



Iowa Crops & Weather

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the month of February 2014
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February saw average temperatures below normal with lows more than 20 degrees below zero. Precipitation for the month was above normal and fell often in the form of snow. Soil erosion continued to be a concern with strong winds throughout the month.

As February came to a close, moisture levels rated 14 percent very short, 39 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. West Central Iowa was the driest in the state with 85 percent in very short to short. The northeast reported the most soil moisture with 91 percent in adequate to surplus.

Grain movement rated 37 percent none, 38 percent light, 22 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy. February had a number of very cold days and a few snowstorms and ice that caused interruptions to grain transportation in some areas.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 17 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus with 42 percent of the supply in good condition. Livestock conditions have been reported as mostly normal. Hog and pig losses in February were 5 percent light, 80 percent average, and 15 percent heavy. The higher than normal losses resulted from the spread of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV). Cattle and calf losses were 9 percent light, 85 percent average, and 6 percent heavy. A few respondents have started calving.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY February 2014

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

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 12.6 degrees or 11.4 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 1.54 inches or 0.49 inches above normal. This ranks as the 7th coldest and 28th wettest February among 142 years of records. A colder February was last recorded in 1979 and a colder calendar month in December 2000.

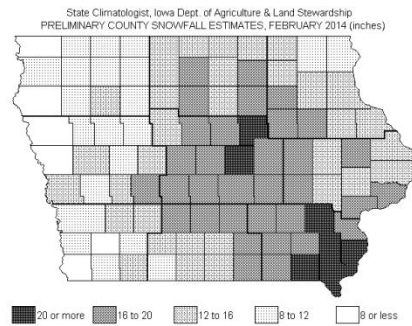
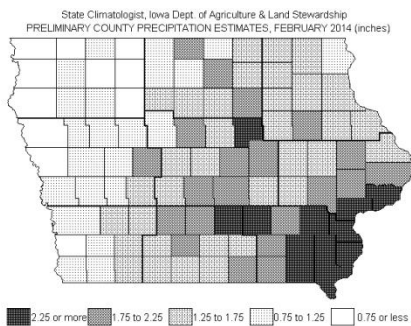
Temperatures. The cold weather pattern that began in Iowa in mid-October continued through February. Temperatures averaged below normal on all but five days (13th and 17th-20th) of the month. There were no days averaging as much as ten degrees above normal but were 18 days more than ten degrees colder than usual. Elkader reported the lowest temperature of the month with a -29 degrees reading on the 11th. However, bitter cold prevailed even at the end of the month with a -20 degrees temperature on the 28th at Cresco, with temperatures to fall even further in early March. Nevertheless, portions of western and southern Iowa enjoyed some brief respite from the cold at mid-month with readings climbing above 50 degrees in some areas on the 13th, 15th, 17th, 18th and 19th. The temperature at Sidney soared to 67 degrees on the afternoon of the 18th. However, the

temperature has not exceeded 42 degrees at Charles City, Northwood and Osage since November. Spencer Airport recorded the lowest wind chill of the month at -42 degrees on the 10th.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 27 percent greater than last February and normal. Degree day totals thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2013) are running 18 percent greater than last season and 13 percent greater than normal.

Precipitation. Precipitation was much more frequent during February than for the prior two months. Monthly precipitation totals were above normal at most locations and well above normal over the parts of eastern Iowa. Totals varied from 0.29 inches at Castana to 3.90 inches at Donnellson. A higher February total has been recorded only once (4.25 in 2001) at Donnellson since measurements began there in 1940. The month's largest precipitation event came on the 20th with a wide variety of weather across Iowa. This event began with rain in most areas but transitioned to moderate to heavy snow over much of the northwest one-half of the state. Greatest snow totals were reported from Algona, Britt and Lake Mills with eight inches. Meanwhile unseasonably heavy rain fell across far southeast Iowa with Donnellson picking up 2.21 inches. Thunderstorms were common across the southeast one-half of the state with hail up to one inch in diameter reported in Linn, Union, Warren and Wayne counties. Blizzard conditions were reported across north central Iowa on the evening of the 20th with wind gusts to 55 mph at Mason City. Other than on the 20th, nearly all of the remainder of the month's precipitation fell as snow. Snow totals varied from 6.9 inches at Hawarden in the northwest to 29.2 inches at Keosauqua in the southeast. The Keosauqua snowfall is the highest total for any month at that location (previous record 26.5 inches in Feb. 2008 among 121 years of records). The statewide average snowfall was 14.6 inches or 7.8 inches more than normal. This was the sixth snowiest February among 127 years of records and the state's snowiest calendar month since December 2009.

Winter Summary. The three mid-winter months of December, January and February averaged 14.6 degrees or 7.5 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 2.61 inches or 0.73 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 9th coldest and 42nd driest winter among 141 years of records. A colder winter was last recorded in 1978-1979 and a drier winter in 2005-2006. Persistent cold, with subnormal temperatures prevailing since mid-October, has allowed the soil under sod to freeze two to three feet beneath the surface and under roadways to depths as great as five and one-half feet. Water main breaks have become common across the state. Frost depths have remained relatively steady over the past two weeks and probably have reached their winter maximums.



Hay/Roughage Availability as of March 2, 2014

Item	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	17	77	6

Hay/Roughage Quality as of March 2, 2014

Item	Poor	Fair	Good
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Hay/Roughage	10	48	42

Post-Harvest Conditions as of March 2, 2014

Item	None	Light	Moderate	Heavy
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Grain movement	37	38	22	3

Snow Cover for the Month of February

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)
Snow cover	6	10	12	3	6	5	2	3	3	6	4	3

February 2014 Summary, Prepared by Iowa Environmental Mesonet.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
North West District											
Estherville	44	-22	8	-12	0.35	-0.54	6	1595	279	28	28
Lemars	56	-16	16	-7	1.34	0.54	15	1382	162	28	28
Spencer	51	-22	12	-9	0.85	0.05	15	1498	212	28	28
Milford	49	-23	10	-11	1.18	0.32	12	1552	256	28	28
North Central District											
Britt	47	-19	10	-10	1.31	0.31	14	1536	248	28	28
Humboldt	52	-17	13	-9	1.94	1.01	16	1468	220	28	28
Mason City	42	-20	9	-12	0.76	-0.15	10	1580	286	28	28
Osage	40	-20	8	-12	1.05	0.03	12	1587	300	28	28
North East District											
Decorah	42	-19	9	-13	1.85	0.84	14	1564	308	28	28
Dubuque	47	-24	9	-16	1.58	0.43	12	1577	394	28	28
Guttenberg	43	-19	10	-14	1.47	0.36	12	1540	348	28	28
Fayette	41	-20	9	-12	1.55	0.40	14	1577	297	28	28
West Central District											
Carroll	60	-16	16	-8	1.87	0.86	16	1373	175	28	27
Castana	63	-14	18	-7	1.98	1.16	16	1302	151	28	28
Guthrie Center	58	-16	18	-7	2.67	1.58	18	1328	157	28	27
Harlan	62	-16	19	-7	2.36	1.34	16	1297	150	28	27
Jefferson	57	-15	15	-10	2.26	1.19	15	1389	233	28	27
Logan	64	-10	21	-5	2.03	1.11	14	1236	105	28	26
Rockwell City	56	-15	14	-9	1.88	0.98	15	1420	211	28	27
Sac City	57	-15	15	-8	1.80	0.83	17	1408	188	28	27
Sioux City	62	-12	19	-6	0.55	-0.30	7	1296	122	28	28
Central District											
Ames	46	-21	13	-11	1.08	0.12	12	1448	278	28	28
Des Moines	55	-10	18	-8	1.84	0.59	12	1308	184	28	27
Grundy Center	43	-22	11	-11	2.58	1.54	12	1511	259	28	28
Marshalltown	43	-22	11	-12	0.57	-0.53	2	1503	297	28	28
Newton	53	-12	17	-8	2.61	1.55	14	1338	195	28	27
Perry	56	-16	16	-8	2.50	1.54	15	1366	175	28	28
Toledo	47	-18	14	-9	2.66	1.64	12	1434	222	28	28
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	45	-21	11	-14	1.17	-0.02	8	1500	362	28	27
LeClaire	48	-23	13	-14	1.46	0.18	5	1461	342	27	27
Iowa City	47	-19	14	-14	1.41	0.22	11	1438	346	28	27
Tipton	46	-21	12	-12	2.06	0.70	14	1474	292	28	27
Maquoketa	45	-23	11	-13	2.10	0.74	13	1505	313	27	27
Muscatine	50	-20	16	-12	2.65	1.24	12	1379	296	27	26
South West District											
Atlantic	60	-16	18	-7	1.99	0.98	15	1306	152	28	27
Clarinda	62	-10	22	-6	1.76	0.64	17	1217	129	27	26
Glenwood	68	-10	23	-5	1.75	0.81	15	1178	97	28	27
Red Oak	64	-15	20	-7	2.02	0.86	14	1254	169	28	27
Sidney	68	-9	23	-7	1.77	0.74	14	1185	148	27	26
South Central District											
Albie	52	-15	18	-10	2.83	1.51	15	1330	252	28	25
Mount Ayr	57	-12	20	-8	2.01	0.94	15	1270	175	27	27
Chariton	53	-14	18	-9	3.18	1.97	14	1324	219	28	26
Indianola	54	-12	18	-9	2.65	1.44	14	1330	220	28	27
Lamoni	54	-12	19	-9	1.83	0.48	9	1300	217	27	27
South East District											
Bloomfield	50	-15	18	-11	2.86	1.56	16	1329	263	28	25
Burlington	50	-13	17	-12	2.57	1.09	8	1354	287	27	27
Ottumwa	50	-17	17	-11	1.26	0.02	8	1358	260	28	26
Washington	50	-17	16	-12	2.42	1.19	15	1382	291	28	27