



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water Summary Update: January warmer with more rain and snow than usual

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DES MOINES — Both statewide precipitation and temperatures were above average in January, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

"January 2020 was another wetter than normal month, making the last 24 months the wettest on record in Iowa," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources.

Iowa had 1.27 inches of precipitation in January, above the normal level of 0.92 inches. Temperatures averaged 23 degrees, 3.6 degrees above normal. Bloomfield noted the highest temperature of the month at 63 degrees on Jan. 9, while Logan recorded the lowest at -16 on Jan. 21.

Above average snowfall also blanketed much of the state, with an average snowfall of 11.2 inches, 3.5 inches above average. This ties 1905 and 2018 as the 20th snowiest January, based on 133 years of records.

Streamflow conditions in the state have decreased slightly from last month, and are now rated as above normal in most places. Nearly the entire Mississippi River and Missouri River basins are currently free from drought and dryness.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate.

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

Livestock master matrix adopted in 89 counties

MEDIA CONTACTS: Kelli Book at 515-725-9572 or Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES – In January, 89 of Iowa's 99 counties notified DNR that they plan to evaluate construction permit applications and proposed animal confinement locations by using the master matrix.

With few exceptions, most counties will use the matrix during the next 12 months. The following counties will not use the matrix in 2020: Davis, Des Moines, Keokuk, Lee, Mahaska, Osceola, Plymouth, Wapello, Warren and Washington.

Animal confinement producers who need a construction permit before building in counties which use the matrix must meet additional requirements. Producers qualify by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on air, water and the community.

Counties that adopt the master matrix can provide more input to producers on site selection, and proposed structures and facility management. Participating counties score each master matrix submitted in their county and can recommend that DNR approve or deny the construction permit. They can also join in DNR visits to a proposed confinement site.

While all counties may submit comments to DNR during the permitting process, counties that adopt the master matrix can also appeal a preliminary permit to the state Environmental Protection Commission.

The deadline for enrolling in the program is Jan. 31 of each year.

Find more information, including a map of participating counties by searching for Master Matrix at www.iowadnr.gov/afo or directly on the [master matrix](#) web page.

The master matrix applies to producers who must get a construction permit to build, expand or modify a totally roofed facility. Generally, these are confinement feeding operations with at least 2,500 finishing hogs, 1,000 beef cattle or 715 mature dairy cows.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242 or Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR's website at www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions.

Consent Orders A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Carroll County

Brian Behrens

Operate in compliance with relevant law, implement a Plan of Action, pay a \$2,500 administrative penalty.

Webster County

Calcium Products, Inc.

Cease illegal discharges to waters of the state, comply with the facility NPDES permit, remediate the impacted area, and pay a \$6,700 administrative penalty.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525

or Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov for construction permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and air quality. DNR's permitting staff review each permit application to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality requirements. We encourage public comments on draft permits, providing help on how to [make effective comments](#). Submit written comments to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. DNR considers public comments before finalizing the permits.

Title V Operating Permits

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft.

Buchanan County

Flint Hills Resources Fairbank, LLC – 1277 102nd St, Fairbank.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Industrial Organic Chemicals, NEC facility. The public comment period ends March 7.

Construction Permits

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modify existing sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch.

Cerro Gordo County

Golden Grain Energy, LLC – 1822 43rd St SW, Mason City.

Project No. 19-410, Become major HAP source. The public comment period ends March 9.