

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition on March 17 was reported as 3% excellent, 62% good, 32% fair, and 3% poor. Wheat fields in the Southern two-thirds of the State are starting to green up, but they aren't far enough along to determine the extent of any possible damage from the fluctuating weather conditions this past winter. Wheat fields in the Northern one-third of the State still remain dormant. Evidence of some leaf burning, herbicide damage and moisture shortage was reported. Several farmers have started top dressing nitrogen. All areas of the State except the extreme South need rainfall to promote good spring growth.

SOIL MOISTURE on March 17 was reported as 57% short, 34% adequate, and 9% surplus. Most areas in the State except the Southern Districts are reporting considerable shortages of soil moisture. Surface soil moisture is close to adequate, but the subsoil is well below normal. Many wells have not yet replenished themselves.

Condition of **LIVESTOCK** across the State was good to excellent. No significant health problems have been reported aside from a few respiratory problems due to fluctuating temperatures and conditions. Warmer temperatures have lent to feed lot management difficulties because of mud in some areas. Gains have been generally good all winter. Conditions have been generally favorable for calving and farrowing. Current hay supplies are reported as 1% very short, 33% short, 64% adequate, and 2% surplus. Good quality hay is difficult to find. Feed supplies are reported as mostly adequate.

GRAIN movement has increased with the opening of the rivers. Movement of grain from farms has been restricted by the posting of weight limits on roads and slowed by long lines due to checking for alfatoxin at the elevators.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Winter Wheat Condition				Hay Supply				Soil Moisture Percent		
	Exc	Good	Fair	Poor	VeryShort	Short	Adq	Surplus	Short	Adq	Surplus

: Exc:Good:Fair:Poor:VeryShort:Short:Adq:Surplus:Short:Adq:Surplus											

: Week ending March 17											
Northwest	: --	60	40	--	--	55	45	--	95	5	--
Northeast	: --	50	35	15	5	85	10	--	80	20	--
West	: --	65	35	--	5	10	80	5	95	5	--
Central	: --	70	30	--	--	25	75	--	100	--	--
East	: 10	55	25	10	--	20	80	--	60	40	--
W Southwest	: 5	70	25	--	--	25	70	5	55	45	--
E Southeast	: --	70	25	5	--	25	75	--	30	70	--
Southwest	: 5	60	30	5	--	5	95	--	--	65	35
Southeast	: --	50	50	--	--	40	60	--	--	50	50

State	: 3	62	32	3	1	33	64	2	57	34	9

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
February	0.79	0.90	1.14	1.30	1.08	1.32	2.88	4.78	8.65	2.54
Departure	-0.45	-0.51	-0.31	-0.29	-0.66	-0.54	0.65	2.04	5.79	0.63

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

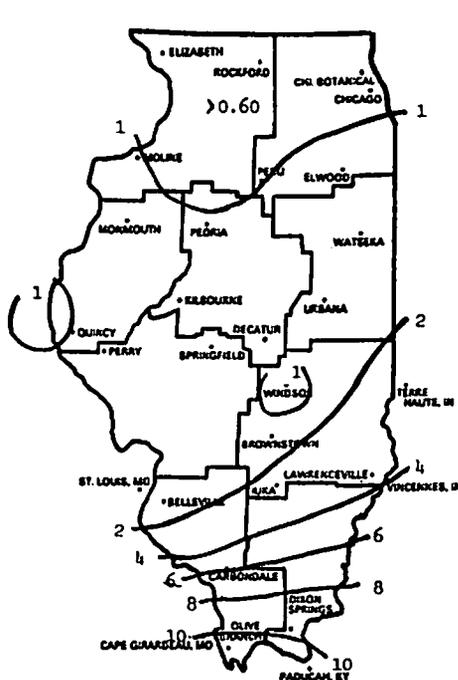
Illinois recorded very cool temperatures and below normal precipitation. Illinois average monthly **TEMPERATURE** was -4.3 degrees below normal as temperatures ranged from 2 to 9 degrees below normal. This was one of the coolest February's on record. Springfield reported this to be the 7th coolest February on record. For Chicago, it was the 12th coolest. The coolest portion of the State was in the Central sections, while the warmest area was in the extreme South. The month started with above normal temperatures, as the maximum temperatures climbed into the 40's in the North and the 60's in the South. By the end of the first week, readings fell well below normal. Minimum readings dropped below the zero mark in the Northern two-thirds of the State. The cool trend continued through the end of the month, with minor warming periods.

PRECIPITATION averaged below normal in the State (-0.63 of an inch below normal). The Northern two-thirds of the State were once again the driest. The extreme South received nearly 6 inches of above normal precipitation. The largest below normal variation was in the Eastern District (-0.66 of an inch below normal). The largest above normal variation was in the Southeast District (5.79 inches above normal). There were several periods of precipitation during the month, with the heaviest falling during mid-month. Several stations in the South, recorded more than 2 to 6 inches of precipitation during a 24-hour period. Paducah, Ky (which represents the Southeast District of Illinois) again received the largest total amount for the month with 13.32 inches. This was due to thunderstorm activity, which deluged the area with 6.24 inches of rain during a 24-hour period on the 13th. This resulted in flooding near creeks and small rivers in the South.

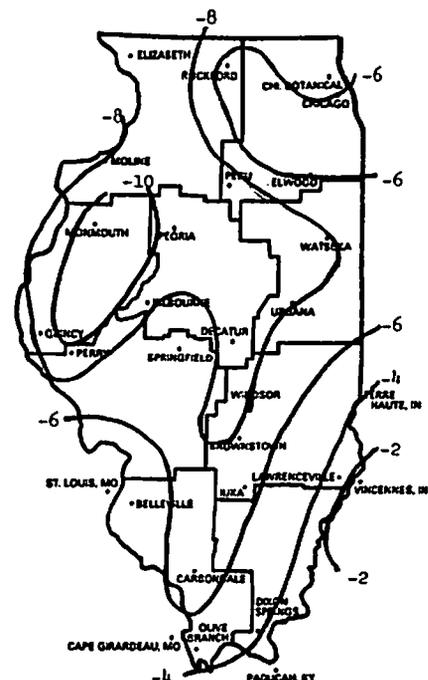
Snowfall during the month, was well above normal in the Northern and Central section. This area received 13 to 15 inches (which is around 7 inches above normal). Several moderate snowfalls occurred during the month.

The **OUTLOOK** for the remainder of March is for temperatures near normal and precipitation to be above normal.

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



**PRECIPITATION (INCHES)
FEBRUARY 1989**

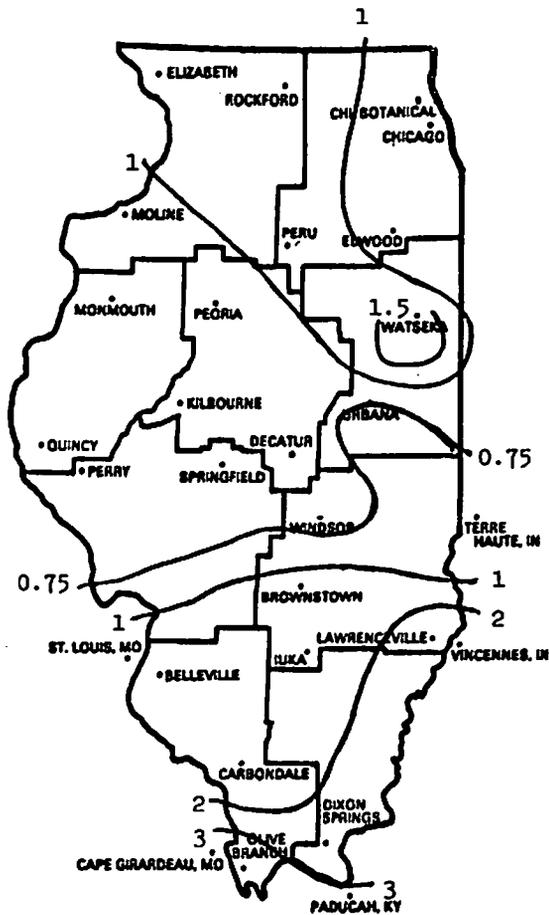


**TEMPERATURE DEVIATION FROM
AVERAGE (°F) FEBRUARY 1989**

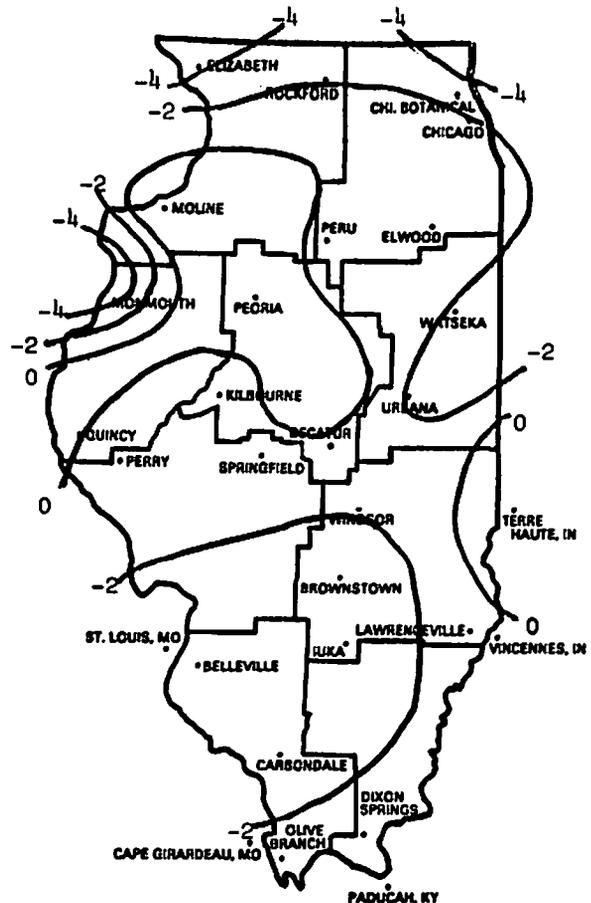
WEATHER SUMMARY, MARCH 1-15, 1989

DURING THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH, TEMPERATURES FELL ONLY 1 TO 2 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. AVERAGE HIGHS RANGED FROM THE MID 30'S IN EXTREME NORTH, TO THE LOW 40'S IN CENTRAL SECTIONS, AND TO AROUND 50 IN PARTS OF THE SOUTH. WARMEST DAYS PRODUCED HIGHS FROM THE 60'S TO THE LOW 70'S IN ALL BUT NORTHERN COUNTIES. AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURES RANGED FROM THE LOWER 20'S NORTH TO THE LOWER 30'S SOUTH. THE NORTHWESTERN AREAS WERE 2 TO 5 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL.

PRECIPITATION FOR THE PERIOD EXCEEDED AN INCH AT A FEW STATIONS IN THE NORTH AND OVER MUCH OF THE SOUTH. HEAVIEST AMOUNTS, IN EXCESS OF 2 INCHES, WERE CONFINED TO THE SOUTH WHILE THE PARTS OF THE STATE WHERE SOILS WERE DRIEST RECEIVED THE LEAST PRECIPITATION. TOTALS RANGED FROM AS LITTLE AS 0.26 IN. AT MONMOUTH TO 3.06 IN. AT OLIVE BRANCH. CAPE GIRARDEAU MO. REPORTED 3.53 IN. DURING THIS PERIOD.



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)
MARCH 1-15, 1989



TEMPERATURE DEVIATION FROM
AVERAGE (°F) MARCH 1-15, 1989

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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.