

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
COOPERATIVE CROP
REPORTING SERVICE**

Illinois Department of Agriculture
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE USDA
Box 429 Springfield, Illinois 62705
Phone: (217) 492-4295

Released: JANUARY 18, 1982, 3 P.M. CST

DOC, NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

VOL. 3, NO. 1

CROPS

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 8% excellent, 60% good, and 32% fair as of January 15. Wheat was in mostly good condition where snow cover was adequate to protect crop from record low temperatures throughout the State. In southern areas where snow cover was very light to none there is concern for the effect of these low temperatures on this summer's crop. But it is too early to determine if any crop damage has occurred.

LIVESTOCK were reported in generally stable condition, but the low temperatures and high winds made some sort of protection essary, as wind chills dropped to the J to -60 degrees range. Feed efficiency dropped significantly. Many local markets reported an increase in livestock prices as storm conditions slowed movement to market. Main problems dealt with farrowing, calving or lambing, as well as freezing of water supplies and feeding equipment.

SOIL MOISTURE as of January 15 was reported as 90% adequate and 10% surplus.

There is concern among State horticulturists and fruit growers as to the effect of the

past two weeks of record-low temperatures on the State's FRUIT CROP. Particularly hard hit were the peach trees where fall formed fruit buds are very susceptible to temperatures below -15 degrees F. Many specialists feel there has been some damage but we may not know how severe until this spring.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of January 11 to 17 averaged from 18 to 23 degrees below normal throughout the State as a cool trend continued for the third straight week. Several new minimum temperature records were set as readings dropped to 25 degrees below zero.

PRECIPITATION was moderate throughout the State as amounts ranged from .25 to .45 of an inch. Two snowstorms during the week laid 2 to 4 inches of new snow throughout many sections of the State.

The Outlook for the period of January 19 through January 25 is for temperatures to be near normal and precipitation to be above normal.

PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS FOR DECEMBER

According to the State Water Survey Division precipitation in December ranged from well above normal in the southern half of the State to normal in the central sections. December precipitation was much below normal in the northern fourth of the State. Most of the December precipitation fell during the last two weeks of the month, and in the northern two-thirds of the State fell as snow. Three severe snowstorms imized across Central Illinois leading to record high December totals. Urbana had 18.5 inches, the largest December total since records began in 1888. The low temperatures associated with the snowfalls in northern and central Illinois kept much

of the moisture frozen on the surface and hence runoff was low and the percolation into the soil was minimal.

Precipitation for the past three months (October-December) has been near normal in most districts. The Northeast and East Districts experienced the most deficient rainfall, as expressed in percent of normal, with other areas being very near normal. The annual precipitation shows normal to well above normal values in all districts. The areas with the heaviest annual totals were those stretching across Central Illinois where the 1981 precipitation was more than 20% above normal.

Inches of Soil Moisture

<u>Total Soil Moisture</u>	<u>Change From</u>
<u>Surface to 20 Inches</u>	<u>4 weeks ago</u>
6.3	-0.7
6.2	-0.5
No data	No data
5.6	-0.6
3.6	-0.3
5.8	-0.5
6.2	+0.3
6.3	+0.8

<u>Site</u>	<u>County</u>
Shabbona	De Kalb
Monmouth	Warren
Appleton	Knox
Perry	Pike
Topeka	Mason
Bondville	Champaign
Brownstown	Fayette
Dixon Springs	Pope

Illinois Weather & Crops (ISSN: 0273-8635) is published weekly April-November, except 2 times the second week of June, monthly December-March, by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, Room 218, Federal Building, 600 East Monroe, Springfield, IL 62701. This publication is free upon request to the above address. Postmaster: Send Change of Address Form 3579 to P.O. Box 429, Springfield, IL 62705.

Illinois Weather & Crops
 January 18, 1982

ILLINOIS WEATHER

WATER CONDITIONS IN ILLINOIS FOR 1981

by Illinois State Water Survey Division

The 1981 precipitation in Illinois ranged from normal in extreme Southern Illinois, to well above normal in all other portions; such that 1981 was the seventh wettest year of this century. The State average precipitation was 13% above normal, and 1981 marked the ninth year in the past 11 years, with above normal precipitation. The only dry years statewide since 1970 have been 1976 and 1980. As a result of the above normal 1981 precipitation, most of the Illinois water supplies (reservoirs, streams, and shallow groundwater) are at or well above normal levels as we enter 1982.

When 1981 started, Illinois was experiencing quite dry conditions in the southern half of the State. We had several dust storms in Central Illinois during the spring. This was followed by record-breaking, heavy rains in May in Southern Illinois, with continuing above normal rainfall in June, July and August which ended the water shortages. The summer of 1981 was the wettest on record in parts of Central Illinois where 20 to 25 inches of rain fell. Precipitation in the fall and in December was generally near normal across the State.

PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS

<u>District</u>	<u>December Rainfall</u>		<u>October-December Rainfall</u>		<u>January-December 1981 Precipitation</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Normal</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Normal</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Normal</u>
Northwest	0.9	47	6.0	92	39.5	113
Northeast	1.1	58	4.9	74	36.6	105
West	1.9	95	7.4	110	43.1	116
Central	2.0	100	6.3	90	45.9	127
East	2.2	110	6.2	86	43.6	121
West Southwest	2.6	108	7.9	105	45.8	123
East Southeast	3.0	125	8.2	95	42.5	107
Southwest	3.2	103	9.3	101	44.8	103
Southeast	3.4	110	9.1	95	43.6	99

OUTLOOKS FOR PRECIPITATION IN ILLINOIS

<u>Areas</u>	<u>January 1982</u>	<u>Winter 1981-82 December-February</u>	<u>Spring 1982 March-May</u>
Northern	Near Normal (1.7)	Below Normal (4.9)	Above Normal (9.5)
Central	Near Normal (1.8)	Below Normal (5.4)	Near Normal (10.5)
South Central	Near Normal (2.2)	Near Normal (6.2)	Near Normal (11.2)
Southern	Near Normal (3.2)	Near Normal (9.3)	Below Normal (12.6)

Note: Figures in parentheses are area normals for specified periods in inches of rainfall.