



## IOWA ANNUAL WEATHER SUMMARY – 2015

**General Summary.** Annual temperatures averaged 49.2° or 1.1° above normal while precipitation totaled 43.28 inches or 8.01 inches above normal. This ranks as the 31<sup>st</sup> warmest and 7<sup>th</sup> wettest year among 143 years of state records.

**Temperatures.** The coldest weather of the year came during the first two weeks of January and throughout February and the first few days of March. The lowest temperatures of the year were -30° readings at Stanley on Feb. 27 and at Elkader on Feb. 28. Elkader's February 28 minimum was the lowest temperature in the contiguous United States that day. A lower temperature has been recorded later in the winter in Iowa in only three years (1948, 1960 and 1962). All of the spring months were a little warmer than usual. Oddly enough the temperature reached 90° only once in Iowa prior to June 7 and that was at Sioux City on March 16! The Sioux City reading is the earliest 90° temperature of record in Iowa (previous record on March 22, 1910). Summer temperatures were mostly below normal. Sioux City recorded the state's highest temperature of the year with a 99° reading on June 9. Iowa last recorded triple-digit heat on September 10, 2013. The final one-third of the year was exceptionally warm with three months ranking among the top ten warmest, September (7<sup>th</sup> warmest among Septembers), November (10<sup>th</sup> warmest) and December (7<sup>th</sup> warmest). Only in 1931 was the final one-third of the year warmer than in 2015.

**Precipitation.** The first quarter of the 2015 was the driest start to the year since 1988 thanks largely to the 7<sup>th</sup> driest March of record. April precipitation averaged near normal while rain was very frequent in May. The statewide average rainfall was above normal each month from May through September, resulting in the sixth highest May to September total of record. However, unlike other recent wet summer seasons (1993, 2008, 2010 and 2014), the rain was rather evenly distributed throughout the growing season and helped to reduce the magnitude of flooding. A very dry period of weather prevailed through the first three weeks of October and provided ideal harvest conditions statewide. A parade of major storm systems drenched the state beginning on Veteran's Day (severe storms). Additional storm systems brought widespread unseasonably heavy precipitation on Nov 16-18 (rain), Nov. 20-21 (heavy snow), Nov. 25-27 (rain), Nov. 30 (snow northwest), Dec. 12-14 (very heavy rain), Dec. 23 (rain) and Dec. 28-29 (snow, sleet and freezing rain). The combined November and December 2015 statewide average precipitation of 9.14 inches was the highest of record for these two months (old record 8.23 inches in 1931). Annual precipitation totals were above normal with the exception of a few northeast and far northwest Iowa locations. Totals varied from 28.94 inches at Sioux Center to 64.87 inches at Bedford. Record high annual precipitation totals were set at the following locations:

City	2015 Total (inches)	Old Record	Period of Record
Bedford	64.87	54.49 in 1993	101 years
Clarinda	54.49	54.14 in 1973	127 years
Denison	53.90	50.71 in 2014	117 years
Audubon	52.78	50.01 in 2010	113 years
Carroll	51.45	50.51 in 1973	126 years
Cherokee	43.50	42.86 in 1938	94 years

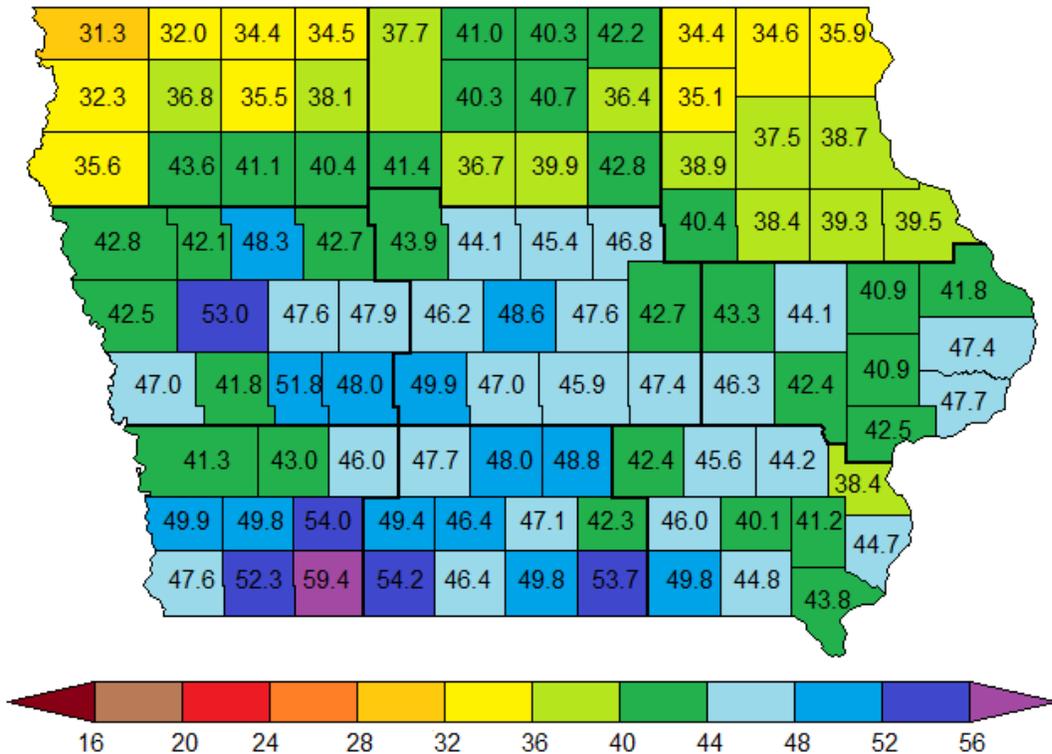


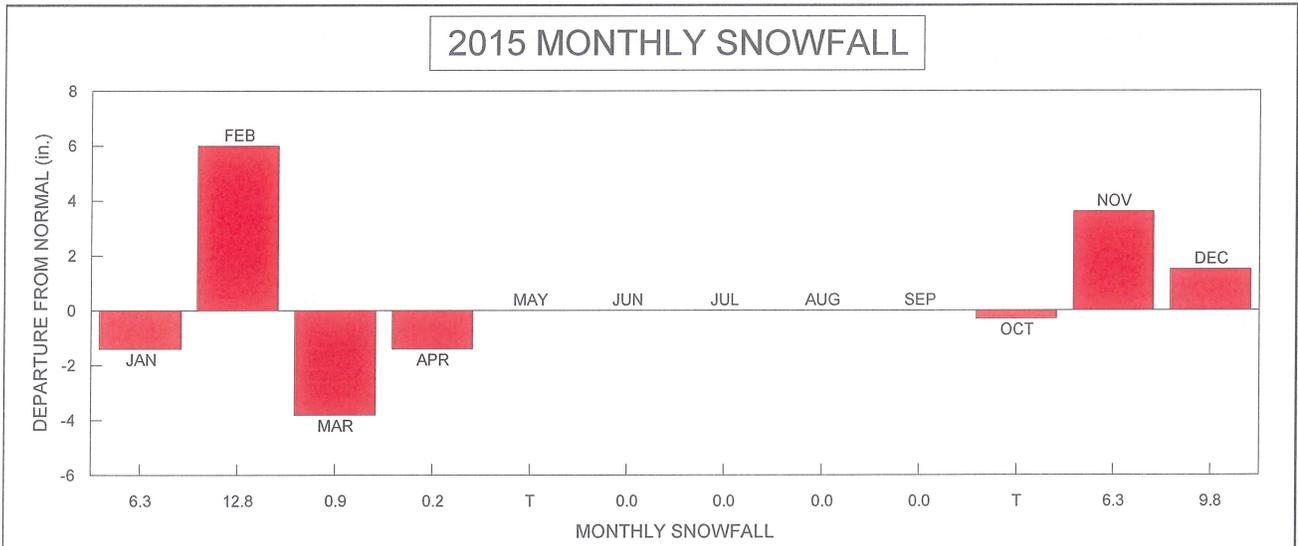
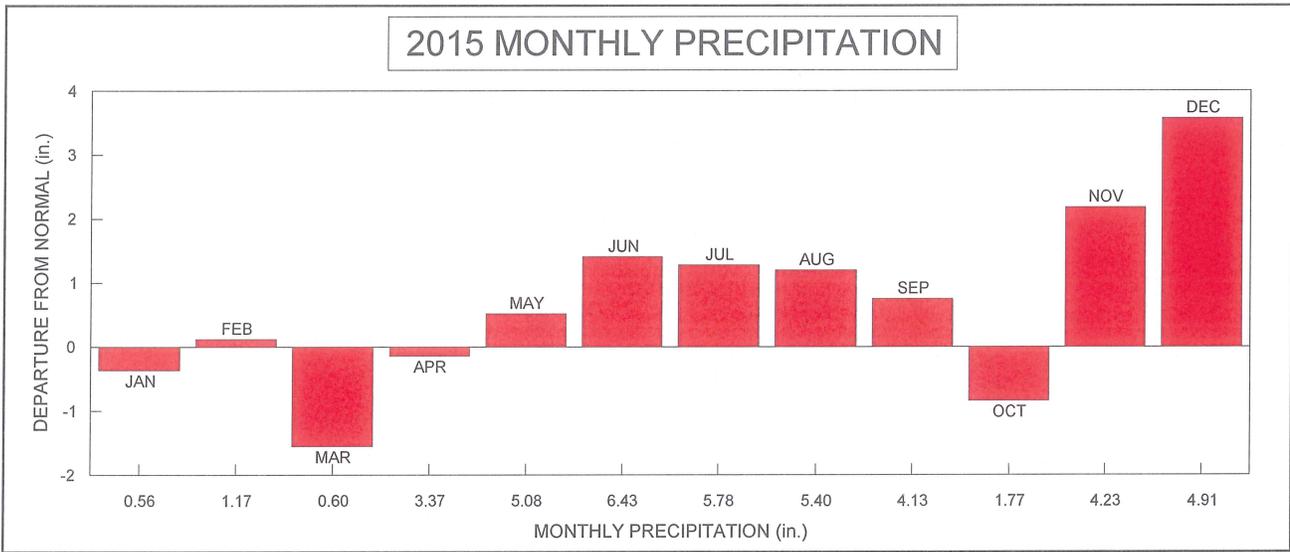
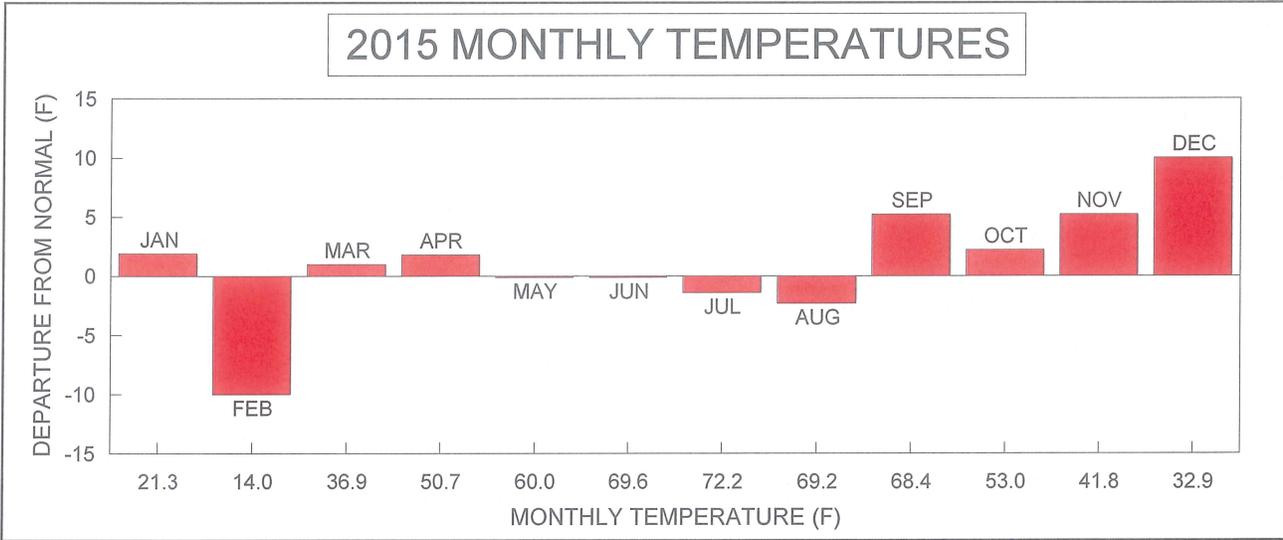
Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

**Crop Summary.** A relatively warm spring allowed soils to warm quickly following a cold late winter season. This, combined with very dry weather in March allowed plenty of time for preparatory fieldwork. A warm/dry week in late April/early May provided a very timely window of opportunity for substantial planting progress with just enough additional breaks in the relatively wet weather pattern to allow crops to be planted in a timely manner. Warm soils allowed seeds to germinate quickly while moderate temperatures and timely rain allowed crops to flourish in most areas. The most notable exception was in the southernmost row of Iowa counties where frequent heavy rains in late May and through June and into July prevented planting in some areas and generally hindered crop development. Relatively dry weather, particularly in northeast Iowa (and to some extent late in the season in southeast Iowa), was a worry but did not result in widespread impacts thanks to the lack of extreme heat. After a slow start to the harvest season in September (which was especially wet in southwestern Iowa), the weather was ideal for harvest for much of October. A long growing season allowed crops to easily reach full maturity while the dry and warm October weather allowed crops to dry-down naturally. Thanks to the excellent weather, USDA estimates indicate record corn and soybean yields in Iowa. The statewide average corn yield is estimated at 192 bushels per acre (previous high was 181 in 2004 and 2009) while the soybean yield is estimated at 56.5 bushels per acre (previous high 52.5 in 2005).

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State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
 COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, ANNUAL 2015 (inches)





IOWA PRELIMINARY ANNUAL WEATHER SUMMARY - 2015

2015 STATEWIDE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE EXTREMES							STATEWIDE MONTHLY RANK*	
MONTH	MAX TEMP	DAY	LOCATION	MIN TEMP	DAY	LOCATION	TEMPERATURE	PRECIPITATION
JANUARY	67	28th	Shenandoah	-25	13th	Cherokee	51st warmest	33rd driest
FEBRUARY	51	7th	Keokuk	-30	27th	Stanley	10th coolest	60th wettest
	51	8th	Glenwood	-30	28th	Elkader		
	51	8th	Shenandoah					
	51	25th	Clarinda					
MARCH	90	16th	Sioux City	-17	5th	Stanley	53rd warmest	7th driest
	88	1st	Little Sioux	19	4th	Belle Plaine	40th warmest	49th wettest
APRIL				19	4th	Elkader		
	89	3rd	Little Sioux	31	1st	Elkader	69th warmest	35th wettest
MAY				31	1st	Lowden		
	99	9th	Sioux City	36	1st	Elkader	72nd warmest	22nd wettest
JULY	97	13th	Bellevue	44	2nd	Elkader	27th coolest	19th wettest
	97	13th	Des Moines	44	3rd	Spencer		
	97	13th	Lamoni					
	97	13th	Osceola					
	97	24th	Hawarden					
AUGUST	94	2nd	Donnellson	40	25th	Sheldon	27th coolest	21st wettest
				40	25th	Spencer		
SEPTEMBER	96	6th	Burlington	33	30th	Cresco	7th warmest	47th wettest
	96	6th	Glenwood	33	30th	Estherville		
	96	6th	Muscatine					
	96	6th	Sidney					
OCTOBER	91	11th	Hawarden	19	17th	Stanley	51st warmest	53rd driest
	91	11th	Le Mars					
	91	11th	Sioux City					
NOVEMBER	79	2nd	Des Moines	-5	22nd	Stanley	10th warmest	7th wettest
	79	2nd	Glenwood	-5	22nd	Waterloo		
	79	2nd	Shenandoah					
DECEMBER	64	12th	Donnellson	-6	31st	Sheldon	7th warmest	1st wettest
	64	12th	Keokuk	-6	31st	Sioux Center		
	64	13th	Bloomfield	-6	31st	Spencer		
	64	13th	Keosauqua					
	64	23rd	Keosauqua					

\*Rankings based upon 143 years of data.

