



Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

Upper Midwest Region-Iowa Field Office · 210 Walnut Street Ste 833 · Des Moines IA 50309 · (515) 284-4340 · (800) 772-0825
Fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the month of December, 2014
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Media Contact: Greg Thessen

December saw temperatures mostly above normal which allowed operations to catch up on bulldozing, tiling, and feedlot work not completed in November due to cold temperatures according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Average precipitation for the month was also below normal.

As December came to a close, topsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 9 percent short, 87 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. West Central portion of Iowa reported the highest moisture level with 98 percent in adequate to surplus.

December's mostly mild and dry weather led to higher levels of grain movement. One-third of grain movement in December 2014 was rated moderate to heavy, while only one-quarter of the movement last year at this time was rated moderate to heavy. In some areas most grain movement headed directly to ethanol plants, with limited movement to local elevators.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 0 percent very short, 5 percent short, 84 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Livestock conditions were reported as normal for the month of December, with some feedlots experiencing rut problems where muddy lots have frozen.

Post-Harvest Conditions as of December 31, 2014

Item	None	Light	Moderate	Heavy
	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Grain movement....	30	37	30	3

Hay/Roughage Supplies as December 31, 2014

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Hay/Roughage.....	0	5	84	11

Average Snow Depth for the Month of December

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)
Snow depth	2.0	2.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	NA	3.0

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

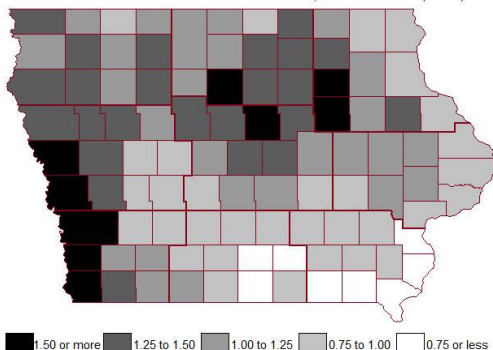
General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 28.2° or 5.3° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.12 inches or 0.22 inches below normal. This ranks as the 33rd warmest and 70th wettest December among 142 years of records.

Temperatures. The cold weather pattern that dominated the month of November persisted only into the first three days of December. Above normal temperatures prevailed on all but two days between the 4th and 28th. There were two prolonged periods averaging more than ten degrees warmer than normal from the 12th through the 15th and from the 21st through the 26th when overnight low temperatures were frequently higher than typical daytime high readings. The month's highest temperatures of 60° were recorded on the 14th at Shenandoah and Sidney. Subzero temperatures were confined to only December 1st, and again over the last four days of the month. Primghar and Sioux Center recorded the lowest temperatures of the month with -15° readings on the morning of the 30th while wind chills bottomed out at -33° the same morning at Storm Lake. Soils, which had frozen to a depth of three to eight inches during the unusually cold November, were completely thawed in many areas by Christmas. However, frost depths quickly returned to the 3 to 8 inch range in response to sharply colder weather at the end of December.

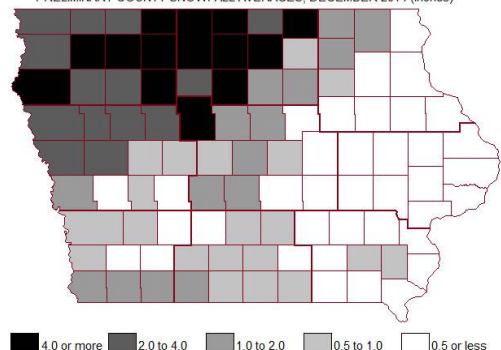
Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements averaged 23% less than last December and 13% less than normal for the month. Heating requirements thus far this winter season (since July 1) are running 13% less than last year at this time but are 1% more than normal.

Precipitation. December began very dry with no measurable precipitation anywhere in the state until the 7th. Most of the month's precipitation came in two events. The first storm system brought light to moderate rain statewide from the 14th to the 16th with the rain changing to very light snow in the far northwest late in the event. The second event also brought light to moderate rain statewide between the 22nd and 24th before changing over to one to four inches of snow across the northwest one-half of the state. One last event brought one to four inches of snow to the northwest one-third of Iowa on the night of the 26th. Monthly precipitation totals, coming mostly as rain, were above normal over most of northwestern Iowa but decreased to about one-half of normal over the far southeast. Preliminary totals varied from 0.59 at Fort Madison to 2.52 inches at Little Sioux. The statewide average snowfall for the month was only 1.5 inches or 7.8 inches below normal. This is the lowest December snow total since 2006 and 12th lowest among 128 years of records. Numerous locations in eastern Iowa had no measurable snow during the month such as Davenport, Dubuque and Iowa City. Saint Ansgar reported the most snow with 7.3 inches.

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
PRELIMINARY COUNTY PRECIPITATION AVERAGES, DECEMBER 2014 (inches)



State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
PRELIMINARY COUNTY SNOWFALL AVERAGES, DECEMBER 2014 (inches)



December 2014 Weather Summary for Iowa, Prepared by Iowa Environmental Mesonet.

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											
Rock Rapids	55	-12	25	5	1.13	0.37	6	1252	-149	27	21
Sheldon	54	-14	24	4	1.30	0.40	7	1266	-130	29	24
Sibley	52	-14	22	3	1.06	0.24	4	1343	-80	28	25
Sioux Center	54	-15	27	5	0.89	0.07	5	1189	-143	28	22
Spirit Lake	52	-11	24	5	1.02	0.25	6	1265	-144	28	25
Storm Lake	53	-12	26	5	0.71	-0.10	4	1214	-153	28	25
North Central District											
Algona	52	-1	25	4	1.22	0.33	7	1249	-136	26	23
Charles City	48	-7	26	4	1.20	0.04	5	1222	-129	28	25
Dakota City	54	-8	26	4	1.12	0.10	6	1217	-134	26	22
Hampton	52	-7	26	5	1.58	0.37	7	1198	-161	26	25
Mason City	50	-7	24	4	1.39	0.36	7	1264	-122	29	26
Osage	48	-8	25	4	1.26	0.01	5	1250	-130	28	25
North East District											
Cresco	48	-9	25	6	0.99	-0.26	6	1238	-177	28	26
Decorah	49	-4	28	6	0.96	-0.21	4	1158	-182	27	22
Dubuque	47	1	28	3	1.20	-0.34	5	1132	-108	25	20
Fayette	49	-5	27	6	0.92	-0.47	5	1171	-191	27	21
Manchester	49	-4	28	5	1.09	-0.33	4	1162	-168	26	22
Tripoli	50	-6	25	4	1.45	0.17	5	1231	-123	27	22
West Central District											
Audubon	56	-5	28	4	0.85	-0.21	7	1155	-115	27	24
Carroll	56	-5	26	3	0.94	-0.02	6	1204	-93	27	24
Jefferson	56	-5	27	3	0.85	-0.25	6	1176	-80	27	21
Logan	56	-5	29	4	1.77	0.79	7	1116	-125	26	22
Mapleton	54	-8	27	3	1.22	0.41	6	1173	-92	27	22
Rockwell City	54	-8	27	4	1.11	0.15	6	1182	-129	26	24
Central District											
Boone	55	-4	28	4	1.13	-0.18	7	1156	-136	28	24
Grinnell	56	-3	29	6	1.34	-0.12	6	1108	-172	27	20
Grundy Center	55	-4	27	5	1.24	0.09	6	1176	-163	29	23
Iowa Falls	51	-6	26	4	1.76	0.55	6	1219	-111	29	25
Marshalltown	56	-3	28	5	1.54	0.34	6	1140	-152	27	21
Webster City	53	-6	26	4	1.38	0.27	6	1207	-115	29	26
East Central District											
Anamosa	50	-1	29	6	1.17	-0.40	5	1101	-172	24	20
Cedar Rapids	53	-3	30	5	1.19	-0.35	7	1091	-140	25	18
Clinton	51	0	31	5	0.66	-1.28	6	1058	-143	25	18
Lowden	52	-2	29	5	1.16	-0.68	6	1116	-144	26	23
Maquoketa	49	-2	28	4	1.02	-0.71	5	1137	-128	25	21
Vinton	54	-4	28	4	1.37	0.01	5	1144	-121	27	20
South West District											
Atlantic	58	-4	29	5	1.07	0.00	6	1104	-149	27	21
Clarinda	57	-2	31	4	1.27	0.15	6	1054	-135	25	19
Glenwood	58	-3	28	2	2.06	1.06	5	1132	-53	26	19
Oakland	57	-5	29	4	1.36	0.35	7	1120	-113	27	21
Red Oak	59	-2	30	3	1.04	-0.09	7	1092	-98	25	18
Sidney	60	-3	29	1	1.26	0.25	3	1105	-37	28	20
South Central District											
Allerton	63	0	31	4	0.48	-0.73	5	1055	-136	26	19
Beaconsfield	55	-2	30	3	0.95	-0.36	6	1096	-80	26	20
Centerville	58	1	30	3	0.76	-0.57	5	1076	-78	24	17
Indianola	56	-3	30	3	0.75	-0.53	5	1097	-103	26	20
Lamoni	56	-1	29	2	1.15	-0.16	8	1115	-62	23	17
Osceola	56	-1	30	4	0.90	-0.36	7	1080	-123	26	20
South East District											
Bloomfield	57	1	31	3	0.68	-0.78	4	1044	-104	25	20
Donnellson	58	3	32	3	0.79	-1.15	4	1030	-80	25	19
Fairfield	58	0	30	2	1.01	-0.68	5	1092	-64	23	18
Keosauqua	60	1	31	2	0.55	-1.28	2	1068	-52	23	19
Washington	56	0	30	3	1.01	-0.66	4	1074	-103	25	20