



# Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the week ending May 17, 2015  
Issued May 18, 2015

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Wet and windy conditions slowed planting for Iowa farmers during the week ending May 17, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Statewide there were only 2.6 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Operators reported the wet weather led to standing water in some fields and the wind halted spraying activity.

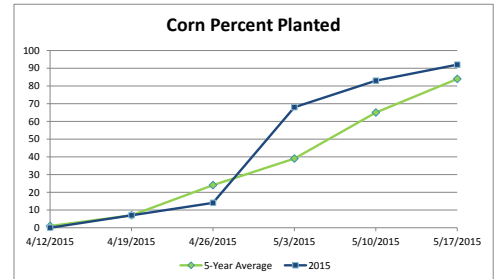
**Topsoil moisture** increased slightly to 0 percent very short, 4 percent short, 80 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** levels also increased and now stand at 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 83 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. North central and southwest Iowa reported the highest topsoil levels with 100 and 99 percent rated adequate to surplus, respectively. Southwest Iowa reported the highest subsoil moisture level at 99 percent rated adequate to surplus.

Ninety-two percent of the **corn** crop has been planted, 6 days ahead last year, and 5 days ahead of the 5-year average. Southwest Iowa is still lagging behind with just 75 percent planted, compared to northwest Iowa, where 98 percent of the corn was in the ground. Corn reached 63 percent emerged, just over one week ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of normal. **Soybean** planting reached 51 percent complete, 3 days ahead of 2014, and 2 days ahead of the average. Only 17 percent of the expected soybean crop has been planted in southwest Iowa, with south central Iowa the next lowest at 40 percent complete. With nearly all the State's **oat** crop planted, oats emerged reached 92 percent, 8 days ahead of last year, and 5 days ahead of normal. Oat condition ratings improved slightly with 81 percent rated good to excellent.

Limited progress has been made on the first cutting of **alfalfa hay** due to the cool, wet weather. Hay conditions now rate 80 percent good to excellent. **Pasture condition** also improved to 70 percent good to excellent. Livestock conditions were reported as mostly normal with a majority of cattle being turned onto pasture. Some cattle lots were described as messy or muddy. Meanwhile, poultry producers across the State continue to discuss the effects of avian influenza.

## Crop conditions as of May 17, 2015

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Hay, all.....	0	1	19	60	20
Oats.....	0	0	19	68	13
Pasture & Range...	0	5	25	55	15



## Field Work and Crop Progress as of May 17, 2015

Item	Districts										State	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Oats emerged.....	98	94	91	97	94	94	97	89	89	92	83	79	86	
Corn planted.....	98	97	91	92	97	92	75	88	89	92	83	82	84	
Corn emerged.....	71	65	52	62	78	65	40	61	68	63	29	25	44	
Soybeans planted.....	64	69	59	41	64	49	17	40	45	51	30	37	45	
Soybeans emerged.....	13	9	9	9	22	8	1	9	12	10	1	3	8	

## Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of May 17, 2015

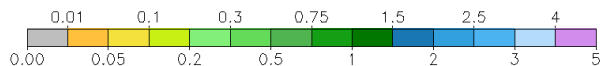
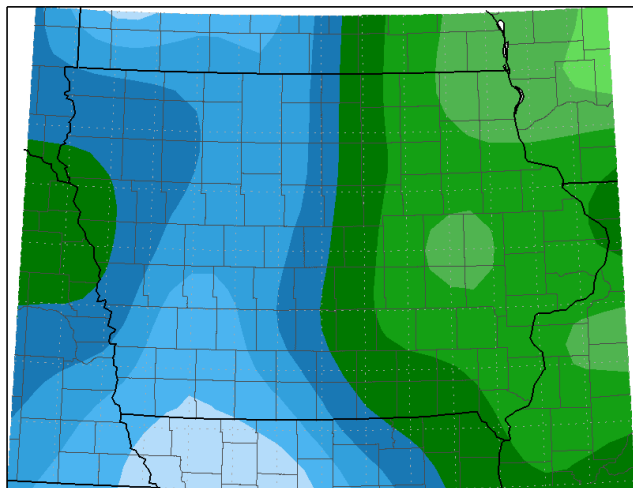
Item	Districts										State	Last Week	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)
Days suitable.....	2.7	2.5	3.2	2.4	2.8	3.4	1.7	2.5	1.9	2.6	2.5	3.0	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	
Topsoil moisture													
Very short.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Short.....	8	0	3	4	6	7	1	6	8	4	7	9	
Adequate.....	83	89	90	84	70	80	60	69	73	80	82	78	
Surplus.....	8	11	7	12	24	13	39	25	18	16	11	12	
Subsoil moisture													
Very short.....	5	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	4	1	2	7	
Short.....	18	1	10	3	12	8	1	14	16	8	10	25	
Adequate.....	73	92	81	88	78	83	81	77	75	83	82	62	
Surplus.....	4	6	8	9	9	9	18	8	5	8	6	6	

# IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Provided by Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist  
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

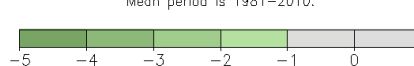
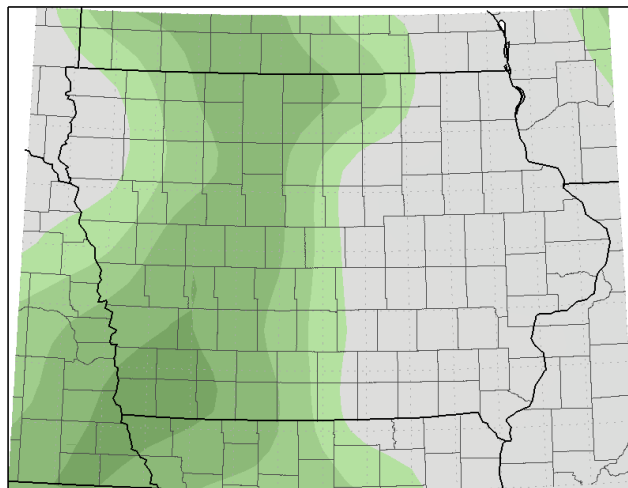
The past week began with widespread light to moderate rain from Sunday (10<sup>th</sup>) afternoon into Monday (11<sup>th</sup>) morning. Tuesday (12<sup>th</sup>) was dry while rain moved back into western Iowa Wednesday (13<sup>th</sup>) night. Rain fell over most of the state on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with the greatest amounts falling over west central and southwest Iowa. Finally, there were a few showers and thunderstorms on Sunday (17<sup>th</sup>). Rain totals for the week ranged from 0.45 inches at the Cedar Rapids Airport to 4.45 inches at the Audubon Airport. The statewide average precipitation was 1.32 inches while normal for the week is 1.05 inches. Meanwhile, cooler than normal weather prevailed from Monday through Thursday, with the coolest weather on Monday when highs were only in the mid-forties over northwest Iowa. Much warmer and more humid weather quickly returned for the weekend before a cold front swept across the state on Sunday. Temperature extremes ranged from a Tuesday morning low of 33 degrees at Elkader to afternoon highs of 83 degrees at Davenport and Maquoketa on Saturday (16<sup>th</sup>) and at Bellevue and Clinton on Sunday afternoon (17<sup>th</sup>). Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged 0.4 degrees above normal. Severe thunderstorms were scattered across portions of northwest and west central Iowa on Sunday (10<sup>th</sup>) with greatest damage from high winds, large hail and a tornado in Calhoun County. There were also a few reports of damaging winds in central and south central Iowa early Sunday (17<sup>th</sup>) morning.

Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
May 11, 2015 to May 17, 2015



Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
Generated at: 5/18/2015 8:00:35 AM CDT

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean  
May 11, 2015 to May 17, 2015



Mean period is 1981-2010.  
Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
Generated at: 5/18/2015 9:12:30 AM CDT

Access the Iowa State Climatologist's website at: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/climatology.asp>

Iowa Environmental Mesonet data, courtesy of Iowa State University of Science and technology, is available at: <https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/agweather/>

Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/>