

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition, as of March 13, was reported as 2% excellent, 21% good, 39% fair, and 38% poor. Fair to poor conditions persist throughout most of the State with the two northern Districts reporting the poorest condition. It is still difficult to assess the damage in some areas. Reports from the two northern Districts indicate that the wheat has been killed or severely reduced and will be replanted with a different crop this spring. Reports from southern Districts, where most of the wheat is grown, showed marked improvement in wheat condition for the second straight month.

OAT SEEDING has begun and as of March 13, 14% of the oat crop has been seeded statewide.

LIVESTOCK continues to be in mostly good condition. Rapid gains and good feed efficiency continue to be reported and feedyards are not as sloppy as a month ago.

Recent low temperatures have caused concern among fruit growers. Some reports indicate that alfalfa may be set back as well. Grain movement is light to moderate in areas where roads are firm enough.

This past week, farmers were preparing machinery for fieldwork, hauling manure, applying fertilizer and anhydrous, cleaning seed, purchasing spring supplies, and caring for livestock.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Winter Wheat Condition				Soil Moisture Percent		
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Short	Adq.	surplus
As of March 13							
Northwest	0	0	0	100	0	100	0
Northeast	0	0	15	85	0	90	10
West	0	0	45	55	10	90	0
Central	0	0	15	85	0	100	0
East	0	0	0	100	15	70	15
W southwest	0	5	55	40	45	55	0
E Southeast	0	0	45	55	55	45	0
Southwest	10	65	25	0	20	80	0
Southeast	0	40	60	0	0	100	0
State	2	21	39	38	20	77	3

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES										
	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
February	1.32	1.95	1.37	1.83	1.28	1.13	1.06	1.82	2.04	1.53
Departure	0.08	0.54	-0.08	0.24	-0.45	-0.73	-1.17	-0.92	-0.82	-0.37

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Temperatures continued to be above normal and precipitation below normal during February in Illinois.

The average temperature departure for the State was 7.9 degrees above normal. Temperatures were above normal during the month with brief cool periods. Several new record highs were set during the month. The last week of the month was the warmest.

Cape Girardeau, Mo (near the West-Southwest District) recorded the highest temperature, 74 on the 29th. Elizabeth (in the Northwest District) recorded the lowest temperature, 4 degrees on the 29th.

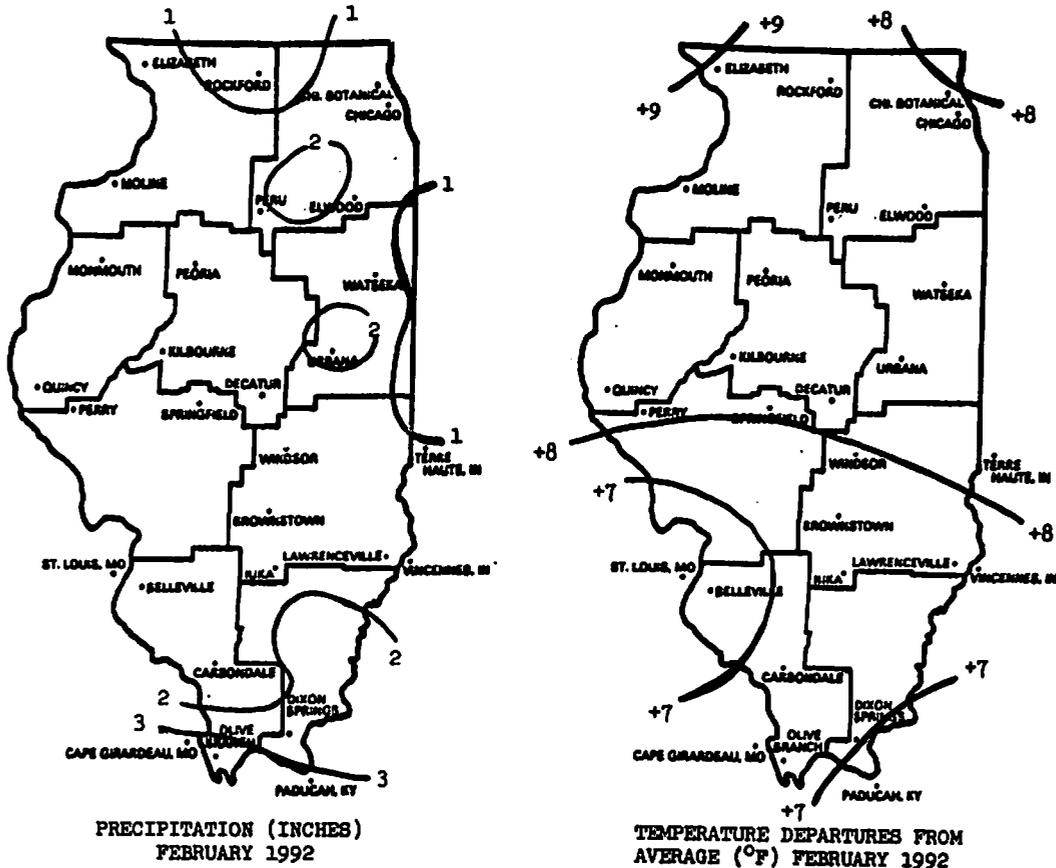
The average precipitation for the State was 0.37 inches below normal.

Slightly above normal precipitation was recorded in the northern part of the State while the South was below normal. The East-Southeast District once again recorded the least precipitation. The Southeast District recorded the greatest precipitation.

One to 11 inches of snow fell in Illinois during the last half of the month. The heaviest snow fell in the extreme Northwest section of the State.

The 90-day extended outlook for Illinois is for precipitation to be below normal, while temperatures will be near normal.

Summary provided by The National Weather Service Cooperative Observers
NOAA, Rosemont, Illinois



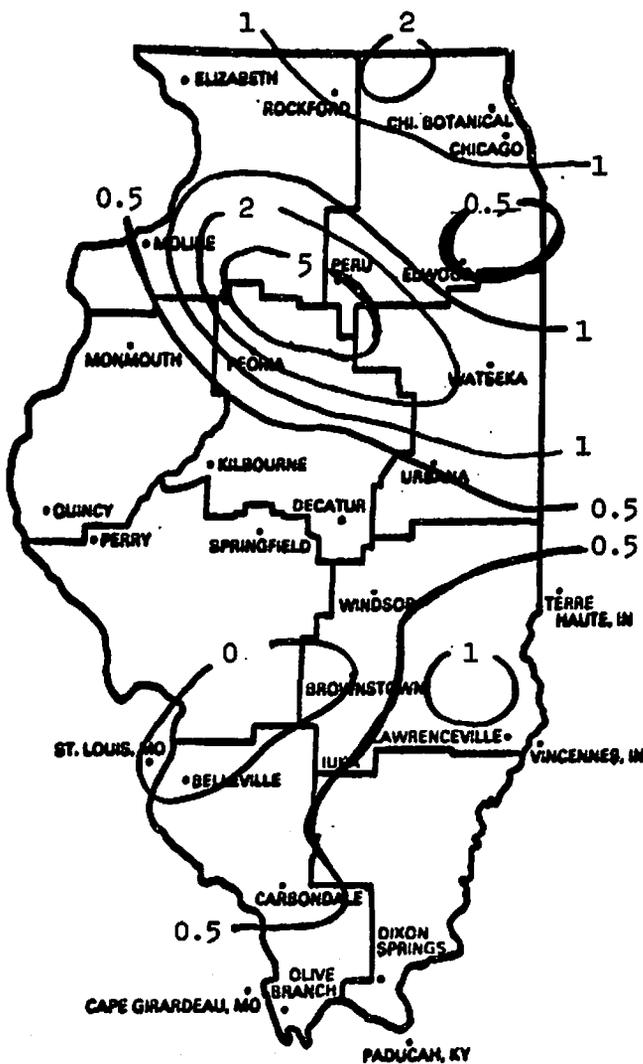
WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MARCH 1-15, 1992

Unseasonably mild and dry weather gave farmers an opportunity to enter the fields the first nine days of the month. Fieldwork quickly came to an end towards the 10th when arctic air plunged into the State, dropping temperatures some 50 degrees. Light rains quickly turned to snow with many areas covered in snow by the 11th. Temperatures soon moderated, but readings did not recover to more normal levels at mid-month.

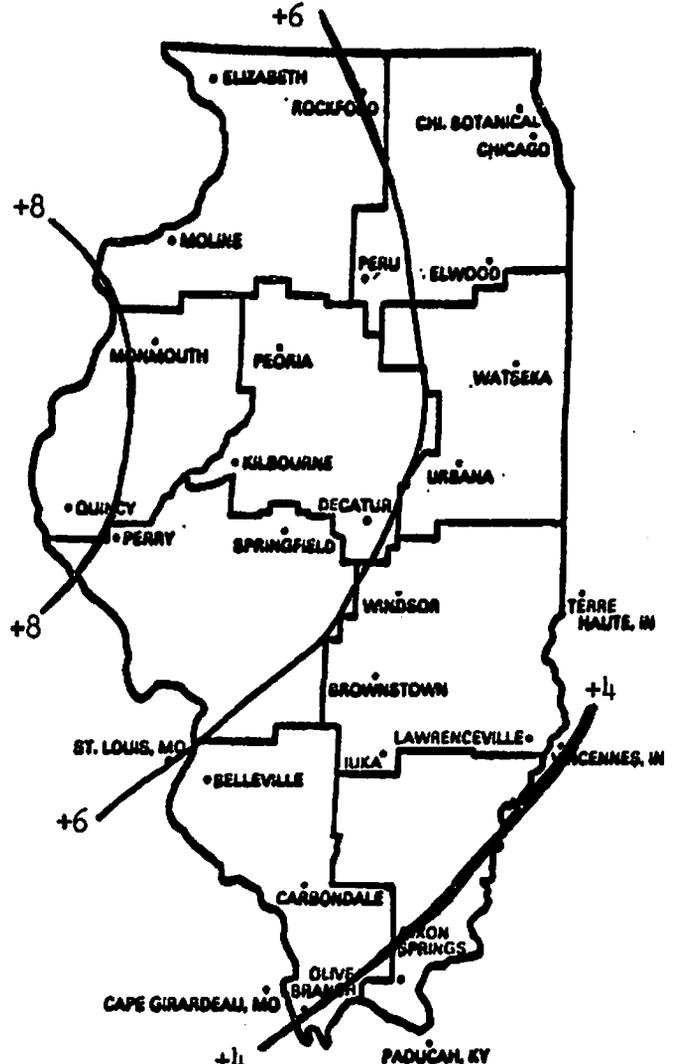
Temperatures averaged some 6 to 10 degrees above normal with mean readings from the upper 30's North to near 50 South. Mercuries had reached well into the 60's and 70's initially, but quickly fell into the teens on the 11th. This led to concerns of plant damage. Overall, daytime highs averaged from the upper 40's to low 60's with mean lows varied between the upper 20's and upper 30's.

Moisture was lacking during the period with departures from normal ranging from -.2 inches far North to near -1.0 inches Central and as much as 2 inches below normal South. Precipitation totals varied from 0.9 inches North to less than 0.5 inches West-Central and South.

Information above provided by Midwest Agricultural Weather Service Center
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)
MARCH 1-15, 1992



TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES FROM
AVERAGE (°F) MARCH 1-15, 1992

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CROP INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by county officials of Extension Service and SCS, and agribusiness managers.

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