



# Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the month of February, 2016  
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Iowa experienced above normal temperatures for the month of February, which resulted in virtually no snow cover throughout the State. There were numerous reports of drainage tile running, as well as standing water in low-lying areas according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. As February came to a close, average snow depth was 0 inches. Fieldwork activities for the month of February were limited to scattered manure and dry fertilizer applications.

February topsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. The south central portion of Iowa reported the highest moisture level with 45 percent rated surplus.

Grain movement rated 34 percent none, 39 percent light, 24 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy. Nearly three-quarters of the grain movement for the month of February was rated light to none, although grain movement increased overall from the previous month. North central Iowa recorded the least grain movement with 85 percent rated light to none for the month of February.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Cattle feeding was reported to be a challenge due to muddy conditions.

## Post-Harvest Conditions as of February 29, 2016

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement...	34	39	24	3

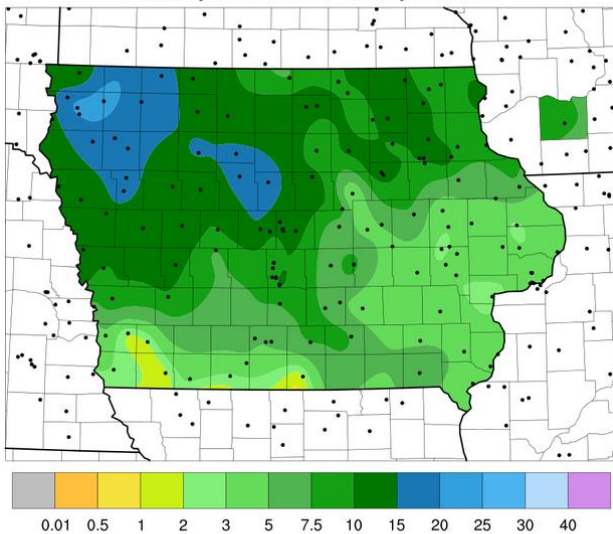
## Hay/Roughage Supplies as February 29, 2016

Item	Very Short (percent)	Short (percent)	Adequate (percent)	Surplus (percent)
Hay/Roughage ...	1	8	82	9

## Snow Depth as of February 29, 2016

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
Snow depth .....	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3

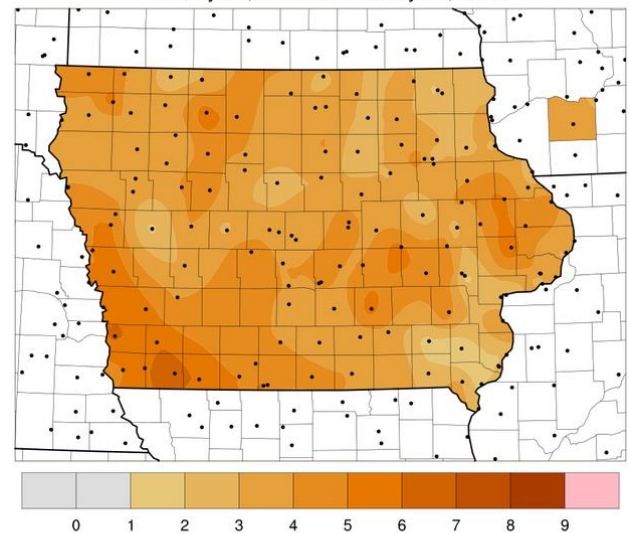
**Accumulated Snowfall (in)**  
February 01, 2016 to February 29, 2016



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI,

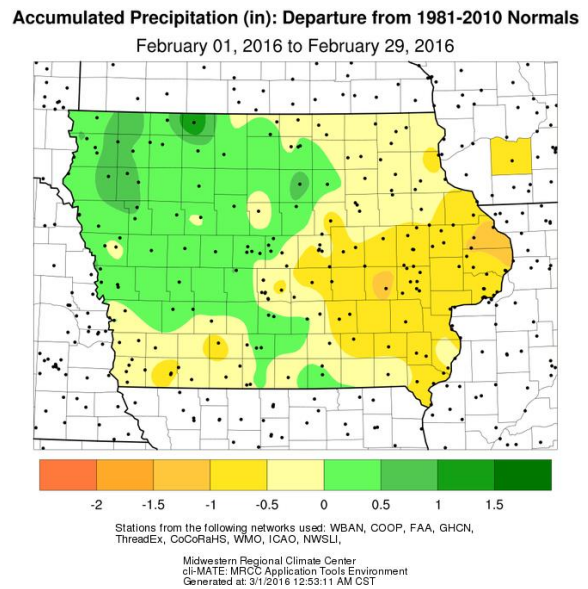
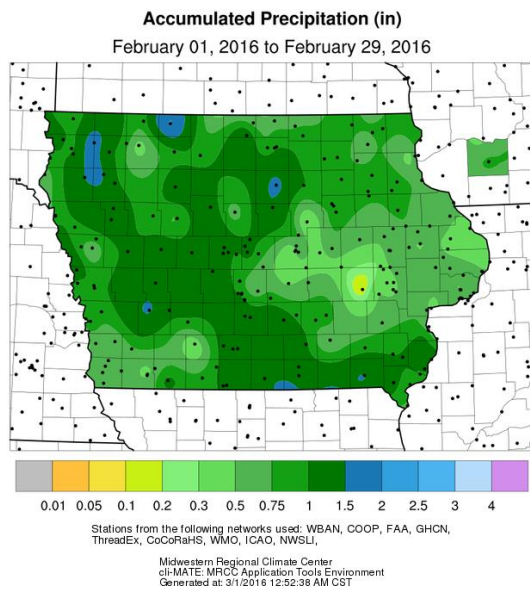
Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
Generated at: 3/1/2016 12:49:57 AM CST

**Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals**  
February 01, 2016 to February 29, 2016



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI,

Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
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**IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY**  
**Provided by Harry J. Hillaker, State Climatologist**  
**Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship**

**General Summary.** Iowa temperatures averaged 28.1° or 4.1° above normal while precipitation totaled 0.92 inches or 0.13 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 31<sup>st</sup> warmest and 65<sup>th</sup> driest February among 144 years of records. Snowfall averaged 9.0 inches or 2.2 inches above normal to rank as the 37<sup>th</sup> snowiest February among 129 years of records. This was the seventh consecutive snowier than normal February.

**Temperatures.** Bitter cold weather made a relatively brief appearance in Iowa during February with subzero temperatures reported on only the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures were above average every day from the 15<sup>th</sup> through the end of the month with only a handful of locations seeing readings dip below 20° during the second one-half of February. Cresco reported the month's lowest temperature with a -17° reading on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures reached 73° at Shenandoah and Sidney on the 18<sup>th</sup> while Sidney reached 75° on the 27<sup>th</sup>. These are the highest February temperatures recorded in Iowa since 1999 (76° at Glenwood on Feb. 10). In response to the milder late-month weather soils began to thaw across central and southern Iowa on the 19<sup>th</sup> and were completely frost-free over about the southern one-half of Iowa at month's end. The late-month warmth also melted most of the snow cover that had persisted over northern Iowa since December 28. Some flooding occurred in response to the snowmelt and ice jams that resulted from the break-up of river ice.

**Heating Degree Day Totals.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 25% less than last February and 8% less than normal. Season-to-date degree day totals are running 17% less than last season at this time and 14% less than normal. The warmer weather and lower energy prices should result in considerably smaller heating bills this winter compared to recent years.

**Precipitation.** Over one-half of the month's precipitation fell very early in the month with the major winter storm of the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Heavy snow fell across the northwest one-half of Iowa with greatest amounts reported of 14.0 inches at Washta, 13.6 inches at Akron and 13.5 inches at Sheldon. However, only a cold rain fell across extreme southeast Iowa with this storm. There were very frequent light snow and/or rain events between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The largest of these events came on the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> when 2 to 4 inches of snow fell over much of the northeast one-half of the state. However, winds gusts of 40 to 50 mph combined with light snowfall and deep snow cover left from the Groundhog Day storm system to create blizzard conditions over north central Iowa from the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> through the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Finally, winter weather made a return visit late on the 29<sup>th</sup> into March 1<sup>st</sup> with 2 to 5 inches of snow falling across the northern one-third of the state. Overall monthly precipitation totals were well below normal over east central and southeast Iowa and well above normal over the northwest. February precipitation totals varied from 0.35 inches at Gilman and Toledo to 1.92 inches at Sheldon. Monthly snowfall totals varied from only 1.3 inches at Clarinda to 23.4 inches at Sheldon. Snow totals have been well above normal in three of the past four months in northwest Iowa.

**Severe Weather.** Wind gusts in the 50 to 60 mph range were common statewide on the 19<sup>th</sup> with Iowa City Airport reporting the highest gust at 63 mph.

Winter Summary. Temperatures over the three mid-winter months averaged 26.8° or 4.7° above normal while precipitation totaled 6.57 inches or nearly double the seasonal normal of 3.34 inches. This ranks as the wettest and 17<sup>th</sup> warmest winter among 143 years of state records. The last warmer winter came four years ago (2011-2012), averaging 1.1° warmer than this one. Despite slightly below normal precipitation in January and February these two months brought enough precipitation when combined with December 2015's record total to easily surpass the 6.00 inch total of the 1914-15 winter for the wettest on record.

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

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