



Iowa Ag News – Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

April 29, 2024 - For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Although the week began with dry weather, by Friday severe storm systems brought cooler temperatures and rain which allowed Iowa farmers 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 28, 2024, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. The storms also brought tornadoes and hail to areas of the State. Corn, soybean, and oat planting advanced early in the week, but came to a halt for most as storms arrived.

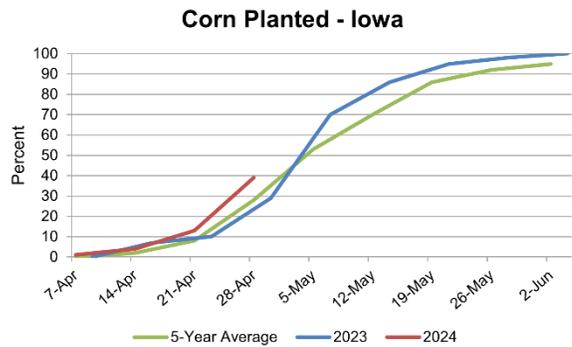
Topsoil moisture condition rated 5 percent very short, 17 percent short, 68 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus. Recent rains led to just 22 percent short to very short for the State’s topsoil versus 37 percent as of April 21, 2024. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 14 percent very short, 27 percent short, 53 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

Corn planted reached 39 percent complete, 4 days ahead of last year and 3 days ahead of the 5-year average. Two percent of the expected corn crop has emerged. Twenty-five percent of the expected **soybean** crop has been planted, 4 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of the average. Ninety percent of the expected **oat** crop has been planted, 5 days ahead of last year and 9 days ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-three percent of the oat crop has emerged, 8 days ahead of last year.

Pastures and hay ground continued to green up, but warmer temperatures would aid in growth. Reports were received of cattle being turned out onto pasture.

Crop Condition as of April 28, 2024

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range	5	11	41	36	7



Crop Progress as of April 28, 2024

Item	Districts									State			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year avg
	(percent)												
Corn planted	54	49	23	40	39	34	38	28	25	39	13	24	28
Oats planted	99	98	83	87	90	97	91	81	86	90	78	80	77
Oats emerged	76	69	39	43	57	76	26	51	28	53	34	24	24
Soybeans planted	26	16	21	25	32	28	28	20	23	25	8	13	12

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of April 28, 2024

Item	Districts									State		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	(days)											
Days suitable	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.1	2.9	4.2	3.0	4.8
	(percent)											
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	1	1	11	6	6	15	2	2	2	5	10	5
Short	8	18	19	22	31	12	25	9	3	17	27	24
Adequate	67	77	64	63	61	63	64	82	69	68	60	68
Surplus	24	4	6	9	2	10	9	7	26	10	3	3
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	3	13	18	17	20	20	16	5	17	14	19	8
Short	19	27	28	34	44	15	40	15	15	27	36	31
Adequate	57	57	50	44	36	63	42	74	56	53	43	58
Surplus	21	3	4	5	0	2	2	6	12	6	2	3

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 April 22, 2024, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on April 28, 2024.

Several waves of severe thunderstorms spawned multiple strong tornadoes, causing significant damage across portions of western and central Iowa late in the reporting period. This active storm track also brought much-needed rainfall across the drought region, along with reports of hail and high winds. Unseasonably warm conditions persisted with positive departures of up to four degrees over southern Iowa; the statewide average temperature was 53.9 degrees, 2.0 degrees above normal.

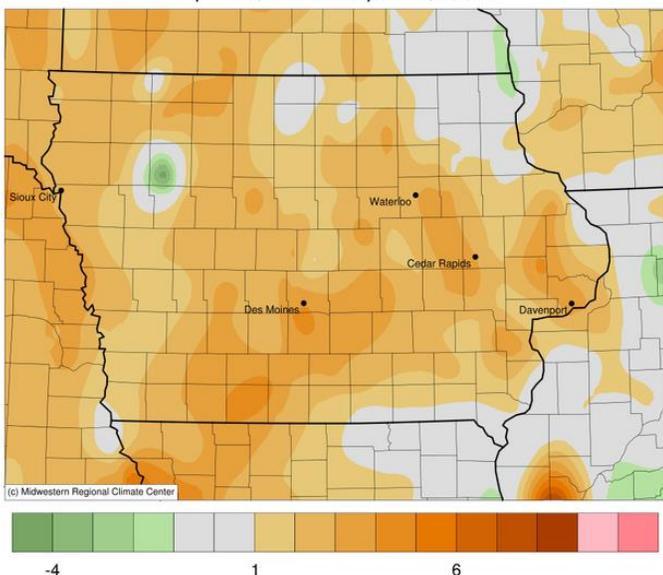
Clear skies and westerly winds persisted through Sunday (21st) afternoon as daytime temperatures held in the upper 50s and low 60s. With high pressure dominating the weather pattern, southerly winds increased overnight as Monday (22nd) morning temperatures dropped into the upper 30s to low 40s. Afternoon temperatures rose into the upper 60s and low 70s as a cold front brought spotty showers across the state; the low-level atmosphere was particularly dry, evaporating most of the rain before hitting the surface. Light rain eventually registered across several stations towards daybreak on Tuesday (23rd) with College Springs (Page County) reporting 0.11 inches; most stations observed 0.01 inches or less. Extreme southeastern Iowa picked up additional rainfall from lingering showers with Keokuk Lock and Dam (Lee County) reporting 0.25 inches. Winds shifted to the northwest behind the front with daytime highs ranging from the low 50s northwest to low 70s southeast. Starry skies were observed into Wednesday (24th) with near-freezing temperatures over northern Iowa and low 40s for much of southern Iowa. Pleasant conditions greeted Iowans through the day with temperatures in the 60s under light, variable winds and sunny skies. Winds shifted southeasterly after midnight, signaling an approaching low pressure center and a shift to an active weather pattern. Thursday (25th) started warm with temperatures in the low to mid 50s across much of Iowa. Clearing skies helped boost afternoon temperatures into the upper 60s in northwestern Iowa while mid 50s were observed south.

Showers and thunderstorms pushed into western Iowa during the early morning hours on Friday (26th) ahead of a warm front draped over southern Iowa. Rainfall spread over much of the state into the afternoon with overcast skies holding highs in the low to mid 50s; upper 60s and low 70s were reported in southwestern Iowa where clearing skies and higher dewpoints were amping up atmospheric instability. Intense supercells that blasted through eastern Nebraska crossed into Iowa, spawning several long-track, multi-vortex tornadoes. As the tornadoes plowed northeast, several towns experienced substantial damage along with heavy rain. Minden (Pottawattamie County) took a direct hit and experienced extensive damage to more than 75 homes. These storms eventually coalesced into a line that produced additional tornadoes, many rated EF-2, in central Iowa causing additional damage across Union, Clarke, Madison and Polk counties. The system lost energy in eastern Iowa and cleared the state by daybreak on Saturday (27th). Rain totals were highest across three swaths of western, central and southeastern Iowa with nearly 80 stations reporting an inch; 50% of Iowa's rain gauges had at least 0.46 inches; 1.83 inches was observed in Madrid (Polk County) while Missouri Valley (Harrison County) registered 1.94 inches. Saturday (27th) was another active weather day with severe thunderstorms firing over southeast Iowa through the afternoon and evening hours; there were several severe hail and high wind reports along with heavy rain. Most stations received an additional 0.25-0.50 inch with locations along the Iowa-Missouri border receiving more than an inch; two stations in Lee County, Augusta and Donnellson, observed 2.03 and 2.15 inch-totals, respectively. Showers lingered in the southeast corner into Sunday (28th) with lows in the 50s northwest to low 60s southeast.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from 0.10 inches at Guttenberg Lock and Dam (Clayton County) to 4.72 inches in Little Sioux (Harrison County). The statewide weekly average precipitation was 1.32 inches, while the normal is 0.91 inches. Iowa City (Johnson County) reported the week's high temperature of 84 degrees on the 27th, 18 degrees above average. Several northern stations reported the week's low temperature of 25 degrees on the 22nd, on average 12 degrees below normal. Four-inch soil temperatures ranged from the low 50s northwest to low 60s southeast as of Sunday.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals

April 22, 2024 to April 28, 2024



Accumulated Precipitation (in)

April 22, 2024 to April 28, 2024

