

2005 WEATHER SUMMARY

January averaged above normal temperatures and precipitation. A stationary front stalled across the region which kept rain and unseasonable temperatures in the picture for the first two weeks. Record highs were set as temperatures reached the lower 70's. Winter finally set in halfway through the month. The month ended on a quiet note with temperatures and precipitation near normal. Temperatures averaged 39.1 degrees across the State which was 6.2 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 4.94 inches statewide which was 1.17 inches from normal.

February temperatures averaged above normal continuing the warm trend that started 2005. High temperatures on several days climbed into the 60's and lower 70's. The end of the month ended on a cold note as a winter storm brought some light snow to the State. The month was very dry, with only the second week recording above normal precipitation statewide. Temperatures averaged 40.6 degrees across the State which was 3.4 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.73 inches statewide which was 1.04 inches below normal.

March began with a weak winter storm bringing light snow showers, and it ended with sunny skies and highs in the 70's. Temperatures did not begin to warm up until well after the first official day of Spring. The last week finally brought temperatures in the 70's and 80's under mostly sunny skies. A couple of low pressure systems brought rain and isolated thunderstorms to the State. Temperatures averaged 42.8 degrees across the State which was 3.4 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 4.09 inches statewide which was 0.51 inches below normal.

April began and ended on a wet note with widespread rain and thundershowers. The majority of the month was warmer and drier than normal with the first three weeks averaging above normal temperatures and slightly below normal precipitation amounts. Severe weather was relevant during the third week. During the last week, 2-3 inches of rain fell across eastern Kentucky prompting flood and flash flood watches and warnings. Temperatures averaged 58 degrees across the State which was 1.6 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 5.18 inches statewide which was 0.99 inches above normal.

May was cool and dry. Unseasonably cold temperatures settled in, dropping lows into the 30's which caused frost and freeze concerns. Kentucky experienced a small dose of summer during the second week. Most of the rain fell during the third week. Due to the lack of rain, western Kentucky entered into incipient/mild drought status. Central and Bluegrass regions had adequate moisture, and Eastern Kentucky was slightly moist. Temperatures averaged 62.1 degrees across the State which was 1.9 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 2.39 inches statewide which was 2.66 inches below normal.

June was drier than normal. Only the 2nd week received above normal rainfall for the State and that was due to the remnants of an early tropical storm. By the end of the month, the Palmer Drought Severity Index had placed West, Central and Bluegrass areas in the "mild" hydrologic drought category and "topsoil moisture short, germination slow" category for the Crop Moisture Index. Temperatures averaged 74.3 degrees across the State which was 2 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.94 inches statewide which was 1.32 inches below normal.

July was a typical hot and dry summer month. Precipitation averaged below normal for three of the four weeks. The following week, rain from Hurricane Dennis helped alleviate some of the impending drought conditions. Other than a few weak fronts and pop up thunderstorms, conditions were mostly dry through the end of the month. Temperatures averaged 77.6 degrees across the State which was 1.3 degrees above normal. Rainfall totaled 4.22 inches statewide which was 0.25 inches above normal.

August began with most of the State in Mild to Moderate hydrologic drought. By the second week drought conditions worsened. Some improvement occurred during the third week due to a stalled stationary front. During the last few days of the month the remnants of Hurricane Katrina inundated most of the State. Temperatures averaged 78 degrees across the State which was 3.4 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 7.16 inches statewide which was 3.56 inches above normal.