

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS  
AGRICULTURAL  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition, as of March 18, was reported as 28 percent good, 54 percent fair, 16 percent poor, and two percent very poor, a slight improvement in condition since last month. Reports from throughout Illinois reflected concerns for surplus soil moisture conditions and extreme cold temperatures which have caused drowned out areas and thin stands.

SOIL MOISTURE as of March 18, was reported as 72 percent adequate and 28 percent surplus. Reports indicated the greatest amounts of soil moisture in the East and Southeast Districts of the state.

About two percent of the oat acreage had been planted by March 20 compared with less than one percent at this time last year and the five-year average of eight percent.

LIVESTOCK remain in fair to good condition with improved conditions due to drier weather. Poor hay quality, cold temperatures and thawing conditions have resulted in some slowed weight gains, increased feed consumption, some reduced milk production, and muddy feedlots. Hay supplies were reported as tight across most of the state with adequate supplies being reported in the south.

GRAIN MOVEMENT progressed at a slow to moderate pace due to many roads being soft from thawing or posted with weight limits.

FIELDWORK has been minimal across the state with fertilizer and manure spreading starting and a few reports of primary tillage in central and southern areas.

### ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Soil Moisture Percent		
	Short	Adequate	Surplus
As of March 18			
Northwest	0	75	25
Northeast	0	70	30
West	0	70	30
Central	0	75	25
East	0	55	45
W Southwest	0	75	25
E Southeast	0	85	15
Southwest	0	80	20
Southeast	0	60	40
State	0	72	28

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES										
	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
February	1.14	1.78	0.89	0.66	0.73	0.75	1.44	1.44	1.73	1.17
Departure	0.01	0.45	-0.51	-0.84	-0.89	-1.10	-0.77	-0.34	-1.30	-0.59

### FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

A cool trend continued through February in Illinois. Precipitation was slightly below normal.

The monthly temperature averaged 1.2 degree below normal. Below normal readings were common most of the month with only a brief, but immense warm period during mid-month. The coldest period was during the first week of the month.

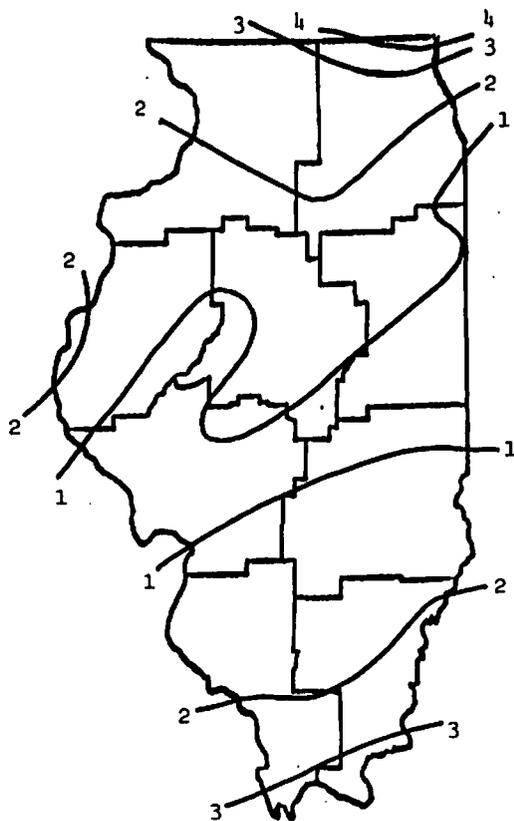
Rockford (in the Northwest District) recorded the lowest temperature, 19 degrees below zero on the 10th. Springfield (in the West-Southwest District) recorded the highest maximum reading, 64 degrees on the 18th and 19th. Several new records were set.

The average precipitation for the state was 0.59 of an inch below normal.

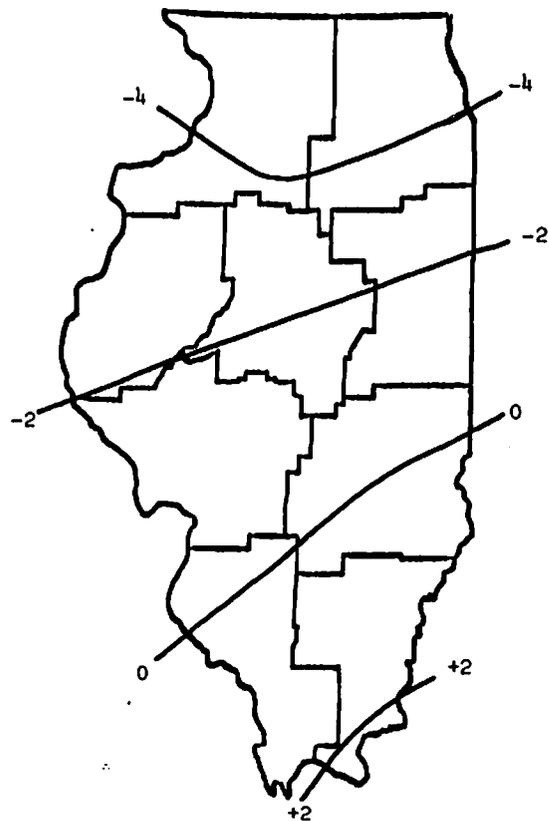
The Northeast District recorded the greatest above normal precipitation amount with 0.45 of an inch above normal. The Southeast District recorded the greatest below normal precipitation amount with 1.30 below normal.

Snowfall was below normal. A snow storm dumped as much as seven to 12 inches on the northern portion of the state on the 27th.

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



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)  
FEBRUARY 1994



TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES FROM  
AVERAGE (°F) FEBRUARY 1994

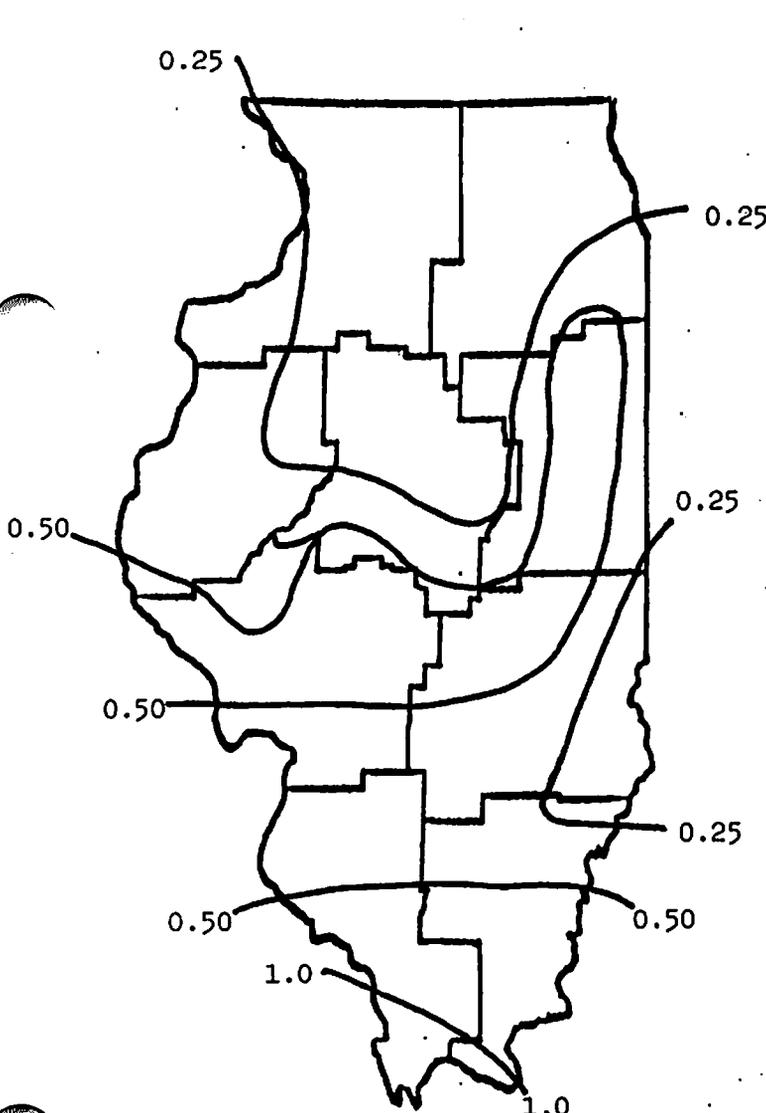
# WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MARCH 1-15, 1994

Seasonably cool weather gave way to warmer temperatures during the period with mean readings slightly above normal north and slightly below the norm south. Moisture was sub-normal throughout all but the far southeast where a snowstorm brushed the area with some heavy snowfall.

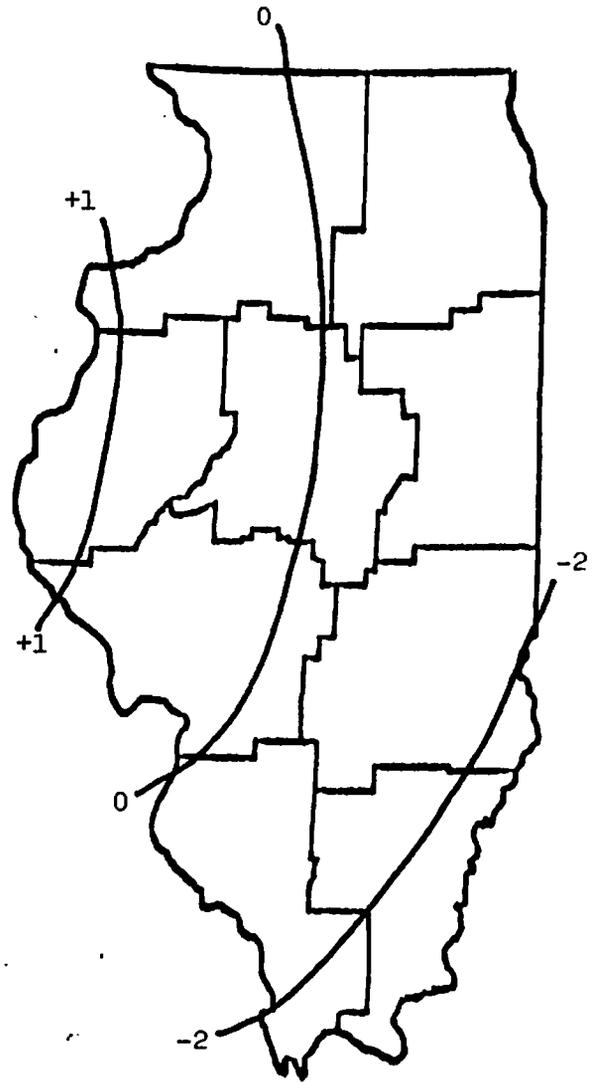
Mean temperatures of 31 to 44 were some +1 to +4 degrees above normal in the northern and central areas with southern areas reporting departures of -2 to +3 degrees. Average highs reached from 41 to 55 with mean lows from 20 to 33.

Precipitation amounts were least north and through areas of central Illinois where amounts held at 1/4 inch or less. One exception was over west-central Illinois where totals held near 1/2 inch. Only the far south reported in excess of an inch with heaviest amounts in the far south where 2 to more than 3 inches was reported.

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



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)  
MARCH 1-15, 1994



TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES FROM  
AVERAGE (°F) MARCH 1-15, 1994

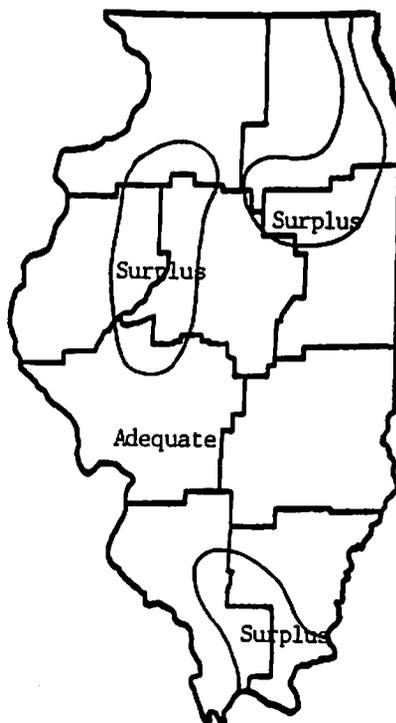
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Soil Moisture Supply  
March 18, 1994

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