Most all fieldwork activity was already complete when fieldwork activities were halted due to wet conditions as well as accumulating snow during the week ending November 22, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Statewide there were 2.9 days suitable for fieldwork, down nearly two full days from the previous week due to a winter storm system that moved through Iowa on Friday. Activities for the week included harvesting corn for grain, hauling manure, and minimal fertilizer application.

Topsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 4 percent short, 84 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels rated 2 percent very short, 9 percent short, 81 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus.

Ninety-eight percent of the corn crop for grain has been harvested. Some producers in south central Iowa have baled corn stocks as storms had knocked the corn down and they were unable to harvest the corn for grain.

Grain movement from farm to elevator was rated 36 percent moderate to heavy, down 7 percentage points from the previous week. Off-farm grain storage availability was rated 78 percent adequate to surplus. On-farm grain storage availability was rated 69 percent adequate to surplus.

Hay and roughage supplies were rated 97 percent adequate to surplus. Livestock conditions were described as normal, although lots are muddy due to a wetter than normal November.
IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

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

It was a very wet week across Iowa with unseasonably warm weather transitioning to winter weather. Rain fell statewide on Monday (16th), Tuesday (17th) and Wednesday (18th) while temperatures were ten to twenty degrees above normal. Thursday (19th) brought dry weather and seasonal temperatures. Iowa’s first major winter storm of the season moved into northwest Iowa Friday (20th) morning and exited eastern Iowa Saturday (21st) morning. Heavy snow fell across much of northern Iowa with the greatest snow totals occurring over the far northwest with 15 inches falling at Rock Rapids. Snowfall totals of 8 to 12 inches were common from Lyon, Sioux and Plymouth counties along the South Dakota border east-southeastward to Clayton and Dubuque counties. Far southwest Iowa saw mostly light rain with the late week storm. Overall a statewide average of 5.9 inches of snow fell. A greater November snow total last occurred in 1991. Much colder weather followed the passage of the winter storm with daytime highs in the teens in the far northwest on Saturday. Spencer recorded a Saturday morning low of minus 4 degrees while Stanley in northeast Iowa saw a minus 5 degree reading on Sunday morning. Weekly precipitation totals varied from 0.75 inches at Decorah to 4.02 inches at Rock Rapids. The statewide average precipitation amount was 1.79 inches or four times the weekly normal of 0.45 inches. This was the wettest week in 13 weeks (mid-August). The week’s highest temperatures were recorded at Burlington and Keokuk on Tuesday with 64 degree readings. Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged 2.1 degrees above normal with the early week warmth slightly cancelling out the late week cold.

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