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Weather summary:

January 2018

Temperatures and precipitation were below the long-term average in Illinois in January. Mean streamflow statewide was below the median for the month. Shallow groundwater levels were below the long-term depths.

Air temperatures averaged 24.1 degrees in January, 2.3 degrees below the long-term average (Figure 1). The southwestern crop reporting district (CRD) had the highest temperatures with an average of 28.4 degrees. The lowest regional temperature was 20.6 degrees, reported from the northwestern CRD.

Precipitation averaged 1.24 inches, 0.83 inches below the longterm average. The southeastern district had the highest average with 2.21 inches. The eastern district had the lowest average at 0.93 inches.

Snow was reported across the state during the month. The heaviest amounts were in northeast and southeast Illinois. The largest reported amount was 9.3 inches, reported by both Lake Villa (Lake County) and Gurnee (Lake County).

Personnel

- Michelle Stewart**
Owner & President
- John Stewart**
Owner & Project Specialist
- Greg Firrantello**
Dept. of Agronomy CCA/
Manager
- Jason Hill**
Operations Manager
- Billie Marko**
Monitoring and Reporting

New Public Outreach

January fell in between some of the 90 - day time frames for PR to remain valid. February will pick back up again.

The PR is ongoing for now. January was a slower PR Month. We are always doing PR weeks ahead of when the fields actually get spread.

We need and strongly encourage and invite all regulatory and industry leaders to help out with biosolids land application PR by educating and promoting biosolids recycling.

County	
Will-12	
Kendall-0	
LaSalle-0	
Grundy-0	
Cook-0	



Odor Minimization

Biosolids application methods such as immediate incorporation and injection can effectively reduce odor emissions. Other best management practices such as temperatures, weather conditions, and communicating spreading times and locations with neighbors can significantly reduce odor complaints.

Notes

January brings in full winter weather. We finish the end of the season reporting and look forward to starting 2018 programs.

We stay in close contact with our farmers to sign up 2018 fields. Some soil sampling and PR still occurring. A gas powered auger is used to get the samples in frozen fields.



Communication with Government Officials

Stewart Spreading will continue their policy of contacting all officials who we feel we should have close working relationships with. Those notified include law enforcement, health and highway departments, county, township and city officials and IEPA officials. Authorities appreciate good communication so they are not surprised when the calls do come in. Proactive is critical for success. We also encourage common sense rulings for all practical purposes.

Winter Work

There are lots of building projects going on when we are not in the fields.



Training

We use the winter time to conduct Company trainings and meetings. We held our all company meeting in January where we reviewed our 2017 jobs, looked at our scope of work for 2018, covered safety topics and other training.

We also volunteered as a company at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, IL.

Agronomy Corner

During January, final fall harvest is still in progress. Frozen temps allow for harvest to continue. No biosolids are being spread at this time.

We immediately begin lining up next year's land base. The majority of our farmers stay with the program. A few new farmers do get signed up.

We are hoping for a dry spring. Dry farming is the best farming.