



Crop Progress and Condition

USDA, NASS, Kentucky Field Office
David Knopf, Director
601 W Broadway, RM 645
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
(502) 907-3250 or 1-800-928-5277
Email: nassrfoemr@usda.gov

In Cooperation with:
Univ. of KY – Agr'l Weather Center
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Cooperative Extension Service

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Agricultural News (February): February brought above normal temperatures and much above normal precipitation. Several bouts of torrential rain combined with previously saturated ground led to severe flooding in parts of the state. This February ranks as the 5th wettest in recorded history for the state. As Kentuckians hit with flooding began the recovery, a harsh cold spell sat in to complicate matters. Precipitation for the month totaled 8.40 inches, 4.65 inches above normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 7.92 inches, Central 9.12 inches, Bluegrass 7.63 inches, and East 8.76 inches, which was 3.88, 5.00, 4.20, and 5.30 inches above normal respectively. Temperatures averaged 38.7 degrees for the month, 1.3 degrees above normal. Average temperatures ranged from 38.4 degrees in the West to 39.3 degrees in the East.

Winter wheat condition is rated as 4% very poor, 5% poor, 30% fair, 53% good, and 8% excellent. Some of the wheat crop was damaged by flooding, but the extent is not yet known for many. It is of note that the timing of the major rain events prevented nitrogen application at the optimum time for some wheat.

With drought conditions heading into the fall, farmers began supplementing with hay for livestock feed. Despite tapping into hay stocks a bit early, the overall supply is still holding up as eyes turn to spring grazing. The current hay supply is rated as 3% very short, 22% short, 71% adequate, and 4% surplus. With cold, wet conditions abound livestock were stressed through much of the month. Some animals were lost to the rapidly changing temperatures coupled with moisture. Livestock condition is rated as 1% very poor, 6% poor, 24% fair, 62% good, and 7% excellent.