**Reading 4 SW;** Berks County, PA; Lat 40°19.0'N, Lon 75°59.3'W, Elev 320 ft MSL

**December 2005** Observation Time: 2359 EST

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Daily Details (monthly extremes | | | | | |
| TEMPERATURES | | | |  |  |
| DAY MAX MIN OBS | | | | PCPN | SNOW DEPTH |
| **1** | 43 | 29 | 37 | Tr | Tr |
| 2 | 41 | 30 | 30 | Tr | Tr |
| 3 | 34 | 26 | 31 |  |  |
| 4 | 35 | 28 | 35 | 0.32 | 2.1 2 |
| 5 | 35 | 29 | 31 |  | 1 |
| 6 | 36 | 27 | 27 |  | 1 |
| 7 | 33 | 24 | 24 |  | 1 |
| 8 | 32 | 19 | 29 | Tr | Tr 1 |
| 9 | 35 | 25 | 26 | 0.81 | **7.5 8** |
| 10 | 35 | 16 | 24 |  | 7 |
| 11 | 40 | 14 | 34 | Tr | Tr 6 |
| 12 | 37 | 23 | 23 | Tr | Tr 5 |
| 13 | 26 | 12 | **12** |  | 5 |
| 14 | **22** | **5** | 15 |  | 5 |
| 15 | 37 | 11 | 37 | 0.44 | 0.5 5 |
| 16 | 43 | 31 | 35 | **1.02** | 4 |
| 17 | 41 | 26 | 26 |  | 3 |
| 18 | 40 | 25 | 29 |  | 3 |
| 19 | 35 | 20 | 20 |  | 3 |
| 20 | 34 | 19 | 27 |  | 3 |
| 21 | 34 | 17 | 33 |  | 3 |
| 22 | 39 | 31 | 35 |  | 2 |
| 23 | 55 | 32 | 37 |  | 1 |
| 24 | **56** | 31 | 31 |  | Patches |
| 25 | 39 | 26 | 39 | 0.97 | Patches |
| 26 | 44 | 38 | 40 | 0.05 | Patches |
| 27 | 45 | 36 | 36 |  | Patches |
| 28 | 47 | 29 | 40 |  |  |
| 29 | 47 | **40** | **46** | 0.34 |  |
| 30 | 46 | 30 | 30 |  |  |
| 31 | 37 | 30 | 34 | 0.14 | 0.5 Tr |
| SUM | 1204 | 779 |  | 4.09 | 10.6 19 69 |

in **bold):**

REMARKS  
Flurries  
Flurries

Predawn snow > sleet ended as fz rain at dawn

Snow began 2345

Snow till 0800; very heavy at daybreak

Flurries  
Flurries

Snow/sleet mid aftn > £z rain (1/4") > rain   
Rain, heavy at times, till near daybreak

Numerous bare spots in snow cover open areas

Rain, heavy at times, aftn & early evening   
Fog, couple of lgt showers till early daylight

Periods of light rain

Ocnl lgt rain/sleet then thundersnow 1400-1440   
.then a foggy New Year's Eve

Note: Patches of snow depth means less than half but greater than one tenth of   
undisturbed ground snow covered. While the majority of the ground is snow free,   
depths within scattered patches may range to several inches, the result of   
differential melting. Quantitatively, patches count as a trace.

Monthly statistics:

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep):   
Average Maximum Temperature (Dep):   
Average Minimum Temperature (Dep):   
Extreme Daily High Maximum Temp:   
Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp:   
Extreme Daily Low Minimum Temp:   
Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp:   
Heating Degree Days (Season):   
Cooling Degree Days (Season):

32.0 (-3.1)

38.8 (-4.2)

25.1 (-2.1)

56 (-1) on 24th

40 on 29th

5 (-7) on 14th

22 on 14th

1015 (1811)

0 (1337)

-- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 4.09 (+0.25)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 52.98 (+0.20)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 1.02 on 16th

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.46 on 15th-16th

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): 10.6 (+6.7)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 11.4 (+6.7)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: 7.5 on 9th  
Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: 7.5 on 9th-9th

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 8

Days with Hail: 0

Days with Thunder (Dep): 1 (+1)

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 29 on 22nd

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.67 on 8th

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.30 on 29th

4-Inch Soil Temps began the month in the low 40s then slid to the upper 30s   
during the first week then held steady close to 36 under insulating snow cover   
until the final few days when they climbed to around 40.

Highlights:

December was remarkable for the persistence of mid-winter cold and snow cover   
before the winter solstice. The cold tanked on the 14th with clear, calm   
conditions over the snow cover. The Airport (KRDG) bottomed at plus 2, which   
humiliated the 1904 record of 9. Some reports of sub-zero temps came from rural   
valley locations. The coldest reliable report of minus 6 came from the   
Bernville area, and was the coldest reported in Berks County since early   
February 1996. The premature mid-winter conditions reminded many folks of   
December 1989, but a check of those records showed pre-solstice December 1989   
was significantly colder, and that December continued harsh to the very end.   
Mellowing conditions after the solstice resulted in a December that was only   
moderately colder than normal overall and was actually quite similar to December   
2002 in both temperature and precipitation trends. Other recent Decembers such   
as 1985, 1995, and 2000 averaged colder than this December.

Precipitation totaled in the high-end normal range; however, that included   
snowfall that totaled a little more than twice the long term average. A   
moderate winter storm the early morning of the 4th brought a mix of snow, sleet, and icy rain. Then a major snowfall of 6 to 9 inches in the Reading area fell mostly within three hours around daybreak of the 9th. Mixed precipitation was observed to the nearby south and resulted in a rather dense snowfall from   
Reading southward despite temperatures that were climbing through the 20s. The   
snow was more fluffy north of Reading. Then a quick transition from harsh cold   
to plain rain at the month's midpoint served as a good predictor of the   
mellowing during the month's second half. Finally, on the last day, the weather   
wanted to emulate both winter and spring as moderately cold air in place clashed with mild air to the near south resulting in light rain and sleet and first. But then some natural New Year's noisemaking came ten hours early as a   
thunderstorm developed over the Reading area at exactly 1400. Light rain and   
sleet changed quickly to heavy slushy snow leaving a quick coating. The squall   
soon passed, and the sun emerged before 1500. And that partial clearing   
combined with residual moisture and light winds resulted in a slushy and foggy   
New Year's Eve.

Rankings this month:

Avg Temp 32.0 - fifth coldest of 22 Decembers

Precip 4.09 - ninth wettest of 23 Decembers

Snowfall 10.6 - third snowiest of 23 Decembers