

ILLINOIS

WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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Released: JANUARY 21, 1980, 3 P.M., CST

DOC, NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

DECEMBER

WINTER WHEAT was reported in mostly good condition throughout the State. Relatively dry weather conditions and a lack of snow cover continue to cause some concern. Some northern wheat fields where seedlings showed limited growth were reported as being in fair condition. Wheat fields in the southern sections of the State look good with the exception of a few wet areas.

Movement of 1979 grain from storage has been good. Open rivers and ice-free roads have allowed transportation of grain to move smoothly. Quality of stored grain appears to be good.

LIVESTOCK are generally in good condition as mild weather conditions have helped minimize health problems. Some respiratory problems have been reported but are minimal compared to normal. Supplemental feeding was light early in the year as livestock grazed corn stubble. Feeding rates have increased in January and weight gains are reported above normal because of the above average temperatures. Some feedlots reported muddy conditions in outside lots.

SOIL MOISTURE was reported as 50% short, 45% adequate and 5% surplus, Statewide.

FARM ACTIVITIES include caring for livestock, repairing machinery, hauling grain, buying supplies, building fences, attending winter meetings, and general farm chores.

December's average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 2 to 5 degrees above normal in Illinois with the largest above normal departures occurring in the western and northern sections. During the first week minimum readings fell below the zero mark in some areas for the first time this winter season. However, a warm period developed at the end of the first week sending maximum temperatures into the 60's and 70's. At the end of the month, temperatures were still running 4 to 11 degrees above normal.

PRECIPITATION was above normal in the northern half of the State and below normal in the South. The two districts showing the largest variations were the Northwest District, which was highest with 0.57 of an inch above normal rainfall, while the Southeast District was lowest with 0.93 of an inch below normal rainfall. Precipitation was light in the northern areas during the first half of the month. The South, however, recorded 2 inches of rain during a 24-hour period in the second week. During the latter half of December, precipitation ranged from 0.50 of an inch to 1.50 inches in scattered sections of the State.

One to three inches of snow fell in the northern areas during the first week. Trace amounts of snow fell in scattered areas of the State during the second week, except in the extreme South.

The Extended Outlook for January 15 thru February 15 is for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation in Illinois.

ILLINOIS WEATHER

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
December	2.33	2.24	1.99	2.15	2.57	1.86	1.92	2.70	2.38
Departures	+0.57	+0.41	+0.21	+0.08	+0.48	-0.16	-0.77	-0.44	-0.93

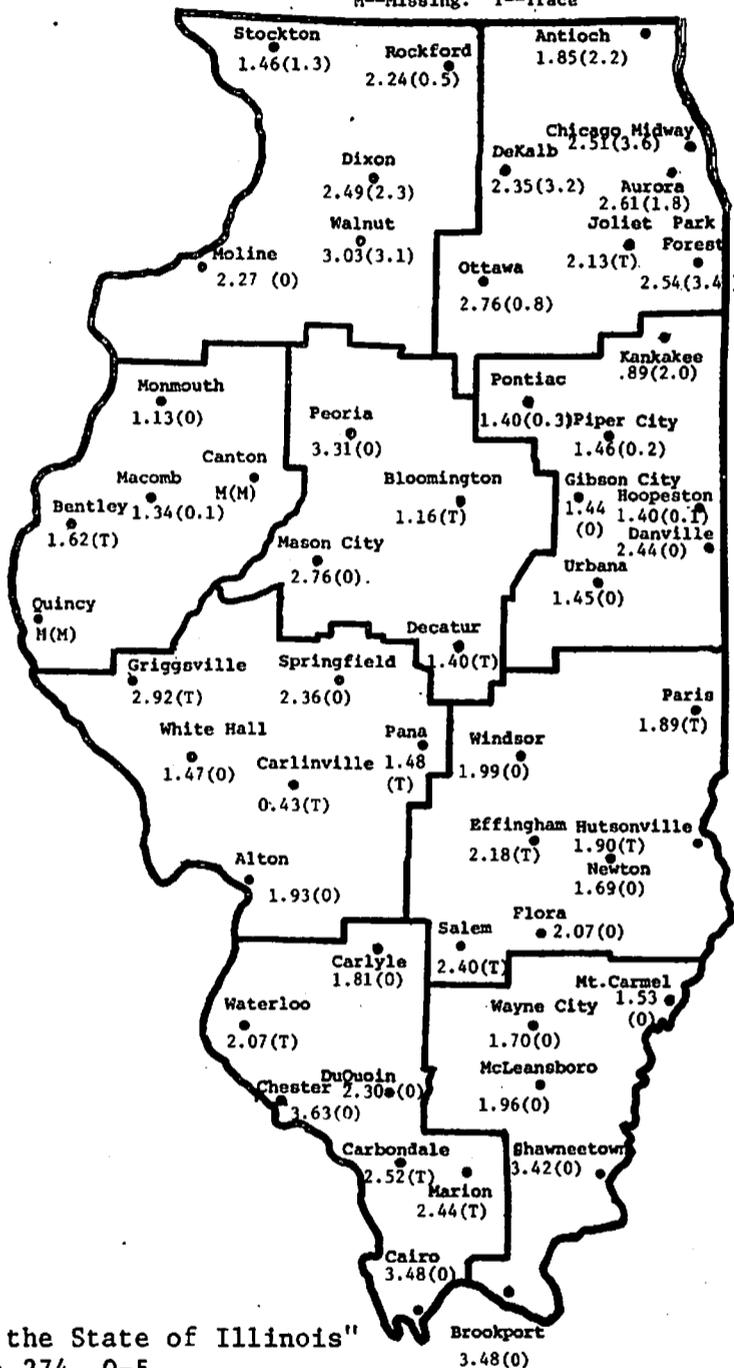
MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES IN DEGREES

	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chicago	0	-1	-1	+1	+5
Moline	-1	-1	-2	-2	+5
Springfield	-2	+1	-2	0	+6
So. Central	-3	0	-1	0	+4

JANUARY 21

STATION	:WEEK ENDING MONDAY 6 A.M.		
	:MAXIMUM	:MINIMUM	:AVERAGE
Moline	54	16	33
Rockford	47	13	29
Chicago Midway	51	20	35
Quincy	58	27	37
Decatur	54	23	35
Peoria	54	15	33
Springfield	58	22	37

DECEMBER PRECIPITATION AND SNOWFALL
NOTE: First figure--Precipitation
Parentheses--Snowfall
M--Missing. T--Trace



"Printed by authority of the State of Illinois"
1/21/80, 4,274, 0-5

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#11 Illinois Weather & Crops
January 21, 1980