

ILLINOIS

WEATHER & CROPS



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Released: December 21, 1981, 3 P.M. CST

DOC, NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

VOL. 2, NO. 39

CROPS

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 3% excellent, 84% good, and 13% fair as of December 18. Wheat was reported as being planted late this year but in still good condition due to mild November and early December temperatures. Most of the State has received snow cover before record-cold temperatures this past week.

PLOWING for 1982 CORN and SOYBEAN acreage is about normal for this time of year. As of December 20, 68% had been tilled compared to 75% last year and an average of 66%.

LIVESTOCK were reported in generally good condition with no major problems. The mild fall has allowed cattle to pasture corn stubble longer than normal. Heavy snow cover in some areas has reduced grazing; however, the heaviest snow was not in the major livestock areas.

SOIL MOISTURE as of December 18 was reported as 2% short, 90% adequate and 8% surplus.

PASTURES as of December 18 were reported 60% good, 34% fair, and 6% poor.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of December 14-20 averaged from 9 to 14 degrees below normal across the entire State. This ended a 3-week, above-normal period. Maximum temperatures fell below the zero degree mark in the northern two-thirds of the State and set several new minimum temperature records.

PRECIPITATION was light to moderate, ranging from .05 to .65 of an inch over the State. A snowstorm on the 16th dumped up to 8 inches on the central sections of the State and near the shore of Lake Michigan. During the night of the 20th, 1 to 2 inches of new snow fell on the northern areas.

The Outlook for the period of December 21 through 29 is for temperatures to be below normal and precipitation to be near normal.

NOVEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 1 degree below normal in the North to 2 to 5 degrees above normal over the remaining areas of the State. The Northwest District had the largest below normal variation (1.4 degrees below normal), while the West Southwest District had the largest above normal variation (5.1 degrees above normal). A warm trend which started during the last week in October continued into the first week of November sending maximum readings into the 60's and 70's. During the next 3 weeks of the month, temperatures were near normal averaging between 2 degrees above normal to 2 degrees below normal. Maximum temperatures in the South climbed briefly into the 70's.

PRECIPITATION was below normal in most districts of the State (except the northwest and western portions). This was the third straight month that rainfall was below normal in most sections. The largest above normal variation was in the West District, while the Southeast District recorded the largest below normal variation. Moderate rainfall amounts fell during the first week of the month with the Quincy area recording more than 2 inches during a 24-hour period. Scattered rainfall fell during the next 3 weeks with the Southeast District receiving 1 inch during the fourth week.

The first measurable snowfall of the season fell during the third week in the northern areas. Amounts were 1 to 4 inches.

The Extended Outlook for the period of December 15, 1981 to January 15, 1982 is for temperatures and precipitation to be below normal in Illinois.

MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES IN DEGREES

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

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PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS

District	November Precipitation <u>1/</u>			Sept.-Nov. Rainfall <u>2/</u>		Dec. 1980-Nov. 1981 Precipitation <u>2/</u>	
	Averages	Departures	% of Normal	Amount	% of Normal	Amount	% of Normal
Northwest	2.27	+0.18	109	9.4	112	37.1	106
Northeast	1.85	-0.31	86	7.0	88	38.7	113
West	2.49	+0.55	128	8.4	95	43.6	117
Central	1.58	-0.65	71	7.1	85	46.6	130
East	1.55	-0.79	66	7.5	92	44.0	122
W. Southwest	1.91	-0.62	75	7.3	83	36.2	97
E. Southeast	1.97	-1.19	62	8.1	89	40.0	101
Southwest	2.01	-1.32	60	8.7	91	43.1	100
Southeast	2.02	-1.47	58	7.2	77	39.5	90

The status of water conditions in Illinois at the end of November 1981 was at or above seasonal normals according to the State Water Survey Division of Champaign, Illinois. November rainfall, streamflow, lake levels and shallow groundwater levels were all near their normal values. Ample water conditions existed in most parts of Illinois.

Soil moisture levels increased in most areas of Illinois during the month of November. The increase was fairly large in the northern and western regions, and only slight elsewhere. At most sites, the soil moisture level is now almost as high as at any time since the Water Survey's detailed records began in April 1981.

Rainfall in November was near normal throughout the State. It was slightly below normal in the east-central and southern areas, but very near normal elsewhere. The precipitation of the past 12 months also has been well above normal across the northern half of the State. The Southern Illinois districts have had near normal precipitation over the past 12 months.

OUTLOOKS FOR PRECIPITATION IN ILLINOIS 2/

Areas	December <u>1981</u>	Winter 1981-82 <u>December-February</u>	Spring 1982 <u>March-May</u>
Northern	Near Normal	Below Normal	Above Normal
Central	Near Normal	Below Normal	Near Normal
South Central	Above Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal
Southern	Above Normal	Near Normal	Below Normal

1/ National Weather Service, Rosemont, Illinois

2/ State Water Survey Division, Champaign, Illinois