



Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the week ending May 3, 2015
Issued May 4, 2015

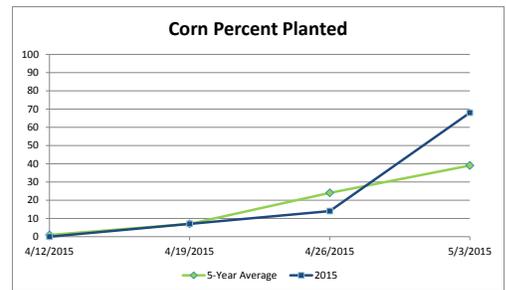
Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Dry weather allowed Iowa farmers to make excellent progress in spring planting during the week ending May 3, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Statewide there were 5.6 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Although the primary activity during the week was planting, other activities included fertilizer and herbicide application, as well as seedbed preparation.

Topsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 11 percent short, 84 percent adequate and 5 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** levels rated 2 percent very short, 13 percent short, 82 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. North central Iowa reported the highest topsoil moisture level with 99 percent rated adequate to surplus, while southwest Iowa recorded the highest subsoil moisture at 97 adequate to surplus.

Over one-half of Iowa's **corn** acreage was planted last week, the largest percentage planted during this week in over 20 years. Sixty-eight percent of the corn crop has been planted, 8 days ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Farmers in central Iowa led the way with 80 percent of their corn crop planted. Despite progress made in planting, corn emergence remains behind normal. **Soybean** planting reached 11 percent complete, 5 days ahead of 2014, and 4 days ahead of the average. Ninety-six percent of the **oat** crop has been planted, nearly 2 weeks ahead of last year, and 12 days ahead of normal. Oats emerged reached 63 percent, one week ahead of last year, and 4 days ahead of normal. Emergence continues to lag behind in north central and northeast Iowa, with only 55 and 50 percent of oats emerged, respectively.

Pasture condition improved to 64 percent good to excellent. Pastures are starting to come along with the warmer temperatures, though cool weather slowed growth throughout the beginning of the season. There were reports of cattle being turned onto pasture and spring calving nearing completion. Poultry producers are still concerned with the recent outbreak of avian influenza.



Crop conditions as of May 3, 2015

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture & Range ...	1	6	29	56	8

Field Work and Crop Progress as of May 3, 2015

Item	Districts										State	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
	(percent)													
Oats planted	100	100	95	97	98	97	99	94	97	96	85	72	84	
Oats emerged	76	55	50	83	78	70	84	60	70	63	41	36	55	
Corn planted.....	76	72	68	62	80	68	51	56	64	68	14	22	39	
Soybeans planted	13	13	18	8	17	9	2	9	11	11	0	1	5	

Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of May 3, 2015

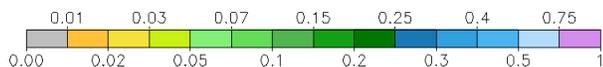
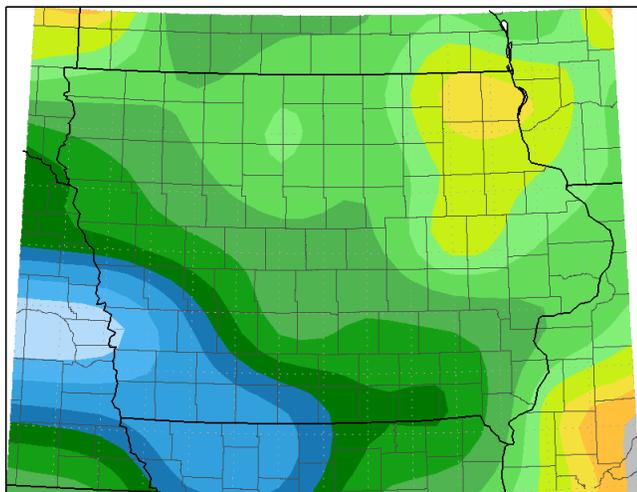
Item	Districts										State	Last Week	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	(days)												
Days suitable	5.4	6.0	6.1	5.4	6.1	5.7	4.6	5.0	5.5	5.6	2.7	1.2	
	(percent)												
Topsoil moisture													
Very short	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	
Short	26	1	14	4	11	13	2	11	19	11	10	12	
Adequate	69	94	83	88	84	83	82	77	74	84	80	72	
Surplus	3	5	3	7	5	3	16	12	5	5	10	14	
Subsoil moisture													
Very short	8	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	5	2	2	11	
Short	18	4	21	8	14	21	3	14	24	13	14	33	
Adequate	73	92	73	86	80	74	91	79	69	82	80	52	
Surplus	1	3	5	5	5	3	6	5	2	3	4	4	

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

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

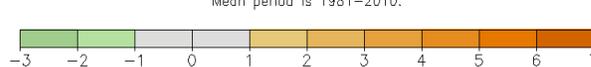
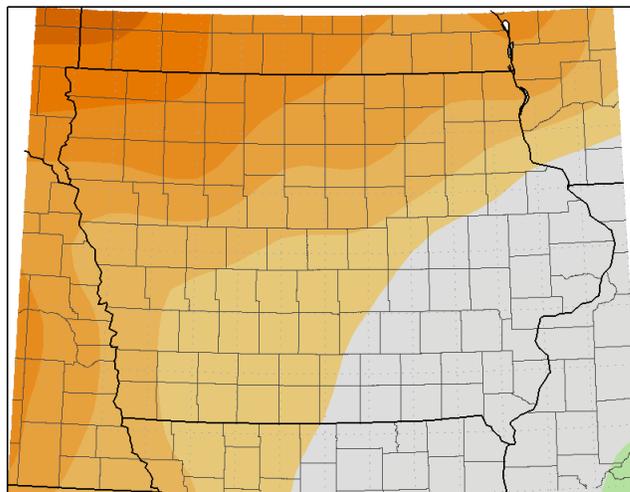
Temperatures were near seasonal norms with afternoon highs in the sixties and seventies through Saturday with much warmer weather arriving on Sunday (3rd) when highs were in the mid-seventies northeast to upper-eighties over the northwest portion of Iowa. Temperature extremes ranged from a Thursday (30th) morning low of 30 degrees at Elkader to a Sunday (3rd) afternoon high of 89 degrees at Little Sioux. Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged near normal over the southeast to about four degrees above normal over the northwest corner of Iowa with a statewide average of 2.3 degrees above normal. Meanwhile dry weather prevailed over most of Iowa from Monday (27th) through Thursday (30th). Light rain was scattered across the west one-half of the state on Friday (1st) with showers and thunderstorms over the south one-half of Iowa on Saturday (2nd). Showers and thunderstorms were more widespread on Sunday (3rd) evening and night, but came too late to be reflected in this week's report. Weekly rain totals varied from none over much of the northeast one-quarter of Iowa, and along the Minnesota border, to 0.91 inches near Hastings in Mills County of southwest Iowa. The statewide average precipitation was only 0.13 inches while normal for the week is 0.98 inches. The warmer weekend weather pushed soil temperatures at the four inch depth to the low- to mid-sixties as of Sunday (3rd).

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 27, 2015 to May 3, 2015



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 5/4/2015 9:33:57 AM CDT

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
April 27, 2015 to May 3, 2015



Mean period is 1981-2010.
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 5/4/2015 9:36:42 AM CDT

Access the Iowa State Climatologist's website at: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/climatology.asp>

Iowa Environmental Mesonet data, courtesy of Iowa State University of Science and technology, is available at: <https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/agweather/>

Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/>