



LOWER CEDAR WMA

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Conservation Agronomist

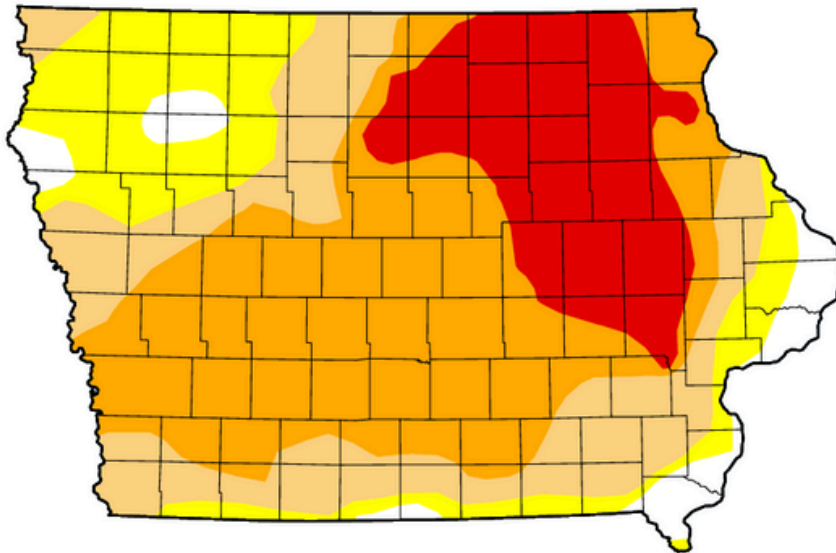
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Heartland Co-op Update for the Lower Cedar
Watershed Management Authority



Released Feb 1, 2024



Intensity:

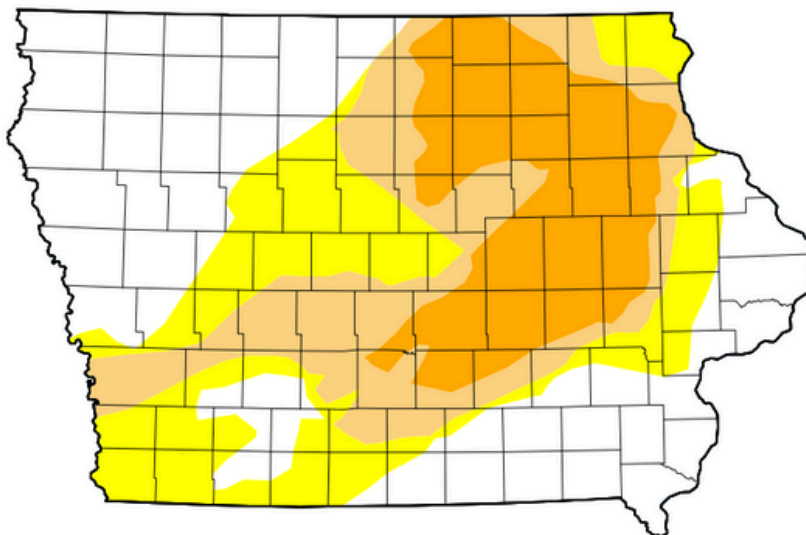
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

Released May 9, 2024



Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
[Curtis Riganti](#), National Drought Mitiga

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s)
[Richard Tinker](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW:

- Much of the Lower Cedar Watershed is out of drought conditions due to recent rainfall.
- Planting is behind due to frequent rainfall leading to difficult planting conditions. Farmers are feeling a bit anxious due to wet soils and are hoping for some dry weather.
- This would be a good year to let cereal rye cover crops grow larger ahead of soybeans since the living plant can help pull some moisture out of the ground and provide weed control.

February Winter Meeting

In February we had a banquet style meeting to celebrate some of the successes for conservation since the project started. Most notably: we've worked with 82 farmers to plant nearly 25,000 acres of cover crops and worked with 17 landowners on 40 edge-of-field projects.



Lower Cedar Batch and Build Update

40 structures (25 saturated buffers and 15 bioreactors) were approved by landowners and contracts were fully executed in March of 2024. Heartland Co-op prepared all of the contracts and documentation to complete these contracts. The bid has been opened to hire a contractor.



Heartland East Batch and Build Project Pre-Bid Meeting: Seeking a contractor to complete water quality projects.

Date: May 16th from 10am-noon

Location: West Branch Town Hall, 115 N 1st St, West Branch, IA 52358

The bid closing will be 5/29/24 at 3pm and is currently open. This meeting is to provide information to contractors interested in bidding on this project .



Thank you for your partnership in making it possible for us to work with farmers to adopt conservation practices in the Lower Cedar Watershed. We are very excited to see the progress that will happen over the next few years!