



USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service, Iowa Field Office • 210 Walnut, Room 833 • Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2195  
Phone 515-284-4340 • 1-800-772-0825 • Fax 515-284-4342 • [nass-ia@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ia@nass.usda.gov)  
In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the month of December, 2012

Moisture continues to be an important topic across Iowa. Although drought conditions in some areas have eased and many were glad to see significant snowfall, concerns remain about how much moisture will be available in the Spring.

As December came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 45 percent very short, 42 percent short, 13 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. The driest area of the State was the northwest corner with 59 percent very short, very similar to the area's condition last winter at this time.

Grain movement rated 47 percent none, 40 percent light, 11 percent moderate and 2 percent heavy. The snow and ice received December 19 and 20 slowed grain movement in some areas.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 41 percent short, 57 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus with 31 percent of the supply in good condition. Livestock conditions have been reported as normal. Hog and pig losses in December were 26 percent light, 73 percent average and 1 percent heavy. Cattle and calf losses were the same with 26 percent light, 73 percent average and 1 percent heavy.

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

**General Summary.** December temperatures averaged 27.6 degrees or 4.7 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 1.57 inches or 0.23 inches above normal. This ranks as the 39<sup>th</sup> warmest and 34<sup>th</sup> wettest December among 140 years of records.

**Temperatures.** The month began with exceptionally mild weather as temperatures averaged above normal for 19 of the first twenty days of December, the exception being on the 10<sup>th</sup> when the season's first subzero temperatures were recorded at a few northwest Iowa locations. Highs reached into the 60s somewhere in the state each of the first four days of the month with 50s or higher on 11 of the first 18 days. Keokuk was the hot spot with a high of 73 degrees on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This missed the

state record for December, set back on December 6, 1939 at Thurman, by only one degree. Colder weather prevailed late in the month with ten of the final eleven days averaging colder than normal. Spencer reported the lowest temperature with a reading of -9 degrees at midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Heating Degree Day Totals.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 3 percent greater than last December but 12 percent less than normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1) degree day totals are running 6 percent more than a year ago but 6 percent less than normal.

**Precipitation.** A pair of storms brought most of the month's precipitation and brought an end to a very dry period that saw a statewide average of just 0.19 inches of precipitation for the five weeks following Veteran's Day. The first event brought rain statewide from late on the 14<sup>th</sup> to early on the 16<sup>th</sup> with an average of 0.57 inches falling. The second storm, the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup>, brought a blizzard to much of the state but was preceded by unseasonably heavy rainfall near the Illinois border. The greatest snow fell from west central into northeast Iowa with 14.4 inches reported at Dubuque, 13.8 inches at Johnston and 13.0 inches at Marshalltown and Conrad. Wind gusts over 50 mph were common on the 20<sup>th</sup> with a peak gust of 60 mph at Ottumwa. The heavy wet, sticky snow brought down numerous trees and power lines, resulting in tens of thousands of customers losing power. This event brought a statewide average of 0.74 inches of precipitation and 5.6 inches of snowfall. Rainfall prior to the blizzard exceeded two inches in the Muscatine and Quad Cities areas. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.60 inches at Sidney to 3.75 inches at Muscatine. The rain from the first December storm, as well as that over southeastern Iowa from the second storm, fell prior to the onset of cold weather. Thus, a large percentage of this rain was able to soak into the ground and provide a much needed boost to soil moisture. The limited amount of data available suggests that the uppermost few inches of soil were frozen by month's end, despite widespread snow cover.

#### Hay/Roughage Availability as of December 30, 2012

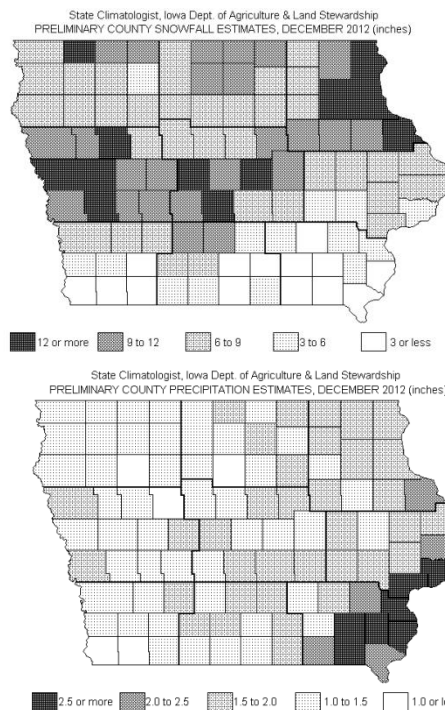
Item	Short (Percent)	Adequate (Percent)	Surplus (Percent)
Hay/Roughage .....	41	57	2

#### Hay/Roughage Quality as of December 30, 2012

Item	Poor (Percent)	Fair (Percent)	Good (Percent)
Hay/Roughage .....	22	47	31

#### Post-Harvest Conditions as of December 30, 2012

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement .....	47	40	11	2



#### Snow Cover for the Month of December

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
Snow cover .....	(Inches) 4	(Inches) 5	(Inches) 6	(Inches) 6	(Inches) 7	(Inches) 5	(Inches) 3	(Inches) 3	(Inches) 2	(Inches) 5	(Inches) NA	(Inches) 0

**December, 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				
<b>North West District</b>											
Estherville .....	59	-5	25	8	0.77	0.05	6	1,245	-161	28	26
Sioux Center .....	59	-3	26	7	0.87	0.04	7	1,202	-121	28	26
Spencer .....	61	-3	26	9	0.73	0.03	8	1,189	-196	28	24
Spirit Lake .....	58	-3	23	7	0.76	-0.12	7	1,304	-89	28	27
<b>North Central District</b>											
Britt .....	60	-3	24	5	1.38	0.03	9	1,266	-162	31	31
Humboldt .....	62	-4	25	5	1.53	0.53	5	1,232	-107	31	30
Mason City .....	63	-3	26	9	1.35	0.16	9	1,196	-192	28	21
Osage .....	62	-2	24	6	1.60	0.37	8	1,256	-156	31	27
<b>North East District</b>											
Decorah .....	65	-2	27	8	1.46	0.27	11	1,156	-168	27	21
Dubuque .....	64	-1	30	9	2.35	0.42	10	1,081	-189	25	18
Elkader .....	66	-6	26	5	2.10	0.73	11	1,211	-80	30	26
Fayette .....	66	-1	26	7	1.94	0.55	8	1,197	-179	29	25
Waterloo .....	67	-3	28	9	1.57	0.29	10	1,131	-174	26	20
<b>West Central District</b>											
Carroll .....	60	-1	26	6	1.66	0.72	7	1,207	-84	30	27
Castana .....	60	-3	26	4	1.11	0.29	6	1,191	-42	31	27
Guthrie Center .....	65	-5	27	5	1.20	-0.06	4	1,177	-87	29	26
Harlan .....	59	0	27	5	1.46	0.47	5	1,160	-123	30	26
Jefferson .....	64	-2	26	6	1.83	0.89	6	1,196	-86	29	26
Logan .....	61	-4	27	5	1.22	0.16	5	1,180	-63	31	26
Rockwell City .....	60	-1	26	5	0.90	-0.01	4	1,217	-119	31	28
Sac City .....	61	-3	25	6	1.57	0.44	6	1,245	-80	31	30
Sioux City .....	60	-2	27	7	1.72	0.95	8	1,156	-116	26	25
<b>Central District</b>											
Boone .....	66	-3	27	6	1.70	0.38	11	1,181	-101	29	26
Des Moines .....	69	4	33	9	1.93	0.63	7	996	-197	21	18
Grundy Center .....	67	-2	27	7	1.11	-0.16	4	1,186	-149	29	24
Marshalltown .....	68	1	29	9	1.66	0.39	7	1,096	-193	25	21
Newton .....	68	0	28	6	1.14	0.03	4	1,150	-85	26	25
Perry .....	66	-1	27	6	1.38	0.33	8	1,167	-106	29	28
Toledo .....	68	0	27	6	1.02	-0.21	6	1,177	-123	28	24
<b>East Central District</b>											
Cedar Rapids .....	68	4	31	9	1.80	0.23	7	1,056	-193	24	19
Davenport .....	69	7	33	9	2.52	0.62	9	975	-167	20	15
Iowa City .....	68	6	33	8	2.29	0.75	7	991	-162	20	17
Lowden .....	68	3	29	7	2.91	0.83	11	1,117	-143	28	24
Maquoketa .....	65	2	28	6	1.94	0.17	8	1,132	-125	27	24
Muscatine .....	69	6	32	7	2.91	0.96	9	1,030	-122	25	18
<b>South West District</b>											
Atlantic .....	63	-2	28	7	1.55	0.47	8	1,138	-113	27	26
Clarinda .....	66	4	30	7	1.04	-0.12	3	1,073	-138	27	26
Glenwood .....	60	2	28	5	1.31	0.15	3	1,130	-58	29	24
Red Oak .....	64	3	30	6	1.07	-0.12	5	1,074	-136	28	25
Sidney .....	63	3	31	6	0.60	-0.54	3	1,053	-111	28	21
<b>South Central District</b>											
Allerton .....	69	5	31	7	1.36	0.07	7	1,047	-158	26	24
Beaconsfield .....	67	1	30	6	1.31	0.22	6	1,086	-109	26	25
Chariton .....	69	3	30	7	1.35	0.02	6	1,065	-152	27	26
Indianola .....	69	-1	29	6	2.21	0.84	7	1,117	-106	27	26
Leon .....	68	5	31	8	1.58	0.23	6	1,043	-162	27	25
<b>South East District</b>											
Bloomfield .....	69	9	33	6	2.20	0.66	10	994	-162	24	19
Burlington .....	72	9	36	10	2.31	0.35	8	905	-216	17	14
Ottumwa .....	71	9	33	9	1.61	0.20	7	974	-183	23	16
Washington .....	68	4	31	6	2.20	0.52	9	1,042	-149	26	21

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.