

Iowa Crops & Weather



USDA – National Agricultural Statistical Service
Iowa Field Office

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For the month of February 2009

WINTER LOOSENS ITS GRIP

Several days of above normal temperatures quickly melted most of the snow that was piled up at the beginning of February. Grain movement resumed as snow drifts melted around grain bins, although lower prices discouraged sales. Livestock feeding requirements diminished due to greater availability of corn stubble. Tax work, machinery maintenance and repair, and daily chores kept farmers busy during the month.

The average depth of snow cover at the end of February was 1 inch, well below last year's 7 inches of snow cover. Reporters estimated the average depth of frost penetration at 15 inches, equal to last year's estimate. Soil moisture availability rated 2 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Grain movement for the State was rated at 32 percent none, 39 percent light, 25 percent moderate, and 4 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 9 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Reporters rated the quality of hay and roughage supplies at 10 percent poor, 48 percent fair, and 42 percent good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing rated 41 percent none, 29 percent limited, 24 percent moderate, and 6 percent extensive.

Hog and pig losses in February were rated at 13 percent below average, 81 percent average, and 6 percent above average. Cattle and calf losses were rated 15 percent below average, 78 percent average, and 7 percent above average.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY February 2009 Provided by State Climatologist Harry Hillaker

Harry Hillaker's information will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

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			
	<i>Inches</i>											
Snow cover	3	2	3	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	9	7
Frost penetration	21	18	20	21	11	14	11	12	7	15	19	15

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	51	-10	23	7	0.42	-0.35	3	1,162	-165	25	22
Sioux Center	57	-7	27	6	0.98	0.29	4	1,050	-168	26	23
Spencer	56	-11	24	5	0.73	0.04	3	1,132	-134	27	22
Spirit Lake	54	-10	23	6	0.68	-0.04	4	1,177	47	26	25
North Central District											
Britt	49	-8	21	2	0.77	-0.14	4	1,216	-36	27	26
Humboldt	51	-8	23	2	0.72	-0.07	3	1,162	-77	27	26
Mason City	48	-8	24	5	0.84	-0.02	6	1,155	-143	25	21
Osage	48	-8	21	3	0.82	-0.04	3	1,215	14	27	25
North East District											
Decorah	50	-15	24	4	0.94	0.12	4	1,135	-107	26	24
Dubuque	55	-2	26	5	1.29	-0.03	9	1,089	-139	25	20
Elkader	55	-13	22	1	1.37	0.20	7	1,196	118	27	26
Fayette	52	-10	21	2	0.92	-0.20	6	1,216	-29	28	25
Waterloo	57	-7	26	7	0.56	-0.52	6	1,077	-183	24	21
West Central District											
Carroll	56	-4	27	5	0.50	-0.30	3	1,068	-132	27	26
Castana	56	-5	27	3	0.53	-0.09	4	1,055	-191	27	25
Guthrie Center	58	-4	27	4	0.40	-0.66	2	1,062	-110	26	24
Harlan	58	-3	28	4	0.58	-0.22	5	1,031	-180	27	24
Jefferson	57	-4	27	5	0.50	-0.30	3	1,067	-133	27	25
Logan	58	-1	28	5	0.25	-0.56	3	1,023	-119	26	24
Rockwell City	56	-6	25	3	0.53	-0.17	2	1,115	-62	27	25
Sac City	55	-9	24	5	0.56	-0.30	2	1,129	-109	27	26
Sioux City	59	1	30	7	0.70	-0.01	4	981	-180	23	21
Central District											
Boone	57	-8	26	4	0.21	-0.85	5	1,090	-104	27	25
Des Moines	62	1	32	8	0.56	-0.55	5	929	-201	21	19
Grundy Center	56	-6	24	5	0.26	-0.74	2	1,139	-124	27	26
Marshalltown	56	-6	27	5	0.11	-0.96	3	1,065	-135	23	20
Newton	59	-4	25	2	0.46	-0.58	3	1,107	-42	26	24
Perry	59	-4	27	6	0.34	-0.47	5	1,058	-150	26	23
Toledo	58	-6	24	4	0.40	-0.53	3	1,132	-92	26	24
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	58	-5	27	4	0.61	-0.41	6	1,067	-110	25	20
Davenport	62	0	30	6	1.36	0.42	10	982	-148	23	19
Iowa City	60	0	29	4	0.66	-0.30	6	1,003	-92	24	18
Lowden	61	-7	24	4	1.22	-0.09	6	1,128	-47	28	26
Maquoketa	57	-8	23	3	1.36	0.30	7	1,154	-64	27	25
Muscatine	64	1	30	4	1.49	0.42	7	987	-259	24	20
South West District											
Atlantic	61	-2	30	8	0.97	0.12	4	982	-191	23	21
Clarinda	63	-1	29	5	0.80	-0.12	4	998	-116	26	23
Glenwood	63	2	29	5	0.60	-0.19	4	990	-101	26	25
Red Oak	64	1	31	5	0.38	-0.63	2	943	-125	23	22
Sidney	64	3	32	6	0.40	-0.44	1	925	-147	24	21
South Central District											
Allerton	64	0	30	6	0.55	-0.42	3	984	-360	25	22
Beaconsfield	62	-1	29	5	0.94	0.18	3	1,005	-123	25	22
Chariton	63	-2	28	4	0.29	-0.76	5	1,021	-114	25	24
Indianola	63	-2	29	5	0.30	-0.72	3	998	-122	24	22
Leon	65	-2	30	6	0.52	-0.47	4	961	-159	23	22
South East District											
Bloomfield	64	0	30	3	1.91	0.91	6	987	-60	25	22
Burlington	66	2	33	7	1.53	0.37	6	891	-181	22	16
Ottumwa	63	1	31	6	0.92	0.01	8	948	-145	22	19
Washington	65	-1	28	2	1.01	0.14	7	1,025	-187	26	22

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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