

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Agricultural Summary

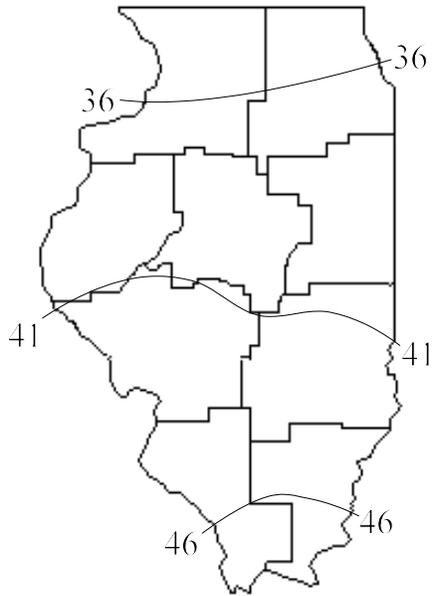
Statewide precipitation averaged 1.61 inches above normal so far during March. The smallest district total was 2.74 inches in the Central District, while the greatest precipitation totals ranged from seven to eight inches in the two southern districts. The precipitation definitely helped topsoil moisture conditions around the state, but subsoil moisture conditions are still a concern. Topsoil moisture conditions improved to 10 percent very short, 31 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Temperatures have averaged near normal so far during March. Winter wheat is generally doing well in most areas of the state as the condition was rated as 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Oats planted has reached 14 percent, slightly ahead of last year's 11 percent and the five-year average of 9 percent. Fieldwork has been limited due to the precipitation received this month, but fertilizer has been applied in some areas. Other activities included hauling grain, spreading manure, tending to calves, and machinery preparation for planting.

Soil Moisture Table

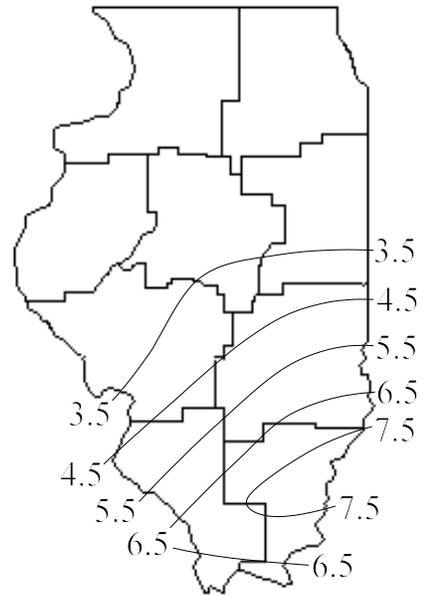
District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	March 26			
Northwest	13	33	54	-
Northeast	3	40	57	-
West	32	50	18	-
Central	10	42	47	1
East	11	36	49	4
W Southwest	3	22	73	2
E Southeast	6	10	68	16
Southwest	-	3	45	52
Southeast	-	-	13	87
State	10	31	50	9

Weather Information Table

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
	March 1 - 26					
Northwest	35.5	35.7	-0.2	3.03	1.94	1.09
Northeast	35.9	35.9	0.0	2.89	1.92	0.97
West	39.7	39.4	0.3	3.07	2.25	0.82
Central	39.1	38.8	0.3	2.74	2.37	0.37
East	38.3	38.5	-0.2	2.96	2.40	0.56
W Southwest	41.6	41.4	0.2	3.30	2.62	0.68
E Southeast	41.9	42.0	-0.1	5.45	2.79	2.66
Southwest	45.4	44.4	1.0	6.54	2.90	3.64
Southeast	45.6	44.7	0.9	7.87	3.17	4.70
State	40.1	39.9	0.2	4.07	2.46	1.61



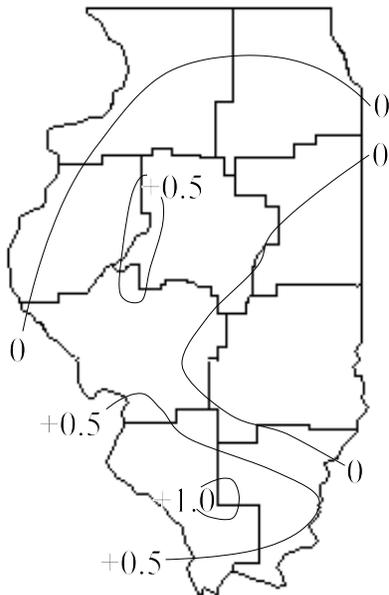
Average Temperature (°F)
March 1 - 26



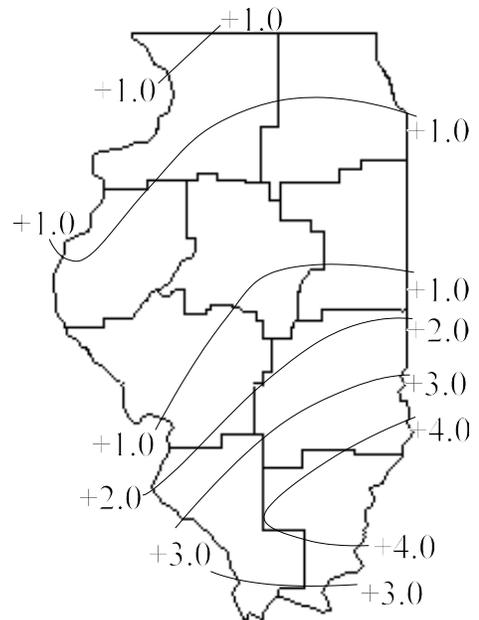
Total Precipitation (in.)
March 1 - 26

Maps provided by
the Illinois
State Water
Survey

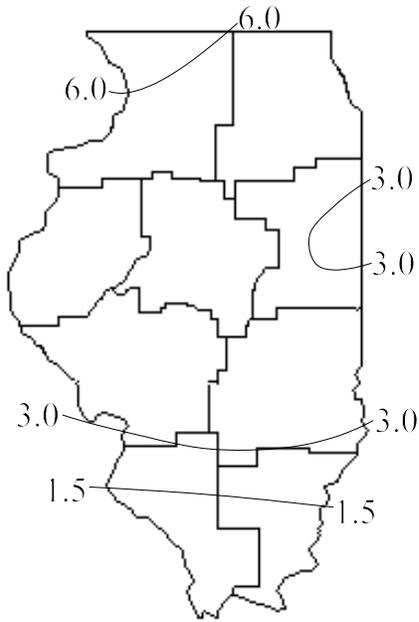
Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>
(217) 244-8226



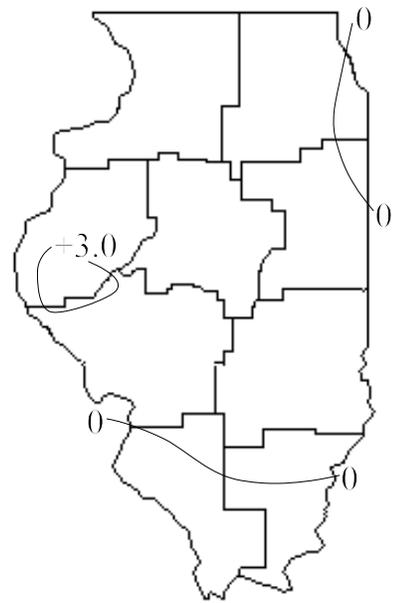
Temperature (°F) Departure
March 1 - 26



Precipitation (in.) Departure
March 1 - 26

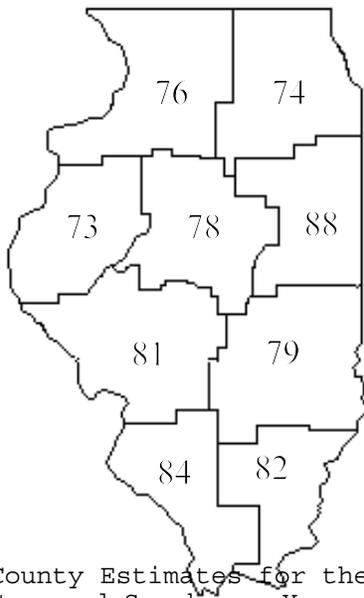


Snowfall (in.) Total
March 1 - 26

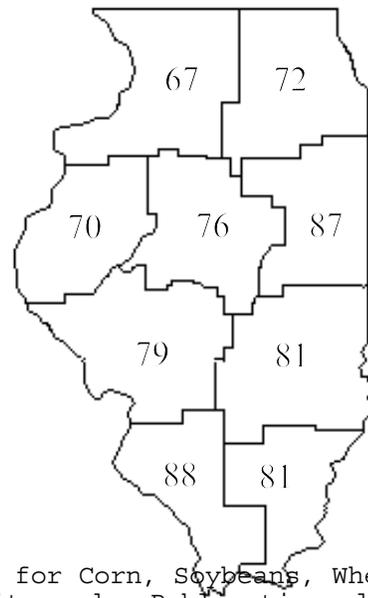


Snowfall (in.) Departure
March 1 - 26

Maps provided by
the Illinois
State Water Survey
Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>
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County Estimates for the 2005 crop are available for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Oats, and Sorghum. You can find them on our website under Publications listed under County Estimates. To find estimates for earlier years, go to Quick Stats at www.usda.gov/nass and use the second selection box below State and County Data.



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For a U.S. summary and other state data go to:
<http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/staterpt.htm>
The Illinois report is also available on the Internet at:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/il/wc.htm>

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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