

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283
 Phone: (217)492-4295
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
<http://www.egr.state.il.us/egstats.htm>

RELEASED: MARCH 5, 2001 3 P.M., CT

VOL. 22, NO. 04

Rainfall was abundant across Illinois during February causing soft feedlots and melting the last of the snowcover that was present across Northern Illinois at the beginning of the month. Statewide total rainfall averaged 3.47 inches or nearly twice the normal rainfall received in February. The rains did help replenish ponds, lakes and topsoil moisture, but frozen ground across far northern Illinois prevented significant topsoil moisture recharge in that area. Statewide topsoil moisture levels were rated as 26 percent surplus, 73 percent adequate and one percent short as of March 2. Temperatures across the state averaged 29.4 degrees, just slightly above average for the month. As of March 2, the condition of the wheat crop was rated seven percent excellent, 55 percent good, 31 percent fair, six percent poor and one percent very poor. Calving began in many areas during the month but has been hampered by soft field conditions and rapidly changing air temperatures. Other activities during the month included hauling grain where roads were solid enough, taking delivery on seed corn and "attending closing out sales that pop up at this late date."

Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 2				
Northwest	-	1	94	5
Northeast	-	-	93	7
West	-	5	71	24
Central	-	-	68	32
East	-	1	72	27
W Southwest	-	-	58	42
E Southeast	-	-	70	30
Southwest	-	-	64	36
Southeast	-	4	61	35
State	-	1	73	26

Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
February 1 - 28						
Northwest	21.9	24.2	-2.3	3.85	1.16	2.69
Northeast	24.5	25.0	-0.5	2.95	1.28	1.67
West	26.5	28.0	-1.5	3.96	1.36	2.59
Central	27.5	27.4	0.1	3.48	1.50	1.98
East	29.1	27.4	1.7	3.52	1.58	1.93
W Southwest	30.9	30.5	0.4	3.43	1.83	1.60
E Southeast	33.3	31.3	2.0	2.85	2.17	0.67
Southwest	36.3	34.4	1.9	3.70	2.56	1.15
Southeast	37.4	34.7	2.7	3.72	2.92	0.80
State	29.4	29.0	0.4	3.47	1.78	1.69

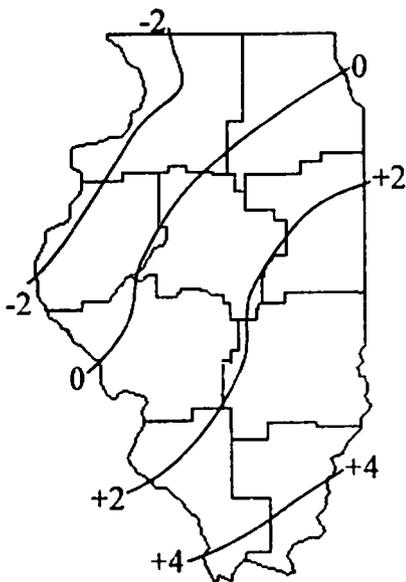
Weather data provided by Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, Il. 61820, (217)244-8226.

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

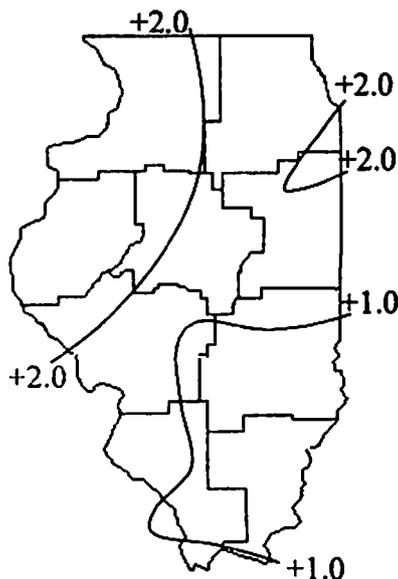
Illinois Weather & Crops
March 5, 2001

Illinois Weather & Crops (ISSN 0273-8635) is published weekly April-October, semimonthly in January, monthly in December, February and March and three issues in November, by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, Room 54, Department of Agriculture Bldg., 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL 62702. For information on subscribing, send request to the above address. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois. Postmaster: Send Address Change to Illinois Weather & Crops, P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283.

Maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey
Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>
(217)244-8226



Temperature Departure
February 1 - 28



Precipitation Departure
February 1 - 28

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.

"Printed by authority of the State of Illinois" 3/05/01, 2,700, 1444

