



Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the month of January, 2015
Issued February 3, 2015

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January saw temperatures mostly above normal with little snow, which helped stretch hay supplies by allowing cattle to graze stalks longer than usual according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Some reporters commented that the lack of snow cover and strong winds created slight erosion problems. Average snow depth for Iowa was 3 inches, most of which came the last day of January.

As January came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 86 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. The Central and West Central portions of Iowa reported the highest moisture levels with 97 and 98 percent in adequate to surplus, respectively.

The State saw a slowdown in grain movement from December, with January grain movement rated 30 percent none, 42 percent light, 25 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy. In some areas grain movement was reported as light due to unfavorable spot prices.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 0 percent very short, 6 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Livestock conditions were reported as better than normal for the month of January, with some reports of calving.

Post-Harvest Conditions as of January 31, 2015

Item	None	Light	Moderate	Heavy
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grain movement....	30	42	25	3

Hay/Roughage Supplies as of January 31, 2015

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Hay/Roughage.....	0	6	81	13

Average Snow Depth for the Month of January

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 depth	5.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	4.0

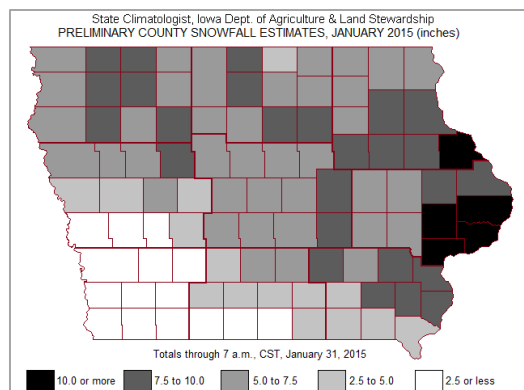
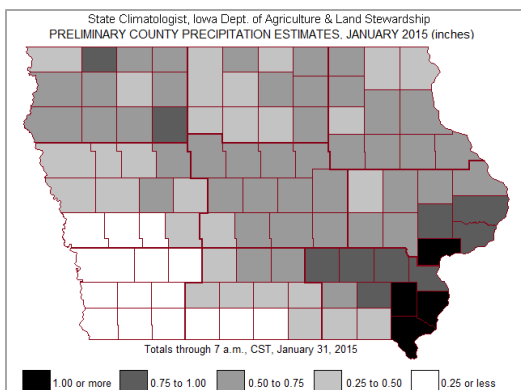
IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 21.3° or 1.9° above normal while precipitation totaled 0.56 inches or 0.36 inches below normal. This ranks as the 51st warmest and 33rd driest January among 143 years of records.

Temperatures. The month had a split personality for temperatures with most of the first two weeks of January averaging below normal while the month finished with 17 consecutive warmer than normal days. Wind chill readings dipped below -30° on the 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th with lowest readings of -35° at Clarion, Spencer and Storm Lake on the morning of the 6th and again at Clarion and Mason City on the morning of the 7th. Actual temperatures bottomed out at -25° at Cherokee on the morning of the 13th. Temperatures dipped below zero somewhere in the state every day from the 4th through the 14th. However, the lowest temperature for the remainder of the month was 6° above zero at Cresco on the 30th. Daytime highs reached into the sixties on the 16th (62° at Clarinda, Red Oak and Shenandoah) and 28th (67° at Shenandoah) over southwestern Iowa. The Shenandoah reading on the 28th was a record high for that date and location (old record 61° in 2013).

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 15% less than last January and 5% less than normal. Heating degree day totals so far this heating season are running 9% less than last year at this time, but 1% more than normal.

Precipitation. The relatively dry weather pattern that has prevailed in Iowa since mid-October persisted until January 31st when Iowa's heaviest snow storm in five years arrived. This late month storm began with rain on the morning of the 31st with the rain gradually changing to snow during the afternoon and evening hours. Snow fell statewide before ending during the afternoon and evening of February 1st. Storm totals varied from 2.2 inches near Spirit Lake to 16.0 inches at Le Claire. Greatest amounts fell along and just north of the Interstate 80 corridor from Des Moines to the Quad Cities. A statewide average of 8.3 inches of snow fell across Iowa, the highest storm total since December 23-27, 2009. However, the vast majority of Iowa's weather stations make their once-daily observations at 7 a.m., prior to the arrival of the storm on the 31st. Thus, most of the precipitation and snowfall from this storm will go into the record books for February. The month's greatest precipitation total was 1.53 inches at Burlington with Lowden reporting the most snow with 15.1 inches (both of these locations measure at midnight). However, for the month ending at 7 a.m. January 31, only 0.02 inches of precipitation fell at Hastings and Sidney while New Market recorded only 0.4 inches of snow for the same period. The largest precipitation event occurring entirely within January came on the 5th with widespread snowfall of four to six inches from northwest to east central Iowa. High winds combined with dry powdery snow to result in blizzard warnings being issued for parts of northern Iowa on the night of the 3rd and again on the 8th. The statewide average snowfall for the month was 6.3 inches. This is 1.4 inches below normal and ranks as the 53rd lowest January total among 128 years of record.



January 2015 Weather Summary for Iowa, 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	47	-17	19	4	0.38	-0.15	3	1432	-136	30	26
Sheldon	46	-20	18	3	0.83	0.14	6	1456	-101	30	27
Sibley	45	-15	18	4	0.86	0.24	5	1469	-125	31	29
Sioux Center	49	-17	22	5	0.45	-0.15	5	1331	-157	31	26
Spirit Lake	46	-14	19	4	0.74	0.16	7	1438	-136	30	26
Storm Lake	46	-10	20	4	0.76	0.13	3	1409	-126	30	24
North Central District											
Algona	47	-15	14	-1	0.93	0.24	6	1567	18	27	27
Charles City	45	-14	19	3	0.45	-0.41	6	1412	-110	31	29
Dakota City	48	-18	19	2	0.46	-0.32	5	1435	-79	30	27
Hampton	47	-14	19	4	0.50	-0.34	4	1416	-116	31	28
Mason City	45	-17	18	3	0.55	-0.21	6	1467	-97	31	28
Osage	43	-12	17	2	0.50	-0.43	5	1502	-53	30	30
North East District											
Cresco	42	-19	16	3	1.03	0.11	8	1510	-87	31	30
Decorah	43	-17	20	4	0.46	-0.36	5	1400	-117	31	28
Dubuque	42	-13	19	0	0.77	-0.34	7	1413	-5	30	27
Fayette	45	-14	18	2	0.49	-0.54	3	1470	-67	31	30
Manchester	45	-15	18	2	0.67	-0.31	8	1464	-51	31	29
Tripoli	36	-14	5	-11	0.44	-0.49	6	1860	326	10	10
West Central District											
Audubon	54	-14	22	3	0.23	-0.64	3	1341	-79	31	31
Carroll	51	-14	20	2	0.47	-0.32	1	1394	-59	29	25
Jefferson	52	-14	21	2	0.10	-0.78	2	1352	-62	30	26
Logan	56	-11	23	3	0.11	-0.68	2	1296	-93	31	30
Mapleton	52	-16	22	2	0.32	-0.30	3	1344	-69	31	30
Rockwell City	49	-12	21	3	0.16	-0.57	3	1366	-106	31	26
Central District											
Boone	53	-17	21	3	0.65	-0.38	3	1361	-101	31	29
Grinnell	47	-15	19	1	0.77	-0.33	5	1411	-40	30	28
Grundy Center	47	-14	20	4	0.34	-0.48	1	1399	-112	31	27
Iowa Falls	46	-13	18	2	0.68	-0.20	4	1448	-50	30	28
Marshalltown	47	-15	20	3	0.75	-0.16	4	1380	-83	31	29
Webster City	48	-16	19	2	0.84	0.11	3	1413	-72	31	28
East Central District											
Anamosa	48	-11	21	2	0.56	-0.59	8	1374	-72	31	29
Cedar Rapids	48	-11	23	3	0.56	-0.58	7	1306	-86	31	25
Clinton	47	-12	23	2	1.11	-0.36	10	1310	-55	31	25
Lowden	49	-14	20	1	0.84	-0.32	8	1386	-45	31	30
Maquoketa	46	-14	19	0	0.58	-0.70	7	1432	-6	31	30
Vinton	48	-14	19	1	0.45	-0.52	5	1412	-21	31	29
South West District											
Atlantic	59	-10	23	3	0.17	-0.61	2	1302	-103	30	28
Clarinda	66	-9	25	3	0.14	-0.70	2	1244	-95	31	30
Glenwood	60	-6	25	3	0.15	-0.57	2	1250	-83	31	29
Oakland	58	-7	25	4	0.09	-0.66	3	1250	-137	31	27
Red Oak	66	-8	25	3	0.08	-0.73	1	1250	-83	28	28
Sidney	65	-6	25	1	0.03	-0.70	1	1242	-46	30	29
South Central District											
Allerton	56	-9	23	1	0.20	-0.71	3	1308	-43	29	27
Beaconsfield	58	-9	23	0	0.11	-0.79	3	1314	-13	30	29
Centerville	56	-12	24	1	0.44	-0.59	5	1263	-43	31	29
Indianola	56	-15	22	1	0.55	-0.41	3	1336	-22	30	28
Lamoni	60	-7	25	3	0.10	-0.80	2	1231	-96	30	27
Osceola	60	-16	23	2	0.20	-0.69	4	1298	-54	30	27
South East District											
Bloomfield	53	-9	24	1	0.29	-0.88	6	1276	-29	31	28
Donnellson	52	-8	24	-0	1.02	-0.34	5	1274	6	30	29
Fairfield	51	-11	22	-0	0.88	-0.42	7	1318	4	31	26
Keosauqua	53	-13	22	-2	0.15	-1.27	2	1328	54	31	31
Washington	51	-13	22	-0	0.89	-0.34	8	1338	3	31	28