

# 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 17, was reported as 16 percent excellent, 77 percent good and seven percent fair. While the crop remains dormant in some areas, the crop is coming out of dormancy over most of the state and is greening. There are no major concerns at this point.

SOIL MOISTURE as of March 17 was reported as six percent short, 88 percent adequate and six percent surplus. Short areas are scattered throughout the northern to central part of the state, with surplus areas in the southern half of the state.

Six percent of the OATS acreage had been planted by March 19 compared with four percent at this time last year and the five-year average of eight percent.

LIVESTOCK continue in good to excellent condition due to mild weather. The calving season has started and the weather has been favorable for the calf crop. The feedlots are still muddy, but are drying quickly.

GRAIN MOVEMENT across the entire state was increasing as farmers filled contracts due to higher prices for grain. Some roads are still posted, but the signs are expected to be taken down in the next couple of weeks. Grain in storage remains in good to excellent condition. Hay supplies were adequate to good and of good quality. However, there is still a shortage of excellent quality hay in the south.

### ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Soil Moisture Percent		
	Short	Adequate	Surplus
As of March 17			
Northwest	0	90	10
Northeast	15	85	0
West	10	90	0
Central	10	85	5
East	0	90	10
W Southwest	0	100	0
E Southeast	15	75	10
Southwest	0	85	15
Southeast	0	85	15
State	6	88	6

**FEBRUARY 1995 WEATHER SUMMARY**

Temperatures were above normal and precipitation was below normal in Illinois during February. The average temperature departure for the state was 0.9 degrees above normal. The West-Southwest District recorded the largest above normal variation. Springfield (in the West-Southwest District) recorded the highest temperature of 71 degrees on the 25th. The lowest temperature was also in Springfield, eight degrees below zero on the 6th. The average precipitation for the state was 0.66 of an inch below normal. The largest below normal precipitation variation was in the East Southeast, nearly one inch below normal. Springfield reported this to be the 4th driest February on record. Snowfall was below normal in the state.

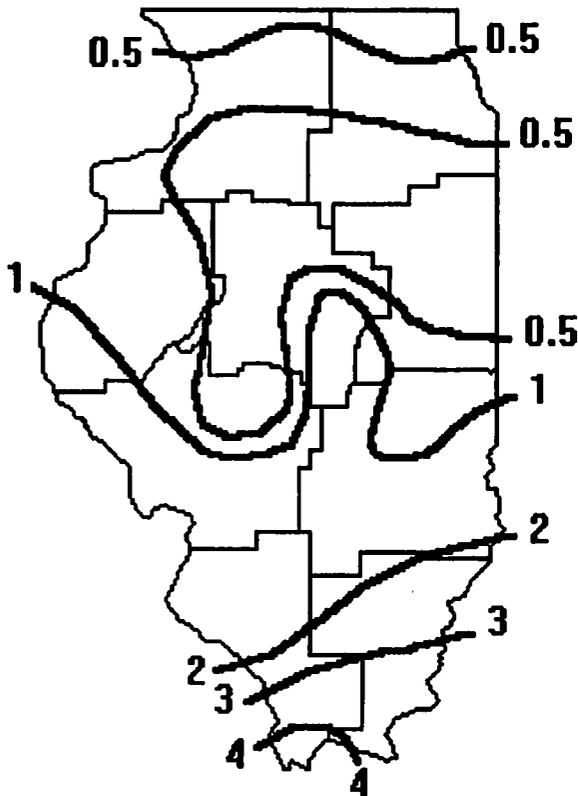
**PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES**

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
February	0.45	0.67	0.97	0.68	0.71	1.11	1.26	2.54	2.79	1.17
Departure	-0.67	-0.65	-0.43	-0.82	-0.91	-0.74	-0.95	-0.24	-0.24	-0.66

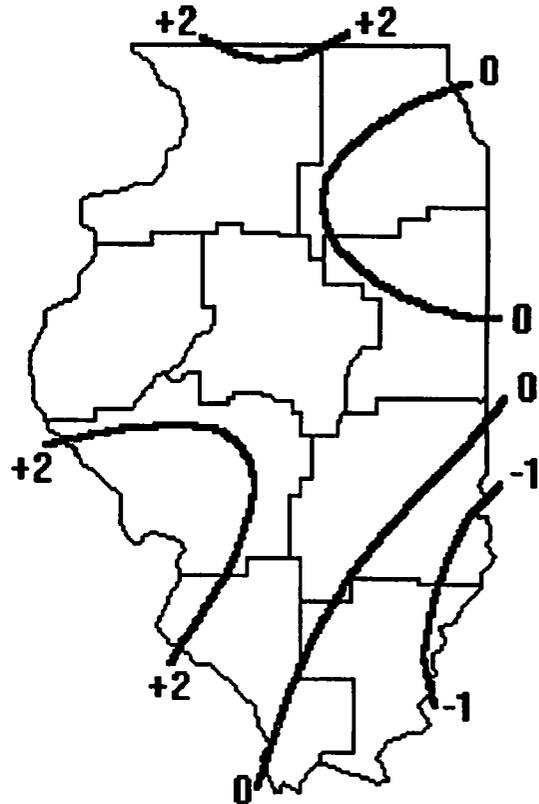
**PRELIMINARY DISTRICT TEMPERATURE AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN DEGREES**

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
February	24.8	25.2	28.4	27.9	27.9	31.3	31.1	35.4	34.5	29.3
Departure	1.1	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.6	0.8	1.3	0.1	0.9

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



**Precipitation (Inches)  
February 1995**



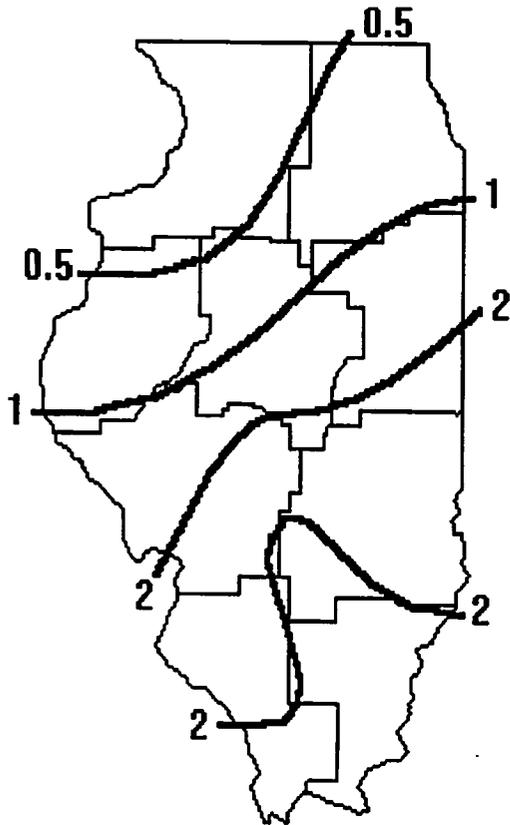
**Temperature Departure  
February 1995**

MARCH 1-15, 1995 WEATHER SUMMARY

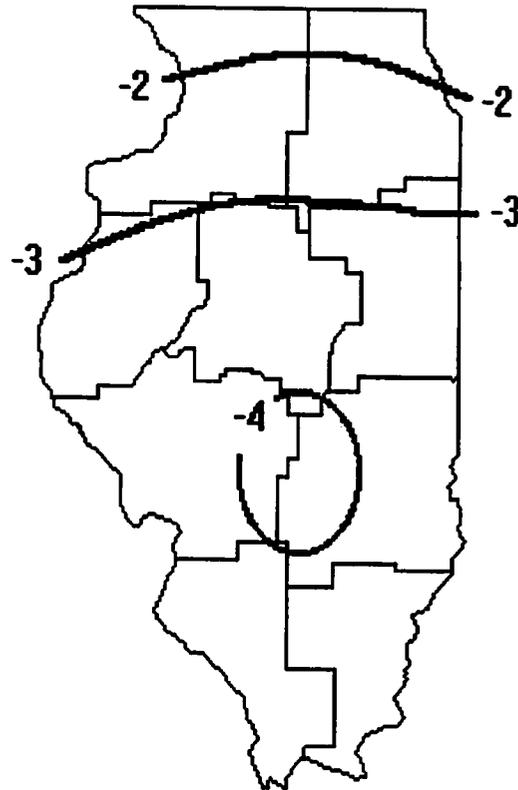
March temperature has been rather two-faced thus far. The first ten days of the month were generally 10°F to 15°F below average. These were followed by about a week of substantially above average temperatures, sufficiently above average so that several score of sites broke all-time temperatures on the 13th and 14th. On average, however, temperatures for the first half of the month were 2°F to 3°F below average.

Precipitation has varied from about 0.5 inch in northern Illinois to 2 inches in the southern half, as with February, about 30 percent of average in the north, and about average in the south.

Summary provided by Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois 61820



**Precipitation (Inches)**  
**March 1-15, 1995**



**Temperature Departure**  
**March 1-15, 1995**

Weather maps provided by Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

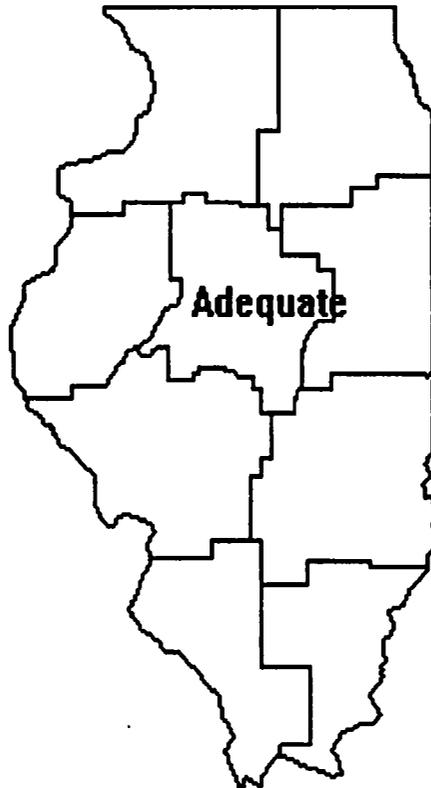
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**Soil Moisture Supply  
March 17, 1995**

CROP PROGRESS INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by local area officials of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Farm Business Farm Management field staff, and agribusiness managers.

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