



Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the month of March, 2016
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Iowa experienced above normal temperatures for the month of March but near normal precipitation according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. However, showers and snow the last week of the month left fields and roads soft and muddy. Operators across the State have begun dry fertilizer and anhydrous applications.

As March came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 2 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. Moisture levels were rated at least 95 percent adequate to surplus in every district of the State. South Central Iowa reported the highest moisture level with 26 percent in surplus.

The State saw a slight increase in grain movement from February, as March grain movement rated 28 percent none, 37 percent light, 30 percent moderate, and 5 percent heavy. Over one-third of Iowa had moderate to heavy grain movement while in February over one-third of the State had no grain movement from farm to elevator.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Livestock conditions were described as good for the month of March and calving is underway.

Post-Harvest Conditions as of March 27, 2016

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement...	28	37	30	5

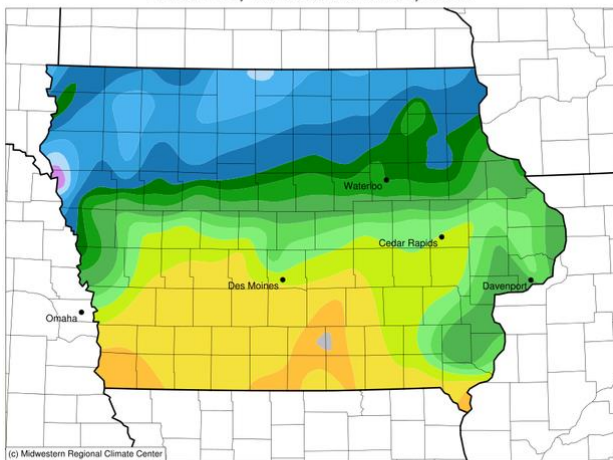
Hay/Roughage Supplies as of March 27, 2016

Item	Very Short (percent)	Short (percent)	Adequate (percent)	Surplus (percent)
Hay/Roughage ...	1	7	82	10

Snow Depth as of March 27, 2016

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
Snow depth	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Accumulated Snowfall (in)
March 01, 2016 to March 31, 2016

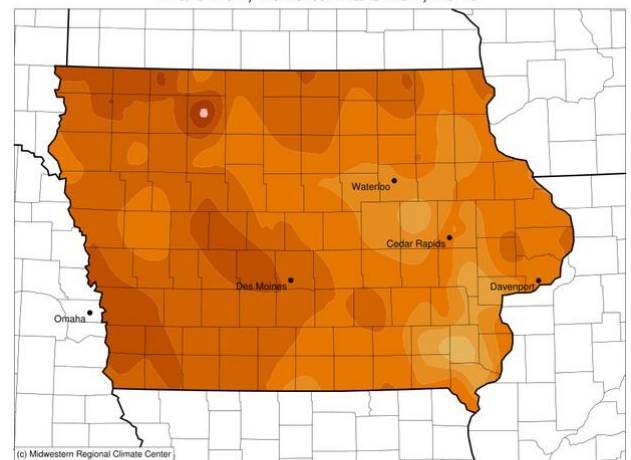


0.01 0.1 0.5 1 1.5 2 3 4 5 7.5 10 12.5 15

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

Midwestern Regional Climate Center
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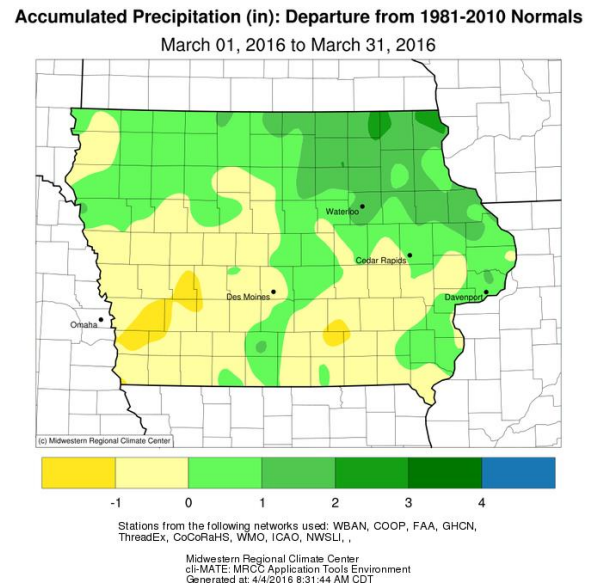
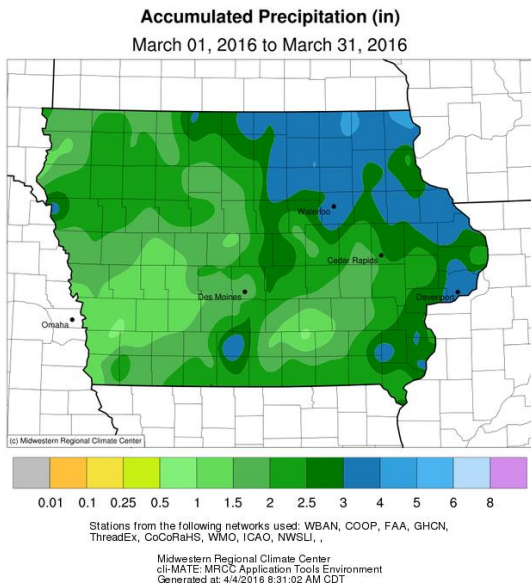
Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
March 01, 2016 to March 31, 2016



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

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

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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 42.0° or 6.1° above normal while precipitation totaled 2.44 inches or 0.29 inches above normal. This ranks as the 13th warmest and 39th wettest March among 144 years of records. A warmer March has been recorded only twice in the past 40 years (2000 and 2012) while a wetter one last came in 2009.

Temperature. March began with three unseasonably cold days. Rock Rapids had a daytime high temperature of only 16° on the 1st while morning lows dipped to -6° at Elkader and Stanley on the 2nd. However, above normal temperatures prevailed every day from the 4th through the 17th. The warmest days were the 7th, 8th and 14th when temperatures averaged more than twenty degrees above normal. Sioux City reported the month's highest temperature with an 80° reading on the 7th. While not a state record, this was the earliest occurrence of 80 degree weather at Sioux City (old record March 13, 2012). Temperatures were much more seasonal for the final two weeks of the month, averaging 1.2° above normal. Late month temperature extremes varied from a low of 9° at Spencer on the 25th to highs of 78° at Shenandoah and Sidney on the 30th.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 19% less than last March and 22% less than normal. Heating Degree Day totals thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2015) are running 17% less than last season at this time and 15% less than normal. The last warmer heating season was 2011-2012.

Precipitation. Precipitation was frequent throughout the month with monthly totals about double March normal over parts of north central and northeast Iowa while some portions of southwest and south central Iowa saw less than one-half of normal. March precipitation totals varied from 0.76 inches at Albia to 4.50 inches at Ionia. The largest precipitation events came on the 14th-15th and 23rd-24th. The first of these events brought rain statewide with a maximum of 1.50 inches falling at Ionia. The second event brought very heavy snow to parts of northwest Iowa with 15.0 inches at Le Mars and 14.1 inches at Sioux City. Snow also fell across the north one-half of the state on the first day of the month with six inches reported at Allison. Monthly snow totals varied from only trace amounts for much of southwest and south central Iowa to 17.0 inches at Algona. The statewide average snowfall was 3.5 inches or 1.2 inches less than normal. Virtually all of the state's heavy snow events this winter have impacted northwest Iowa. At Sheldon a total of 71.6 inches of snow has fallen this season, second only to a 73.7 inch total recorded at that location in the winter of 1961-1962. Meanwhile parts of far southern Iowa have seen less than one-half the typical amount of snow this winter.

Severe Weather. March often marks the beginning of the severe thunderstorm season in Iowa and this month was no exception. The first severe event of the season brought large hail to far southeast and east central Iowa on the evening of the 15th along with three confirmed tornadoes in Clinton County. Additionally, there were a few reports of hail and high winds across southwest Iowa on the 23rd and hail over parts of west central and central Iowa on the 30th.