

ILLINOIS

WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
COOPERATIVE CROP
REPORTING SERVICE**

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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 3% excellent, 61% good, and 36% fair as of March 19. Warmer temperatures in the southern half of the State during the past couple of weeks have caused the crop to resume plant growth. Standing water from melting snow or spring rains, and some flooding over river flood plains may cause some crop damage.

LIVESTOCK feedlot gains have improved greatly as temperatures have moderated. The main problem appears to be muddy feedlots from rain and snow melt runoff. There are reports of some problems of calving, lambing or farrowing under these conditions.

GRAIN MOVEMENT has been hampered as soft road conditions have forced some counties to post weight limits on roads. Spring fertilizer and seed purchases coupled with high interest rates and low grain prices have hurt many farmers' cash flow this spring.

SOIL MOISTURE, as of March 19, was reported as 34% adequate and 66% surplus.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of March 15-21 averaged from 2 to 4 degrees below normal in the Northwest, normal in the Northeast, and 6 to 18 degrees above normal in the central and southern part of the State. Maximum temperatures climbed to the 80's in the extreme South with a few new temperature records.

PRECIPITATION was heavy in the north and central portions of the State and light in the extreme South. Amounts ranged from 1 to 2 inches in the north and central areas to .03 to .33 of an inch in the southern section. Many rivers and streams, particularly in the central section, are above flood stage resulting in flooding.

The Outlook for the period of March 23 through 29 is for temperatures and precipitation to be below normal.

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 4 to 7 degrees below normal over the entire state. The East-Southeast District had the largest below normal variation (7.1 degrees below normal). A cool trend which started during the second half of December continued through the first half of February. Many new minimum temperature records were set in the State as readings fell to 20 degrees below zero in the North. During the second half of the month readings went above normal for the first time in 8 weeks, sending maximum readings into the 80's in the South for a brief period. A few new maximum temperature records were set in this area.

PRECIPITATION was below normal in every district of the State except the West-Southwest where it was normal. This was the seventh time in 8 months that precipitation was below normal in most sections. The largest below normal variation was in the Southwest District. Light to moderate precipitation amounts fell during the first half of February, with heavy amounts of more than 1 inch falling in the extreme South during the third week. In the fourth week, precipitation was light.

During the first week, 1 to 3 inches of snow fell on many sections of the State. In the second week 2 separate snowstorms each laid from 1 to 7 inches of new snow in the south and central sections; some local areas received heavier amounts.

The Extended Outlook for March 15 thru April 15 is for temperatures to be near normal and precipitation to be above normal over Illinois.

MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES IN DEGREES

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>
Chicago	-5	+2	-2	-11	-5
Moline	-4	+2	0	-11	-5
Springfield	-2	+3	-2	-10	-6
So. Central	-3	+2	-3	-7	-6

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PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS

<u>District</u>	<u>February Precipitation 1/</u>			<u>Dec.-Feb. Precipitation 2/</u>		<u>Mar. 1981-Feb.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	0.29	1.23	-0.94	3.2	70	38.3	109
Northeast	0.59	1.45	-0.86	4.1	79	37.0	107
West	0.81	1.47	-0.66	4.9	100	44.9	121
Central	1.45	1.62	-0.17	7.1	127	47.9	133
East	1.41	1.76	-0.35	7.3	128	47.4	132
W. Southwest	1.93	1.92	+0.01	8.7	150	49.3	132
E. Southeast	1.92	2.36	-0.44	11.2	147	47.5	120
Southwest	1.91	2.94	-1.03	12.0	133	50.5	117
Southeast	2.15	3.09	-0.94	11.1	113	50.2	114

1/ National Weather Service, Rosemont, Illinois

2/ State Water Survey Division, Champaign, Illinois

AMOUNT OF MOISTURE IN TWO SOIL HORIZONS
BY
STATE WATER SURVEY DIVISION
(ON FEBRUARY 25-26)

<u>Location</u>	<u>0 to 20-Inch Depth</u>		<u>0 to 40-Inch Depth</u>	
	<u>Inches of Moisture</u>	<u>% Change Since Jan.</u>	<u>Inches of Moisture</u>	<u>% Change Since Jan.</u>
De Kalb (North)	6.3	-4	11.5	-9
Monmouth (Northwest)	6.1	-3	11.0	-8
Appleton (Northwest)	6.4	+9	12.1	-3
Perry (West-central)	6.3	+10	11.9	+1
Topeka (Central)	5.6	+26	9.4	+27
Urbana (East-central)	6.8	+8	13.4	+4
Brownstown (South-central)	6.8	+10	13.5	+4
Dixon Springs (Extreme South)	6.5	-0	12.7	-1

The soil moisture values in the above table are for total moisture in the soil column, not just plant available moisture. The slight decreases observed in the soil moisture values for the northern sites and for Dixon Springs reflect the very shallow snowpack in the North and the lack of snow in the South, while the increases observed for the other sites reflect the meltwater from the much deeper snow accumulations there.