

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283
Phone: (217)492-4295

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CROPS

Cool temperatures and wet weather restricted corn planting in the south and northeast last week but good progress was made in the west and central areas. Northern Illinois needs warmer weather to warm soil temperatures and rain for better topsoil moisture. Some farmers in the north planted corn regardless of soil temperatures. Meanwhile, in central Illinois corn planting continued heavy last week but many farmers were still apprehensive about low soil temperatures. Farmers in southern Illinois are waiting for fields to dry to continue fieldwork. Not much field activity was reported in the south. Wheat conditions continue to deteriorate. Most of the winter wheat with very poor stands have been or will be planted to corn. Farmers' activities were planting corn, preparing fields for soybean planting, chemical applications, mowing grass and livestock chores. There were 2.7 days suitable for fieldwork during the week of April 20-26. Soil moisture was rated one percent very short, 21 percent short, 48 percent adequate and 30 percent surplus as of April 26.

Corn planting was 29 percent complete by April 28, compared to seven percent last year and the five-year average of 17 percent.

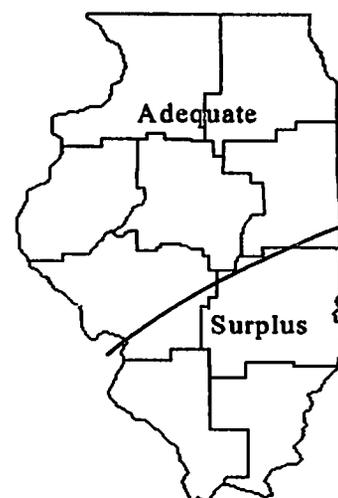
Seeding of oats was 95 percent complete by April 28, compared to 62 percent last year and the five-year average of 71 percent.

Condition of the wheat crop, as of April 26, was seven percent good, 24 percent fair, 32 percent poor and 37 percent very poor. Less than one percent of the crop was headed by April 28.

Alfalfa was rated one percent excellent, 29 percent good, 53 percent fair, 15 percent poor and two percent very poor on April 26.

Condition of pastures on April 26 was two percent excellent, 25 percent good, 48 percent fair, 21 percent poor and four percent very poor.

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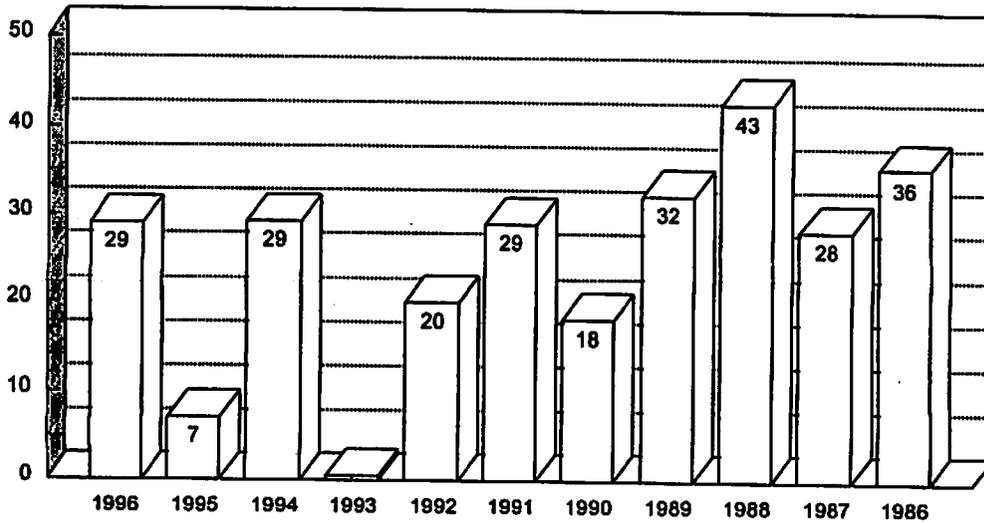
Topsoil Moisture Supply
April 26, 1996

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Corn		Days Suitable For Fieldwork	Topsoil Moisture Percent		
	Acreage Percent Planted	As of April 28		April 20 - 26	Very Short	Short
Northwest	18	5.5	2	45	53	-
Northeast	5	2.9	-	29	67	4
West	45	5.4	1	36	62	1
Central	41	3.1	3	38	57	2
East	27	1.7	-	18	73	9
W Southwest	72	2.9	3	14	65	18
E Southeast	16	0.9	-	3	24	73
Southwest	20	0.4	-	-	23	77
Southeast	9	0.5	-	-	16	84
State	29	2.7	1	21	48	30

Corn - Percent Planted

As of April 28



WEATHER SUMMARY

The distribution of temperature and precipitation continued in a similar vein to those of the past week or two, i.e., colder than average for this time of year, and driest in northern counties. Specifically, temperatures varied from 4°F below average in the far northeast to 6° to 7°F below in central Illinois, and 4°F below in the far south. Temperatures continue to be 2 to 3 weeks behind the averages.

Precipitation was the news item for the past seven days. That in the northern half of the state varied from less than one-half to a maximum of two inches. South of a line from St. Louis to about Lawrenceville, rainfall was substantial, resulting in flooding. Weekly totals greater than six inches (about a 10-year event) occurred in much of southern Illinois.

Week ending 8 A.M. Monday, April 29, 1996

Location	Temperatures			Precipitation	Growing Degree Days
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure		
Elizabeth	61	34	-6.0	0.43	39
Rockford	60	38	-5.2	0.03	33
Chicago	57	39	-5.3	0.25	29
Chi Botanical	61	39	-4.8	0.13	37
Watseka	57	39	-6.8	0.46	29
Peru	60	38	-6.5	0.03	33
Moline	61	41	-6.5	0.08	36
Peoria	59	42	-7.0	0.71	34
Monmouth	61	40	-6.6	0.75	43
Quincy	61	44	-6.7	1.22	40
Perry	62	40	-6.0	0.46	47
Springfield	61	44	-6.3	1.21	33
Urbana	60	42	-6.6	1.44	31
Windsor	62	45	-6.3	2.45	42
Terre Haute	65	45	-6.4	4.86	51
St. Louis	66	50	-5.0	8.64	63
Belleville	65	47	-4.7	0.90	51
Brownstown	64	43	-5.8	0.90	45
Iuka 1/					
Lawrenceville	61	42	-6.2	5.03	37
Vincennes	63	43	-6.3	4.55	42
Dixon Springs 1/					
Paducah	68	47	-3.6	4.52	60
Olive Branch	67	49	-4.0	N/A	65
Carbondale	65	47	-4.2	8.15	60
C Girardeau	66	49	-3.5	3.38	54

1/ - Data for location not available.

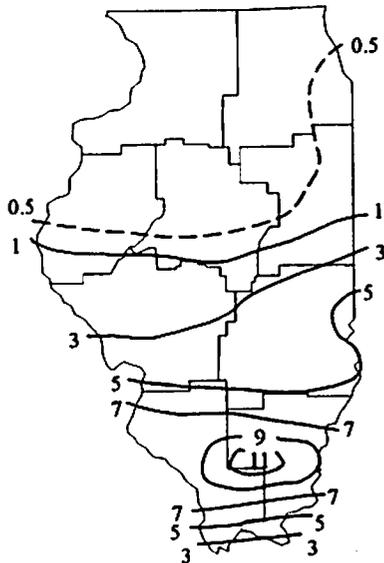
N/A - Not Available.

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

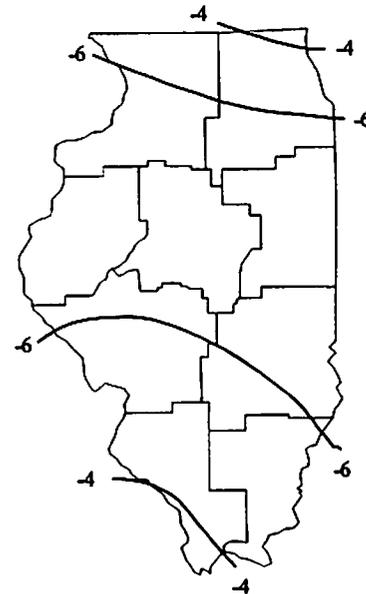
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Weather maps provided by Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois 61820



Precipitation (inches)
April 23-29, 1996



Temperature Departure
April 23-29, 1996

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

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