Weather Summary April

April 2018

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

**Air temperatures** averaged 44.5 degrees F in April, 8.1 degrees below the long-term average (Figure 1). The southeast and southwest crop reporting districts (CRDs) had the highest temperatures with averages of 49.2 degrees. The lowest average regional temperature was 40.0 degrees, reported from both the northeast and northwest CRDs.

**Precipitation** averaged 2.37 inches, 1.41 inches below the longterm average (Figure 1). The southeast district had the highest average with 3.97 inches. The driest was the northwest CRD with an average of 1.12 inches.

**Soil moisture** declined in April from 33 percent at depths of 2 inches to 7 percent at 20 inches. Levels at 39 and 59 inches showed either no change or only slight increases during the month.

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New Public Outreach

April 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.

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**

April still has full winter weather. We are looking 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 late spring sign ups and wheat 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.

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<th>FIELD</th>
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**Training and Events**

On April 3rd, Greg Firrantello and Billie Marko attended a manure application class offered at the Dekalb County Farm Bureau.

April 16-18th, Greg Halmagyi attended the Springfield, IWEA/IAWPCO trade show.

**Agronomy Corner**

During April, Full focus is on spring preparations. Little biosolids are being spread at this time due to excessive rain events.

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. But April is wet.