

## 2004 WEATHER SUMMARY

January through December 2004 was the 9th wettest year in Kentucky in the past 110 years.

**January's** temperature averaged near normal despite several temperature extremes throughout the month. The new year began with highs in the lower 70's. The last weekend in January brought Kentucky its first subzero lows of the winter season. January was a month of contrasts as it started out warm and wet and ended cold and dry. Temperatures averaged 32.4 degrees across the State which was 0.6 degrees above normal and 5.5 degrees cooler than December 2003. Precipitation totaled 4.04 inches statewide which was 0.66 inches above normal.

The first week of **February** brought below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation which caused flooding in eastern parts of the Commonwealth. The last three weeks brought very little in the way of precipitation as average departures were nearly an inch below normal each week. High pressure was a main player in Kentucky weather leading conditions to be dry and mild. Temperatures averaged 37.1 degrees across the State which was 0.1 degree below normal and 4.7 degrees warmer than January. Precipitation totaled 2.59 inches statewide which was 1.18 inches below normal.

**March** began very warm and very wet as the first week had temperatures about 10 degrees above normal and precipitation over an inch above normal. The weather returned to normal during the middle of the month as temperatures remained near average. However, conditions were dry, which continued to add to the precipitation deficit for 2004. March ended with a cold and wet spell. Temperatures averaged 49.2 degrees across the State which was 3.0 degrees above normal and 12.1 degrees warmer than February. Precipitation totaled 4.20 inches statewide which was 0.40 inches below normal.

**April** was generally a wet month with temperatures right at normal for this time of year. Frost and freeze events occurred three times at the beginning, middle, and end of the month as low temperatures dropped into the lower 30's. During the second full week of April, measurable snowfall was recorded across west central areas of the State. Flooding was a problem as flood watches were issued for south central and eastern Kentucky during the third week of April. Temperatures for the period averaged 56.0 degrees which was 0.4 degrees above normal and 6.8 degrees warmer than March. Precipitation totaled 4.79 inches statewide which was 0.70 inches above normal.

**May** was an extremely warm and wet month. Temperatures started out cold as record low temperatures were recorded across eastern portions of the State. By the second week a high pressure system formed over the southeastern United States, which brought warm humid air north. The warm moist atmosphere also provided the trigger for afternoon thunderstorms nearly every day. Two separate weather events brought numerous severe thunderstorms and tornadoes to the Bluegrass State. Temperatures averaged 69.5 degrees across the State which was 5.1 degrees above normal and 13.5 degrees warmer than April. Precipitation totaled 9.02 inches statewide which was 4.03 inches above normal. May was the 3rd wettest May in 110 years of record.

**June** was a very average month, in terms of temperature and precipitation. The beginning of June was warm and wet. By mid-month air masses from Canada were able to infiltrate our region bringing cooler, drier air. The last weekend brought record low temperatures to Paducah and Jackson. Temperatures averaged 72.5 degrees across the State which was 0.0 degrees from normal and 3.0 degrees warmer than May. Rainfall totaled 4.32 inches statewide which was 0.06 inches above normal.

**July** was cooler than normal statewide. This was evident as record low temperatures were set from Paducah to Jackson late in the month. Also, several locations, including Lexington, Jackson, and London had not yet hit 90 degrees in 2004. July was beneficial for farming allowing many windows of opportunity for agricultural activities due to the cooler and wetter than normal trends. Temperatures averaged 74.7 degrees across the State which was 1.4 degrees below normal. Rainfall totaled 5.46 inches statewide which was 0.99 inches above normal.

The pattern of the cool and wet summer continued through **August**. Some locales in central and eastern Kentucky still had not reached the 90 degree mark. At the beginning of the third week record lows were set across the State as temperatures dropped into the upper 40's in some spots. Rain events were common this month, which brought the average rainfall to above normal values. Temperatures averaged 71.6 degrees across the State which was 3.4 degrees below normal. Rainfall totaled 4.31 inches statewide which was 0.70 inches above normal.