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### Weather summary

Temperatures in the crop reporting districts ranged from 68.7 degrees in the northeastern district to 72.4 degrees in the southeastern district. Precipitation averaged 3.35 inches for the month, 0.70 inches below normal. Totals were greatest in the eastern district with an average of 4.72 inches. The lowest average, 1.96 inches, was in the west- southwestern district. Temperatures averaged 70.4 degrees F, 4.9 degrees below the long-term average, which makes the month the second coldest on record. The coolest temperatures were found in northeastern Illinois where Crystal Lake in McHenry County averaged 68.8 degrees F for the month. The statewide temperature averaged 47.5 degrees F for the period of January–July, 3.9 degrees below average. This makes the period the fifth coolest on record. Five of the seven months of 2014 had below normal temperatures. Precipitation was below normal in July, averaging 3.35 inches or 0.70 inches below normal. The highest totals were in east-central Illinois where 8.70 inches was measured in Urbana in Champaign County. The lowest were measured in western Illinois where 2.06 inches was recorded at Highland in Madison County. Illinois was mainly drought free in July. The U.S. Drought Monitor listed less than 1 percent of the state as abnormally dry in their report released on July 29th.

- Information is from The Illinois State Water Survey for July 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

July was a big month for our public relations team getting ready for Wheat 2014. We visited homes for 19 different fields and several different townships. Everyone was thankful for us letting them know that we were going to start hauling. It was a good month for PR! Below are some of the counties and townships we visited.

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| LaSalle | Mission      |
| Kendall | Big Grove    |
| Will    | Washington   |
| Will    | Will         |
| Will    | Monee        |
| Will    | Green Garden |
| Will    | Peotone      |
| Will    | Manhattan    |
| Will    | Wesley       |
| Dekalb  | Sycamore     |



## Odor Minimization

Direct injection incorporates manure directly beneath the soil surface and is an effective way to minimize odors during application. Research shows a 90 percent odor reduction when manure is injected directly compared to surface broadcast applications. Manure injection can also reduce ammonia-nitrogen losses.

## 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 /CALSMA VOLUMES APPLIED IN JULY

| <u>Field</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Wet tons</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| WL Nykaza 1  | 40           | 1570.59         |
| WL Heldt 3   | 40           | 770.03          |

## Safety Meetings

In the month of July we trained on heat related illness. When working in the fields our employees are keeping safe by understanding how it can be dangerous when working in hot conditions. The know to keep hydrated and not to be located in the sun for along period of time during adverse conditions.

## Agronomy Corner

High performance and long term agricultural success begins and ends with the most nutrient rich fertilizers available. Stewart Spreading Biosolids fertilizer is *100% recycled, fully sustainable, and teeming with all of the nutrients needed to maximize crop yields.*

Our recycled Biosolids fertilizer smoothly integrates into Nutrient Management Plans that we provide all customers, and helps radically reduce dependence on and cost of chemical fertilizers. This is not just easier on your pocketbook, it's healthier for the planet.

