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### Weather summary

Temperatures were below and precipitation was above the long-term average in Illinois during April. Mean streamflow statewide was slightly above the median for the month. Shallow groundwater levels were below long-term average depths. Temperatures averaged 51.9 degrees F in April, 0.7 degrees below the long-term average. Temperatures in the crop reporting districts ranged from 47.4 degrees in the northeastern district to 56.6 degrees in the southeastern district. Precipitation averaged 5.10 inches for the month, 1.29 inches above average. Totals were greatest in the southeastern district with an average of 4.46 inches. The lowest averages, 3.53 inches, were in the northwestern and eastern districts. Temperatures were near normal in April, averaging 51.9 degrees F across the state or 0.7 degrees below the monthly long-term average. Despite the warmer April, 2014 so far has been colder than normal. Temperatures for the first four months averaged 30.9 degrees, 6.9 degrees below average. This is the fourth coldest January–April on record and the coldest start to a year in Illinois since 1978.

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

### New Public Outreach

The public relations team was very busy this month. We traveled to Will, and Kendall Counties. We had a lot of great PR response. People remembered us from last year. Others knew about what we were doing from past times and were comfortable with the process. We also visited a few farms several times to ensure all the public was notified thoroughly.

### Personnel

**Michelle Stewart**

Owner & President

**John Stewart**

Owner & Project Specialist

**Greg Firrantello**

Dept. of Agronomy CCA/Manager

**Jason Hill**

Operations Manager



## 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

When applying manure, especially surface applications, we consider weather conditions and location of the application. We also avoid applying manure during the heat of the day. Applying manure in the morning is better for vertical dispersion of the odors as air temperatures increase. We do our best to avoid disrupting neighboring farms and homes when we apply biosolids to fields.

## 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 APRIL

Field

Acres

Wet tons

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

## Safety Meetings

In the month of April we trained on several topics. The first one was Oxy/Acetylene Safety . We also learned about a PIT skills test. We do a lot of custom fabrication here at Stewart Spreading. We want to ensure our employees are safe when handling cutting torches and plasma cutters.

## 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

