

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## CROPS

**WINTER WHEAT** condition, as of March 15, was reported as 3% excellent, 44% good, 48% fair, and 5% poor. Many reporters had difficulty assessing the conditions of winter wheat still under considerable moisture in the south and snow in the North. There are some reports of winter kill, but it is too early to fully measure the consequences of the March 13th snow, ice, rain and wind. In the Central and Southern Districts, there are scattered reports of winter wheat "greening up" at the plant bases. There were also increased numbers of farmers applying fertilizer in those areas.

**SOIL MOISTURE** as of March 15 was reported as 1% short, 65% adequate and 34% surplus. A small percentage of short soil moisture supplies were reported in the West Southwest District. Otherwise, Southeastern areas reported mostly surplus moisture due to recent rain and snow that has already melted. With snow also in the North, moisture supplies are mostly adequate.

**LIVESTOCK** were in generally fair to good condition considering March's weather extremes. Snow, wind, and rain triggered several health problems which should not last long, and the calving percentage seemed to remain stable. Wet, muddy feedlots dominate the State, and soft roads resulted in some marketing delays. Various reports of no electricity during the severe weather caused a few problems, usually more for the operators than the livestock. Cases of TGE on hog operations were also reported in three districts. There are adequate hay supplies, and grain quality is good, but movement is slow due to soft roads which continue to be posted.

### ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Winter Wheat Condition				Soil Moisture Percent		
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Short	Adq.	Surplus
As of March 15							
Northwest	0	30	60	10	0	100	0
Northeast	0	35	50	15	0	80	20
West	0	65	35	0	0	65	35
Central	0	60	30	10	0	70	30
East	0	50	50	0	0	75	25
W Southwest	0	45	55	0	5	65	30
E Southeast	5	30	60	5	0	40	60
Southwest	10	50	40	0	0	75	25
Southeast	0	40	40	20	0	15	85
State	3	44	48	5	1	65	34

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES										
	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
February	0.39	0.59	0.45	0.45	0.30	0.99	1.51	2.00	3.14	1.09
Departure	-0.86	-0.82	-1.00	-1.14	-1.43	-0.88	-0.72	-0.74	0.28	-0.81

**FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY**

TEMPERATURES WERE ABOVE NORMAL WHILE PRECIPITATION WAS BELOW NORMAL DURING FEBRUARY IN ILLINOIS.

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DEPARTURE FOR THE STATE WAS 5.6 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THE FIRST WEEK WAS ABOVE NORMAL AS HIGHS CLIMBED INTO THE 40'S IN THE NORTH TO THE 70'S IN THE SOUTH. SLIGHTLY BELOW NORMAL READINGS WERE RECORDED DURING THE SECOND WEEK. THE REST OF THE MONTH RECORDED A ROLLER COASTER OF ABOVE AND BELOW NORMAL READINGS. ELIZABETH (IN THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT) RECORDED THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE, 8 DEGREES BELOW ZERO ON THE 16TH. ST. LOUIS (NEAR THE WEST-SOUTHWEST DISTRICT) RECORDED THE HIGHEST READING, 73 DEGREES ON THE 19TH.

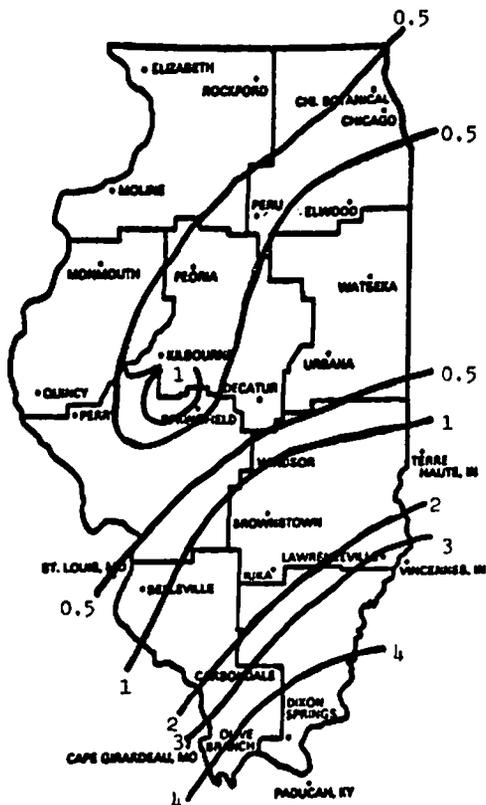
THE AVERAGE PRECIPITATION FOR THE STATE WAS 0.81 OF AN INCH BELOW NORMAL. THE EAST DISTRICT RECORDED THE LEAST PRECIPITATION WITH ONLY 0.30 OF AN INCH (1.43 INCHES BELOW NORMAL). THE SOUTHEAST DISTRICT WAS THE ONLY DISTRICT THAT WAS ABOVE NORMAL, 0.28 OF AN INCH ABOVE THE NORM. GRAND TOWER (IN THE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT) RECORDED THE GREATEST PRECIPITATION TOTAL FOR THE MONTH WITH 4.79 INCHES.

SNOW WAS BELOW NORMAL IN MOST SECTIONS. HEAVY SNOW FELL DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH.

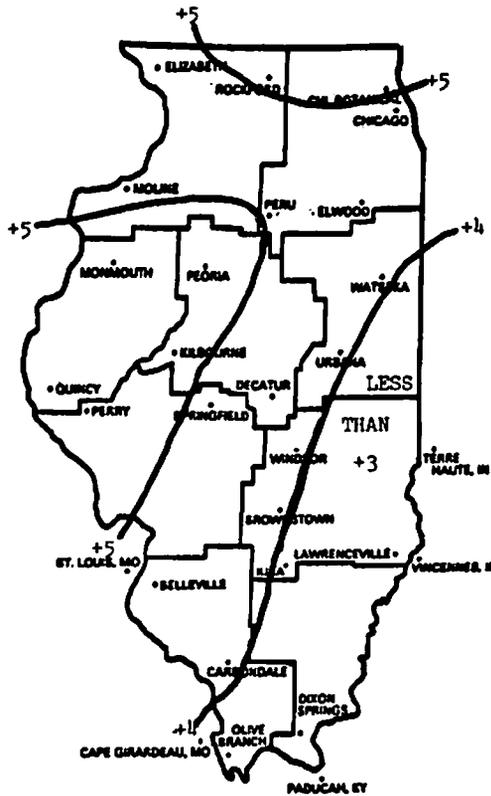
THE OUTLOOK FOR THE REMAINDER OF MARCH IS FOR TEMPERATURES TO BE BELOW NORMAL AND PRECIPITATION TO BE ABOVE NORMAL.

THE 90-DAY OUTLOOK FOR ILLINOIS FROM MARCH THROUGH MAY IS FOR TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION TO BE NEAR NORMAL.

Summary provided by The National Weather Service Cooperative Observers  
NOAA, Rosemont, Illinois



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)  
FEB. 1991



TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES FROM  
AVERAGE (°F) FEB. 1991

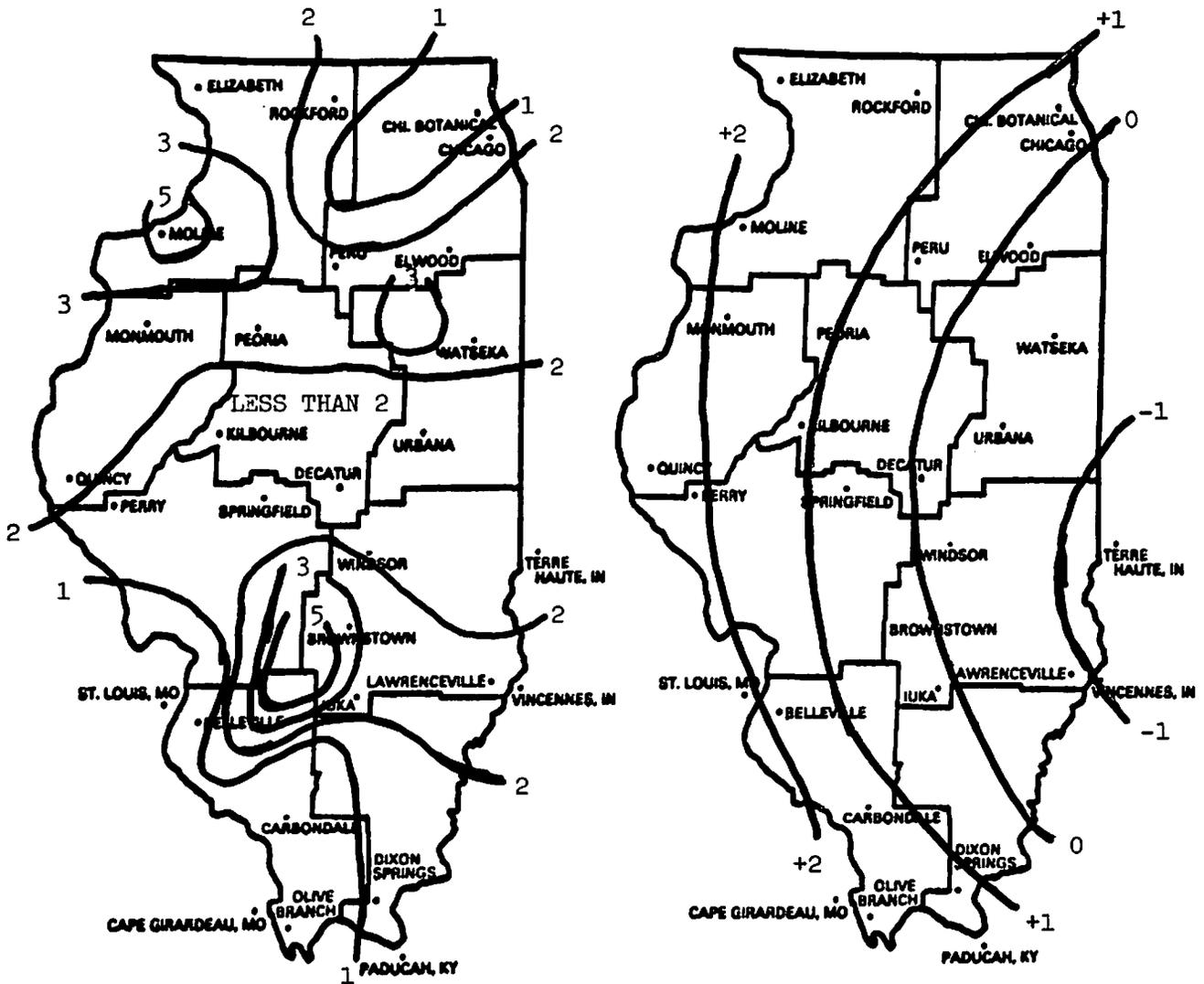
## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MARCH 1-15, 1991

MARCH INITIALLY BEGAN QUITE DAMP WITH GOOD SOAKING RAINS OF 0.5 TO 1.5 INCHES OBSERVED OVER THE AREA. THEREAFTER, RATHER SERENE CONDITIONS PREVAILED THROUGH THE 11TH WITH LITTLE TO NO MOISTURE NOTED DURING THIS TIME. LATE IN THE PERIOD, A SUPRISE SPRING STORM MOVED FROM THE GREAT PLAINS TO THE OHIO VALLEY, BRINGING DAMAGING AMOUNTS OF ICE TO EAST-CENTRAL SECTIONS OF THE STATE AND ABUNDANT SNOW TO THE NORTH. TOTAL STORM SNOW ACCUMULATIONS REACHED UP TO ONE FOOT IN NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS.

FOR THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH, TEMPERATURES AVERAGED NEAR TO SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL WITH DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL OF -1 TO +5 DEGREES. MEAN HIGHS RANGED FROM THE LOW 40'S NORTH TO THE UPPER 50'S SOUTH WHILE AVERAGE LOWS VARIED FROM THE MID 20'S TO NEAR 40. SUCH READINGS EQUATED TO MEAN TEMPERATURES OF 32 TO 46.

TOTAL PRECIPITATION WAS QUITE ABUNDANT ACROSS NORTHERN ILLINOIS WHERE AMOUNTS IN EXCESS OF 2 TO 3 INCHES WERE COMMON. PRECIPITATION GENERALLY DECREASED TO THE SOUTH, WITH THE LEAST AMOUNTS NOTED NEAR THE OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS. TOTALS THERE WERE SLIGHTLY UNDER 1 INCH. THESE AMOUNTS WERE FROM ONE TO TWO INCHES ABOVE NORMAL IN SECTIONS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS WHILE TO THE SOUTH TOTALS WERE MORE THAN ONE INCH BELOW NORMAL.

Information above provided by Midwest Agricultural Weather Service Center  
Purdue University, West LaFayette, Indiana 47907



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)  
MARCH 1-15, 1991

TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES FROM  
AVERAGE (°F) MARCH 1-15, 1991

Weather maps provided by Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

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CROP INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by county officials of Extension Service and SCS, and agribusiness managers.

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