

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2009

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 69.0° or 0.8° below normal while precipitation totaled 5.27 inches or 0.63 inches above normal. This ranks as the 54th coolest and 50th wettest June among 137 years of records.

Temperatures. The first day of June averaged warmer than normal, but was followed by 15 consecutive cooler than normal days. However, the weather pattern abruptly changed on the 17th with a return of much warmer air and higher humidity. Above normal temperatures prevailed every day from the 17th through the 27th. Much cooler and drier air returned for the final three days of the month. Temperatures dipped to morning lows of 39° on the 4th at Cresco, Elkader and Sibley. The first 90 degree day of the month didn't arrive until the 17th. However, at least one location in the state reached 90 each day from the 17th through the 27th. The 23rd was both the hottest and most humid day for much of Iowa. Ankeny reported the highest official temperature of the month with an afternoon high of 100°. Dew point temperatures edged into the 80's in some areas resulting in official heat indices reaching as high as 113° at Ames on the 23rd. The heat was welcome news for crop development but was very stressful on livestock. Much cooler and drier air returned late in the month with daytime highs only in the mid 60's in northeast Iowa on the 30th. The net result was for the month to average just slightly cooler than normal.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 14% more than last June but 8% less than normal. So far this season air conditioning requirements are running 24% greater than at this point in the cool and wet first half of 2008, but are 20% less than normal.

Precipitation. Rainfall was frequent throughout the month. This made it difficult to make hay and also caused further delays in planting in southern Iowa where some soybean acres were unplanted at month's end. Rainfall amounts were well above normal over southeastern Iowa, as has been the case for much of the year. Columbus Junction reported an unofficial June total of 12.41 inches of rain, including a five inch downpour on the 21st. Flooding, however, was much less widespread than in 2008 thanks to drier and warmer antecedent conditions this year. Meanwhile rain totals were below normal over much of northern Iowa while drought conditions have been persistent over nearby eastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. Soils are somewhat drier than usual over the north, thus timely rain will be important to maintain good crop condition during July. Estherville reported the lowest monthly rain total with 1.92 inches during June.

Severe Weather. The relatively quiet severe weather season that Iowa enjoyed in May continued until the return of warmer and more humid weather on June 17. Widespread severe weather was reported every other evening from the 17th through the 23rd. Severe weather was most common on the 23rd with 41 counties reporting severe storms, mostly in the form of high winds. However, the worst damage reported came on the night of the 17th when hail damaged 150,000 acres of crop in Chickasaw and Fayette counties. Early

reports estimated that crops were a total loss in about 10% of this area. At today's prices this would be a loss of about \$8 million.

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