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Weather summary:

FEBRUARY 2015 OVERVIEW

Temperatures and precipitation were below the long-term average in Illinois during February. Mean streamflow statewide was below the median for the month. Shallow groundwater levels were below long-term average depths. Temperatures in February averaged 19.5 degrees F, 11.4 degrees below the long-term average (Figure 1). Temperatures ranged from 12.5 degrees in the northwestern crop reporting district to 24.9 degrees in the southwestern and southeastern districts.

Precipitation averaged 1.40 inches, 0.66 inches below average for the month. Conditions were driest in the eastern crop reporting district with a monthly average of 1.23 inches. The southeastern district had the highest average with 2.28 inches.

Personnel

Michelle Stewart

Owner & President

John Stewart

Owner & Project Specialist

Greg Firrantello

Dept. of Agronomy CCA/
Manager

Jason Hill

Operations Manager

Billie Marko

Monitoring and Reporting

New Public Outreach

February was a slow month for our PR team. We visited about 6 homes for fields in Na-Au-Say Township. Everyone was thankful for us letting them know that we were going to start hauling sometime in spring. Below is one of the counties and townships we visited. People don't like to talk very long in the winter time.

County	Township
Kendall	Na Au Say



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

Cooler temperatures in February minimize odor this time of year. During surface applications, we consider weather conditions and location of the application. We also avoid applying biosolids during situations that may cause problems. Applying immediately with incorporation is better for minimizing odors. We contact neighboring farms and homes when we apply biosolids to fields. Having said that, it is a manure product and there will always be some amount of odor. Good communication and education help.

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.

LASMA / CALSMA VOLUMES APPLIED IN September

<u>Field</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Wet tons</u>
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Nothing		
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Safety Meetings

In the month of February, we had a makeup day for those who missed various training topics. No new safety training topics were presented in February.

Agronomy Corner

Winter brings spreading to a halt. This is by far our least productive time of year for moving biosolids. Stewart Spreading *transitions to preparing for the following spring.*

The winter freeze allows time for the soil conditions to correct themselves from compaction and clumping. This time of year allows for proper seed bed conditions before spring planting.

