

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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The continued El Niño weather brought above normal temperatures and precipitation throughout the state during February. Snow cover was lacking and because of the warm weather, winter wheat fields were greening up. If wheat continues to grow, it could reach the stage where it is vulnerable to freeze injury. As of February 27, the winter wheat crop was rated 28 percent excellent, 57 percent good, 12 percent fair, two percent poor and one percent very poor. Wet conditions made it difficult to apply nitrogen or spread manure. As of February 27, topsoil moisture was rated 19 percent surplus, 76 percent adequate and five percent short. Livestock producers contended with muddy lots and cattle dealt with respiratory stress.

Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
February 27, 1998				
Northwest	-	-	64	36
Northeast	-	-	75	25
West	-	4	91	5
Central	-	1	93	6
East	-	2	86	12
W Southwest	-	5	86	9
E Southeast	-	13	60	27
Southwest	-	-	97	3
Southeast	-	4	54	42
State	-	5	76	19

Weather data and maps provided by Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, Il. 61820, (217)244-8226.

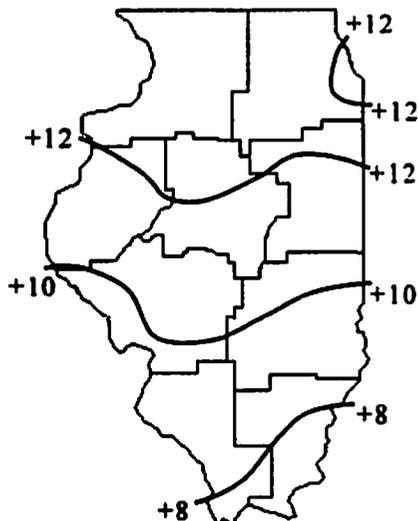
Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
February 1 - 28, 1998						
Northwest	36.5	24.2	12.3	2.66	1.15	1.51
Northeast	37.3	25.0	12.3	1.84	1.29	0.56
West	38.7	28.2	10.5	3.62	1.36	2.26
Central	39.2	27.5	11.7	2.58	1.51	1.07
East	39.1	27.3	11.8	1.62	1.59	0.03
W Southwest	40.9	30.5	10.4	3.25	1.79	1.46
E Southeast	40.9	31.2	9.7	2.22	2.17	0.05
Southwest	42.8	34.4	8.4	3.49	2.60	0.88
Southeast	42.7	34.7	7.9	3.24	2.94	0.30
State	39.7	29.0	10.7	2.69	1.78	0.91

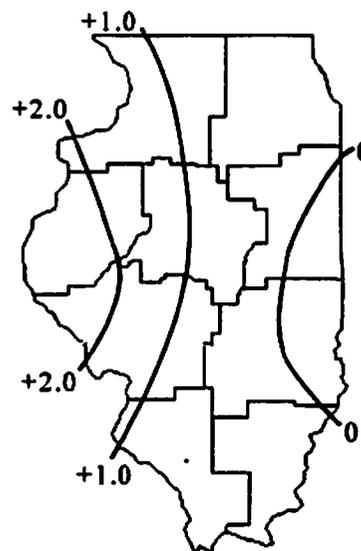
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Temperature Departure
February 1998



Precipitation Departure
February 1998

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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