Agricultural News: Kentucky experienced above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation over the past week. Precipitation for the week totaled 0.82 inches, 0.24 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 61 degrees for the week, 2 degrees above normal. Topsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 4.8 out of a possible seven.

Primary activities for this week included seeding tobacco transplants along with planting corn and soybeans. With a predominantly dry week, farmers were able to make good headway in the fields. The state saw some scattered precipitation, however much needed dry weather quickly took over for most of the state. Burndown applications of herbicide is finally progressing as it was much needed. Corn planting remains behind both last year and the five year average, but strong gains were achieved nonetheless. Three percent of the crop has now emerged. Soybean planting is trailing last year, but on par with the five year average. Tobacco transplant seeding is nearing completion as plants are in mostly good condition. The average height of tobacco transplants are reported as 35 percent less than 2 inches, 40 percent 2-4 inches, and 25 percent greater than 4 inches.

The average height of winter wheat is 20 inches with 26 percent of the crop headed. The wheat crop remains in mostly good condition at this time. Pasture condition remains mostly good with warmer temperatures promoting growth. Hay supply is rated as 1 percent very short, 9 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. The average height of alfalfa is 11 inches and the hay crop is in overall good condition. In areas where hay is not looking as good, rain and high fertilizer prices were cited as the impetus. Strawberry condition is rated as 2 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.
The above information is provided by Matthew Dixon, Senior Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agr’l Weather Center (859) 218-4364.