



Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the month of March 2014
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March saw average temperatures below normal with occasional warm days. Precipitation for the month was below normal and fell in the form of both snow and rain. Frost depth was a concern with little moisture able to reach subsoil levels. Fertilizer and anhydrous application has started in the southern portions of the State, while farmers in northern Iowa hope to start fieldwork soon.

As March came to a close, moisture levels rated 15 percent very short, 41 percent short, 43 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Southwest Iowa was the driest in the state with 34 percent very short. The northeast reported the most soil moisture with 89 percent adequate to surplus.

Grain movement rated 28 percent none, 41 percent light, 26 percent moderate, and 5 percent heavy. March saw an increase in grain transportation in north and east Iowa.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 17 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus with 48 percent of the supply in good condition. Livestock conditions have been reported as mostly normal. Hog and pig losses in March were 4 percent light, 73 percent average, and 23 percent heavy. The higher than normal losses resulted from the spread of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV). Cattle and calf losses were 13 percent light, 82 percent average, and 5 percent heavy.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY March 2014

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

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 29.3 degrees or 6.6 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 0.83 inches or 1.32 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 22nd coldest and 11th driest March among 142 years of records. A colder March was recorded just last year while there has not been a drier March since 1994. Snowfall averaged 6.0 inches or 1.3 inches above normal to rank as the 52nd snowiest March among 127 years of records. As has been the case for most of the winter season eastern Iowa recorded the coldest/wettest weather while western Iowa was drier with more frequent reprieves from the cold.

Temperatures. The cold weather pattern that began in mid-October continued unabated through March as well. The first few days of the month were especially cold with temperatures averaging more than thirty degrees below normal on the 2nd and 3rd. Daytime high

temperatures were below zero in many areas on the 1st and 2nd. Elkader and Decorah reported the month's lowest temperatures with -24 degrees readings on the morning of the 3rd. Lower March temperature extremes have been recorded only three times (1948, 1960 and 1962) while the same -24 degrees reading was last seen during the month on March 12, 1998. However there were no additional subzero temperatures after the 6th. Wind chill readings dipped as low as -37 degrees at Mason City on the 2nd and -34 degrees at Marshalltown on the 3rd. Only one day during the month (10th) averaged more than ten degrees warmer than normal. There have now been a total of only seven days since mid-October with temperatures averaging ten or more degrees above normal while 63 days in the period have been more than ten degrees below normal. Nevertheless, there were some sure signs of spring during the month. Temperatures reached into the 70's somewhere in Iowa on five days during the month with the first occurrence of the year coming on the 9th when Little Sioux reached 74 degrees. The highest temperature was a 79 degrees reading on the 31st at Clarinda. Considerable frost remained in the ground at month's end across northern Iowa but soils finally thawed across most of southern Iowa over the last few days of March.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 2 percent less than last March but 22 percent more than normal. Degree day totals so far this heating season (since July 1, 2013) are running 14 percent greater than normal and last season's total. A colder heating season was last recorded 35 years ago.

Precipitation. It was a rather dry month across Iowa. Only Tripoli and Decorah managed to exceed the normal precipitation for the month while Sidney experienced their driest March of record (0.05 inches, old record 0.07 in 1956 among 72 years of data). Monthly totals varied from 0.04 inches at Randolph and Glenwood up to 2.19 inches at New Hampton. The bulk of the month's precipitation fell in two events at opposite ends of March. Snow fell statewide on the 1st-2nd with three to five inches common from Spencer southeast to Keokuk with a maximum amount of 8 inches reported at Zearing in Story County. The other event on the 27th brought rain statewide (with a dusting of snow in the far northwest) with greatest amounts across the northeast with Coggon (Linn County) reporting 1.22 inches.

Severe Weather. There were a handful of severe weather reports in south central Iowa on the afternoon of the 27th with a brief tornado reported near Chariton.

Hay/Roughage Availability as of March 30, 2014

Item	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	17	79	4

Hay/Roughage Quality as of March 30, 2014

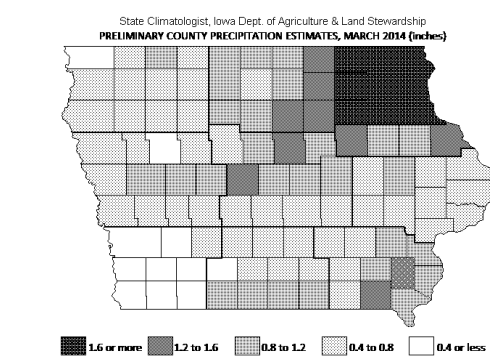
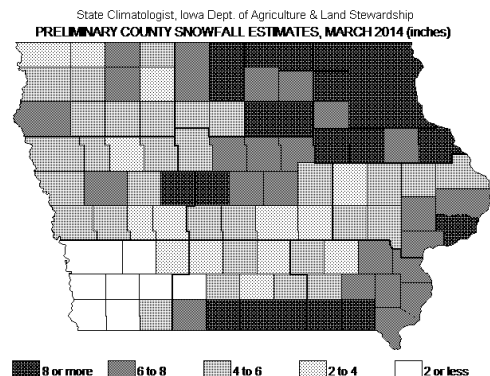
Item	Poor	Fair	Good
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	11	41	48

Post-Harvest Conditions as of March 30, 2014

Item	None	Light	Moderate	Heavy
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Grain movement	28	41	26	5

Snow Cover as of March 30, 2014

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)
Snow cover	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2



For the month of March 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				
North West District											
Rock Rapids	68	-13	28	-4	0.35	-1.26	4	1158	128	30	27
Sheldon	68	-17	27	-6	0.47	-1.38	6	1193	171	29	26
Sibley	67	-14	25	-5	0.42	-1.33	5	1230	168	30	29
Sioux Center	75	-18	32	-2	0.28	-1.45	3	1012	56	25	21
Spirit Lake	72	-15	28	-4	0.63	-1.07	7	1156	118	29	26
Storm Lake	68	-13	29	-3	0.31	-1.54	4	1120	95	28	26
North Central District											
Algona	66	-14	26	-7	0.70	-1.12	10	1222	206	29	27
Charles City	65	-19	27	-7	1.53	-0.52	10	1192	205	27	23
Dakota City	68	-14	27	-6	0.97	-1.03	7	1174	189	29	26
Hampton	68	-13	26	-6	1.74	-0.29	7	1196	187	29	26
Mason City	66	-15	24	-7	0.92	-1.00	8	1258	220	29	28
Osage	64	-14	24	-8	1.41	-0.66	10	1276	254	29	26
North East District											
Cresco	61	-22	23	-7	1.77	-0.32	7	1295	225	29	28
Decorah	61	-24	24	-9	1.93	0.01	8	1280	291	29	26
Dubuque	62	-15	24	-11	1.66	-0.44	8	1275	355	27	21
Fayette	62	-16	25	-8	1.68	-0.49	8	1246	234	29	25
Manchester	63	-17	26	-7	1.16	-0.97	9	1221	229	31	26
Tripoli	64	-17	23	-10	2.06	-0.07	9	1317	325	29	27
West Central District											
Audubon	72	-12	30	-6	0.59	-1.56	7	1092	182	30	27
Carroll	71	-12	29	-5	0.77	-1.34	7	1106	161	29	27
Jefferson	71	-13	29	-7	1.17	-0.89	5	1104	208	29	27
Logan	76	-13	32	-5	0.44	-1.53	6	1008	141	30	28
Mapleton	74	-16	29	-6	0.65	-1.32	6	1102	194	29	27
Rockwell City	71	-12	28	-6	0.62	-1.31	6	1132	182	29	26
Central District											
Boone	69	-18	29	-6	1.33	-0.97	8	1130	197	30	28
Grinnell	68	-14	29	-6	0.60	-1.79	5	1124	175	29	25
Grundy Center	68	-17	27	-6	1.34	-0.78	5	1179	190	29	26
Iowa Falls	67	-14	26	-7	1.37	-0.70	7	1200	226	29	27
Marshalltown	69	-18	28	-7	0.88	-1.42	6	1144	205	29	25
Webster City	68	-20	27	-7	1.16	-0.71	7	1182	224	29	27
East Central District											
Anamosa	63	-9	29	-6	0.59	-1.71	8	1128	199	28	24
Cedar Rapids	67	-13	33	-4	0.55	-1.69	6	1004	128	25	20
Clinton	68	-15	33	-5	0.48	-1.99	6	1003	151	23	17
Lowden	62	-17	28	-7	0.73	-1.75	7	1132	222	29	27
Maquoketa	62	-15	26	-9	0.46	-1.84	9	1194	264	29	26
Vinton	66	-16	21	-15	0.78	-1.35	5	1365	461	21	18
South West District											
Atlantic	74	-12	28	-8	0.33	-1.78	4	1134	248	29	26
Clarinda	75	-9	34	-4	0.21	-2.09	4	966	136	29	24
Glenwood	76	-8	34	-5	0.04	-1.97	0	962	142	29	27
Oakland	74	-8	32	-4	0.12	-1.91	3	1010	137	29	27
Red Oak	75	-5	34	-4	0.12	-2.07	2	954	136	29	27
Sidney	77	-6	35	-5	0.05	-2.06	1	938	152	30	27
South Central District											
Allerton	69	-9	30	-7	0.98	-1.30	7	1074	224	27	22
Beaconsfield	70	-8	32	-7	0.81	-1.70	7	1034	203	29	26
Centerville	71	-17	32	-7	1.16	-1.24	6	1026	214	27	25
Indianola	67	-10	29	-9	0.21	-1.95	3	1124	271	28	26
Lamoni	71	-8	33	-5	0.95	-1.55	7	992	160	28	22
Osceola	71	-10	31	-7	0.74	-1.52	6	1064	214	28	26
South East District											
Bloomfield	70	-10	32	-6	0.77	-1.61	6	1010	199	25	23
Donnellson	67	-9	32	-8	1.00	-1.68	7	1030	249	28	20
Fairfield	66	-10	30	-9	0.98	-1.47	7	1078	267	25	22
Keosauqua	63	-17	31	-9	1.25	-1.34	4	1052	280	28	23
Washington	67	-10	31	-7	0.69	-1.71	8	1056	227	28	23