Dry conditions and warmer temperatures allowed Iowa farmers 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending November 22, 2020, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Fieldwork activities included harvesting corn for grain, baling corn stalks, applying fertilizer and manure, and hauling grain to elevators. Farmers in some areas of the State continue to clean up debris from the derecho that blew through in August.

**Topsoil moisture** condition rated 13% very short, 31% short, 56% adequate and 0% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 22% very short, 35% short, 43% adequate and 0% surplus.

Only 2% of Iowa’s corn for grain crop remains to be harvested, over 3 weeks ahead of last year and 11 days ahead of the 5-year average. In most areas of the State only scattered fields remain to be harvested. Some corn fields damaged by the derecho remain to be disked down. Extra tillage is being done by some farmers out of concern for volunteer corn in 2021 due to damaged corn this crop year.

No problems with livestock were reported. Livestock producers continue to allow cattle to graze on corn stalks. Some producers are providing supplemental feed for cattle on pastures.
In a shift from last week, unseasonably dry conditions were reported across Iowa with many locations observing no measurable precipitation. Coupled with the dryness, temperatures were well above average with positive departures of up to 10 degrees southwest of Iowa. The statewide average temperature was 40.4 degrees, 4.6 degrees above normal.

Strong westerly winds persisted through much of Sunday (15th) afternoon behind a strong low pressure center over the Great Lakes. Partially sunny conditions prevailed over much of Iowa, though cloud cover was present in the northeastern corner where a few snowflakes fell. Daytime highs varied from the low 50s southwest to upper 30s northeast. Overnight lows on Monday (16th) fell into the 20s as winds died down and shifted to a southerly direction; some upper teens were observed across southwestern Iowa. Mostly sunny conditions continued through the day as temperatures reached into the upper 50s in southern Iowa with mid to upper 40s across the state’s northern half. High pressure expanded through the region on Tuesday (17th) as southerly winds increased. Afternoon highs varied around the state with mid 50s reported in the southwestern corner while mid 30s were observed in north-central Iowa. Wednesday (18th) was a particularly windy day with sustained southerly winds in the 20 to 30 mph range; gusts into the mid 30s were also observed. Daytime highs, aided by a northward propagating warm front, reached into the upper 50s to mid 60s.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from no accumulation at a majority of reporting stations across Iowa to 0.22 inch at Keokuk Lock and Dam 19 (Lee County). The statewide weekly average precipitation was 0.01 inch, while the normal is 0.48 inch. Multiple stations in southern Iowa reported the week’s high temperature of 72 degrees on the 19th, on average 26 degrees above normal. Forest City 2 NNE (Winnebago County) reported the week’s low temperature of 13 degrees on the 21st, eight degrees below normal. Four-inch soil temperatures as of Sunday were generally in the low 40s.