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**Weather summary:**

April 2017

**Temperatures** averaged 56.5 degrees for April, 3.9 degrees above the long-term average. Highs reached into the 80s at most stations. The month’s highest temperature was 89 degrees, recorded on April 20 at the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam in Randolph County. Monthly lows were in the 20s and 30s. Two stations, Aurora in Kane County and Neoga 4NW in Shelby County, tied for April’s lowest temperature with 22 degrees.

**Air temperatures** averaged 56.5 degrees in April, 3.9 degrees above the long-term average (Figure 1). The northwest and northeast crop reporting districts (CRDs) had the lowest monthly temperature with 52.8 degrees. The highest average of 60.2 degrees was reported in the southwest district.

**Precipitation** averaged 6.43 inches, 2.65 inches above the longterm average (Figure 1). The east CRD received the least amount with an average of 4.73 inches. The wettest for the month was the southwest district with 8.91 inches.

**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**

April is here and the weather does not usually cooperate with field operations. The PR is mostly done for spring season.

A few questions may pop up that we would address from time to time. Most neighbors are familiar with us.

We are always doing PR weeks ahead of when the fields actually get spread.

We strongly invite and encourage all regulatory and industry leaders to

help out with biosolids land application PR by educating and promoting biosolids recycling.

County	
Will—33	
Kendall—13	
La Salle—9	
Grundy—1	
Cook-2	



## 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

April is what we call go time. We really have the sense of urgency that spring is now here.

In agronomy, we are usually 3 to 6 months ahead of operations in order to have everything in place before the trucks roll. Spring will be over before we know it. Equipment is receiving final repairs. There is no time to waste. We are still soil sampling and doing PR.



## 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.



## Onboarding

We have been onboarding new employees during the month of April. We are getting everyone ready to start the spring work!

## Agronomy Corner

April is here and usually allows some favorable field conditions. April 10<sup>th</sup> is the average start date. Spring 2017 land base is mostly wrapped up.

We continue to perform soil samples and PR where needed. The 90 day rule causes us to redo PR during the same hauling period.

We hope we can haul something in April. It is normal for this to happen but we have had wet spells in the past.

The drought of 2012 allowed us to work in March. This usually occurs once every ten years. Spring, 2009 was the wettest of all springs.

Spring 2012 was the driest of them all. Spring spreading is one of the most challenging times of year to apply biosolids even if the weather cooperates.

It becomes a race against the weather and the planters.