



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News (February): February brought well above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The temperature deviation ranks this as one of the warmest Februaries in recorded history for Kentucky. This continues a February trend for the state as 8 of the past 10 have run above normal temperature-wise. Rainfall for the month was scattered, however, coupled with January totals, there was enough accumulation to no longer register drought conditions according to the U.S. monitor. Precipitation for the month totaled 2.45 inches, 0.79 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 1.45 inches, Central 2.81 inches, Bluegrass 1.96 inches, and East 3.57 inches, which was -2.15, -0.71, -0.83, and 0.53 inches from normal respectively. Temperatures averaged 45 degrees for the month, 8 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged from 58 degrees in the West to 55 degrees in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 35 degrees in the West to 33 degrees in the East.

The condition of winter wheat improved slightly despite a few rounds of cold weather over the period. Winter wheat condition is rated as 1% poor, 10% fair, 75% good, and 14% excellent.

A few rounds of rain have assisted in alleviating drought conditions that began in late summer and ran into the fall. Due to stunted pasture rejuvenation, many producers have tapped into hay stocks. As a result, many cattlemen are being forced to purchase hay and in extreme cases, reduce herds. The current hay supply is rated as 13% very short, 34% short, 49% adequate, and 4% surplus. Livestock condition is rated as 5% poor, 23% fair, 59% good, and 13% excellent.