Continued dry conditions allowed Iowa’s farmers 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending November 28, 2021, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities included harvesting corn for grain, baling corn stalks, applying fertilizer and anhydrous, and fall tillage. Grain was also being hauled to elevators. Some operators have put their machinery away for the winter.

Topsoil moisture levels rated 3 percent very short, 20 percent short, 74 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels rated 7 percent very short, 29 percent short, 62 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

Iowa’s corn for grain harvest is virtually complete, at 98 percent, 5 days ahead of the five-year average. Moisture content of field corn being harvested for grain was 16 percent. Only scattered fields remain to be harvested.

Livestock continued to do well with cattle out on corn stalks and reports of calves being weaned.

This is the final weekly Iowa Crop Progress and Condition of the season. The USDA’s National Agriculture Statistics Service would like to thank the many farmers and FSA, NRCS, Extension, and agribusiness personnel who provided the information for this report each week. The new season of Iowa Crop Progress and Condition is scheduled to begin April 4, 2022.
A rollercoaster of temperatures was reported across Iowa during the final reporting period with generally warmer temperatures west to near-normal conditions east; the statewide average temperature was 33.9 degrees, 2.0 degrees above normal. Though several weather systems passed through Iowa, unseasonably dry conditions persisted with most stations reporting no precipitation.

Clouds cleared in eastern Iowa on Sunday (21st) afternoon as blustery northwesterly winds held daytime highs in the low 30s north to mid 40s south. Scattered clouds pushed into southwestern Iowa as winds died down Monday (22nd) morning with temperatures dropping down to the middle teens over northern Iowa and mid 20s in southern Iowa. Winds gradually shifted to a southerly direction behind a dome of high pressure with afternoon temperatures hanging in the upper 30s and low 40s; conditions were slightly warmer in southwestern Iowa as a weak warm front lifted north into western Minnesota. Southerly return flow persisted overnight helping to cap temperatures in the upper 20s and low 30s prior to sunrise on Tuesday (23rd). Under sunny skies and with a secondary warm front propagating south to north through Iowa, afternoon highs rose into the mid to upper 60s in Iowa’s western third as upper 40s were recorded in eastern Iowa; the statewide average high was 56 degrees, 13 degrees above normal. Winds increased into the evening hours as a low pressure system over the Dakotas moved east with overnight lows remaining in the upper 30s and low 40s in eastern Iowa; colder temperatures were observed in the northwest as a cold front began moving across the state through Wednesday (24th). Winds shifted almost 180 degrees as the surface boundary swept over Iowa, ushering in a colder airmass. Highs ranged from the mid 30s northwest to upper 50s southeast as mostly cloudy skies developed.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from no accumulation at most of Iowa’s stations to 0.07 inch at Bellevue Lock and Dam (Jackson County). The statewide weekly average precipitation was 0.01 inch while the normal is 0.41 inch.