Weather Summary July

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

Air temperatures averaged 75.1°F in July, 0.3°F below the long-term average (Figure 1). The southwest crop reporting district (CRD) had the highest temperature with an average of 78.3°F. The lowest regional temperature was 72.9°F, reported by the northwestern CRD.

Precipitation averaged 3.24 inches, 0.84 inches below the long-term average (Figure 1). The east-southeast district was the wettest with an average of 4.39 inches. The driest was the northeastern CRD with 2.15 inches.

Soil moisture declined at all depths in July on average. The greatest decreases were in northern Illinois; in the central regions, moisture increased at the 2 inch depths.

New Public Outreach

July had a somewhat normal 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 in the hot summer 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

July usually is a time for drier conditions. We are looking forward to working on summer wheat fields. The work is usually more consistent.

We must stay in close contact with our farmers who signed up 2018 wheat fields. Some farmers need tile or waterway work to be repaired and completed.

Some soil sampling and PR still occurring with late summer sign ups and wheat fields. Hopefully it stays reasonably dry for consistent hauling.

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.

July Hauling

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Training and Events

We continue to onboard new employees for driving positions and spreading positions.

We spend a lot of time training and sharing with new employees about our BBS safety program here at Stewart Spreading.

Agronomy Corner

July brings closure to spring planting and an invitation to summer wheat harvest! Full focus is on beginning summer operations. We do not anticipate any problems for the summer biosolids program.

We immediately start calling farmers and checking fields each and every day. The majority of our farmers understand the summer program.

Once the wheat is harvested, most farmers will also bale the straw too. This takes several days and requires dry weather. When the bailing is complete, the biosolids spreading can begin. In general we our down on total acres available to spread. A poor wheat market has limited the number of acres planted for 2018. A $6.00 per bushel futures market hopefully will increase the amount of acres we spread in the summer of 2019.