

PRELIMINARY IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2010

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 37.9° or 2.3° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.77 inches or 0.37 inches below normal. This ranks as the 54th warmest and 54th wettest November among 138 years of records. This was Iowa's ninth consecutive month with above normal temperatures and the 8th consecutive warmer than normal November.

Temperatures. Relatively high temperatures prevailed for most of the first three weeks of November as below normal temperatures were restricted to only seven of the first 22 days of the month. Sioux City reported the highest temperature of the month with a 78° maximum on the afternoon of the 8th. A strong cold front swept through Iowa on the 22nd with temperatures at noon varying from 22° at Sibley to 75° at Keokuk. Sibley recorded the lowest temperature of the month with a minimum of 0° on the morning of the 25th.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 9% less than normal but 25% more than last November (Iowa's 6th warmest November of record). Heating degree day totals for the season (since July 1) are running 17% less than normal and 10% less than last year.

Precipitation. The very dry weather pattern that had prevailed across most of Iowa since September 26 finally came to an end on with the passage of a strong storm system from late on the 11th to early on the 13th. Rain fell statewide with amounts exceeding two inches in a few areas from southwest into north central Iowa. Temperatures were just low enough to allow the rain to change to snow over parts of west central and northwest Iowa with Emmetsburg reporting 14 inches. This was Iowa's greatest snow total for so early in the season since the Halloween blizzard of 1991. Snow from this storm remained on the ground through month's end over parts of Emmet, Palo Alto and Kossuth County. This storm accounted for 76% of the state's precipitation total for November. Precipitation also fell statewide on the 22nd, 24th and 29th-30th. The event of the 22nd brought light freezing rain to about the northwest one-quarter of Iowa during the early morning hours while there were a few reports of hail over southeast and east central Iowa during the afternoon. The storm of the 24th brought a brief period of freezing rain to central Iowa during the morning hours which spread into north central and northeast Iowa where icy roads persisted into the evening. Icy roads on the 24th were factors in three reported traffic fatalities. Finally the event of the 29th-30th brought snow to far western Iowa with up to 4 inches of snow along the Iowa-South Dakota border. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.67 inches at Sheldon to 3.30 inches at Hampton. Snowfall totals varied from trace amounts (generally on the 30th) over the southeast one-half of Iowa to 14.0 inches at Emmetsburg. The statewide average snowfall was 1.2 inches or 2.3 inches less than normal.

Autumn Summary. Fall temperatures averaged 51.8° or 2.0° above normal while precipitation totaled 8.20 inches or 0.79 inches above normal. This ranks as the 45th warmest and 53rd wettest autumn among 138 years of records. Most of the precipitation

fell in September, thus leaving excellent weather for the harvest in October and early November.

Outlook. Historically the La Niña weather pattern favors above normal temperatures in Iowa through December. However, short range forecasts are calling for near to below normal temperatures to prevail over the state through at least mid-month. Snow cover at the present time (December 1) is widespread over the northern plains states and central and northern Europe, as well as the typically snow-covered areas of northern Asia. Very low temperatures also prevail from far northwest Canada westward across northern Alaska and northern Asia and Europe with readings of -40° to -60° fairly common over Siberia. It will be interesting to monitor the persistence and potential movement of this very cold air mass through the course of the winter.

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