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Weather summary:

March 2017

Temperatures in March were near normal with a monthly average of 43.2 degrees or 1.9 degrees above the long-term average. Temperatures reached into the 80s for several stations with lows falling into the single digits. The month's highest temperature was 86 degrees, recorded at the Belleville research station in St Clair County. Two stations, Altona in Knox County and Illinois City Dam 16 in Rock Island County, reported minimum temperatures of 6 degrees, the lowest of the month.

Air temperatures averaged 43.2 degrees in March, 1.9 degrees above the long-term average (Figure 1). The northeast crop reporting district (CRD) had the lowest average monthly temperature with 38.3 degrees. The highest average was 48.2 degrees, reported from both the southwest and southeast districts.

Precipitation averaged 3.53 inches, 0.57 inches above the longterm average. The east-southeast CRD was the driest with an average of 2.70 inches. The wettest was the northeast district with an average of 4.46 inches for the month.

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

March is here and the weather does not usually cooperate with field operations. The PR is almost 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.

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—2	
Kendall—0	
La Salle—0	
Grundy—0	
Cook-1	



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

March is also a time to really have the sense of urgency that spring is now here..

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

Spring will be here before we know it. Equipment is receiving final repairs. No time to waste. Soil Sampling and PR are still taking place.



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.



Safety Meetings

March is a time that we continue to do all Company training in preparation for the upcoming busy season. We held a Team Leader Training day to work with our Team Leaders and get ready to kick off the Spring Season!

Agronomy Corner

March is here and usually yields wet field conditions. March is still too cold and too wet to do much. We are still focused on Spring 2017 land base.

Yearend reporting should be all wrapped up. We continue to perform soil samples and PR where needed. In order to comply with the 90 day rule of PR, we continue to send out notifications even during the same hauling period. We hope we can do some work in March. It is rare for this to happen but we have to be prepared just in case. The drought of 2012 allowed us to work in March and this usually only happens once in every ten years.

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. Spring 2009, was the wettest of all springs and spring of 2012 was the driest of them all.