



## IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2015

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 14.0° or 10.0° below normal while precipitation totaled 1.17 inches or 0.12 inches above normal. This ranks as the 10<sup>th</sup> coldest and 60<sup>th</sup> wettest February among 143 years of records.

Temperatures. Cold weather was the rule for most of the month as temperatures averaged above normal only for the five days from the 6<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. The second one-half of the month was particularly cold as 7 of the final 11 days of February averaged more than twenty degrees below normal. The first very cold air mass of the month settled in on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> when temperatures fell to -25° at Elkader with valley bottom temperatures falling to -23° as far south as Centerville. The winter's lowest temperatures occurred on the last two days of the month with Stanley recording -30° on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> with Elkader matching that reading the next morning. Elkader's reading was the nationwide low (lower 48 states) on the 28<sup>th</sup>. A lower temperature has been recorded later in the winter season in Iowa only three times (1948, 1960 and 1962). Overall, temperatures fell to zero or lower on 18 days during the month. Wind chill readings fell into the minus 30s on five days during the month with Clarion reporting the lowest wind chill at -38° on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the other extreme temperatures climbed to 51° at Keokuk on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Glenwood and Shenandoah on the 8<sup>th</sup> and at Clarinda and Shenandoah on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 3% less than last February (which was 1.5° colder than this February) but was 24% greater than normal. Degree day totals so far this season (since July 1) are running 8% less than last season at this time, but 4% more than normal.

Precipitation. The bulk of the month's precipitation fell as snow and came in two events. The largest event began on January 31 and continued into the evening of February 1. Snow fell statewide with greatest amounts falling across central and east central Iowa with amounts up to 16.0 inches at Le Claire and 14.7 inches at Madrid. A statewide average of 8.6 inches of snow fell with this storm which is the largest snow event since December 23-27, 2009. Another event on the 25<sup>th</sup> brought widespread 3 to 6 inch snow totals to the northeast one-half of Iowa but only a dusting over the southwest counties. Volga (Clayton Co.) reported the most snow with this event with 7.4 inches. Snow also fell across the southern one-third of the state on the 4<sup>th</sup> with 6.5 inches reported at Shenandoah. Monthly snowfall totals varied from 3.2 inches near Spirit Lake to 20.2 inches at Le Claire. The statewide average snowfall was 12.8 inches or 6.0 inches above normal. This ranks as the 10<sup>th</sup> snowiest February among 128 years of records.

Winter Summary. Temperatures over the mid-winter months of December, January and February averaged 21.1° or 1.0° below normal while precipitation totaled 2.87 inches or 0.47 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 60<sup>th</sup> coolest and 55<sup>th</sup> driest winter among 142 years of records.

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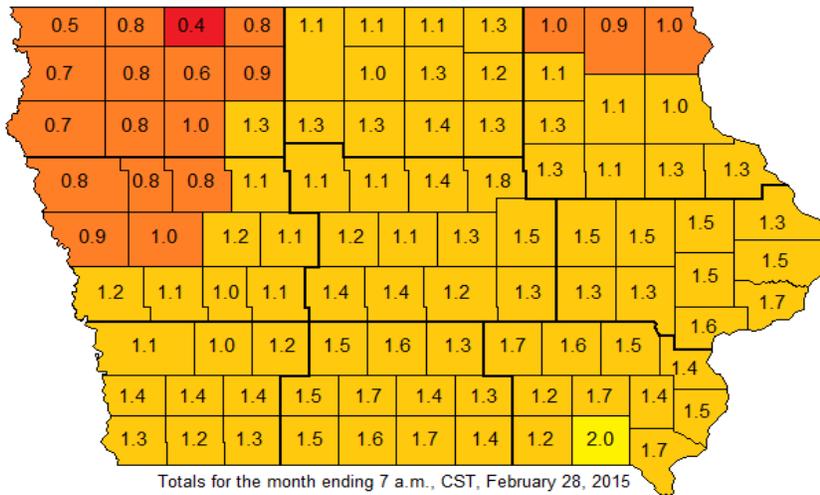
## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Feb 2015 Average
	February 2015 Average	Departure*	February 2015 Average	Departure*	Since Jul., 1, 2014 Average	Departure*	February 2015 Average	Departure*	Since Jan.1, 2015 Average	Departure*	
Northwest	13.9	-7.4	1424	+201	5838	+72	0.72	+0.08	1.30	-0.01	8.8
North Central	10.6	-9.8	1519	+271	6024	+194	1.12	+0.26	1.62	-0.07	12.6
Northeast	9.7	-12.1	1544	+336	5949	+351	1.10	0.00	1.77	-0.35	14.1
West Central	15.3	-8.6	1386	+235	5483	+104	0.96	+0.14	1.31	-0.29	11.0
Central	13.2	-10.6	1446	+291	5574	+227	1.23	+0.21	1.90	-0.04	13.9
East Central	12.9	-12.3	1455	+342	5518	+414	1.42	+0.08	2.17	-0.32	15.3
Southwest	18.1	-8.8	1308	+242	5058	+127	1.30	+0.26	1.44	-0.41	12.7
South Central	16.6	-10.0	1349	+274	5173	+235	1.40	+0.16	1.78	-0.35	13.5
Southeast	16.7	-11.2	1346	+308	5131	+415	1.47	-0.09	2.39	-0.44	14.4
STATE	14.0	-10.0	1424	+276	5553	+231	1.17	+0.12	1.73	-0.24	12.8

\* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals.

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  
 COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, FEBRUARY 2015 (inches)



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

