Agricultural News: Kentucky experienced above normal temperatures and rainfall over the past week. Precipitation for the week totaled 1.13 inches, 0.06 inches above normal. Temperatures averaged 64 degrees for the week, 4 degrees above normal. Topsoil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 4.1 out of a possible seven.

Primary activities for this week included planting corn and soybeans along with seeding tobacco transplants. With rain showers halting fieldwork at times during the week, farmers forged ahead with every opportunity. Soybean planting is ahead of where it has been historically at this point in the season. The transplants are in mostly good condition at this time with height rated as 23 percent less than 2 inches, 44 percent 2–4 inches, and 33 percent larger than 4 inches.

The average height of winter wheat is 23 inches at this time, while 38 percent of the crop has headed. Wheat condition remains mostly good after being assessed for damage from two significant freezes. Current freeze damage for wheat is rated as 2 percent moderate, 17 percent light, and 81 percent with no damage. After a full week of evaluation, alfalfa freeze damage is rated as 1 percent severe, 10 percent moderate, 27 percent light, and 62 percent with no damage. Peach freeze damage is rated as 4 percent severe, 11 percent moderate, 17 percent light, and 68 percent with no damage. The strawberry crop is in good overall condition at this juncture of the season.
Kentucky Climate Summary
For the Period April 26, 2021 to May 2, 2021

Above Normal Temperatures and Rainfall:

Unlike the previous couple weeks, temperatures ran near to above normal for much of the period with highs peaking in the 70s about every day. Even reaching the low to middle 80s statewide on Tuesday. The one exception came Friday night when the eastern third of the state saw lows dip well into the 30s, opening the possibility of some patchy frost in valley and sheltered locations. Looking at precipitation, an active pattern setup across Kentucky on Wednesday and Thursday with multiple bouts of moderate to heavy rainfall. The highest totals were seen across Western Kentucky and locations to the northeast along the Ohio River. Following a couple near perfect days for the running of the Oaks and Derby, light rain started to return to the area on Sunday. Overall, total accumulations decreased from west to east for the week. While Western Kentucky averaged 1.60 inches, Eastern Kentucky ran below normal at 0.65 inches.

Temperatures for the period averaged 64 degrees across the state which was 4 degrees warmer than normal and 14 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 76 in the West to 76 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 3 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 7 degrees warmer than normal in the East. The extreme low temperature for the period was 87 degrees at BIG SANDY and the extreme low was 31 degrees at VANCEBURG 6W. Temperatures for the period averaged 64 degrees across the state which was 4 degrees warmer than normal and 14 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 76 in the West to 76 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 3 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 4 degrees warmer than normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 51 degrees in the West to 51 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 6 degrees warmer than normal in the West to 7 degrees warmer than normal in the East. The extreme high temperature for the period was 87 degrees at BIG SANDY and the extreme low was 31 degrees at VANCEBURG 6W.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.13 inches statewide which was 0.06 inches above normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 1.60 inches, Central 1.14 inches, Bluegrass 1.12 inches and East 0.65 inches, which was 0.39, 0.05, 0.14 and 0.34 inches respectively from normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.15 inches at MIDDLESBORO AWOS to a high of 4.37 inches at LEITCHFIELD 3W.

The above information is provided by Matthew Dixon, Senior Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agr’l Weather Center (859) 218-4364.