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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the week ending April 8, 2012

As Iowa's crop insurance plant date for corn slowly approaches (April 11), farmers are excited about getting planting underway. Most of the week's rain occurred in the southeast corner of the state. The week's most common field activities were application of anhydrous, tiling, and leveling of last year's cornstalks.

There were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork during the past week. Statewide soil moisture levels are still a big concern with most farmers hoping for rain before corn planting gets underway. Topsoil moisture levels rated 12 percent very short, 31 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Northwest Iowa continues to be the driest area in the State with 78 percent short to very short for topsoil moisture. Iowa's subsoil moisture rated 18 percent very short, 33 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

With only 1 percent of the corn planted across the state, farmers look forward to widespread planting. Oat acreage planted was 75 percent complete, well beyond both last year's 29 percent and the five-year average of 21 percent. Twenty-three percent of the oat acreage has emerged which is 16 days ahead of normal.

Pasture and range condition rated 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Warm temperatures meant less stress on livestock this spring and gave livestock the chance to graze pastures early.

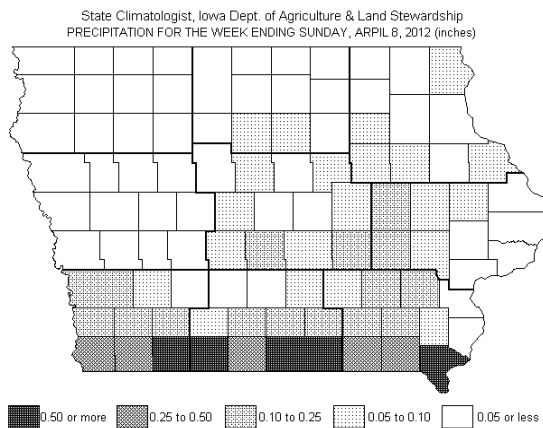
IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

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

The past reporting week began with unseasonably warm weather on Monday (2nd) and gradually cooled to near normal readings by the weekend. The state's most widespread freeze since March 13 affected most of the northeast one-half to two-thirds of Iowa on Friday (6th) morning with a hard freeze in a few areas. Freezing conditions were also scattered across all but the far southeast corner of the state on Sunday (8th) morning with a hard freeze in a few western locations. Temperature extremes for the week ranged from highs of 92 degrees at Sioux City and Little Sioux on Monday to a morning low of 23 degrees at Cresco on Friday and 25 degrees at Sibley on Sunday. Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged from 6 degrees above normal over the far east to 11 degrees above normal over the far west with a statewide average of 8.8 degrees above normal. An exceptional streak of 24 consecutive days with at least one location in Iowa reaching at least 70 degrees finally ended on Thursday. No rain fell over about the northwest one-quarter of Iowa over the past week while Keokuk Airport reported the most rain with 1.49 inches. The statewide average precipitation was only 0.09 inch while normal for the week is 0.66 inch. There were a few thunderstorms over extreme southern and southeast Iowa on Tuesday and again over the far south on Wednesday into Thursday morning. Finally, showers and a few thunderstorms brought light rain to the southeast three-fourths of Iowa on Saturday. This was Iowa's driest week in eight weeks. Very low soil moisture levels prevail over northwest and north central Iowa and is a remnant of very dry late summer and fall weather in those areas exacerbated by relatively little rain over the past month. Finally, soil temperatures as of Sunday are averaging in the low 50s in most areas.

Crop Conditions as of April 8, 2012

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Range & Pasture	2	5	25	47	21



Field Work and Crop Progress as of April 8, 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	77	78	81	72	75	88	56	67	79	75	58	29	21
Oats emerged	27	17	22	17	32	33	13	16	31	23	NA	1	1

Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of April 8, 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	6.5	6.1	5.7	6.5	5.9	5.9	5.1	5.2	5.8	6.0	4.7	3.1
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	32	12	10	22	5	2	2	0	16	12	8	1
Short	46	49	16	46	30	8	30	13	31	31	28	5
Adequate	22	39	72	32	63	89	60	81	51	55	60	81
Surplus	0	0	2	0	2	1	8	6	2	2	4	13
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	39	41	12	34	7	2	4	0	3	18	17	0
Short	46	44	16	37	45	12	36	20	33	33	32	4
Adequate	15	15	70	29	47	85	55	73	62	47	49	83
Surplus	0	0	2	0	1	1	5	7	2	2	2	13

Weather Summary For National Agricultural Statistics Service, Iowa Field Office.
For the week ending: 7:00 am Sunday, April 8, 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	85	31	55	16	0.00	-0.61	0.00	-0.69	45	45
Sioux Center	91	33	59	15	0.00	-0.56	0.00	-0.63	82	80
Spencer	90	29	57	16	0.00	-0.56	0.00	-0.64	65	65
Spirit Lake	86	37	55	15	0.00	-0.55	0.00	-0.62	48	48
North Central District										
Britt	80	32	53	10	0.04	-0.60	0.04	-0.68	31	31
Dakota City	84	32	55	12	0.00	-0.65	0.00	-0.74	45	45
Mason City	75	31	53	11	0.05	-0.58	0.05	-0.66	27	27
Osage	72	30	50	8	0.03	-0.67	0.03	-0.76	15	15
North East District										
Decorah	68	28	51	8	0.02	-0.71	0.02	-0.81	19	19
Dubuque	69	29	50	8	0.07	-0.77	0.18	-0.77	19	19
Elkader	72	25	49	5	0.04	-0.64	0.04	-0.73	14	14
Fayette	71	30	51	8	0.03	-0.66	0.03	-0.75	20	20
Waterloo	74	27	52	8	0.04	-0.66	0.04	-0.76	28	28
West Central District										
Carroll	89	31	56	13	0.00	-0.70	0.00	-0.80	64	64
Castana	89	37	58	12	0.01	-0.56	0.01	-0.64	76	64
Guthrie Center	88	28	57	13	0.00	-0.70	0.00	-0.80	76	76
Harlan	89	31	58	12	0.01	-0.63	0.01	-0.72	79	79
Jefferson	89	33	57	14	0.01	-0.69	0.01	-0.79	62	62
Logan	90	28	58	12	0.03	-0.57	0.03	-0.65	80	74
Rockwell City	88	32	56	11	0.00	-0.58	0.00	-0.66	53	53
Sac City	90	30	56	13	0.00	-0.63	0.00	-0.72	58	58
Sioux City	93	26	60	15	0.00	-0.49	0.00	-0.56	94	92
Central District										
Boone	85	30	56	12	0.01	-0.69	0.01	-0.79	56	56
Des Moines	86	37	60	13	0.14	-0.61	0.14	-0.71	86	76
Grundy Center	78	31	53	11	0.05	-0.63	0.05	-0.72	34	34
Marshalltown	82	29	55	12	0.07	-0.63	0.07	-0.73	49	49
Newton	84	32	56	11	0.01	-0.68	0.01	-0.77	58	56
Perry	85	32	56	13	0.18	-0.48	0.18	-0.57	58	58
Toledo	79	31	53	10	0.06	-0.63	0.17	-0.61	40	40
East Central District										
Cedar Rapids	75	31	53	8	0.11	-0.59	0.13	-0.67	39	39
Davenport	76	28	54	8	0.02	-0.71	0.82	-0.01	45	35
Iowa City	78	31	54	7	0.09	-0.71	0.15	-0.76	49	30
Lowden	74	27	52	8	0.03	-0.79	1.39	0.46	32	32
Maquoketa	73	30	51	7	0.02	-0.68	0.12	-0.68	24	24
Muscatine	78	30	54	7	0.14	-0.63	0.39	-0.49	46	30
South West District										
Atlantic	88	26	57	13	0.06	-0.58	0.06	-0.67	73	69
Clarinda	87	30	58	12	0.40	-0.30	0.40	-0.40	78	74
Glenwood	90	32	58	12	0.15	-0.44	0.15	-0.52	84	70
Red Oak	89	31	58	10	0.15	-0.59	0.15	-0.69	79	73
Sidney	89	34	58	12	0.35	-0.33	0.35	-0.42	83	70
South Central District										
Allerton	84	34	56	11	0.78	0.07	0.78	-0.03	67	61
Beaconsfield	84	34	56	11	0.23	-0.47	0.23	-0.57	68	68
Chariton	85	32	56	11	0.22	-0.55	0.22	-0.65	66	66
Indianola	87	29	57	11	0.00	-0.76	0.00	-0.86	72	72
Leon	86	29	56	11	0.36	-0.38	0.36	-0.48	72	70
South East District										
Bloomfield	85	34	57	9	0.39	-0.38	0.39	-0.49	69	61
Burlington	86	34	59	11	0.00	-0.77	0.02	-0.86	78	57
Ottumwa	85	32	56	9	0.22	-0.48	0.22	-0.58	69	52
Washington	86	31	56	9	0.18	-0.52	0.26	-0.54	65	51

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.