



# Iowa Ag News – Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

September 25, 2023 - For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

A large swath of Iowa received rainfall this week reducing the **days suitable for fieldwork** to 5.3 during the week ending September 24, 2023, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities for the week were mainly harvesting corn and soybeans.

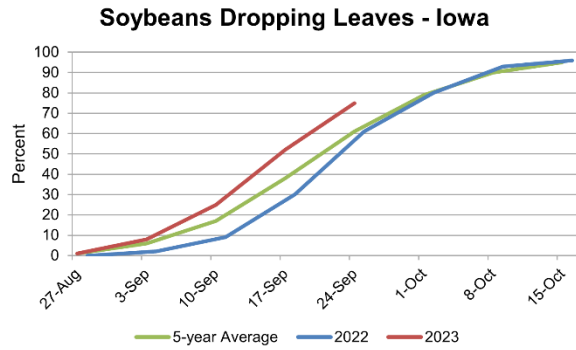
**Topsoil moisture** condition rated 27 percent very short, 46 percent short, 26 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 35 percent very short, 44 percent short, 20 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

**Corn** maturity reached 83 percent this week, 9 days ahead of last year and 12 days ahead of the 5-year average. Corn harvested for grain reached 9 percent statewide, 6 days ahead last year and 4 days ahead of the average. Moisture content of field corn being harvested for grain was at 21 percent. Corn condition improved slightly to 50 percent good to excellent. **Soybeans** coloring or beyond reached 95 percent, roughly 1 week ahead of both last year and the average. Soybeans dropping leaves was 75 percent this week, 6 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of normal. Soybeans harvested reached 11 percent, 3 days ahead of last year and 1 day ahead of normal. Soybean condition remained steady at 47 percent good to excellent.

**Pasture condition** rated 17 percent good to excellent. Livestock conditions have not changed much from last week, with concerns of hay being in short supply for next year.

## Crop Condition as of September 24, 2023

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn .....	4	10	36	44	6
Pasture and range ..	19	26	38	15	2
Soybeans .....	4	10	39	41	6



## Crop Progress as of September 24, 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)
Corn mature .....	87	79	83	91	85	87	78	61	75	83	63	60	60
Corn harvested for grain .....	10	9	10	10	9	8	10	7	11	9	5	5	5
Soybeans coloring .....	97	98	96	97	95	96	91	84	88	95	86	88	87
Soybeans dropping leaves ...	82	81	71	89	74	85	62	46	60	75	52	57	61
Soybeans harvested .....	14	12	7	16	12	4	11	8	2	11	3	6	10

## Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of September 24, 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	5.6	5.7	4.8	5.4	5.1	5.6	4.9	5.9	5.3	6.1	5.5
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short .....	23	21	36	21	33	38	19	3	40	27	34	14
Short .....	33	61	47	48	44	47	39	59	44	46	45	29
Adequate .....	43	18	16	28	22	15	40	35	16	26	20	56
Surplus .....	1	0	1	3	1	0	2	3	0	1	1	1
Subsoil moisture												
Very short .....	26	34	41	36	40	58	18	8	45	35	37	20
Short .....	37	54	44	42	36	39	48	59	40	44	43	30
Adequate .....	36	12	14	20	24	3	32	29	15	20	19	49
Surplus .....	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	4	0	1	1	1

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications](http://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 September 18, 2023, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on September 24, 2023.*

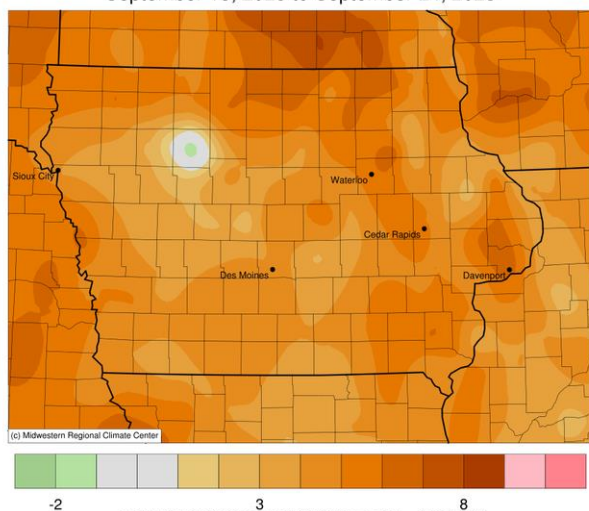
In a much-welcome shift, Iowa stations reported beneficial rainfall over the reporting period with swaths of two-to-three-inch above-normal totals from southwest to northeast; southeast stations reported deficits above 0.50 inches. Temperatures were also unseasonably warm statewide with the weekly average coming in at 66.4 degrees, 7.2 degrees above normal.

The daylight hours of Sunday (17<sup>th</sup>) were pleasant with light winds as highs held in the low to mid 70s under partly cloudy skies. Clearing allowed overnight lows on Monday (18<sup>th</sup>) to dip into the low to mid 40s at many Iowa stations, though low 50s were observed at some locations in the south. Gusty southerly winds built in through the day with temperatures in the upper 70s and low 80s. Showers and thunderstorms began to form across northwestern Iowa as a stationary front shifted into the state after sunset. A more widespread shield of rain formed in central to eastern Iowa as more concentrated storms continued in west-central Iowa into Tuesday (19<sup>th</sup>). Stagnant thunderstorms with vivid lightning continued to redevelop over a broad swath of central Iowa into the evening hours with lighter showers farther east. High temperatures stayed in the low 60s where rain was present while upper 60s to mid-70s were found over northern Iowa. Additional slow-moving storms developed along the Iowa-Nebraska border into Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup>) morning before falling apart a few hours before sunrise. More than 50 stations reported at least an inch of rain through the event with the highest totals on either side of I-35; Jefferson (Greene County) measured 2.04 inches while 3.40 inches was reported in Bondurant (Polk County). Stations around the periphery reported widespread totals in the 0.30 to 0.50-inch range with a statewide average of 0.43 inches. Isolated showers formed behind the disturbance in the southwest and over a wider swath of eastern Iowa. Afternoon temperatures remained in the upper 70s and low 80s. Rain amounts were generally below 0.20 inches though stations in Fayette (Fayette County) and Atlantic (Cass County) collected 0.50 and 0.65 inches, respectively.

Winds shifted to the east overnight as fog formed at many stations into Thursday (21<sup>st</sup>) morning. Temperatures dropped into the low 50s across central and northern Iowa. Daytime conditions were partly to mostly cloudy over Iowa's eastern two-thirds as another complex of thunderstorms moved along the Iowa-South Dakota border later in the day; Sioux City Airport (Woodbury County) collected 1.92 inches. Rain showers pushed through southern Iowa into Friday (22<sup>nd</sup>) morning with a more organized line of thunderstorms draped across northern Iowa. Stronger storms fired across northeastern Iowa into the evening hours, spinning up a weak tornado near Blairstown (Benton County). Heavy rain fell over the Exceptional Drought (D4) region, causing isolated flash flooding and beneficial rain totals; Decorah (Winneshiiek County) reported 3.44 inches while two stations in Chickasaw County observed 3.80 and 5.08 inches. A handful of stations in north-central Iowa also collected more than 200% of normal weekly rainfall. A strong cold front pushed through Iowa on Saturday (23<sup>rd</sup>), producing multiple severe-warned storms and a strong bowing line across northern Iowa over the late afternoon and early evening hours. An additional narrow line moved into southern Iowa through midnight, though it did not have ample energy to stay together. Rain totals reported at 7:00 am on Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>) showed a wide swath of Iowa's northwestern half receiving at least 0.50 inches with the highest totals from 1.01 inches in Rockwell City (Calhoun County) to 1.72 inches in Webster City (Hamilton County).

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from 0.02 inches in Burlington (Des Moines County) to 5.40 inches in Ionia (Chickasaw County) The statewide weekly average precipitation was 1.09 inches while the normal is 0.86 inches. Lamoni (Decatur County) reported the week's high temperature of 89 degrees on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 12 degrees above normal. Elkader (Clinton County) reported the week's low temperature of 37 degrees on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 degrees below normal.

**Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals**  
September 18, 2023 to September 24, 2023



**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**

September 18, 2023 to September 24, 2023

