

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition on January 15 was reported as 7% excellent, 71% good, and 22% fair. Wheat fields in the northern third of the State are generally snow covered and assumed to be in good condition. The rest of the State could use snow cover to help protect the wheat plants from the cold temperatures and winds. It is too early to determine if any significant winter freeze damage has occurred to the winter wheat crop, but any damage is believed minor thus far. A few reports of farmers top dressing nitrogen were received.

SOIL MOISTURE on January 15 was reported as 18% short, 77% adequate, and 5% surplus.

LIVESTOCK condition across the State is fairly good. The extreme cold temperatures and winds especially in the upper third of the State have caused high livestock stress, increased feed consumption, lower feed efficiency, and poor gains. The weather conditions have also increased the use of bedding and hay feeding. Hay supplies are dwindling rapidly but are still adequate except in a few isolated cases across the State.

ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

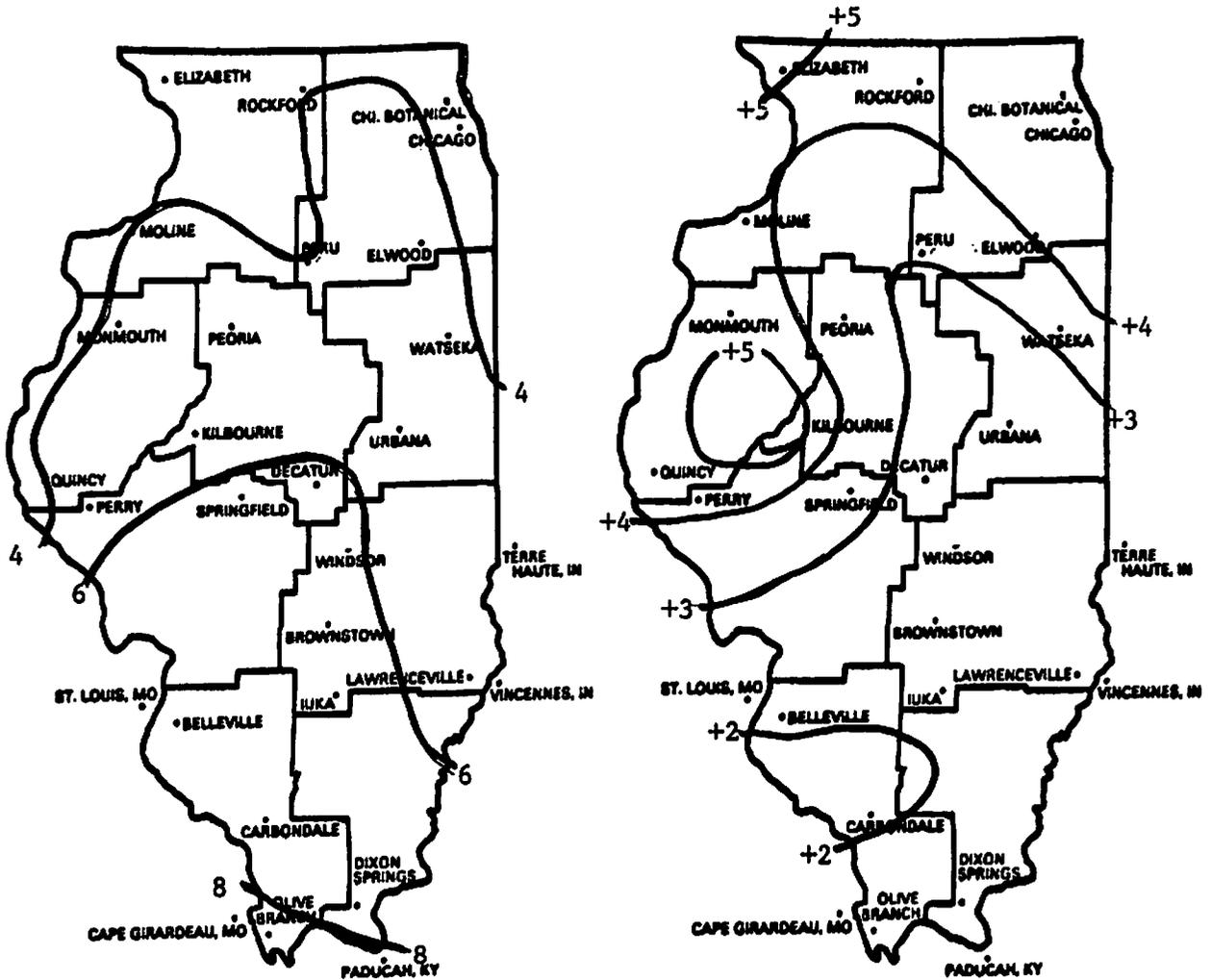
District	Winter wheat condition			Soil moisture percent		
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Short	Adequate	Surplus
As of January 15						
Northwest	10	75	15	10	90	0
Northeast	10	80	10	0	100	0
West	10	60	30	50	50	0
Central	-	60	40	40	60	0
East	10	75	15	15	75	10
West-Southwest	10	75	15	25	65	10
East-Southeast	5	65	30	10	85	5
Southwest	10	75	15	0	75	25
Southeast	-	75	25	10	90	0
State	7	71	22	18	77	5

DECEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

The month of December brought above normal temperatures as well as above normal precipitation.

TEMPERATURES Statewide averaged from 4 to 5 degrees above normal. Temperatures were mostly well above the mean for the first two weeks, then fell well below the mean for a week. The remainder of the month saw temperatures climb back well above the mean again.

PRECIPITATION occurred throughout the period with the entire State reporting above normal precipitation. The greatest departures were reported in Southern Illinois with departures of 3 to 5 inches above normal.



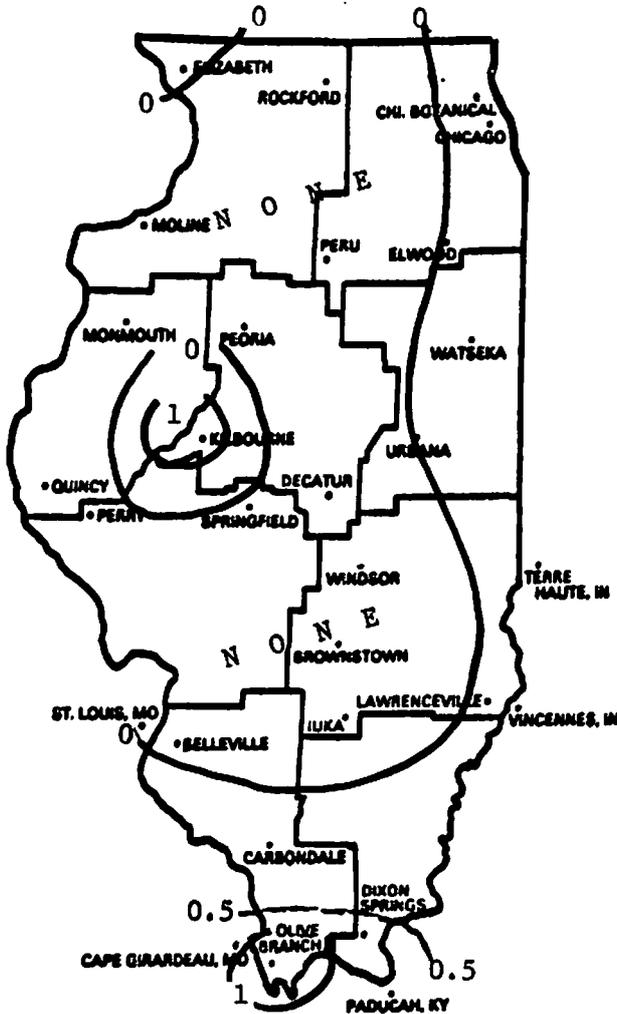
PRECIPITATION (INCHES)
DECEMBER 1987

TEMPERATURE DEVIATION FROM
AVERAGE (°F) DECEMBER 1987

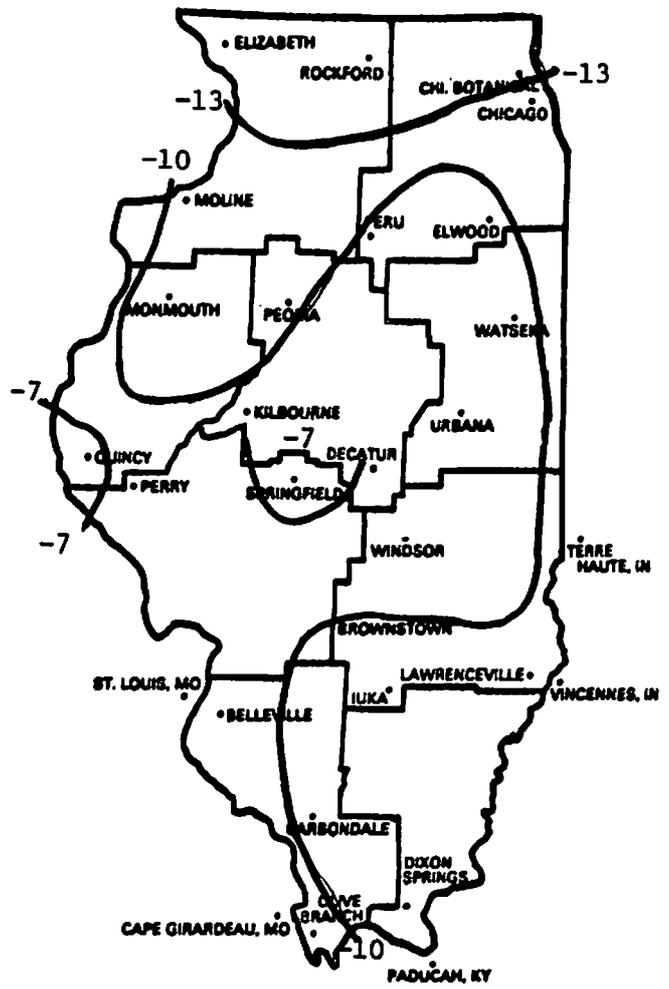
WEATHER SUMMARY, JANUARY 1-15, 1988

THE FIRST HALF OF JANUARY BROUGHT COLD AND DRY WEATHER TO ILLINOIS. AVERAGE TEMPERATURES RANGED BETWEEN 5 AND 15 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL FOR THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD WITH THE GREATEST DEPARTURES OCCURRING IN THE NORTHWEST SECTION OF THE STATE. AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURES WERE IN THE SINGLE DIGITS TO BELOW ZERO WHILE AVERAGE DAILY HIGHS WERE ONLY IN THE TEENS. BY CONTRAST CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ILLINOIS LOWS AVERAGED BETWEEN 5 AND 15 ABOVE ZERO WHILE HIGHS AVERAGED IN THE MID-20'S TO AROUND 30. THERE WAS A NOTABLE RANGE BETWEEN EXTREME CONDITIONS. ABSOLUTE LOW TEMPERATURES WERE TEN BELOW ZERO OR LOWER IN ABOUT THE NORTHERN THIRD OF THE STATE WITH TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE BELOW ZERO READINGS OCCURRING IN THE NORTHWEST SECTOR. LOWEST READINGS RANGED UPWARD TO JUST A FEW DEGREES ABOVE ZERO IN THE SOUTHERNMOST AREAS. AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPECTRUM WARMING BY THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH BROUGHT MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES AS HIGH AS THE UPPER 30'S AND LOWER 40'S IN THE NORTH AND THE MID-40'S TO LOWER 50'S IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AREAS.

PRECIPITATION: SOILS REMAINED FROZEN AT ALL BUT THE SOUTHERNMOST LOCATIONS WITH AVERAGE TEMPERATURES AT THE FOUR-INCH DEPTH RANGING FROM THE MID-20'S NORTHWEST TO THE MID-30'S IN THE EXTREME SOUTH FOR THE 15-DAY PERIOD. MOISTURE ADDITIONS TO SOILS WERE NEGLIGIBLE IN MOST CASES EXCEPT FOR SOME QUARTER TO HALF-INCH AMOUNTS OF PRECIPITATION IN THE SOUTHEAST EXTREME OF THE STATE FROM SNOWFALL AT THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK.



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)
JANUARY 1-15, 1988



TEMPERATURE DEVIATION FROM
AVERAGE (°F) JANUARY 1-15, 1988

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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 the Illinois State Water Survey, IDE&NR, Champaign, Ill.; and National Weather Service Cooperative Observers, NOAA, Rosemont, Ill.