



# Crops & Weather

National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Iowa Field Office

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In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the week ending January 2, 2011

## DECEMBER 2010

Although Iowa received above average snow in the month of December, most felt fortunate to have seen substantially less snow than December 2009. Warm temperatures as the month closed melted most of the snow cover leaving only areas where drifts accumulated. Little fieldwork was done during the month although operators were able to wrap up tile and drainage work early in the month and some manure was applied.

While little snow remained as December came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 85 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus.

With little of note in the realm of severe weather, grain movement was 36 percent none, 38 percent light, 22 percent moderate and 4 percent heavy. Producers are moving grain to fulfill contracts as well as take advantage of current prices.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 12 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus. Some cattle producers were able to return herds to fields for gleaning crop residues while others have seen cows go through higher amounts of hay as colder temperatures arrived. Few reports of livestock health issues have been received with hog and pig losses in December at 48 percent light, 51 percent average and 1 percent heavy. Cattle and calf losses were similar with 47 percent light, 52 percent average and 1 percent heavy.

### IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

**General Summary.** December temperatures averaged 19.5 degrees or 3.1 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 1.24 inches or 0.01 inch greater than normal. This ranks as the 29<sup>th</sup> coolest and 57<sup>th</sup> wettest December among 138 years of state records.

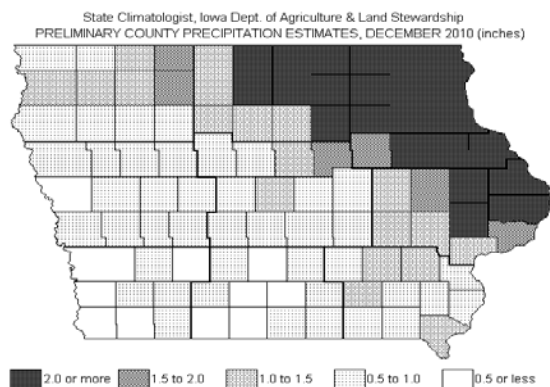
**Temperatures.** Cooler than usual weather prevailed throughout most of the early and mid portions of December with 16 of the first 19 days averaging on the cold side of normal. The season's first sub-zero readings were recorded in a few northeast Iowa locations on the 5<sup>th</sup> with most of the state falling below zero on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Elkader

reported the lowest temperature of the month with a -22 degree reading on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Milder air prevailed late in the month with nine of the final 12 days of December averaging on the warm side of normal. Unseasonably warm and humid air on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> melted most of the snowcover across the southwestern two-thirds of Iowa. The mildest day by far came on the 30<sup>th</sup> when Shenandoah soared to 66 degrees. However, deep snow cover held high temperatures down to the upper 30's over northeastern areas. Monthly temperatures averaged 4 to 7 degrees below normal over northeast Iowa where deep snow prevailed for most of the month while the far southwest averaged within one degree of normal.

**Heating Degree Day Totals.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged the same as last December and 7% more than normal. Degree day totals so far this heating season (since July 1) are running 5% less than last season and 6% less than normal.

**Precipitation.** A very persistent storm track brought a parade of storms to northeastern areas of Iowa while the south was unusually dry. A total of eight storms brought an inch or more of snow to the state and all but one were centered over the northeast. The largest storms brought snow totals of seven inches or more on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Monthly snow totals varied from only 0.7 inches at Sidney up to 36.0 inches at Waukon. At Waukon this was the snowiest calendar month of record, slightly exceeding the previous record total of 35.5 inches set in December 2008. Yet another storm event on the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> brought widespread rain to the state with greatest amounts again over the northeast. Cresco and Decorah both recorded their wettest December ever. At Cresco a 3.60 inch amount was the highest December total among 105 years of record (old record 3.55 in 1982). At Decorah 3.29 inches of precipitation fell, surpassing the 3.12 inch total recorded set just last December among 124 years of record.

The most disruptive storm of the month was a blizzard on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> when wind gusts of 50 to 60 mph over western Iowa coincided with moderate to heavy snowfall. Nearly all highways over the northwest one-third of the state were closed by drifts and very poor visibility. Audubon Airport reported the highest wind gust at 70 mph while Waukon had the most snow with 12 inches. Meanwhile wind chills dipped to -30 degrees at Estherville near daybreak on the 12<sup>th</sup>.



### Soil Moisture Condition as of January 2, 2011

Item	Districts									State	Last Week	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short .....	0	0	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	NA	NA
Short .....	4	1	17	12	2	2	12	6	3	7	NA	NA
Adequate .....	94	79	68	83	83	97	78	94	95	85	NA	NA
Surplus .....	2	20	9	5	15	1	6	0	2	7	NA	NA

**December 2010 Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc.**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
<b>North West District</b>											
Estherville .....	39	-6	17	-2	0.25	-0.48	3	1484	+37	30	29
Sioux Center .....	46	-6	18	-3	1.35	0.51	7	1447	+85	31	31
Spencer .....	49	-5	18	-1	0.49	-0.22	4	1456	+30	30	29
Spirit Lake .....	42	-7	15	-3	0.80	-0.09	6	1538	+104	31	31
<b>North Central District</b>											
Britt .....	43	-8	15	-5	1.80	0.44	9	1547	+78	31	31
Humboldt .....	48	-5	17	-4	1.55	0.54	10	1480	+102	31	31
Mason City .....	39	-8	17	-2	1.23	0.02	9	1485	+57	30	29
Osage .....	42	-10	14	-6	3.59	2.34	8	1571	+118	31	31
<b>North East District</b>											
Decorah .....	46	-18	17	-5	3.29	2.08	15	1496	+134	31	30
Dubuque .....	42	-9	17	-6	2.77	0.81	11	1488	+181	31	29
Elkader .....	45	-22	14	-9	3.08	1.68	12	1582	+254	31	31
Fayette .....	43	-18	11	-10	2.94	1.53	11	1661	+245	31	31
Waterloo .....	43	-12	18	-3	1.80	0.50	9	1450	+107	30	29
<b>West Central District</b>											
Carroll .....	57	-6	19	-3	0.61	-0.35	6	1413	+84	31	30
Castana .....	56	-4	20	-4	0.70	-0.13	8	1399	+130	31	31
Guthrie Center .....	59	-10	20	-3	0.60	-0.68	4	1395	+95	31	30
Harlan .....	59	-4	20	-4	0.83	-0.18	7	1385	+65	31	31
Jefferson .....	57	-3	19	-3	0.67	-0.29	5	1411	+92	31	31
Logan .....	59	-6	21	-2	0.42	-0.65	3	1360	+81	31	31
Rockwell City .....	53	-4	18	-5	0.66	-0.27	5	1448	+73	31	31
Sac City .....	55	-9	18	-3	0.80	-0.34	6	1463	+99	31	31
Sioux City .....	52	-4	21	-1	1.00	0.22	7	1345	+36	30	30
<b>Central District</b>											
Boone .....	55	-4	19	-4	0.88	-0.46	6	1429	+110	31	31
Des Moines .....	61	1	25	2	0.68	-0.64	6	1229	+2	29	26
Grundy Center .....	47	-10	18	-3	1.12	-0.17	6	1463	+90	31	31
Marshalltown .....	50	-3	20	-2	0.80	-0.49	7	1374	+48	29	29
Newton .....	55	-4	19	-5	0.44	-0.69	6	1405	+134	31	31
Perry .....	59	-2	19	-3	0.81	-0.25	7	1406	+96	31	31
Toledo .....	50	-5	18	-5	0.84	-0.41	7	1462	+125	31	31
<b>East Central District</b>											
Cedar Rapids .....	47	-3	19	-5	1.09	-0.50	12	1417	+132	30	28
Davenport .....	49	-4	19	-7	1.62	-0.30	10	1416	+242	29	29
Iowa City .....	47	-2	22	-5	1.06	-0.50	6	1333	+147	28	27
Lowden .....	44	-8	15	-9	2.38	0.27	12	1542	+246	31	30
Maquoketa .....	44	-13	15	-9	1.91	0.11	12	1556	+263	31	30
Muscatine .....	51	1	22	-5	1.41	-0.56	9	1339	+154	30	30
<b>South West District</b>											
Atlantic .....	62	-7	20	-3	0.66	-0.43	6	1380	+93	31	30
Clarinda .....	65	-1	23	-2	0.57	-0.61	7	1298	+52	30	30
Glenwood .....	63	0	23	-2	0.59	-0.59	4	1293	+71	31	30
Red Oak .....	65	-1	24	-3	0.62	-0.59	5	1278	+33	31	30
Sidney .....	64	2	25	-1	0.43	-0.73	8	1238	+40	31	29
<b>South Central District</b>											
Allerton .....	61	-1	23	-3	0.56	-0.75	4	1299	+59	31	31
Beaconsfield .....	60	-2	23	-3	0.35	-0.76	4	1309	+80	31	30
Chariton .....	61	-5	22	-3	0.38	-0.98	5	1334	+82	31	30
Indianola .....	60	-2	21	-4	0.58	-0.80	4	1347	+89	30	30
Leon .....	63	-2	23	-2	0.32	-1.04	3	1283	+43	31	30
<b>South East District</b>											
Bloomfield .....	57	-5	23	-5	0.64	-0.92	4	1301	+112	31	30
Burlington .....	53	0	25	-2	0.43	-1.55	3	1232	+79	27	26
Ottumwa .....	57	-4	24	-2	0.59	-0.84	7	1261	+71	28	27
Washington .....	55	-3	20	-7	0.92	-0.77	9	1376	+151	31	30

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 2011: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.