**April 9, 2024**

Another in the series of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom non-fiction text examples to be used in your classroom. Remember, these will be available every MONDAY afternoon that *FarmWeek* is published during the school year.

Questions about this can be directed to Kevin Daugherty, Education Director of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom at [kdaugherty@ilfb.org](mailto:kdaugherty@ilfb.org).

\*\*Reminder these questions are designed to use with the on-line version of *FarmWeek.*

<https://www.farmweeknow.com/eedition/>

Note, by request of teachers we have included the answers to the questions immediately following the questions on a separate worksheet.

**NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CLASS PERIOD\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions:** Please use the online version of *FarmWeek.*  <https://www.farmweeknow.com/eedition/>

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Or use the article at: <https://iaitc.co/aprilweather>

Use the article titled: April opened with active weather pattern

1. Who is the Illinois State Climatologist?
2. According to the USDA What percent of topsoil and subsoil moisture was considered short to very short as of March 31?
3. Why is moisture important to farmers at the topsoil and subsoil level?
4. The recent rains missed the far southern and far western counties of Illinois. What is important to note about their soil conditions?
5. What is important to note about both the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers at this time and why is that important to agriculture?
6. What was the weather like in your area? How would you describe your soil moisture content?

ANSWERS

1. Trent Ford
2. 38% of topsoil; 42% of subsoil moisture was considered short to very short.
3. Answers will vary, but moisture is important for plant growth and development, specifically at the germination level after planting.
4. Those areas remain in a moderate drought according to the US Drought Monitor.
5. Both rivers are currently listed as below streamflow. This is important because IL agriculture depends on the rivers system for efficiently transporting goods to market and getting goods delivered.
6. Answers will vary.