



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2017

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 36.1° or 0.5° below normal while precipitation totaled 0.44 inches or 1.61 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 68th warmest and 15th driest November among 145 years of records. A lower precipitation total has not been recorded for any month of the year since November 2007.

Temperatures. The first one-half of November was unusually cold and cloudy with the highest temperature during this period being only 57° at Keokuk on the 15th. Afternoon high temperatures reached only 23° at Estherville and Spirit Lake on the 9th while the morning low fell to 6° at Swea City on the 10th, this being the lowest temperature recorded in Iowa for so early in the season since 2003. Sidney finally brought Iowa's first 60 degree temperature of the month on the 17th. However, temperatures again fell to 6° on the morning of the 22nd at Estherville and Little Sioux. Finally, the remainder of the month was unseasonably mild. Sioux City set a daily record high temperature on the 23rd of 63° while nearly all of the state set records on the 24th with Iowa City Airport the hot spot at 74°.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 1% more than normal and 44% more than seen during the exceptionally mild November of 2016. Heating degree totals thus far this heating season are running 10% less than normal, but 36% more than at this time last year when Iowa recorded its warmest fall since 1931.

Precipitation. The dry weather pattern that began in mid-October persisted through all of November. Lost Nation in Clinton County recorded the most precipitation with 1.51 inches, but was still nearly an inch below normal. Rock Rapids and Hawarden reported the least precipitation with only 0.02 inches. At Rock Rapids this was the lowest November precipitation total since 1939. Most of the month's precipitation fell on the 11th-12th when up to 0.65 inches fell at Muscatine and on the 17th-18th when Keokuk picked up the most rain with 0.83 inches. The dry weather was great for finishing up the fall harvest. However, combined with a very dry growing season across southeastern portions of the state, this resulted in subsoil moisture levels being rated 72% short to very short in the south central district with 61% in the same categories across the southeast district according to the final USDA/NASS crop report of the season as of November 26. Lower season-ending soil moisture levels were last recorded in 2013. There were three dates (1st, 7th and 12th) when light snow briefly accumulated over very small areas of the state. Maquoketa and Lowden reported the greatest accumulation with just 0.3 inches. The statewide average snowfall was a trace, tying with seven other years for the lowest November snowfall total (the others were in 1912, 1914, 1939, 1960, 1963, 2009 and 2012) among 131 years of records.

Fall Summary. Temperatures over the three autumn months averaged 52.0° or 1.8° above normal while precipitation totaled 8.13 inches or 0.10 inches above normal. This ranks as the 24th warmest and 58th wettest fall among 145 years of records.

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

November 2017

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Nov 2017 Average
	November 2017		November 2017		Since Jul., 1, 2017		November 2017		Since Jan.1, 2017		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	34.1	+0.5	920	-21	1478	-155	0.13	-1.40	29.60	+0.11	T
North Central	33.2	-0.6	946	+10	1476	-163	0.31	-1.54	33.94	+0.89	T
Northeast	34.5	-1.0	908	+23	1399	-151	0.58	-1.70	37.34	+2.57	T
West Central	35.9	+0.1	866	-11	1352	-137	0.17	-1.46	34.69	+2.81	T
Central	36.2	-0.3	857	+2	1289	-170	0.41	-1.73	31.38	-3.65	T
East Central	36.8	-1.4	841	+38	1253	-108	0.82	-1.59	32.85	-2.08	T
Southwest	38.5	+0.1	789	-10	1160	-157	0.39	-1.55	35.81	+1.41	T
South Central	38.2	-0.5	798	+9	1167	-154	0.40	-1.86	30.04	-6.30	T
Southeast	38.7	-1.5	782	+39	1123	-91	0.85	-1.72	28.37	-8.46	0.0
STATE	36.1	-0.5	861	+8	1310	-145	0.44	-1.61	32.69	-1.24	T

* 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, NOVEMBER 2017 (inches)

