

## IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2005

General Summary. November temperatures averaged 39.4° or 3.8° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.84 inches or 0.30 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 38<sup>th</sup> warmest and 48<sup>th</sup> wettest November (precipitation was above the long-term median despite being below the 30-year average) among 133 years of state records.

Temperatures. Most of November was warmer than normal as below normal temperatures were confined to only nine days (14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>). The warmest weather was recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when Glenwood and Onawa reached 82°. On the other extreme, Sibley recorded a low of -1° on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup>. This was Iowa's earliest subzero reading in the fall since 1997.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 14% less than normal but 4% more than last November. Thus far this heating season, heating degree day totals are running 17% less than normal and 1% less than last season.

Precipitation. Thunderstorms dumped over an inch of rain at a few eastern Iowa localities on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 1.75 inches reported at Oskaloosa. The season's first significant snowfall came on the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> when much of the northwestern three-fourths of the state received 1 to 3 inches of snow while parts of southeastern Iowa had up to three-fourths of an inch of rain. The month's largest precipitation event came on the 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> when most of the state picked up one-half inch or more of rain. The rain turned to snow on the 28<sup>th</sup> with 1 to 3 inch accumulations common over the northern half of Iowa. Finally, another storm system dropped snow statewide on the 30<sup>th</sup> into December 1<sup>st</sup>. However, this last event, bringing 2 to 4 inches of snow over much of the state will be included in next month's summary. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.81 inches at Leon to 3.82 inches at Anamosa.

Severe Weather. November was an unusually active month for severe weather. Thunderstorms produced isolated areas of large hail on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> while 10 tornadoes were reported on the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Tornadoes caused major damage in Woodward and Stratford with one fatality reported at Stratford. These were Iowa's first November tornadoes since 1991 and vies with 1988 (Nov. 15th) and 1975 (Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>) for the state's most active November for tornadoes. Meanwhile the season's first winter storm on the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> was accompanied by wind gusts of over 50 mph resulting in considerable drifting snow and unseasonably low wind chills. Overall, November was a very windy month. At Des Moines this was the windiest month since March 2004 and windiest November since 1988.

Fall Summary. The autumn months averaged 53.2° or 3.4° warmer than normal while precipitation totaled 6.23 inches or 1.84 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 16<sup>th</sup> warmest and 45<sup>th</sup> driest fall among 133 years of state records. A warmer autumn was last recorded in 1998 and a drier one in 2002.

Harry J. Hillaker, State Climatologist  
Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA 50319  
Phone: (515) 281-8981; E-mail: [harry.hillaker@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:harry.hillaker@idals.state.ia.us)