

ILLINOIS

WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 5% excellent, 60% good, and 35% fair as of Friday, March 20. Wheat State-wide has limited moisture supplies available, but wheat prospects remain mostly good.

OATS seeding is about 35% complete, compared with none last year and the 5-year average (1976-80) of 7%. Mild temperatures and dry field conditions have encouraged farmers to start seeding oats early.

PLOWING for 1981 corn and soybean acreage is about 83% complete, compared with 69% last year and the 5-year average of 65%. As of mid-December field preparation was % complete for the 1981 crop. Excellent weather for fieldwork through most of March has allowed farmers to begin field tillage earlier than normal over most of the State.

LIVESTOCK were reported in good condition from mild winter weather. Dry spring weather has kept calving problems to a minimum and aided in feedlot management.

SOIL MOISTURE as of March 20 was reported as 87% short and 13% adequate.

MAIN ACTIVITIES included applying anhydrous fertilizer, seeding oats, spring tillage, general farm chores. Grain movement was reported slow in most areas except where road conditions permit heavier loads.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of March 16-22 averaged 4 degrees to 9 degrees below normal in the northeastern and southern sections and from 1 degree above normal to 2 degrees below normal over the remaining areas of the State. A 1-day warm period on the 17th sent maximum temperatures to near 70 degrees in the extreme South. PRECIPITATION was very light throughout the State as amounts ranged from traces to less than .10 of an inch.

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES were 1 degree to 2 degrees above normal in the western half of Illinois and 1 degree to 3 degrees below normal in the eastern half. The Southwest District recorded the largest above normal variation (2 degrees above normal), while the Southeast District recorded the largest below normal variation (2.8 degrees below normal). The first half of February was below normal with minimum readings reaching 15 degrees below zero in the North during the second week. By the middle of the second week a warming trend developed and lasted through the end of the month. A few new maximum temperature records were set during this period as readings climbed into the 60's in the North to near 80 degrees in the South.

PRECIPITATION was slightly above normal in the northern two-thirds of the State and slightly below normal in the extreme southern districts. The first week was very dry over Illinois. In the second week most areas received from .50 of an inch to 1.25 inches of precipitation (except for the South which received from .25 to .45 of an inch). Heavy amounts of rainfall continued in most areas during the third week as 1.00 to 1.50 inches fell. However, the northeast and southern areas received less than one inch. Rain fell (.25 to .50 of an inch) in most sections in the fourth week with the South recording nearly 1.00 inch.

During the first week, 1 to 2 inches of snow fell on the northern half of the State. One to ten inches fell on much of Illinois on the 10th, with the heaviest amounts falling on the northeastern section. The Extended Outlook for March 15 through April 15 is for above normal temperatures in the western sections of Illinois and near normal temperatures in the remaining areas of the State. Precipitation is expected to be below normal over the entire State.

ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
Soil Moisture %: (as of Mar.20)										
Short	80	65	90	90	70	100	90	80	85	87
Adequate	20	35	10	10	30	--	10	20	15	13
Surplus	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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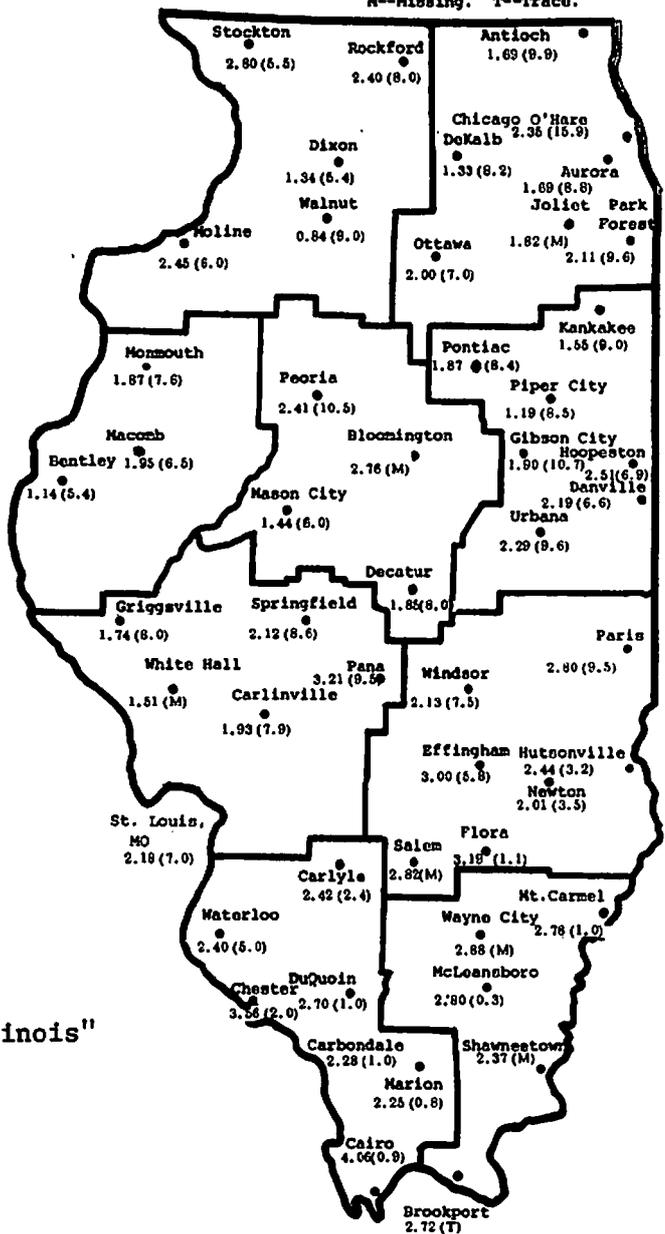
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ILLINOIS WEATHER

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	<u>NW</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>WSW</u>	<u>ESE</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>SE</u>
February	2.03	1.88	1.81	2.29	2.00	2.15	2.56	2.64	2.65
Departures	+0.80	+0.43	+0.34	+0.67	+0.24	+0.23	+0.18	-0.30	-0.44

FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION AND SNOWFALL
NOTE: First figure--Precipitation
Parentheses--Snowfall
N--Missing. T--Trace.



MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES IN DEGREES

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>
Chicago	-6	+1	+1	-1	+2
Moline	-5	+1	0	+1	+2
Springfield	-4	0	+1	-1	+2
So. Central	-3	+1	+2	-3	+2

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