

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS

**ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**

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**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



**ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY**

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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition on March 13 was reported as 7% excellent, 62% good, and 31% fair. Much of the acreage is greening, as generally warmer than normal temperatures have prevailed. The lack of plant growth makes it difficult to determine the extent of any winterkill damage, but only minimal damage is reported thus far. Excellent weather conditions have allowed farmers to start applying nitrogen to the winter wheat crop and perform other tillage operations.

SOIL MOISTURE on March 13 was reported as 3% surplus, 62% adequate, and 35% short.

LIVESTOCK conditions are mostly good across Illinois, as the warmer temperatures have been mostly favorable for livestock. Hay supplies are reported as adequate over virtually the entire state.

WEATHER

Mean TEMPERATURES varied little over the State during the first 15 days of March. Average temperatures were in the mid to high 30's in the North and in the mid-40's in the South. Daily highs averaged from the high 40's in the North to the mid-50's in the South, but climbed into the mid and high 70's on the 6th and 7th (setting new records). Daily lows were about 16 to 20° lower.

PRECIPITATION varied from 0.6 to 0.8 inch over all of Illinois, but reached 1.12 inches at Princeville (Central District). This was about 0.7 to 1.3 inches below the long term average. Interestingly, the precipitation occurred on the first of the month, and again on the 14th and/or 15th.

Temperatures during these 15 days were about 3 weeks ahead of the average values for the same period. Precipitation since mid-January continues to be on the short side, i.e., less than the long-term average.

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

The 90-DAY OUTLOOK from March through May is for temperatures and precipitation to be near normal.

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

The Statewide average monthly TEMPERATURE was 7.7° above normal as temperatures ranged from 1 to 10° above normal. The warmest portion of the State was in the Northwest, while the coolest area was in the extreme South. Morrison, in the Northwest District, recorded the largest above normal variation (10° above normal), while Goreville, in the Southwest District, recorded the least above normal variation (1° above normal). Most of the month was above normal with maximum readings climbing into the 50's and 60's and set several new temperature records. A short-lived cold period occurred during midmonth but was quickly replaced by the warm, dry air.

PRECIPITATION averaged below normal in the State (-0.96 inches below normal). Most of the districts were 0.50 to 1.50 inches below normal as many areas reported this to be one of the driest Februaries on record. Harrisburg, in the Southeast District, was the only station in the State that received above normal rainfall (1.18 inches above normal). Largest below normal variation was in the East District (-1.51 inches below normal). The least below normal variation was in the Southwest District (0.32 of an inch below normal). Several stations received no precipitation, while Harrisburg, in the Southeast District, received the greatest monthly total precipitation (4.26 inches). Illinois received most of its precipitation during the last week of the month. Cairo, in the Southwest District, received 2.03 inches during a 24-hour period from the 27th thru the 28th.

Snowfall was very light during the month. On the 17th 1 to 2 inches fell in the southern portion of Illinois.

**ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY**

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
As of March 13										
Soil Moisture Percent:										
Short :	25	45	20	60	70	30	35	20	10	35
Adequate:	75	45	70	40	30	70	65	80	80	62
Surplus :	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	3

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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March 16, 1987

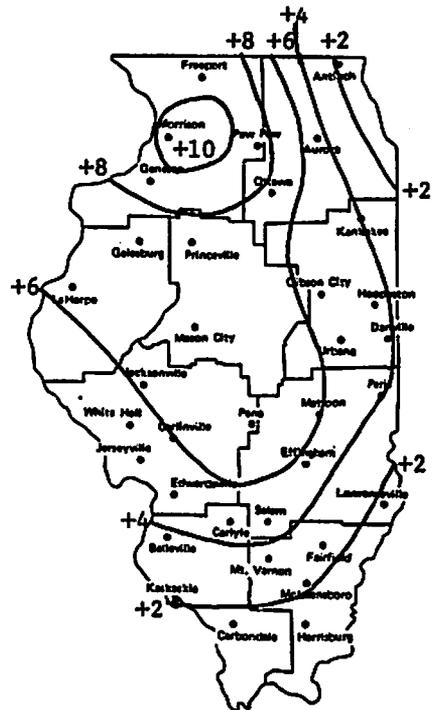
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PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

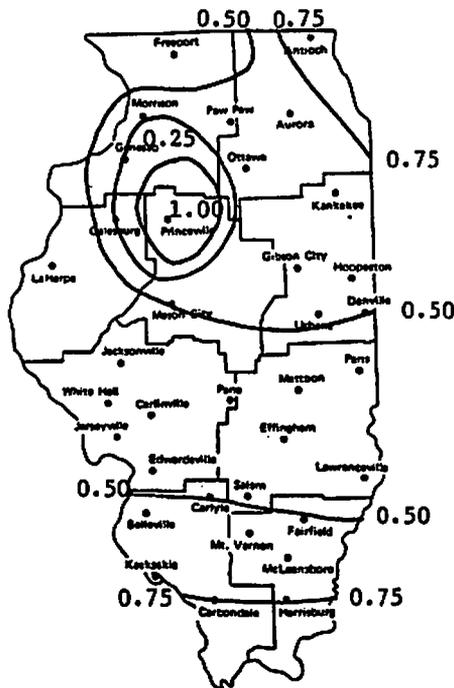
	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
February	0.85	0.31	0.18	0.46	0.22	0.59	1.15	2.43	2.27
Departure	-0.39	-1.10	-1.27	-1.13	-1.51	-1.25	-1.08	-0.32	-0.59



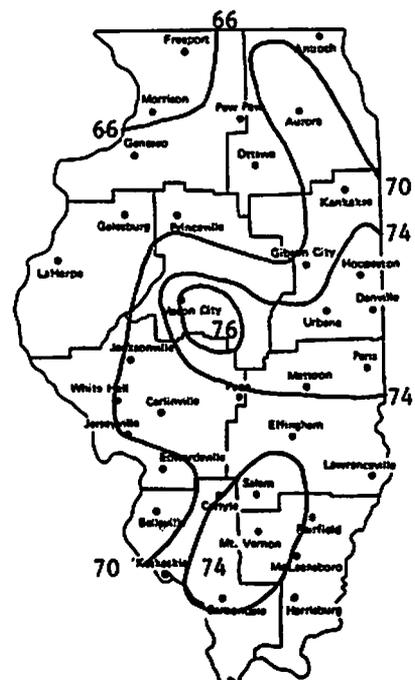
TOTAL PRECIPITATION (INCHES)  
FEBRUARY 1987



TEMPERATURES FEBRUARY 1987  
DEPARTURE FROM AVERAGE (°F)



TOTAL PRECIPITATION (INCHES)  
MARCH 1-15, 1987



MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES ON  
MARCH 8, 1987 (°F)