

2007 WEATHER SUMMARY

January 2007 was a warmer than normal month. The first three weeks were mild, but it was not dry. The final week to 10 days turned to seasonal temperatures and at times very cold. Temperatures averaged 37.4 degrees which was 4.3 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 4.21 inches which was 0.49 inches above normal.

February had below normal temperatures and precipitation. After an extended cold spell during the month, mild temperatures returned during the final week. Temperatures averaged 29.7 degrees which was 7.7 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 2.30 inches which was 1.45 inches below normal.

March will go into the record books as one of the top 10 warmest March's on record. Temperatures in the 80s, usually a rare event, occurred on 4 to 6 days for most of the state. Rainfall was limited for most of the month. Only the final week received near normal rainfall. Temperatures averaged 52.8 degrees which was 6.3 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.76 inches which was 1.81 inches below normal.

April started very warm after one of the warmest March's on record. But from April 5-9, historic (record) cold air provided hard freezes for the entire state with low temperatures in the low 20s. Snow fell on the 6th, with up to an inch accumulation around Lexington. The damage done to Kentucky's wheat crop and fruit trees was also significant. The final 10 days were mostly above normal. Temperatures averaged 53.3 degrees which was 2 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.94 inches which was 0.16 inches below normal.

May was very warm with a significant drying trend. Most of the limited rainfall received occurred during the first week. Then the commonwealth suffered through 3 weeks with very little rainfall and temperatures mostly in the 80s to near 90 degrees. By the end of

the month, much of Kentucky was in or near moderate hydrologic drought with crops stressed from lack of moisture, and pastures and lawns starting to turn brown. Temperatures averaged 67.7 degrees which was 3.3 degrees above normal and 14 degrees warmer than the previous month. Rainfall totaled 2.43 inches which was 2.56 inches below normal.

June began with mild to moderate drought conditions and by month's end the entire state was in moderate to severe drought. By the 15th, the state Division of Water issued a Water Shortage Watch for 61 counties. The weather pattern changed the final 10 days of the month, which allowed scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms to provide above normal rainfall. This helped provide some relief from the hydrologic drought for most locations, but was very timely and beneficial for crops across the state. Temperatures averaged 73.9 degrees which was 1.6 degree above normal and 6 degrees warmer than the previous month. Rainfall totaled 3.38 inches which was 0.88 inches below normal.

More rainfall occurred this **July** than in the past several months in the Bluegrass state, but long-term dry conditions continued to plague many sections of the state. This was also the first month in the past three that averaged cooler than normal temperatures. Rainfall pattern for the entire month was very spotty. Temperatures averaged 74.7 degrees which was 1.7 degrees below normal. Rainfall totaled 4.25 inches which was 0.15 inches below normal.

August had above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall which further worsened our drought conditions statewide. Despite being the seventh straight month with below normal rainfall, some areas were able to see above normal values. This month was, in fact, the hottest August on record. Temperatures averaged 81.1 degrees which was 6.1 degrees above normal. Rainfall totaled 1.91 inches which was 1.67 inches below normal.