

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

CONTRIBUTORS:

National Weather Serv. Forecast Office (Chicago)
Midwest Agr. Weather Serv. Ctr. (W. Lafayette, Ind.)
Illinois State Water Survey Div., DENR (Champaign)

RELEASED: FEBRUARY 22, 1983, 3 P.M., CST

VOL. 4, NO. 2

CROPS

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 8% excellent, 74% good, 17% fair, and 1% poor as of February 18. That acreage has received very limited snow cover thus far this winter, but with mild temperatures, crop damage has been minimal. Moisture supplies are mostly excellent and should allow good plant growth as Spring arrives.

LIVESTOCK were reported in generally excellent condition over the State. Mild temperatures have reduced the feed requirements for most livestock and has made the care of animals easier, except that many feeding areas are extremely muddy. Feed supplies are mostly adequate. Animal diseases and death losses are reported as minimal.

SOIL MOISTURE as of February 18 was reported as 4% short, 81% adequate, and 15% surplus.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of February 14 thru 20 averaged from 2 to 12 degrees above normal throughout the State ending a 3-week cool period. The extreme South was near normal as departures were only 2 degrees above normal. Maximum readings peaked into the 60's and 70's at the end of the week.

PRECIPITATION was light again over much of the State with amounts ranging from traces to .20 of an inch. The area around Rockford received the heaviest amount (nearly .50 of an inch).

The OUTLOOK for February 22 through 28 is for temperatures to be above normal and precipitation to be below normal.

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 1 to 7 degrees above normal throughout much of the State. The extreme South, however, recorded normal readings. The Northwest District had the largest above normal variation (7.5 degrees above normal). This was the second straight month of above normal temperatures over much of the State. A warm trend which started in December continued through the third week of January. During the third week, minimum readings fell to near zero in the North, which were the lowest readings this winter season. In the fourth week temperatures fell below normal for the first time in 8 weeks.

PRECIPITATION was below normal in every district of the State. The largest below normal variation was in the Southwest District. Precipitation was light in many sections during the first, second, and fourth week. Most of the rain and snow fell in the third week.

On the 21st of January, one inch of snow fell on the north and central sections of the State. One to six inches also fell on these sections on the 29th.

The Extended Outlook for mid-February through mid-March is for temperatures to be near normal and precipitation to be below normal in Illinois.

MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES DEGREES

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Chicago	-1	-1	0	+9	+7
Peoria	-1	0	+2	+9	+7
Springfield	-2	-1	+1	+8	+4
St. Louis	-2	-1	+1	+7	+4

Illinois Weather & Crop
February 22, 1983

WATER CONDITIONS IN ILLINOIS FOR JANUARY by Illinois State Water Survey Div.

An unusually dry and warm January in Illinois helped lessen the winter flood threat produced by the record above normal rains in November and December. January precipitation values in Illinois were only 40% to 50% of normal, varying from a low of 0.6 inch in Northwestern Illinois to a high of 1.7 inches for Southeastern Illinois. January temperatures were 2°F above normal in the extreme South; 3°F to 4°F above in Central Illinois; and 5°F to 7°F above normal in the North (Rockford and Moline).

Rivers like the Illinois and Big Muddy, which were in flood at the start of January, fell below flood stage by mid-January. Levels of the State's major lakes receded, but all water supply lakes were full. Soil moisture was near capacity and shallow groundwater levels were much above long-term normals, but down slightly since December. Depth of frost was 4 to 6 inches in the north-central sections with no frost in the ground in the southern half of Illinois.

Precipitation outlooks for February call for varying amounts. Below normal precipitation is most likely for Northern Illinois (1.2 inches or less), with near normal values expected in the north-central area (1.4 to 2.2 inches). The Water Survey's outlook is for above normal February precipitation in the southern fourth of the State (more than 3.7 inches).

PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS

District	January Precipitation 1/ Depart- % of ture Normal			Nov.-Jan. Precipitation 2/ Amount % of Normal		Feb. 1982-Jan. 1983 Precipitation 2/ Amount % of Normal	
	Amount			Amount		Amount	
Northwest	0.58	-1.05	36	9.8	178	45.1	129
Northeast	0.47	-1.34	26	11.1	188	45.0	130
West	0.30	-1.37	17	13.0	236	41.2	111
Central	0.54	-1.32	29	12.1	195	44.5	124
East	0.57	-1.28	31	10.1	160	46.0	128
W.Southwest	0.54	-1.29	30	11.6	181	45.9	123
E.Southeast	1.27	-1.28	50	11.7	140	48.0	121
Southwest	0.85	-2.17	28	15.5	165	44.5	103
Southeast	1.32	-2.05	39	17.9	175	44.5	101

PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK 2/

Area 3/	February 1983	Winter 1982-83 (Dec.-Feb.)	Spring 1983 (Mar.-May)
Northern	Below Normal (1.7)	Above Normal (4.9)	Below Normal (9.9)
Central	Near Normal (1.8)	Above Normal (5.4)	Near Normal (11.0)
So. Central	Near Normal (2.2)	Near Normal (6.8)	Near Normal (11.6)
Southern	Above Normal (3.2)	Near Normal (9.3)	Above Normal (13.1)

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

1/ National Weather Service, Rosemont, Illinois. 2/ State Water Survey Div., Champaign, Illinois. 3/ Northern=northwest and northeast crop reporting districts; Central=west, central, and east crop reporting districts; South Central=west southwest and east southeast crop reporting districts; Southern=southwest and southeast crop reporting districts.