

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



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## CROPS

**WINTER WHEAT** condition on February 19 was reported as 6% excellent, 76% good, 16% fair, and 2% poor. Wheat fields in the northern third of the State have generally stayed snow covered. These fields are assumed to be in good condition, but there is concern as to how the extreme freezing, thawing, and ponding of water could hurt wheat stands. Some leaf tip burning in exposed places was reported in some areas. The rest of the State has had limited snow cover during the winter, causing concern with the wide temperature swings, freezing and thawing, and ponding water. Color deterioration and a few drowned out spots were reported in a few areas in the South. Generally, no significant damage has occurred to the winter wheat crop that can be determined thus far.

**SOIL MOISTURE** on February 19 was reported as 10% short, 72% adequate, and 18% surplus.

**LIVESTOCK** condition across the State was fairly good considering problems that were noted due to extreme temperature changes from week to week. A few reports of TGE in swine were received. Cold periods caused reduced gains and feed efficiency. Muddy lots during warm spells have caused management problems and wet conditions for livestock resulting in an increased use of bedding. Hay supplies were generally adequate across the State except a few reports of shortages of good quality alfalfa hay in the Northwest, West-Southwest, East-Southeast, and Southwest Districts.

### ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Winter wheat condition				Soil moisture percent		
	: Excellent	: Good	: Fair	: Poor	: Short	: Adequate	: Surplus
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As of February 19							
Northwest	: 5	80	15	-	5	95	0
Northeast	: 15	75	10	-	0	85	15
West	: -	65	25	10	35	65	0
Central	: -	70	20	10	30	65	5
East	: -	80	20	-	0	95	5
West-Southwest	: -	90	10	-	10	75	15
East-Southeast	: -	70	30	-	5	40	55
Southwest	: 25	70	5	-	5	60	35
Southeast	: -	90	10	-	0	75	25
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State	: 6	76	16	2	10	72	18
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**PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES**

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
Dec. 1987	3.03	3.45	2.38	3.53	3.61	5.21	4.80	7.22	6.83
Departure	1.19	1.43	0.46	1.40	1.41	3.03	2.02	4.16	3.52
Jan. 1988	1.68	1.89	1.52	1.78	1.66	2.27	3.31	2.26	2.51
Departure	0.03	0.09	-0.23	-0.06	-0.19	0.35	0.78	-0.72	-0.86

2.11 / 2.20

**JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY**

Illinois recorded near normal temperatures and precipitation.

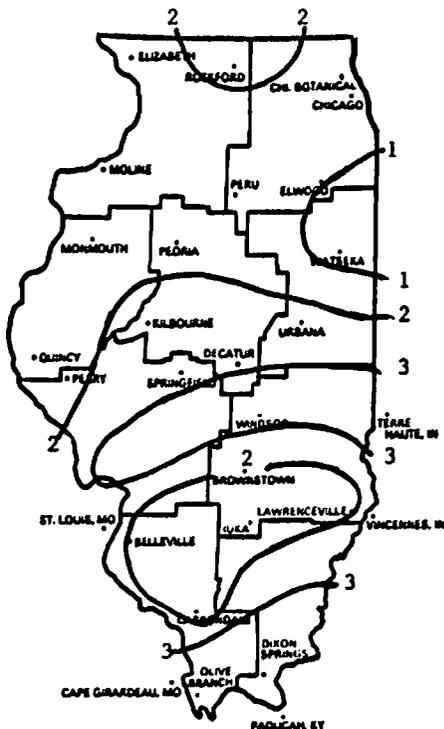
The Statewide average monthly **TEMPERATURE** was only 0.6 degrees below normal as temperatures ranged from -5 degrees below normal to 6 degrees above normal. The warmest portion of the State was the central sections, while the coolest area was in the northwest. The month started with temperatures below normal, with minimum readings falling below the zero mark. A warm trend developed during midmonth, and again at the end of the month as maximum readings climbed into the 50's in the North and 60's in the South.

**PRECIPITATION** averaged near normal in the State (-0.09 of an inch below normal). The largest above normal variation was in the East-Southeast District (0.78 of an inch above normal). The largest below normal variation was in the Southeast District (-0.86 of an inch below normal). A station in the East-Southeast District received the largest total precipitation during the month (4.25 inches). The least total amount for January was in the Southwest District (0.57 of an inch). The first half of the month was dry. Moderated precipitation fell in the latter half of January. A few stations recorded nearly 2 inches of precipitation during a 24-hour period.

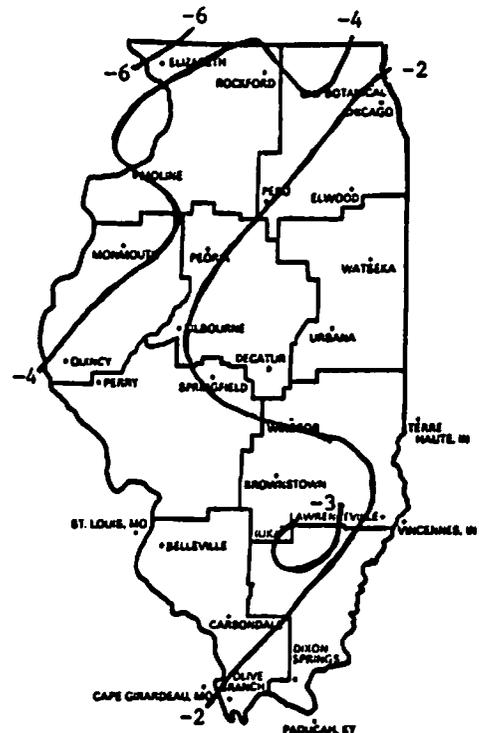
On the 24th to 25th of the month, the heaviest snowstorm laid 1 to 6 inches of snow on many sections of the State (The North received the heaviest amounts).

The **OUTLOOK** February 15 thru March 15 is for temperatures to be below normal and precipitation to be near normal.

The **90-DAY OUTLOOK** from February through April is for temperatures to be near normal and precipitation to be below normal.



**PRECIPITATION (INCHES)  
JANUARY 1988**



**TEMPERATURE DEVIATION FROM  
AVERAGE (°F) JANUARY 1988**

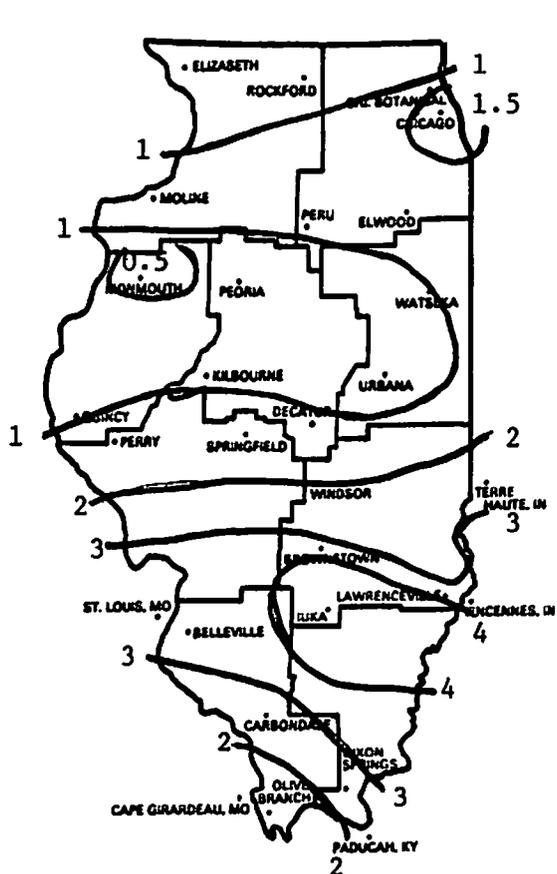
**WEATHER SUMMARY, FEBRUARY 1-15, 1988**

THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY HAVE KEPT AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN ILLINOIS BELOW NORMAL BUT HAVE BOOSTED PRECIPITATION TOTALS ABOVE NORMAL ESPECIALLY OVER THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE STATE. AVERAGE TEMPERATURES FOR THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD RANGE FROM SIX TO TWELVE DEGREES BELOW NORMAL IN THE NORTH AND FROM THREE TO EIGHT DEGREES BELOW NORMAL IN THE SOUTH. TEMPERATURES HAVE MOVED THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OVERALL BUT EXTREMES AT THE LOW END HAVE OUTWEIGHED EXTREMES AT THE HIGH END OF THE SPECTRUM.

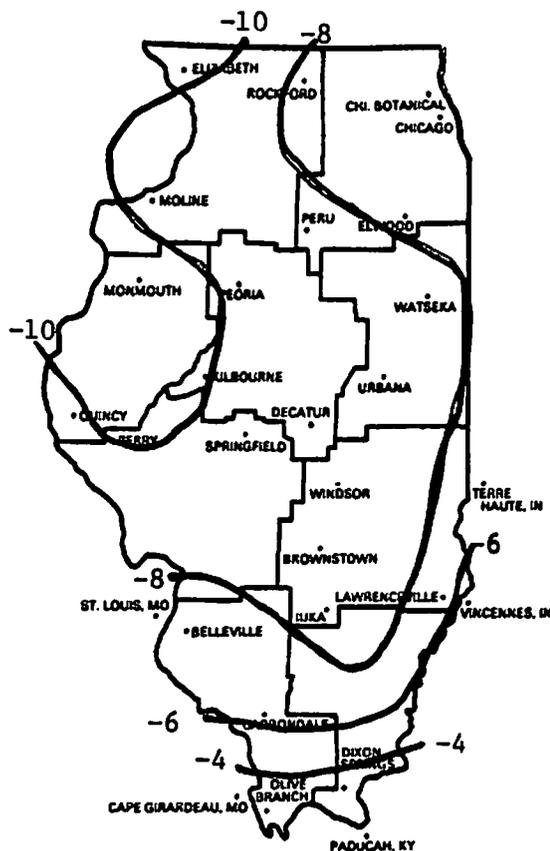
ABSOLUTE LOW TEMPERATURES THUS FAR IN FEBRUARY HAVE BEEN WITHIN A DEGREE OR TWO OF ZERO IN THE SOUTH BUT HAVE RANGED BETWEEN 10 AND 16 BELOW ZERO IN THE NORTH. HIGHEST READINGS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN IN THE 50'S NORTH AND CENTRAL AND IN THE LOWER 60'S IN THE EXTREME SOUTH. EXTENSIVE SNOW COVER HELPED TO INSULATE SOILS IN THE NORTH, SO AVERAGE FOUR-INCH SOIL TEMPERATURES THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR THE TWO WEEKS RANGE FROM LOW TO MID-30'S.

WATER EQUIVALENT PRECIPITATION TOTALS VARY BETWEEN A HALF-INCH AND AN INCH-AND-A-HALF OVER THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE STATE WITH LIGHTEST TOTALS IN THE NORTHWEST SECTOR. ON THE OTHER HAND, TOTALS OVER THE SOUTH RANGED FROM ONE AND A HALF TO NEARLY FIVE INCHES WITH HEAVIEST TOTALS IN THE SOUTHEAST. SNOW COVER OVER THE NORTH BUILT UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 6 TO 8 INCHES BEFORE SHRINKING TO 2 TO 4 INCHES AT THE MIDPOINT OF THE MONTH.

THE 3- TO 5-DAY FORECAST FOR ILLINOIS, COVERING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 24 TO FEBRUARY 26, IS CALLING FOR GENERALLY FAIR WEATHER WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY WITH A CHANCE OF SNOW IN THE NORTH ON FRIDAY. HIGHS GENERALLY IN THE MID-20'S TO LOWER 30'S NORTH, AND THE 30'S SOUTH. OVERNIGHT LOWS MOSTLY IN THE TEENS NORTH AND CENTRAL TO THE LOWER 20'S SOUTH.



**PRECIPITATION (INCHES)  
FEBRUARY 1-15, 1988**



**TEMPERATURE DEVIATION FROM  
AVERAGE (°F) FEBRUARY 1-15, 1988**

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CROP INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by county officials of Extension Service and SCS, and agribusiness managers. Additional WEATHER INFORMATION is provided by the Illinois State Water Survey, IDE&NR, Champaign, Ill.; and National Weather Service Cooperative Observers, NOAA, Rosemont, Ill.