



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2017

General Summary. 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.

Temperatures. 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.

Heating Degree Day Totals. 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

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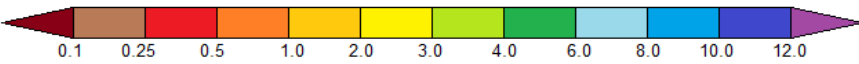
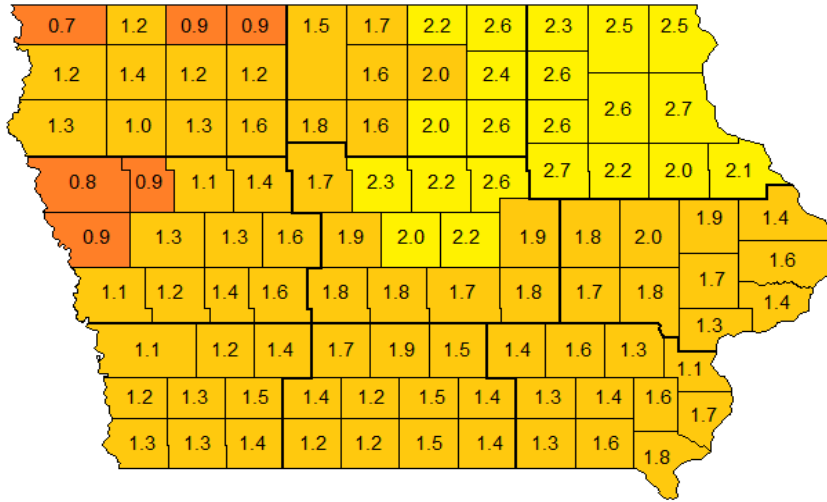
WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Jan 2017 Average
	January 2017		January 2017		Since Jul., 1, 2016		January 2017		Since Nov.1, 2016		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	21.0	+4.6	1357	-149	3883	-660	1.18	+0.51	4.27	+1.17	11.1
North Central	20.8	+5.2	1365	-168	3869	-713	2.03	+1.20	5.40	+1.48	11.1
Northeast	21.9	+4.9	1330	-157	3698	-692	2.43	+1.41	6.16	+1.37	5.9
West Central	23.1	+3.7	1291	-124	3649	-579	1.07	+0.29	3.91	+0.41	4.9
Central	24.2	+5.1	1258	-166	3475	-717	1.90	+0.98	5.10	+0.72	2.8
East Central	25.6	+5.0	1214	-162	3376	-615	1.57	+0.42	4.79	-0.51	0.7
Southwest	25.7	+3.3	1210	-111	3304	-561	1.32	+0.51	3.76	-0.23	2.5
South Central	26.5	+4.2	1188	-135	3247	-616	1.43	+0.54	3.72	-0.82	0.9
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	1.61	+0.69	4.61	+0.30	4.7

* 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 2017 (inches)



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

