Weather Summary February

Weather summary:

February 2018

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

Temperatures averaged 31.7 degrees in January, 0.8 degrees above the long-term average. However, temperatures varied widely. The highest was 83 degrees, reported at Belleville (Saint Clair County) on February 15. The lowest was -16 degrees from Fulton Lock and Dam (Whiteside County) on February 7.

Precipitation averaged 4.66 inches, 2.60 inches above normal. The month was the wettest February on record. Most of the precipitation came the last two weeks of the month. On February 21, several stations in Champaign and Vermilion counties reported daily totals of more than 4 inches. Rosiclare (Hardin County) had the month’s highest total at 9.54 inches

New Public Outreach

February picked up the pace for PR. We are constantly maintaining the PR in between some of the 90 - day time frames for PR to remain valid.

The PR is ongoing for now. People do not like leaving their doors open for long so the conversations are relatively short.

Some folks are nice. Some are indifferent. Some are tired of the notifications. 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.
**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**

February continues to bring in full winter weather. We use this time to conduct safety training and safety meetings. In addition to confined space training, we also implemented a new inclement weather/driving conditions guidelines to deal with situations such as fog advisories, wind advisories, freezing rain, heavy snow and more.

**Training**

We use the winter time to conduct Company trainings and meetings. We had 25 employees get certified in confined space training on February 27th, 2018. The training was conducted by Jason Hill and Greg Halmagyi.

**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.

**Agronomy Corner**

During February, full focus is on spring preparations. 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.