

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2010

General Summary. February temperatures averaged 16.8° or 7.4° below normal while precipitation totaled 0.99 inches or 0.01 inch above normal. This ranks as the 20<sup>th</sup> coldest and 68<sup>th</sup> wettest February among 138 years of records.

Temperatures. As has been the case all winter, temperatures were consistently below normal but were only occasionally in record territory. Above normal temperatures were limited to only six days (1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). Temperatures never reached levels high enough to result in significant melting of the extensive Iowa snow pack. The highest temperature recorded was a 42° maximum at Bellevue on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The 42° statewide maximum temperature is four degrees lower than any previous February (old record of 46° in 1978) with only December 1983 and January 1979 (both 40°) recording a lower calendar month statewide extreme maximum temperature. No location in Iowa has reached 50° since December 17, the fifth longest such streak of record through the end of February. Guthrie Center reported the lowest temperature of the month with a -24° reading on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 24% greater than last February and 17% greater than normal. Degree day totals thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2009) are running 4% greater than last season and 6% greater than normal.

Precipitation. The overall precipitation total for February was nearly normal. However, almost all of the precipitation fell in the form of snow. The statewide average snowfall was 14.4 inches or 8.1 inches more than normal to rank as the sixth snowiest February among 123 years of records. Snowfall amounts were above normal statewide with the greatest amounts coming across south central and southeastern Iowa where totals were more than three times the February normal at some locations. Monthly snow totals varied from 7.3 inches at Cascade to 22.6 inches at Brighton. The largest storm of the month came on the 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> when a statewide average of 6.0 inches fell. Snow totals with this storm ranged from about an inch in southwest Iowa to 13 inches at Hampton. Other events were centered over northeast Iowa on the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, southwest Iowa on the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, northwest and central Iowa on the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, south central Iowa on the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and over the southeast on the 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. The event of the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> was accompanied by wind gusts to 44 mph at Sioux City and resulted in the closure of a portion of Interstate 29.

Winter Summary. Temperatures for the three mid-winter months of December, January and February averaged 16.6° or 4.9° below normal while precipitation totaled 5.05 inches or 1.89 inches above normal. This ranks as the 17<sup>th</sup> coldest and 9<sup>th</sup> wettest winter among 138 years of records. Snowfall for these three months averaged 46.5 inches or 24.7 inches greater than normal. This is the greatest snow total of record for these three months (old record of 44.7 inches Dec. 1961-Feb. 1962). The snow total for the overall snow season (fall through spring) ranks 8<sup>th</sup> highest among 123 years of record with another two months of the season remaining. This has been the third consecutive colder than normal winter and fourth consecutive snowier than usual winter.

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