

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283
 Phone: (217) 492-4295

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Midwest Agricultural Weather Service Center
 Purdue University
 West Lafayette, Indiana 47907
 Phone: (317) 743-2272



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CROPS

Cold and wet weather conditions the past week allowed only limited amounts of time for farmers to work in the fields. Most areas in the northern half of the State are still reporting a shortage of moisture, while the southern third of the State is flooding from surpluses. There was an average of one and one-quarter days rated as suitable for fieldwork. Farmers, when possible, were applying fertilizer, seeding oats, tilling fields, spreading manure, hauling grain, preparing and repairing equipment, and caring for livestock. Some farmers are still hauling water for livestock in the northern half of the State. The wheat crop is benefiting from recent rainfall, as it is starting to green up all over the State. Standing water in low areas of the East-Southeast, Southwest, and Southeast Districts has damaged some of the wheat acreage.

Condition of **WINTER WHEAT** on April 7 was reported as 10% excellent, 76% good, and 14% fair. Most of the wheat acreage came through the winter in good condition, with little or no winterkill reported in most areas.

OAT seeding as of April 9, was 29% complete, compared to 33% last year and the 5-year average (1984-88) of 43%. Most of this year's oat seedings are being planted on set-aside ground rather than for grain acres.

ALFALFA HAY conditions on April 7 was reported as 2% excellent, 60% good, and 38% fair. The alfalfa crop made it through the winter with little to no winterkill reported.

PASTURE condition, as of April 7, was rated 3% excellent, 51% good, 43% fair, and 3% poor. On April 9, pastures were supplying about 20% of the livestock roughage requirements, compared to 23% last year and the average of 23%.

SOIL MOISTURE on April 7 was reported as 35% short, 33% adequate, and 32% surplus.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Days Suitable For Fieldwork	Soil Moisture Percent		
		Short	Adequate	Surplus
----- Week ending April 7				
Northwest	3.0	80	20	0
Northeast	3.0	60	40	0
West	2.0	80	20	0
Central	1.5	60	40	0
East	.5	15	75	10
W Southwest	1.0	25	50	25
E Southeast	.5	0	55	45
Southwest	0	0	0	100
Southeast	0	0	0	100

State	1.25	35	33	32

CURRENT STATE OF DROUGHT IN ILLINOIS

Although precipitation of the last 12 months runs far below the long term average in much of northern Illinois, according to the Illinois State Water Survey, soils have been restored to near field capacity in most of the State. Contradictory? No, different terminology.

Drought can be measured by several different methods, including total precipitation of the last 6, 12, or so months, soil moisture deficit, stream flow or the availability of ground water. In the first instance, 12 month precipitation since April 1, 1988 is near or even above the average in the southern third of Illinois, the result of heavy rainfall during the first 3 months of this year. Twelve-month precipitation in the northern two-thirds of the State varies from 6 to 16 inches below average. Clearly, this is not a sign that the drought is over. In terms of current precipitation, the northern two-thirds of the State are in deficit.

Most rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs in the State are near full (exceptions are Lakes Bloomington and Springfield). If surface water was used as a gauge, one would conclude that the drought was essentially in our past. Interestingly, surface water can be near average when the precipitation of the last 12 months is still in deficit.

Soil moisture is at or near saturation in the southern one-third of Illinois due to rains of the last 3 months. Soils in the northern two-thirds vary from only a few inches short of field capacity to as much as 5 to 6 inches short in West-Central Illinois. With only average precipitation during the next few weeks, most of those soils, too, will be near field capacity. Agriculturally, then, although there is a shortage of soil moisture at present, it is not substantial for most areas of the State.

Drought is still playing a leading role in Illinois shallow ground water, however. There are still farmers, primarily in northern Illinois, who are hauling water because their shallow ground water wells dried last year, and have not been yet restored. Although this problem seems to be limited to the non-urban shallow ground water users, the problem is substantial, and cannot be rectified until summer, at the earliest. Ground water responds to precipitation, but with something like a 3 to 5 month lag. Therefore, even if precipitation were to increase substantially now, and remain elevated from average levels, ground water would only begin to respond in summer.

WEATHER

THE WEEK WAS RATHER DAMP ACROSS ILLINOIS. PRECIPITATION TOTALS WERE ABOVE NORMAL IN THE SOUTH AND MUCH OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS BUT BELOW NORMAL ACROSS THE NORTH. REPORTED AMOUNTS RANGED FROM .75 TO 1.50 INCHES IN THE SOUTH TO ONLY .10 TO .50 IN THE FAR NORTH. COLD TEMPERATURES AT THE END OF THE WEEK PRODUCED SOME SNOW.

DAYTIME HIGHS STARTED THE WEEK IN THE 60'S TO 70'S SOUTH BUT ENDED MOSTLY IN THE 40'S SUNDAY. FOR THE WEEK, HIGH TEMPERATURES AVERAGED FROM THE UPPER 40'S AND LOW 50'S NORTH TO THE MID AND UPPER 50'S IN THE SOUTH. LOWS AVERAGED AROUND 30 NORTH TO THE UPPER 30'S SOUTH. COLD AIR DROPPED LOWS INTO THE TEENS ACROSS PARTS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS SUNDAY NIGHT.

FOUR-INCH BARE SOIL TEMPERATURES FOR THE WEEK AVERAGED IN THE MID 40'S TO AROUND 50 NORTH TO THE MID 50'S SOUTH FOR HIGHS. FOUR-INCH MINIMUMS AVERAGED IN THE MID 30'S TO LOW 40'S.

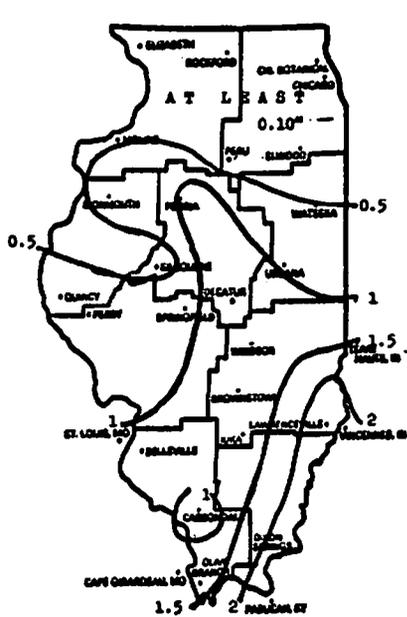
Week ending 8 A.M. Monday, April 10, 1989

Location	: Maxi- : num	: Mini- : num	: Depar- : ture	: Precipitation : : Current : : week	: Growing : Degree : Days
ELIZABETH	51	26	-6	0.14	11
ROCKFORD	49	29	-4	0.10	10
CHICAGO	49	31	-5	0.11	9
CHI BOTANICAL	47	31	-6	0.18	9
ELWOOD	49	31	-4	0.36	8
WATSEKA	49	31	-6	0.54	7
PERU	50	32	-6	0.48	10
MOLINE	49	29	-6	0.42	9
PEORIA	49	31	-7	1.06	7
KILBOURNE	49	31	-9	0.95	7
MONMOUTH	49	30	-8	0.91	8
QUINCY	50	33	-7	0.71	10
PERRY	50	32	-9	0.70	9
SPRINGFIELD	50	31	-8	0.96	8
URBANA	50	31	-7	0.91	9
WINDSOR	51	36	-6	1.45	14
TERRE HAUTE	53	32	-6	1.50	19
ST LOUIS	53	37	NA	0.81	15
BELLEVILLE	55	36	-7	0.89	21
BROWNSTOWN	52	33	-8	1.18	15
IUKA	52	33	-9	1.34	15
LAWRENCEVILLE	55	32	NA	2.07	24
VINCENNES	55	35	-6	1.44	24
DIXON SPRINGS	62	40	-4	2.13	49
PADUCAH	58	39	-7	2.13	34
OLIVE BRANCH	62	38	-4	1.64	39
CARBONDALE	57	35	-7	1.00	30
C GIRARDEAU	58	40	NA	1.22	33

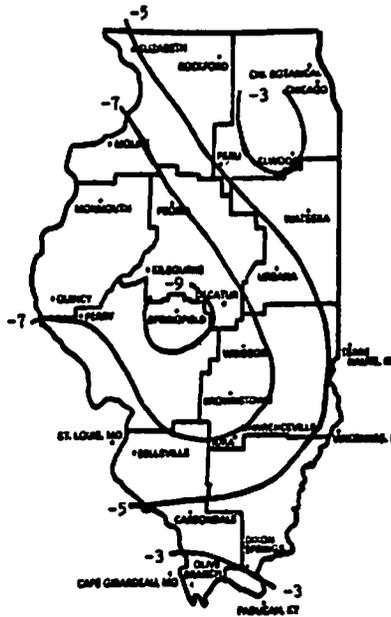
NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

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April 10, 1989

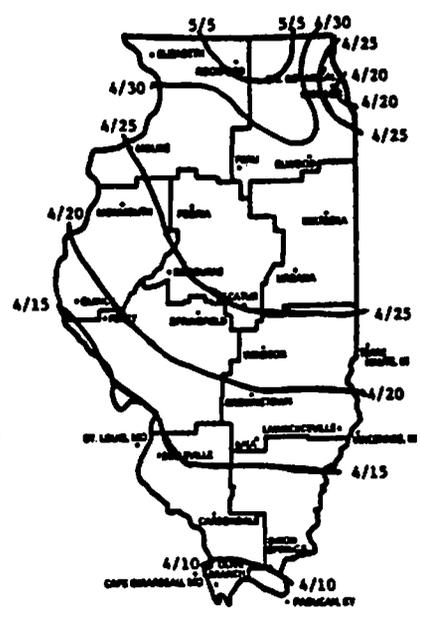
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PRECIPITATION (INCHES)
APRIL 4-10, 1989



TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES FROM
AVERAGE (°F) APRIL 4-10, 1989



AVERAGE DATE OF LAST SPRING FREEZE
(32°F or below)

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.