

# Iowa Crops & Weather



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Issued April 27, 2009

Vol 09-08

For the week ending April 26, 2009

## FARMERS ENJOY FIVE PRODUCTIVE DAYS

**Agricultural Summary:** Iowa farmers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions last week before idling their planters as weekend storms soaked recently planted fields. Sunny skies, warm temperatures, and variable winds set the stage for a furious corn planting pace across the western two-thirds of the State. Occasional showers and scattered thunderstorms sharply curtailed fieldwork on Saturday and widespread rains halted work on Sunday. For the week, there were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork, compared to the five-year average of 2.9 days.

Topsoil moisture rated 5 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 35 percent surplus across the state. Subsoil moisture rated 6 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 29 percent surplus. Moisture shortages steadily increased through the week until late week rains quickly saturated soils.

**Field Crops Report:** Statewide, corn planting advanced to 47 percent complete, far ahead of last year's 3 percent progress, and 4 days earlier than the 5 year average. Oat seeding progressed to 93 percent complete, 3 weeks ahead of last year's pace, and almost 2 weeks ahead of the five-year average. Oat emergence, at 29 percent, exceeded last year's pace, but lagged behind the 36 percent average for this date. Soybean planting began, but only advanced to 2 percent complete. Fertilizer applications progressed to 88 percent complete, 23 percentage points ahead of last year, and 8 percentage points ahead of the five-year average.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range condition rated 2 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Reporters commented that the warm weather and weekend rains were beneficial for pastures. However, one reporter in the Northeast district noted that winterkill was evident in some alfalfa fields and other forage grasses.

## IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist

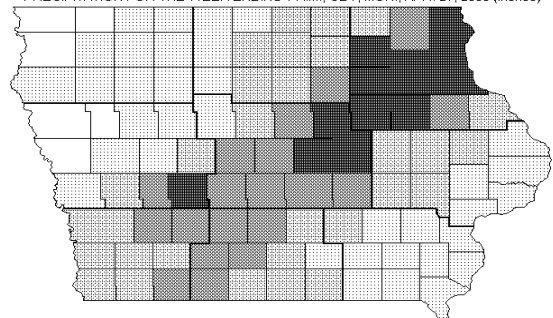
Practically ideal weather for fieldwork gave way to widespread heavy rainfall over the weekend. The past week began with light rain showers, sometimes mixed with snow, over northeastern Iowa on Monday (20<sup>th</sup>). Dry weather prevailed statewide on Tuesday (21<sup>st</sup>) and Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup>). Showers and thunderstorms traversed eastern Iowa on Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup>) but significant rain was confined to a very small area along the Illinois border. However, the main weather event was a prolonged period of showers and thunderstorms that first moved into western Iowa on Friday (24<sup>th</sup>) afternoon and dampened all of the state on Saturday (25<sup>th</sup>), Sunday (26<sup>th</sup>) and into Monday (27<sup>th</sup>). Heaviest rains came on Sunday when two inches or more rain fell over most of southwest, central and northeast Iowa. Weekly rain totals varied from 0.59 inches at Sioux City and Onawa to 5.98 inches in Waterloo and 5.47 inches in southwest Guthrie County. The statewide average precipitation was 2.43 inches or nearly triple the weekly normal of 0.84 inches. Fortunately, the very wet weekend was preceded by several weeks of unseasonably dry weather, thus keeping flooding to a minimum. Meanwhile, the past work week began with very cool conditions on Monday (20<sup>th</sup>) with highs only in the 40's and 50's. Temperatures dipped below freezing in a few areas on both Tuesday (21<sup>st</sup>) and Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup>) mornings. However, readings quickly climbed into the 60's and 70's by Wednesday afternoon and even 81 degrees at Sioux City. Highs on Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup>) varied from the low 70's southeast to the low 90's in the far northwest. A cold front moved into the state on Friday (24<sup>th</sup>) but not before readings climbed into the 80's over most of the southeast two-thirds of the state. Highs reached only the upper 40's on Saturday (25<sup>th</sup>) over the northwest while warmer air moved back into the southeast on Sunday (26<sup>th</sup>) where 70's and a few 80's returned. Temperature extremes for the week ranged from Tuesday morning lows of 28 degrees at Sanborn and Sibley to a Thursday afternoon high of 92 degrees at Sioux City. Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged 4.1 degrees above normal. Finally, soil temperatures as of Sunday (26<sup>th</sup>) were averaging near 50 in the northwest to the mid 50's southeast.

Statewide Crop Conditions as of April 26, 2009

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Range & Pasture	2	13	41	36	8

## PRELIMINARY IOWA PRECIPITATION

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
PRECIPITATION FOR THE WEEK ENDING 7 A.M., CDT, MON., APR. 27, 2009 (inches)



4 or more 3 to 4 2 to 3 1 to 2 1 or less

Field Work and Crop Progress as of April 26, 2009

Item	Districts										State	Last Week	Last Year	Normal
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Fertilizer application completed	89	93	85	90	86	90	95	82	78	88	74	65	80	
Corn planted	59	61	33	47	57	26	53	31	27	47	6	3	25	
Oats planted	96	96	97	94	86	96	94	88	78	93	70	26	75	
Oats emerged	13	21	28	32	41	38	22	30	27	29	3	5	36	

Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of April 26, 2009

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	5.2	5.2	4.9	5.5	5.3	4.6	5.5	5.3	4.0	5.1	4.9	1.3	
	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	8	9	14	2	0	1	13	1	0	5	8	0	
Adequate	69	71	42	75	49	63	68	46	54	60	78	34	
Surplus	23	20	44	23	51	36	19	53	46	35	14	66	
Subsoil moisture													
Very short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Short	12	9	14	2	5	0	5	1	1	6	3	0	
Adequate	80	75	53	77	45	79	74	44	53	65	79	44	
Surplus	8	16	33	21	50	21	21	55	46	29	18	56	

**Weather Summary**  
**For National Agricultural Statistics Service, Iowa Field Office**  
**For the week ending: Sunday, April 26, 2009, 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	87	33	53	5	0.36	-0.34	1.33	-1.08	39	22
Sioux Center	89	33	57	5	0.97	0.37	1.73	-0.37	50	20
Spencer	88	30	54	5	0.35	-0.34	0.47	-1.84	43	20
Spirit Lake	85	34	51	3	1.00	0.39	1.91	-0.19	31	-3
North Central District										
Britt	88	32	51	-1	1.02	0.25	1.66	-0.92	32	6
Humboldt	85	33	52	1	0.74	-0.03	1.36	-1.24	36	12
Mason City	90	29	52	3	0.86	0.11	1.22	-1.30	41	20
Osage	87	32	50	-1	1.06	0.24	1.51	-1.29	28	-4
North East District										
Decorah	87	31	54	4	2.21	1.37	2.48	-0.45	47	21
Dubuque	84	35	52	2	2.58	1.67	3.13	-0.07	34	9
Elkader	86	31	50	-1	1.89	1.09	2.71	-0.02	26	-13
Fayette	86	32	50	-1	2.55	1.71	3.23	0.42	28	4
Waterloo	87	33	53	2	1.43	0.60	1.91	-0.91	41	13
West Central District										
Carroll	89	34	54	3	0.08	-0.76	1.01	-1.81	43	15
Castana	84	36	54	0	0.17	-0.52	0.66	-1.66	37	10
Guthrie Center	87	33	55	3	0.60	-0.21	1.88	-0.92	45	14
Harlan	90	33	55	2	0.10	-0.68	1.01	-1.61	47	16
Jefferson	90	33	54	3	0.17	-0.67	0.55	-2.27	42	14
Logan	89	32	55	2	0.19	-0.56	1.34	-1.11	49	12
Rockwell City	85	31	53	1	0.58	-0.13	1.41	-0.96	39	7
Sac City	86	32	53	3	0.05	-0.65	0.57	-1.86	36	11
Sioux City	92	37	57	4	0.27	-0.32	0.83	-1.14	53	17
Central District										
Boone	86	33	53	2	0.30	-0.54	1.87	-0.98	37	7
Des Moines	86	38	58	5	1.53	0.69	2.53	-0.39	61	23
Grundy Center	87	34	52	3	1.40	0.60	2.34	-0.38	34	13
Marshalltown	86	30	53	3	0.81	0.04	1.00	-1.74	43	16
Newton	85	36	54	2	1.35	0.53	2.01	-0.76	39	7
Perry	87	35	54	3	0.30	-0.48	1.11	-1.55	41	14
Toledo	86	31	52	2	2.17	1.35	2.57	-0.19	35	10
East Central District										
Cedar Rapids	87	32	53	2	1.16	0.39	1.64	-1.11	38	8
Davenport	82	35	55	3	1.74	0.96	2.64	-0.17	50	16
Iowa City	85	35	55	0	1.39	0.48	2.16	-1.01	42	1
Lowden	85	32	53	2	1.68	0.77	2.47	-0.76	33	2
Maquoketa	84	33	52	2	1.56	0.79	1.83	-0.94	29	4
Muscatine	83	39	55	2	2.10	1.26	3.37	0.35	42	18
South West District										
Atlantic	88	30	58	6	2.91	2.16	3.71	1.14	62	32
Clarinda	87	32	55	3	1.05	0.20	1.82	-1.05	42	9
Glenwood	90	36	56	2	0.24	-0.53	0.84	-1.62	45	6
Red Oak	89	36	56	2	0.06	-0.80	1.15	-1.81	50	7
Sidney	88	40	58	4	0.09	-0.70	0.91	-1.77	59	19
South Central District										
Allerton	79	33	56	3	1.09	0.25	2.23	-0.62	50	33
Beaconsfield	81	35	54	3	1.00	0.19	2.06	-0.75	39	8
Chariton	82	33	55	3	0.51	-0.36	1.44	-1.60	47	16
Indianola	84	35	55	2	1.54	0.63	2.56	-0.50	45	11
Leon	82	36	56	4	0.31	-0.59	2.13	-0.88	44	13
South East District										
Bloomfield	80	37	56	1	1.16	0.31	1.80	-1.19	51	8
Burlington	80	37	59	5	2.17	1.33	3.40	0.39	64	24
Ottumwa	83	35	56	2	1.05	0.23	1.90	-0.91	50	11
Washington	83	33	55	-1	1.66	0.88	2.78	0.04	42	15

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 2009: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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