

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
<http://www.agstats.state.il.us>

RELEASED: March 3, 2003 3 P.M., CT  
 VOL. 24, NO. 4

Colder than normal temperatures continued across the state last month which helped the livestock remain healthy and allowed for ample grazing. Average temperature departure was one to four degrees colder than normal. Soil moisture deficits across the state are a concern as farmers prepare for spring planting. The northern half of the state received little or no precipitation, while the southern half of the state received as much as one to two inches above normal. As of March 2, topsoil moisture statewide, was rated as four percent very short, 28 percent short, 61 percent adequate and seven percent surplus. The condition of the wheat crop improved this month with two percent rated poor, 30 percent fair, 58 percent good and ten percent excellent. Due to the extreme cold weather during the middle part of the month many wheat growers are concerned with how much of the crop has been damaged. Other activities during the month included signing up for the farm program, preparing income taxes, hauling grain, spreading fertilizers and preparing equipment for spring field work.

### Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 2				
Northwest	9	53	38	-
Northeast	1	41	58	-
West	15	37	48	-
Central	1	25	70	4
East	1	14	79	6
W Southwest	1	25	68	6
E Southeast	4	25	71	-
Southwest	-	23	52	25
Southeast	-	-	64	36
State	4	28	61	7

### Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
February 1 - 28, 2003						
Northwest	21.1	25.3	-4.2	0.46	1.45	-0.99
Northeast	22.4	26.2	-3.8	0.40	1.52	-1.12
West	24.5	29.3	-4.8	1.40	1.66	-0.25
Central	24.3	28.7	-4.5	1.22	1.70	-0.47
East	24.2	28.5	-4.3	1.34	1.70	-0.37
W Southwest	27.2	31.8	-4.6	2.18	1.93	0.25
E Southeast	27.4	32.6	-5.3	2.76	2.28	0.48
Southwest	31.2	35.5	-4.3	3.95	2.53	1.42
Southeast	31.2	35.8	-4.6	4.83	2.92	1.91
State	25.7	30.2	-4.5	1.95	1.93	0.02

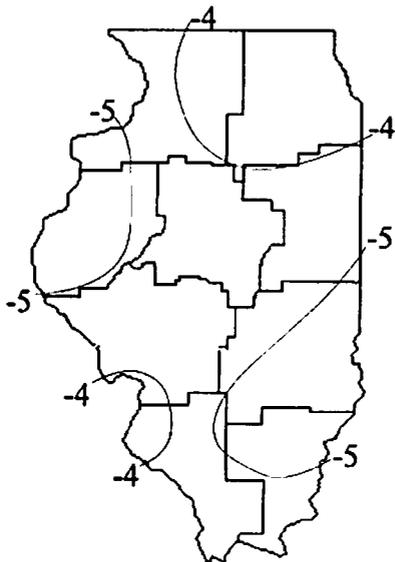
Weather data provided by Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, IL 61820, (217)244-8226.

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

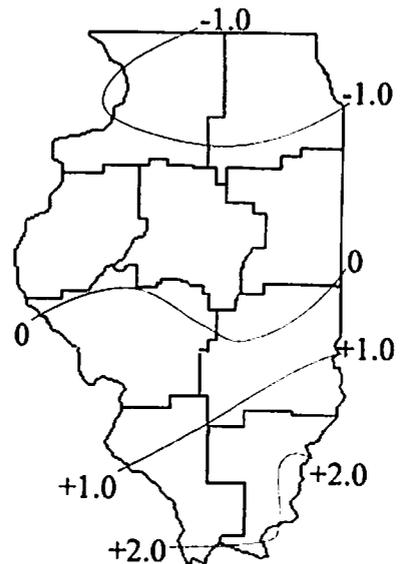
Illinois Weather & Crops  
March 3, 2003

Illinois Weather & Crops (ISSN 0273-8635) is published weekly April-October, semimonthly in January, monthly in December, February and March and three issues in November, by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, Room 54, Department of Agriculture Bldg., 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL 62702. For information on subscribing, send request to the above address. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois. Postmaster: Send Address Change to Illinois Weather & Crops, P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283.

Maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey  
Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>  
(217)244-8226



Temperature (°F) Departure  
February 1 - 28



Precipitation (in.) Departure  
February 1 - 28

Crop PROGRESS INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by local area officials of Farm Service Agency, Extension Service, National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Business Farm Management field staff, and agribusiness managers.

"Printed by authority of the State of Illinois" 3/3/03, 1,550, 1444

