

## IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2008

General Summary. November temperatures averaged 37.1 degrees or 1.5° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.78 inches or 0.36 inches below normal. This ranks as the 62<sup>nd</sup> warmest and 52<sup>nd</sup> wettest November among 136 years of statewide records.

Temperatures. Iowa basked in exceptionally mild weather for the first six days of the month. Temperatures soared into the 70's in many areas from the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> with Sioux City reaching 80° on 3<sup>rd</sup>. A few daily high temperature records were recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the month averaged 2.0 degrees below normal, but that was not cold enough to cancel out the warm start to November. On the other extreme, temperatures averaged more than ten degrees below normal on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The coldest weather of the month came on the 21<sup>st</sup> when Spencer Airport recorded the state's only subzero temperature of November with a -1° reading.

Heating Degree Days. Heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged the same as last November and 6% less than normal. Degree day totals so far this heating season are running 10% greater than last year at this time and 9% less than normal.

Precipitation. Most of November's precipitation fell during the first two weeks of the month. The wettest period came on the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> with a statewide average of 0.68 inches with north central Iowa seeing the most rain where 2.11 inches fell at Mason City. Light to moderate rain also fell statewide on the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. The rain changed to snow with each of these systems in far northern Iowa with an inch or two of snow accumulating on the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The first widespread accumulating snowfall of the season brought about an inch of snow to most of the northwest one-half of the state on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, a small area of west central Iowa from near Atlantic to Boone saw 3 to 5 inches of snow with this Saturday event. Finally, snow fell over all but extreme northwestern Iowa on the 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> with 3 to 6 inches falling from south central up to north central Iowa. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.53 inches at Rock Rapids (32% of normal) to 3.55 inches at Mason City (181% of normal). Generally precipitation amounts were above normal in west central, central and north central Iowa and furthest below normal in the northwest and southeast corners of the state.

Autumn Summary. Temperatures over the three fall months averaged 50.5° or 0.7° above normal while precipitation totaled 9.43 inches or 1.36 inches above normal. This ranks as the 62<sup>nd</sup> coolest and 30<sup>th</sup> wettest fall among 136 years of state records. A wetter fall has not been recorded since 1992. The harvest of corn and soybeans was the latest in many years. Rain and snow caused some delays in the harvest, however, the major factor was the delayed maturity of the crops (due to late planting from very wet spring and early summer weather). This late maturity increases the odds of having undesirably high crop moisture contents at harvest. Meanwhile, natural field drying of the corn becomes much less efficient as temperatures decline through the fall season. High costs of artificial drying of the harvested corn will significantly cut into farmer profits. According to data from NASS-Iowa Agricultural Statistics this is the largest percentage

of unharvested corn since 1992 when Iowa recorded its coolest growing season in 75 years.

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