

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS

ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY

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RELEASED: MARCH 17, 1986, 3 P.M., CST

VOL.7, NO.03

CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition on March 14 was reported as 49% good, 43% fair, and 8% poor. Much of the acreage is still mostly brown, as generally cool temperatures have limited spring growth. The lack of plant growth thus far makes it difficult to determine the extent of any winterkill to the winter wheat acreage. However, some acreage losses are expected as the result of freeze and heave damage. The most damage is reported on the late planted acres that entered the winter period in only fair to poor condition. As farmers apply nitrogen and plant growth increases this spring, overall wheat conditions will likely improve.

SOIL MOISTURE on March 14 was reported as 61% adequate and 39% surplus.

LIVESTOCK condition across the State is mostly good, benefiting from generally mild weather. Although most feeding areas are quite muddy, overall animal health conditions are good. Hay supplies are reported as adequate over virtually the entire State.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES were above normal throughout the State during this past week. Daily highs averaged in the mid-40's in the North, and in the low 60's in the South. Daily lows were 12 to 18° lower. These values were between 2 and 9° above normal. The greatest positive deviations were found in the southeastern quarter of the State.

PRECIPITATION was below normal, except for the southern third of the State where it was above normal. Rainfall varied from 0.15 to 1.92 inch. Rainfall increased from the North to the South, with totals of more than 1 inch south of a line from Belleville to Mattoon. This precipitation was generally 0.2 to 0.7 inch below normal north of the line referred to above, and 0.1 to 0.5 inch above normal south of that line. There is no snow cover in Illinois.

The OUTLOOK for March 17-23 calls for showers and understorms accompanied by mild temperatures thru week, turning cooler by the weekend.

The 30-DAY OUTLOOK from March 15 thru April 15 is for temperatures to be near normal in the North and above normal in the southern sections. Precipitation is expected to be near normal.

The 3-MONTH OUTLOOK for March through May is for temperatures and precipitation to be near normal.

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

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

The Statewide average monthly TEMPERATURE was 1.0° below normal as temperatures ranged from 2° to 3° below normal in the northern two-thirds of Illinois, and from 1 to 2° above normal in the South. The Central District recorded the largest below normal variation (3.3° below normal). The Southeast District recorded the largest above normal variation (2.6° above normal). The first week was above normal by as much as 22°. Maximum temperatures climbed into the 40's in the North and 60's in the South. Very cold air traveled southward across the State during the second and third week dropping the minimum temperatures to as low as 11° below zero in the Northwest. In the latter half of the third week, temperatures once again were above normal. However, by the end of the month, readings fell below normal.

PRECIPITATION averaged slightly above normal in the State (0.80 inch above normal). The largest above normal variation was in the Southeast District (1.37 inch above normal). The driest district was in the East-Southeast (0.39 inch above normal). The area around Mt. Carmel, in the Southeast District, had the greatest amount of precipitation with a monthly total of 6.41 inches. This was due to rain on the 2nd which deluged the area, and also gave the greatest 24-hour precipitation total (4.31 inches). Two other stations in this district recorded more than 3 inches of precipitation during a 24-hour period. After the moderate to heavy precipitation during the first week, a dry period followed. During part of the third and fourth week, many areas received precipitation.

The entire State received from 4 to 20 inches of SNOW during the month. During the first week, 2 to 6 inches of snow fell in the northern half of the State. In the third and fourth weeks, 2 to 6 inches fell over most of the State. The area around Aurora, in the Northeast District, received the greatest total snowfall for the month (20.8 inches). Decatur, in the Central District, received 20.5 inches of snow.

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

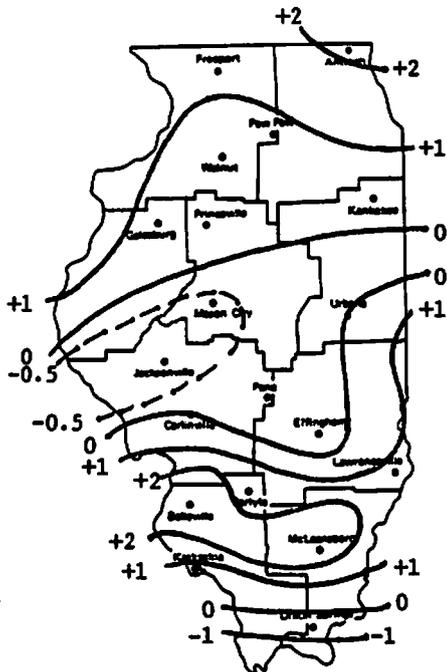
Illinois Weather & Crops
March 17, 1986

Illinois Weather & Crops (ISSN 0273-8635) is published weekly April-November, semi-weekly the second week of June, and weekly December-March, by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Illinois Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, Room 54, Department of Agriculture Bldg., 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL 62706. For information on subscribing, send request to the above address. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Illinois.

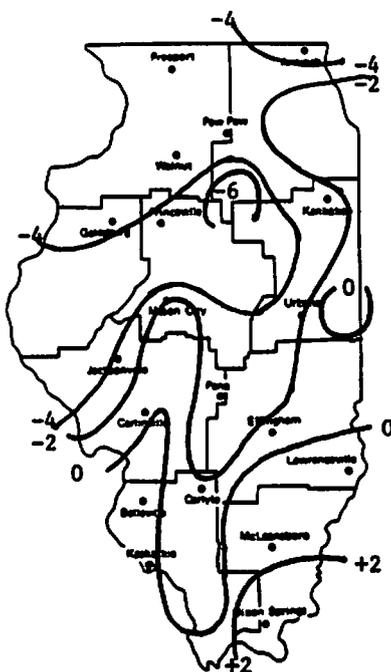
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PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

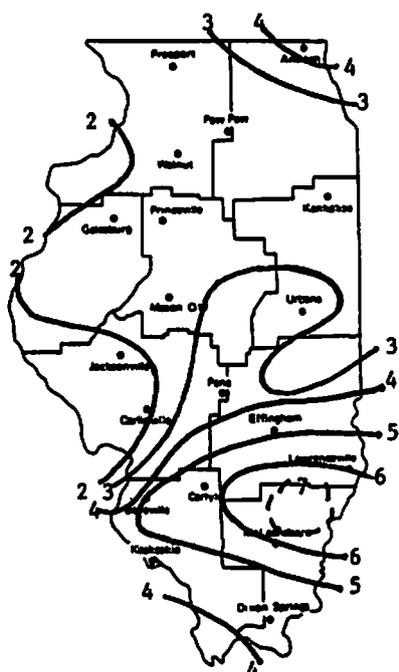
| | NW | NE | W | C | E | WSW | ESE | SW | SE |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| February | 2.33 | 2.47 | 2.21 | 2.65 | 2.22 | 2.45 | 2.75 | 3.54 | 4.39 |
| Departure | 1.10 | 1.04 | 0.74 | 1.03 | 0.46 | 0.53 | 0.39 | 0.60 | 1.37 |



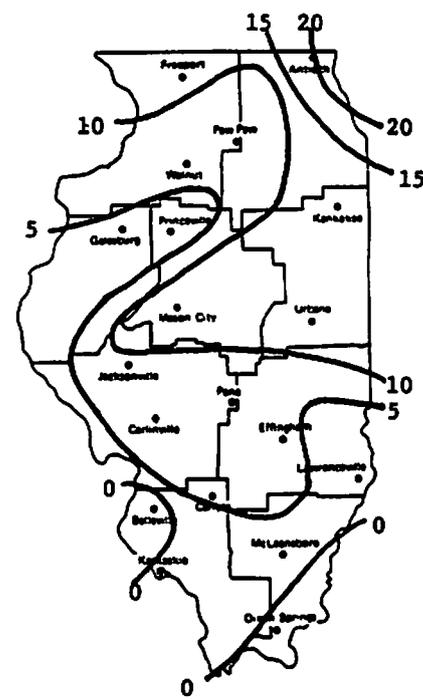
FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION-DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL IN INCHES



FEBRUARY TEMPERATURE-DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL - °F



TOTAL PRECIPITATION FEB.1-MAR.15 IN INCHES



FEBRUARY SNOWFALL IN INCHES