

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/il>

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Agricultural Summary

Temperatures during the month of March averaged 43.2 degrees, 2.5 degrees above normal across the state. Statewide precipitation averaged 4.08 inches during the month, 1.14 inches above normal. Heavy rain and wet snow fell on many parts of the state over the weekend, causing delays in fertilizer application. Even though most of the snow melted quickly, fields were left saturated. Topsoil moisture was rated 50 percent adequate and 50 percent surplus. Winter wheat conditions stood at 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Crop Progress

| | This Week | Last Week | 2008 | 5-Year Average |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|
| March 29 | | | | |
| OATS: | | | | |
| Planted | 9 | 3 | 4 | 14 |

Soil Moisture Table

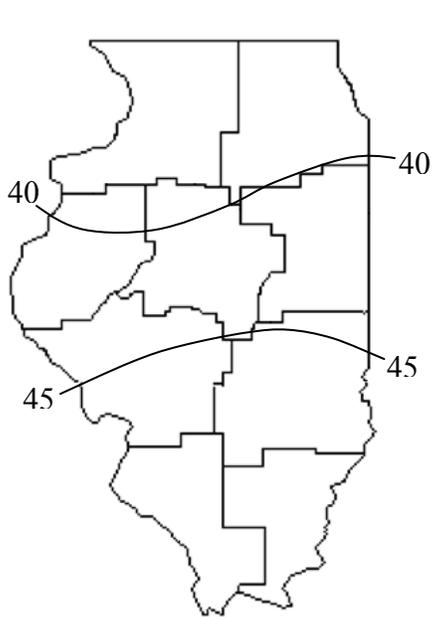
| District | Topsoil Moisture | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------|----------|---------|
| | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| March 29 | | | | |
| Northwest | - | - | 26 | 74 |
| Northeast | - | - | 60 | 40 |
| West | - | - | 37 | 63 |
| Central | - | - | 16 | 84 |
| East | - | 2 | 81 | 17 |
| W Southwest | - | - | 62 | 38 |
| E Southeast | - | - | 75 | 25 |
| Southwest | - | - | 26 | 74 |
| Southeast | - | - | 40 | 60 |
| State | - | - | 50 | 50 |

Crop Conditions

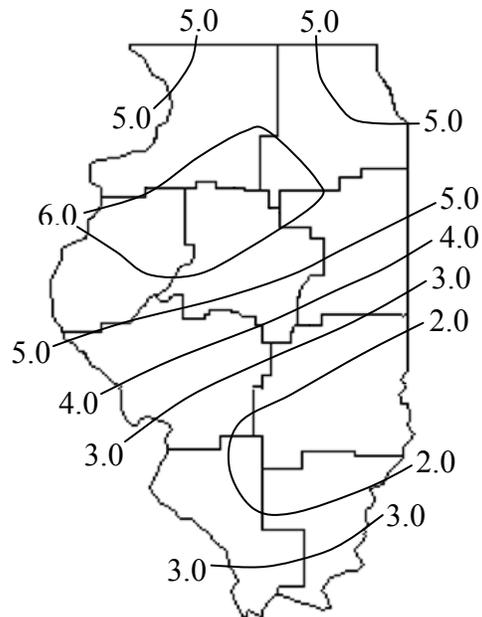
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|--------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| March 29 | | | | | |
| Winter Wheat | 1 | 5 | 27 | 59 | 8 |

Weather Information Table

| District | Temperature | | Precipitation | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| | Average | Departure | Total | Departure |
| March 1 - 29 | | | | |
| Northwest | 37.8 | 1.3 | 5.77 | 3.48 |
| Northeast | 38.4 | 1.8 | 5.30 | 2.99 |
| West | 41.9 | 1.7 | 5.64 | 3.00 |
| Central | 41.4 | 1.8 | 5.25 | 2.45 |
| East | 42.4 | 3.1 | 4.06 | 1.21 |
| W Southwest | 44.9 | 2.7 | 3.12 | 0.03 |
| E Southeast | 46.5 | 3.8 | 2.08 | -1.22 |
| Southwest | 48.4 | 3.3 | 2.64 | -1.00 |
| Southeast | 48.7 | 3.3 | 2.77 | -1.11 |
| State | 43.2 | 2.5 | 4.08 | 1.14 |

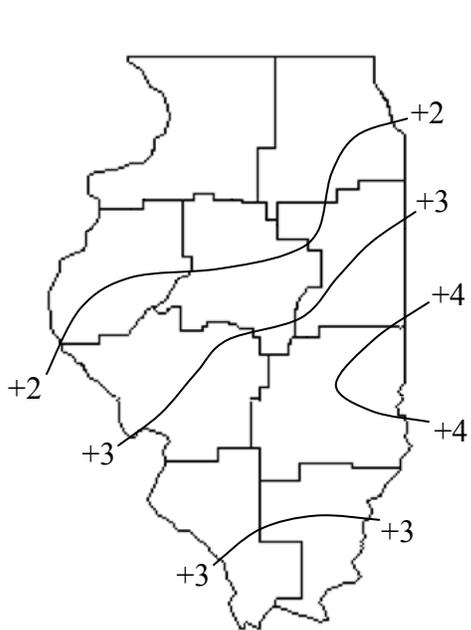


Average Temperature (°F)
March 1 - 29

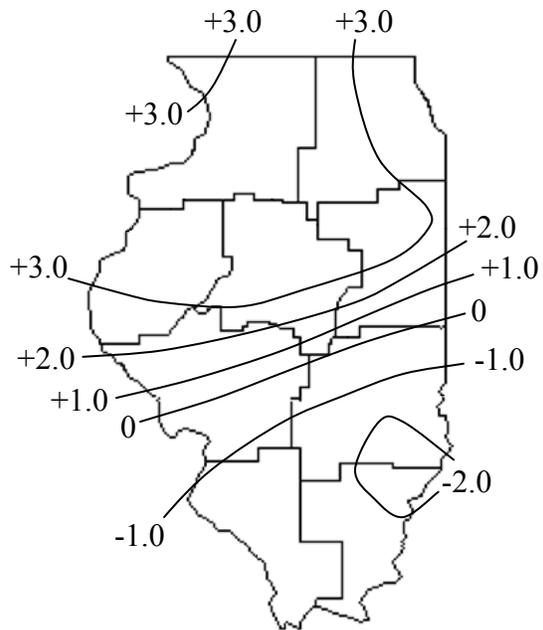


Total Precipitation (in.)
March 1 - 29

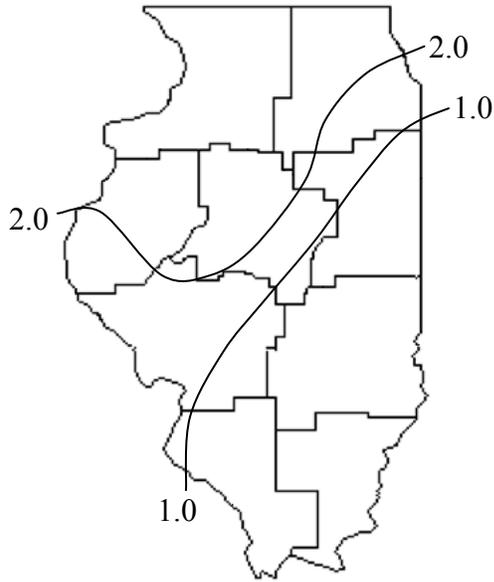
Weather data provided by the Illinois State Water Survey
 Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>
 (217) 244-8226



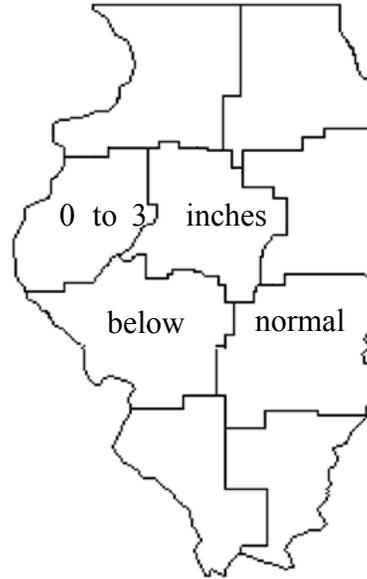
Temperature (°F) Departure
March 1 - 29



Precipitation (in.) Departure
March 1 - 29



Snowfall (in.) Total
March 1 - 29



Snowfall (in.) Departure
March 1 - 29

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County Estimates for the 2008 crops, with the exception of Hay, are now available. Hay estimates will be available April 17, 2009.

You can find them on our website at www.nass.usda.gov by selecting Illinois under Statistics by State and then County Estimates.

To find estimates for earlier years and for any state, go to Quick Stats at www.nass.usda.gov and use the 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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