

## IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2007

General Summary. January temperatures averaged 21.3° or 3.5° above normal while precipitation totaled 0.99 inches of 0.04 inches above normal. This ranks as the 49<sup>th</sup> warmest and 62<sup>nd</sup> wettest January among 135 years of state records.

Temperatures. The very mild weather pattern that began on December 9 continued through the first 12 days of January. This period of 35 consecutive warmer than normal days finally came to an end on January 13. However, temperatures for the first 12 days of the month averaged 14.3° above normal and was easily enough to keep the monthly average temperature above normal despite the turn to much colder weather. Monthly average temperatures varied from 1.0° below normal at Onawa to 7.4° above normal at Bellevue. Temperatures reached into the 50's at some southern Iowa locations on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Leon and Lamoni were the warm spots with 57° maximums on the 4<sup>th</sup>. However, temperatures managed to climb higher than 39° only once after the 12<sup>th</sup> with Keosauqua and Rathbun Dam reaching 51° on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The first subzero temperature of the new year was recorded on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> with zero or lower temperatures reported somewhere in the state on 12 of the final 20 days of the month. Cherokee reported the lowest temperature of the month with a -27° reading on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Iowa's lowest temperature since Elkader reported -34° on Christmas Day, 2000. Spencer Airport reported the lowest wind chill with -38°, also on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 8% less than normal but 33% more than the record-tying warmth of January 2006. Heating requirements so far this heating season (since July 1, 2006) are running 6% greater than last season at this time but 9% less than normal.

Precipitation. A pair of winter storms provided the bulk of the state's precipitation during January. The first storm, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, brought 4 to 6 inches of snow to much of the northwestern one-half of the state. However, the storm began in the form of freezing rain across the southeast one-half of Iowa with one-quarter to one-half inch of ice accumulating in the far southeastern counties where snowfall amounts were only in the 1 to 2 inch range. The second storm, on the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, also began with a light coating of ice over the southeast one-third of the state, however the great majority of the precipitation fell in the form of snow. Snowfall amounts were in the 4 to 6 inch range over all but the far northwest and southeast corners of the state where 2 to 3 inch amounts were common. All but the far southeast corner of the state had a continuous cover of snow after mid-month. The statewide average snowfall was 10.7 inches, 2.5 inches more than normal. This ranks as the 21<sup>st</sup> snowiest January among 120 years of records and was the snowiest month since December 2005. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.41 inches at Spirit Lake to 2.13 inches at Keokuk. January snowfall totals varied from 4.0 inches at Keokuk and Le Claire to 18.9 inches at Little Sioux.

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