

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2006

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 39.2° or 3.6° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.84 inches or 0.30 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 39th warmest and 48th wettest November among 134 years of state records.

Temperatures. November began and ended with very cold weather; however, much of the intervening time was much warmer than usual. Temperatures were below normal for the first 3 days of the month with Spencer and Stanley cooling to 8° on the morning of the 3rd. However, above normal temperatures prevailed from the 4th through the 9th with Sioux City and Onawa soaring to 82° on the 8th. A strong, but brief, shot of cold air brought temperatures back below normal from the 10th to the 12th. Spencer, which hit 80° on the 8th saw temperatures fall to 0° on the morning of the 11th; the earliest 0° reading recorded in the autumn in Iowa since 1991. Temperatures were then above normal for most of the remainder of the month with a very mild period from the 20th through the 28th when each day averaged at least 10 degrees above normal. Red Oak and Shenandoah recorded the highest temperatures during this late month warmth with 69° readings on the 28th. Finally, a strong cold front moved across the state on the 29th, with the temperature falling to 3° at Sioux City by midnight of the 30th while afternoon highs climbed only into the teens across the northwest one-half of the state.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 1% more than last November but 13% less than normal. So far this heating season, degree day totals have averaged 19% greater than last season at this time and 1% less than normal.

Precipitation. Dry weather was the rule for much of November. There were only two periods with widespread significant precipitation, from the 10th to the 13th and the 26th to the 29th. The only notable snow event of the month came on the 10th when measurable snow covered about the northern one-half of the state with greatest amounts in north central Iowa. Algona recorded 9.5 inches of snow while Titonka and Lake Mills reported 8 inches. A second storm system brought light to moderate rain statewide late on the 12th and early on the 13th. Finally, a series of rain events dampened Iowa from late on the 26th to the 29th. Heaviest rains fell across central and eastern Iowa where one to two inch amounts were common while Keokuk recorded the most with 3.88 inches. Generally precipitation totals for the month were well below normal across far western Iowa and near to slightly above normal in the east. Monthly totals varied from 0.39 inches at Logan to 4.53 inches at Keokuk.

Fall Summary. Temperatures over the three autumn months averaged 49.1° or 0.7° below normal while precipitation totaled 7.76 inches or 0.31 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 35th coolest and 58th wettest fall season among 134 years of state records.

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