

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2005

General Summary. February temperatures averaged 30.8° or 6.6° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.58 inches or 0.60 inches greater than normal. This ranks as the 16th warmest and 21st wettest February among 133 years of state records.

Temperatures. Mild weather prevailed for most of the month as below normal temperatures were confined to only four days (8th, 9th, 10th and 28th). Subzero temperatures were recorded on only the 9th and 10th with Guthrie Center and Atlantic reporting the month's lowest temperatures with -5° readings on the morning of the 10th. Temperatures reached into the 60's across parts of western Iowa on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 12th and 14th. The warmest day was on the 4th when afternoon highs in the 60's were recorded across the western one-third of Iowa with Hawarden reaching 68°.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 23% less than last February and 17% less than normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2004) degree day totals are running 8% less than last season and 11% less than normal.

Precipitation. Precipitation was frequent during the month but mainly fell as rain rather than snow. Over one-half of February's precipitation total came during one storm at mid-month. Rain moved into southwestern Iowa late on the 12th and finally departed the state early on the 14th. Rain fell statewide, averaging 0.85 inches, with Bedford reporting the most rain with 1.85 inches. Another storm event on the 6th-7th brought precipitation to all but far northwest Iowa. Rainfall totals with this early month storm reached 1.25 inches at Shenandoah with 1 to 3 inches of snow falling from southwest into north central Iowa. Another storm event on the 8th-9th brought 1 to 2 inches of snow to most of Iowa with 4 inches reported at several southwest Iowa locations. There were several other minor precipitation events during the month. The most significant of these was a snow event on the 24th when light snow fell from northwest into south central Iowa with 3.5 inches reported at Spirit Lake. Snowfall for the month averaged 4.0 inches or 2.3 inches less than usual. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.81 inches at Walford to 3.44 inches at Shenandoah.

Winter Summary. Temperatures over the three mid winter months averaged 25.3° or 3.8° above normal while precipitation totaled 3.56 inches or 0.39 inches greater than usual. This ranks as the 24th warmest and 50th wettest winter among 133 years of records. Snowfall so far this winter season has averaged 16.0 inches or 9.7 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 22nd lowest season-to-date snowfall total among 118 years of statewide snowfall averages.

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