

## IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2013

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 66.9° or 3.7° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.98 inches or 1.40 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 19<sup>th</sup> warmest and 25<sup>th</sup> driest September among 141 years of records. A warmer September was last recorded in 2005 while this month's low precipitation total still exceeds the September totals of three of the past four years.

Temperatures. Higher than normal temperatures were the rule for most of September. Temperatures reached or exceeded 100° on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The highest readings were 102° temperatures recorded at Donnellson and Keokuk on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Not since September 9, 1955 (104° at Missouri Valley) had a higher reading been recorded in Iowa for so late in the year. This was also the first time that three September dates reached triple digits in Iowa since 1955, but was far from the record of ten such days recorded in September 1897. Daily temperatures averaged ten or more degrees above normal on the 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Donnellson and Keosauqua each recorded 11 days with temperatures at or above 90° compared to a September normal of three such days. On the other extreme, Spencer, Battle Creek and Sheldon recorded morning lows of 32° on the 21<sup>st</sup>. This freeze occurred about one week earlier than usual for northwest Iowa but no crop damage has been reported.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 96% greater than last September and 83% greater than normal. Cooling degree day totals for the year-to-date are running 22% less than last year at this time, but 9% more than normal.

Precipitation. The very dry weather pattern that began in late June over much of Iowa continued through September in most areas. A very welcome period of frequent rainfall occurred between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> with locally heavy rain falling in a band from southwest into east central Iowa. However, despite this period of precipitation, monthly totals were below normal except for a few southwestern Iowa locations. September totals varied from only 0.32 inches at Sioux Center to 7.07 inches near Hastings in Mills County. Sioux Center's total is the second lowest among 111 years of September data at that location (0.15" in 1899). Thanks to a record wet spring, year-to-date precipitation totals remain above normal over about the northeast one-half of Iowa with the state as a whole averaging nearly ten inches more precipitation this year than at the same point in 2012. Nevertheless, the July 1 to September 30 statewide average precipitation total of 5.32 inches is second only to 1947's total of 5.26 inches (normal for the period is 12.08 inches).

Severe Weather. The relatively quiet Iowa severe weather season continued through September. However, high winds, along with some large hail, was reported from 19 counties on the afternoon and evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>. According to National Weather Service statistics Iowa has seen only 15 tornadoes so far in 2013. Last year Iowa recorded 16 tornadoes for the lowest annual total since at least 1953. However,

tornadoes have been recorded after October 1 in about one-third of all years in the state, thus we could easily add more to the total before the year is done.

Harry J. 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](mailto:Harry.Hillaker@IowaAgriculture.gov)