



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 9, 2021

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## Despite dry November, drought conditions improve and stabilize

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tim Hall, 515-452-6633, [Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov)

DES MOINES — After a very wet October, November was drier than normal, but conditions improved over the month. As the state enters winter, conditions have stabilized, according to the most recent Water Summary Update.

Shallow groundwater conditions, as well as soil moisture, are showing improvement. Over meteorological autumn (September, October and November), precipitation was nearly normal.

“Although the state did not receive normal rainfall in November, the extra rain we did get in October along with November’s rainfall is enough to continue the trend of improvement,” said Tim Hall, Hydrology Resources Coordinator for the Iowa DNR. “There is still time for December rainfall to soak into the ground before widespread soil freezing, and anything we get will improve conditions for the start of the 2022 spring season.”

Statewide average precipitation in November was 0.92 inches, or about half of what is normally expected. Statewide average snowfall was just 0.1 inches, well below the average of 2.6 inches.

Streamflow and soil moisture conditions to show improvement, which is a good indicator of potential conditions for the spring of 2022.

For a thorough review of Iowa’s water resource trends, go to [iowadnr.gov/WaterSummaryUpdate](http://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.

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## DNR enforcement actions

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242**  
or [Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto: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](http://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.

### Linn County

Cedar Rapids Community School District

Comply with all asbestos regulations during future restorations, renovations, and construction projects; require future contractors and subcontractors to submit a full scope of work for each project; and pay a \$4,500 administrative penalty.

### Plymouth County

LCNJ Farms, LLC

Clean manure from the basin and properly land apply it; submit a written Plan of Action for basin pumping and submit for approval, and immediately implement upon approval; and pay \$3,349.82 in fish restitution and a \$5,500 administrative penalty.

### Webster County

Jacob Geisler dba JDG Pork Enterprises, L.C.

Pay a \$2,000 administrative penalty.

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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525**  
or [Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V 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](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

**Webster County**

Koch Fertilizer Ft. Dodge, LLC – 3162 200th St., Duncombe.

The application was submitted to operate their existing nitrogenous fertilizers facility. The public comment period ends Jan. 8, 2022.