



Iowa Field Office · 210 Walnut Street Ste 833 · Des Moines IA 50309 · (515) 776-3400 · (800) 772-0825  
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov/ia

Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

October 23, 2023 - For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Dry and warmer than normal temperatures in Iowa this week resulted in **5.7 days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending October 22, 2023, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn and soybean harvest continued to be the primary field activities for the week, although there were reports of fertilizer application and fall tillage.

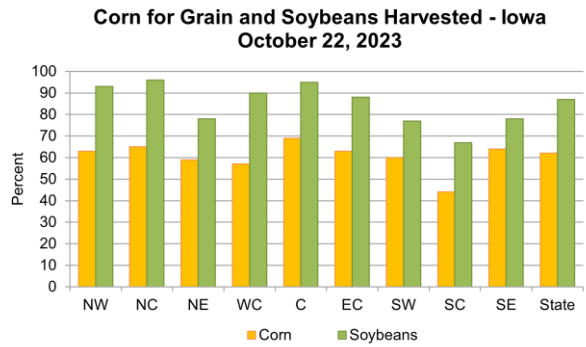
**Topsoil moisture** condition rated 16 percent very short, 38 percent short, 44 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 28 percent very short, 43 percent short, 28 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

**Corn** harvested for grain reached 62 percent statewide, 2 days ahead of last year and 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Moisture content of field corn being harvested for grain remained steady at 17 percent. **Soybeans** harvested reached 87 percent, 1 day ahead of last year and 10 days ahead of the average.

**Pasture condition** improved slightly to 19 percent good to excellent. Livestock conditions have been reported as generally good, while getting water to pastured cattle continued to be an issue.

**Crop Condition as of October 22, 2023**

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range	15	32	34	17	2



**Crop Progress as of October 22, 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 harvested for grain	63	65	59	57	69	63	60	44	64	62	42	56	47
Soybeans harvested	93	96	78	90	95	88	77	67	78	87	74	86	71

**Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of October 22, 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	5.1	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.1	5.7	4.2	6.7
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	10	13	8	24	15	9	19	11	42	16	19	28
Short	22	59	30	46	37	26	30	57	46	38	38	43
Adequate	65	28	58	30	46	64	49	28	12	44	40	29
Surplus	3	0	4	0	2	1	2	4	0	2	3	0
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	12	24	11	47	36	30	23	13	60	28	31	28
Short	48	50	42	39	32	52	41	54	29	43	43	44
Adequate	40	26	44	14	32	18	34	29	11	28	24	28
Surplus	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	2	0

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications).

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**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 October 16, 2023, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on October 22, 2023.*

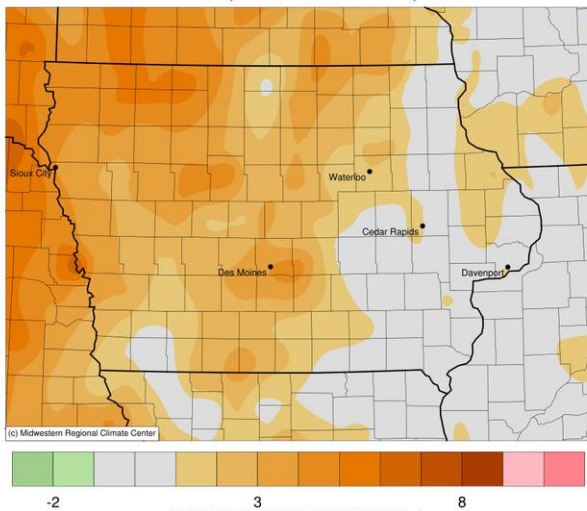
Temperatures through the reporting period were unseasonably warm across much of Iowa with positive departures up to four degrees in the northwest; the statewide average temperature was 52.0 degrees, 2.2 degrees above normal. Rainfall was also sparse with widespread deficits in the 0.40 to 0.60-inch range along with numerous stations reporting no measurable totals.

Clouds cleared in northeastern Iowa through Sunday (15<sup>th</sup>) afternoon as overcast conditions and spotty light showers remained in southern Iowa. Brisk northwesterly winds held daytime temperatures in the low to mid 50s. The remaining cloud cover over the state quickly dissipated, leading to starry skies into Monday (16<sup>th</sup>) with morning lows in the upper 30s and low 40s. High temperatures varied from the upper 50s north to mid-60s south under sunny skies with northwesterly winds persisting. Calm to light and variable winds developed overnight with patchy fog across northeastern Iowa and morning lows on Tuesday (17<sup>th</sup>) in the 30s. Afternoon conditions were clear with southwesterly winds and high temperatures in the upper 60s and low 70s. Winds began shifting to the west as a low-pressure center propagated through Minnesota into Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup>) with morning lows holding in the 30s east to low 50s west. Light showers formed along the attendant cold front as it swept through the state in the late afternoon with temperatures holding in the upper 50s and low 60s. Additional showers formed in northwestern Iowa and then reformed over southeastern Iowa before dissipating near sunrise on Thursday (19<sup>th</sup>). Rainfall totals were widespread, though generally less than 0.20 inches; the highest amounts were found in north-central and southeastern Iowa with 0.32 inches in Swea City (Kossuth County), 0.34 inches in Wapello (Louisa County) and 0.40 inches at Keokuk Lock and Dam (Lee County).

Clouds gradually cleared in western Iowa later in the day with highs climbing into the upper 60s, while mid to upper 50s persisted under overcast skies. Light westerly winds persisted into Friday (20<sup>th</sup>) with morning lows in the upper 30s to mid-40s with patchy fog observed in central Iowa. Mostly sunny skies greeted Iowa through the day with highs varying from the mid-60s east to upper 70s west, where winds were out of the south; the statewide average high was 71 degrees, 10 degrees above normal. A weak and fast-moving cold front dropped southeast through Iowa into Saturday (21<sup>st</sup>), shifting winds to the northwest. Wind speeds increased as the sun rose with skies remaining clear and temperatures rising into the upper 50s and low 60s. Morning lows on Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup>) ranged from the mid-30s northwest to mid-40s southeast under clear skies and light winds.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from no accumulation at stations across Iowa to 0.41 inches in Oskaloosa (Mahaska County). The statewide weekly average precipitation was 0.10 inches while the normal is 0.58 inches. Little Sioux (Harrison County) reported the week's high temperature of 80 degrees on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 19 degrees above normal. Elkader (Clayton County) and Stanley (Buchanan County) reported the week's low temperature of 28 degrees on the 18<sup>th</sup>, on average eight degrees below normal.

**Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals**  
October 16, 2023 to October 22, 2023



**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
October 16, 2023 to October 22, 2023

