

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2009

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 43.3° or 7.7° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.26 inches or 0.88 inches less than normal. This ranks as the sixth warmest and 53rd driest November among 137 years of records.

Temperatures. Iowa made a welcome transition from the third coldest October of record to the sixth warmest November. Only two days (3rd & 4th) averaged cooler than normal during the past month. Daytime highs climbed into the 70's over parts of Iowa on the 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th. Donnellson reported the month's highest temperature with a 77° reading on the 8th. This was the highest temperature recorded in the state since September 27. In November a record for highest statewide minimum temperature was set. Sheldon reported the lowest temperature of the month with a morning low of 16° on the 17th. The previous 'highest' November minimum temperature was 14° set at Sheldon (Nov. 20, 2001) and at Hawarden (Nov. 29, 2001). Overall, November averaged only 1.5° cooler than October, the closest in temperature these two months have ever been (typically November averages 15.3° cooler than October).

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 22% less than last November and 27% less than normal. Thus far this heating season degree day totals are running 1% more than last year at this time and 8% less than normal.

Precipitation. The very wet weather pattern that plagued Iowa throughout October made a very welcome retreat from the state in November. A statewide average of only 0.04 inches of rain fell during the first one-half of November. The second half of the month brought more seasonal precipitation totals with heaviest rains over south central and southeast Iowa on the 16th-18th. Widespread rain also fell on the 23rd-25th. All but the extreme southern part of the state recorded less rain than usual for November. Monthly totals varied from 0.17 inches at Northwood to 3.69 inches at Lamoni. Snow has been conspicuously absent from the state since the series of unseasonably early snow events during the second week of October. Rain mixed with snow was fairly common on the night of Nov. 25 but only four locations (Calmar, Davenport, Sioux Rapids & Stanley) reported a brief accumulation. The statewide average snowfall was just a trace. This November joins those of 1912, 1914, 1939, 1960 and 1963 with a statewide average of only a trace. Among those other five Novembers only in 1939 was snow less prevalent than in 2009.

Harvest 2009. The percentage of both corn (18%) and soybean (54%) acres harvested by the beginning of November was the lowest since 1951. However, much more favorable weather allowed the soybean harvest to be nearly complete by the end of November. According to Iowa Agricultural Statistics 13% of the corn crop was still in the field as of Nov. 28. This is the largest unharvested acreage for late November since 1992.

Fall Summary. The three autumn months averaged 50.5° or 0.7 warmer than normal while precipitation totaled 9.43 inches or 1.36 inches greater than usual. This ranks as

the 63rd coolest and 30th wettest fall among 137 years of state records. Interestingly the seasonal average temperature and precipitation was identical to 2008, however, the previous year came without the extremes seen in 2009.

Harry Hillaker
State Climatologist
Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Telephone: (515) 281-8981
E-mail: Harry.Hillaker@IowaAgriculture.gov