IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP



Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2017

<u>General Summary</u>. Temperatures averaged 23.9° or 4.5° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.61 inches or 0.69 inches above normal. This ranks as the 28th warmest and 23rd wettest January among 145 years of records. A warmer January was last recorded in 2012 and a wetter one in 1996.

<u>Temperatures</u>. Relatively mild air prevailed across Iowa for most of January. There were only seven days (4th-8th and 12th-13th) averaging cooler than usual. Lowest temperatures were -14° readings at Northwood, Postville and Cresco on the morning of the 6th and again at Cresco on the morning of the 8th. Subzero temperatures were recorded only once during the second one-half of the month when Cresco registered -2° on the morning of the 30th. Meanwhile daily maximum temperatures reached into the fifties four times (10th, 18th, 21st and 30th) with Shenandoah the warmest with a 58° reading on the afternoon of the 30th.

<u>Heating Degree Day Totals</u>. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 10% less than last January and normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1) heating requirements are running 1% less than last season at this time and 15% less than normal.

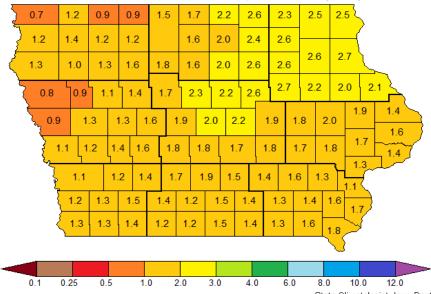
Precipitation. Monthly precipitation totals were above normal at all but a handful of scattered locations during January. January precipitation amounts varied from 0.62 inches at Rock Rapids to 2.89 inches at Waterloo (where this was the third wettest January among 133 years of records). Much of this precipitation came in the form of rain. Rain was widespread on the 2nd-3rd, 10th, 15th-16th, 19th and 20th-21st. The most notable of these rain events was the mid-month storm which brought considerable freezing rain to all but the far southeast corner of Iowa. A few southeast Iowa locations picked up more than one inch of rain during this storm while greatest ice accumulations of around one-quarter inch coated a wide band across southwest, central and northeast Iowa. Unseasonably heavy rain of a half-inch or more also fell over parts of central and northeast Iowa on the 10th. The only snow event of consequence was a large one on the 25th-26th. Six inches or more of snow fell across all of northwest and north central Iowa with Mason City reporting the most snow with 15.0 inches. This one storm accounted for nearly all of the January snow in Iowa with a handful of other events bringing light accumulations to fairly small areas scattered across the state. Monthly snow totals varied from only a trace at Fairfield (their lowest January total since no snow fell in 1989) to 15.7 inches at Mason City. A statewide average of 4.5 inches of snow fell during the month, 3.0 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 31st lowest January snow total among 130 years of records with a lower January total recorded just last year (3.7 inches).

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

January 2017 WEATHER BY DISTRICTS PRECIPITATION (inches) TEMPERATURE (F) **HEATING DEGREE DAYS** SNOWFALL January 2017 January 2017 Since Jul., 1, 2016 January 2017 Since Nov.1, 2016 Jan 2017 Average Departure* Average Departure* Average Departure Average Departure DISTRICT Average Departure Average 21.0 1357 -149 3883 -660 1.18 4.27 Northwest +4.6 +0.51 +1.17 11.1 20.8 +5.2 1365 -168 3869 -713 2.03 5.40 11.1 North Central +1.20 +1.48 1330 -157 3698 2.43 Northeast 21.9 +4.9 -692 +1.41 6.16 +1.37 5.9 23.1 +3.7 1291 3649 -579 1.07 +0.41 4.9 West Central -124 +0.29 3.91 Central 24.2 1258 3475 -717 1.90 +0.72 +5.1 -166 +0.98 5.10 2.8 East Central 25.6 -162 3376 -615 1.57 +0.42 0.7 +5.0 1214 4.79 -0.51 Southwest 25.7 +3.3 1210 -111 3304 -561 1.32 +0.51 3.76 -0.23 2.5 -135 South Central 26.5 +4.2 1188 3247 -616 1.43 +0.54 3.72 -0.820.9 Southeast 27.8 +4.3 1146 -141 3094 -584 1.56 +0.29 4.08 -1.58 0.4 STATE 23.9 +4.5 1268 -147 3531 -643 +0.69 4.61 +0.30 4.7 1.61 * 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 2017 (inches)



State Climatologist, lowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship COUNTY SNOWFALL ESTIMATES, JANUARY 2017 (inches)

