

## IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2001

General Summary. November temperatures averaged 47.9° or 10.5° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.60 inches or 0.18 inch less than normal. This was the warmest November on record in Iowa, easily breaking the previous November record of 44.3° set in 1999. This was the 61<sup>st</sup> wettest November among 129 years of state records.

Temperatures. Temperatures across the state averaged above normal on every day of the month except the 28<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures averaged more than 20 degrees above normal on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Glenwood reported the month's highest temperature with a reading of 79° on the 7<sup>th</sup> while temperatures also reached or exceeded 77° on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in various portions of Iowa. On the other end of the spectrum the month's lowest temperatures were 14° readings at Sheldon on the 20<sup>th</sup> and at Hawarden on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 39% less than normal and 48% less than last November which was the 19<sup>th</sup> coldest November on record. The milder weather, combined with lower energy prices, should result in a very substantial reduction in energy costs versus last year. Season-to-date heating degree day totals are running 19% less than normal and 22% less than last heating season through the end of November.

Precipitation. Very dry weather prevailed through most of the month across Iowa until a strong storm system dropped unseasonably heavy precipitation across northwestern sections of the state from the 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. The season's first measurable snowfall began in far northwestern Iowa late on the 25<sup>th</sup> and continued into the 27<sup>th</sup> with Rock Rapids reporting 6.9 inches of snow. Measurable snow was limited to the area north of a Sioux City to Estherville line. There was a wide range in monthly precipitation totals across Iowa. At Centerville and Knoxville this was the driest November since 1989 with only 0.33 inch of rainfall. However, at Rock Rapids their 4.67 inch total fell just short of their record high November total of 4.77 inches set in 1975.

Fall Summary. The record warm November more than made up for the 19<sup>th</sup> coldest September-October period on record to result in a fall temperature average of 53.1° or 2.1° above normal. Precipitation over the three fall months totaled 8.25 inches or just 0.11 inch more than normal. This ranks as the 18<sup>th</sup> warmest and 49<sup>th</sup> wettest fall among 129 years of state records.

Harry Hillaker  
State Climatologist  
9607 NW Beaver Dr.  
Johnston, IA 50131  
Phone: (515) 270-6907  
E-mail: iastatec@netins.net