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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the month of February, 2012

Although Iowa saw snow in February, it did not stick around long in most areas. Lack of deep frost has made it possible for the moisture from the melting snow and occasional rain to soak into the ground. With the continued mild winter, tilers are still laying tile.

As February comes to a close, snow cover is minimal. Northwest Iowa reports the most snow cover with an average of 2 inches. South central and southeast Iowa report very little snow cover resulting in an average of 0 inches. Statewide the snow cover average is 1 inch. Topsoil moisture levels rated 19 percent very short, 34 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. The driest area of the State continues to be the northwest with 86 percent short to very short.

Grain movement rated 34 percent none, 42 percent light, 20 percent moderate and 4 percent heavy. While these numbers show a third of the State with no grain movement from farm to elevator, several Crops and Weather respondents report above normal movement from farm to elevator due to favorable weather conditions and good prices.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 20 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus with 12 percent of the supply in poor condition. Hog and pig losses in February were reported at 40 percent light, 59 percent average and 1 percent heavy. Cattle and calf losses were similar with 43 percent light, 54 percent average and 3 percent heavy. Muddy conditions have made it difficult for some to feed cattle and may have an effect on the calf crop which is reported underway for a few producers.

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

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 28.9 degrees or 4.9 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 1.74 inches or 0.69 inch above normal. This ranks as the 23rd warmest and 17th wettest February among 140 years of records.

Temperatures. As has been the case all winter, above normal temperatures were the rule for most of February. Temperatures averaged below normal on only seven days during the month (8th, 10th-12th, 24th-25th and 27th) and only on the 15th did temperatures average more than ten degrees below normal. The warmest weather came at the beginning and end of the month with Shenandoah reaching 61 degrees on the 1st and Keokuk and Keosauqua climbing to 62 degrees on the 26th. Subzero temperatures were recorded on only three dates (11th,

12th and 25th) with Atlantic the cold spot at -13 degrees on the morning of the 12th.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 13 percent less than last February and 9 percent less than normal. Degree day totals so far this heating season (since July 1, 2011) are running 15 percent less than one year ago and 13 percent less than normal. This has been the mildest heating season-to-date in ten years.

Precipitation. A series of five storm systems brought most of the past month's precipitation. The first event on the 3rd-4th affected only the southern one-half of Iowa with rain changing to snow. Greatest snow amounts fell over west central and southwest Iowa where five to nine inches fell. The other storms were all focused more upon northern Iowa and brought welcome relief from severe drought conditions in the northwest. The storm of the 13th-14th brought snow statewide with greatest amounts over the northwest where 3 to 5 inch totals were common. The next event on the 20th-21st brought mostly rain with amounts to nearly an inch at a few northwest Iowa locations. Another storm system on the 23rd-24th began as rain but turned to snow statewide with a few northwest and northeast locations seeing more than six inches of snow. Finally, the largest event of February came on the 28th-29th with rain falling statewide. Some freezing rain accumulated over the north on the 28th with an inch or two of wind blown snow over the far north on the 29th. Rain totals between one and two inches were reported across the northwest. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.64 inch at Ionia in Chickasaw County to 3.26 inches at Bedford. This was the wettest February since 1951 over the northwest climate district.

Severe Weather. The primary severe weather event of the month was the late winter storm of the 28th-29th. This storm brought the first widespread thunderstorms of the new year to Iowa on the night of the 28th and was followed by widespread high winds on the 29th. Carroll Airport reported the highest official wind speed at 58 mph on the morning of the 29th with gusts of 40 to 50 mph common across the state.

Winter Summary. Temperatures for the three winter months of December, January and February averaged 28.2 degrees or 6.6 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 4.51 inches or 1.17 inches above normal. This ranks as the 9th warmest and 20th wettest winter among 139 years of records. The last warmer winter came in 2001-2002. Snowfall for these three months averaged 16.1 inches or 6.8 inches below normal. This ranks as the 28th lowest total among 125 years of records. This winter has been a huge contrast to recent ones in Iowa as it was preceded by five consecutive snowier than normal winters and four consecutive colder than usual ones.

Hay/Roughage Availability as of February 26, 2012

Item	Short (Percent)	Adequate (Percent)	Surplus (Percent)
Hay/Roughage	20	72	8

Hay/Roughage Quality as of February 26, 2012

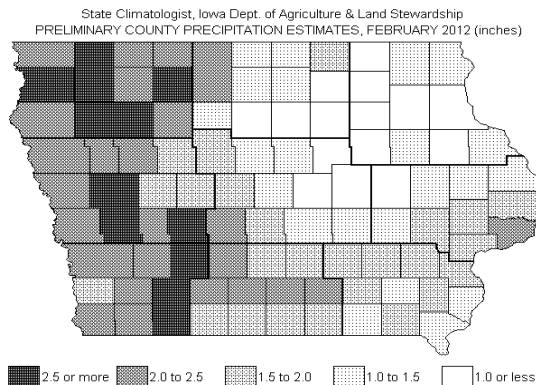
Item	Poor (Percent)	Fair (Percent)	Good (Percent)
Hay/Roughage	12	42	46

Post-Harvest Conditions as of February 26, 2012

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement	34	42	20	4

Snow Cover & Soil Moisture Condition as of February 26, 2012

Item	Districts										State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
Snow cover	2 (Inches)	1 (Inches)	1 (Inches)	1 (Inches)	1 (Inches)	1 (Inches)	1 (Inches)	0 (Inches)	0 (Inches)	1 (Inches)	0 (Inches)	3 (Inches)	
Topsoil moisture													
Very short	42	37	17	22	11	3	24	5	6	19	21	0	
Short	44	49	14	47	39	22	22	27	37	34	36	1	
Adequate	14	14	66	31	50	74	53	67	56	46	42	80	
Surplus	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	



February, 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	47	-1	27	10	1.70	0.89	3	1,089	-223	29	24
Sioux Center	51	-3	27	7	2.26	1.53	8	1,082	-96	29	25
Spencer	48	-1	27	7	1.80	1.07	4	1,098	-158	27	23
Spirit Lake	50	-3	25	9	1.82	1.06	4	1,144	-134	29	26
North Central District											
Britt	45	-2	27	7	1.38	0.43	5	1,099	-235	29	28
Humboldt	52	0	28	7	1.30	0.47	6	1,069	-165	29	26
Mason City	47	0	28	10	1.11	0.21	4	1,056	-228	29	24
Osage	47	1	28	9	1.50	0.60	4	1,076	-253	29	27
North East District											
Decorah	49	5	29	9	1.08	0.22	7	1,026	-214	29	25
Dubuque	47	7	29	9	1.34	-0.05	5	1,023	-203	27	23
Elkader	47	5	27	6	1.06	-0.16	4	1,096	-120	29	27
Fayette	48	4	28	8	0.96	-0.21	4	1,069	-248	29	28
Waterloo	49	5	30	11	1.01	-0.12	5	1,010	-230	28	24
West Central District											
Carroll	57	-1	27	6	1.93	1.08	7	1,087	-117	29	25
Castana	58	-3	28	3	1.73	1.07	7	1,079	-26	28	21
Guthrie Center	58	-6	27	4	2.69	1.58	6	1,098	-70	29	25
Harlan	58	-6	27	3	2.70	1.86	8	1,107	-79	29	24
Jefferson	57	0	28	6	1.78	0.93	7	1,072	-116	29	24
Logan	59	-8	27	3	1.81	0.96	7	1,090	-46	29	25
Rockwell City	55	-2	28	6	1.83	1.09	6	1,068	-170	29	26
Sac City	54	-3	26	6	2.20	1.29	7	1,123	-114	29	25
Sioux City	56	-5	29	6	2.23	1.48	7	1,038	-128	25	21
Central District											
Boone	56	1	28	7	1.81	0.70	7	1,053	-140	29	27
Des Moines	61	4	33	9	1.84	0.68	8	912	-212	23	18
Grundy Center	52	2	30	10	0.71	-0.34	5	1,019	-230	29	25
Marshalltown	52	4	31	9	0.75	-0.37	6	989	-233	27	23
Newton	57	2	29	6	1.21	0.12	6	1,028	-122	29	26
Perry	58	0	29	7	2.31	1.46	7	1,051	-149	29	24
Toledo	55	3	29	8	0.49	-0.49	5	1,041	-175	29	28
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	57	7	30	8	1.17	0.10	6	996	-169	28	22
Davenport	58	10	32	8	1.78	0.79	9	957	-136	27	19
Iowa City	58	10	32	7	1.46	0.45	7	939	-133	26	19
Lowden	59	6	29	8	1.69	0.32	7	1,046	-161	29	27
Maquoketa	54	8	29	7	1.32	0.21	5	1,051	-165	29	28
Muscatine	59	8	32	6	1.78	0.65	8	965	-107	28	21
South West District											
Atlantic	60	-13	27	4	2.08	1.18	9	1,103	-48	28	25
Clarinda	60	-2	31	6	1.92	0.95	7	983	-125	26	24
Glenwood	59	-4	29	4	2.05	1.22	8	1,027	-65	28	24
Red Oak	60	-4	30	4	2.41	1.35	7	1,001	-115	25	24
Sidney	60	0	31	5	1.93	1.04	6	975	-91	27	23
South Central District											
Allerton	59	3	32	7	1.73	0.71	9	951	-174	27	23
Beaconsfield	59	-1	31	7	1.72	0.92	9	972	-154	27	21
Chariton	60	0	30	7	1.55	0.45	7	1,002	-146	28	26
Indianola	60	-2	29	5	2.33	1.26	8	1,023	-118	28	24
Leon	60	3	32	7	1.72	0.68	10	955	-163	26	22
South East District											
Bloomfield	60	7	33	6	1.17	0.12	10	926	-171	26	23
Burlington	61	10	35	9	1.38	0.16	9	864	-194	25	16
Ottumwa	60	7	33	8	1.53	0.57	7	915	-156	25	19
Washington	59	8	31	5	1.75	0.83	7	976	-148	29	26

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.