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Weather summary:

March 2018

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

Air temperatures averaged 39.2 degrees in March, 2.1 degrees below the long-term average (Figure 1). The southeast crop reporting district (CRD) had the highest temperatures with an average of 43.8 degrees. The lowest regional temperature was 35.9 degrees, reported from the northwest CRD.

Precipitation averaged 3.77 inches, 0.81 inches above the long-term average (Figure 1). The southwest district had the highest average with 5.97 inches. The northeast CRD was the driest with 1.51 inches.

Soil moisture was high in March. Levels averaged from 0.41 water fraction by volume (wfv) at 2 inch depths to 0.44 wfv at 59 inches. The highest levels were in southern Illinois where stations reported soil moistures at 2 inches above the field capacities.

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

March 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.

County	
Will-24	
Kendall-12	
LaSalle-1	
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

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

We stay in close contact with our farmers to sign up 2018 fields. We encourage them not to plant.

Some soil sampling and PR still occurring with a gas powered auger that 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.

Broker Safety Meeting

On March 21st, we had all our brokers come to Stewart Spreading to participate in a safety meeting to kick off the new year of hauling in 2018. We discussed and passed out our Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan. We also went over Contractor transportation service standards as well. Lastly, we looked at spills that occurred in 2017 so we could learn from them and prevent any further spills in the future.



Training

We onboarded seven new employees in March. We look forward to having these employees join our team! We are definitely gearing up for a very busy 2018.

Agronomy Corner

During March, full focus is on spring preparations. No biosolids are being spread at this time.

We immediately start calling farmers and checking fields.. The majority of our farmers stay with the program.

New farmers usually plant too soon. We are hoping for a dry spring. Dry farming is the best farming.