



Crops & Weather

National Agricultural Statistics Service
Iowa Field Office

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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the month of March 2011

WIDE VARIETY OF WEATHER

Iowa witnessed a wide variety of weather in March. Some areas saw temperatures reaching over 80 degrees, but areas also saw temperatures below zero. In addition to snow, the state experienced severe weather in the form of tornadoes and hail.

Moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 3 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. Although almost all snow cover is gone, significant frost remains in the ground in areas of northern Iowa.

Grain movement was 24 percent none, 36 percent light, 32 percent moderate and 8 percent heavy. Muddy yards and soft gravel roads have deterred some movement of grain, but when conditions have been good grain has been delivered.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 16 percent short, 79 percent adequate and 5 percent surplus. Hay quality rated 18 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 32 percent good. Hog and pig losses in March were 18 percent below average, 81 percent average and 1 percent above average. Cattle and calf losses were 23 percent below average, 75 percent average and 2 percent above average. Livestock operators would like to see more sun and warmth for baby calves.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 35.6 degrees or 0.4 degrees below normal while precipitation averaged 1.52 inches or 0.69 inches below normal. This ranks as the 55th driest and 62nd warmest March among 139 years of records.

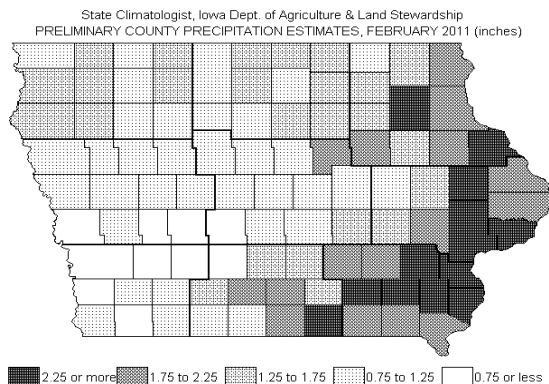
Temperatures. Temperatures were highly variable during the month as is typical for this time of year as the weather transitions from winter to spring. A very mild period prevailed from the 14th through the 22nd but was followed by nine consecutive colder than normal days to finish out the month. Sibley recorded the March's lowest temperature with a low of -5 degrees on the 2nd while Shenandoah and Sidney tied for the highest temperatures with 81 degrees readings on the 22nd. Temperatures for the month as a whole averaged slightly below normal over the northwest and a little above normal over the southeast.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 4 percent more than last year and the same as normal. Degree day totals for the entire heating season (since July 1, 2010) are running 2 percent less than one year ago and 1 percent less than normal.

Precipitation. Precipitation was fairly evenly distributed throughout the month and was generally greater than normal over the northeast one-third of Iowa and well below normal over the western third of the state. Monthly totals varied from only 0.37 inches at Battle Creek (Ida County) to 3.45 inches at Lansing (Allamakee County). About half of the month's precipitation came in two storms. The first storm, on the 8th-9th, started with rain statewide but transitioned to snow over the northwestern two-thirds of Iowa. Greatest snow amounts of three to five inches fell over north central and northeast Iowa while rain totals locally exceeded an inch over the southeast. The second event on the 22nd-23rd brought thunderstorms and rainfall statewide with rain amounts up to two inches over parts

of north central Iowa. Drought conditions are widespread over the southern plains states and across the high plains of Kansas and Colorado. Potential intensification of this drought will need to be monitored closely this spring as relatively dry conditions have slowly spread northeastward into southwest and west central Iowa.

Severe Weather. A sure sign of spring has been the more frequent development of thunderstorms in Iowa this past month with activity on the 4th, 17th, 20th, 21st and 22nd. Severe storms were widespread on the afternoon and evening of the 22nd with a preliminary total from the National Weather Service of six tornadoes in Iowa. The strongest of these storms was an EF-2 storm in northern Madison County. Large hail was also reported from 17 counties, mostly in southwestern Iowa, on the 22nd. Last year Iowa's first tornado of the season didn't arrive until June 1 which was the state's latest start to the tornado season since 1978. However, March tornadoes account for 4 percent of Iowa's historical tornado occurrences with tornadoes occurring in 15 of the past 33 Marchs.



Hay/Roughage Availability as of March 27, 2011

Item	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	16	79	5

Hay/Roughage Quality as of March 27, 2011

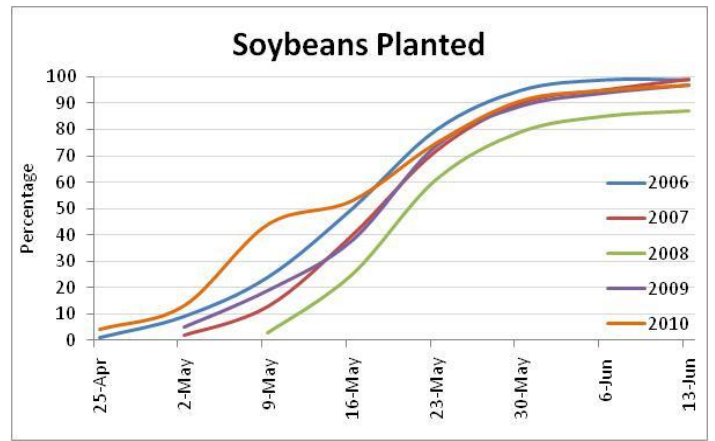
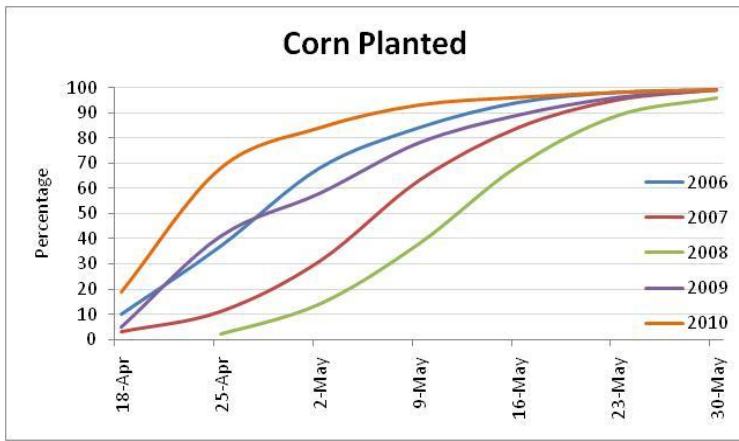
Item	Poor	Fair	Good
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	18	50	32

Post-Harvest Conditions as of March 27, 2011

Item	None	Light	Moderate	Heavy
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Grain movement	24	36	32	8

Historic Planting Progress

The following graphs chart planting progress for corn and soybeans for each of the past five year



March, 2011 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	58	-1	30	2	0.81	-0.72	5	925	-11	22	17
Sioux Center	65	0	34	2	0.61	-1.02	8	832	31	23	17
Spencer	61	1	32	2	0.65	-0.93	4	886	7	22	20
Spirit Lake	60	-3	29	1	0.73	-0.75	4	969	66	22	20
North Central District											
Britt	58	-1	29	-4	1.34	-0.18	6	975	50	25	20
Humboldt	62	2	31	-3	1.45	-0.24	9	900	45	23	21
Mason City	57	2	31	2	2.19	0.51	8	903	11	22	17
Osage	57	1	29	-3	3.12	1.38	7	955	34	25	21
North East District											
Decorah	57	5	33	2	3.01	1.47	9	850	-10	21	16
Dubuque	63	18	35	3	2.28	-0.17	9	811	-39	20	15
Elkader	62	10	31	-3	2.71	0.92	10	909	66	23	21
Fayette	59	2	29	-4	3.31	1.55	5	957	43	25	24
Waterloo	66	8	35	2	1.78	-0.16	7	809	-39	20	16
West Central District											
Carroll	67	4	34	1	0.75	-1.12	7	838	3	25	20
Castana	70	4	34	-2	0.49	-1.32	6	824	75	24	17
Guthrie Center	70	8	35	1	1.07	-1.00	3	796	0	26	18
Harlan	70	7	36	0	0.60	-1.17	6	776	-34	22	17
Jefferson	65	6	34	2	0.92	-0.95	6	820	7	24	18
Logan	71	8	37	2	0.78	-0.94	5	761	-12	23	18
Rockwell City	65	3	33	-2	0.91	-0.67	7	851	-6	22	21
Sac City	64	3	32	-1	0.23	-1.73	3	884	20	25	21
Sioux City	68	6	36	3	0.61	-1.07	7	765	-30	22	16
Central District											
Boone	65	6	34	-1	1.00	-0.95	9	833	32	23	20
Des Moines	74	13	41	5	2.06	0.11	8	652	-90	17	10
Grundy Center	67	7	33	3	1.29	-0.58	5	849	-13	23	21
Marshalltown	68	10	36	3	1.20	-0.83	7	773	-59	20	15
Newton	70	11	35	-1	1.25	-0.62	7	804	32	23	20
Perry	69	7	35	3	1.10	-0.58	6	792	-23	23	18
Toledo	69	9	34	0	1.95	0.05	5	841	10	24	22
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	68	15	37	3	1.87	-0.09	10	762	-32	20	15
Davenport	71	19	39	3	2.23	0.35	10	699	-45	16	14
Iowa City	71	19	39	3	1.95	-0.01	10	689	-22	17	12
Lowden	68	17	35	2	2.26	0.13	8	808	-13	24	19
Maquoketa	66	18	35	2	2.21	0.29	8	810	-24	23	19
Muscatine	73	19	38	1	2.32	0.05	9	732	17	20	17
South West District											
Atlantic	72	10	37	4	0.77	-1.16	8	743	-32	23	17
Clarinda	78	15	39	4	1.29	-0.77	7	684	-79	21	14
Glenwood	76	11	38	2	0.69	-1.04	3	725	-5	22	14
Red Oak	77	13	39	2	1.13	-0.76	6	691	-66	19	14
Sidney	81	13	39	2	0.78	-1.17	5	695	-21	21	13
South Central District											
Allerton	74	15	38	3	1.42	-0.52	7	711	-47	22	15
Beaconsfield	74	13	38	2	1.09	-0.78	4	730	-34	21	17
Chariton	75	14	37	1	0.90	-1.03	5	756	-19	23	20
Indianola	73	11	37	0	1.69	-0.12	5	759	-13	22	16
Leon	76	14	39	3	1.61	-0.31	5	707	-45	21	17
South East District											
Bloomfield	74	16	39	0	1.44	-0.73	7	696	-33	22	17
Burlington	75	22	42	5	1.48	-0.93	8	608	-87	14	8
Ottumwa	74	17	40	3	2.23	0.31	7	681	-28	19	12
Washington	75	15	38	-1	1.89	-0.08	5	724	-22	22	18

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 2011: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.