

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2011

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 69.7° or exactly normal while precipitation totaled 6.15 inches or 1.13 inches above normal. This ranks as the 67th warmest and 29th wettest June among 139 years of records.

Temperatures. The wide swings in temperature that has characterized Iowa's weather over the past several months continued in June, but with less frequent fluctuations. Warmer than normal weather prevailed for seven of the first eight days of the month with temperatures reaching 101° at Spirit Lake on the 6th. Cooler than usual weather predominated on 17 of the final 22 days of the month with Cresco reporting the lowest temperature of the month with a morning low of 42° on the 12th. Daytime high temperatures were only in the 60s across all or part of Iowa on the 9th-14th, 21st-23rd and 25th. However, very warm and humid weather returned for the last day of June with actual temperatures peaking at 97° at Sioux City while the heat index climbed to 111° at Des Moines on the 30th.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 10% less than last June and 1% less than normal. Thus far this air conditioning season degree day totals are running 16% less than a year ago and 4% more than normal.

Precipitation. Relatively dry weather prevailed for the first week of June allowing the completion of nearly of all of the corn and soybean planting. However, rainfall was frequent and sometimes excessive from the 8th through the 22nd. Heaviest rains fell over northern Warren County on the 9th-10th with an unofficial two-day total of 9.31 inches just south of Norwalk. Rainfall frequently was heaviest over south central and southeast Iowa with record totals for any month set at Keokuk (16.47 inches, old record 16.22 in June 2010 among 136 years of data), Keosauqua (16.14 inches, old record 14.89 in June 1905 among 123 years of data) and at Bloomfield (14.60 inches, old record 14.31 in August 1970 among 92 years of records). Fortunately much of the heavy rain fell outside of the Missouri River watershed where excessive winter snowpack and very heavy spring rains in upper reaches of the basin brought record to near-record flooding along the Iowa-Nebraska border. A record crest on the Missouri was set at Plattsmouth, Nebraska (adjacent to Mills County, Iowa) on June 30 and at Nebraska City, Nebraska (adjacent to Fremont County, Iowa) on June 28. Meanwhile rainfall was less than normal over much of northeastern Iowa where Cresco reported their driest June since 1989 with only 2.41 inches of rain.

Severe Weather. The very active 2011 severe weather season in Iowa finally slowed down in June with a tornado total of seven (30-year average of 15). The most widespread severe weather outbreaks for the month came on the night of the 20th (34 counties, mostly over the west) and the night of the 26th (38 counties, all southwest one-half).

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