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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the week ending September 18, 2011

Parts of Iowa received a hard freeze this week with frost reported over most of the State. Corn harvest is advancing with many farmers concentrating on getting wind- and hail-damaged corn out first. Soybean harvest is at least a week away for most farmers although scattered fields have already been harvested.

There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork statewide during the past week. Southwest Iowa was the only area with less than 5.0 days suitable at just 4.7 days suitable. Topsoil moisture levels rated 13 percent very short, 32 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture rated 12 percent very short, 36 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

Nearly all the corn crop has advanced to at least the dent stage. Sixty percent of the corn crop is now mature, nearly 1 week behind last year but 4 days ahead of normal. Corn harvest for grain or seed is underway. Corn moisture content for the State stands at 29 percent, with the corn currently being harvested running 24 percent moisture content. Corn lodging is heavier than last year at this time thanks to several widespread wind events during August. Ear droppage is also a larger problem than last year, but only 6 percent of the crop is experiencing moderate to heavy ear droppage. Corn condition stands at 6 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Just over three-quarters of the soybean crop has turned color, trailing last year's 87 percent and the five-year average 84 percent. One-quarter of Iowa's soybean fields are dropping leaves, remaining one week behind last year and normal. Soybean condition stands at 4 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 48 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Third cutting alfalfa hay harvest advanced to 94 percent complete, slightly behind last year's 95 percent but ahead of the normal 90 percent. The condition of the hay crop is reported at 7 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

Pasture and range condition rated 9 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Livestock conditions have been near optimal with only a few insect issues reported.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

The past reporting week began with warm weather on Monday (12th) with high temperatures mostly in the 80's with a few 90's. Keosauqua, Little Sioux, Mason City and Shenandoah all reached 91 degrees. Much cooler weather prevailed for the rest of the week with highs mostly in the 70's on Tuesday, 60's on Wednesday and down to the 50's by Friday before rebounding slightly over the weekend. A freeze covered much of northern Iowa on Thursday (15th) morning and scattered locations across the south. The freeze was not quite as widespread as one on the same date in 2007 (52 percent of the state at or below 32 degrees on 9/15/2007 versus 41 percent on 9/15/2011). However, a few places were much colder in 2011 with Mason City Airport reporting a low of 26 degrees, Iowa's lowest reading for so early in the season since 1955. At Cedar Rapids and Jefferson this week's freeze tied with 2007 as the earliest on record. Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged 6.7 degrees below normal. Meanwhile, three weather systems brought light rain to the state this week. The first on Wednesday morning dampened much of the southern one-third of Iowa. The second brought rain to most of the state on Friday night into Saturday. The final event on Saturday night into Sunday brought the most rain with parts of southwest, central and northeast Iowa recording between one-half and two-thirds of an inch. Weekly precipitation totals varied from none at Sibley to 1.13 inches at Jewell in Hamilton County. The statewide average precipitation was 0.40 inch or one-half of the weekly normal of 0.80 inch.

Crop Conditions as of September 18, 2011

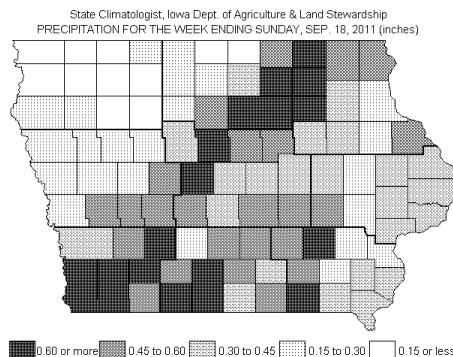
Item	Very Poor (Percent)	Poor (Percent)	Fair (Percent)	Good (Percent)	Excellent (Percent)
Corn	6	10	29	45	10
Soybeans	4	8	26	48	14
Hay, all	7	16	34	36	7
Range & Pasture	9	21	33	32	5

Harvesting Conditions as of September 18, 2011

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Corn lodging	61	21	14	4
Corn ear droppage	73	21	5	1

Field Work and Crop Progress as of September 18, 2011

Item	Districts									State (Percent)	Last Week (Percent)	Last Year (Percent)	5-yr Avg (Percent)
	NW (Percent)	NC (Percent)	NE (Percent)	WC (Percent)	C (Percent)	EC (Percent)	SW (Percent)	SC (Percent)	SE (Percent)				
Corn in or past dent stage	99	98	94	97	99	96	96	89	93	97	93	99	92
Corn mature (safe from frost)	57	65	51	53	69	66	63	40	67	60	33	76	49
Soybean leaves turning color	84	75	75	74	87	74	67	58	72	76	46	87	84
Soybeans dropping leaves	24	24	26	26	30	26	20	15	27	25	8	53	49
Hay, alfalfa - third crop harvested	98	94	99	99	99	99	99	81	90	94	90	95	90



Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of September 18, 2011

Item	Districts									State (Days)	Last Week (Days)	Last Year (Days)
	NW (Days)	NC (Days)	NE (Days)	WC (Days)	C (Days)	EC (Days)	SW (Days)	SC (Days)	SE (Days)			
Days suitable	5.7	6.1	6.3	5.6	5.6	5.8	4.7	5.3	6.3	5.7	6.5	4.9
Topsoil moisture	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Very short	21	19	13	4	8	5	0	14	35	13	12	0
Short	36	39	28	29	42	26	4	38	45	32	33	4
Adequate	43	41	57	62	42	69	89	37	20	51	53	79
Surplus	0	1	2	5	8	0	7	11	0	4	2	17
Subsoil moisture	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Very short	13	18	13	4	21	5	1	11	25	12	11	0
Short	41	36	30	31	44	31	9	47	49	36	34	4
Adequate	46	45	55	63	33	64	83	42	26	51	54	78
Surplus	0	1	2	2	2	0	7	0	0	1	1	18

Weather Summary For National Agricultural Statistics Service, Iowa Field Office.
For the week ending: 7:00 am Sunday, September 18, 2011, Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATION	CURRENT WEEK						SINCE APRIL 1		CURRENT WEEK	
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN
North West District										
Estherville	87	30	57	-3	0.11	-0.69	18.69	-0.76	56	-19
Sioux Center	88	31	57	-6	0.10	-0.60	16.69	-2.33	54	-44
Spencer	88	31	58	-4	0.08	-0.69	21.46	1.14	59	-23
Spirit Lake	87	38	55	-4	0.09	-0.68	23.13	3.83	39	-44
North Central District										
Britt	88	33	55	-8	0.00	-0.85	19.29	-1.85	49	-26
Dakota City	88	31	57	-6	0.07	-0.77	19.12	-2.63	53	-35
Mason City	91	27	59	-3	0.00	-0.91	15.14	-7.25	68	-11
Osage	87	33	56	-7	0.00	-0.98	22.14	-0.83	51	-24
North East District										
Decorah	86	32	58	-5	0.27	-0.66	19.50	-2.50	62	-27
Dubuque	83	36	57	-5	0.05	-1.08	30.76	6.94	59	-25
Elkader	84	32	54	-8	0.04	-0.81	21.43	-0.36	45	-39
Fayette	85	33	56	-6	0.03	-0.86	26.45	3.59	53	-17
Waterloo	87	31	58	-5	0.02	-0.82	19.07	-3.41	64	-26
West Central District										
Carroll	88	33	57	-7	0.14	-0.70	18.78	-4.12	56	-38
Castana	87	34	56	-8	0.11	-0.73	21.44	1.04	54	-53
Guthrie Center	88	31	56	-8	0.52	-0.38	24.14	1.53	53	-45
Harlan	88	34	56	-8	0.13	-1.02	27.30	5.23	52	-39
Jefferson	87	32	56	-7	0.36	-0.48	17.87	-5.03	53	-45
Logan	89	34	57	-9	0.19	-0.71	26.47	5.35	55	-47
Rockwell City	86	33	56	-9	0.17	-0.74	18.13	-3.85	51	-40
Sac City	86	32	56	-7	0.15	-0.76	17.21	-4.38	51	-33
Sioux City	89	32	59	-5	0.16	-0.54	19.74	1.98	67	-26
Central District										
Boone	87	36	57	-8	0.64	-0.20	22.58	-0.55	53	-47
Des Moines	90	41	62	-4	0.22	-0.62	26.83	5.13	83	-24
Grundy Center	87	33	56	-6	0.05	-0.73	23.32	1.12	54	-32
Marshalltown	87	31	59	-5	0.02	-0.85	19.75	-3.54	64	-25
Newton	88	36	58	-7	0.17	-0.81	20.00	-2.19	59	-46
Perry	88	32	57	-7	0.62	-0.17	25.36	3.39	56	-35
Toledo	86	33	56	-7	0.00	-0.87	15.65	-7.86	52	-32
East Central District										
Cedar Rapids	86	32	58	-6	0.11	-0.83	18.69	-3.36	65	-33
Davenport	86	36	59	-6	0.06	-0.72	19.96	-1.59	70	-48
Iowa City	88	37	61	-6	0.12	-0.79	21.71	-2.33	76	-43
Lowden	87	31	56	-8	0.05	-0.98	22.02	-2.36	52	-36
Maquoketa	85	35	57	-6	0.06	-0.94	23.00	0.70	54	-30
Muscatine	88	38	59	-7	0.15	-0.76	21.21	-1.31	67	-46
South West District										
Atlantic	88	32	56	-7	0.24	-0.77	22.12	1.18	54	-44
Clarinda	88	31	58	-7	0.45	-0.60	30.77	5.97	59	-39
Glenwood	90	37	58	-8	0.50	-0.41	29.73	7.24	59	-54
Red Oak	88	36	58	-8	0.42	-0.63	26.72	2.23	62	-43
Sidney	90	39	59	-8	0.36	-0.60	18.55	-4.61	63	-51
South Central District										
Allerton	87	38	59	-6	0.22	-0.90	24.96	1.55	62	-41
Beaconsfield	85	38	57	-7	0.41	-0.64	25.30	2.66	56	-48
Chariton	86	30	57	-8	0.38	-0.84	27.53	3.59	58	-38
Indianola	88	33	57	-7	0.39	-0.52	31.41	8.99	57	-38
Leon	85	38	58	-7	0.65	-0.35	26.05	2.52	57	-36
South East District										
Bloomfield	87	37	61	-6	0.65	-0.46	29.68	5.90	76	-29
Burlington	89	40	63	-4	0.11	-0.87	22.82	0.84	89	-30
Ottumwa	88	36	60	-6	0.26	-0.79	22.24	0.21	74	-38
Washington	88	33	58	-10	0.14	-0.84	22.40	0.92	60	-47

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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