

# Iowa Crops & Weather



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## STORMS BRING SNOW

**Agricultural Summary:** Unusually high temperatures stayed in place for the first two weeks of January. Then, a pair of storms blanketed the state with snow, followed by below average cold which settled in through the month's end. Unpleasant weather and difficult roads made delivering grain a challenge.

Iowa ranchers have begun lambing and calving. There were reports of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) cases in pigs, and calf and lamb death loss due to chill. Death loss was perceived as normal, and the weather as balanced between killing cold and disease-spreading warmth. The cold has caused increased feed consumption.

At the end of the month, the average depth of **snow cover** across Iowa was 8 inches, compared to zero last month and last year. The average depth of **frost penetration** for the state was 15 inches, compared to 2 inches both last month and last year. **Soil moisture availability** rated 2 percent very short, 10 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus statewide. **Movement of grain** for the state showed 23 percent no movement, 40 percent light, 32 percent moderate, and 5 percent heavy.

**Quality of hay and roughage** for livestock feed rated 6 percent poor, 35 percent fair, and 59 percent good. The **availability of hay and roughage** rated 8 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. **Utilization of stubble fields for grazing** was reported as 40 percent unused, 37 percent limited, 20 percent moderate, and 3 percent extensive. **Hog and pig losses** for January 2007 rated 9 percent below average, 88 percent average, and 3 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were rated 18 percent below average, 77 percent average, and 5 percent above average.

### IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY Provided by State Climatologist Harry Hillaker

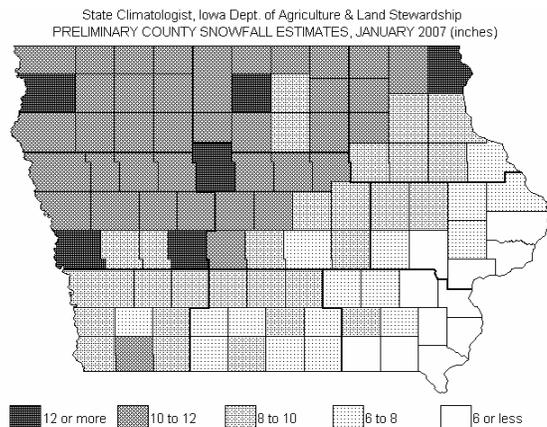
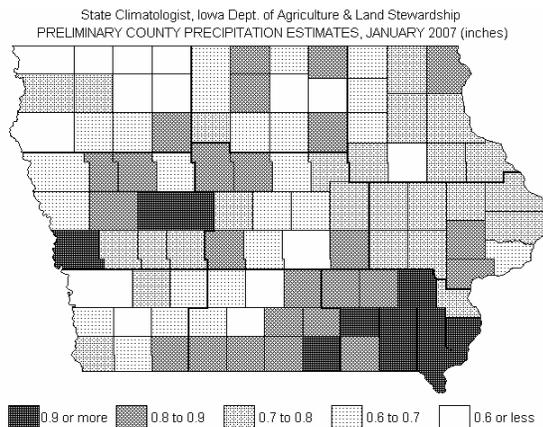
**General Summary.** January temperatures averaged 21.2 degrees or 3.4 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 1.01 inches of 0.06 inches above normal. This ranks as the 49<sup>th</sup> warmest and 61<sup>st</sup> wettest January among 135 years of state records.

**Temperatures.** The very mild weather pattern that began on December 9 continued through the first 12 days of January. This period of

35 consecutive warmer than normal days finally came to an end on January 13. However, temperatures for the first 12 days of the month averaged 14.3 degrees above normal and was easily enough to keep the monthly average temperature above normal despite the turn to much colder weather. Monthly average temperatures varied from 0.8 degrees above normal at Sioux City and Omaha-Council Bluffs to 5.8 degrees above normal at Burlington and the Quad Cities. Temperatures reached into the 50's at some southern Iowa locations on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Leon was the warm spot with a 57 degrees maximum on the 4<sup>th</sup>. However, temperatures managed to climb higher than 37 degrees only once after the 12<sup>th</sup> with Keosauqua reaching 51 degrees on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The first subzero temperature of the new year was recorded on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> with zero or lower temperatures reported somewhere in the state on 12 of the final 20 days of the month. Spencer reported the lowest temperature of the month with a -25 degrees reading on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, as well as the lowest wind chill at -38 degrees.

**Heating Degree Day Totals.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 8 percent less than normal but 34 percent more than the record-tying warmth of January 2006. Heating requirements so far this heating season (since July 1, 2006) are running 5 percent greater than last season at this time but 10 percent less than normal.

**Precipitation.** A pair of winter storms provided the bulk of the state's precipitation during January. The first storm, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, brought 4 to 6 inches of snow to much of the northwestern one-half of the state. However, the storm began in the form of freezing rain across the southeast one-half of Iowa with one-quarter to one-half inch of ice accumulating in the far southeastern counties where snowfall amounts were only in the 1 to 2 inch range. The second storm, on the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, also began with a light coating of ice over the southeast one-third of the state, however the great majority of the precipitation fell in the form of snow. Snowfall amounts were in the 4 to 6 inch range over all but the far northwest and southeast corners of the state where 2 to 3 inch amounts were common. All but the far southeast corner of the state had a continuous cover of snow after mid-month. The statewide average snowfall was 10.4 inches, 2.2 inches more than normal. This ranks as the 23<sup>rd</sup> snowiest January among 120 years of records and was the snowiest month since December 2005.



### Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the Month of February

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
Snow cover	10	11	5	11	10	8	4	7	6	8	0	0
Frost penetration	17	20	14	16	16	10	10	13	12	15	2	2

**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	41	-16	19	7	0.49	-0.22	4	1,418	-206	31	27
Sioux Center	47	-24	20	5	0.58	-0.05	4	1,390	-143	31	28
Spencer	44	-23	19	6	0.37	-0.15	5	1,415	-171	30	27
Spirit Lake	43	-17	19	7	0.69	0.13	4	1,428	36	30	30
North Central District											
Britt	42	-15	17	4	1.15	0.24	6	1,480	-98	31	30
Humboldt	45	-14	18	3	1.44	0.71	7	1,441	-86	31	30
Mason City	45	-12	19	7	1.13	0.24	5	1,406	-201	30	26
Osage	45	-11	19	5	1.36	0.49	5	1,436	-88	31	30
North East District											
Decorah	49	-10	22	7	0.84	0.10	9	1,324	-220	30	27
Dubuque	51	-6	24	9	0.83	-0.43	7	1,267	-258	28	24
Elkader	53	-13	22	6	1.23	0.27	9	1,336	-6	29	28
Fayette	49	-10	20	6	0.88	-0.06	6	1,382	-168	30	29
Waterloo	51	-10	22	8	0.85	0.05	7	1,325	-239	28	26
West Central District											
Carroll	50	-13	20	4	1.54	0.77	6	1,377	-116	30	29
Castana	50	-12	20	2	1.04	0.49	6	1,389	-169	31	28
Guthrie Center	51	-15	21	3	1.41	0.57	3	1,365	-95	29	28
Harlan	52	-13	20	2	1.56	0.89	5	1,388	-126	30	30
Jefferson	51	-11	21	5	1.82	1.05	8	1,351	-142	30	29
Logan	53	-22	20	2	1.13	0.35	5	1,397	-46	31	30
Rockwell City	47	-14	19	2	1.03	0.38	3	1,421	-56	31	29
Sac City	47	-16	19	4	1.43	0.75	4	1,419	-111	31	30
Sioux City	50	-17	21	4	0.71	0.16	6	1,365	-103	29	26
Central District											
Boone	50	-15	21	4	1.72	0.81	6	1,370	-129	31	29
Des Moines	53	-5	26	7	1.10	0.14	7	1,205	-209	27	25
Grundy Center	51	-9	21	7	0.80	-0.06	5	1,359	-199	30	29
Marshalltown	50	-10	23	7	0.51	-0.32	7	1,309	-182	29	26
Newton	51	-7	22	4	0.52	-0.32	5	1,325	-123	31	29
Perry	51	-12	21	5	1.27	0.57	6	1,349	-131	30	29
Toledo	50	-10	21	6	0.67	-0.18	6	1,353	-155	30	29
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	52	-9	23	7	0.38	-0.63	7	1,283	-186	28	26
Davenport	54	0	26	7	0.61	-0.46	10	1,193	-199	26	23
Iowa City	53	-5	25	5	0.49	-0.51	6	1,217	-159	28	25
Lowden	53	-12	23	6	0.90	-0.29	11	1,304	-162	30	26
Maquoketa	52	-8	22	6	0.83	-0.28	9	1,314	-176	30	26
Muscatine	53	0	27	7	0.97	-0.28	10	1,166	-392	26	25
South West District											
Atlantic	53	-15	22	5	0.78	0.06	6	1,314	-141	29	27
Clarinda	53	-17	21	2	0.89	0.01	4	1,357	-38	31	28
Glenwood	55	-14	22	3	1.15	0.41	4	1,327	-48	30	28
Red Oak	55	-13	23	2	0.82	0.02	3	1,309	-41	30	29
Sidney	56	-9	23	3	0.84	0.15	4	1,291	-68	30	29
South Central District											
Allerton	54	-8	23	4	0.82	-0.18	3	1,299	-366	31	29
Beaconsfield	53	-12	22	3	0.91	0.21	4	1,326	-75	30	29
Chariton	55	-10	23	5	0.84	-0.11	9	1,290	-131	31	29
Indianola	53	-10	23	5	0.82	-0.14	4	1,280	-127	31	28
Leon	57	-10	24	4	0.82	-0.15	5	1,277	-116	31	29
South East District											
Bloomfield	54	-3	26	4	0.66	-0.46	5	1,210	-104	30	28
Burlington	54	2	30	8	0.82	-0.42	5	1,091	-250	24	22
Ottumwa	55	-6	26	6	0.49	-0.49	9	1,200	-170	27	25
Washington	54	-10	24	3	0.97	-0.12	7	1,255	-259	30	27

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 2007: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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