



# Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the month of January, 2016  
Issued February 3, 2016

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Iowa experienced close to normal precipitation totals and temperatures for the month of January. Fieldwork activities for the month of January were limited to some dry fertilizer application according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Average snow depth for January was 3 inches.

As January came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. The south central portion of Iowa reported the highest moisture level with 45 percent rated surplus.

Grain movement rated 34 percent none, 45 percent light, 18 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy. This year over three-quarters of grain movement for the month of January was rated light to none. Grain movement was generally prompted by a need for grain by end users or a need to generate cash flow by operators. Central Iowa recorded the most grain movement rated moderate to heavy for the month of January at 34 percent, while south east Iowa had the second most rated moderate to heavy at 30 percent.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 0 percent very short, 7 percent short, 84 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Cattle conditions and performance deteriorated when temperatures were above freezing as cattle producers dealt with muddy pastures and feedlots. However, livestock conditions returned to normal whenever the ground was able to freeze.

## Post-Harvest Conditions as of January 31, 2015

Item	None	Light	Moderate	Heavy
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Grain movement ...	34	45	18	3

## Hay/Roughage Supplies as January 31, 2015

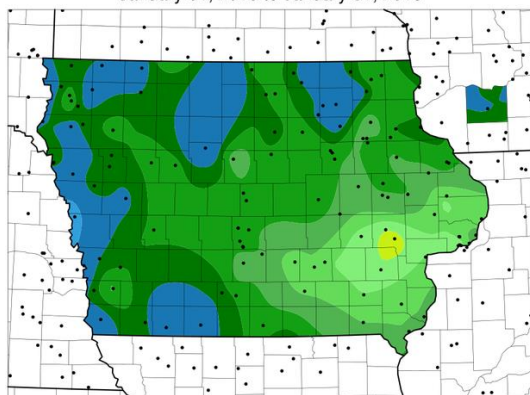
Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Hay/Roughage ...	0	7	84	9

## Average Snow Depth for the Month of January

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 depth .....	5	6	5	3	3	2	1	0	0	3	5	3

Accumulated Snowfall (in)

January 01, 2016 to January 31, 2016

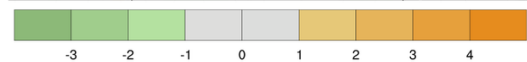
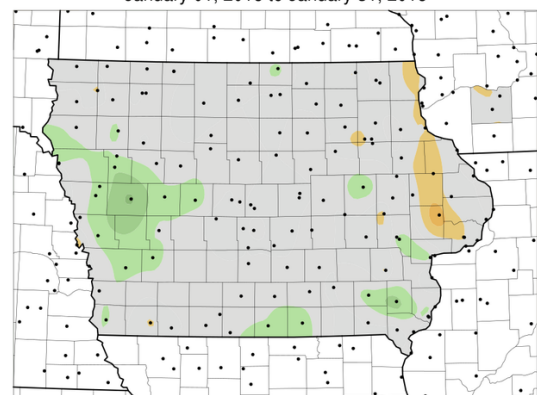


Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI.

Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
Generated at: 2/1/2016 3:12:43 PM CST

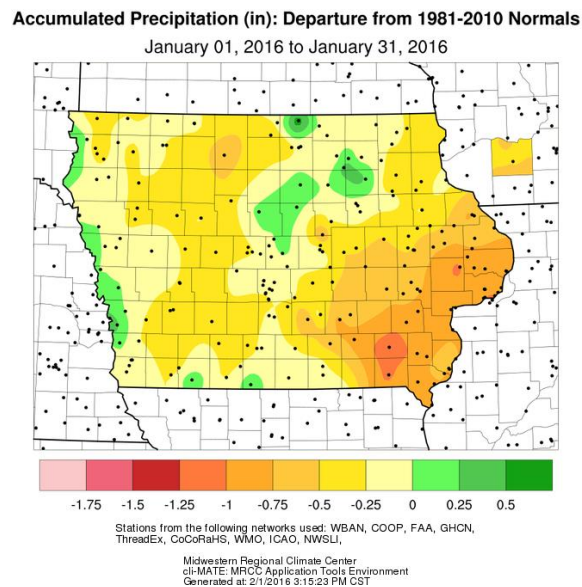
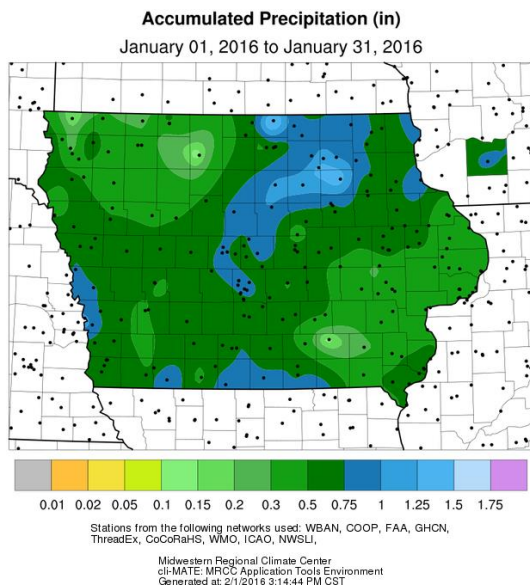
Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

January 01, 2016 to January 31, 2016



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI.

Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
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**IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY**  
**Provided by Harry J. Hillaker, State Climatologist**  
**Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship**

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 19.2° or 0.2° below normal while precipitation totaled 0.61 inches or 0.31 inches below normal. This ranks as the 69<sup>th</sup> warmest and 36<sup>th</sup> driest January among 144 years of records.

Temperatures. The new year opened with eight consecutive days of above normal temperatures, continuing the mild pattern that persisted through the last one-third of 2015. A brief period of cold weather prevailed from the 9<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. Daytime high temperatures reached only -4° at Elkader and Northwood on the 10<sup>th</sup> while morning lows fell to -18° at Spencer on the 10<sup>th</sup> and at Northwood on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Brisk winds combined with the cold air to produce wind chill indices down to -36° at Estherville and Spencer on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>. A brief warm-up occurred on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with Keosauqua recording the month's highest temperature with a 55° reading on the 14<sup>th</sup>. This was soon followed by the coldest weather of January on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Spencer recorded a minimum temperature of -21° on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> along with a wind chill index of -42°. Daytime highs remained below zero over about the northern one-half of the state on the 17<sup>th</sup> with Northwood reaching a maximum of only -9°. Parts of far northeast and far northern Iowa endured a second straight day of subzero high temperatures on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures were above normal in most areas from the 21<sup>st</sup> through the end of the month with no subzero readings recorded in the state after the 20<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures reached into the low fifties at many far southern Iowa locations on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The mild and wet December 2015 weather resulted in little, if any, soil frost at the beginning of January. However, the arrival of very cold weather on the 9<sup>th</sup> quickly drove frost much deeper into the soil during the middle one-third of the month. At month's end soils were frozen to depths of 12 to 18 inches over central Iowa and to about ten inches across the southern part of the state. However, a deeper snow pack across northern Iowa insulated the soils there with eight inches or less of frozen ground at month's end.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged the same as normal, but 4% more than last January. Thus far this heating season (since July 1) heating requirements are running 14% less than last year at this time and 15% less than normal.

Precipitation. Precipitation was frequent during January, but in sharp contrast to November and December did not amount to much. About two-thirds of the month's precipitation came in the form of rain from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise there were numerous light accumulations of snow through the remainder of January but only one event, on the 19<sup>th</sup>, brought more than four inches of snow to any single location when Mount Ayr accumulated 5.1 inches. Despite the relative lack of new snowfall or persistent cold during January snow remained on the ground for most of the month across the northern one-half of the state. The statewide average snowfall was 3.4 inches or 4.3 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 18<sup>th</sup> least snowy January among 129 years of records. January precipitation totals varied from 0.26 inches at Fairfield to 1.55 inches at Tripoli. Meanwhile monthly snowfall totals varied from 1.1 inches at Washington to 8.9 inches at Little Sioux.