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Weather summary:

May 2017

Temperatures in May were cooler in Illinois, averaging 61.8 degrees, or 0.9 degrees below the long-term average. High temperatures were in the 80s for most of the state, though several stations reported monthly highs in the low 90s. Low temperatures fell into the 30s and 40s.

Air temperatures averaged 61.8 degrees in May, 0.9 degrees below the long-term average (Figure 1). The southwest crop reporting district (CRD) had the highest temperature with 65.6 degrees. The lowest regional temperature was 57.2 degrees, reported from the northeast CRD.

Precipitation averaged 5.04 inches, 0.44 inches above the long-term average in May. The east-southeast district had the highest average with 6.48 inches. The central CRD was the driest, with an average of 3.80 inches.

Soil moisture declined in May, decreasing 33 percent at depths of 2 inches to an average of 0.29 water fraction by volume (wfv). Similar decreases occurred at 4 and 8 inches, ending the month with averages of 0.31 and 0.33 wfv, respectively. Soil moisture remained high at depths of 20, 39, and 59 inches with averages of 0.40 wfv and greater at the month's end.

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

May is here and the weather should cooperate with field operations. The PR is done for spring season.

A few questions may pop up that we would address from time to time. Most neighbors are familiar with us. We are always doing PR weeks ahead of when the fields actually get spread. Some neighbors are nice and some are indifferent. Some are very familiar with the notifications.

We strongly invite and encourage all regulatory and industry leaders to help out with biosolids land application PR by educating and promoting biosolids recycling.

County	
Will—4	
Kendall—7	
La Salle—0	
Grundy—0	
Cook-0	



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

May is also what we call “go time”. We really have the sense of urgency that spring is moving fast!

In agronomy, we are usually 3 to 6 months ahead of operations in order to have everything in place before the trucks roll.

Spring permitting is about finished and wheat fields are being permitted for summer application. In May, there is no time to waste. Soil sampling and PR are still occurring.



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.



Onboarding

We have been busy onboarding new employees in May. This is a very busy time for everyone!

Agronomy Corner

May is usually favorable for field conditions. Farmers are planting and we need to hurry. Daily communication is essential..

Wheat field permitting is under way. The 90 day rule causes us to redo PR during the same hauling period.

We hope we can haul a lot of material in May . It is normal for this to happen but we have had wet spells in the past.

Some farmers cannot resist the temptation to plant therefore giving up on the biosolids for spring. Timing is important.

Spring spreading is one of the challenging times of year to apply biosolids even if the weather cooperates. It becomes a race against the weather and the planters.