

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2008

General Summary. June temperatures averaged 69.5° or 0.3° below normal while precipitation totaled 9.01 inches or 4.37 inches above normal. This ranks as the 2nd wettest and 68th warmest June among 136 years of state records. Only five calendar months have been wetter since statewide averages were first calculated in 1873: July 1993 with 10.50 inches; June 1947 (10.33); August 2007 (9.78); September 1926 (9.65) and September 1965 (9.65).

Temperatures. Iowa recorded an exceptionally small range of temperatures during June. Daytime highs reached into the 90's on only three dates (7th, 8th and 25th) with a statewide maximum of 92° recorded on the 7th at Onawa and Little Sioux. A lower June maximum temperature has not been recorded since 1928. Meanwhile the month's lowest temperatures were 45° readings at Cresco and Chariton on the 17th. A higher June minimum temperature has not been recorded since 1932. The overall monthly range in extreme temperatures was only 47°, the smallest June temperature range on record (previous record was a 51° range in 1932, from 48° to 99°). The first half of June averaged 1.8° warmer than normal and it appeared that Iowa would break its string of six consecutive colder than normal months. However, the second half of the month averaged 2.5° cooler than normal, allowing the cold weather streak to extend to seven consecutive months.

Precipitation. Iowa endured an exceptionally wet period from May 29 through June 12 when a statewide average of 9.03 inches of rain fell (normal for the period is 2.45 inches). Daily statewide average rain statistics are not available very far back in time but it is doubtful that a larger amount of rain has been recorded in Iowa in only 15 days. Record flooding occurred along the entire length of the Cedar River, the Iowa River below Marshalltown, the Mississippi River along Louisa and Des Moines counties and a portion of the Des Moines River between Fort Dodge and Des Moines. Many other smaller rivers and streams also recorded major or record flooding. The most exceptional flooding occurred at Cedar Rapids where the Cedar River crested on June 13 at 19.12 feet above flood stage and 11.12 feet higher than the previous record crests recorded in 1929 and 1851. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 3.35 inches at Sioux City to 15.51 inches at Randolph. Only Milford and Sioux City recorded less than normal precipitation among 135 stations with 30-year averages. Record maximum June precipitation totals were recorded at several locations including:

City	June 2008	Old June Record	Period of Record
Bedford	12.24 inches	11.12 in 1943	103 years
Clarinda	13.09	13.04 in 1943	127 years
Corning	14.86	12.42 in 1967	120 years
Creston	13.74	12.43 in 1967	107 years
Decorah	14.10	11.80 in 1993	120 years
Greenfield	12.81	12.48 in 1898	109 years
Massena	15.17	14.92 in 1924	110 years

Mount Ayr	12.73	10.30 in 1947	115 years
Shenandoah	15.34	11.60 in 1984	75 years
Sidney	11.60	9.99 in 1967	68 years

The June totals at Decorah and Massena were record high amounts for any month (old record of 13.99 at Decorah in July 1883 and 14.92 at Massena in June 1924).

Severe Weather. Flooding was obviously the primary severe weather element of the month. However, other forms of severe weather were very frequent. A tornado resulted in four fatalities at a Boy Scout camp near Little Sioux on the evening of the 11th. Iowa has now recorded the most tornado related fatalities (12) since 1968. A total of 46 tornadoes were reported in June, the greatest June total since 1984 and highest for any month since May 2004. Non-flood related severe weather was reported from 98 of Iowa's 99 counties during June (Audubon County was the exception). Severe storms were reported somewhere in Iowa on 21 days during the month with Benton County alone reporting severe weather on ten dates.

First One-Half of 2008. The first six months of 2008 were the wettest recorded since statewide records began in 1873. The statewide average precipitation was 24.47 inches or 8.13 inches above normal. The previous wettest January through June period came in 1951 with 23.55 inches of precipitation. Meanwhile, Iowa also recorded the coolest start to the year since 1982. Statewide temperatures have averaged 39.6° or 3.2° below normal. This ranks as the 15th coolest January through June period among 136 years of state records. The temperature has failed to exceed 92° anywhere in Iowa so far this year. This is Iowa's lowest year-to-date maximum temperature since 1877 (also 92° that year).

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