



Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

Upper Midwest Regional Field Office · 210 Walnut Street Ste 833 · Des Moines IA 50309 · (515) 776-3400 · (800) 772-0825
Fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov/ia

Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the week ending May 23, 2021
Issued May 24, 2021

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Persistent precipitation limited opportunities for farmers to plant corn or soybeans during the week ending May 23, 2021 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Statewide there were just **2.4 days suitable for fieldwork** during the week. Where possible, field activities included planting and spraying.

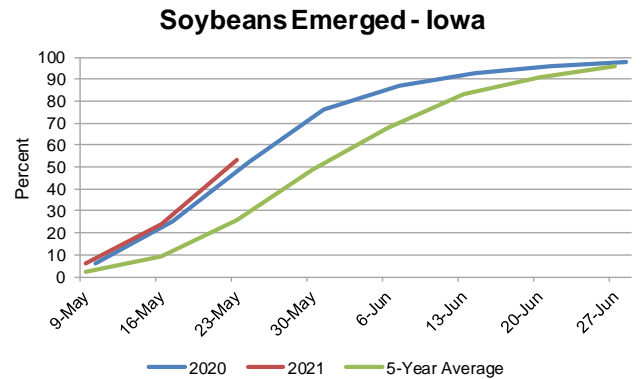
Topsoil moisture levels rated 3% very short, 15% short, 71% adequate and 11% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** levels rated 11% very short, 29% short, 54% adequate and 6% surplus.

Planting of Iowa's expected **corn** crop is nearly complete at 97%, two weeks ahead of the 5-year average. Corn emergence reached 75%, 5 days ahead of normal. Iowa's first corn condition rating of the season showed 0% very poor, 1% poor, 21% fair, 64% good and 14% excellent. Eighty-nine percent of the **soybean** crop has been planted, 15 days ahead of normal. Soybeans emerged jumped 29 percentage points during the week, to 53%, 9 days ahead of the 5-year average. Farmers in south central and southeast Iowa still have at least 20% of their soybean crop to plant but some areas may need a few days to dry out enough to allow field work to resume. Ninety-six percent of the **oat** crop has emerged and 8% of oats have headed. Iowa's oat condition rated 62% good to excellent.

Six percent of the State's first cutting of **alfalfa hay** has been completed. Iowa's **hay condition** rating rose to 59% good to excellent. **Pasture condition** improved to 49% good to excellent. Warmer temperatures and rain have promoted good pasture and hay growth. Overall, livestock conditions are good, however, some producers reported muddy feedlots. Some cows and calves have been turned out on grass.

Crop Condition as of May 23, 2021

Item	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Corn	0	1	21	64	14
Hay, all	4	8	29	46	13
Oats	1	4	33	50	12
Pasture and range	5	14	32	38	11



Crop Progress as of May 23, 2021

Item	Districts									State			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn planted	99	98	97	94	98	97	98	95	96	97	94	97	90
Corn emerged	77	89	68	67	80	74	77	65	70	75	52	79	64
Hay, alfalfa, first cutting	7	2	11	13	15	7	4	0	3	6	3	4	10
Oats emerged	93	97	98	93	96	95	96	93	95	96	88	94	91
Oats headed	12	10	3	17	15	6	9	7	6	8	1	0	4
Soybeans planted	98	97	95	85	94	88	83	77	68	89	83	91	66
Soybeans emerged	59	70	55	45	66	46	45	38	41	53	24	48	26

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of May 23, 2021

Item	Districts									State		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)
Days suitable	3.8	3.5	2.2	2.0	3.6	2.3	0.8	0.6	0.5	2.4	4.8	2.5
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	7	2	1	2	5	1	0	0	4	3	7	0
Short	27	19	22	23	14	7	3	1	3	15	27	2
Adequate	62	78	69	71	75	77	78	80	49	71	61	76
Surplus	4	1	8	4	6	15	19	19	44	11	5	22
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	19	11	4	21	9	3	9	11	2	11	12	1
Short	37	31	31	40	30	18	33	19	8	29	36	3
Adequate	41	58	58	39	58	66	55	68	59	54	48	79
Surplus	3	0	7	0	3	13	3	2	31	6	4	17

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Provided by Justin Glisan, Ph.D., State Climatologist
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Reports from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on May 17, 2021, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on May 23, 2021.

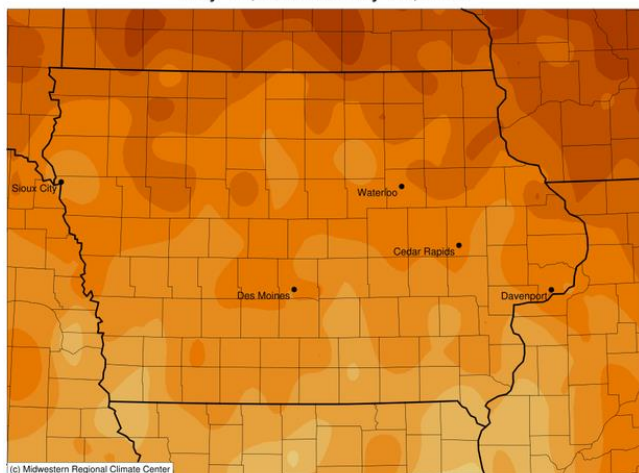
A significant shift in the jet stream pulled moisture from the Gulf of Mexico into the Midwest bringing much needed rainfall across the state during the reporting period. A northward bulge in the atmospheric circulation pattern also broke a streak of cooler than normal temperatures as Iowa experienced unseasonably warm conditions; the statewide average temperature was 67.6 degrees, 4.2 degrees above normal.

Dreary conditions persisted across southern Iowa through Sunday (16th) afternoon as rain showers propagated west to east. Daytime temperatures pushed into the low 70s in northwestern Iowa where the sun was shining as opposed to the upper 50s and low 60s where clouds were present. Rain totals reported at 7:00 am on Monday (17th) were highest south of Interstate 80 with widespread totals above 0.50 inch; Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) gauges in Creston (Union County) and College Springs (Page County) measured 1.18 inches. Showers remained across southeastern Iowa into the early afternoon as overcast skies blanketed the state with temperatures in the mid 60s to low 70s. A low pressure center over Missouri streamed showers into eastern Iowa overnight into Tuesday (18th) with morning lows in the upper 50s and low 60s and an easterly wind. Rain continued across much of Iowa's eastern third into the nighttime hours as winds shifted to a southerly direction. A warm front lifted north over Iowa early Wednesday (19th) ahead of another disturbance that brought a complex of showers in western Iowa. As the day progressed, more showers and a few thunderstorms moved south to north through Iowa, bringing widespread rainfall to a majority of reporting stations. Even with cloud cover, a warmer air mass pushed temperatures into the low 70s north to upper 70s south, creating muggy conditions. Rain totals were generally above a tenth of an inch with pockets of 0.50 inch to 0.75 inch in southwestern and northwestern Iowa; several rain gauges in Dickinson County reported over an inch with the statewide average rainfall at 0.28 inch.

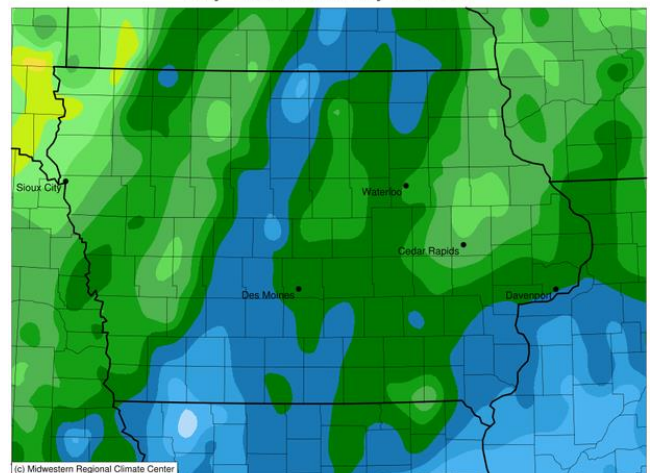
With adequate moisture flowing into the Midwest, rain continued over Iowa through Thursday (20th) with a swath of 0.50 inch to 1.50 inches from the southwest through north-central Iowa. A discrete thunderstorm spawned a weak tornado over northwestern Dallas County during the evening with heavy downpours in certain locations; no damage was reported. Over 20 stations reported an inch or more with Boone (Boone County) picking up 2.14 inches. Overnight lows into Friday (21st) remained unseasonably warm under cloud cover and southerly winds; temperatures stuck in the mid to upper 60s with a statewide average low of 64 degrees, 13 degrees above normal. Rain lingered in eastern Iowa until the disturbance pushed out of the state. Clearing skies allowed temperatures to climb into the low 80s at some stations in northwestern Iowa. Another system propagating across western Missouri brought additional rainfall over portions of Iowa through Saturday (22nd) before dissipating as the sun set. Daytime highs ranged from low 80s northwest to mid 70s southeast where rain was present. Event totals reported on Sunday (23rd) morning were generally light though southeastern Iowa had pockets of higher amounts with Salem (Henry County) observing 0.66 inch.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from 0.14 inch at Rock Valley (Sioux County) to 3.20 inches in Clarinda (Page County). The statewide weekly average precipitation was 1.24 inches while the normal is 0.99 inch. Sibley (Osceola County) and Spencer Municipal Airport (Clay County) observed the week's high temperature of 86 degrees on the 22nd, on average 14 degrees above normal. Estherville (Clayton County) reported the week's low temperature of 42 degrees on the 17th, five degrees below normal.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals
May 17, 2021 to May 23, 2021



Accumulated Precipitation (in)
May 17, 2021 to May 23, 2021



0 5 10
Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
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Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
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Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/>
Growing Degree Days can be found at <https://mrcc.illinois.edu/U2U/gdd/>