



USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service, Iowa Field Office • 210 Walnut, Room 833 • Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2195
Phone 515-284-4340 • 1-800-772-0825 • Fax 515-284-4342 • nass-ia@nass.usda.gov
In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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For the month of December 2011

Most of Iowa had no need for a snow shovel in December as the State experienced above normal temperatures and below normal snowfall. Tile work as well as some fertilizer application continued throughout the month.

Most of December's precipitation came in the form of rainfall. As the month came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 24 percent very short, 31 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. The driest area of the State was the northwest corner with 63 percent very short.

Grain movement rated 42 percent none, 40 percent light, 16 percent moderate and 2 percent heavy with producers primarily moving grain to fulfill contracts.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 23 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus with only 11 percent of the supply in poor condition. Warm weather coupled with a lack of snow has reduced forage needs as cattle do not need to consume as much feed to stay warm and continue to gain weight. Few reports of livestock health issues have been received although pneumonia in cattle has been mentioned. Hog and pig losses in December were 51 percent light, 49 percent average and 0 percent heavy. Cattle and calf losses were similar with 58 percent light, 42 percent average and 0 percent heavy.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist

General Summary. December temperatures averaged 29.8 degrees or 6.9 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 2.14 inches or 0.80 inches above normal. This ranks as the 19th warmest and 13th wettest December among 139 years of records. This December seemed particularly mild in comparison to the previous four Decembers which were all unusually cold and snowy. The last warmer and less snowy December came in 2006.

Temperatures. Early December weather was mostly on the cold side of normal with temperatures over the first ten days of the

month averaging 3.3 degrees below normal. The season's first subzero temperature was reported at Battle Creek and Sibley on the morning of December 2 with -1 degree readings. Subzero temperatures were also recorded somewhere in the state on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th with Sheldon the cold spot with a temperature of -19 degrees on the 6th. An earlier -19 degree temperature has not been seen in Iowa since 1991. However, the early cold was not to last as all of the final 21 days of the month averaged warmer than normal and there were no subzero temperatures for the rest of December. Temperatures reached into the 50s on ten days between the 14th and 31st with Lamoni and Leon soaring to 62 degrees on New Year's Eve.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 17 percent less than normal and 24 percent less than last year. Thus far this season (since July 1) totals are running 14 percent less than normal and 11 percent less than last season.

Precipitation. Precipitation totals were well above normal for much of Iowa during December thanks largely to three large storm systems. The first event on the 3rd brought a statewide average of 1.5 inches of snow and 0.97 inch of precipitation. Snowfall amounts of 3 to 6 inches were common over the northwest one-third of the state while portions of south central Iowa saw nearly two inches of rain. The next event brought rain statewide on the 13th-14th with an average of 0.76 inch. Heaviest rains with the second storm were over portions of the southeast where more than two inches fell. The final event on the 29th-30th brought an average of 0.32 inch of rain with the greatest amounts over northern Iowa. Winter made a very brief appearance late on New Year's Eve with one to two inches of snow, along with some freezing drizzle, falling over a small area of northern Iowa accompanied by wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.69 inch near Lester in Lyon County to 3.93 inches at Mount Pleasant while snowfall totals varied from only trace amounts (less than one-tenth of an inch) at some central Iowa locations such as Ames, Grundy Center and Toledo to 11.3 inches at Little Sioux.

Post-Harvest Conditions as of January 1, 2012

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement	42	40	16	2

Hay/Roughage Availability as of January 1, 2012

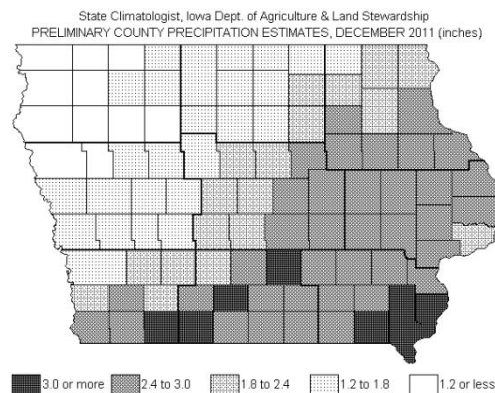
Item	Short (Percent)	Adequate (Percent)	Surplus (Percent)
Hay/Roughage	23	70	7

Hay/Roughage Quality as of January 1, 2012

Item	Poor (Percent)	Fair (Percent)	Good (Percent)
Hay/Roughage	11	43	46

Soil Moisture Condition as of January 1, 2012

Item	Districts										State (Percent)	Last Week (Percent)	Last Year (Percent)
	NW (Percent)	NC (Percent)	NE (Percent)	WC (Percent)	C (Percent)	EC (Percent)	SW (Percent)	SC (Percent)	SE (Percent)				
Topsoil moisture													
Very short	63	31	22	28	24	4	25	3	6	24	24	NA	1
Short	29	45	17	40	29	20	25	31	36	31	31	NA	7
Adequate	8	23	59	32	47	76	48	64	58	44	44	NA	85
Surplus	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	NA	7



December 2011 Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
North West District											
Estherville	52	-8	27	11	1.02	0.29	5	1,166	-281	26	20
Sioux Center	55	-18	28	9	0.79	-0.05	3	1,149	-213	28	26
Spencer	53	-14	27	9	1.03	0.32	3	1,172	-254	28	23
Spirit Lake	50	-10	26	10	0.92	0.03	7	1,186	-248	28	25
North Central District											
Britt	50	-2	26	7	1.25	-0.11	7	1,215	-254	30	26
Humboldt	51	0	27	7	1.29	0.28	5	1,173	-205	29	24
Mason City	51	-4	27	10	1.20	-0.01	5	1,164	-264	27	21
Osage	49	-1	26	7	1.49	0.24	7	1,202	-251	31	26
North East District											
Decorah	48	2	29	9	2.14	0.93	12	1,104	-258	29	24
Dubuque	52	6	31	10	2.72	0.76	12	1,043	-264	27	18
Elkader	51	4	27	7	2.90	1.50	12	1,156	-172	30	27
Fayette	50	4	28	8	2.45	1.04	8	1,144	-272	29	27
Waterloo	52	4	31	11	2.38	1.08	8	1,054	-289	26	18
West Central District											
Carroll	52	-4	27	7	1.18	0.22	6	1,157	-172	28	25
Castana	55	-3	28	5	1.30	0.47	5	1,148	-121	30	24
Guthrie Center	54	-4	28	6	1.76	0.48	7	1,135	-165	28	24
Harlan	53	-4	27	4	1.59	0.58	6	1,168	-152	29	27
Jefferson	53	-1	28	8	1.52	0.56	8	1,141	-178	28	24
Logan	51	-8	27	5	1.42	0.35	6	1,171	-108	30	28
Rockwell City	52	-2	28	7	1.24	0.31	4	1,150	-225	26	23
Sac City	53	-8	26	6	1.46	0.32	4	1,206	-158	31	26
Sioux City	57	-7	29	7	0.78	0.00	6	1,117	-192	25	24
Central District											
Boone	53	3	29	8	2.24	0.90	8	1,120	-199	28	26
Des Moines	56	4	34	10	2.54	1.22	8	963	-264	22	16
Grundy Center	52	5	29	9	2.38	1.09	6	1,113	-260	27	25
Marshalltown	53	3	31	10	2.52	1.23	8	1,034	-292	25	18
Newton	53	5	30	7	2.64	1.51	7	1,088	-183	26	25
Perry	54	1	29	7	2.44	1.38	7	1,103	-207	28	26
Toledo	52	3	29	8	2.13	0.88	6	1,114	-223	26	25
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	55	3	32	10	2.85	1.26	8	1,026	-259	25	17
Davenport	57	4	34	8	2.10	0.18	9	968	-206	21	15
Iowa City	57	5	33	8	2.58	1.02	9	980	-206	24	16
Lowden	56	3	29	7	2.83	0.72	11	1,104	-192	30	23
Maquoketa	54	6	29	7	2.66	0.86	9	1,093	-200	28	24
Muscatine	56	5	32	6	2.74	0.77	9	1,016	-169	23	22
South West District											
Atlantic	54	-8	28	6	2.26	1.17	8	1,143	-144	29	26
Clarinda	58	3	30	6	2.75	1.57	7	1,067	-179	30	26
Glenwood	54	3	29	6	2.08	0.90	6	1,106	-116	29	27
Red Oak	55	3	30	5	2.41	1.20	6	1,067	-178	29	25
Sidney	54	7	32	7	2.23	1.07	6	1,024	-174	28	24
South Central District											
Allerton	56	4	31	6	2.88	1.57	8	1,060	-180	27	24
Beaconsfield	55	7	31	7	2.94	1.83	7	1,060	-169	29	25
Chariton	56	-1	30	7	2.89	1.53	7	1,078	-174	28	25
Indianola	56	0	30	7	2.69	1.31	7	1,066	-192	28	24
Leon	57	2	31	7	2.55	1.19	6	1,054	-186	27	23
South East District											
Bloomfield	58	5	32	5	2.97	1.41	8	1,017	-172	27	22
Burlington	57	2	34	9	3.25	1.27	12	942	-211	19	16
Ottumwa	57	1	34	9	2.60	1.17	8	962	-228	22	16
Washington	57	-1	31	5	2.94	1.25	9	1,046	-179	24	22

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2012: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.