

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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With the recent warm and windy weather farmers were preparing for the upcoming planting season. When fields were not too muddy, anhydrous ammonia was applied to winter wheat fields and manure was spread on others. As of March 27, topsoil moisture was rated 29 percent surplus, 66 percent adequate and five percent short. Farmers began their spring seeding of oats, which was three percent complete by March 29. This compares to sixteen percent last year and the five-year average of thirteen percent. The condition of winter wheat declined as an unusual cold spell hit the first two weeks of the month. The snow cover insulated stands with the near zero temperatures, while in areas with little to no snow cover, the tops of leaves were burned with stands still looking good. As of March 27, winter wheat was rated at nine percent excellent, 60 percent good, 26 percent fair, four percent poor and one percent very poor. The warmer weather helped stretch hay supplies as pastures were greening up. The above average precipitation left many fields muddy and made livestock yards difficult to get around for feeding and managing of livestock. Conditions for calving improved over the past week with a difficult beginning in early March.

### Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 27, 1998				
Northwest	-	11	74	15
Northeast	-	16	80	4
West	-	1	80	19
Central	-	-	60	40
East	-	-	73	27
W Southwest	-	1	61	38
E Southeast	-	5	55	40
Southwest	-	-	36	64
Southeast	-	10	74	16
State	-	5	66	29

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

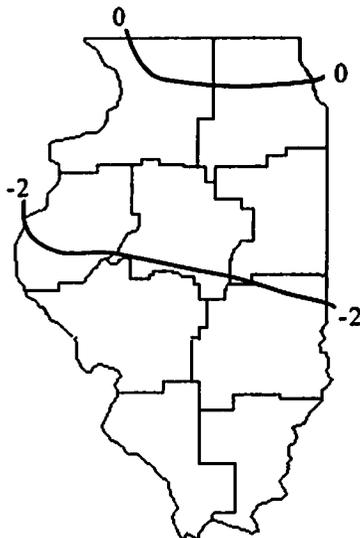
### Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
March 1 - 29, 1998						
Northwest	35.4	36.1	- 0.7	2.92	2.47	0.44
Northeast	36.2	36.3	- 0.1	2.96	2.53	0.43
West	37.7	39.9	- 2.2	3.96	2.84	1.12
Central	37.6	39.3	- 1.7	4.16	2.89	1.27
East	37.5	39.0	- 1.5	4.93	2.86	2.07
W Southwest	39.3	41.9	- 2.6	5.11	3.15	1.96
E Southeast	40.3	42.5	- 2.2	4.64	3.61	1.03
Southwest	42.6	45.1	- 2.5	5.29	4.04	1.25
Southeast	43.2	45.5	- 2.3	3.99	4.36	- 0.37
State	38.7	40.4	- 1.7	4.20	3.15	1.06

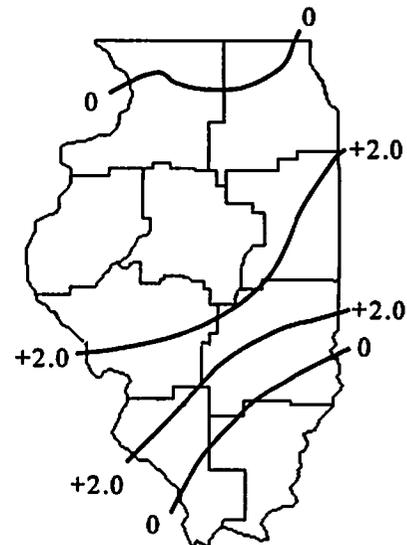
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Temperature Departure  
March 1-29, 1998



Precipitation Departure  
March 1-29, 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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