

Iowa Crops & Weather



Iowa Agricultural Statistics
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For the month of March 2005

Waiting to Plant

Warm, dry weather led to early field work. Farmers have been tiling for drainage, chisel plowing, and applying lime. A great deal of dry fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia has been applied, especially in the Southern two-thirds of the state. Grain movement has picked up in some areas with ethanol plants receiving large amounts of corn. Reporters note Asian Rust is still being discussed and there is concern over high fuel and other input costs. Livestock enjoyed mild weather especially the cow-calf population. Calving has been easier than usual. Feedlot operators have experienced a great winter and early spring for feed yard conditions.

At the end of March, on average, there was no remaining snow cover across Iowa. This compares with the **lack of snow cover**, visibly zero inches, at the same time last year. The average depth of **frost penetration** for the state was 3 inches, compared to last year's 1 inch. **Soil moisture availability** was rated 5 percent very short, 16 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. **Movement of grain** for the state was 19 percent none, 33 percent light, 37 percent moderate, and 11 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 5 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. **Quality of hay and roughage supplies** was 6 percent poor, 41 percent fair, and 53 percent good. **Utilization of stubble fields for grazing** rated 46 percent none, 27 percent limited, 19 percent moderate, and 8 percent extensive.

Hog and pig losses in March were 18 percent below average, 80 percent average, and 2 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were 27 percent below average, 71 percent average, and 2 percent above average.

Iowa Preliminary Weather Summary - March 2005

General Summary: Iowa temperatures averaged 36.6 degrees or 0.6 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 1.05 inches or 1.16 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 51st warmest and 28th driest March among 133 years of state records.

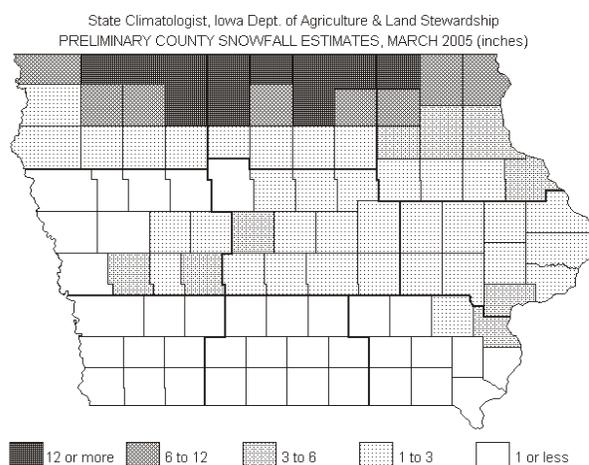
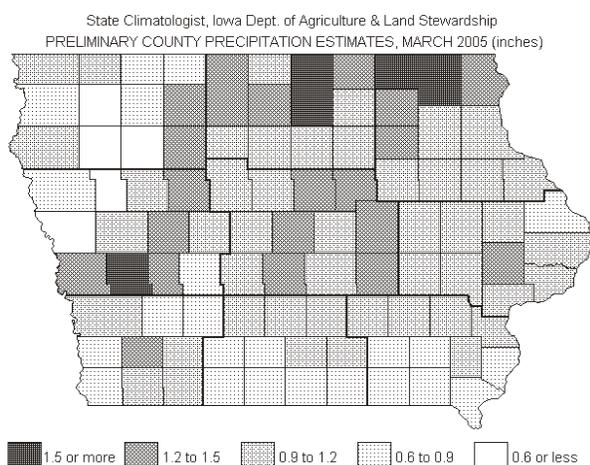
Temperatures: As is typical of the spring season, temperatures

were quite variable during March as there were no runs of above or below normal temperatures lasting for more than five days. March began on the cold side of normal with temperatures falling as low as 4 degrees at Sibley on the morning of the 2nd and 5 degrees at Cresco on the morning of the 3rd. Just a few days later temperatures soared to 75 degrees at Sioux City and Shenandoah on the 6th. Brief spells of cold weather brought lows down to 5 degrees at Sanborn on the 13th and again at Northwood on the 20th. The month ended with five consecutive warmer than normal days with temperatures reaching 82 degrees at Sioux City on the 28th and also at Glenwood on the 29th.

Heating Degree Days: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 15 percent greater than last March but 3 percent less than normal. So far this heating season (since July 1) degree day totals are running 7 percent less than last season at this time and 12 percent less than normal. Fortunately for Iowan's pocketbooks we have now had five consecutive milder than normal seasons (3 warmer than normal winters and 2 cooler than normal summers).

Precipitation: Monthly precipitation totals were below normal over nearly all of Iowa. The only significant precipitation event of the month was a heavy snowstorm across extreme northern Iowa on the 18th. Snowfall totals from this mid-month storm reached 16.8 inches at Northwood with amounts over 20 inches just over the border in south central and southeast Minnesota. Meanwhile, large portions of southwestern Iowa have recorded no measurable snow since February 9. Preliminary monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.44 inches at Mapleton to 2.48 inches at Northwood (including the moisture content of 18.4 inches of snow). At Mapleton no measurable precipitation fell between February 24 and March 24.

Severe Weather: Large hail was reported from 9 central and south central Iowa counties on the evening of the 6th. The largest severe weather event so far this year arrived on the 30th when severe weather, mostly hail, was reported from 27 counties scattered all over Iowa. This event brought the year's first tornadoes with reports received from four north central Iowa counties.



Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the Month of March

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
Snow cover	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frost penetration	7	7	9	3	1	1	0	0	0	3	7	1

**March 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	71	9	31	2	0.20	-1.65	2	1,033	-52	27	22
Sioux Center	76	8	36	3	0.42	-1.50	3	878	-85	29	21
Spencer	76	6	34	3	0.23	-1.67	3	950	-67	26	19
Spirit Lake	72	8	33	4	0.56	-1.20	4	979	105	25	20
North Central District											
Britt	71	9	31	-3	1.06	-0.78	6	1,054	62	28	25
Humboldt	74	10	33	-2	1.07	-0.96	5	985	-13	27	24
Mason City	73	7	32	1	1.30	-0.70	6	1,010	-32	27	23
Northwood	68	5	30	-1	2.48	0.48	7	1,084	16	28	25
North East District											
Decorah	74	6	34	2	1.01	-0.88	10	951	-32	28	24
Dubuque	70	12	34	1	0.75	-2.14	8	940	-29	25	19
Elkader	74	7	33	-1	1.01	-1.13	8	978	164	28	27
Independence	73	11	34	1	1.70	-0.32	11	969	115	29	26
Waterloo	74	11	35	2	1.14	-1.16	8	920	-36	26	22
West Central District											
Audubon	76	8	35	-2	1.24	-1.07	3	917	37	27	24
Carroll	77	8	36	2	1.52	-0.71	5	896	-57	26	20
Castana	76	10	36	0	0.67	-1.46	4	882	-105	27	20
Guthrie Center	77	7	36	1	0.63	-1.82	2	890	-18	27	21
Harlan	78	10	37	0	1.82	-0.29	4	867	-92	27	22
Jefferson	75	11	36	2	0.95	-1.28	7	898	-55	27	21
Logan	78	11	38	3	1.78	-0.26	4	830	-67	26	21
Rockwell City	76	10	35	-1	1.24	-0.65	5	937	10	28	22
Sioux City	82	10	39	4	0.80	-1.16	4	791	-116	19	18
Central District											
Ames	75	9	37	4	1.17	-0.99	6	865	-112	27	16
Boone	76	10	36	1	1.31	-1.00	7	899	-25	28	20
Des Moines	77	14	39	3	1.50	-0.83	7	792	-68	19	15
Eldora	73	11	35	2	1.79	-0.20	7	933	-36	28	22
Marshalltown	73	8	36	2	1.27	-1.12	7	900	-41	27	21
Newton	74	11	35	-2	1.12	-1.11	7	916	29	27	19
Perry	77	11	36	2	1.39	-0.62	6	901	-48	27	19
Toledo	72	11	34	1	1.01	-1.25	5	944	-12	28	24
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	74	10	36	2	0.72	-1.60	6	884	-32	25	20
Davenport	75	12	37	0	0.84	-1.41	7	859	-15	25	19
Iowa City	76	15	39	1	0.93	-1.43	6	808	-23	22	16
Lowden	75	10	35	0	1.24	-1.30	9	919	11	28	22
Maquoketa	72	11	34	-1	0.80	-1.48	8	953	6	27	24
Muscatine	73	14	37	-3	1.22	-1.49	10	871	-130	25	14
South West District											
Clarinda	77	12	38	2	1.08	-1.37	6	820	-53	24	21
Glenwood	82	12	40	3	0.76	-1.29	5	778	-61	24	20
Oakland	78	11	38	3	1.13	-1.01	5	828	-91	26	20
Red Oak	78	13	39	0	1.40	-0.86	5	792	-12	24	20
Sidney	78	13	40	3	0.63	-1.68	7	770	-58	23	18
South Central District											
Allerton	73	13	37	-1	0.82	-1.49	8	859	-221	24	20
Beaconsfield	74	13	37	1	0.61	-1.62	5	847	-21	25	19
Chariton	74	11	37	-1	0.93	-1.39	9	862	3	24	20
Indianola	77	14	38	0	0.82	-1.37	5	847	-13	27	19
Leon	76	13	38	1	0.89	-1.41	8	822	-35	24	21
South East District											
Bloomfield	75	17	38	-3	0.72	-1.85	6	845	59	24	17
Burlington	76	19	39	1	0.84	-2.01	9	789	-25	21	14
Ottumwa	75	14	38	0	0.87	-1.41	8	826	-6	24	15

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 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.