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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Issued April 2, 2013 Vol 13-04

For the month of March 2013

March saw below average temperatures for the most part. Multiple storms during the month brought moisture across Iowa, mostly in the form of snow. The additional precipitation was welcomed by most farmers, although with the ground still frozen the beneficial impact of the moisture was reduced.

As March came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 35 percent very short, 49 percent short, 16 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Southeast Iowa had the most moisture, with 39 percent of the land with adequate moisture. The western districts in Iowa were reported to be the driest, with Districts 10, 40 and 70 all having more than 90 percent of land rated short or very short on moisture.

Grain movement rated 43 percent none, 42 percent light, 13 percent moderate and 2 percent heavy. March had a few snowstorms which caused interruptions to grain transportation in areas. Poor conditions on some gravel roads also limited grain transportation during some periods.

The availability of hay and roughage supplies fell to 54 percent short, 45 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus with 27 percent of the remaining supply in good condition. Livestock conditions have been reported as mostly normal. Hog and pig losses in March were 17 percent light, 81 percent average and 2 percent heavy. Cattle and calf losses were 14 percent light, 82 percent average and 4 percent heavy. The cold and wet weather in March presented difficulties for ranchers that were calving.

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

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 28.5 degrees or 7.4 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 2.19 inches or 0.04 inches above normal. This ranks as the 17th coldest and 49th wettest March among 141 years of state records. A colder March has not been recorded since 1975.

Temperatures. Cold weather was very persistent during March with statewide temperatures being below normal on all but five days during the month (9th/10th, 15th, 29th-30th). Elkader recorded the lowest temperature of the month with a -7 degrees report on the morning of the 7th while subzero readings came as late as the 21st at Cresco (-4 degrees).

Hay/Roughage Availability as of March 24, 2013

Item	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	54	45	1

Hay/Roughage Quality as of March 24, 2013

Item	Poor	Fair	Good
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	22	51	27

Post-Harvest Conditions as of March 24, 2013

Item	None	Light	Moderate	Heavy
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Grain movement	43	42	13	2

Snow Cover for the Month as of March 24, 2013

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year	
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)
Snow cover	2	4	4	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	3	NA	

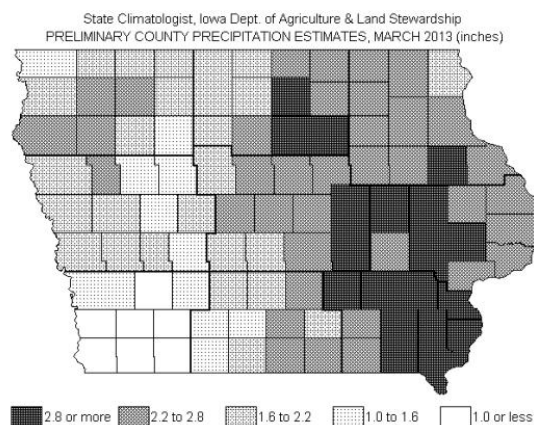
Soil Moisture Condition as of March 24, 2013

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	47	52	40	38	28	23	41	30	18	35	45	14
Short	44	37	45	53	60	54	54	46	43	49	41	35
Adequate	9	11	15	9	12	23	5	24	39	16	13	50
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Cresco's reading was the latest subzero temperature for the winter season in Iowa since March 26, 1996. On the other extreme the temperature reached 70 degrees at Bedford and Lamoni on the 15th and at Shenandoah on the 30th. This month was a huge contrast to the record warm March of last year with a statewide average temperature 22.6 degrees lower than a year ago. At Ames, for example, the highest temperature recorded in March 2013 was 60 degrees. Last March Ames recorded 23 days with highs of 60 degrees or greater during the month.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 153% greater than last March and 25% greater than normal. Heating requirements so far this season (since July 1, 2012) are running 21% greater than last season at this time and the same as normal.

Precipitation. Much of the month's precipitation fell during one event from late on the 8th into morning of the 11th. Rain fell statewide which transitioned to heavy snow over about the northwest one-half of the state. Mason City reported the most snow with 13.5 inches while rain totals of more than two inches occurred in southeastern Iowa with a maximum amount of 2.58 inches at Donnellson. Overall this storm brought a statewide average of 1.60 inches of precipitation for the largest storm total since mid-April 2012. There were several other snow events during the month with one on the 4th-5th bringing snow to the eastern two-thirds of Iowa with an eight inch maximum at the Dubuque Lock & Dam. Another storm on the 23rd-25th brought snow statewide with greatest amounts in the southeast with 6.7 inches at Donnellson. Generally precipitation for the month was well below normal over the southwest one-quarter of the state and slightly above normal elsewhere. Monthly totals varied from 0.68 inches at Red Oak and Shenandoah to 3.62 inches at Burlington. Snowfall totals varied from only 1.5 inches at Rock Valley to 23.6 inches at Mason City. Soils were still frozen over most of the northern one-half of the state at month's end. Thus, little of the March precipitation would have soaked into the ground. However, abundant runoff did boost the levels of lakes and farm ponds. At Saylorville Reservoir the lake level had been below the normal conservation pool since August 26, 2012 and reached a record low of 829.26 feet (6.74 feet below normal) on March 8. However, runoff from the early month storm system quickly brought the lake back to normal levels by the 16th where they remained through the end of the month.



March, 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				
North West District											
Estherville	59	4	27	-4	1.05	-0.80	7	1,176	128	29	25
Sioux Center	62	6	30	-4	1.54	-0.38	5	1,069	176	29	26
Spencer	62	2	28	-5	1.23	-0.67	5	1,137	155	28	25
Spirit Lake	57	5	26	-4	1.86	0.10	6	1,186	177	30	28
North Central District											
Britt	54	1	24	-10	1.67	-0.17	5	1,252	218	31	27
Humboldt	58	4	26	-9	1.52	-0.51	7	1,198	245	31	27
Mason City	55	0	26	-7	1.50	-0.50	9	1,212	216	28	25
Osage	52	2	24	-9	2.76	0.66	9	1,258	229	30	27
North East District											
Decorah	53	-4	27	-7	2.17	0.28	9	1,180	220	30	26
Dubuque	52	1	28	-7	2.63	-0.26	13	1,152	203	29	25
Elkader	54	-7	25	-10	2.25	0.11	14	1,242	301	30	29
Fayette	53	-1	25	-9	2.61	0.50	10	1,238	217	30	26
Waterloo	56	-4	28	-7	2.57	0.27	12	1,145	199	28	24
West Central District											
Carroll	63	10	28	-7	1.41	-0.82	8	1,130	197	30	27
Castana	65	11	29	-8	1.31	-0.82	6	1,100	266	30	28
Guthrie Center	64	11	30	-7	1.27	-1.18	6	1,082	195	31	26
Harlan	67	7	29	-9	1.80	-0.31	6	1,116	212	30	26
Jefferson	62	11	28	-6	2.01	-0.22	10	1,123	216	30	27
Logan	68	9	31	-6	1.16	-0.88	6	1,034	173	31	26
Rockwell City	62	8	28	-8	1.41	-0.48	6	1,154	197	30	28
Sac City	60	8	27	-7	1.26	-1.06	5	1,173	207	31	28
Sioux City	67	5	31	-5	1.55	-0.41	9	1,034	149	28	23
Central District											
Boone	60	8	28	-8	2.36	0.05	12	1,144	251	30	27
Des Moines	64	14	34	-4	1.72	-0.61	14	962	136	25	17
Grundy Center	56	-5	23	-11	2.34	0.11	8	1,293	329	31	29
Marshalltown	57	-1	29	-7	1.71	-0.68	8	1,119	191	27	22
Newton	59	6	28	-9	2.25	0.02	10	1,135	274	30	26
Perry	61	10	29	-7	2.07	0.06	12	1,118	209	30	27
Toledo	57	0	26	-8	2.65	0.39	11	1,187	259	30	27
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	57	2	29	-7	2.61	0.29	11	1,095	210	27	24
Davenport	57	4	31	-7	1.82	-0.43	12	1,056	228	26	22
Iowa City	59	5	31	-8	2.50	0.14	11	1,040	250	25	22
Lowden	57	-3	27	-9	2.70	0.16	13	1,166	250	29	28
Maquoketa	54	0	26	-9	2.27	-0.01	11	1,193	262	31	27
Muscatine	58	5	30	-9	2.55	-0.16	13	1,086	291	28	27
South West District											
Atlantic	67	9	30	-6	0.82	-1.47	7	1,065	202	30	29
Clarinda	67	15	33	-5	0.69	-1.76	6	998	147	30	27
Glenwood	67	14	32	-6	0.88	-1.17	7	1,015	203	28	26
Red Oak	69	16	33	-6	0.68	-1.58	7	975	131	29	24
Sidney	68	19	34	-5	0.98	-1.33	5	952	154	30	25
South Central District											
Allerton	68	12	31	-7	2.37	0.06	8	1,049	205	29	26
Beaconsfield	67	12	31	-7	1.34	-0.89	7	1,046	193	27	26
Chariton	65	7	30	-8	2.15	-0.17	7	1,079	213	30	28
Indianola	64	8	30	-7	1.98	-0.21	8	1,065	203	27	26
Leon	66	13	32	-6	2.13	-0.17	8	1,017	178	29	25
South East District											
Bloomfield	62	8	31	-9	2.79	0.22	12	1,040	227	29	24
Burlington	60	4	33	-6	2.09	-0.76	11	968	196	24	18
Ottumwa	61	7	32	-7	2.00	-0.28	9	1,009	220	26	21
Washington	60	4	30	-10	2.79	0.45	11	1,084	255	28	28

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.