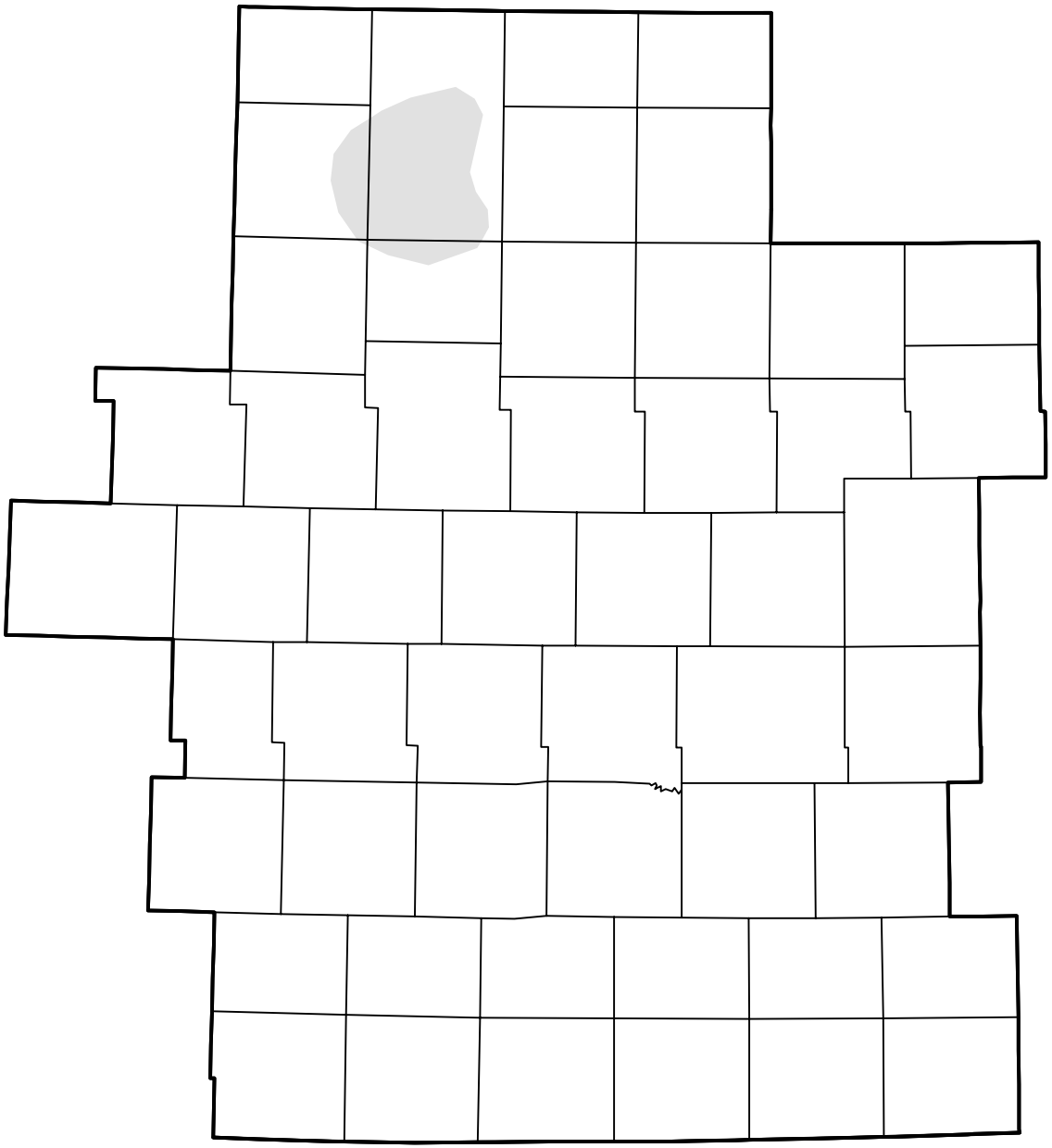
U.S. Drought Monitor

Des Moines, IA WFO



October 20, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	97.63	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week *10-13-2026*	97.63	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago *07-21-2026*	64.53	35.47	17.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	56.91	43.09	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year *09-29-2026*	88.54	11.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago *10-21-2025*	43.03	56.97	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00

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:

Lindsay Johnson

High Plains Regional Climate Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu