Weather Summary September

Weather summary: September 2017

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

Air temperatures averaged 68.8 degrees for September, 2.6 degrees above the long-term average (Figure 1). The southwestern crop reporting district (CRD) had the highest temperatures with an average of 70.9 degrees. The lowest regional temperature was 66.5 degrees, reported from the northwestern CRD.

Precipitation averaged 0.78 inches, 2.45 inches below the long-term average. The southeastern district had the highest average with 1.33 inches. The driest CRD for the month was the northeast, which had an average of 0.48 inches for the month.

Soil moisture was low across Illinois in September with levels at 2-inch depths near the wilting points at most monitoring locations. September 30 levels averaged 0.14 water fraction by volume (wfv) at 2 inches, 0.16 wfv at 4 inches, 0.18 wfv at 8 inches, 0.25 wfv at 20 inches, 0.37 wfv at 39 inches, and 0.38 wfv at 59 inches.

New Public Outreach

September is very dry and the weather should usually cooperate with field operations. We can have an inch of rain this time of year and be back in the field within a day or two with this kind of summer heat. A dry September could mean a wet October. Let’s hope not!!!

The PR is 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.

We strongly 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

Stewart Spreading hosted our Annual Field Day on September 13, 2017. Over 100 professionals from surrounding areas attended our event. Some of the organizations represented were The City of Rockford, Trotter and Associates/Fox Lake, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Donohue and Associates. John Stewart and Jason Hill also conducted a presentation on Innovative Solutions for Water and Wastewater.

LASMA VOLUMES APPLIED SEPTEMBER 2017

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<th>FIELD</th>
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Safety

In addition to our regular tool box talks, three new employees went through our onboarding process. We are preparing our team for Fall harvest.

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.

Agronomy Corner

During September, wheat harvest is wrapping up. Farmers reported less acres than usual due to wet fall and winter kill of 2016.

Throw in a poor market and it is a perfect storm for low wheat acres available in 2017. Summer wheat is so important for summer spreading.

Wheat field spreading is almost done. With wheat field spreading wrapping up, we are waiting for fall harvest.

Timing is important. We try to time summer spreading so we can transition right into fall spreading as soon as the fall crops are harvested.

We are hoping for a nice dry fall for hauling!