along with seeding tobacco transplants. Scattered precipitation stymied fieldwork at times, however planting continues at every opportunity. Crops that have just been planted would benefit from some more warmth and sun as cooler weather has prevailed recently. Corn is 1 percent emerged at this juncture. Tobacco transplants are 74 percent seeded, trailing both last year and the five-year average. The transplants are in mostly good condition at this time with height rated as 61 percent less than 2 inches, 32 percent 2 – 4 inches, and 7 percent larger than 4 inches.

The average height of winter wheat is 17 inches at this time while 12 percent of the crop has headed. Wheat condition remains mostly good despite the freeze event several weeks prior. Current freeze damage for wheat is rated as 1 percent severe, 4 percent moderate, 44 percent light, and 51 percent with no damage. The crop will continue to be evaluated for damage. Alfalfa freeze damage is rated as 1 percent severe, 7 percent moderate, 26 percent light, and 66 percent with no damage. Like the wheat crop, alfalfa is still being evaluated for adverse effects. Conditions have been conducive to good forage growth, however weevils have been detected in some alfalfa.
Kentucky Climate Summary
For the Period April 12, 2021 to April 18, 2021

Below Normal Temperatures and Rainfall:

The state saw multiple rounds of light rainfall pass through the region over the course of the week, but in the end, didn't amount to much in the way of accumulations. Overall, the state average ran below normal for a third straight week, totaling 0.17 inches. Through April 18th, data at the Ag Weather Center shows the state has only averaged 0.96 inches, which is over 1.5 inches below normal. Following a mild start to the week, temperatures took a step back for the second half with below normal temperatures in place. The coolest temperatures were seen on Friday morning with most of Kentucky dropping into the low to middle 30s, opening up the possibility of frost.

Temperatures for the period averaged 52 degrees across the state which was 4 degrees cooler than normal and 12 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 64 in the West to 63 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 5 degrees cooler than normal in the West to 5 degrees cooler than normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 44 degrees in the West to 42 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 2 degrees cooler than normal in the West to 2 degrees warmer than normal in the East. The extreme high temperature for the period was 76 degrees at BOWLING GREEN APT and the extreme low was 29 degrees at BARBOURVILLE 3E.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.17 inches statewide which was 0.83 inches below normal and 17% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.18 inches, Central 0.11 inches, Bluegrass 0.24 inches and East 0.16 inches, which was 0.95, 0.91, 0.67 and 0 inches below normal. Overall, the state average ran below normal for a third straight week, totaling 0.17 inches. Through April 18th, data at the Ag Weather Center shows the state has only averaged 0.96 inches, which is over 1.5 inches below normal. Following a mild start to the week, temperatures took a step back for the second half with below normal temperatures in place. The coolest temperatures were seen on Friday morning with most of Kentucky dropping into the low to middle 30s, opening up the possibility of frost.

For the Period April 12 to April 18, 2021

The above information is provided by Matthew Dixon, Senior Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Ag/1 Weather Center (859) 218-4364.