



Crop Progress and Condition



USDA, NASS, Kentucky Field Office

David Knopf, Director
PO Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
(502) 907-3250 or 1-800-928-5277
Email: nassrfoemr@nass.usda.gov

In Cooperation with:

Univ. of KY – Agr'l Weather Center
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Agricultural News (January): January brought near normal temperatures and well above normal precipitation. The above normal precipitation breaks a four month long stretch of Kentucky receiving below normal rainfall, alleviating many concerns of drought for the time being. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 5.58 inches statewide, which was 2.19 inches above normal and 165% of normal. Temperatures averaged 33 degrees for the month, close to normal for January. High temperatures averaged from 40 degrees in the West to 42 degrees in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 27 degrees in the West to 26 degrees in the East. The coldest areas of the state reached below 0, causing great stress for livestock producers.

Tobacco stripped is at 97%, putting progress on par with historical levels for this juncture. Winter wheat condition was rated as 1% very poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 65% good, and 20% excellent.

Portions of the state saw poor yields for second or third cuttings of hay in 2023. This combined with frigid temperatures and snowfall has caused farmers to rely more on hay stocks. The current hay supply is rated as 12% very short, 32% short, 53% adequate, and 3% surplus. Livestock condition was rated as 1% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, and 9% excellent. The cold weather and winter precipitation are likely factors contributing to a decrease in livestock condition compared to last month.