



# Crops & Weather

National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Iowa Field Office

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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Issued May 2, 2011 Vol 11-9

For the week ending May 1, 2011

## WARMER AND DRIER

Continued cool, wet weather through the middle of the week kept farmers out of the fields and planters in machine sheds. The weather took a slightly warmer and drier turn near the end of the week and allowed producers to resume fieldwork and planting activities. By the end of the week, corn planting was just getting started for most producers while a few farmers were nearly done.

Comments received were:

- I had to scrape frost off my windshield this morning (May 2, 2011)!
- The key thought for this week is STAY OUT OF THE WAY as farmers hit the fields hard to get spring work and planting done.
- Expect LARGE increases in planting progress next week. Just about everyone with a planter was out on Sunday and with the next 3 days projected to be nice weather . . . look out.
- Last year I finished planting on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This year I don't have the planter hooked up!

There were 1.7 days suitable for fieldwork statewide during the past week. The Southwest and West Central districts had 3.0 and 3.1 days suitable, respectively. Topsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 32 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus.

Eight percent of Iowa's corn acreage has been planted compared with 82 percent at this time last year and the five-year average of 48 percent. Normally, 8 percent of Iowa's corn crop is in the ground by mid-April. Southwest Iowa producers lead the way with 21 percent of their corn acreage planted. The only other district with over 10 percent planted is West Central with 14 percent of the corn acreage planted. Oat acreage planted was 83 percent complete, behind last year's 98 percent but

marginally ahead of the average of 82 percent. Forty-four percent of the oat acreage has emerged, well behind last year's 77 percent but only one percentage point behind the five-year average.

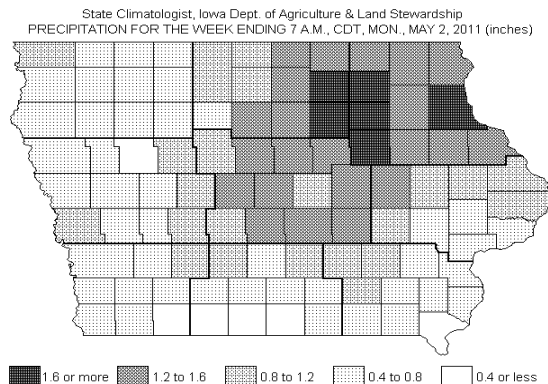
Pasture and range condition rated 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Livestock operators are fighting mud everywhere they turn—many feedlots and gravel roads are difficult to navigate.

## IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

The past reporting week began with statewide rainfall on Monday (25<sup>th</sup>) and Tuesday (26<sup>th</sup>) with rainfall amounts of over an inch common across much of central and northeast Iowa. Rain also fell over most of Iowa from Friday (29<sup>th</sup>) evening into Saturday (30<sup>th</sup>) morning but only a small portion of northwest and north central Iowa received more than one-tenth of an inch. Light rain also fell over eastern Iowa on Wednesday (27<sup>th</sup>) morning while rain, sometimes mixed with snow, fell across the northeast one-quarter of the state on Thursday (28<sup>th</sup>) morning. Precipitation totals for the week varied from 0.25 inch at Lamoni to 1.97 inches at Charles City. The statewide average precipitation was 0.91 inches or just slightly above the weekly normal of 0.86 inches. Meanwhile daily temperatures averaged below normal on every day except Saturday (30<sup>th</sup>) with weekly temperatures averaging 4 to 6 degrees below normal over the northeast to 1 to 3 degrees cooler than usual over the southwest. Temperatures for the state as a whole averaged 3.7 degrees below normal. Temperature extremes varied from Friday (29<sup>th</sup>) afternoon highs of 77 degrees at Glenwood, Little Sioux, Shenandoah and Sioux City to Monday (2<sup>nd</sup>) morning lows of 23 degrees at Sibley and Spencer. These May 2<sup>nd</sup> readings are the lowest recorded in Iowa for so late in the season since May 3, 2005. A freeze was recorded over much of northeastern Iowa on Friday morning and again over most of northern Iowa on Monday morning. Soil temperatures as of Sunday (1<sup>st</sup>) were averaging near fifty degrees statewide.

## Crop Conditions as of May 1, 2011

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Range & Pasture	2	7	38	44	9



## Field Work and Crop Progress as of May 1, 2011

Item	Districts										State	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Corn planted .....	6	2	3	14	9	5	21	5	8	8	3	82	48	
Oats planted .....	57	52	78	98	96	93	90	85	83	83	72	98	82	
Oats emerged .....	20	12	35	55	55	57	39	48	59	44	25	77	45	

## Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of May 1, 2011

Item	Districts										State	Last Week	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)	(Days)
Days suitable .....	1.5	0.8	0.9	3.1	1.5	1.7	3.0	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.5	3.3	
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	
Topsoil moisture													
Very short .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Short .....	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	
Adequate .....	80	64	54	83	60	70	73	51	59	67	62	78	
Surplus .....	20	34	46	15	40	30	26	49	41	32	38	20	
Subsoil moisture													
Very short .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Short .....	1	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	
Adequate .....	80	75	71	82	60	71	84	61	73	73	71	79	
Surplus .....	19	23	28	17	40	28	14	39	26	26	28	20	

**Weather Summary For National Agricultural Statistics Service, Iowa Field Office. For the week ending: 8:00 am Sunday, May 1, 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 .....	64	30	49	-3	0.33	-0.37	1.04	-1.87	9	-18
Sioux Center .....	69	31	50	-5	0.56	-0.07	2.83	0.28	13	-33
Spencer .....	66	30	49	-5	0.24	-0.46	1.21	-1.60	9	-23
Spirit Lake .....	62	31	48	-4	0.44	-0.19	1.88	-0.67	5	-27
North Central District										
Britt .....	64	33	45	-9	1.14	0.37	4.54	1.41	2	-27
Humboldt .....	67	32	47	-8	1.03	0.26	3.99	0.84	4	-34
Mason City .....	64	30	47	-6	1.26	0.48	3.63	0.55	11	-20
Osage .....	63	33	45	-8	1.57	0.73	4.49	1.09	2	-27
North East District										
Decorah .....	63	27	47	-7	1.46	0.62	4.04	0.51	11	-23
Dubuque .....	68	29	48	-5	1.16	0.25	5.08	1.23	16	-16
Elkader .....	67	26	44	-9	1.99	1.15	4.41	1.08	2	-30
Fayette .....	64	28	44	-9	1.27	0.41	3.42	-0.01	1	-24
Waterloo .....	70	25	48	-6	1.82	0.98	3.97	0.55	20	-15
West Central District										
Carroll .....	72	31	48	-6	0.71	-0.13	2.59	-0.83	11	-24
Castana .....	73	35	50	-7	0.79	0.05	3.37	0.51	13	-35
Guthrie Center .....	73	34	50	-5	0.90	0.06	4.25	0.85	14	-25
Harlan .....	75	31	50	-6	0.49	-0.34	3.16	-0.06	18	-18
Jefferson .....	72	34	49	-5	0.98	0.14	3.36	-0.06	12	-25
Logan .....	76	33	51	-6	0.79	-0.02	3.62	0.58	20	-23
Rockwell City .....	70	33	49	-7	0.89	0.13	3.26	0.34	8	-26
Sac City .....	71	31	48	-6	0.37	-0.38	2.84	-0.14	8	-23
Sioux City .....	77	32	51	-5	0.46	-0.19	4.43	1.99	22	-21
Central District										
Boone .....	68	36	49	-6	1.62	0.77	4.56	1.10	8	-30
Des Moines .....	73	40	54	-3	1.45	0.66	4.98	1.51	33	-13
Grundy Center .....	72	28	47	-6	1.43	0.59	4.17	0.85	6	-23
Marshalltown .....	71	30	50	-4	1.09	0.29	3.27	-0.05	20	-15
Newton .....	72	33	49	-6	1.03	0.19	3.27	-0.10	8	-36
Perry .....	73	33	50	-4	0.94	0.11	3.83	0.57	15	-21
Toledo .....	70	29	47	-7	1.12	0.26	3.57	0.19	6	-25
East Central District										
Cedar Rapids .....	70	29	49	-6	0.80	0.03	3.68	0.38	16	-24
Davenport .....	73	32	51	-5	0.52	-0.26	3.28	-0.08	26	-21
Iowa City .....	73	30	52	-6	0.59	-0.32	3.08	-0.74	25	-28
Lowden .....	70	29	47	-7	0.93	0.02	4.60	0.72	4	-31
Maquoketa .....	70	31	48	-6	1.05	0.28	4.04	0.72	6	-25
Muscatine .....	72	33	50	-7	0.51	-0.33	4.12	0.50	12	-39
South West District										
Atlantic .....	70	28	49	-6	0.60	-0.17	2.90	-0.22	8	-33
Clarinda .....	75	31	52	-4	0.36	-0.54	4.68	1.16	23	-17
Glenwood .....	77	30	51	-6	0.64	-0.21	4.51	1.43	22	-25
Red Oak .....	75	33	52	-6	0.62	-0.29	4.14	0.53	25	-19
Sidney .....	76	36	52	-5	0.43	-0.41	3.29	0.01	24	-25
South Central District										
Allerton .....	72	38	51	-5	0.27	-0.57	4.50	1.05	14	-27
Beaconsfield .....	70	36	51	-5	0.44	-0.40	4.94	1.53	16	-22
Chariton .....	71	31	50	-5	0.53	-0.35	3.21	-0.45	8	-28
Indianola .....	74	32	51	-5	0.71	-0.20	3.91	0.20	19	-19
Leon .....	73	33	51	-4	0.28	-0.63	4.39	0.73	18	-20
South East District										
Bloomfield .....	72	39	52	-6	0.72	-0.18	4.45	0.81	18	-26
Burlington .....	72	32	53	-4	0.61	-0.23	3.78	0.17	32	-22
Ottumwa .....	73	34	52	-5	0.79	-0.05	3.48	0.07	24	-27
Washington .....	74	29	49	-8	0.57	-0.26	3.03	-0.31	9	-39

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2011: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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Name  
Address  
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