

WEATHER SUMMARY - 2001

January 2001 was more seasonal after a very cold December. Temperatures averaged 31.9 degrees across the State which was 0.1 degrees from normal. This was 6 degrees warmer than the previous month but 2 degrees cooler than January 2000. Snowfall was more frequent this January compared to January 2000. Snowfall totals ranged from 2 to 4 inches West, 4 to 8 inches Central and East. Total snowfall accumulations so far this winter ranged from 8 to 10 inches in the West, to 10 to 18 inches Central and East. Precipitation totaled 2.21 inches statewide which was 1.16 inch below normal. For the State as a whole, that was 70 percent of normal precipitation.

Temperatures for **February** averaged 41.5 degrees across the State which was 5.4 degrees above normal and nearly 10 degrees warmer than January 2001. Out of the past 107 years, February 2001 ranked as the 87th coldest February. Precipitation totaled 4.20 inches statewide which was 0.55 inches above normal which was 120 percent of normal. Out of the past 107 years, February ranked as the 73rd driest.

March started out as a lamb but turned out to be cold with very little snow or severe weather for the month. Temperatures averaged 41 degrees across the State which was 5 degrees below normal. This compared to about the same temperature for February 2001 but 8 degrees cooler than March 2000 ranking March 2001 as the 18th coldest March in the past 107 years. Precipitation totaled 2.80 inches statewide which was 1.79 inches below normal or 66 percent of normal rainfall ranking March 2001 as the 24th driest March in the past 107 years. All of the weekly rainfall departures were below normal.

April was a dry month, receiving only 48 percent of normal rainfall. When combined with the rainfall received during March, Kentucky started the growing season with 8 consecutive weeks of below normal rainfall and only 57 percent of normal rainfall for March and April 2001 combined. Temperatures averaged 60 degrees across the State which was 4.1 degrees above normal, 18 degrees warmer than March and 5 degrees warmer than April 2000. Rainfall totaled 1.99 inches statewide which was 2.26 inches below normal.

Offsetting warm temperatures and dry conditions during the first half of **May** and unseasonably cool temperatures and wet conditions during the latter half of the month made for a very difficult month for farming operations across the Bluegrass state. Temperatures averaged 66.3 degrees across the State which was 1.9 degrees above normal and 6 degrees warmer than the previous month. Rainfall totaled 4.60 inches statewide which was 0.10 inches below normal.

Warm, muggy conditions occurred during **June** but the majority of the days were cool with the 1st, 3rd and final weeks with below normal weekly temperatures. June will go into the record books as the 19th coolest June in the past 107 years. Rainfall was a different story with only the 1st full week and 3rd week having above normal rainfall. The remainder of the month was rather dry such that field activities were able to rapidly advance. Temperatures averaged 71.3 degrees across the State which was 1.7 degrees below normal, 6 degrees warmer than May 2001 and 1 degree cooler than June 2000. Rainfall totaled 3.99 inches statewide which was 0.07 inches above normal.

Temperatures for **July** averaged 76 degrees across the State which was near normal. High temperatures averaged from 89 in the West to 84 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from -1 degrees from normal in the West to -2 degrees from normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 68 degrees in the West to 65 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from +2 degrees from normal in the West to 0 degrees from normal in the East. Precipitation totaled 6.22 inches statewide which was 1.54 inches above normal.

Temperatures for **August** averaged 76.5 degrees across the State which was 1.8 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged from 88 in the West to 85 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 0 degrees from normal in the West to +1 degrees from normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 68 degrees in the West to 66 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature was +4 degrees from normal in the West and the East. Precipitation totaled 3.63 inches statewide which was 0.12 inches below normal.

Temperatures for **September** averaged 66 degrees across the State which was 2 degrees below normal and 10 degrees cooler than August. High temperatures averaged from 80 degrees in the West to 77 degrees in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal in the West to 0 degrees from normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 56 degrees in the West to 55 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 2 degrees below normal in the West to 0 degrees from normal in the East. Extreme high temperatures occurred at the beginning of the month in the upper 80's to low 90's (Paducah 91 on Sept. 5). Extreme lows at the end of the month approached record and near-record low temperature conditions with some areas reaching as low as 34 degrees and scattered frost was reported. Rainfall totaled 2.31 inches statewide which was 1.26 inches below normal which was about 70 percent of normal rainfall.