



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2016

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 19.3° or 0.1° below normal while precipitation totaled 0.64 inches or 0.28 inches below normal. This ranks as the 69th warmest and 37th driest January among 144 years of records.

Temperatures. The new year opened with eight consecutive days of above normal temperatures, continuing the mild pattern that persisted through the last one-third of 2015. A brief period of cold weather prevailed from the 9th through the 13th. Daytime high temperatures reached only -4° at Elkader and Northwood on the 10th while morning lows fell to -18° at Spencer on the 10th and at Northwood on the 11th. Brisk winds combined with the cold air to produce wind chill indices down to -36° at Estherville and Spencer on the morning of the 10th. A brief warm-up occurred on the 14th and 15th with Lamoni recording the month's highest temperature with a 56° reading on the 14th. This was soon followed by the coldest weather of January on the 17th and 18th. Spencer recorded a minimum temperature of -21° on the morning of the 17th along with a wind chill index of -42°. Daytime highs remained below zero over about the northern one-half of the state on the 17th with Northwood reaching a maximum of only -9°. Parts of far northeast and far northern Iowa endured a second straight day of subzero high temperatures on the 18th. Temperatures were above normal in most areas from the 21st through the end of the month with no subzero readings recorded in the state after the 20th. Temperatures reached into the low fifties at many far southern Iowa locations on the 29th, 30th and 31st. The mild and wet December 2015 weather resulted in little, if any, soil frost at the beginning of January. However, the arrival of very cold weather on the 9th quickly drove frost much deeper into the soil during the middle one-third of the month. At month's end soils were frozen to depths of 12 to 18 inches over central Iowa and to about ten inches across the southern part of the state. However, a deeper snow pack across northern Iowa insulated the soils there with eight inches or less of frozen ground at month's end.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged the same as normal, but 5% more than last January. Thus far this heating season (since July 1) heating requirements are running 14% less than last year at this time and 15% less than normal.

Precipitation. Precipitation was frequent during January, but in sharp contrast to November and December did not amount to much. About two-thirds of the month's precipitation came in the form of rain from the 6th to the 9th. Otherwise there were numerous light accumulations of snow through the remainder of January but only one event, on the 19th, brought more than four inches of snow to any single location when Mount Ayr accumulated 5.1 inches. Despite the relative lack of new snowfall or persistent cold during January snow remained on the ground for most of the month across the northern one-half of the state. The statewide average snowfall was 3.7 inches or 4.0 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 19th least snowy January among 129 years of records. January precipitation totals varied from 0.22 inches at Rock Rapids to 1.31 inches at Nashua. Meanwhile monthly snowfall totals varied from 1.1 inches at Iowa City to 8.9 inches at Little Sioux.

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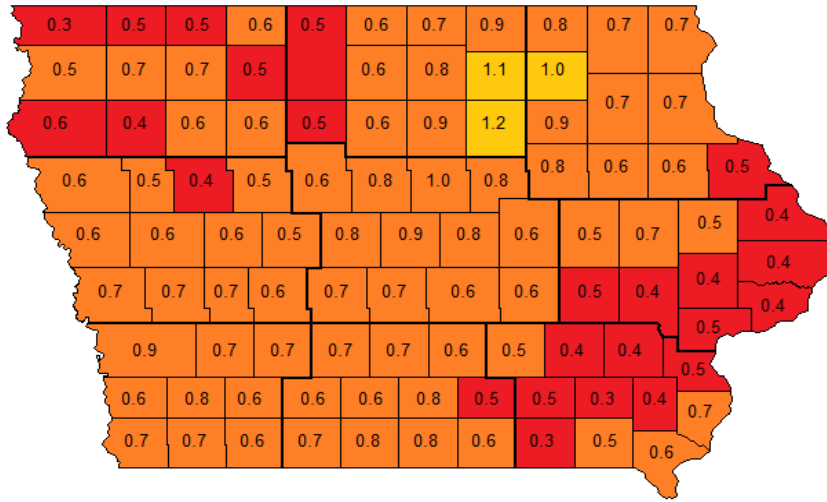
WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Jan 2016 Average
	January 2016		January 2016		Since Jul., 1, 2015		January 2016		Since Nov.1, 2015		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	16.5	+0.1	1501	-5	3945	-598	0.55	-0.12	8.29	+5.19	4.9
North Central	15.6	0.0	1528	-5	3912	-670	0.76	-0.07	8.59	+4.67	4.6
Northeast	17.4	+0.4	1470	-17	3699	-691	0.73	-0.29	9.90	+5.11	4.0
West Central	18.4	-1.0	1439	+24	3694	-534	0.63	-0.15	9.98	+6.48	4.4
Central	19.2	+0.1	1414	-10	3555	-637	0.72	-0.20	9.96	+5.58	3.1
East Central	20.9	+0.3	1360	-16	3325	-666	0.50	-0.66	10.25	+4.95	2.1
Southwest	21.6	-0.8	1339	+18	3321	-544	0.68	-0.13	10.66	+6.67	4.5
South Central	22.0	-0.3	1326	+3	3274	-589	0.68	-0.21	10.39	+5.85	3.1
Southeast	23.5	0.0	1279	-8	3099	-579	0.48	-0.79	10.37	+4.71	2.0
STATE	19.3	-0.1	1413	-2	3559	-615	0.64	-0.28	9.78	+5.47	3.7

* 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, JANUARY 2016 (inches)



State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
 COUNTY SNOWFALL ESTIMATES, JANUARY 2016 (inches)

