

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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RELEASED: DECEMBER 19, 1988, 3 P.M., CST

VOL. 9, NO. 35

Season's Greetings

AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition on December 16 was reported as 8% excellent, 74% good, and 18% fair. Wheat conditions are mostly good over all areas of the State. Mild temperatures and rainfall aided the development of the crop, which was especially beneficial for the wheat acres that were seeded late and that were planted in dry soil. The recent dry spell has decreased the soil moisture supplies which in turn affected the condition of the crop. Short plants due to a late start, herbicide carryover, temperature fluctuations were noted problems. Several reported that a layer of snow to insulate the winter wheat crop would be most advantageous.

SOIL MOISTURE on December 16 was reported as 64% short, 35% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies continue to be a concern as more wells are drying up across the State, causing concern for livestock producers in the northern two-thirds of the State.

LIVESTOCK condition across the State is mostly good to excellent. The generally mild weather conditions have been favorable for livestock to remain on pastures and also favorable for gains and feedlot management. There were a few reports across the State of respiratory problems in livestock due to the fluctuations in the temperature. Hay supplies are mostly adequate to short in all districts except the East District where it was reported to be short. Water shortages continue to be a concern for livestock producers.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Winter wheat condition			Soil moisture percent		
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Short	Adequate	Surplus

Week ending December 16						
Northwest	5	65	30	100	0	0
Northeast	0	85	15	55	45	0
West	0	65	35	95	5	0
Central	0	55	45	100	0	0
East	15	65	20	65	35	0
W Southwest	10	70	20	70	25	5
E Southeast	10	70	20	65	35	0
Southwest	5	80	15	30	65	5
Southeast	15	85	0	0	100	0

State	8	74	18	64	35	1

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
November	3.78	5.09	3.19	4.37	5.32	5.65	5.94	6.34	7.03	5.19
Departure	1.60	2.91	1.02	2.13	2.92	3.08	2.78	2.87	3.40	2.52

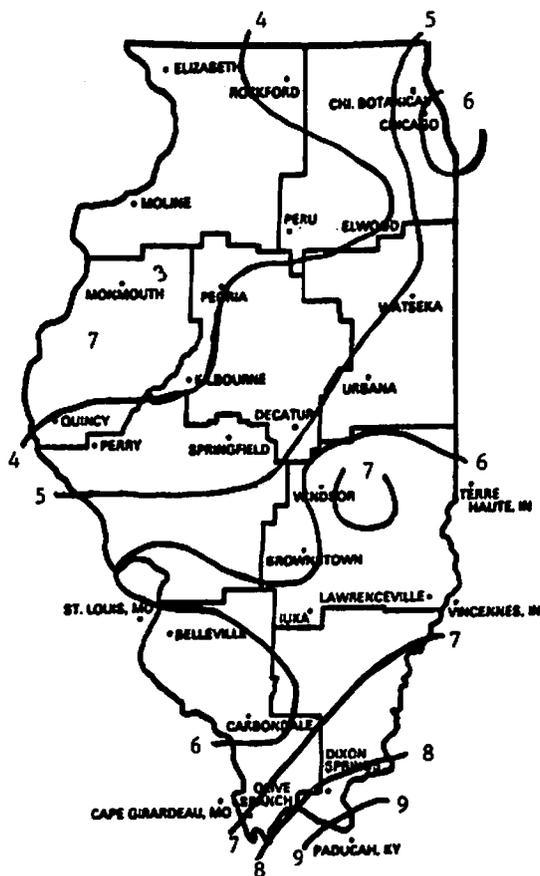
NOVEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

Illinois recorded above normal temperatures and rainfall. Illinois average monthly **TEMPERATURE** was 1.7 degrees above normal as temperatures ranged from 1 to 3 degrees above normal. The warmest portion of the State was in the northeast and southeast sections. The month started with near normal temperatures, with short-lived cool periods. During midmonth the maximum readings climbed into the 60's in the North, and into the 70's in the South. A cool period, developed at the end of the month, sent minimum readings into the teens in the North, and into the 20's in the South.

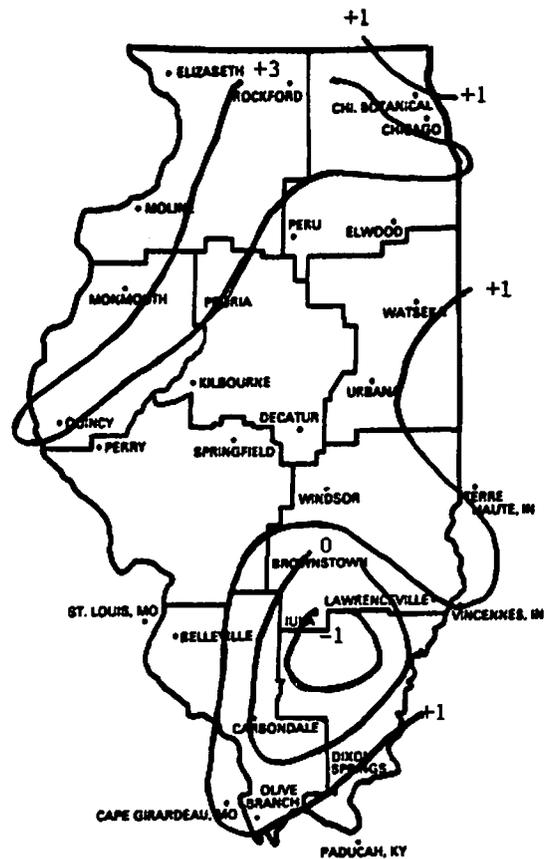
PRECIPITATION averaged above normal in the State (2.52 inches above normal). Most of the State recorded rainfall amounts of 1 to 2 inches of above normal. However, two southern districts recorded 3 inches above normal rainfall amounts. The largest above normal variation was in the Southeast District (3.40 inches above normal). The least above normal variation was in the West District (1.02 inches above normal). Scattered shower and thunderstorms during the month gave many areas above normal rainfall amounts. Chicago, in the Northeast District, reported this November to be the fifth wettest on record. Rockford, on the other hand, reported this to be the first month of above normal precipitation since January. Paducah, Ky., which represents the southeast District, recorded the greatest rainfall amount (9.56 inches). Heavy rain on the 18th and 19th drenched Paducah with 3.55 inches of rain. Light snow occurred during the month with several areas receiving up to an inch.

The **OUTLOOK** for December 15 through January 15 is for temperatures to be above normal and precipitation to be near normal.

The **90-DAY OUTLOOK** from December to February is for temperatures to be near normal and precipitation to be above normal.



NOVEMBER 1988
PRECIPITATION

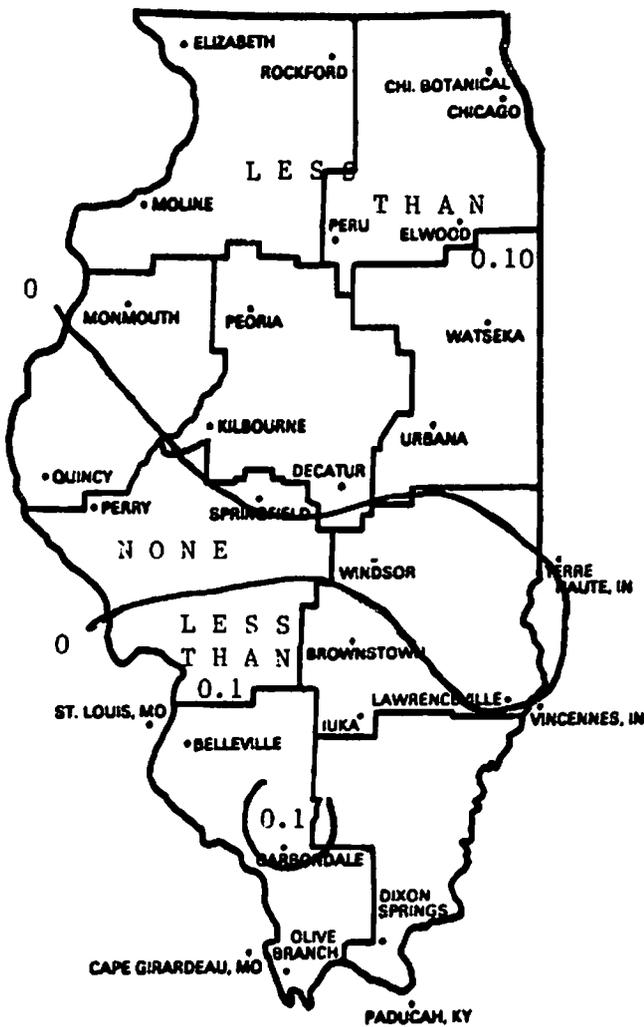


NOVEMBER 1988 TEMPERATURE
DEVIATIONS FROM AVERAGE

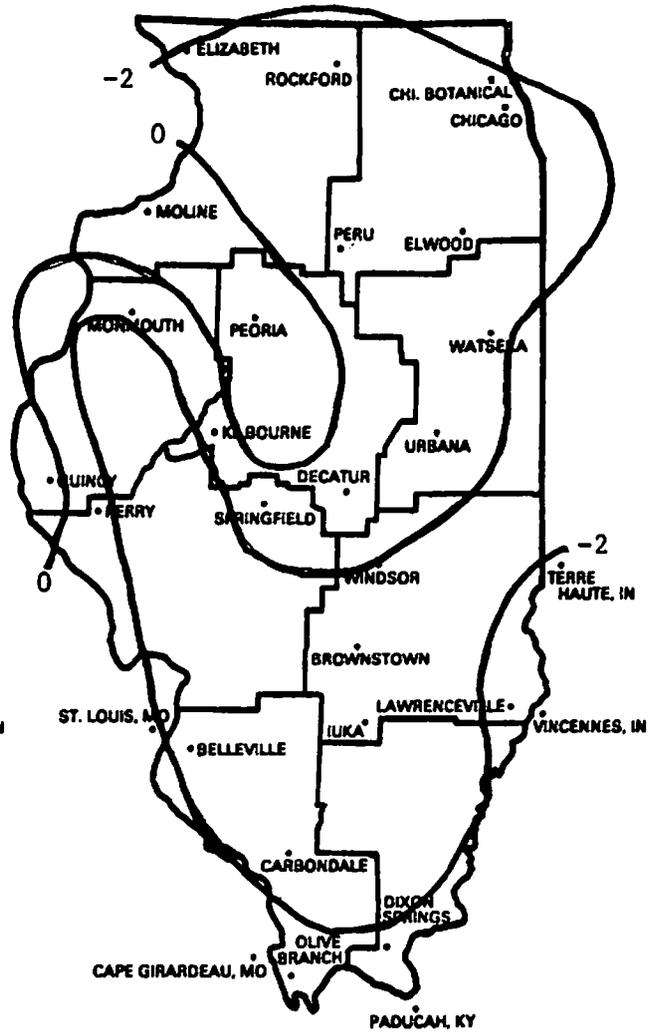
WEATHER SUMMARY, DECEMBER 1-15, 1988

ILLINOIS RETURNED TO VERY DRY WEATHER THE FIRST HALF OF DECEMBER AS REPORTED PRECIPITATION WAS GENERALLY UNDER .10 INCH LIQUID EQUIVALENT. SOME NORTHERN AREAS EXPERIENCED ANYWHERE FROM A DUSTING TO AN INCH OF SNOW, BUT ANY SNOW COVER ONLY LASTED A DAY OR TWO.

SEVERAL COLD OUTBREAKS OCCURRED DURING THE FIRST FIFTEEN DAYS OF THE MONTH AND SENT THE TEMPERATURES PLUNGING INTO THE SINGLE DIGITS, OR EVEN BELOW ZERO AT SOME NORTHERN AREAS, ON A FEW NIGHTS. DAYTIME HIGHS AVERAGED IN THE MID AND UPPER 30S NORTH TO THE MID AND UPPER 40S SOUTH AND WERE WITHIN A DEGREE OR TWO OF NORMAL. OVERNIGHT LOWS, HOWEVER, AVERAGED IN THE UPPER TEENS TO MID 20S USUALLY, WHICH WAS 2 TO 4 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL.



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)
DECEMBER 1-15, 1988



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

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SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE PAID
AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

Illinois Weather & Crops
December 19, 1988

Illinois Weather & Crops (ISSN 0273-8635) is published weekly April-November, semiweekly the second week of June, monthly December-March, by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, Room 54, Department of Agriculture Bldg., 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL 62702. For information on subscribing, send request to the above address. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Illinois. Postmaster: Send Address Change to Illinois Weather & Crops, P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283.

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.