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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Issued February 4, 2014

For the month of January 2014

MESONET data corrected 2-10-14

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January saw temperatures mostly below normal. Average precipitation for the month was also below normal. With the small amount of precipitation in the month, there were rising concerns about drought conditions when spring comes. Soil erosion was a concern with strong winds throughout the month.

As January came to a close, moisture levels rated 18 percent very short, 39 percent short, 43 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Southwest Iowa was the driest in the state with 37 percent very short. The northeast reported the most moisture with 87 percent in adequate to surplus.

January had a number of very cold days that caused interruptions to grain transportation in some areas. Grain movement rated 40 percent none, 35 percent light, 21 percent moderate, and 4 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 15 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus with 48 percent of the supply in good condition. Livestock conditions have been reported as normal. Hog and pig losses in January were 9 percent light, 80 percent average, and 11 percent heavy. Some pork producers had heavy losses due to Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV). Cattle and calf losses were 15 percent light, 81 percent average, and 4 percent heavy.

## IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY January 2014

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

**General Summary.** Temperatures averaged 13.9 degrees or 5.5 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 0.43 inches or 0.49 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 35th coldest and 19th driest January among 142 years of records. A colder calendar month was last recorded in January 2010 and a drier one in November 2007.

**Temperatures.** A very persistent weather pattern prevailed through the month bringing the coldest air frequently to northeastern Iowa where temperatures averaged 6 to 10 degrees below normal. Meanwhile occasional brief periods of strong southwesterly winds allowed quick warm-ups across the far west where temperatures averaged only 2 to 4 degrees below normal. The statewide average daily temperature was twenty or more degrees below normal on the 2nd, 5th, 6th, 23rd, 27th and 28th. Each of these cold episodes was accompanied by strong winds, resulting in wind chills falling to -34 degrees or lower. Wind chills bottomed out at -51 degrees on the morning of the 6th at Mason

City and Oelwein. These were the lowest wind chills recorded in Iowa since January 2, 2010, when Estherville recorded a -53 degrees reading. Actual temperatures fell as low as -29 degrees at Elkader on the morning of the 28th. On the other extreme, temperatures climbed to daily record highs of 65 degrees at Little Sioux, Logan and Sioux City on the 19th. However, persistent snow cover over the northeast counties did not allow temperatures to climb above 38 degrees during the month at Dubuque and Oelwein.

**Heating Degree Days.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 19 percent greater than last January and 13 percent greater than normal. Degree day totals so far this heating season (since July 1) have averaged 15 percent greater than one year ago and 9 percent greater than normal. This has been the coldest start to the heating season in 17 years.

**Precipitation.** Precipitation was rather frequent during January, especially over northeast Iowa, but amounts were nearly always on the light side. Burlington reported the largest storm total with 5.0 inches of snow on the 4th-5th. Monthly snow totals varied from 1.0 inches at Glenwood (all of which fell on New Year's Day) to 18.1 inches at Elkader. There was little if any snow cover over much of the southwest one-half of the state during January while the northeast one-quarter of the state has endured continuous snow cover since December 8, with a snow depth of 10 to 20 inches being common at month's end.

**Severe Weather.** Despite the lack of heavy snow, high winds combined with relatively light snowfall to produce blizzard conditions over portions of central Iowa on the 16th and over northeast and east central areas on the 26th. Prolonged cold weather, combined with little, if any, snow cover has allowed soils under sod to freeze to depths of 20 to 27 inches across the state by month's end according to National Weather Service measurements. Iowa DOT sensors show the ground under pavement to be frozen from three to four and one-half feet below the surface. The deep frost has resulted in hundreds of water main breaks across the state. Unfortunately, the frost depth typically goes even deeper during February. Meanwhile the prolonged cold has resulted in a record spike in propane prices owing to a combination of high demand and low supply. Finally, January has been an exceptionally windy month. At Des Moines wind gusts exceeded 40 mph on eight days during the month. The average wind speed for the month was 13.5 mph. Owing to changes in wind measurement equipment and procedures over the years it is difficult to make 'apples to apples' historical comparisons but at Des Moines this was the highest calendar month wind speed average since March 1986.

### Hay/Roughage Availability as of February 2, 2014

Item	Short (Percent)	Adequate (Percent)	Surplus (Percent)
Hay/Roughage .....	15	80	5

### Hay/Roughage Quality as of February 2, 2014

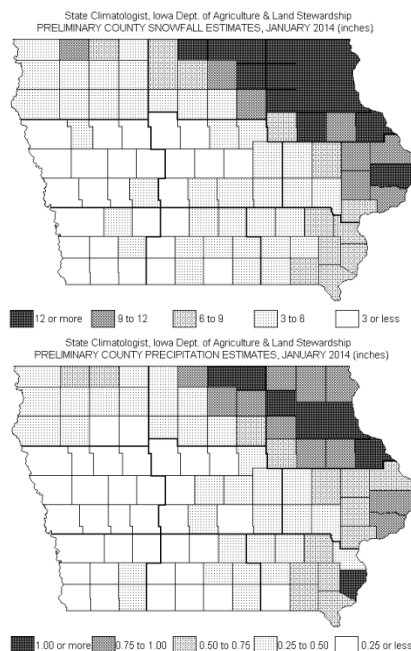
Item	Poor (Percent)	Fair (Percent)	Good (Percent)
Hay/Roughage .....	7	45	48

### Post-Harvest Conditions as of February 2, 2014

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement .....	40	35	21	4

### Snow Cover for the Month of January

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
Snow cover .....	(Inches) 4	(Inches) 5	(Inches) 11	(Inches) 1	(Inches) 3	(Inches) 5	(Inches) 1	(Inches) 1	(Inches) 2	(Inches) 4	(Inches) 3	(Inches) 0



**For the week ending: 7:00 am Sunday, February 3, 2014, Prepared by Iowa Environmental Mesonet.**

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 .....	48	-20	12	-2	0.05	-0.62	3	1598	15	30	30
Lemars .....	60	-13	17	0	0.85	0.25	13	1444	-44	30	29
Spencer .....	54	-17	14	-1	0.44	-0.13	9	1534	-23	30	30
Milford .....	51	-19	13	-1	0.61	0.03	10	1566	-9	30	30
<b>North Central District</b>											
Britt .....	49	-19	12	-3	0.95	0.08	12	1598	37	30	29
Humboldt .....	55	-16	14	-2	0.98	0.20	14	1534	20	30	29
Mason City .....	44	-21	9	-5	0.32	-0.44	7	1674	109	30	30
Osage .....	42	-21	9	-6	0.86	-0.07	10	1684	129	30	30
<b>North East District</b>											
Decorah .....	40	-22	9	-7	1.38	0.56	15	1672	154	30	30
Dubuque .....	38	-22	10	-10	0.73	-0.38	9	1665	247	30	30
Guttenberg .....	39	-21	10	-9	1.17	0.16	13	1652	213	30	30
Fayette .....	40	-20	9	-6	1.22	0.20	13	1674	138	30	30
<b>West Central District</b>											
Carroll .....	60	-15	16	-2	0.67	-0.12	13	1458	4	30	28
Castana .....	65	-14	18	-1	0.72	0.10	13	1396	-16	30	30
Guthrie Center .....	57	-13	18	-2	0.91	0.13	15	1422	-1	30	29
Harlan .....	62	-13	18	-1	0.62	-0.16	13	1396	-6	30	28
Jefferson .....	57	-15	16	-3	0.88	0.00	14	1469	55	30	29
Logan .....	66	-13	20	0	0.50	-0.29	14	1338	-51	30	29
Rockwell City .....	57	-16	15	-2	0.83	0.10	12	1494	22	30	29
Sac City .....	58	-15	16	-2	0.76	0.03	13	1485	-1	30	30
Sioux City .....	65	-15	18	0	0.19	-0.44	3	1398	-44	30	30
<b>Central District</b>											
Ames .....	50	-15	14	-5	0.10	-0.62	5	1519	90	30	29
Des Moines .....	53	-12	18	-3	0.39	-0.59	7	1406	31	30	29
Grundy Center .....	46	-17	12	-4	0.86	0.04	13	1575	64	30	29
Marshalltown .....	44	-17	13	-5	0.07	-0.84	4	1569	106	30	29
Newton .....	50	-14	17	-3	0.92	0.04	14	1448	48	30	29
Perry .....	55	-13	17	-1	0.91	0.11	14	1440	-4	30	29
Toledo .....	46	-16	14	-3	0.98	0.02	15	1517	51	30	29
<b>East Central District</b>											
Cedar Rapids .....	42	-17	12	-8	0.22	-0.92	7	1575	183	30	30
LeClaire .....	45	-16	14	-8	0.31	-0.92	7	1528	184	30	28
Iowa City .....	44	-15	14	-8	0.21	-0.89	6	1523	186	30	30
Tipton .....	43	-16	13	-6	1.09	-0.07	11	1551	120	30	30
Maquoketa .....	41	-18	12	-7	1.14	-0.14	12	1593	155	30	30
Muscatine .....	47	-14	17	-6	1.31	-0.05	15	1452	124	30	28
<b>South West District</b>											
Atlantic .....	59	-13	18	-2	0.52	-0.27	12	1410	4	30	29
Clarinda .....	59	-11	21	-1	0.78	-0.06	13	1315	-24	30	28
Glenwood .....	66	-11	22	0	0.56	-0.16	12	1296	-38	29	27
Red Oak .....	61	-11	19	-3	0.71	-0.10	14	1367	33	30	29
Sidney .....	62	-11	22	-2	0.69	-0.04	14	1299	11	29	27
<b>South Central District</b>											
Albie .....	51	-13	17	-5	1.20	0.08	15	1426	108	30	29
Mount Ayr .....	55	-13	20	-2	0.79	-0.02	15	1358	20	30	28
Chariton .....	50	-13	18	-4	0.96	0.05	13	1424	73	30	29
Indianola .....	52	-13	18	-4	0.98	0.02	14	1425	66	30	29
Lamoni .....	52	-14	19	-4	0.27	-0.63	4	1391	64	30	29
<b>South East District</b>											
Bloomfield .....	53	-12	18	-5	0.98	-0.19	16	1407	103	30	29
Burlington .....	56	-14	19	-4	0.34	-0.98	2	1394	90	29	28
Ottumwa .....	53	-13	17	-5	0.14	-0.91	4	1452	110	30	30
Washington .....	48	-15	16	-6	1.27	0.04	16	1468	133	30	30