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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Issued February 25, 2013

For the month of February 2013

February brought temperatures varying from below zero to near 60. Precipitation during the month arrived as both rain and snow. Although most farmers welcomed any precipitation—whether rain or snow—concerns remained about the level of moisture that will be available as the growing season begins.

As February came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 45 percent very short, 41 percent short, 13 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. North Central Iowa is the driest area of the state with 66 percent very short. Over half the land is reported to be very short of moisture in 3 of the 9 districts in the State. North central, west central and southwest Iowa all report 57 percent or more of the land is very short of moisture.

Grain movement rated 47 percent none, 38 percent light, 13 percent moderate and 2 percent heavy. February had a few snowstorms which caused interruptions to grain transportation in some areas.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies fell to 50 percent short, 49 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus with 31 percent of the remaining supply in good condition. Livestock conditions have been reported as normal. Hog and pig losses in February were 20 percent light, 79 percent average and 1 percent heavy. Cattle and calf losses were 23 percent light, 75 percent average and 2 percent heavy. For most of the winter farmers have been able to graze cattle on corn stalks which has helped stretch hay supplies. Calving has begun on some farms.

**IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY**  
Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist  
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
**FEBRUARY 2013**

**General Summary.** Iowa temperatures averaged 23.6 degrees or 0.4 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 1.31 inches or 0.26 inches above normal. This ranks as the 66<sup>th</sup> warmest and 40<sup>th</sup> wettest February among 141 years of records.

**Temperatures.** The month's coldest weather came on the first day with actual temperatures falling to -14 degrees at Elkader and Indianola and wind chills down to -31 degrees at Mason City. However, the cold did not last long as above normal temperatures prevailed for 11 of the first

14 days of the month. Daytime temperatures frequently reached into the low fifties in southwestern and southern Iowa from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Keokuk recorded the month's highest temperature at 59 degrees on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The second one-half of the month was mostly on the cold side with below normal temperatures prevailing on all but three of the last 14 days of the month. The colder late month weather was mostly the result of lower daytime temperatures owing to persistent cloudiness with only a few dates with subzero overnight lows.

**Heating Degree Day Totals.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 10 percent greater than last February but the same as normal. Degree day totals for the season-to-date (since July 1, 2012) are running 8 percent greater than last season but 5% less than normal.

**Precipitation.** The statewide average precipitation was slightly above normal for the third consecutive month thanks to four widespread precipitation events. Light to moderate rain fell over the southeast one-half of Iowa on the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and statewide on the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Greatest precipitation totals fell across northern Iowa with the second storm with rain changing to light snow late in the event. The largest of the month's storm systems came on the 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> with snow falling statewide. Greatest snow amounts of seven to ten inches fell mostly across northern and western Iowa while extreme eastern areas saw only two to four inches of accumulation. Finally, snow fell across the southeast two-thirds of the state on the 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> with widespread eight to twelve inch amounts across central Iowa with Winterset to Waterloo. Traer in Tama County reported the most snow during this last event with 16 inches. Monthly precipitation totals were well above normal over parts of eastern Iowa and below normal over much of the west central and southwest. Preliminary totals varied from only 0.27 inches at Hastings in Mills County to 3.49 inches at Burlington. The statewide average snowfall was 10.5 inches or 3.7 inches above normal to rank as the 23<sup>rd</sup> snowiest February among 126 years of records.

**Winter Summary.** The three mid-winter months averaged 24.3 degrees or 2.2 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 3.84 inches or 0.50 inches above normal. This ranks as the 41<sup>st</sup> warmest and 42<sup>nd</sup> wettest winter among 140 years of records. This was the seventh consecutive wetter than normal winter for the state.

**Hay/Roughage Availability as of February 24, 2013**

Item	Short (Percent)	Adequate (Percent)	Surplus (Percent)
Hay/Roughage .....	50	49	1

**Hay/Roughage Quality as of February 24, 2013**

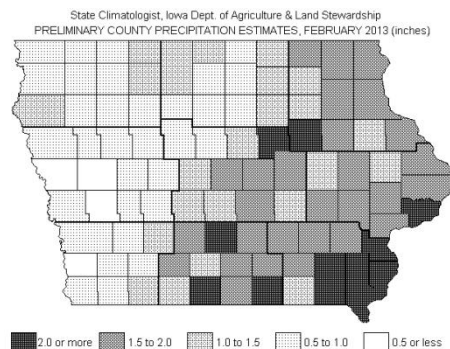
Item	Poor (Percent)	Fair (Percent)	Good (Percent)
Hay/Roughage .....	23	46	31

**Post-Harvest Conditions as of February 24, 2013**

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement .....	47	38	13	2

**Snow Cover for the Month as of February 24, 2013**

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



**February, 2013 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 .....	43	-8	21	4	0.88	0.11	3	1,219	-52	28	25
Sioux Center .....	50	-8	25	4	0.47	-0.22	3	1,106	-36	28	26
Spencer .....	47	-8	24	5	0.54	-0.15	4	1,146	-72	27	25
Spirit Lake .....	43	-9	22	5	0.59	-0.13	6	1,210	-29	28	28
<b>North Central District</b>											
Britt .....	43	-9	19	-2	0.98	0.07	4	1,277	-16	28	28
Humboldt .....	47	-8	22	-1	0.88	0.09	4	1,210	14	28	28
Mason City .....	43	-10	21	3	0.81	-0.05	6	1,215	-30	28	25
Osage .....	40	-10	19	-1	1.09	0.23	10	1,271	-17	28	28
<b>North East District</b>											
Decorah .....	41	-13	22	2	1.48	0.66	11	1,199	-3	28	26
Dubuque .....	49	-8	23	2	1.52	0.20	12	1,182	-7	27	23
Elkader .....	43	-14	19	-4	1.71	0.54	13	1,283	104	28	28
Fayette .....	40	-12	20	-2	2.25	1.13	11	1,258	-19	28	28
Waterloo .....	43	-9	24	5	1.78	0.70	10	1,149	-53	26	23
<b>West Central District</b>											
Carroll .....	51	-9	23	2	0.89	0.09	4	1,159	-8	28	27
Castana .....	53	-7	24	-1	0.50	-0.12	4	1,128	56	28	26
Guthrie Center .....	50	-8	25	3	0.80	-0.26	5	1,118	-14	28	25
Harlan .....	52	-7	25	-1	0.44	-0.36	6	1,123	-27	28	27
Jefferson .....	49	-9	24	2	0.83	0.03	7	1,154	2	28	28
Logan .....	54	-5	26	2	0.52	-0.29	2	1,089	-12	28	26
Rockwell City .....	50	-8	23	0	0.56	-0.14	4	1,169	-31	28	28
Sac City .....	49	-9	22	2	0.53	-0.33	4	1,186	-13	28	28
Sioux City .....	52	-7	26	3	0.66	-0.05	7	1,081	-50	26	24
<b>Central District</b>											
Boone .....	49	-11	23	1	1.35	0.29	9	1,167	10	28	28
Des Moines .....	52	-5	29	5	1.74	0.63	8	1,000	-90	25	21
Grundy Center .....	43	-9	20	1	1.61	0.61	7	1,249	38	28	28
Marshalltown .....	44	-7	25	4	1.71	0.64	8	1,110	-75	26	23
Newton .....	48	-8	24	-1	1.38	0.34	9	1,150	35	28	27
Perry .....	50	-7	24	3	0.99	0.18	8	1,142	-22	28	28
Toledo .....	44	-10	22	2	1.23	0.30	9	1,198	19	28	28
<b>East Central District</b>											
Cedar Rapids .....	49	-7	25	3	1.53	0.51	10	1,100	-30	26	20
Davenport .....	55	-2	26	2	1.71	0.77	12	1,074	14	25	21
Iowa City .....	53	-4	27	2	1.79	0.83	11	1,059	19	25	19
Lowden .....	55	-7	22	1	2.20	0.89	11	1,192	22	28	27
Maquoketa .....	52	-7	21	0	1.44	0.38	11	1,212	33	28	27
Muscatine .....	56	-5	25	-1	2.18	1.11	11	1,099	59	27	24
<b>South West District</b>											
Atlantic .....	52	-9	25	2	0.46	-0.39	7	1,122	6	28	27
Clarinda .....	54	-5	27	3	0.78	-0.14	6	1,054	-20	28	25
Glenwood .....	53	-7	26	1	0.47	-0.32	6	1,078	19	28	27
Red Oak .....	54	-6	27	0	0.56	-0.45	4	1,050	-32	28	24
Sidney .....	55	-5	28	2	0.47	-0.37	4	1,032	-2	28	28
<b>South Central District</b>											
Allerton .....	55	-5	26	2	1.56	0.59	8	1,094	3	28	27
Beaconsfield .....	51	-8	25	0	1.85	1.09	7	1,114	22	28	28
Chariton .....	52	-6	25	2	1.55	0.50	7	1,102	-11	28	26
Indianola .....	50	-13	25	0	2.55	1.53	7	1,110	3	28	27
Leon .....	53	-5	27	2	1.84	0.85	8	1,067	-17	28	27
<b>South East District</b>											
Bloomfield .....	55	-4	26	-2	1.20	0.20	8	1,078	14	28	26
Burlington .....	55	0	29	3	2.68	1.52	9	994	-32	23	19
Ottumwa .....	56	-5	28	3	1.55	0.64	10	1,023	-16	25	21
Washington .....	55	-5	25	-2	1.69	0.82	9	1,099	9	28	25

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.