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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the month of March, 2012

March has been a dry month for Iowa despite most of the state getting a small amount of rain for the week of March 19. Alfalfa and oat seeding, disking, field leveling, and applying fertilizer have been the most common activities of late for farmers. With warmer than normal weather conditions, green pastures can be seen throughout the state.

Topsoil moisture levels rated 14 percent very short, 35 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Northwest and north central Iowa continue to be the driest areas in the State with 84 percent short to very short.

Grain movement rated 27 percent none, 38 percent light, 29 percent moderate and 6 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 15 percent short, 77 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus with 9 percent of the supply in poor condition. Livestock losses continue to be light due to warm and dry weather for most of the month. Hog and pig losses in March were reported at 35 percent light, 64 percent average and 1 percent heavy. Cattle and calf losses were similar with 48 percent light, 51 percent average and 1 percent heavy. Warm weather condition aided calving although muddy lots bothered some areas.

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

March 2012 will long be remembered for exceptionally mild temperatures. Preliminary numbers indicate a statewide average temperature of 51.2 degrees or 15.3 degrees above normal. The month averaged 2.3 degrees warmer than the typical April and 2.5 degrees warmer than the previous warmest March (48.7 degrees in 1910). Daily temperatures averaged above normal on all but three days of the month (3rd to 5th were the exceptions). There were

three days at mid month (17th, 18th and 19th) averaging more than 30 degrees above normal and every day from the 10th through the end of the month averaged at least ten degrees above normal. High temperatures reached into the 80's somewhere in the state on 14 days during March, topping off at 90 degrees at Sioux City and Little Sioux on the 31st. Nevertheless there was a little winter-like weather early in the month with daytime highs only 20's in some areas on the 3rd and 4th while Estherville reported a low temperature of minus 1 degree on the morning of the 5th. While the mild weather has been fabulous for allowing plenty of early field work it has raised tremendous concern for the potential of severe frost damage to some horticultural crops which are developing far ahead of the normal pace. The typical date of the last freeze of the spring is not until mid April in southern Iowa to early May across the north.

Meanwhile, precipitation averaged 1.96 inches or 0.19 inch less than normal. This ranks 56th wettest March among 140 years of records. Precipitation was generally above normal from southwest, through central, into northeast Iowa but was well below normal over portions of far northwest and southeast sections. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.63 inch at Hawarden to 5.49 inches at Bedford. There was some snow early in the month with two to four inches over the east one-third of the state on the 2nd and one to three inches on the 4th in a diagonal stripe from northwest to southeast Iowa. Kanawha in Hancock County reported the most snow with 5.5 inches while most of southwest Iowa saw only a few flurries. The statewide average snowfall was 1.6 inches or 3.1 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 13th lowest March snow total among 125 years of records.

Finally, there were isolated occurrences of severe thunderstorms, mostly involving large hail, on the 19th, 29th, 30th and 31st.

Post-Harvest Conditions as of March 25, 2012

Item	None	Light	Moderate	Heavy
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Grain movement	27	38	29	6

Hay/Roughage Availability as of March 25, 2012

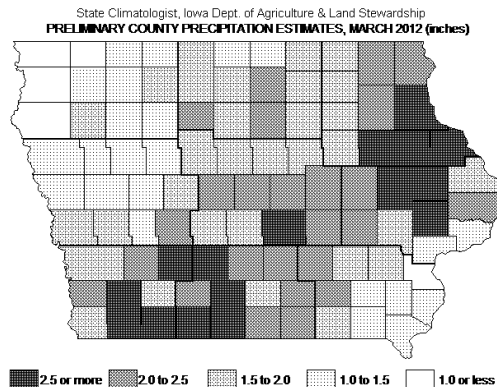
Item	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	15	77	8

Hay/Roughage Quality as of March 25, 2012

Item	Poor	Fair	Good
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	9	45	46

Soil Moisture Condition as of March 25, 2012

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	36	28	12	13	7	4	12	2	4	14	19	0
Short	48	56	29	38	38	23	8	22	39	35	34	3
Adequate	16	16	56	48	55	73	77	71	56	50	46	75
Surplus	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	5	1	1	1	22



March, 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	83	-1	49	19	1.14	-0.75	9	505	-530	8	5
Sioux Center	83	15	52	18	0.86	-1.09	6	422	-458	9	7
Spencer	83	2	50	18	0.97	-0.97	10	471	-498	10	7
Spirit Lake	80	7	48	19	0.60	-1.19	6	522	-473	12	9
North Central District											
Britt	81	9	48	15	1.62	-0.26	10	523	-497	11	8
Humboldt	81	5	49	16	2.15	0.07	8	488	-452	11	8
Mason City	81	10	49	18	2.54	0.50	12	496	-486	10	6
Osage	81	12	48	16	1.73	-0.42	10	530	-485	10	7
North East District											
Decorah	81	14	51	18	2.20	0.26	11	450	-497	10	8
Dubuque	81	14	51	17	2.50	-0.43	10	462	-474	9	6
Elkader	82	12	48	14	3.70	1.52	10	521	-406	12	7
Fayette	81	13	49	16	1.93	-0.22	11	502	-505	10	7
Waterloo	82	6	52	18	1.33	-1.01	11	433	-500	8	6
West Central District											
Carroll	82	15	51	17	0.94	-1.33	5	445	-475	10	9
Castana	82	19	52	16	0.81	-1.36	7	419	-402	9	9
Guthrie Center	82	14	51	16	2.29	-0.20	7	426	-448	10	9
Harlan	83	17	52	16	1.43	-0.72	7	407	-484	9	9
Jefferson	83	13	51	17	1.66	-0.61	7	449	-445	11	9
Logan	83	18	52	17	1.43	-0.64	7	407	-441	9	9
Rockwell City	83	12	50	15	1.39	-0.54	8	463	-481	9	9
Sac City	82	12	49	16	0.97	-1.39	7	502	-450	11	9
Sioux City	86	17	54	19	0.70	-1.29	5	373	-499	9	7
Central District											
Boone	81	10	50	15	1.93	-0.43	8	459	-420	11	9
Des Moines	84	20	56	19	1.73	-0.65	10	311	-502	6	4
Grundy Center	83	7	50	18	1.64	-0.63	8	470	-480	10	7
Marshalltown	83	4	52	18	1.79	-0.64	7	415	-499	9	5
Newton	82	11	51	15	2.09	-0.18	8	447	-401	9	9
Perry	81	15	51	17	1.99	-0.07	10	427	-468	9	9
Toledo	81	6	50	16	1.79	-0.51	9	482	-433	11	7
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	82	3	52	17	2.35	-0.02	9	436	-436	9	4
Davenport	84	11	53	17	1.34	-0.96	10	400	-415	8	4
Iowa City	83	8	53	15	1.71	-0.71	9	407	-370	8	3
Lowden	84	8	51	16	2.72	0.13	11	466	-437	12	7
Maquoketa	81	11	49	15	1.85	-0.48	10	492	-425	10	7
Muscatine	82	11	52	15	2.05	-0.71	10	414	-368	8	4
South West District											
Atlantic	82	14	52	17	2.19	-0.14	8	416	-434	10	9
Clarinda	82	18	53	17	3.98	1.48	8	377	-462	9	9
Glenwood	81	20	53	15	2.00	-0.08	8	384	-416	9	9
Red Oak	82	19	54	15	3.88	1.57	7	355	-477	9	9
Sidney	79	23	55	17	2.68	0.33	8	330	-455	9	9
South Central District											
Allerton	81	18	53	16	2.68	0.32	10	394	-437	9	8
Beaconsfield	80	19	53	16	3.16	0.88	6	389	-451	9	9
Chariton	82	14	52	15	2.18	-0.19	12	407	-447	12	8
Indianola	83	15	53	16	2.28	0.04	10	397	-453	9	9
Leon	81	15	53	16	2.86	0.51	13	397	-430	11	8
South East District											
Bloomfield	81	18	53	14	1.58	-1.03	11	381	-420	8	6
Burlington	82	14	55	17	0.85	-2.05	8	338	-421	5	2
Ottumwa	82	14	54	16	2.31	-0.02	14	372	-404	7	3
Washington	82	7	52	13	1.61	-0.78	10	436	-380	10	6

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.