



Crops & Weather

National Agricultural Statistics Service
Iowa Field Office

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 February 2011

HIGHS AND LOWS

February in Iowa saw wide swings in temperatures as the state experienced high temperatures of at least 50 degrees with some areas reaching 70 degrees, but all of the State also experienced below zero temperatures. As field conditions allowed, manure was applied. Farmers are beginning to get equipment ready for spring tillage and planting.

Snow cover in Iowa as February closed was fairly sparse with 5 inches or less throughout the State. Topsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus.

Grain movement was 28 percent none, 31 percent light, 32 percent moderate and 9 percent heavy. Melting snow slowed the movement of grain to elevators as rural roads deteriorated in some areas.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 17 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Hay quality rated 19 percent poor, 45 percent fair, and 36 percent good. Hog and pig losses in February were 20 percent below average, 79 percent average and 1 percent above average. Cattle and calf losses were 27 percent below average, 70 percent average and 3 percent above average. Some early calving has begun.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 22.8 degrees or 1.4 degrees below normal while precipitation averaged 1.45 inches or 0.47 inches above normal. This ranks as the 69th coolest and 29th wettest February among 139 years of records.

Temperatures. Unseasonably cold weather prevailed for the first ten days of the month with temperatures averaging 11.4 degrees below normal. Storm Lake reported the lowest wind chill during this period with a reading of -42 degrees on the morning of the 8th while Elkader had the lowest actual temperature with -29 degrees on the morning of the 10th. However the second ten days of the month averaged 11.6 degrees above normal with daily maximum temperatures reaching into the mid 50's or higher somewhere in the state on the 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 20th. The highest temperature was reported from Leon with a 71 degrees reading on the 17th. This

Hay/Roughage Availability as of February 27, 2011

Item	Short (Percent)	Adequate (Percent)	Surplus (Percent)
Hay/Roughage	17	75	8

Hay/Roughage Quality as of February 27, 2011

Item	Poor (Percent)	Fair (Percent)	Good (Percent)
Hay/Roughage	19	45	36

Post-Harvest Conditions as of February 27, 2011

Item	None (Percent)	Light (Percent)	Moderate (Percent)	Heavy (Percent)
Grain movement	28	31	32	9

Snow Cover for the Month of February

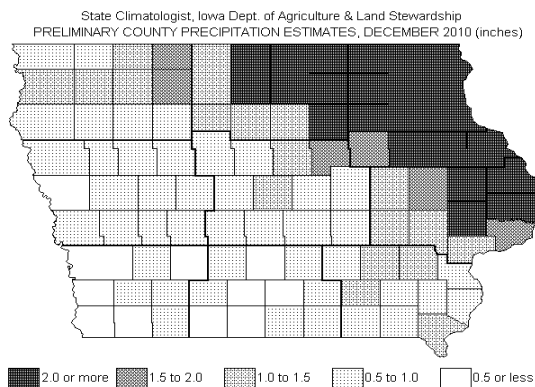
Item	Districts									State (Inches)	Last Month (Inches)	Last Year (Inches)
	NW (Inches)	NC (Inches)	NE (Inches)	WC (Inches)	C (Inches)	EC (Inches)	SW (Inches)	SC (Inches)	SE (Inches)			
Snow cover	5	3	5	1	2	2	3	3	2	3	7	14

was the highest temperature recorded in Iowa for so early in the year since a 72 degrees reading at Webster City on January 26, 2002. The relatively warm period at mid-month melted all of the snow pack from about the southwestern two-thirds of Iowa. Unfortunately the warm-up, accompanied by significant rain in many areas on the 20th, resulted in locally severe flooding from ice jams such as impacted the Fort Dodge area. The final eight days of the month averaged slightly colder than normal with no major extremes in temperature.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 3 percent more than normal but 12 percent less than last February. Degree day totals thus far this heating season are running 1 percent less than normal and 6 percent less than last season at this time.

Precipitation. By far the largest weather event of the month was the major blizzard which traversed the state on the first day of the month. Snow totals of a foot or more fell across much of southeast and east central Iowa and was accompanied by wind gusts of greater than 50 mph. This storm dumped official snow totals of as much as 18.5 inches at Lowden and 18.4 inches at the Quad Cities Airport (tying with January 11-13, 1979 for the greatest storm total in the Quad Cities among 127 years of records). Clinton Airport reported the highest wind gust reaching 66 mph on the evening of the 1st. The impact of this blizzard was particularly great thanks to the highest winds occurring simultaneously with the most intense snowfall. The storm produced a statewide average snowfall of 7.1 inches. The remainder of the month was fairly quiet with additional snowfall averaging only 3.9 inches across Iowa. However, freezing rain over the northern two tiers of Iowa counties on the 20th resulted in hazardous road conditions and numerous power failures with one-quarter inch ice accumulations common and localized glaze of up to six-tenths of an inch reported. Freezing rain also impacted about the southeast one-quarter of Iowa on the night of the 27th with accumulations of one-tenth to one-quarter of an inch.

Winter Summary. Temperatures over the three mid-winter months of December, January and February averaged 19.1 degrees or 2.9 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 3.59 inches or 0.43 inches above normal. This ranks as the 34th coldest and 51st wettest winter among 138 years of records. This was the fifth consecutive wetter than normal winter and fourth consecutive colder than normal winter season.



February 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	-14	19	2	1.00	0.23	4	1,279	8	25	22
Sioux Center	52	-17	21	0	1.53	0.88	5	1,175	33	26	21
Spencer	54	-17	19	-1	1.11	0.42	6	1,272	54	26	23
Spirit Lake	50	-17	18	2	0.40	-0.28	3	1,263	24	26	22
North Central District											
Britt	57	-14	19	-2	1.38	0.47	6	1,297	4	27	24
Humboldt	59	-14	20	-3	1.34	0.59	9	1,216	20	27	23
Mason City	56	-14	20	2	1.15	0.29	6	1,250	5	26	21
Osage	54	-15	18	-3	1.52	0.66	6	1,322	34	28	26
North East District											
Decorah	53	-22	21	2	0.63	-0.15	8	1,173	-29	25	24
Dubuque	50	-14	23	2	2.47	1.15	11	1,182	-7	26	22
Elkader	57	-29	19	-3	2.18	1.01	8	1,279	100	28	25
Fayette	54	-20	16	-5	2.78	1.66	6	1,358	81	28	28
Waterloo	62	-15	23	4	1.83	0.75	9	1,181	-21	26	22
West Central District											
Carroll	63	-14	21	-1	0.84	0.04	7	1,214	47	26	24
Castana	61	-17	21	-4	0.75	0.13	9	1,230	158	27	24
Guthrie Center	65	-17	22	-2	0.55	-0.51	5	1,196	64	27	26
Harlan	63	-15	22	-4	0.74	-0.06	7	1,210	60	28	24
Jefferson	64	-15	22	-1	0.88	0.08	6	1,205	53	27	23
Logan	64	-15	22	-3	0.48	-0.33	5	1,212	111	28	26
Rockwell City	62	-16	21	-3	1.15	0.45	6	1,231	31	28	23
Sac City	60	-15	20	-2	0.74	-0.12	5	1,261	62	28	25
Sioux City	63	-15	22	-2	1.14	0.43	8	1,190	59	25	22
Central District											
Boone	65	-14	22	-2	1.20	0.14	8	1,209	52	28	25
Des Moines	68	-9	27	4	1.07	-0.04	8	1,046	-44	24	19
Grundy Center	63	-12	21	2	1.88	0.88	4	1,219	8	27	23
Marshalltown	64	-8	24	3	0.72	-0.35	5	1,131	-54	25	20
Newton	66	-9	23	-2	0.62	-0.42	6	1,168	53	27	22
Perry	66	-13	24	3	0.98	0.17	6	1,153	-11	26	25
Toledo	65	-10	22	1	0.64	-0.29	7	1,195	16	27	22
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	63	-14	24	2	1.63	0.61	8	1,142	12	26	20
Davenport	62	-13	25	2	2.08	1.14	11	1,099	39	22	20
Iowa City	64	-16	25	-2	1.80	0.84	6	1,117	77	24	21
Lowden	60	-22	21	-1	2.61	1.30	11	1,225	55	27	24
Maquoketa	57	-16	21	0	2.42	1.36	9	1,220	41	28	24
Muscatine	62	-13	24	-3	2.07	1.00	10	1,131	91	24	23
South West District											
Atlantic	65	-16	23	0	0.54	-0.31	7	1,168	52	28	26
Clarinda	69	-14	25	-1	1.55	0.63	7	1,129	55	27	25
Glenwood	67	-8	24	-2	0.61	-0.18	5	1,132	73	28	25
Red Oak	68	-12	25	-3	0.92	-0.09	6	1,123	41	26	25
Sidney	69	-10	26	-2	1.25	0.41	6	1,095	61	25	22
South Central District											
Allerton	68	-11	24	-1	1.92	0.95	6	1,134	43	26	20
Beaconsfield	69	-11	24	-1	1.64	0.88	7	1,133	41	27	21
Chariton	68	-19	24	-1	1.64	0.59	8	1,145	32	26	22
Indianola	67	-14	24	-2	1.81	0.84	6	1,117	10	26	23
Leon	71	-18	25	0	1.17	0.18	7	1,112	28	25	24
South East District											
Bloomfield	67	-8	25	-3	1.95	0.95	8	1,117	53	24	21
Burlington	67	-9	28	2	2.31	1.15	9	1,022	-4	22	18
Ottumwa	68	-10	27	2	2.06	1.15	8	1,064	25	22	20
Washington	67	-19	24	-4	2.42	1.55	8	1,143	53	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 2011: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.