

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS

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Season's Greetings

AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

CROPS

Late harvest of fall crops is virtually complete over most of the State except for a few low-lying muddy fields in the West and Northwest, that will require a hard freeze to harvest. Harvest losses have increased because of lodging and difficult harvest conditions, and grain quality has deteriorated, especially for soybeans.

WINTER WHEAT condition as of December 19 was reported as 5% excellent, 66% good, 27% fair and 2% poor. Mild fall temperatures have aided germination and emergence of late planted wheat.

SOIL MOISTURE on December 19 was reported to be 68% adequate and 32% surplus.

WEATHER

The first fifteen days of December 1986 were colder than normal over the entire State (greatest negative deviations in the North) and drier than normal in the North, and near normal in the Central and South.

Temperatures were 3 to 5° below normal in the North, and 0 to 3° below normal in the Central and South. About 1.00 inch of precipitation fell in the North and from 1.00 inch to about 2.00 inches elsewhere, except for the west-central portion, where up to 2.50 inches were measured. Frost had occurred in all parts of the State by the first week of December, and ground frost of a few inches depth was reported in Northern and Central Illinois during the second week of the month. Other than flurries, snowfall during December was limited to the northwest one-fifth of the State where from 0.6 to 1.5 inches fell. It had disappeared by the 15th.

The OUTLOOK for the rest of December is for temperatures and precipitation to be near normal.

The 90-DAY OUTLOOK from December through February is for below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

NOVEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

The Statewide average monthly TEMPERATURE was 4.0° below normal as temperatures ranged from 2 to 9° below normal. Pawpaw, in the Northwest District, recorded the largest below normal variation (9° below normal). During the first week, temperatures were below normal with a slight warming at the beginning of the second week. A cool period then developed, sending minimum readings to near 0 to 15° above zero. Many new minimum temperature records were recorded in many areas during midmonth. By the end of the month, temperatures climbed to near normal.

PRECIPITATION averaged below normal in the State (-1.13 inches below normal.) Most of the districts were 1 to 1.5 inches below normal. The largest below normal variation was in the Northeast District (-3.92 inches below normal). The least below normal variation was in the East District (0.89 of an inch below normal). Illinois received light to moderate precipitation during every week of the month. Decatur, in the East District, recorded 1.45 inches during a 6-hour period. In the fourth week, the northern half of the State recorded heavy rain while the South received moderate amounts. The heaviest snow occurred on the 17th and 18th when a total of 13.9 inches fell in the extreme Northwest District near Dubuque, Iowa. The remainder of the northern half of the State had 1 to 4 inches of snow.

ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
As of December 19										
Soil Moisture Percent:										
Short :	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adequate:	100	90	50	75	80	55	80	50	25	68
Surplus :	0	10	50	25	20	45	20	50	75	32

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 Serv. Ctr. (W. Lafayette, Ind.) and National Weather Service Cooperative Observers.

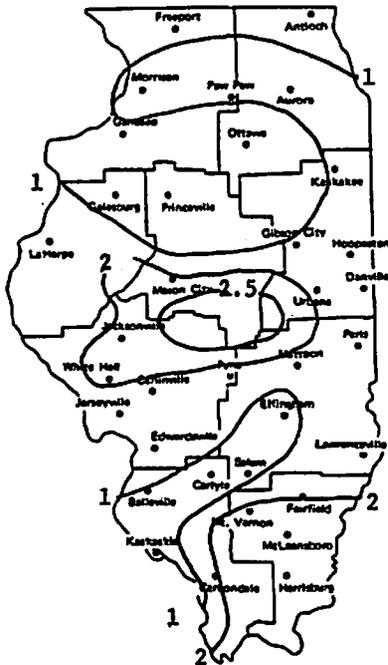
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Illinois Weather & Crops
December 22, 1986

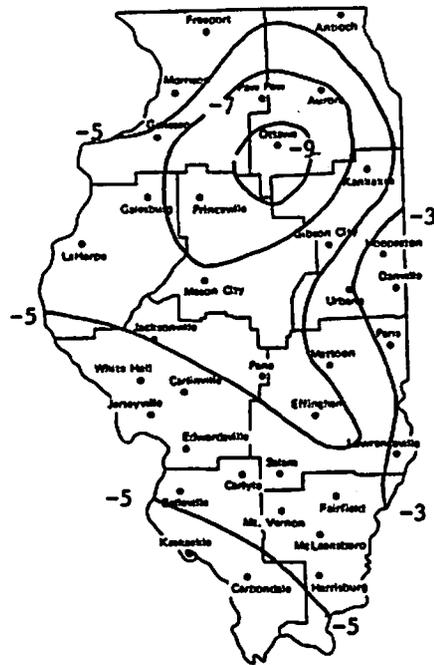
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PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

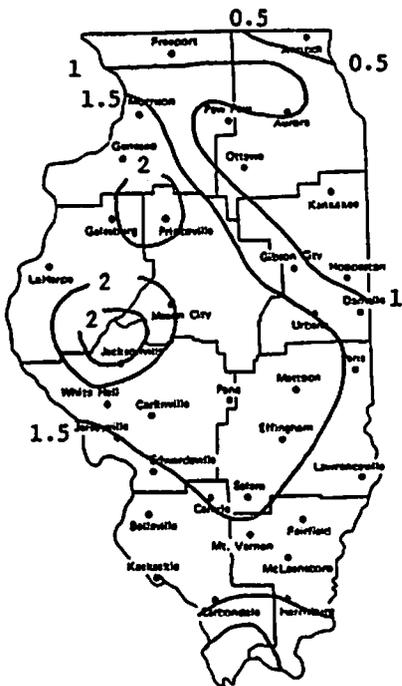
	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
November	1.09	1.16	1.59	1.03	1.51	1.57	1.78	1.87	2.20
Departure	-1.09	-1.03	-0.58	-1.21	-0.89	-1.00	-1.36	-1.60	-1.43



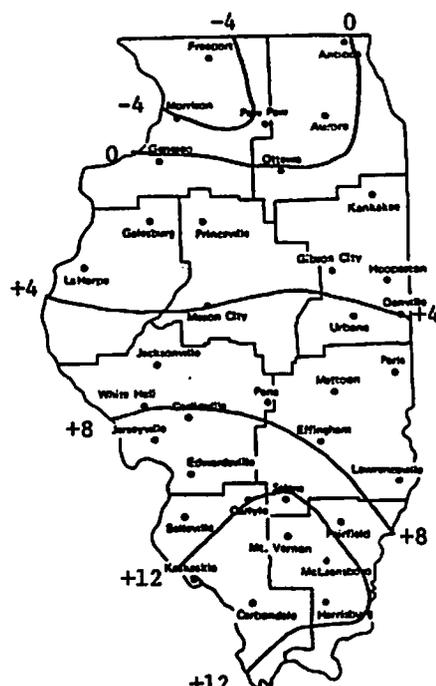
NOVEMBER PRECIPITATION--DEVIATIONS
FROM NORMAL IN INCHES



NOVEMBER TEMPERATURE--DEVIATIONS
FROM NORMAL--OF



TOTAL PRECIPITATION--
DECEMBER 1-15 IN INCHES



LOW TEMPERATURES--OF
NOVEMBER 12-14 COLDWAVE