

## 2006 WEATHER SUMMARY

After a very dry and cold December, **January 2006** will go into the record books as one of the top 10 warmest January's on record. It also changed over to a wet month after four dry months. Temperatures averaged 42.6 degrees which was 9.5 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 5.45 inches which was 1.73 inches above normal.

After a very mild January, **February** was back to reality with several weekends of very cold weather. Several weeks had above normal temperatures during the workweek and all but one Saturday had snowfall. Temperatures averaged 35.6 degrees which was 1.6 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 2.36 inches which was 1.38 inches below normal.

Both rainfall totals and temperature averages decreased from west to east across the Commonwealth for **March**. While the west received above normal rainfall the remainder of the State received below normal rainfall. Temperatures averaged 45.7 degrees which was 1 degree below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.46 inches which was 1.11 inches below normal.

**April** will go into the record books as the 4th warmest April in the past 112 years, only surpassed by 1896, 1954, and 1981. After two cool months, both February and March with below normal temperatures, the second week of April burst with warmth with daily temperatures in the upper 70's and low 80's. Along with the slightly above normal rainfall for April came frequent bouts of severe weather. Temperatures averaged 60.2 degrees which was 4.6 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 4.48 inches which was 0.39 inches above normal.

Most of **May** was very cool, but thanks to a run of much-above normal temperatures during the final week of the month, temperatures only averaged a couple of degrees below normal. Severe thunderstorms, with hail, high winds and several tornados caused an unusual amount of property damage

and several deaths were reported during the month. Temperatures averaged 63 degrees which was 1.5 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.96 inches which was 1.03 inches below normal.

**June** had beneficial rainfall in the central and eastern portions of Kentucky as a stationary front brought showers and thunderstorms toward the end of the month. However, it was not enough to bring the Bluegrass and Eastern climate zones out of moderate drought. The West and Central climate zones remained in near normal hydrologic conditions on the Palmer Drought Index. Temperatures averaged 71.6 degrees which was 0.7 degrees below normal and 8.6 degrees warmer than May. Precipitation totaled 3.80 inches which was 0.54 inches below normal.

After two straight months of below normal rainfall, **July** saw above normal rainfall across the Commonwealth. Western Kentucky's above normal rainfall offset the below normal rainfall across the rest of the state. During the first two weeks, a couple of stationary fronts brought beneficial rainfall. Towards the end of the month, high pressure began to dominate as temperatures soared to well above average. Temperatures averaged 76.8 degrees which was 0.4 degrees above normal and 5.2 degrees warmer than June. Precipitation totaled 4.73 inches which was +0.33 inches from normal.

The trend of above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall continued in **August**. High pressure dominated the weather pattern over the first week and kept temperatures well above normal. By the middle two weeks, a series of cold fronts brought much needed rain to the entire Commonwealth. The latter portion saw high pressure dominate with Tropical Storm Ernesto providing Northern and Eastern Kentucky with above normal rainfall. Temperatures averaged 77.4 degrees which was 2.4 degrees above normal and 0.6 degrees above the previous month. Precipitation totaled 4.15 inches which was 0.55 inches above normal.