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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the week ending April 1, 2012

Sunshine and above normal temperatures have left Iowa farmers eager to plant their crop for the upcoming crop year. Warm conditions have most farmers believing we are in the month of May instead of April. Some farmers have been spotted planting corn fields although the earliest allowable planting date in Iowa for full crop insurance coverage is April 11. Throughout the state, most field work has involved anhydrous and dry fertilizer application. Manure hauling and some tillage are starting to take place.

There were 4.7 days suitable for fieldwork during the past week. Topsoil moisture levels rated 8 percent very short, 28 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture rated 17 percent very short, 32 percent short, 49 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

Oat acreage planted was 58 percent complete, well beyond both last year's 4 percent and the five-year average of 7 percent. This marks the first time since 1981 Iowa farmers have had over half their oat acreage planted by the beginning of April. In 1981, 46 percent was planted by March 29.

Pasture and range condition rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Warmer than normal weather conditions have provided cattle with the opportunity to give birth on green pastures rather than dry lots throughout Iowa.

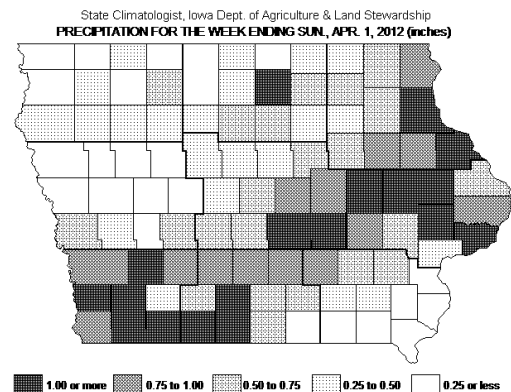
IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

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

The past week brought weather much more typical of May instead of late March. Temperatures averaged from 9 degrees above normal in the northeast to 21 degrees above normal in the southwest with a statewide average of 14.1 degrees above normal. However, temperatures were more variable than seen in recent weeks. Highs on Monday (26th) varied from the upper 40's northeast to lower 80's southwest. Highs on Tuesday (27th) were mostly in the 70's and on Wednesday (28th) from the low 60's north to mid 70's southwest. On Thursday (29th) highs were only in the upper 50's southeast to lower 70's northwest while on Friday (30th) varied from the upper 40's northeast to mid 70's southwest. The weekend brought a wide gradient in temperatures with highs on Saturday (31st) from the upper 40's northeast to near 90 over the far west while Sunday (1st) brought highs from the low 60's northeast to low 90's far west. Temperature extremes for the week varied from a Wednesday morning low of 29 degrees at Sibley to an amazing Sunday afternoon high of 93 degrees at Sioux City. Light freezes occurred over very small areas of the northwest on Wednesday morning and over the northeast on Thursday morning. Rain fell nearly statewide on Thursday night with isolated showers and thunderstorms every other day except Sunday. Weekly rain totals varied from none at Battle Creek (Iowa County) to 3.63 inches at Bedford. The statewide average precipitation for the week was 0.62 inch or just slightly more than the normal of 0.60 inch. Finally, there were isolated occurrences of large hail in southwest Iowa on Thursday evening, west central Iowa on Friday evening and east central Iowa on Saturday evening.

Crop Conditions as of April 1, 2012

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Range & Pasture	1	5	27	49	18



Field Work and Crop Progress as of April 1, 2012

Item	Districts									State	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Oats planted	56	57	55	64	55	65	44	54	65	58	NA	4	7

Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of April 1, 2012

Item	Districts									State	Last Week	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)
Days suitable	5.4	4.5	3.8	5.4	4.3	4.6	3.9	4.0	5.8	4.7	NA	2.0
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	18	13	2	13	3	4	0	0	16	8	NA	1
Short	44	48	26	34	25	10	10	4	37	28	NA	4
Adequate	38	39	68	51	69	84	74	81	45	60	NA	80
Surplus	0	0	4	2	3	2	16	15	2	4	NA	15
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	43	44	3	20	7	7	1	0	6	17	NA	0
Short	37	44	22	42	47	12	17	15	41	32	NA	3
Adequate	20	12	72	37	45	80	79	78	51	49	NA	81
Surplus	0	0	3	1	1	1	3	7	2	2	NA	16

Weather Summary For National Agricultural Statistics Service, Iowa Field Office.
For the week ending: 7:00 am Sunday, April 1, 2012, Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

Station	Current Week						Since April 1			
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation		GDD Base 50F	
	High	Low	Avg.	DFN	Total	DFN	Total	DFN	Total	DFN
North West District										
Estherville	73	37	53	18	0.07	-0.48	0.00	-0.08	2	2
Sioux Center	92	40	61	21	0.39	-0.11	0.00	-0.07	20	20
Spencer	74	34	56	18	0.11	-0.44	0.00	-0.08	8	8
Spirit Lake	84	37	55	19	0.23	-0.26	0.00	-0.07	14	14
North Central District										
Britt	73	38	53	14	0.40	-0.15	0.00	-0.08	2	2
Dakota City	72	40	55	15	0.26	-0.34	0.00	-0.09	4	4
Mason City	74	39	51	14	1.18	0.62	0.00	-0.08	0	0
Osage	74	37	49	10	0.51	-0.11	0.00	-0.09	0	0
North East District										
Decorah	77	34	51	12	0.88	0.26	0.00	-0.10	2	2
Dubuque	74	37	49	10	0.98	0.21	0.11	0.00	0	0
Elkader	77	32	48	8	1.33	0.72	0.00	-0.09	0	0
Fayette	78	36	49	10	0.71	0.10	0.00	-0.09	0	0
Waterloo	79	36	52	12	0.41	-0.23	0.00	-0.10	0	0
West Central District										
Carroll	79	43	60	20	0.00	-0.64	0.00	-0.10	13	13
Castana	84	45	61	20	0.05	-0.51	0.00	-0.08	17	17
Guthrie Center	80	36	61	19	0.47	-0.20	0.00	-0.10	17	17
Harlan	88	42	63	20	0.35	-0.25	0.00	-0.09	21	21
Jefferson	77	40	59	18	0.07	-0.57	0.00	-0.10	9	9
Logan	89	40	63	21	0.40	-0.16	0.00	-0.08	21	21
Rockwell City	76	41	57	16	0.16	-0.38	0.00	-0.08	8	8
Sac City	79	39	57	17	0.15	-0.48	0.00	-0.09	11	11
Sioux City	90	40	63	21	0.20	-0.29	0.00	-0.07	18	18
Central District										
Boone	78	40	57	16	0.43	-0.22	0.00	-0.10	7	7
Des Moines	80	47	63	20	0.57	-0.10	0.00	-0.10	17	17
Grundy Center	79	36	53	14	0.58	-0.05	0.00	-0.09	1	1
Marshalltown	79	39	55	15	0.72	0.07	0.00	-0.10	3	3
Newton	78	44	57	14	0.68	0.05	0.00	-0.09	8	8
Perry	78	41	58	18	0.62	0.03	0.00	-0.09	10	10
Toledo	78	40	54	14	0.75	0.12	0.07	-0.02	4	4
East Central District										
Cedar Rapids	76	39	53	12	0.61	-0.04	0.02	-0.08	4	4
Davenport	78	41	54	12	1.17	0.51	0.80	0.70	6	6
Iowa City	77	41	55	11	0.52	-0.20	0.06	-0.05	7	5
Lowden	77	36	52	11	2.09	1.36	1.36	1.25	0	0
Maquoketa	76	35	50	10	0.52	-0.13	0.10	0.00	0	0
Muscatine	76	42	55	11	0.91	0.15	0.25	0.14	3	3
South West District										
Atlantic	87	37	62	20	1.15	0.52	0.00	-0.09	18	18
Clarinda	86	37	63	21	2.49	1.81	0.00	-0.10	19	19
Glenwood	87	42	63	19	1.12	0.56	0.00	-0.08	21	21
Red Oak	86	41	63	19	2.79	2.13	0.00	-0.10	20	20
Sidney	85	48	65	21	1.44	0.81	0.00	-0.09	22	22
South Central District										
Allerton	78	43	59	16	0.56	-0.10	0.00	-0.10	13	13
Beaconsfield	81	44	61	19	1.62	0.97	0.00	-0.10	17	17
Chariton	76	36	58	15	0.78	0.10	0.00	-0.10	13	13
Indianola	80	40	60	17	1.03	0.36	0.00	-0.10	14	14
Leon	81	38	60	17	0.78	0.11	0.00	-0.10	17	17
South East District										
Bloomfield	75	45	59	13	0.15	-0.56	0.00	-0.11	12	12
Burlington	79	46	59	15	0.02	-0.75	0.02	-0.09	14	12
Ottumwa	76	41	58	14	0.57	-0.08	0.00	-0.10	15	15
Washington	78	42	56	11	0.46	-0.20	0.08	-0.02	8	8

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.