

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS

## ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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## ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY

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### CROPS

Wet weather has caused flooding and muddy fields across the State, delaying the start of spring fieldwork. Farmers have been purchasing seed and supplies, preparing equipment, and caring for livestock. Warmer, drier weather will allow tillage operations, oat seeding, and fertilizer spreading to begin.

WINTER WHEAT condition, as of March 15, was 1% excellent, 58% good, 36% fair, and 5% poor. Excessive moisture has caused ponding in many fields, but it is still too early to fully assess possible winterkill or water damage to the crop.

SOIL MOISTURE as of March 15 was 26% adequate and surplus.

LIVESTOCK condition continues to be good to fair. Cold temperatures and adverse weather slowed gains during January and February. Very muddy feedlots are a problem across most of the State. Hay supplies continue to be mostly adequate to surplus, with a few southern areas still reporting shortages. Muddy roads have slowed livestock marketing.

GRAIN MOVEMENT has been slowed or virtually halted by muddy rural roads.

### WEATHER

TEMPERATURE changed little during this past week, with mean temperatures in the mid-30's in the North, to the high 40's in the South. These temperatures were close to normal in the Northeast, and between 3 and 9° above normal over the remainder of the State.

PRECIPITATION varied from about 0.35 inches in the Northwest, to about 1 inch in the central part of the State, and from 0.5 to 0.9 inches in the South. This represented about 0.2 to 0.5 inches above normal in East-Central Illinois, and from 0.1 to 0.6 inches below normal over the remainder of the State.

The OUTLOOK for March 18-24 calls for continued mild temperatures, with a chance of mid-week showers.

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION are expected to be below normal over most of the State from March 15 until April 15. The northern third of Illinois is expected to be above normal in temperatures. Normal high temperatures are in the low 50's in the North and low 60's in the South, with daily minima about 20° less. Normal precipitation for this period is about 3 inches in the North and about 4.5 inches in the South.

Both TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION are expected to be near normal from March 1 through May 30, 1985. Normal temperature and precipitation for March are given above. Normal daily highs for April are about 60° in the North and in the high 60's in the South. Low temperatures are about 20° less. Normal April precipitation is about 3.5 inches in the North and about 4.5 inches in the South. High temperatures in May are the high 70's in the South and low 70's in the North, and normal precipitation is about 5 inches in the South and about 3.5 inches in the North.

### FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 3° to 5 degrees below normal throughout the State, with the Southeast District recording the largest below normal variation (5.3 degrees below normal). Temperatures continued the very cold period that began last month. Maximum readings did not rise above freezing in the northern half of the State until the 17th. Many new minimum records were set in the State, as temperatures in the North dropped to as low as 22 degrees below zero. During the second half of the month, a warming trend developed. Maximum temperatures climbed into the 40's and 50's in many areas.

PRECIPITATION was again above normal in every district in the State, with the East District recording the largest above normal variation. Light to moderate precipitation fell over many sections in the first half of the month. Precipitation was heavy in the second half of February. Some areas recorded 1 to 2 inches during a 24-hour period.

Several snows laid a blanket of snow across much of the State. Amounts ranged from 4 to 14 inches, with the area around Springfield receiving only 2.5 inches.

### ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE	5-YR. AVG.
Week ending March 15											
Soil Moisture %											
Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Adequate	70	50	0	15	60	10	5	5	15	26	
Surplus	30	50	100	85	40	90	95	95	85	74	

CROP INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by county officials of Extension Service and SCS, and agribusiness managers.

Additional WEATHER INFORMATION is provided by Midwest Agr. Weather Serve. Ctr. (W. Lafayette, Ind.) and National Weather Service Cooperative Observers.

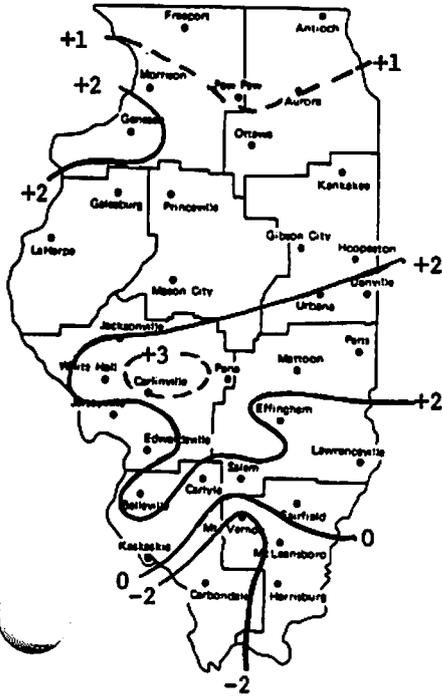
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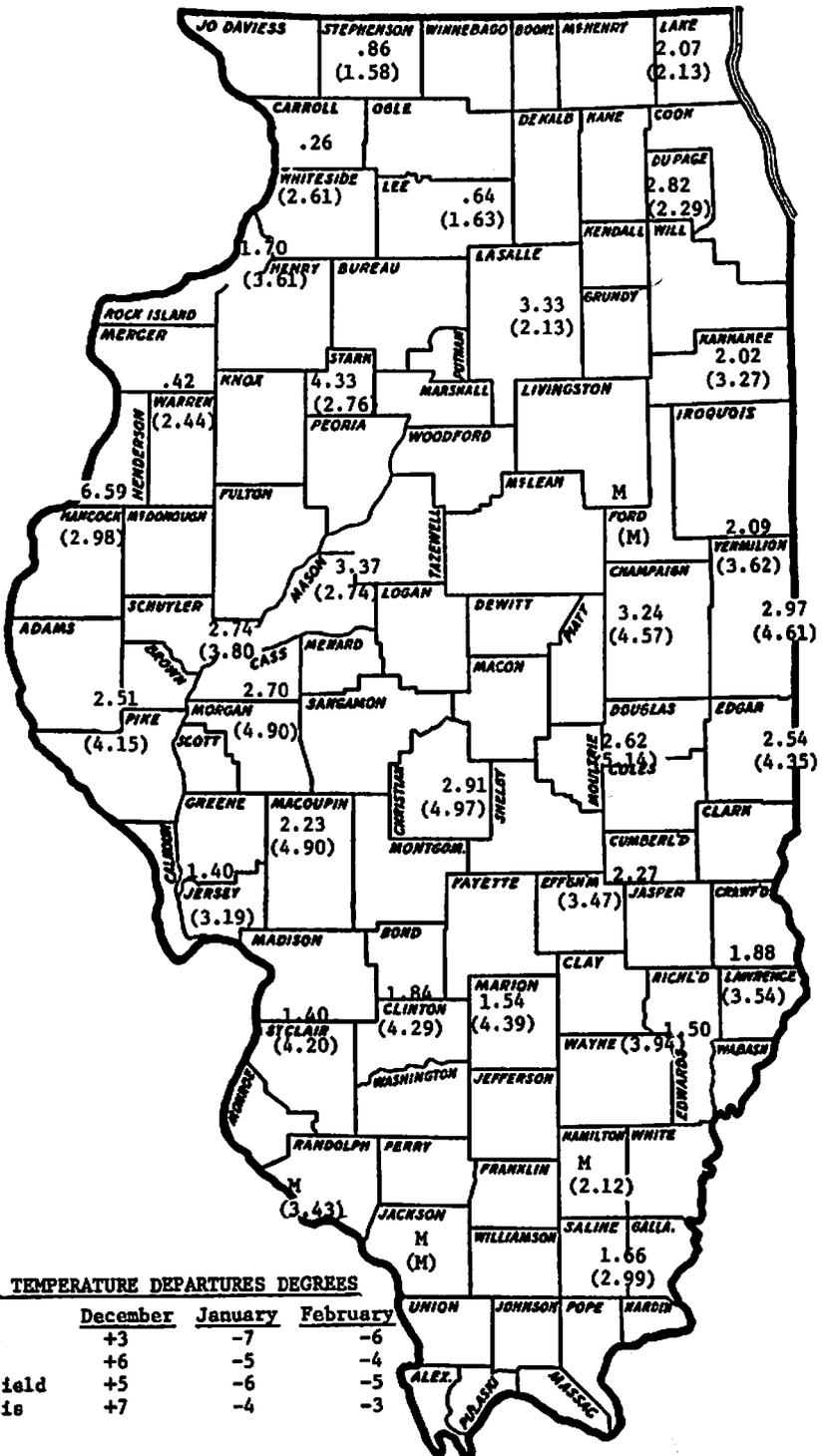
PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
February	2.42	2.38	3.09	2.74	3.88	3.85	4.26	4.20	4.02
Departure	+1.19	+0.95	+1.62	+1.12	+2.12	+1.93	+1.90	+1.26	+1.00

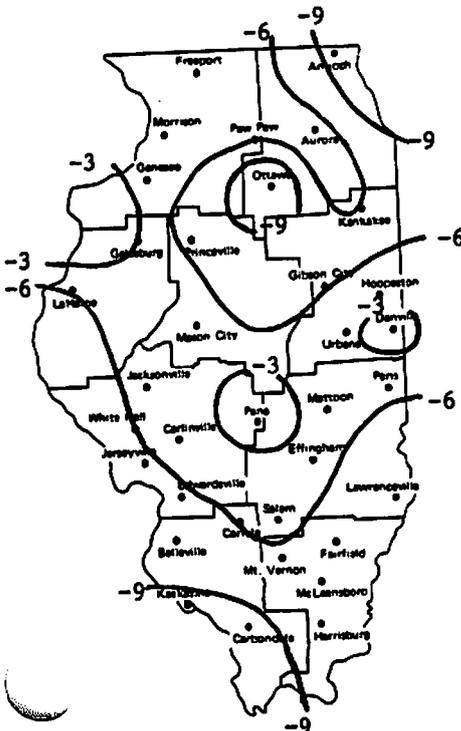
FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION--  
DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL IN INCHES



PRECIPITATION: M-Missing  
First figure-March 1-15, 1985  
Parentheses-February 1985



FEBRUARY TEMPERATURE--  
DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL--°F



MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES DEGREES

	December	January	February
Chicago	+3	-7	-6
Peoria	+6	-5	-4
Springfield	+5	-6	-5
St. Louis	+7	-4	-3