

Iowa Crops & Weather



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For the month of January 2004

January Cold Snap Occurs

Agricultural Summary: The beginning of January was marked by relatively mild temperatures, but recent extreme cold and high winds have caused stress on livestock as well as increased feed usage. The use of stubble fields for grazing declined during January as snow began to cover the stalks, and movement of hay increased to meet the feed requirements. There were several reports of long lines at grain elevators and terminals waiting to unload grain as movement increased over December.

At the end of January, the average depth of **snow cover** across Iowa was 5 inches, compared to 2 inches last month and 1 inch at the same time last year. The average depth of **frost penetration** for the state was 15 inches, compared to 7 inches last month and last year's 16 inches. **Soil moisture availability** rated 13 percent very short, 38 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus across Iowa. Shortness of soil moisture remained a concern.

Field Crops Report: **Grain movement** from farm to elevator was rated 19 percent none, 40 percent light, 35 percent moderate, and 6 percent heavy. **Hay and roughage availability** rated 11 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. **Quality of hay and roughage** supplies rated 6 percent poor, 44 percent fair, and 50 percent good. **Utilization of stubble fields for grazing** rated 35 percent none, 28 percent light, 29 percent moderate, and 8 percent heavy.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: **Hog and pig losses** in January were lower than last year at 14 percent below average, 83 percent average, and 3 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were similar to last year at 16 percent below average, 80 percent average, and 4 percent above average.

Preliminary Iowa Monthly Weather Summary -January 2004-

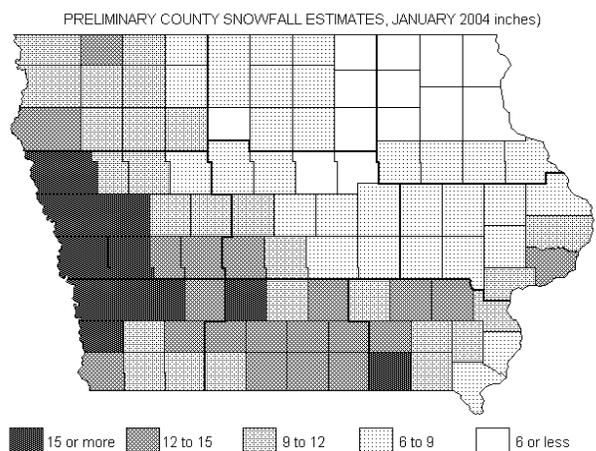
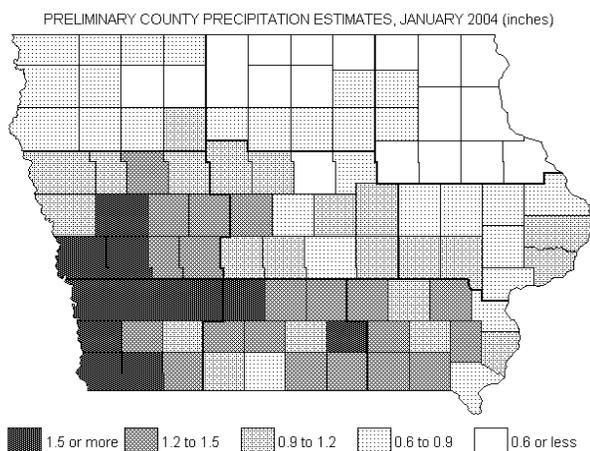
General Summary: Iowa temperatures averaged 17.8 degrees or exactly normal while precipitation totaled 0.97 inches or 0.02 inches more than normal. This ranks as the 52nd coldest and 61st wettest January among 132 years of Iowa records.

Temperatures: Temperatures fluctuated frequently throughout the month. January began with very mild weather as temperatures peaked at 65 degrees at Burlington on the 2nd. Much colder weather followed a January 4th snow storm with

afternoon highs mainly in the single digits on the 5th while Allerton reported a -15 degrees minimum on the morning of the 6th. Warmer than normal weather prevailed from the 10th through the 17th with Sioux City reaching 54 degrees on the 12th. There were some more sub-zero temperatures registered on the mornings of the 18th, 19th and 22nd prior to the final mild day of the month when Shenandoah and Sidney reached 60 degrees on the 23rd. Very cold weather was the rule late in the month with a -22 degrees reading at Sibley on the 27th, Iowa's lowest temperature since January 2, 2001. Daytime high temperatures failed to climb above zero in parts of Iowa on the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th. These were the state's first sub-zero daytime highs since February 1, 2001. Wind chill readings bottomed out at -41 degrees at Estherville and Mason City on the night of the 29th (these would be -55 degrees under the old wind chill formula in use prior to 2002). Lower wind chill readings have not been recorded since December 2000.

Heating Degree Day Totals: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged exactly normal for the month and 2% greater than last January. Thus far, this heating season degree day totals are running 6% less than normal and 3% less than last season at this time.

Precipitation: Three storm events accounted for most of the month's precipitation total. The first storm arrived on the 4th and deposited 5 to 9 inches of snow across most of the southern one-third of Iowa while northern portions of the state received little or no snow. Washington reported the most snow during this event with 10.5 inches. The second storm system brought one-third to two-thirds of an inch of rain to most of the southeastern three-fourths of Iowa on the 16th-17th. Indianola reported the most rain from this event with 1.10 inches. Finally, snow fell statewide between the 25th and 27th with 6 to 10 inch accumulations common over the western one-third of Iowa. Heaviest snow was reported from Woodbury County where Holly Springs recorded 13.5 inches and Correctionville had 13.0 inches. Monthly snowfall totals varied from less than 4 inches in Allamakee County up to 21.6 inches at Oakland. This was Iowa's snowiest month since the record snowfall of December 2000. January precipitation totals varied from 0.36 inches at Cresco to 2.06 inches at Oakland. This was the state's third consecutive month of above normal precipitation. This is in major contrast to the previous November-January period of 2002-2003 which was the driest three months ever in Iowa. The last time Iowa recorded more than two back-to-back wet months was from November 2000 through February 2001.



Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the month of January

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
Snow cover	9	6	4	9	5	2	8	3	2	5	2	1
Frost penetration	24	22	14	16	16	10	14	10	9	15	7	16

**January Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service
Prepared by AWIS, Inc.**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
North West District											
Estherville	46	-17	15	4	0.29	-0.42	3	1,534	-90	31	31
Sioux Center	56	-18	18	3	1.14	0.51	5	1,448	-85	31	31
Spencer	50	-14	17	4	0.22	-0.30	6	1,477	-109	31	30
Spirit Lake	47	-17	14	2	0.35	-0.21	2	1,591	199	31	31
North Central District											
Britt	45	-18	13	-1	0.50	-0.41	5	1,601	23	31	31
Humboldt	46	-15	15	-1	0.82	0.09	5	1,534	7	31	31
Mason City	48	-18	15	3	0.27	-0.62	3	1,536	-71	31	30
Northwood	46	-20	13	2	0.37	-0.45	3	1,605	-49	31	31
North East District											
Decorah	47	-21	16	2	0.65	-0.09	8	1,500	-44	31	30
Dubuque	48	-13	18	3	0.40	-0.86	6	1,460	-65	31	27
Elkader	48	-16	16	0	0.45	-0.51	6	1,512	170	31	31
Independence	46	-16	15	2	0.25	-0.72	6	1,542	136	31	31
Waterloo	49	-15	18	4	0.21	-0.59	3	1,460	-104	31	30
West Central District											
Audubon	54	-12	17	-3	1.48	0.60	7	1,491	74	31	31
Carroll	54	-14	17	0	1.29	0.52	7	1,497	4	31	31
Castana	55	-13	17	-3	0.97	0.42	7	1,485	-73	31	30
Guthrie Center	55	-16	17	-1	0.87	0.03	5	1,480	20	31	31
Harlan	56	-13	18	-2	1.94	1.27	7	1,465	-49	31	30
Jefferson	54	-10	18	2	1.25	0.48	8	1,464	-29	31	30
Logan	58	-15	18	0	1.57	0.79	7	1,446	3	31	31
Rockwell City	52	-11	16	-2	0.91	0.26	6	1,512	35	31	31
Sioux City	59	-11	20	3	0.78	0.23	7	1,401	-67	31	31
Central District											
Ames	52	-13	19	4	0.70	-0.04	7	1,424	-95	31	30
Boone	52	-14	17	1	1.65	0.74	8	1,476	-23	31	31
Des Moines	60	-8	21	2	1.04	0.08	7	1,363	-51	30	29
Eldora	47	-14	16	1	0.67	-0.17	5	1,514	-21	31	30
Marshalltown	49	-14	18	2	0.47	-0.36	3	1,449	-42	31	30
Newton	54	-12	17	-2	0.65	-0.19	6	1,477	29	31	31
Perry	55	-14	17	1	1.17	0.47	9	1,471	-9	31	31
Toledo	49	-14	16	0	0.47	-0.38	6	1,505	-3	31	31
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	52	-12	19	2	0.68	-0.33	4	1,414	-55	31	29
Davenport	59	-16	21	1	0.96	-0.11	7	1,363	-29	29	28
Iowa City	56	-9	21	1	1.04	0.04	5	1,359	-17	30	28
Lowden	54	-13	18	1	0.73	-0.46	6	1,458	-8	31	30
Maquoketa	51	-14	17	0	0.88	-0.23	4	1,481	-9	31	31
Muscatine	61	-11	20	-1	0.76	-0.49	6	1,381	-177	31	28
South West District											
Clarinda	58	-14	19	-2	1.29	0.41	4	1,419	24	30	30
Glenwood	59	-14	20	0	1.85	1.11	5	1,375	0	30	29
Oakland	58	-13	19	1	2.06	1.34	6	1,430	-19	31	30
Red Oak	59	-12	20	-2	1.23	0.43	5	1,384	34	30	30
Sidney	60	-9	21	-1	1.56	0.87	6	1,365	6	30	28
South Central District											
Allerton	61	-15	19	-2	1.65	0.65	7	1,434	-231	31	29
Beaconsfield	58	-13	19	-2	0.80	0.10	5	1,419	18	30	29
Chariton	62	-11	19	0	1.12	0.17	6	1,407	-14	31	30
Indianola	62	-13	19	-1	1.58	0.62	8	1,407	0	31	30
Leon	61	-12	20	1	1.03	0.06	6	1,375	-18	30	29
South East District											
Bloomfield	61	-11	20	-3	1.39	0.27	5	1,382	68	30	28
Burlington	65	-10	23	2	0.86	-0.38	5	1,293	-48	28	26
Ottumwa	62	-10	21	-1	1.10	0.12	6	1,366	-4	30	28

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.