

# Iowa Crops & Weather



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## MID-MONTH WINTER STORM IN FEBRUARY

February's mid-month winter storm brought precipitation in the form of rain and snow to most of Iowa. It appears that this precipitation improved soil moisture availability slightly, as 37 percent of the state was reported as being adequately supplied. This level increased from 29 percent of the state being reported as adequate during the month of January. Some dry fertilizer and lime application continued during February; however, the pace was slower than in January due to the cold temperatures and snow coverage.

At the end of February, the average depth of snow cover across Iowa was 1 inch, similar to values from last month and last year at this time. The average depth of frost penetration for the state was 17 inches, compared to 16 inches last month, and 4 inches at the same time last year. Soil moisture availability rated 16 percent very short, 47 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Movement of grain for the state increased from last month and was reported at 24 percent none, 38 percent light, 35 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 6 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus. Quality of hay and roughage supplies was 10 percent poor, 41 percent fair, and 49 percent good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing rated 37 percent none, 24 percent limited, 27 percent moderate, and 12 percent extensive.

Hog and pig losses in February were 16 percent below average, 75 percent average, and 9 percent above average. Cattle and calf losses were 19 percent below average, 79 percent average, and 2 percent above average. Scattered reports of respiratory problems in hogs and cattle were reported.

## IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – FEBRUARY

**General Summary:** February temperatures averaged 20.5 degrees or 3.7 degrees below normal while precipitation averaged 0.86 inches or 0.12 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 48<sup>th</sup> coldest and 56<sup>th</sup> driest February among 131 years of records.

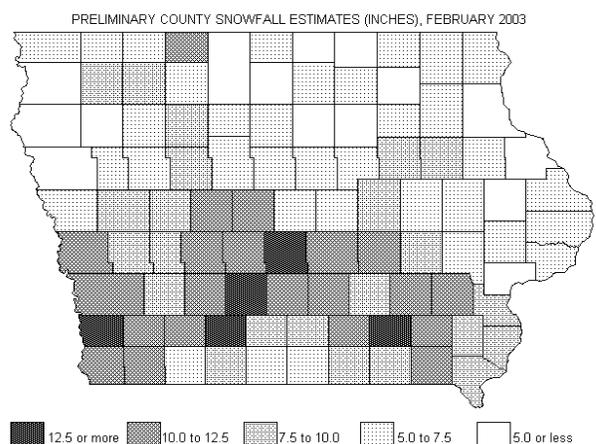
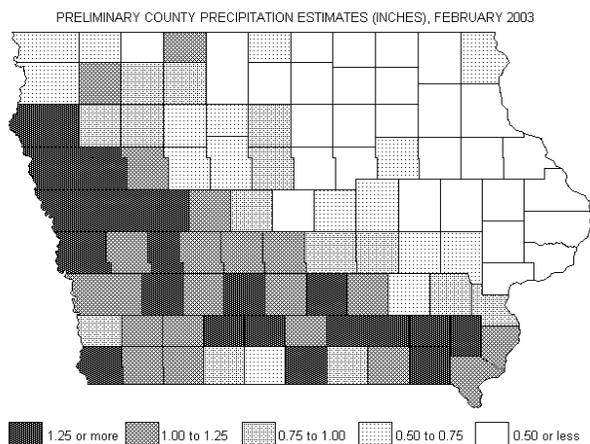
**Temperatures:** February began with above normal temperatures for the first three days of the month with Guthrie Center reaching 58 degrees on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Below normal temperatures prevailed from

the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. The coldest day in this period was the 7<sup>th</sup> when actual temperatures fell to -17 degrees at Algona while wind chill indices fell to -34 degrees at Mason City. Milder temperatures briefly returned on the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> with Glenwood, Knoxville and Shenandoah reaching 53 degrees on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a brief period of below normal temperatures from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> with Ankeny recording a low of -13 degrees on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures reached into the 50's in parts of Iowa on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with Clarinda recording a high of 57 degrees on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The final week of the month brought unseasonably cold weather including a temperature of -14 degrees at Grundy Center on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Heating Degree Days:** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 25 percent greater than last February and 8 percent greater than normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1), degree day totals are running 24 percent greater than last season at this time but 1 percent less than normal. Although this heating season has been fairly normal, each of the past five months have been significantly colder than the same months were one year ago.

**Precipitation:** A mid-month storm system (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>) accounted for about three-fourths of February's precipitation total and was the state's largest precipitation event since early October. This storm system began with rain, including significant freezing rain in far northwest Iowa on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation gradually changed over to snow with all of the state recording at least some accumulation. Heaviest snow fell in a wide band from west central into southeast Iowa where 6 to 9 inch accumulations were common. Locally greater amounts fell in central Iowa where 13 inches was reported at Des Moines and Ankeny. The next largest event came on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when 1 to 2 inches of snow fell across the southeastern two-thirds of Iowa. Monthly precipitation totals were generally above normal across the southwest one-half of Iowa and were below normal elsewhere. Monthly totals varied from 0.25 inches at Britt up to 2.14 inches at Carroll. Snowfall totals varied from 3.1 inches at Northwood up to 15.5 inches at Winterset. The statewide average snowfall of 7.8 inches was 1.4 inches above normal and is the greatest monthly total since December 2000.

**Winter Summary:** The three midwinter months averaged 22.9 degrees or 1.4 degrees warmer than normal while precipitation totaled 1.50 inches or 1.66 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 61<sup>st</sup> warmest and 5<sup>th</sup> driest winter among 130 years of state records. The lowest temperatures reported this winter were -18 degree readings from Primghar and Sibley on January 23.



### 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	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Frost penetration	20	16	26	15	19	13	12	13	13	17	16	4

**February 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	50	-15	18	0	0.11	-0.66	4	1,321	-6	28	25
Sioux Center	50	-9	23	2	0.61	-0.08	3	1,178	-40	27	26
Spencer	47	-15	18	-2	0.12	-0.57	5	1,297	31	26	24
Spirit Lake	48	-11	17	0	0.00	-0.72	0	1,326	196	27	26
North Central District											
Britt	51	-16	16	-5	0.25	-0.66	5	1,371	119	28	26
Humboldt	48	-10	18	-5	0.60	-0.19	5	1,314	75	28	25
Mason City	52	-14	18	-2	0.16	-0.70	6	1,317	19	28	25
Northwood	51	-13	15	-3	0.30	-0.46	7	1,385	44	28	24
North East District											
Decorah	52	-15	18	-3	0.33	-0.49	4	1,302	60	27	25
Dubuque	49	-7	20	-2	0.19	-1.13	6	1,260	32	26	24
Elkader	54	-11	17	-5	0.39	-0.78	4	1,330	252	28	25
Independence	52	-11	17	-3	0.41	-0.73	5	1,335	230	28	25
Waterloo	54	-11	20	0	0.24	-0.84	7	1,253	-7	27	26
West Central District											
Audubon	53	-11	19	-7	0.10	-0.84	1	1,291	158	28	26
Carroll	56	-8	19	-4	2.13	1.33	5	1,272	72	28	25
Castana	53	-7	20	-5	1.10	0.48	3	1,246	0	28	27
Guthrie Center	58	-10	20	-4	0.34	-0.72	2	1,254	82	27	26
Harlan	53	-9	20	-5	1.22	0.42	7	1,257	46	28	27
Jefferson	52	-8	20	-3	1.17	0.37	4	1,259	59	28	26
Logan	50	-10	20	-4	1.53	0.72	5	1,242	100	28	26
Rockwell City	53	-10	18	-6	0.71	0.01	4	1,299	122	28	26
Sioux City	56	-6	23	-2	0.81	0.10	2	1,174	13	28	24
Central District											
Ames	49	-11	21	1	0.00	-0.93	0	1,218	-15	27	27
Boone	50	-13	19	-4	1.29	0.23	6	1,273	79	28	26
Des Moines	51	-7	23	-3	0.61	-0.50	6	1,174	44	27	23
Eldora	52	-11	18	-4	0.67	-0.28	8	1,308	72	28	24
Marshalltown	50	-10	20	-3	0.02	-1.05	1	1,244	44	27	25
Newton	50	-8	20	-5	0.41	-0.63	6	1,264	115	28	24
Perry	51	-10	19	-4	0.90	0.09	6	1,277	69	28	27
Toledo	49	-11	18	-4	0.29	-0.64	4	1,318	94	28	24
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	48	-10	21	-3	0.26	-0.76	4	1,230	53	27	23
Davenport	50	-9	23	-2	0.17	-0.77	7	1,176	46	27	25
Iowa City	50	-6	23	-4	0.37	-0.59	6	1,181	86	26	24
Lowden	51	-8	19	-3	0.53	-0.78	7	1,277	102	28	25
Maquoketa	50	-9	18	-4	0.15	-0.91	6	1,310	92	28	25
Muscatine	49	-5	22	-5	0.44	-0.63	5	1,200	-46	28	25
South West District											
Clarinda	57	-8	23	-3	0.64	-0.28	5	1,174	60	28	27
Glenwood	54	-5	23	-3	1.06	0.27	8	1,160	69	27	26
Oakland	52	-8	21	-3	1.05	0.25	5	1,212	49	27	25
Red Oak	55	-7	23	-4	1.14	0.13	5	1,165	97	27	25
Sidney	55	-3	24	-3	1.08	0.24	6	1,134	62	26	24
South Central District											
Allerton	53	-7	22	-4	1.27	0.30	6	1,205	-139	28	26
Beaconsfield	54	-8	22	-4	1.00	0.24	6	1,201	73	28	25
Chariton	53	-11	21	-4	1.19	0.14	6	1,232	97	28	27
Indianola	53	-10	21	-5	1.04	0.02	4	1,232	112	28	25
Leon	53	-6	23	-3	0.88	-0.11	5	1,158	38	28	26
South East District											
Bloomfield	50	-4	23	-6	1.03	0.03	5	1,171	124	28	25
Burlington	47	-1	25	-2	1.16	0.00	6	1,103	31	27	23
Ottumwa	51	-6	24	-3	1.04	0.13	7	1,152	59	27	23

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 2003: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.