Drought conditions continued across much of northern Illinois during August 2005. Much of Illinois was declared an agriculture disaster area in early August. Outdoor water restrictions and bans continued in many locations. Several wells dried up in Kempton Township in Kane County. The cities of Elgin and Aurora use water from the Fox River. Due to low flow and high temperatures, there were problems with high algae content. Some wells also dried up in parts of Lake County. River levels were too low on the Illinois River to handle barges which carry the crops.

The Spring and Summer months of 2005 were the 4th driest on record at Chicago Ohare Airport and Rockford Airport. At Chicago Ohare, 10.18 inches of rain was recorded. Normal rainfall during this 6 month period at Chicago is 21.47 inches. At Rockford Airport, 12.92 inches of rain was recorded during the Spring and Summer. Normal rainfall during these months at Rockford is 23.15 inches.

Some locations received above normal precipitation for August 2005 from very localized heavy thunderstorms. Many locations received below normal precipitation including, Aurora in Kane County, 1.42 inches; Chatsworth in Livingston County, 1.60 inches; Marseilles in LaSalle County, 1.72 inches; Ottawa in Lasalle County, 1.89 inches; Dwight in Livingston County, 1.90 inches; Plano in Kendall County, 1.96 inches; Morris in Grundy County, 1.98 inches; Bourbonnais in Kankakee, 2.00 inches; Wheaton in Dupage County, 2.08 inches; Lansing in Cook County, 2.09 inches; Joliet in Will County, 2.12 inches.

A thunderstorm moved across northeast Livingston County during the evening hours of Thursday, August 4th. The storm produced a swath of hail up to the size of quarters as well as torrential rain. In Broughton Township in northeast Livingston County, 2.6 inches of rain was reported along with visible hail damage to some crops.

A woman was found slumped over at a bus stop in a southwest neighborhood of Chicago during the late afternoon of Monday, August 8th. She was taken to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. The high temperature at Midway Airport on the 8th was 92 degrees.

A bolt of lightning struck an apartment building during a thunderstorm early Saturday morning. It is suspected of starting a smoldering fire in the insulation in the attic which was finally noticed at 315 pm in the afternoon. Damage was estimated at $30,000 for the structure, mainly the roof, and $10,000 to contents in the building.
A gust to 49 knots (57 mph) was measured at the Harrison-Dever Crib.