



## IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY 6 MARCH 2014

**General Summary.** Temperatures averaged 29.3° or 6.6° below normal while precipitation totaled 0.83 inches or 1.32 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 22<sup>nd</sup> coldest and 11<sup>th</sup> driest March among 142 years of records. A colder March was recorded just last year while there has not been a drier March since 1994. Snowfall averaged 6.0 inches or 1.3 inches above normal to rank as the 52<sup>nd</sup> snowiest March among 127 years of records. As has been the case for most of the winter season eastern Iowa recorded the coldest/wettest weather while western Iowa was drier with more frequent reprieves from the cold.

**Temperatures.** The cold weather pattern that began in mid-October continued unabated through March as well. The first few days of the month were especially cold with temperatures averaging more than thirty degrees below normal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Daytime high temperatures were below zero in many areas on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Elkader and Decorah reported the month's lowest temperatures with -24° readings on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lower March temperature extremes have been recorded only three times (1948, 1960 and 1962) while the same -24° reading was last seen during the month on March 12, 1998. However there were no additional subzero temperatures after the 6<sup>th</sup>. Wind chill readings dipped as low as -37° at Mason City on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and -34° at Marshalltown on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Only one day during the month (10<sup>th</sup>) averaged more than ten degrees warmer than normal. There have now been a total of only seven days since mid-October with temperatures averaging ten or more degrees above normal while 63 days in the period have been more than ten degrees below normal. Nevertheless, there were some sure signs of spring during the month. Temperatures reached into the 70s somewhere in Iowa on five days during the month with the first occurrence of the year coming on the 9<sup>th</sup> when Little Sioux reached 74°. The highest temperature was a 79° reading on the 31<sup>st</sup> at Clarinda. Considerable frost remained in the ground at month's end across northern Iowa but soils finally thawed across most of southern Iowa over the last few days of March.

**Heating Degree Day Totals.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 2% less than last March but 22% more than normal. Degree day totals so far this heating season (since July 1, 2013) are running 14% greater than normal and last season's total. A colder heating season was last recorded 35 years ago.

**Precipitation.** It was a rather dry month across Iowa. Only Tripoli and Decorah managed to exceed the normal precipitation for the month while Sidney experienced their driest March of record (0.05 inches, old record 0.07 in 1956 among 72 years of data). Monthly totals varied from 0.04 inches at Randolph and Glenwood up to 2.19 inches at New Hampton. The bulk of the month's precipitation fell in two events at opposite ends of March. Snow fell statewide on the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> with three to five inches common from Spencer southeast to Keokuk with a maximum amount of 8 inches reported at Zearing in Story County. The other event on the 27<sup>th</sup> brought rain statewide (with a dusting of snow in the far northwest) with greatest amounts across the northeast with Coggon (Linn County) reporting 1.22 inches.

**Severe Weather.** There were a handful of severe weather reports in south central Iowa on the afternoon of the 27<sup>th</sup> with a brief tornado reported near Chariton.

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# March 2014

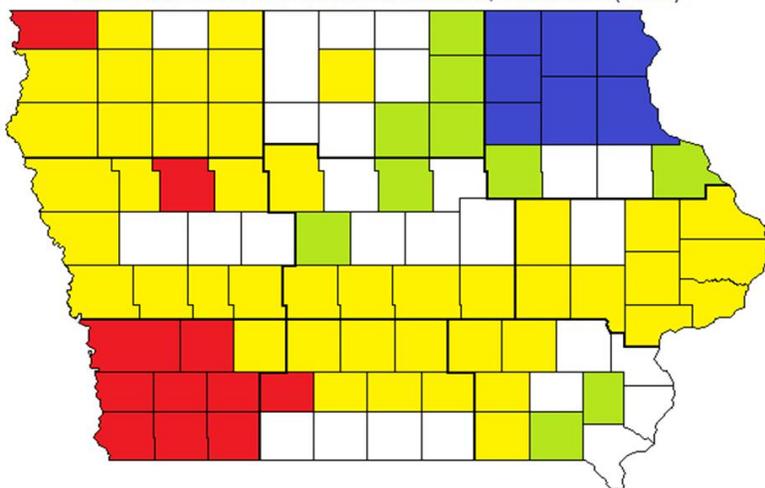
## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Mar 2014 Average
	March 2014		March 2014		Since Jul. 1, 2013		March 2014		Since Jan. 1, 2014		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	28.0	-5.1	1141	+152	7510	+755	0.52	-1.36	1.58	-1.61	4.9
North Central	25.5	-7.3	1220	+221	7700	+871	1.13	-0.83	3.30	-0.35	7.9
Northeast	25.3	-8.8	1225	+269	7762	+1208	1.62	-0.35	4.13	+0.04	9.8
West Central	29.5	-6.2	1093	+184	7060	+772	0.67	-1.44	1.87	-1.85	5.2
Central	29.3	-6.6	1102	+201	7105	+857	0.89	-1.30	2.91	-1.22	5.9
East Central	29.9	-7.3	1081	+219	7050	+1084	0.67	-1.61	3.15	-1.63	5.7
Southwest	33.3	-5.1	975	+150	6467	+711	0.26	-1.97	1.55	-2.53	1.8
South Central	32.2	-6.0	1011	+181	6578	+810	0.61	-1.68	2.62	-1.80	5.5
Southeast	32.2	-7.3	1011	+221	6508	+1002	0.96	-1.61	4.22	-1.18	6.9
STATE	29.3	-6.6	1102	+201	7118	+895	0.83	-1.32	2.80	-1.32	6.0

\* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals. Monthly estimates are preliminary and are likely to change.

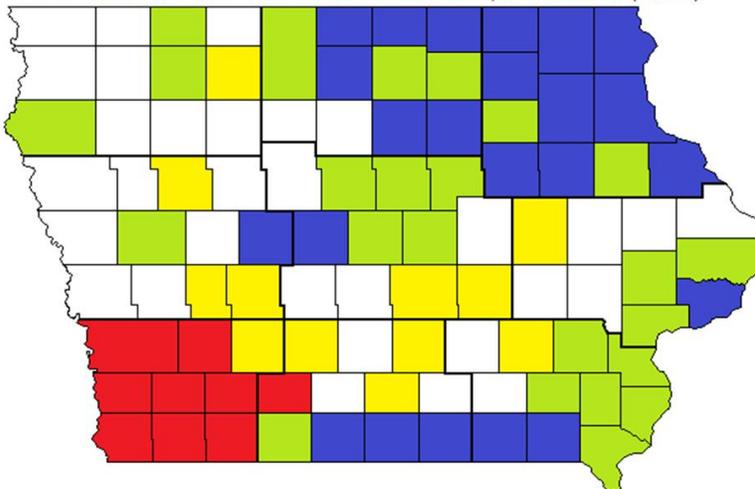
The weather data in this report are based upon information collected by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
PRELIMINARY COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, MARCH 2014 (inches)



1.6 or more    1.2 to 1.6    0.8 to 1.2    0.4 to 0.8    0.4 or less

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
PRELIMINARY COUNTY SNOWFALL ESTIMATES, MARCH 2014 (inches)



8 or more    6 to 8    4 to 6    2 to 4    2 or less