



Iowa Ag News – Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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Media Contact: Greg Thessen

The southern third of Iowa finally received some much-needed rain, which reduced the **days suitable for fieldwork** to 5.1 during the week ending July 2, 2023, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities included cutting hay and spraying crops. Some reports were received of farmers getting equipment ready to start the oat harvest soon.

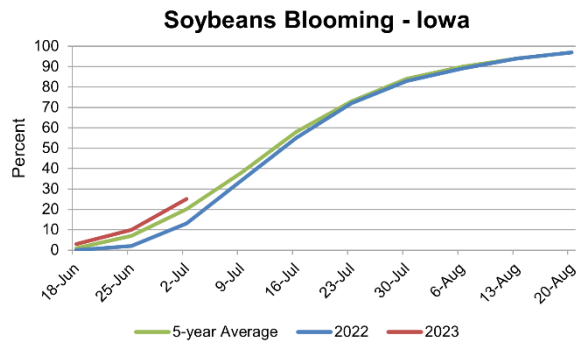
Topsoil moisture condition rated 17 percent very short, 38 percent short, 44 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 21 percent very short, 40 percent short, 38 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

Reports of **corn** starting to silk were received, hitting 4 percent this week. Corn condition rating improved to 61 percent good to excellent. Twenty-five percent of **soybeans** were blooming, 5 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of the 5-year average. There were reports of soybeans starting to set pods. Soybean condition rose to 53 percent good to excellent. Forty-three percent **oats** were turning color, 1 week ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of normal. Oat condition increased to 50 percent good to excellent.

The State's second cutting of **alfalfa hay** reached 35 percent complete, 8 days ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of the average. **Hay condition** improved slightly to 33 percent good to excellent. **Pasture condition** rated 24 percent good to excellent. Livestock producers continued to supplement with hay as pasture conditions remained comparable to the previous week.

Crop Condition as of July 2, 2023

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn	2	7	30	53	8
Hay, all	6	18	43	29	4
Oats	2	8	40	45	5
Pasture and range .	10	21	45	21	3
Soybeans	4	8	35	47	6



Crop Progress as of July 2, 2023

Item	Districts									State			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Hay, alfalfa, 2nd cutting	37	31	43	27	51	47	43	21	24	35	18	21	21
Oats coloring	33	37	32	28	50	56	55	54	60	43	25	21	26
Soybeans blooming	24	14	6	31	32	31	29	20	27	25	10	11	20

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of July 2, 2023

Item	Districts									State		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)
Days suitable	5.2	5.1	5.9	5.7	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.3	3.7	5.1	6.0	6.0
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	7	9	11	29	12	20	42	8	23	17	22	7
Short	44	33	41	38	39	51	36	27	25	38	45	27
Adequate	49	58	47	30	48	29	22	63	48	44	32	63
Surplus	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	3
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	10	11	9	33	21	27	48	12	23	21	24	7
Short	50	37	45	34	39	47	32	30	36	40	44	25
Adequate	40	51	43	31	39	26	20	57	35	38	31	66
Surplus	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	6	1	1	2

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

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IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY
Provided by Justin Glisan, Ph.D., State Climatologist
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Reports from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on June 26, 2023, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on July 2, 2023.

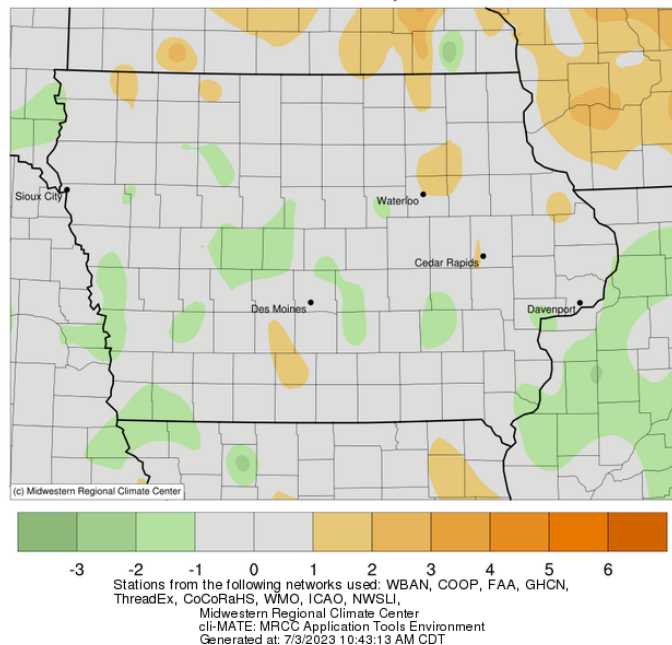
A large-scale atmospheric circulation shift brought several rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms over southern Iowa late in the reporting period. This configuration, called a “Ring of Fire,” allowed waves of storms to propagate along the northern boundary of a thermal ridge situated south of Iowa. The southern one-third of the state reported above-average rainfall with drier conditions north. Weekly temperatures were near-seasonal with a statewide average of 72.5 degrees, 0.5 degrees below normal.

Scattered showers spun across eastern Iowa on the backside of a departing low pressure center through Sunday (25th) afternoon. Gusty northwesterly winds also developed as daytime temperatures held in the 70s. Rainfall totals were generally in the 0.10 to 0.20 inch-range with several northeastern stations reporting higher totals; gauges in Dundee (Delaware County) and near Decorah (Winnesiek County) measured 0.42 and 0.45-inch amounts, respectively. Overnight conditions remained mostly cloudy over northern Iowa as temperatures dropped into the 60s. Clouds lingered over most of the state on Monday (26th) though sunny skies in southwestern Iowa pushed high temperatures into the mid-80s at several stations. Light, variable winds developed on Tuesday (27th) morning with lows in the 50s and patchy fog at many reporting sites. Thick Canadian wildfire smoke moved into eastern Iowa later in the day, creating low visibility and degraded air quality. High temperatures were generally in the low to mid 80s with slightly cooler conditions northwest. Scattered showers developed through the evening hours in western Iowa as a second wave formed after midnight on Wednesday (28th). A wider shield of rain spread from north-central into eastern Iowa after sunset before dissipating. Additional thundershowers popped up in southern Iowa over the late afternoon hours as smoky skies helped to hold temperatures in the lower 80s while northwestern stations registered upper 80s under clear skies. Totals were generally under 0.20 inches with isolated swaths near 0.50 inches in central Iowa.

Thursday (29th) was active as morning severe storms in southwest Iowa consolidated into a squall line through southeastern Iowa. Severe straight-line winds were widespread with pockets of mature tree damage and flattened crops from Bedford (Taylor County) to Fort Madison (Lee County). The line was later determined to meet the threshold of a derecho, given the path length and width as it moved through Illinois and Indiana. Another wave of thunderstorms formed along the same line on Friday (30th) morning, though with less intense activity and rainfall spreading farther north. Forty stations received above an inch from the two events, 15 of which measured more than 2.00 inches; Adair (Adair County) observed 2.00 inches while 3.26 inches fell at Lamoni Municipal Airport (Decatur County). Most stations across the southern three tiers of counties received at least 0.50 inches as totals approached 0.20-0.30 inches through central Iowa with a statewide average of 0.60 inches. Afternoon conditions returned to calm over Iowa with partly sunny skies and temperatures in the upper 70s and low 80s. Rain showers formed overnight into Saturday (1st) north of a low-pressure center pushing across Missouri. More thundershowers spread into northeastern Iowa and re-fired across the southwest through the day with moderate rainfall in south-central and southeastern Iowa. Another 16 stations measured at least an inch with more than half of the locations hitting at least 0.40 inches; Donnellson (Lee County) poured out 3.43 inches. Sunday (2nd) morning lows ranged from the upper 50s and low 60s in western Iowa to high 60s in eastern Iowa, where showers lingered.

Weekly rain totals ranged from no accumulation at several northwest stations to 6.20 inches at Donnellson. The statewide weekly average precipitation was 1.15 inches, while the normal is 1.10 inches. Osceola (Clarke County) reported the week’s high temperature of 94 degrees on the 29th, nine degrees above normal. Battle Creek (Ida County) and Guthrie Center (Guthrie County) reported the week’s low temperature of 50 degrees on the 27th, on average 11 degrees below normal.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals
 June 26, 2023 to July 02, 2023



Accumulated Precipitation (in)
 June 26, 2023 to July 02, 2023

