Drier and cooler than average weather persisted across most of Iowa during the week ending August 18, 2013, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Although varying amounts of moisture were received in central and western portions of the state, the lack of significant precipitation was a growing concern for Iowa farmers. Statewide there was an average of 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Southwest Iowa received the most rainfall during the week, and had the least days suitable for fieldwork with 5.8.

A total of 35 percent of topsoil and 41 percent of subsoil was in the adequate and surplus moisture categories, both declining 6 percentage points from last week. Topsoil moisture levels rated 25 percent very short, 40 percent short, 34 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels rated 19 percent very short, 40 percent short, 40 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

With nearly all the corn crop tasseled, 93 percent was silking, behind the five-year average of 99 percent. Sixty-two percent of the corn crop reached the milk stage, trailing the normal pace. Both hay and pasture conditions continued to deteriorate, and the amount rated in the good and excellent categories fell 4 and 3 percentage points, respectively. Hay condition was rated at 5 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 40 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Pasture condition rated 10 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 25 percent good and 3 percent excellent.

**IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY**

Provided by Henry Hillaker, State Climatologist

Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

Unseasonably cool weather prevailed for another week while most of the state is still waiting for a substantial rain. Temperatures averaged below normal every day this week, as they have for all but one day in the past four weeks. Temperatures approached normal on Sunday (11th) and Monday (12th) with highs mostly in the 80’s but were well below normal from Tuesday (13th) through Thursday (15th) when daytime highs were mostly in the 70’s. Temperature extremes for the week ranged from Sunday (11th) afternoon highs of 88 degrees at Bloomfield, Centerville, Des Moines, Donnellson and Osceola, as well as at Red Oak on Monday to Wednesday morning lows of 42 degrees at Elkader and Belle Plaine. Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged 5.9 degrees below normal. Thunderstorms brought very welcome rain to parts of north central and central Iowa on Sunday (11th) night with a maximum reported amount of 2.27 inches at Boone. Rain was also widespread across the southwest one-third of the state on Wednesday night with Underwood (Pottawattamie Co.) reporting the most with 3.85 inches. However, parts of the state, particularly the far southeast, received no rain for the week. The statewide average precipitation was 0.44 inches below normal for the week is 0.98 inches. This was the sixth week of the past seven to bring less than normal rainfall.

The third cutting of alfalfa has reached 36 percent complete, 9 days behind the normal pace. Both hay and pasture conditions continued to

### Field Work and Crop Progress as of August 18, 2013

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*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 2013: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.*