



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2017

- [Fourth wettest October on record improves groundwater, drought conditions in Iowa](#)
- [DNR checks spill cleanup in Chickasaw County](#)
- [Ongoing wastewater discharge occurring in Muscatine](#)

Fourth wettest October on record improves groundwater, drought conditions in Iowa

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall, 515-725-8298, Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES — Following a wet October, shallow groundwater and drought conditions in Iowa improved, according to the latest [Water Summary Update](#) from the Iowa DNR.

Despite the wet month, little flooding occurred across the state.

"There are some dry areas in southeastern Iowa, and subsoil moisture has not fully recovered in that part of the state," says Tim Hall, the DNR's Hydrology Resources Coordinator. "However, hydrologic conditions across most of Iowa are pretty good headed into the winter."

Iowa recorded the fourth wettest October among 145 years of records with a statewide average precipitation of 5.35 inches, a little more than double the monthly normal of 2.74 inches.

Streamflow conditions are above normal for several basins in the state, and flows are much above normal in parts of the Des Moines, and Boyer Rivers. The Rock River basin remains in the much above normal range.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate.

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

DNR checks spill cleanup in Chickasaw County

MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Gelner at 563-927-2640 or Christopher.Gelner@dnr.iowa.gov.

JERICO – Wednesday, DNR staff from Manchester investigated a small hog manure spill near Jerico that reached a tributary of Crane Creek.

The spill of several hundred gallons occurred Oct. 31 when a hose ruptured during land application. The commercial manure applicator from Reicks View Farms immediately shut off pumps, then parked the tractor on top of the hose.

“It looked like a textbook spill response,” said Chris Gelner, DNR inspector. “Reicks’ applicator quickly dammed the tributary at two spots and began pumping contaminated water into manure tanks to prevent it from moving downstream.”

The spill was limited to a small section of stream with very low flow and there was no evidence of a fish kill. Reicks removed five tank loads of 7,000 gallons each of contaminated water and land applied them.

The DNR will consider appropriate enforcement action.

Ongoing wastewater discharge occurring in Muscatine

MEDIA CONTACT: Terry Jones at 319-653-2135 or Terry.Jones@dnr.iowa.gov.

MUSCATINE—Monday, the city of Muscatine reported the ongoing release of untreated wastewater leaking from a sewer force main near the intersection of Nebraska and Day streets.

The city discovered a small leak Monday morning that flowed to Briar’s Ditch and then into Muscatine Slough. About 15,000 gallons discharged at that site, but wastewater is no longer going into the ditch or the slough.

A second discharge began after the city shut down the Papoose pumping station to complete repairs on the original leaking pipe. Since about 5 p.m. Oct. 31, an estimated 2,100 gallons per minute has been discharging to the Mississippi River upstream of the old boat landing along the Muscatine Riverfront.

The city is hoping to complete excavating around a 30-inch force main today or early Friday. Once the pipe is exposed, city staff will have a better estimate of when repairs will be complete.

DNR recommends people avoid contact with potentially contaminated water for 24 to 48 hours after repairs are completed.

City staff will monitor water quality at both discharge locations.

The DNR will continue to monitor the situation.