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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the month of January, 2012

After several years of above normal snowfall, this mostly dry and mild winter has been a major topic of conversation around the State. Although both humans and animals have been enjoying the warmer than normal weather, concerns about moisture levels heading into planting season remain.

As January came to a close, snow cover ranged from 0 inches in west central, southwest, south central and southeast Iowa to 3 inches in north central, northeast, and east central Iowa. Although the State saw snow in the month of January, recent above average temperatures have caused most to melt away. Topsoil moisture levels rated 21 percent very short, 36 percent short, 42 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. The driest area of the State was northwest with 87 percent short to very short.

Although moving grain is easier this year with little interference from snow or ice, less grain is moving than January 2011. Grain movement rated 38 percent none, 38 percent light, 21 percent moderate and 3 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 23 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus with only 11 percent of the supply in poor condition. The warm winter has helped livestock and kept hay supplies mostly adequate. Some cows are still reported on corn stalks. Hog and pig losses in January were unchanged from December at 51 percent light, 49 percent average and 0 percent heavy. Cattle and calf losses were similar with 57 percent light, 43 percent average and 0 percent heavy.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 26.0 degrees or 6.6 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 0.63 inch or 0.29 inch less than normal. This ranks as the 17th warmest and 34th driest January among 140 years of records. This was the warmest January since 2006 and driest since 2003.

Temperatures. Mild weather was the rule for most of the month as below normal temperatures were confined to only nine days (2nd, 12th-14th and 17th-21st). Daily maximum temperatures of 59 degrees or higher (5th, 6th, 10th, 16th, 30th and 31st) were equally frequent as minimum temperatures below zero (13th, 14th, 18th-21st). Daily high maximum temperature records were equaled or exceeded on six dates (4th, 5th, 6th, 10th, 11th and 30th). The month's highest temperatures

were 68 degrees readings at Sioux City on the 5th and at Shenandoah on the 30th. The frequent high temperatures were in major contrast to last January when no location in the state exceeded 45 degrees during the month. The persistent warmth resulted in dangerously thin ice cover on lakes and ponds with at least three drownings from people falling through the ice reported late in the month. On the other extreme Elkader and Spencer reported low temperatures of -21 degrees on the morning of the 21st. Estherville reported the lowest wind chill value at -30 degrees on the morning of the 19th.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 23 percent less than last January and 15 percent less than normal. Degree day totals thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2011) have averaged 16 percent less than one year ago and 14 percent less than normal.

Precipitation. January 2012's monthly statewide average precipitation total was the lowest for any calendar month since November 2007. Only a few northern Iowa locations exceeded normal for the month. Preliminary totals varied from 0.10 inch at Guthrie Center and Osceola to 1.59 inches at Lansing. Snow was more substantial than in previous months this winter, but still less than normal in most areas. The exception was in northeastern Iowa where some locations received nearly double the usual January snow amounts with Guttenberg reporting the most with 17.5 inches. However, totals were far below normal in the southwest where Logan recorded only 0.6 inch of snow. The largest snow event of the month came on the 20th when amounts of four to seven inches fell over most of the northeast one-half of Iowa. Much of the eastern one-third of the state also saw 3 to 5 inches of snow on the 11th-12th. A statewide average of 6.6 inches of snow fell during the month which is 1.1 inches less than normal and ranks 56th lowest total among 125 years of records. At month's end snow cover was restricted to northeast and extreme northern Iowa.

Winter Season. This winter season has been exceptionally mild in comparison to recent years, having followed five consecutive snowier than usual winters and four consecutive colder than normal ones. The statewide average snow fall total through the end of January has been 10.0 inches or 9.1 inches less than normal for this point in the season. This ranks as the 19th lowest season-to-date total among 125 years of records (lowest total in 9 years). Temperatures since December 1 have averaged 27.9 degrees or 6.7 degrees above normal. This ranks as the 8th warmest December-January period among 139 years of records (warmest in 10 years).

Hay/Roughage Availability as of January 29, 2012

Item	Short (Percent)	Adequate (Percent)	Surplus (Percent)
Hay/Roughage	23	70	7

Hay/Roughage Quality as of January 29, 2012

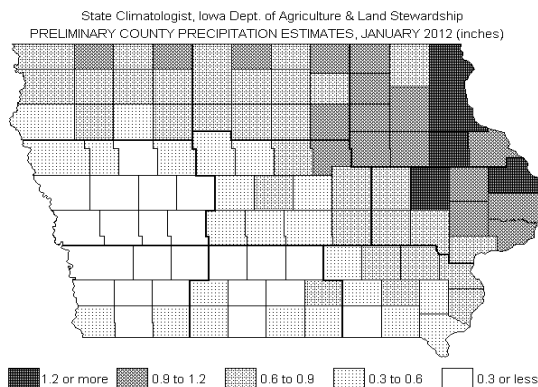
Item	Poor (Percent)	Fair (Percent)	Good (Percent)
Hay/Roughage	11	44	45

Post-Harvest Conditions as of January 29, 2012

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement	38	38	21	3

Snow Cover & Soil Moisture Condition as of January 29, 2012

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
Snow cover	(Inches) 2	(Inches) 3	(Inches) 3	(Inches) 0	(Inches) 1	(Inches) 3	(Inches) 0	(Inches) 0	(Inches) 0	(Inches) 1	(Inches) 0	(Inches) 11
Topsoil moisture	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Very short	42	20	22	46	10	3	25	9	11	21	24	0
Short	45	50	22	36	46	10	13	47	45	36	31	3
Adequate	13	30	56	18	44	86	57	43	44	42	44	84
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	1	1	13



January, 2012 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	55	-15	24	13	0.31	-0.40	5	1,258	-340	29	28
Sioux Center	62	-15	27	12	0.63	0.00	7	1,167	-320	30	28
Spencer	58	-21	25	12	0.57	0.05	6	1,230	-332	30	28
Spirit Lake	55	-15	25	13	0.17	-0.39	4	1,242	-351	27	25
North Central District											
Britt	55	-12	23	10	0.67	-0.24	5	1,299	-329	31	30
Humboldt	61	-17	24	9	0.70	-0.03	5	1,264	-263	30	30
Mason City	57	-14	24	12	0.77	-0.12	6	1,265	-320	31	28
Osage	58	-8	22	9	0.79	-0.08	6	1,314	-320	31	31
North East District											
Decorah	55	-18	24	9	0.83	0.09	7	1,270	-260	31	31
Dubuque	54	-6	25	10	1.21	-0.05	10	1,238	-254	29	26
Elkader	56	-19	21	6	1.23	0.27	7	1,345	-159	31	31
Fayette	56	-8	23	8	0.99	0.05	6	1,313	-287	31	31
Waterloo	59	-16	25	11	1.00	0.20	6	1,227	-305	30	28
West Central District											
Carroll	63	-5	26	11	0.17	-0.60	6	1,190	-280	30	29
Castana	64	-1	27	9	0.12	-0.43	3	1,161	-226	29	28
Guthrie Center	62	-7	27	10	0.10	-0.74	2	1,183	-258	30	29
Harlan	64	0	27	9	0.10	-0.57	3	1,171	-281	30	28
Jefferson	64	-7	27	11	0.21	-0.56	8	1,181	-280	30	29
Logan	66	3	27	10	0.17	-0.61	3	1,156	-249	31	31
Rockwell City	63	-7	26	9	0.30	-0.35	6	1,208	-313	30	29
Sac City	63	-12	25	9	0.22	-0.46	3	1,246	-266	30	29
Sioux City	68	-6	28	11	0.36	-0.19	8	1,134	-305	31	27
Central District											
Boone	64	-3	26	10	0.45	-0.46	9	1,199	-280	31	30
Des Moines	65	1	31	12	0.57	-0.39	6	1,038	-347	27	20
Grundy Center	59	-14	25	11	0.72	-0.14	5	1,227	-304	30	29
Marshalltown	60	-7	27	11	0.22	-0.61	4	1,167	-328	30	27
Newton	62	-3	27	9	0.28	-0.56	4	1,186	-243	30	28
Perry	65	-2	27	10	0.67	-0.03	7	1,167	-294	30	30
Toledo	60	-5	25	9	0.43	-0.42	6	1,237	-260	30	28
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	59	-6	27	10	0.64	-0.37	4	1,184	-262	28	25
Davenport	58	0	29	9	0.44	-0.63	8	1,111	-231	26	25
Iowa City	61	0	28	9	0.40	-0.60	7	1,126	-216	28	25
Lowden	58	-5	24	7	1.20	0.01	11	1,265	-211	31	29
Maquoketa	54	-3	24	7	1.15	0.04	8	1,276	-202	31	30
Muscatine	61	1	28	8	0.86	-0.39	8	1,137	-205	30	27
South West District											
Atlantic	65	-6	26	9	0.36	-0.36	4	1,189	-231	30	30
Clarinda	67	-4	29	10	0.35	-0.53	3	1,111	-271	30	28
Glenwood	66	-1	29	9	0.19	-0.55	3	1,122	-239	30	29
Red Oak	67	-6	29	9	0.31	-0.49	4	1,105	-270	30	29
Sidney	67	4	31	10	0.34	-0.35	2	1,052	-281	27	25
South Central District											
Allerton	63	3	29	9	0.38	-0.62	5	1,118	-263	30	27
Beaconsfield	63	3	29	9	0.24	-0.46	3	1,127	-253	30	26
Chariton	64	-2	28	10	0.13	-0.82	5	1,137	-262	30	29
Indianola	65	-3	29	10	0.38	-0.58	3	1,121	-287	30	28
Leon	65	-1	29	10	0.24	-0.73	5	1,108	-266	30	28
South East District											
Bloomfield	63	2	29	7	0.37	-0.75	6	1,098	-256	30	26
Burlington	60	5	31	10	0.38	-0.86	5	1,053	-256	26	22
Ottumwa	65	1	30	10	0.45	-0.53	6	1,073	-263	28	23
Washington	62	-7	27	6	0.63	-0.46	7	1,170	-223	30	29

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 2012: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.