Ohio Quarterly Climate Summary: Mar-May 2018

Temperature Summary:

- The spring season was close to normal; ranks as the 49th warmest in Ohio since 1895*. But, the season featured extreme monthly variability.

- April 2018 is the 9th coldest on record with temperatures averaging 2-9°F below average (Fig. 1).

- May 2018 ranks as the warmest on record with temperatures averaging 5-11°F above average (Fig. 2).

Precipitation Summary:

- Spring 2018 precipitation was above average and ranks as the 38th wettest since 1895*.

- The greatest totals fell across the southeast counties of Belmont, Monroe, and Washington counties (Fig. 3).

- Compared to normal, the western counties were a bit below average (Fig. 4).


*Maps provided by cli-MATE, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, Illinois State Water Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, http:mrcc.illinois.edu/CLIMATE.
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Hot Topic Corner:
• After a very warm February, the spring season started off close to average before temperatures refused to warm during April.

• Cool and wet conditions in April began to raise concerns for farmers regarding timely planting conditions.

• An abrupt transition to record warmth in May allowed a flurry of activity and corn and soybeans to get a great start over much of the state (Fig. 5).

• Wet conditions during late spring have delayed hay cuttings across the north.

Outlook:
• The Climate Prediction Center depicts an elevated probability (>33%) of above normal temperatures for July through September (JAS; Fig. 6).

• Only a slightly elevated probability (>33%) for above normal precipitation in far eastern Ohio (Fig. 7).

State Climate Office of Ohio (SCOO) Update:
• The office has received equipment support from the USDA Midwest Climate Hub to upgrade the OARDC Ag Weather Network across Ohio.

• SCOO is working with OARDC to add additional sensors and upgrade the connectivity to cell modems for near real-time data access (Fig. 8). Stay tuned for future updates!