United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Iowa Ag News – Crop Progress & Condition

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

April 15, 2024 - For Immediate Release *Media Contact: Greg Thessen*

Dry conditions and warmer than normal temperatures helped Iowa farmers as **days suitable for fieldwork** increased to 4.9 for the week ending April 14, 2024, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Fieldwork included tillage, spraying, applying fertilizer and seeding oats. Some corn and soybeans were also planted.

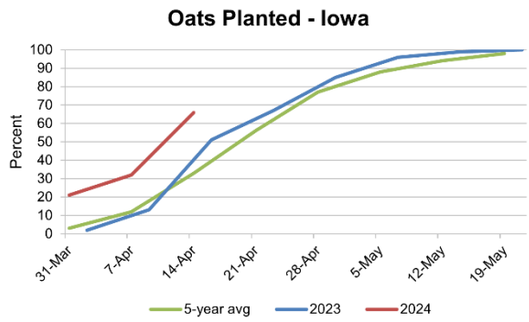
Topsoil moisture condition rated 15 percent very short, 37 percent short, 46 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 24 percent very short, 39 percent short, 36 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

Four percent of the expected **corn** acreage has been planted. **Oats** seeding reached 66 percent complete, 9 days ahead of last year and 10 days ahead of the 5-year average. Twenty percent of the expected oat acreage has emerged, almost 2 weeks ahead of last year and the average.

There were still no reports of cattle being turned out into pastures.

Crop Condition as of April 14, 2024

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range .	9	16	46	24	5



Crop Progress as of April 14, 2024

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)
Oats planted	88	82	52	58	63	84	59	52	56	66	32	40	33
Oats emerged	38	23	13	9	20	38	5	15	11	20	4	3	3

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of April 14, 2024

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	4.6	4.5	3.3	6.1	5.4	4.6	5.8	5.2	4.0	4.9	2.8	5.2
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	4	7	26	18	18	21	20	6	12	15	14	7
Short	35	44	31	47	40	14	45	34	34	37	35	23
Adequate	56	48	41	35	40	65	34	56	51	46	47	66
Surplus	5	1	2	0	2	0	1	4	3	2	4	4
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	21	27	32	28	27	17	26	6	20	24	26	9
Short	23	51	39	49	46	19	54	36	26	39	38	28
Adequate	52	21	28	23	27	63	19	56	52	36	34	60
Surplus	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	2	3

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

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

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

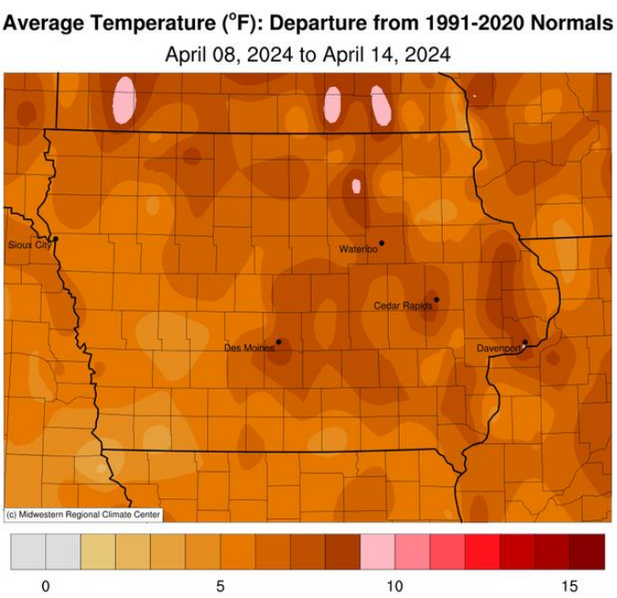
Reports from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time April 8, 2024, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on April 14, 2024.

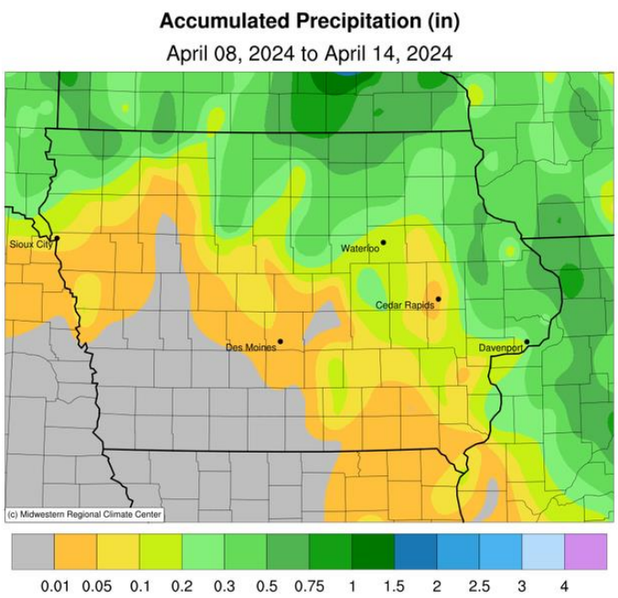
Iowans experienced unseasonably warm conditions through the reporting period with positive departures nearing 10 degrees in northern Iowa; the statewide average temperature was 53.9 degrees, 7.8 degrees above normal. While measurable rainfall was reported across most of Iowa, most stations had deficits in the 0.25 to 0.50-inch range.

A low pressure center propagating across Nebraska pushed several waves of showers and thunderstorms into Iowa through Sunday (7th) afternoon. With enough atmospheric spin and instability, a weak tornado formed in Blairsburg (Hamilton County) causing some barn damage; the thunderstorm also produced one-inch hail in Wright County. The system exited Iowa overnight into Monday (8th) as winds shifted to the west and clouds began to clear. Widespread rainfall was observed across most of Iowa with the highest totals at northwestern and north-central stations; Lake Mills (Winnebago County) registered 0.50 inches while Milford (Dickinson County) collected 0.78 inches. Many of the state's remaining stations had totals under 0.20 inches. Vivid blue skies dimmed as the Moon blotted out over 80% of the Sun at 1:58 pm CDT during the last total solar eclipse for the United States until 2044. Surface air temperatures cooled noticeably from the lack of incoming solar radiation but rebounded into the low 50s north to upper 60s south. Light showers reformed in northern Iowa over the evening hours with a handful of stations observing less than the 0.05-inch reading at Burt (Kossuth County). Overnight lows early on Tuesday (9th) dipped into the 30s under mostly clear skies. Afternoon temperatures held in the low to mid 60s under persistent westerly winds. A gradual shift to southerly winds into Wednesday (10th) helped boost morning lows into the mid 40s over southern Iowa as partly cloudy conditions developed through the day. Afternoon conditions were pleasant under light, variable winds and temperatures in the low 70s.

Spotty showers associated with a low pressure center developed overnight over Iowa's eastern two-thirds and continued through much of Thursday (11th). Gusty northwesterly winds built in through the afternoon hours with temperatures ranging from the upper 40s under rain clouds to low 60s where skies were clear. Event totals were under 0.50 inches with most stations reporting less than a tenth of an inch; eastern Iowa stations received the most moisture varying from 0.42 inches at Davenport (Scott County) to 0.47 inches at Monticello (Jones County). Starry skies returned on Friday (12th) with cloudless conditions persisting through the daylight hours. Even with gusty northwesterly winds, temperatures pushed into the mid to upper 60s statewide. A shift to southerly flow on Saturday (13th) along with ample sunshine allowed temperatures to rise into the 80s across much of Iowa; the average high was 82 degrees, 22 degrees above normal. Clear skies continued through Sunday (14th) morning with temperatures ranging from the mid 40s northwest to the low 60s southeast as high pressure dominated the Midwest.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from no accumulation for many stations to 0.86 inches in Sibley (Osceola County). The statewide weekly average precipitation was 0.18 inches, while the normal is 0.81 inches. Spencer Municipal Airport (Clay County) reported the week's high temperature of 89 degrees on the 13th, 31 degrees above average. Elkader (Clayton County) and Stanley (Buchanan County) reported the week's low temperature of 28 degrees on the 13th, on average five degrees below normal. Four-inch soil temperatures ranged from the low 50s north to low 60s south as of Sunday.





Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at https:/mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/