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Weather summary

Temperatures and precipitation were below the long-term average in Illinois during March. Mean streamflow statewide was slightly less than the median for the month. Shallow ground-water levels were below long term average depths. Temperatures averaged 33.9 degrees F in March, 6.9 degrees below the long-term average. Temperatures in the crop reporting districts ranged from 28.6 degrees in the northeastern district to 39.1 degrees in the southwestern district. Precipitation averaged 1.51 inches for the month, 1.47 inches below average. Totals were greatest in the southeastern CRD with an average of 2.26 inches. The northwestern district had the lowest average with 1.04 inches. Snowfall continued into March. The highest totals were in northern Illinois with Mendota reporting the highest for the month of 17.9 inches. The entire state saw above-average snowfall totals for March. Despite the snow, precipitation averaged 1.51 inches, 1.47 inches below the monthly normal.

- Information is from The Illinois State Water Survey for March 2014

Personnel

Michelle Stewart
Owner & President

John Stewart
Owner & Project Specialist

Greg Firrantello
Dept. of Agronomy CCA/Manager

Jason Hill
Operations Manager

New Public Outreach

The public relations team was very busy this month. We traveled to Will, Kendall, LaSalle counties. We had a lot of great PR response. People remembered us from last year. Others welcomed the idea of reusing the material as a fertilizer for farm land. No one raised any concerns about us spreading this spring.



Odor Minimization

Manure application methods such as immediate incorporation and injection can effectively reduce odor emissions. Other best management practices such as choosing appropriate fields, weather conditions, and communicating spreading times and locations with neighbors can significantly reduce odor complaints.

Notes

The advantages of using biosolids as part of your fertilizer program are many. The greatest advantage is a reduction in fertilizer costs. Biosolids typically have about 4 percent nitrogen, and also contain phosphorus and many micronutrients that can be beneficial to crop growth. Another advantage is the addition of organic matter to the soil, organic matter reduces surface runoff, erosion and improves the nutrient holding capacity of the soil. Studies have shown increased organic matter content can improve yields.

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. It helps to show that we take our work seriously and stay up to date with new laws and safety requirements that have been put into place.

LASMA VOLUMES APPLIED IN MARCH

Field

Acres

Wet tons

<u>Field</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Wet tons</u>

Safety Meetings

In the month of March we trained on several topics. The first one was forklift operation. We also learned about fire extinguishers and confined space entries. Lastly, we studied personal protective equipment. We believe that you can never be too safe. That is why we go above and beyond ensuring our employees are trained to take care of themselves and the people around them.

Agronomy Corner

At Stewart Spreading, we don't simply provide you with top-grade fertilizer. We also:

- Work closely with you to address the unique needs and makeup of your land
- Aid in determining best soil nutrient management before you plant your crops
- Assist in distribution of fertilizer through tillage and application
- Calculate the exact amount of slow-releasing nitrogen needed for your crops
- Ensure compliance and regulatory navigation, regardless of the region

