



Iowa Crops & Weather

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COLD WINTER CONTINUES

The above average snowfall and below average temperatures continue to cause Iowans concern about possible spring flooding. With spring fast approaching, row crop producers are trying to finalize planting intentions. While temperatures remain low, frost penetration is below normal in areas where heavy snow has covered and insulated the ground. Spring cannot come soon enough for livestock producers as the winter chores of feeding and keeping water available for livestock continue to occupy most of their time.

The average depth of snow cover for the month of February was 14 inches, well above last year's average of 1 inch. Frost penetration averaged 8 inches compared to last year's 15 inches. Soil moisture availability rated 1 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 36 percent surplus. Grain movement for the state was estimated at 36 percent none, 38 percent light, 23 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 23 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Quality of hay and roughage supplies was 14 percent poor, 49 percent fair, and 37 percent good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing rated 67 percent none, 29 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 1 percent heavy.

Hog and pig losses in February rated 10 percent below average, 86 percent average, and 4 percent above average. Cattle and calf losses rated 10 percent below average, 84 percent average, and 6 percent above average.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist

Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

General Summary. February temperatures averaged 17.5 degrees or 6.7 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 0.96 inches or 0.02 inch below normal. This ranks as the 26th coldest and 69th driest February among 138 years of records.

Temperatures. As has been the case all winter, temperatures were consistently below normal but were only occasionally in record territory. Above normal temperatures were limited to only six days (1st, 4th-7th and 20th). Temperatures never reached levels high enough to result in significant melting of the extensive Iowa snow pack. The highest temperatures recorded were 40 degrees maximums at Leon, Mount Ayr and Osceola on the 18th and at Clinton and Postville on the 28th. The 40 degrees

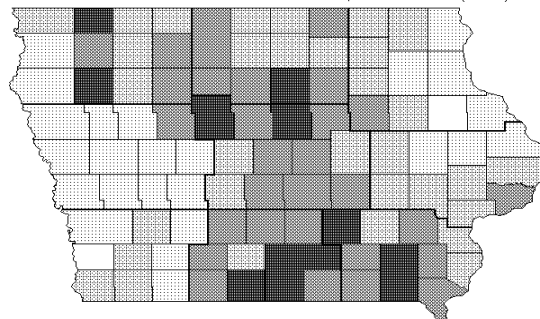
statewide maximum temperature is six degrees lower than any previous February (old record of 46 degrees in 1978) and ties with December 1983 and January 1979 for the lowest calendar month statewide extreme maximum temperature. No location in Iowa has reached 50 degrees since December 17, the fifth longest such streak of record through the end of February. Guthrie Center reported the lowest temperature of the month with a -24 degrees reading on the morning of the 9th.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 23 percent greater than last February and 16 percent greater than normal. Degree day totals thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2009) are running 3 percent greater than last season and 5 percent greater than normal.

Precipitation. The overall precipitation total for February was nearly normal. However, almost all of the precipitation fell in the form of snow. The statewide average snowfall was 14.1 inches or 7.8 inches more than normal to rank as the sixth snowiest February among 123 years of records. Snowfall amounts were above normal statewide with the greatest amounts coming across south central Iowa where Albia, Allerton, Chariton and Lamoni all reported monthly totals of about 20 inches. The largest storm of the month came on the 6th-9th when a statewide average of 5.9 inches fell. Snow totals with this storm ranged from about an inch in southwest Iowa to 13 inches at Hampton. Other events were centered over northeast Iowa on the 1st-2nd, southwest Iowa on the 4th-5th, northwest and central Iowa on the 13th-15th, south central Iowa on the 19th-20th and over the southeast on the 21st-22nd. The event of the 13th-15th was accompanied by wind gusts to 44 mph at Sioux City and resulted in the closure of a portion of Interstate 29.

Winter Summary. Temperatures for the three mid-winter months of December, January and February averaged 17.0 degrees or 4.5 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 4.99 inches or 1.82 inches above normal. This ranks as the 19th coldest and 9th wettest winter among 138 years of records. Snowfall for these three months averaged 45.1 inches or 23.3 inches greater than normal. This is the greatest snow total of record for these three months (old record of 44.7 inches Dec. 1961-Feb. 1962). The snow total for the overall snow season (fall through spring) ranks 8th highest among 123 years of record with another two months of the season remaining. This has been the third consecutive colder than normal winter and fourth consecutive snowier than usual winter.

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
 PRELIMINARY COUNTY SNOWFALL ESTIMATES, FEBRUARY 2010 (inches)



18 or more 15 to 18 12 to 15 9 to 12 9 or less

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	24	19	13	15	16	7	9	12	8	14	12	1
Frost penetration	7	9	8	9	9	9	7	5	7	8	10	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	32	-14	14	-4	0.34	-0.43	7	1,423	152	28	28
Sioux Center	34	-14	15	-7	1.06	0.37	9	1,382	240	28	28
Spencer	33	-19	13	-7	0.33	-0.36	4	1,451	233	28	28
Spirit Lake	33	-11	14	-4	0.33	-0.39	5	1,417	178	28	28
North Central District											
Britt	32	-11	12	-9	0.87	-0.04	8	1,469	176	28	28
Humboldt	33	-12	14	-8	1.09	0.30	9	1,416	220	28	28
Mason City	34	-14	14	-5	0.34	-0.52	6	1,409	164	28	28
Osage	35	-10	14	-6	1.14	0.28	6	1,414	126	28	28
North East District											
Decorah	36	-11	19	-2	0.69	-0.13	7	1,276	74	28	28
Dubuque	35	-3	21	0	0.66	-0.66	10	1,226	37	28	28
Elkader	38	-13	16	-6	0.78	-0.39	8	1,359	180	28	28
Fayette	34	-13	15	-6	1.09	-0.03	7	1,390	113	28	28
Waterloo	35	-14	17	-4	0.90	-0.18	9	1,333	131	28	28
West Central District											
Carroll	33	-13	16	-7	1.00	0.20	8	1,373	206	28	28
Castana	34	-10	17	-9	0.75	0.13	8	1,335	263	28	28
Guthrie Center	35	-24	16	-8	0.74	-0.32	7	1,374	242	28	28
Harlan	34	-14	17	-8	1.10	0.30	8	1,331	181	28	28
Jefferson	33	-13	15	-8	1.04	0.24	11	1,394	242	28	28
Logan	35	-13	17	-8	0.64	-0.17	7	1,342	241	28	28
Rockwell City	32	-13	15	-9	1.02	0.32	10	1,391	191	28	28
Sac City	32	-18	14	-7	1.11	0.25	8	1,408	209	28	28
Sioux City	36	-7	18	-6	0.76	0.05	11	1,298	167	28	26
Central District											
Boone	34	-15	16	-7	1.20	0.14	12	1,372	215	28	28
Des Moines	35	-9	21	-5	0.71	-0.40	9	1,228	138	28	26
Grundy Center	34	-14	14	-7	0.82	-0.18	7	1,417	206	28	28
Marshalltown	33	-14	16	-7	0.40	-0.67	6	1,360	175	28	28
Newton	33	-10	16	-9	0.52	-0.52	6	1,372	257	28	28
Perry	35	-15	15	-7	1.09	0.28	10	1,381	217	28	28
Toledo	33	-13	15	-7	0.71	-0.22	10	1,405	226	28	28
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	35	-8	18	-6	0.79	-0.23	7	1,313	183	28	28
Davenport	36	-7	20	-6	0.65	-0.29	9	1,251	191	28	24
Iowa City	37	-4	21	-6	0.64	-0.32	8	1,231	191	28	25
Lowden	36	-7	17	-5	1.04	-0.27	9	1,333	163	28	28
Maquoketa	36	-7	18	-4	0.59	-0.47	7	1,311	132	28	28
Muscatine	35	-3	20	-7	1.08	0.01	10	1,253	213	28	28
South West District											
Atlantic	37	-20	16	-8	1.17	0.32	9	1,357	241	28	28
Clarinda	38	-13	18	-8	0.85	-0.07	10	1,312	238	28	28
Glenwood	36	-4	20	-7	0.62	-0.17	5	1,252	193	28	28
Red Oak	39	-10	19	-8	0.78	-0.23	7	1,267	185	28	26
Sidney	36	-4	21	-7	0.98	0.14	9	1,230	196	28	28
South Central District											
Allerton	37	-15	19	-7	1.31	0.34	10	1,288	197	28	28
Beaconsfield	36	-11	18	-7	1.03	0.27	9	1,305	213	28	26
Chariton	36	-17	17	-8	1.49	0.44	10	1,329	216	28	28
Indianola	34	-16	17	-9	1.58	0.56	10	1,352	245	28	28
Leon	40	-19	18	-8	1.36	0.37	10	1,303	219	28	27
South East District											
Bloomfield	36	-10	19	-9	0.68	-0.32	11	1,277	213	28	28
Burlington	37	-5	23	-4	1.12	-0.04	8	1,158	132	28	23
Ottumwa	35	-8	20	-6	1.24	0.33	9	1,245	206	28	25
Washington	35	-14	18	-10	1.06	0.19	11	1,318	228	28	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 2010: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.