



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News (January): January brought below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The drier than normal fall season has given way to a wetter than normal winter, with adequate rainfall being received for three consecutive months now. The U.S. drought monitor indicates that no parts of the state are suffering drought conditions, with only small areas in the far southeastern reaches considered abnormally dry. Cold air events were persistent across the state in January, particularly in the middle of the month. This was a stark contrast from the mostly mild weather experienced in December. Preliminary weather data indicates this may be the coldest January in Kentucky since 2014. Precipitation for the month totaled 4.20 inches, 0.48 inches above normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 3.70 inches, Central 4.02 inches, Bluegrass 3.45 inches, and East 3.70 inches, which was 0.86, 0.49, 0.10, and 0.43 inches above normal respectively. Temperatures averaged 29 degrees for the month, 4 degrees below normal. Average temperatures ranged from 30 degrees in the West to 27 degrees in the East.

Tobacco stripped is at 96%, 1% behind last year at this time. Winter wheat condition was rated as 2% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 72% good, and 8% excellent.

The hot and dry conditions in late summer and early fall caused many farmers to supplement grazing with hay earlier than normal. Cold temperatures and widespread snow were not optimal for pasture regrowth in January. The current hay supply is rated as 2% very short, 18% short, 76% adequate, and 4% surplus. Livestock condition was rated as 1% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 66% good, and 8% excellent.