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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

April 1, 2024 - For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Much of the State experienced cooler than normal temperatures and much needed rain/snow showers which left Iowa farmers with 1.6 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending March 31, 2024, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Although minimal fieldwork occurred over the last week, some producers were able to apply anhydrous, manure, and dry fertilizer.

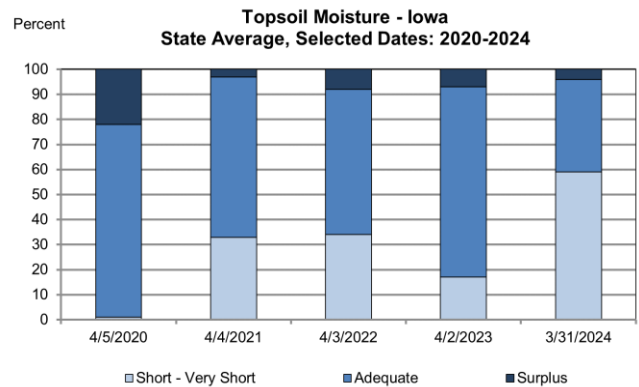
Topsoil moisture condition rated 22 percent very short, 37 percent short, 37 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 35 percent very short, 41 percent short, 22 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

Oats seeding has already reached 21 percent complete, 11 days ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Much of the seeding took place prior to the week ending March 31. Some seeding took place several weeks ago and is starting to emerge.

No reports of cattle turned out onto pasture yet as many pastures are just beginning to green up with little new growth. Calving was in full swing.

Crop Condition as of March 31, 2024

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range	12	26	38	21	3



Crop Progress as of March 31, 2024

Item	Districts									State			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Oats planted	27	24	22	12	21	34	16	7	15	21	(NA)	1	3

(NA) Not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of March 31, 2024

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	0.6	3.1	2.7	1.9	3.7	3.2	2.7	4.8	3.6	2.7	(NA)	1.6
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	5	16	26	17	32	42	27	10	21	22	(NA)	2
Short	42	46	41	28	44	19	35	37	36	37	(NA)	15
Adequate	44	37	29	52	22	33	37	49	39	37	(NA)	76
Surplus	9	1	4	3	2	6	1	4	4	4	(NA)	7
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	32	37	37	21	53	38	35	21	34	35	(NA)	6
Short	27	56	45	56	33	34	47	36	32	41	(NA)	25
Adequate	35	6	17	22	14	26	18	38	33	22	(NA)	64
Surplus	6	1	1	1	0	2	0	5	1	2	(NA)	5

(NA) Not available

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

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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 March 25, 2024, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on March 31, 2024.

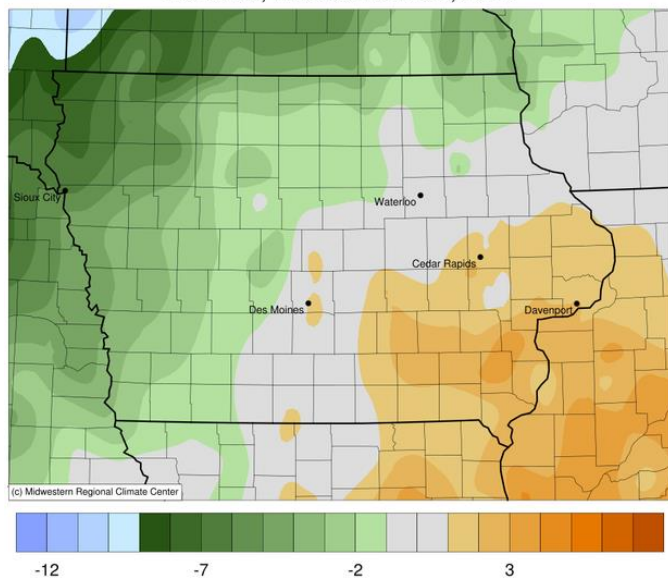
An active storm track brought unseasonably wet conditions to Iowa's northwestern two-thirds, leading to widespread improvement in drought conditions. Temperatures during the first reporting period of 2024 varied from cooler conditions in the northwest to marginal warmth in the southeast; the statewide average temperature was 40.2 degrees, 2.3 degrees below normal.

Several waves of showers and a few thunderstorms continued across Iowa through Sunday (24th) afternoon and evening with east-southeasterly winds. Daytime highs ranged from the mid 30s north to low 50s south, where periodic peeks of sun were observed. A southerly shift in the wind occurred overnight as the large-scale low pressure center pushed into western Iowa. Muddy rain was reported on Monday (25th) morning as a large dust plume from New Mexico was lofted into the atmosphere and transported northeast via the mid-level steering flow. A dry slot with minimal cloud cover formed in the early afternoon allowing highs to rise into the low 60s across central and southern Iowa. Showers and thunderstorms re-formed in southeastern Iowa and then across a broader area in western Iowa through the remainder of the day. The low pressure center finally exited Iowa early on Tuesday (26th) with some snowflakes flying as colder air wrapped in behind the system. Event rain totals were well above average for most locations with over 140 stations collecting at least an inch in Iowa's northwestern half; more than one-third of the stations in west-central to northwest Iowa measured 2.00 to 3.00 inches with 3.05 inches in Jefferson (Greene County). Strong northwesterly winds developed in the afternoon with mid 20s northwest to mid 30s southeast under overcast skies. Clouds gradually cleared west to east before sunrise on Wednesday (27th) with morning lows in the teens under clear skies and in the mid 20s farther east where stratus clouds were present. Unseasonable cool afternoon temperatures held in the 30s with westerly winds.

Partly cloudy skies persisted into Thursday (28th) morning as light winds became variable with temperatures across western Iowa in the 20s to low 30s southeast. Winds shifted to the east through the daylight hours with temperatures reaching into the upper 60s in the southwest counties while conditions were up to 25 degrees cooler to the northeast. Spotty and light showers developed in eastern Iowa with several stations picking up a trace of rainfall; Muscatine (Muscatine County) measured 0.12 inches. Morning temperatures on Friday (29th) were in the 30s as persistent easterly winds gained strength. A warm front lifted north into the state as winds shifted to the south in advance of a low pressure system approaching Iowa. Highs reached into the mid 70s south of the front while conditions held in the upper 50s in northern Iowa. Isolated strong to severe storms fired in eastern Iowa after sunset. Stations that received rain generally reported under 0.20 inches though locations under heavier storms observed totals ranging from 0.56 inches in Dubuque (Dubuque County) to 0.79 inches in Hopkinton (Delaware County). Saturday (30th) was somewhat of a chilly day with clear skies, gusty northerly winds and temperatures in the low 40s northwest to low 60s southeast. Overcast conditions developed into Sunday (31st) morning with low temperatures dropping into the upper 30s across northern Iowa.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from 0.03 inches in Moulton (Davis County) to 3.11 inches in Eagle Grove (Wright County). The statewide weekly average precipitation was 1.20 inches, almost double the normal of 0.64 inches. Shenandoah (Page County) reported the week's high temperature of 76 degrees on the 29th, 18 degrees above average. Primghar (O'Brien County) and Sibley (Osceola County) reported the week's low temperature of nine degrees on the 27th, on average 19 degrees below normal. Four-inch soil temperatures ranged from the low 40s north to upper 40s south as of Sunday.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals
March 25, 2024 to March 31, 2024



Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 25, 2024 to March 31, 2024

