Weather Summary July

Weather summary:
Ju2017

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

Air temperatures averaged 76.1 degrees in July, 0.7 degrees above the long-term average (Figure 1). The southwest crop reporting district (CRD) had the highest temperature with 79.4 degrees. The lowest regional temperature was 72.7 degrees, reported from the northeast CRD.

Precipitation averaged 4.61 inches, 0.53 inches above the long-term average (Figure 1). The northwest district had the highest precipitation average with 7.47 inches. The driest CRD for July was the southwest with an average of 2.79 inches.

Soil moisture at 2 inches declined 5 percent on average in July. Levels varied greatly across the Illinois regions with increases in northern and west central Illinois and decreases in the south and east central areas. Moisture declined overall at depths of 4, 20, 39, and 59 inches, while remaining steady at 8 inches.

New Public Outreach

July is here and the weather should cooperate with field operations. The PR is almost done for summer 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. Some neighbors are nice and some are indifferent.

Some are tired of the notifications. We need and strongly invite and encourage 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

July is known as summer spreading time. We wait for the wheat to harvest and the straw to bale.

July fields to spread are at risk to double cropping. We stay in close contact with our farmers to convince them biosolids are king.

Some soil sampling and PR still occurring.

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.

LASMA VOLUMES APPLIED JUNE 2017

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Training

We onboarded several new employees this month. We are hiring laborer positions as well as Class A CDL drivers to keep up with our work load.

Agronomy Corner

July is here and we are waiting for wheat harvest. Farmers are reporting less acres than usual due to a wet fall and winter kill. Throw in a poor market and it is a perfect storm for low wheat acres available.

Wheat field permitting is well under way. We hope we can haul some material when the wheat is harvested.

Wet weather during harvest is not normal, but we have had wet spells in the past that can delay wheat harvest.

Some farmers cannot resist the temptation to double crop beans therefore giving up on the biosolids for summer. Timing is important.

Summer spreading has some of its own challenging times of year to apply biosolids even if the weather cooperates. It becomes a race against the weather and the double crop planters.