



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News (March): March brought above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. After a very wet February that included torrential rain and flooding, the state got some reprieve in March. Although there were periods of weather instability, storm damage was not widespread for the month. As temperatures warmed, vegetation began spring emergence from dormancy. Precipitation for the month totaled 3.90 inches, 0.41 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 3.77 inches, Central 4.98 inches, Bluegrass 4.31 inches, and East 2.53 inches, which was -0.82, 0.45, 0.42, and -1.68 inches from normal respectively. Temperatures averaged 51 degrees for the month, 4 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged from 66 in the West to 63 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 41 in the West to 36 in the East.

Winter wheat condition is rated as 1% poor, 14% fair, 77% good, and 8% excellent. Farmers applied fertilizer in preparation for the planting season when weather permitted.

Late summer and fall drought stymied hay production and pushed farmers to supplement feeding earlier than preferred. As a result, hay stocks have been declining, however supplies remain mostly adequate. The current hay supply is rated as 5% very short, 15% short, 72% adequate, and 8% surplus. Producers are evaluating livestock complications from the winter as they turn their focus to spring. Livestock condition is rated as 3% poor, 19% fair, 68% good, and 10% excellent.