

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 53% good, 39% fair and 8% poor as of February 19. Wheat was in mostly good condition where snow cover was adequate to protect the crop from record low temperatures during January and the first half of February. In areas where snow cover was very light to none, there is concern for the effect of these low temperatures on this summer's crop. The crop should resume growth soon as temperatures increase.

LIVESTOCK were reported in generally stable condition as record-low temperatures continued into the first half of February. Feed conversion ratios were very low for livestock as high levels of energy were required for maintenance. Main problems dealt with farrowing, calving or lambing. Death losses were higher than normal.

SOIL MOISTURE as of February 19 was reported as 40% adequate and 60% surplus.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period February 15-21 averaged from 3 to 10 degrees above the normal with a warm period at the end of the week with maximum temperatures climbing into the middle 60's in the southern tip and into the mid-40's in the northern portions. Snow cover melted and widespread low-level flooding continued in the southern third of the State, while flooding began during the mid-week in the central and northern portions.

PRECIPITATION ranged from trace amounts in the Northeast to near 1 inch in the Central with over 1 inch in the southern and some localities in the central portion.

The Outlook for the period February 23 to March 3 indicates above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 6 to 13 degrees below normal over the entire State. The Northeast District had the largest below normal variation (12.7 degrees below normal). A cool trend which started during the second half of December continued through January with the second week being the coldest. Many new record minimum temperature records were set in the State as readings fell to 25 degrees below zero. During mid-month, maximum readings climbed into the 60's in the South.

PRECIPITATION was above normal in every district of the State. This was the first time in six months that precipitation was above normal in most sections. The largest above normal variation was in the Southwest District. Moderate precipitation amounts fell during the first half of January with heavy amounts during the fourth week. The South received more than 6 inches of precipitation during the 30th and 31st.

During the first 3 weeks 5 separate snowstorms each laid from 1 to 4 inches of new snow in the north and central sections. On the 30th a blizzard hit the State with 2 to 20 inches with the heaviest amount in the central and southern portions. Freezing rain also occurred. Many highways were closed.

The Extended Outlook from February 15 to March 15 is for temperatures to be above normal throughout the State. Precipitation is expected to be below normal in the North and above normal in the South.

MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES IN DEGREES

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>
Chicago	-5	+2	-2	-11
Moline	-4	+2	0	-11
Springfield	-2	+3	-2	-10
So. Central	-3	+2	-3	-7

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Illinois Weather & Crops
February 22, 1982

PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS

<u>District</u>	<u>January Precipitation 1/</u>			<u>Nov.-Jan. Precipitation 2/</u>		<u>Feb.1981-Jan.1982 Precipitation 2/</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Departures</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Normal</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Normal</u>
Northwest	1.85	1.33	+0.52	4.8	88	40.3	115
Northeast	2.65	1.81	+0.84	5.3	90	38.6	111
West	1.96	1.75	+0.21	6.5	118	45.4	123
Central	3.85	1.86	+1.99	7.7	124	49.0	136
East	4.00	1.85	+2.15	9.1	144	48.2	134
W.Southwest	4.75	1.83	+2.92	9.8	153	50.1	134
E.Southeast	6.49	2.55	+3.94	11.9	142	48.5	122
Southwest	7.08	3.02	+4.06	13.0	138	51.4	119
Southeast	5.88	3.37	+2.51	14.7	144	51.3	117

1/ National Weather Service, Rosemont, Illinois

2/ State Water Survey Division, Champaign, Illinois

WATER CONDITIONS IN ILLINOIS FOR JANUARY 1982

Illinois experienced near record heavy precipitation totals in central and southern Illinois during January 1982, with near normal precipitation in the extreme North, according to the Illinois State Water Survey Division of Champaign, Illinois. Precipitation in excess of 4 inches fell across most of the southeastern half of Illinois along a line from St. Louis to Urbana, with totals in excess of 9 inches in the extreme South. January, in this very wet area of the State, ranked as the fourth wettest January of this Century.

Other major weather extremes of the month greatly affected the water status of Illinois. Much of the month was extremely cold, ranked as the State's fifth coldest January since 1900, and snowfall was above normal throughout the State. Near record January snow totals of 20 inches or more were recorded across the south-central part of the State.

Coupled with the extreme cold and heavy snowfall were two periods of relatively heavy rains. On January 20 to 22 rainfall ranged from 0.5 inch in the central sections to over 1 inch in the South, and then on January 29 and 30 rainfall amounts ranged from 1.5 inches in the North to over 5 inches in the extreme South.

The combination of these near record rainfalls, frozen ground, and snowcover (in the northern two-thirds of Illinois), which was partially melted by the rains at the end of the month, equalled flood conditions. Southern Illinois rivers, at the end of January, were in flood stage and all lakes were full or spilling. The southern half of Illinois, 9 months after a drought ended, is facing sizable water surpluses, and hence flooding. The precipitation over the past 12 months in Central Illinois is sufficiently great to rate as a once-in-40-year event.