

IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2012

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 71.6° or 1.9° above normal while precipitation totaled 2.99 inches or 2.03 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 28th warmest and 21st driest June among 140 years of records. A warmer June was last recorded in 2005 and a drier one in 2006.

Temperatures. June began with unseasonably cool weather with morning lows mostly in the 40s on the 1st and daytime highs in the 60s. Atlantic recorded a low of 37° on the 1st, the lowest June reading in Iowa in nine years. However, below normal temperatures were recorded on only 8 of the remaining 29 days of the month. There were many days with high temperatures in the low to mid 90s but the really hot weather did not arrive until the 27th. Daily statewide maximum temperatures reached 101° at Des Moines, Little Sioux and Sioux Center on the 27th; 104° at Keokuk on the 28th; 102° at Keokuk and Keosauqua on the 29th and 98° at Keokuk on the 30th. Keokuk's 104 degree reading was the highest recorded in Iowa during June since 1988. Official heat indices peaked at 112° at Burlington, Davenport and Iowa City on the 28th.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 36% greater than last June and 35% more than normal. Degree day totals so far this year are running 56% more than last year at this time and 62% above normal.

Precipitation. Dry weather became more widespread during June with a relative few west central, southwest and far southeast Iowa locations recording above normal rainfall. Preliminary rain totals varied from 0.36 inches at Sibley to 7.05 inches at Underwood. Record low totals for the month of June were established at several locations:

City	June 2012	Old Record	Period of Record
Sibley	0.36 inches	0.96 in 1888	113 years
Sheldon	0.48	0.88 in 2004	100 years
Sanborn	0.53	0.87 in 1933	100 years
Hawarden	0.59	0.83 in 1987	86 years

Very dry weather also became the rule over parts of northeast Iowa where Guttenberg recorded their second driest June with 0.95 inches of rain.

Severe Weather. June, along with May, is typically the most active month of the year for severe weather in Iowa. However, it was a very quiet month this year with no tornadoes reported in the state for the first time since 1988. The most widespread severe event of the month came on the afternoon and evening of the 27th when high winds were reported over a wide area from near Des Moines east-northeastward to the Anamosa area.

Drought. Drought worries have been increasing steadily in Iowa over the past several weeks. According to USDA/Iowa Agricultural Statistics surveys the percentage of the state's topsoil with adequate to surplus moisture decreased to 27% on July 1. This is the

lowest percentage for this time of year since 1988 (10%). Similarly subsoil moisture is also rated only 27% adequate to surplus for the lowest rating at this time of year since 1989 (0%). Nationally, the percentage of the lower 48 states rated abnormally dry or worse by the U.S. Drought Monitor is the greatest for any time of year since the Drought Monitor began in 2000. At this time of year weather patterns tend to be very persistent, thus a fundamental change in the heat and dryness across the country is not likely this month. However, Iowa crop conditions are better than seen over much of the primary corn and soybean growing areas. The 2012 weather situation has often been compared to 1988 which was the last time that summer heat and dryness was so widespread. In Iowa rainfall for the first one-half of 1988 averaged only 7.51 inches, the lowest of the historical record, and barely one-half of what has been recorded this year. Nevertheless lower temperatures and timely rainfall will be needed to maintain good yields in 2012.

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