



# Crop Progress and Condition

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**Agricultural News (December):** December brought above normal temperatures and precipitation. After a very dry fall, the state has now received two months of substantial rainfall. According to the U.S. drought monitor, only a small segment of southeastern Kentucky remains abnormally dry at this juncture. With the exception of the first week of the month, December temperatures were very mild. This past year will go down as one of the warmest in recorded history for the state. Precipitation for the month totaled 5.17 inches, 0.88 inches above normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 6.26 inches, Central 5.79 inches, Bluegrass 4.10 inches, and East 4.58 inches, which was 1.69, 0.97, 0.13, and 0.72 inches above normal respectively. Temperatures averaged 40 degrees for the month, 3 degrees above normal. Average temperatures ranged from 42 degrees in the West to 39 degrees in the East.

Tobacco stripped is at 82%, slightly behind last year at this time. Winter wheat condition was rated as 1% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 73% good, and 7% excellent.

Summer drought stunted pasture growth and forced many farmers to supplement with hay for livestock feeding. Mild December weather allowed for some extended grazing that should help ease stress on hay stocks. The current hay supply is rated as 1% very short, 16% short, 79% adequate, and 4% surplus. Livestock condition was rated as 1% poor, 22% fair, 65% good, and 12% excellent.