Weather Summary October

Weather summary:
October 2018

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

Air temperatures averaged 54.1° F in October, 0.3° below the long-term average (Figure 1). The southwest crop reporting district (CRD) had the highest temperature with an average of 58.2° F. The lowest regional temperature was 50.0°, reported by the northwest CRD.

Precipitation averaged 3.51 inches, 0.27 inches above the long-term average (Figure 1). The west CRD was the wettest with an average of 5.41 inches. The driest was the southeast CRD with 1.84 inches.

Soil moisture increased 24% in October at depths of 2 inches. Similar but smaller increases were reported down to 8-inch depths, while moisture levels remained steady or declined slightly from 20 to 59 inches.

New Public Outreach

October had very little if any PR conducted. We are constantly monitoring the PR in between some of the 90 - day time frames to ensure the PR remains valid.

Some of the public concerns are dust, traffic, odor, water quality, public health and allergies. 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.

We recommend a once per year notification for adjacent property owners. Every 90 days is too frequent. An annual notification would be enough to satisfy good communication.
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

October usually is a good time for spreading operations. Soybean and corn fields will be harvested next. The harvest is as dependent on the weather as everything else. We need dry weather.

We must stay in close contact with our farmers who signed up 2018 fall fields. It is important to not miss a single day. We also spend a lot of time checking fields to determine operating conditions.

Soil sampling and PR remain steady. The weather could go either way in October. We are hoping for a dry one.

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.

October Hauling

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Training and Events

We welcomed five new employees this month and conducted our new employee onboarding program.

Greg Halmagyi attended the IAWPCO Regional Conference and IRWA conference this month.

Agronomy Corner

October harvest is full swing. We have a few wheat fields to wrap up. Fall season is are busiest and most demanding time of the year. Unfortunately, the weather is not cooperating as we had hoped.

We do not anticipate any problems for the fall biosolids season other than the weather. We need dry weather to be most successful. The fields need to be dry enough to operate.

We continue calling farmers to check on fall harvest. The majority of our farmers understand the fall program. Spring farmers get fall biosolids first.