

# Key Weather Trends in US Agriculture

## 2018 Extension Outlook Conference

*9 August 2018*

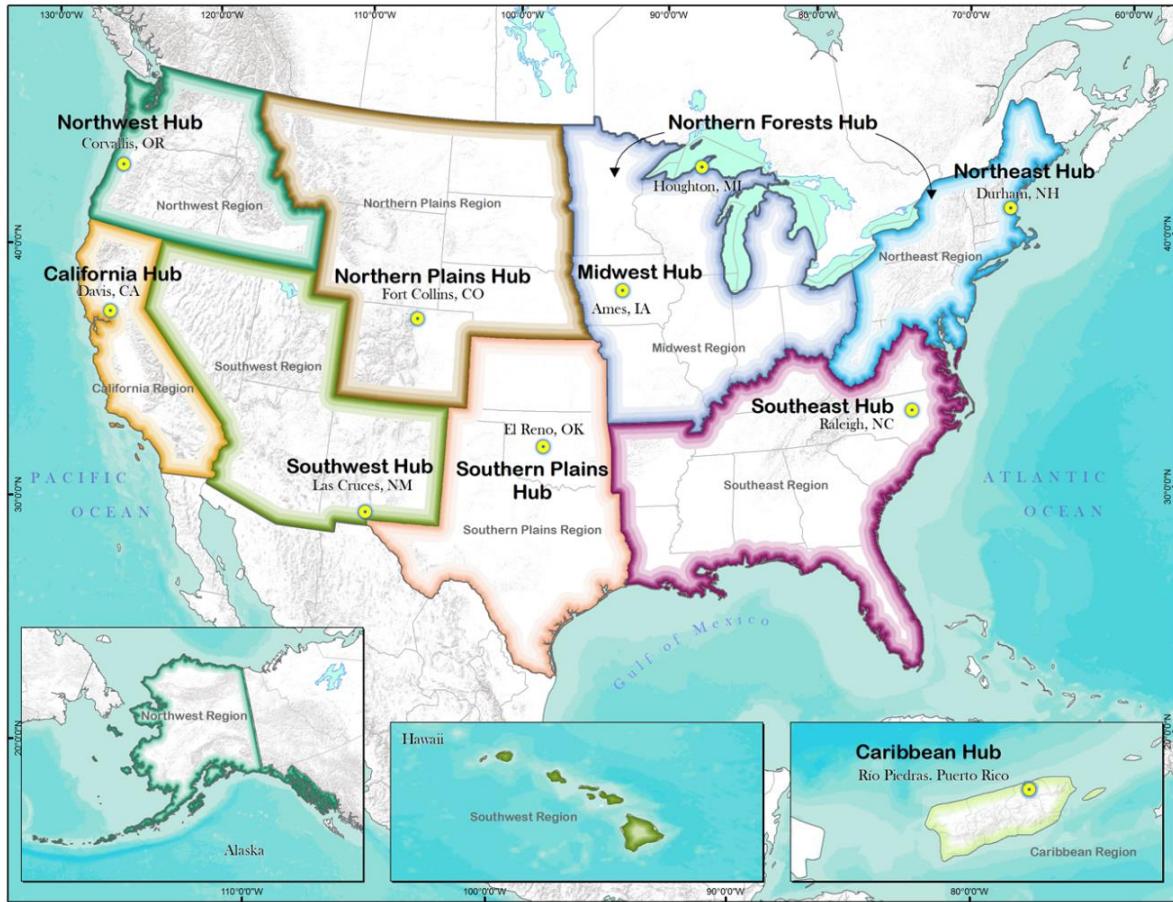
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# Topics

- A brief Background of USDA Climate Hubs
  - The need, mission
  - More on the Midwest Climate Hub
- Current Conditions
  - Long term
  - Short term
  - USDM
- Outlooks
  - El Niño
  - Models
  - Trends

# USDA Climate Hubs



Providing...

Information and Tools  
to Decision Makers  
to Build Resilience  
to climate variability.



# The Need for Climate Hubs



- Increasing climate variability
- An increase in number and intensity of extreme events
- Changing trends in climate and weather
- Added stress to agriculture and other natural resources

**The More you Know...  
Information Leads to Action**

# Vision and Mission

## **Vision**

Agricultural production and natural resources maintained and strengthened under increasing climate and environmental change

## **Mission**

1. Develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies to agricultural and natural resource managers;
2. enable climate-smart decision-making; and
3. direct land managers to USDA agency programs and regional partners to build resilience to climate change.

# Here in the Midwest...

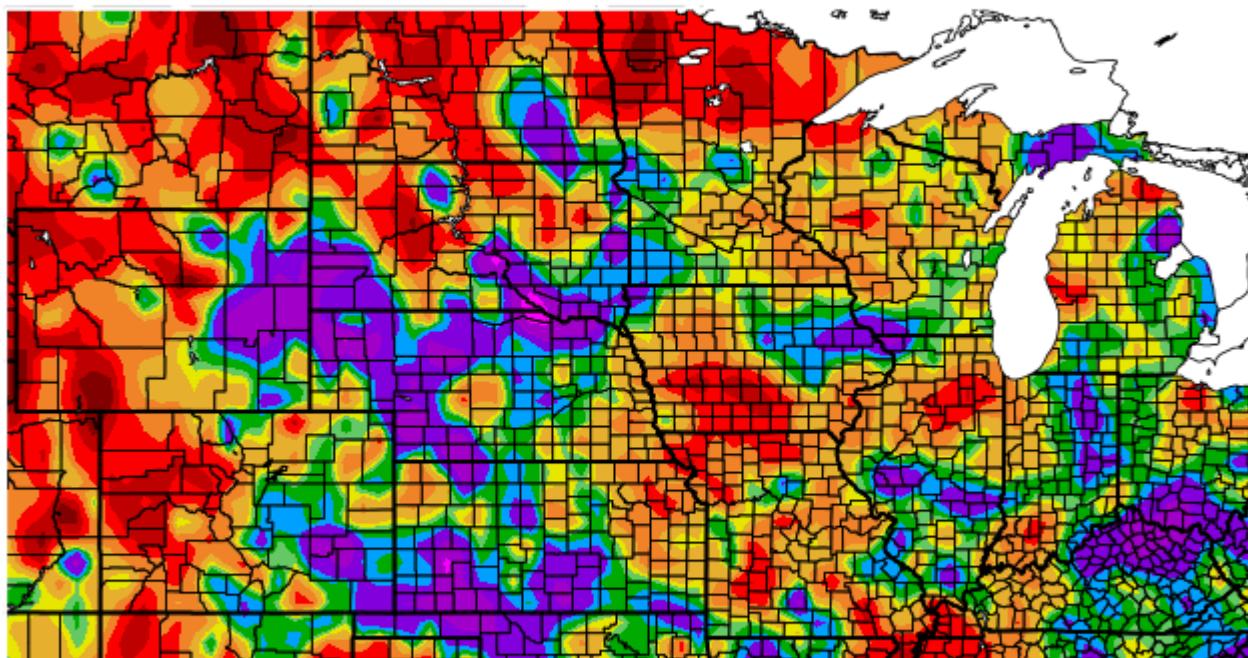


## Our Goal

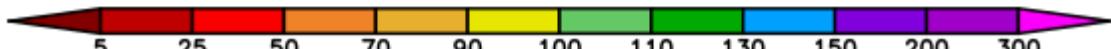
To provide information to help producers cope with climate change through **linkages of research, education and partnerships** in a region that represents one of the **most intense areas of agricultural production** in the world.

# 30 Day Percent of Avg. Precip.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
7/13/2018 – 8/11/2018



Wetter Plains –  
some eastern Corn  
Belt



Generated 8/12/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers



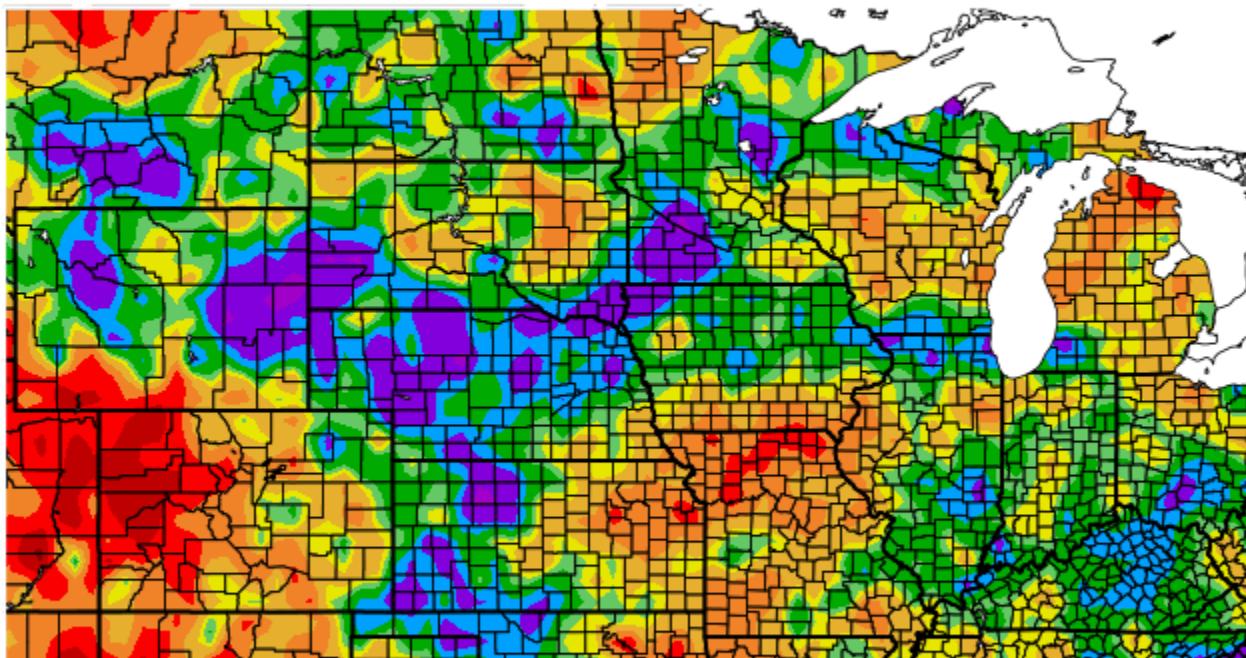
Midwest Climate Hub  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# 90 Day Percent of Avg. Precip.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

5/14/2018 – 8/11/2018



Wetter Plains –  
some eastern Corn  
Belt – northern  
Midwest

Driest Colorado  
and KS-MO-IA



Generated 8/12/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

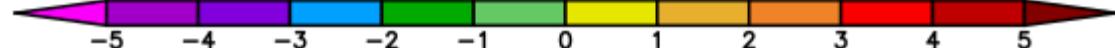
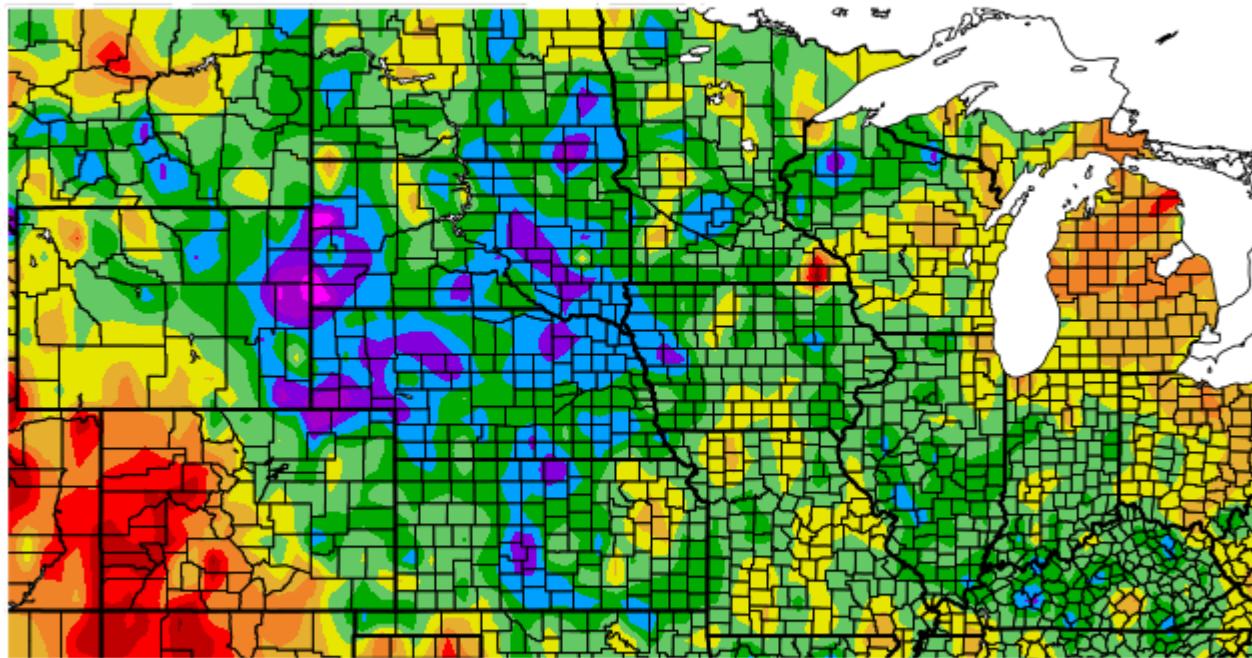


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<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# 30 Day Temperature Departure

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
7/13/2018 – 8/11/2018



Generated 8/12/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Below avg.  
temperature up to  
2-4 F below avg.

Good to balance  
dryness and slow  
crop progress.



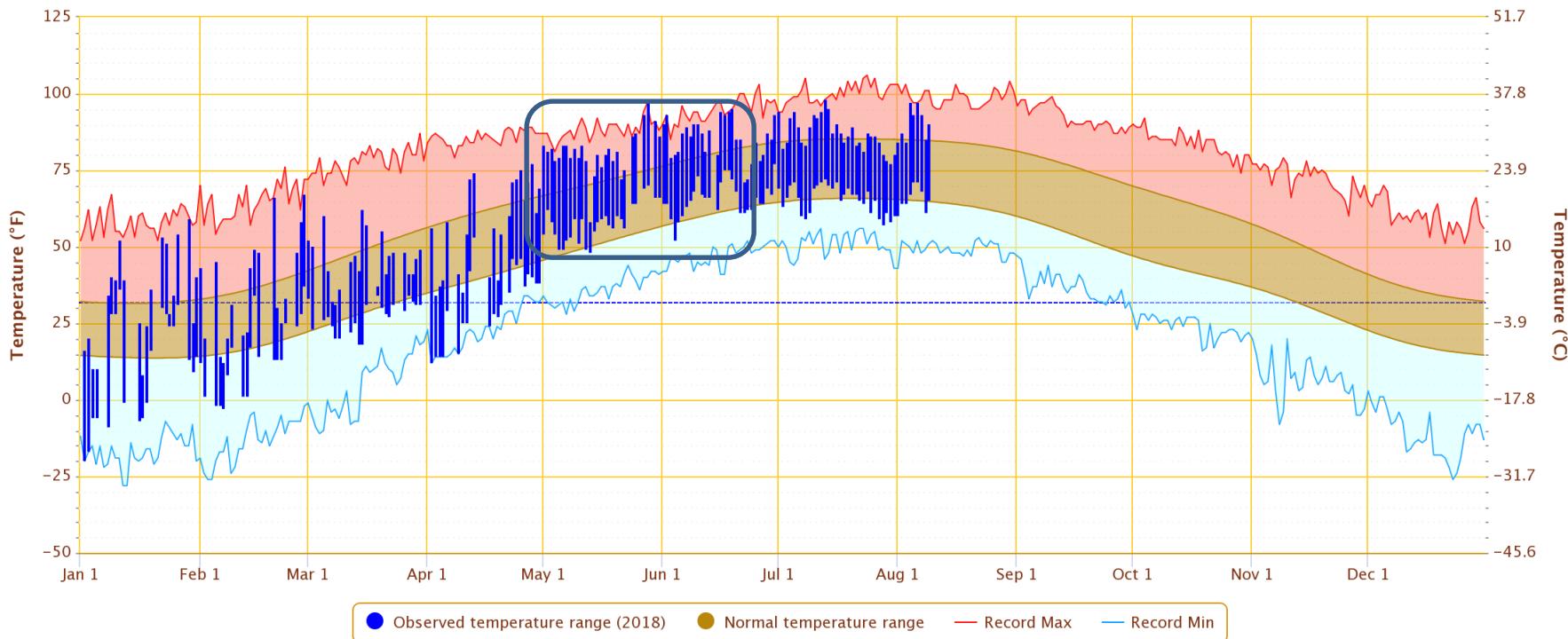
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<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# 30 Day Temperature Departure

Daily Temperature Data – RATHBUN DAM, IA

Period of Record – 1970-04-06 to 2018-08-09. Normals period: 1981–2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



May 1 – mid-June  
nearly every day  
above average  
temperature

May 1- June 15  
2<sup>nd</sup> warmest  
period ever  
behind 1934

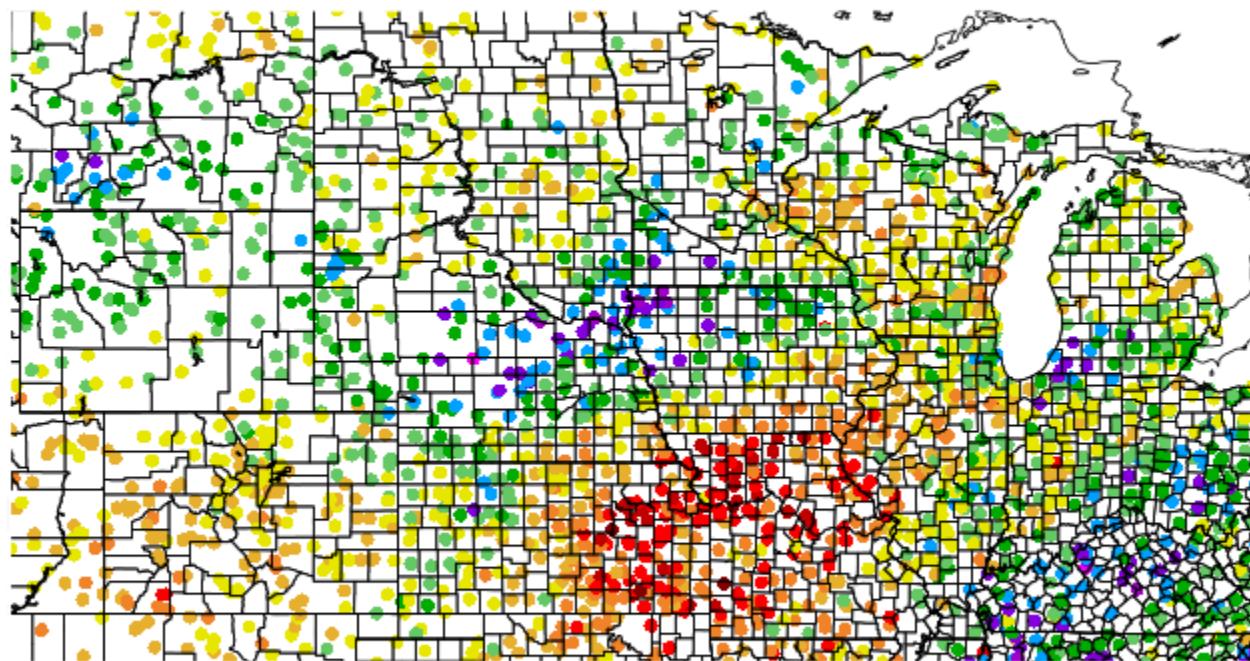


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<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# 1 Year Departure Avg. Precip.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
8/12/2017 – 8/11/2018



Generated 8/12/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.  
Generated 8/12/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

12 month deficits.  
16-20" deficits in  
the last year.



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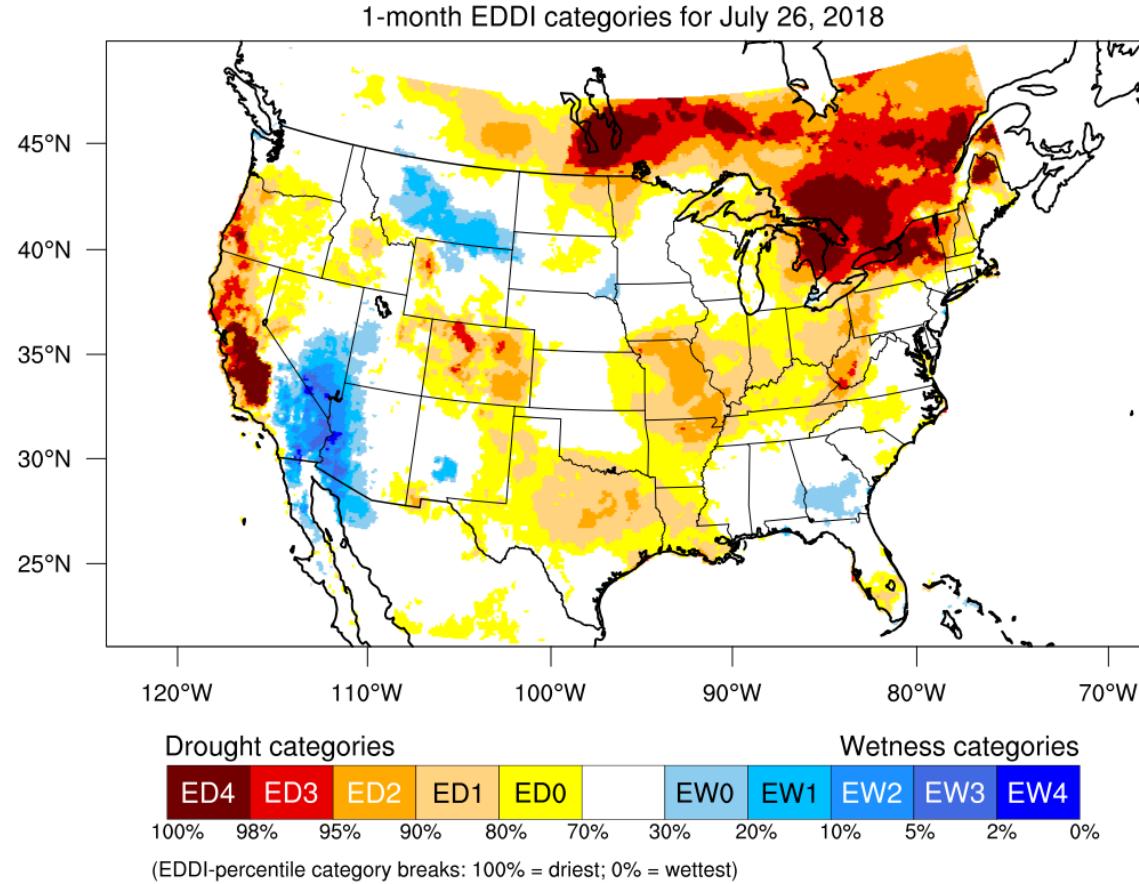
<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# 1 Month Evaporative Demand (EDDI)

Incorporates how much water “could” be used by crops.

Early indicator of potential for flash drought

Shows increased demand in southern IA



Generated by NOAA/ESRL/Physical Sciences Division

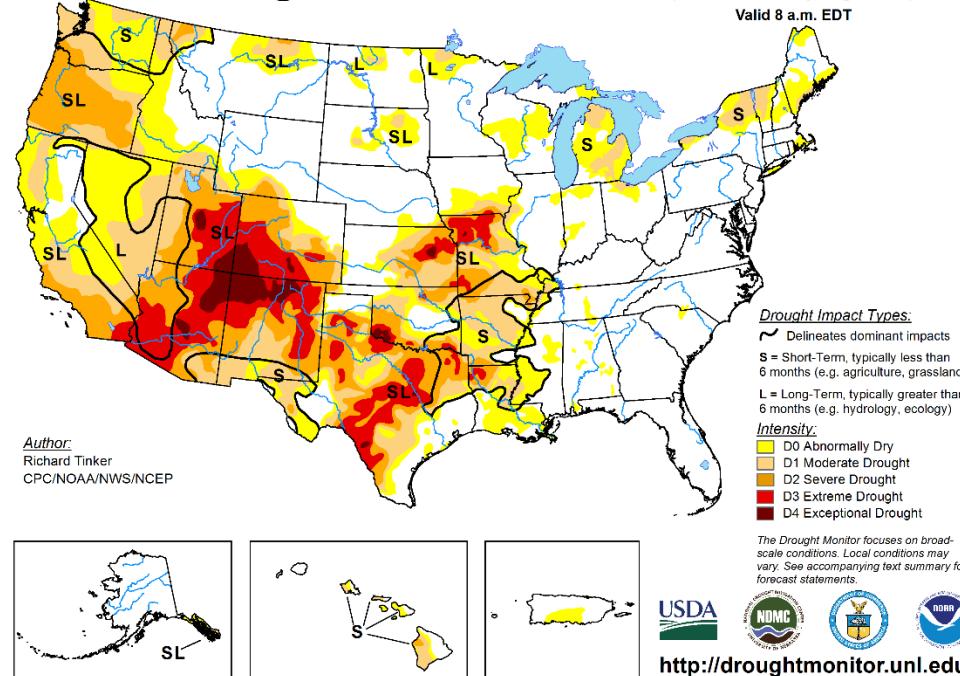


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<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/eddi/>

# US Drought Monitor

## U.S. Drought Monitor



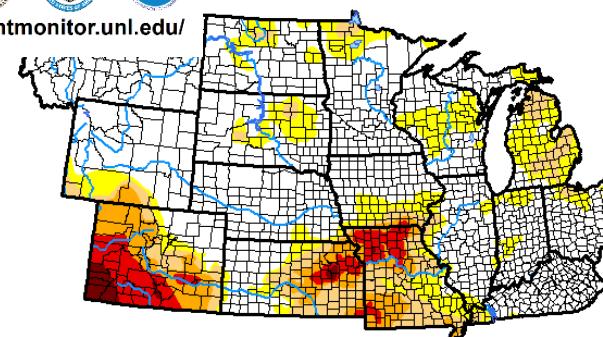
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



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D3 Colorado and Kansas-Missouri-Iowa. Pockets of D4 in each state.

## S. Drought Monitor Central Region



August 7, 2018  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	63.49	36.51	20.28	11.16	5.01	0.87
Last Week 07-31-2018	64.61	35.39	18.72	10.29	5.61	0.98
3 Months Ago 05-08-2018	64.63	35.37	18.12	8.96	4.72	1.18
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2018	44.74	55.26	22.30	7.69	2.03	0.00
Start of Water Year 08-26-2017	50.80	49.20	24.09	12.89	6.13	2.26
One Year Ago 08-08-2017	56.66	43.34	24.26	13.63	6.18	1.98

**Intensity:**  
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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

**Author:**  
Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



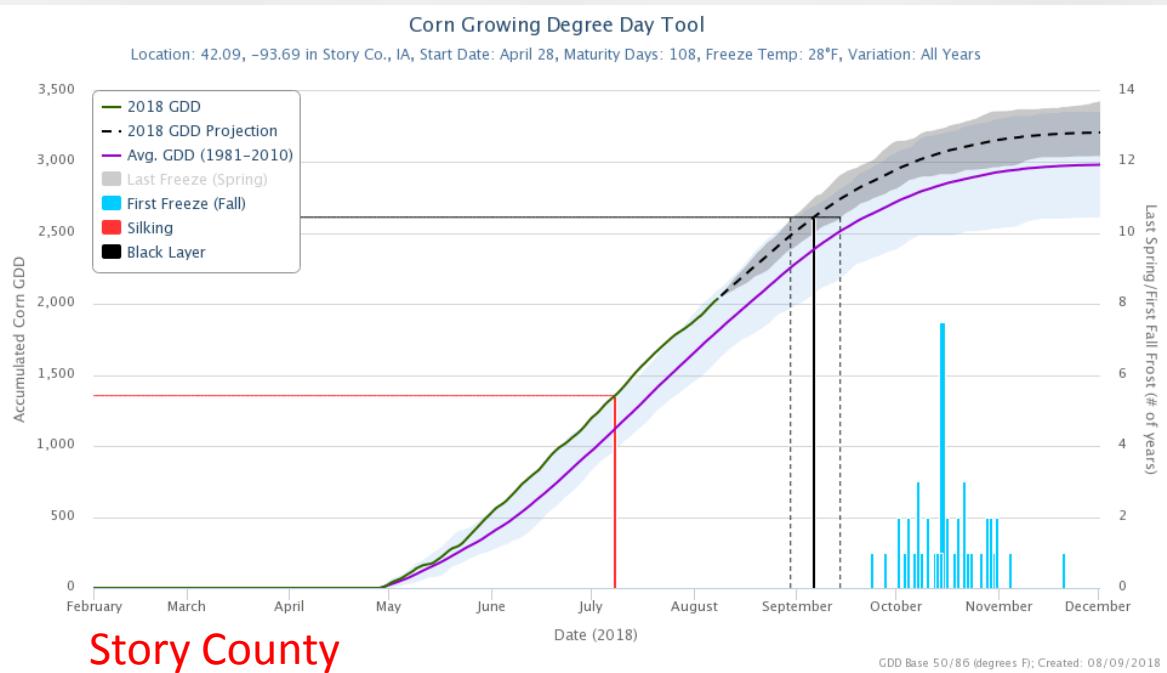
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

# Impact Issues

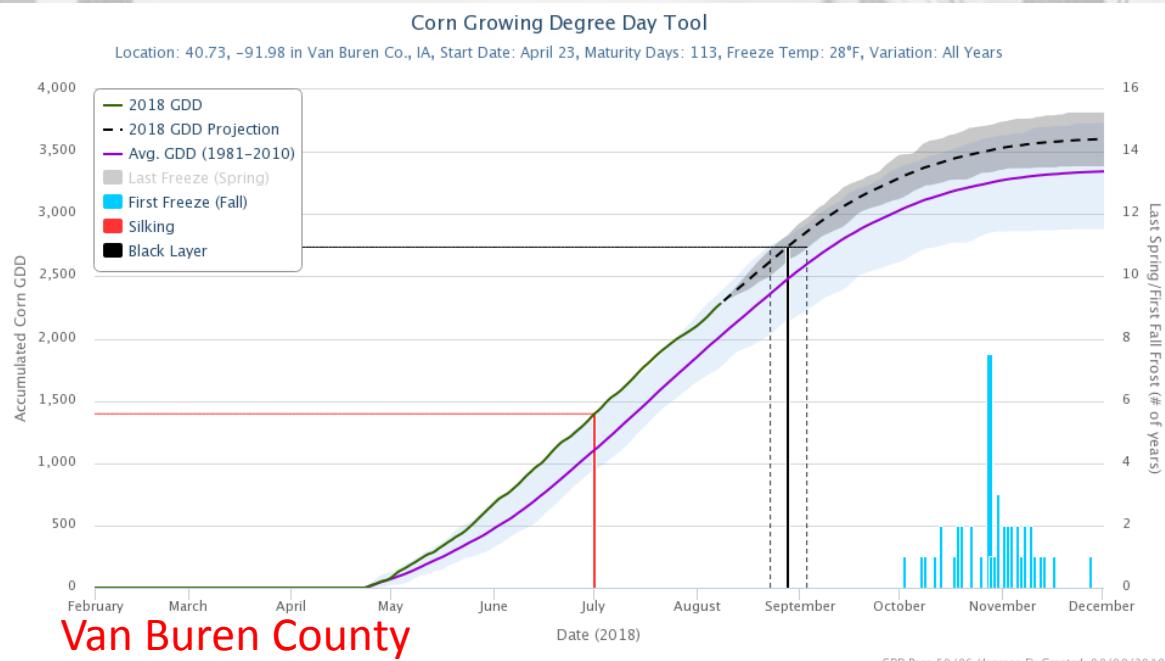
- Stressed corn and now beans
- Limited forage/pasture
- Limited water for livestock (quantity/quality)
- Other issues?



# GDD Accumulation and Forecast



Parts of southern-central  
IA could reach black layer  
by first week of  
September/late August



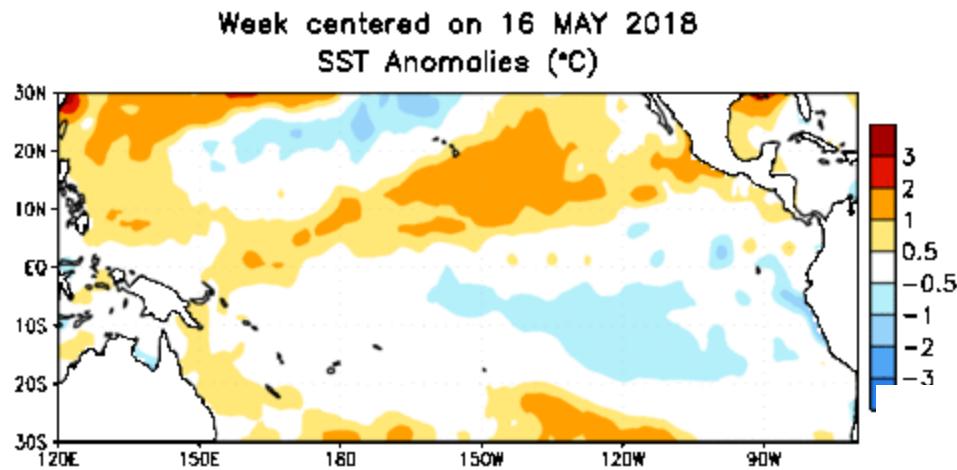
# OUTLOOK



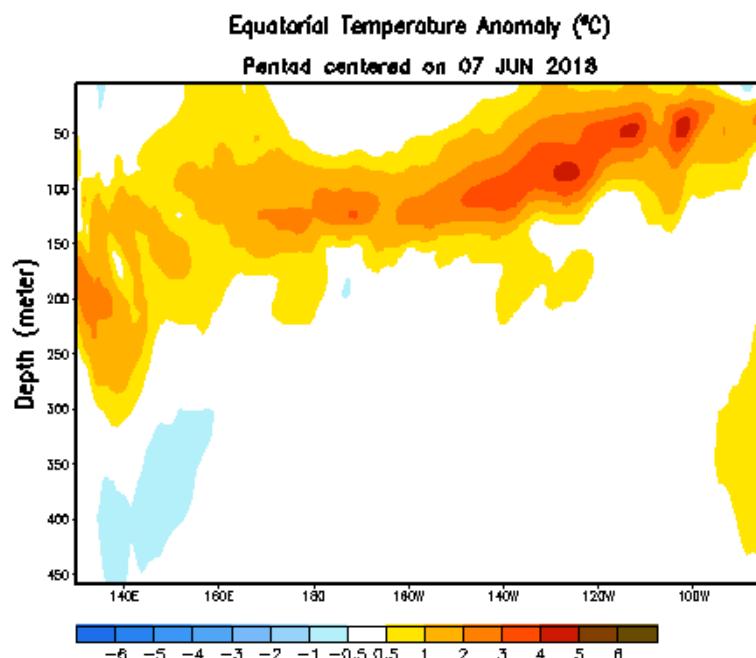
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<http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/p168i.gif?1484935973>

# Pacific Sea-Surface Temps/El Niño



Warm SSTs Pacific  
– pending El Niño



El Niño events area not  
perfect forecasts. But  
they can give additional  
information



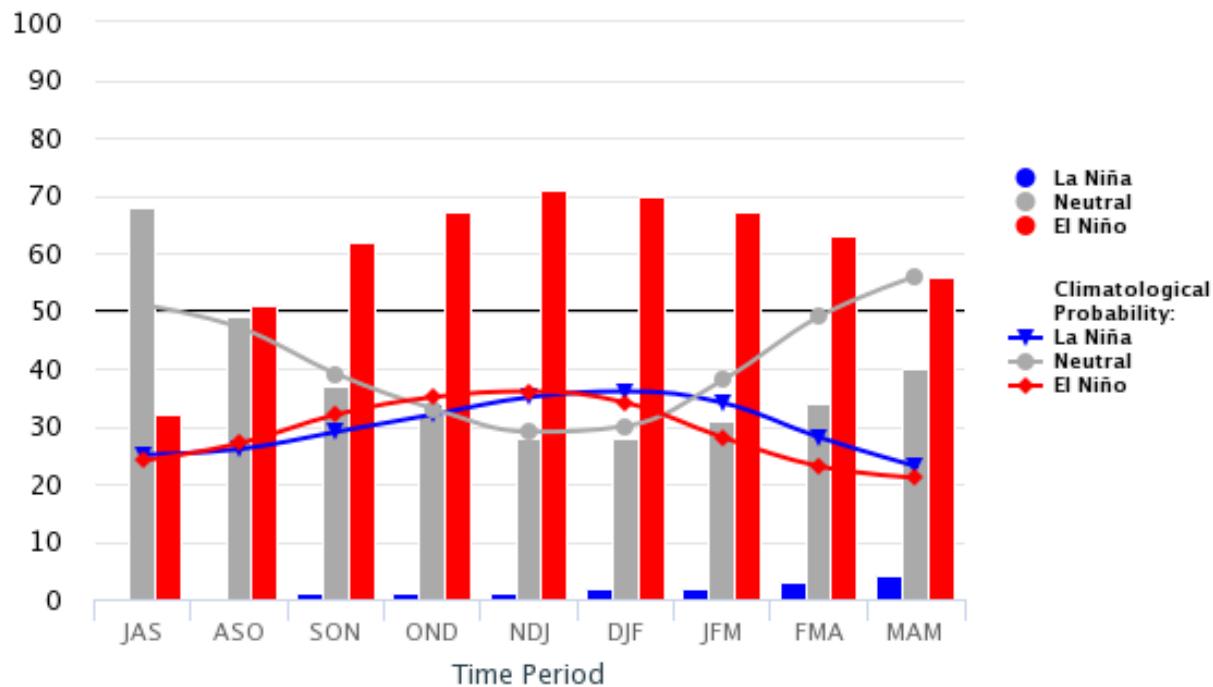
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<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml>

# El Niño Probability into 2019

## Early-Aug CPC/IRI Official Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

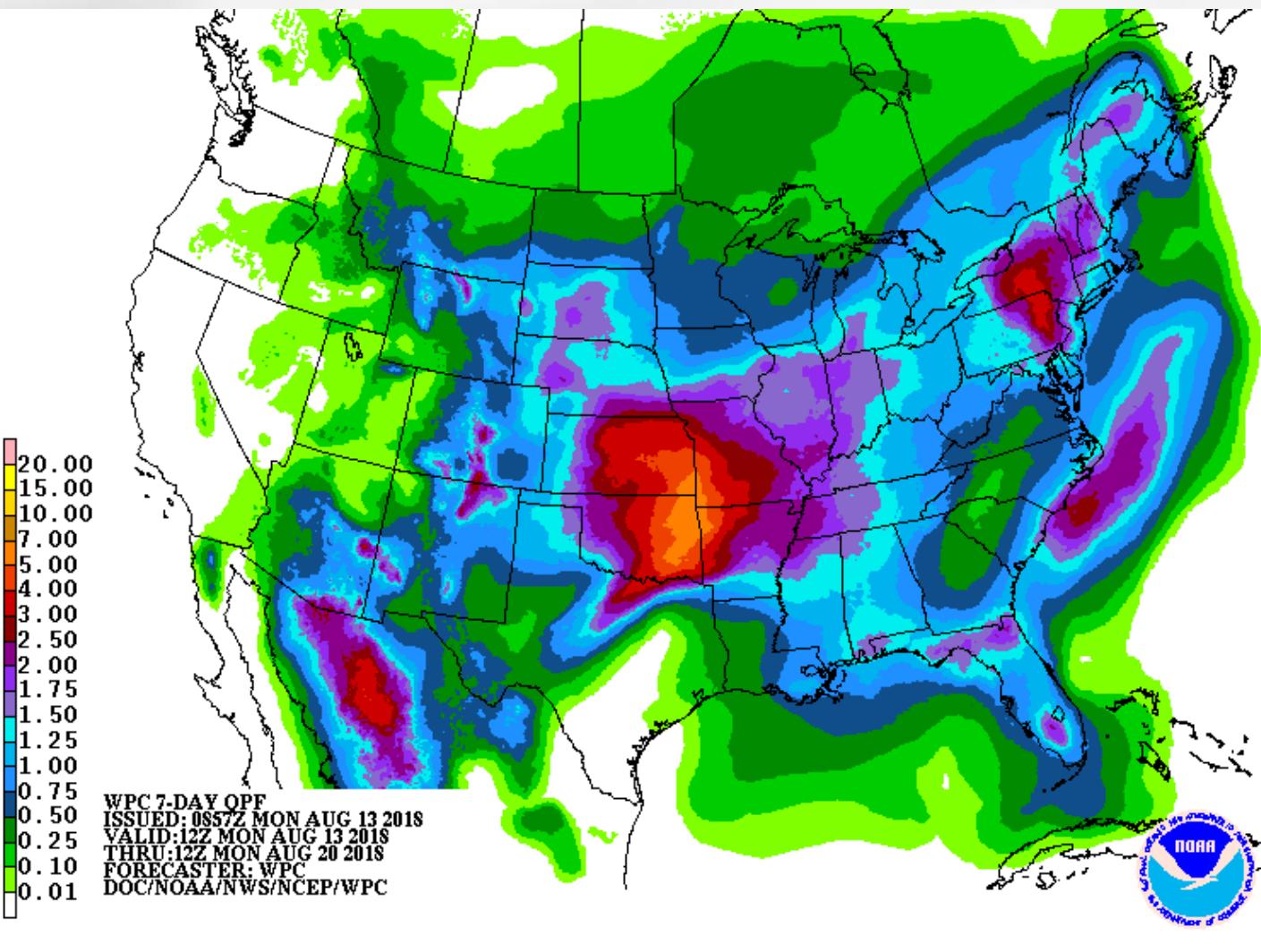
ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly  
Neutral ENSO: -0.5 °C to 0.5 °C



El Niño likely into 2019.

Some question on end period – can it influence 2019 growing season?

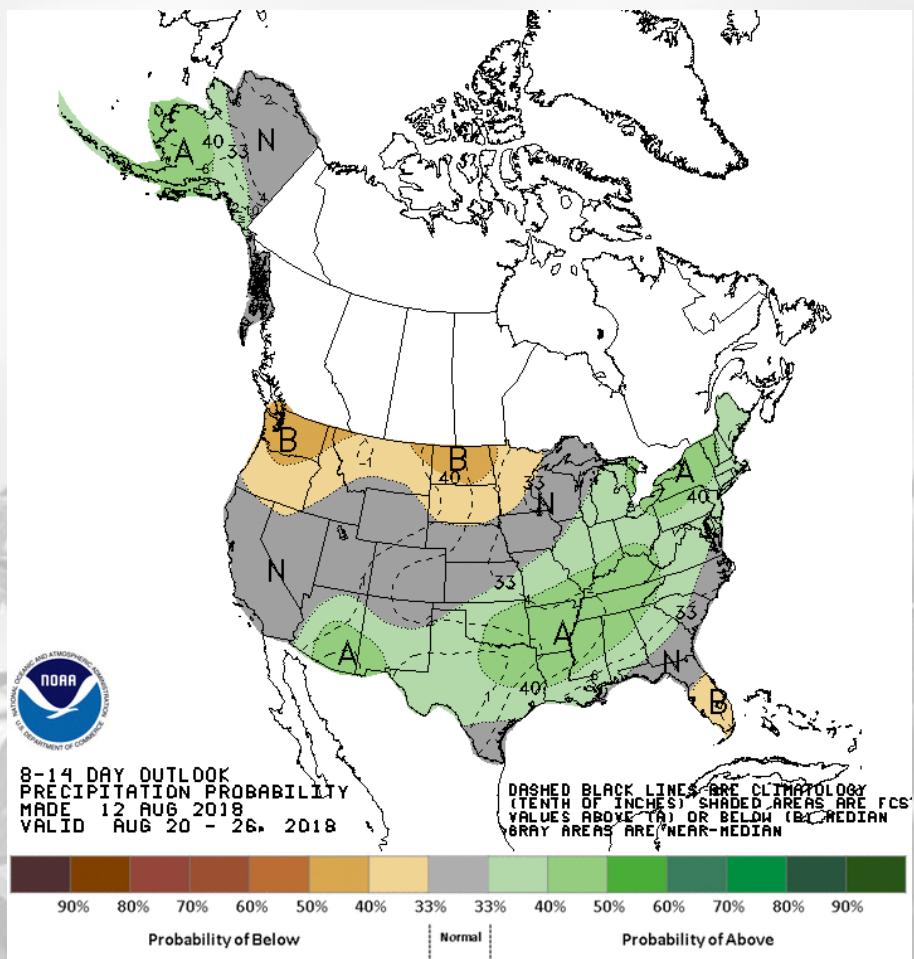
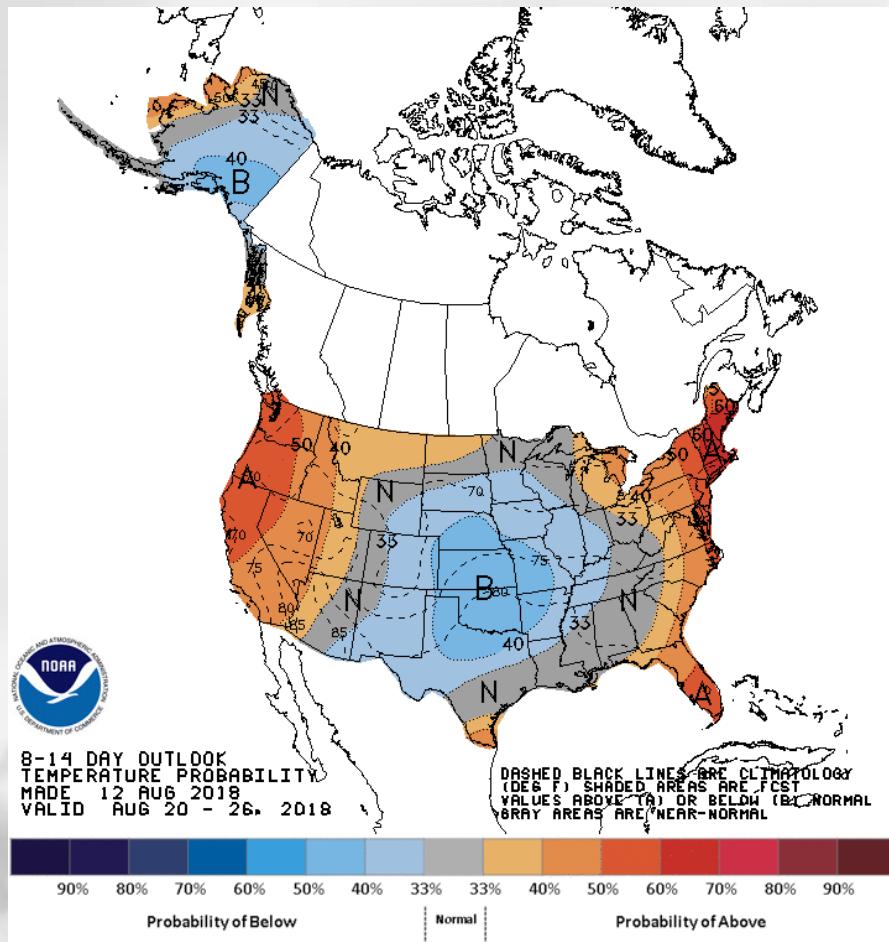
# 7 Day Forecast Precip.



Decent rainfalls in central plains to central Corn Belt.

Would help drought issues.

# 8-14 Day Outlook Temp./Precip.



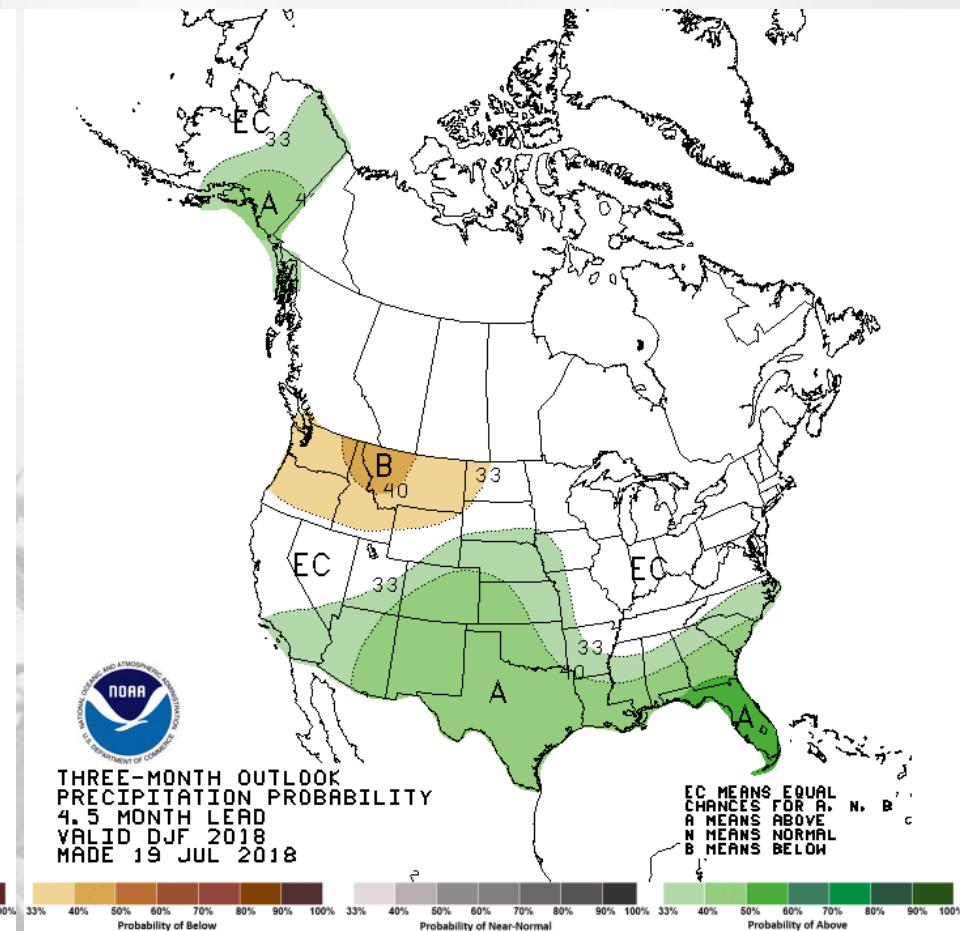
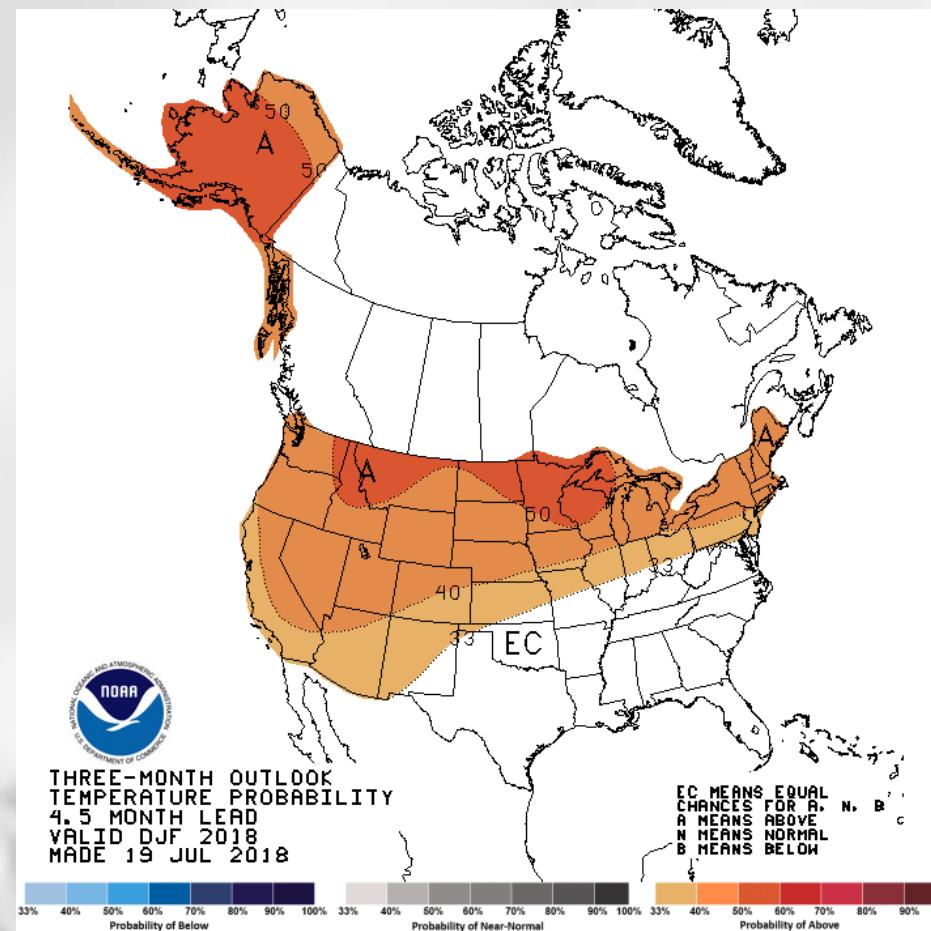
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>



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Warmer than average likely to stay into August. Decent chances for precipitation.

# Dec-Feb. Outlook Temp./Precip.



<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Largely El Niño influenced outlook

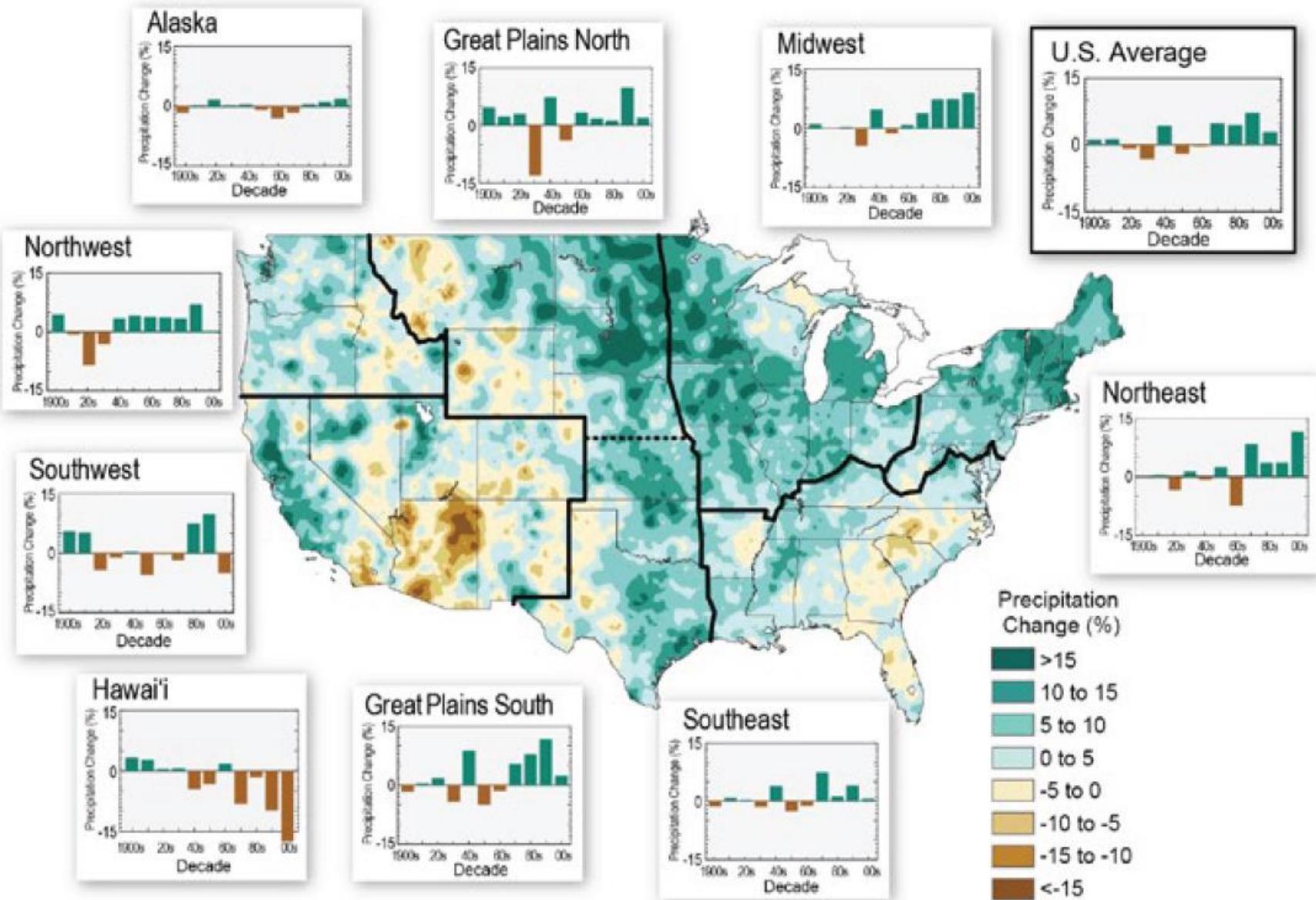


# CHANGING CLIMATE ISSUES



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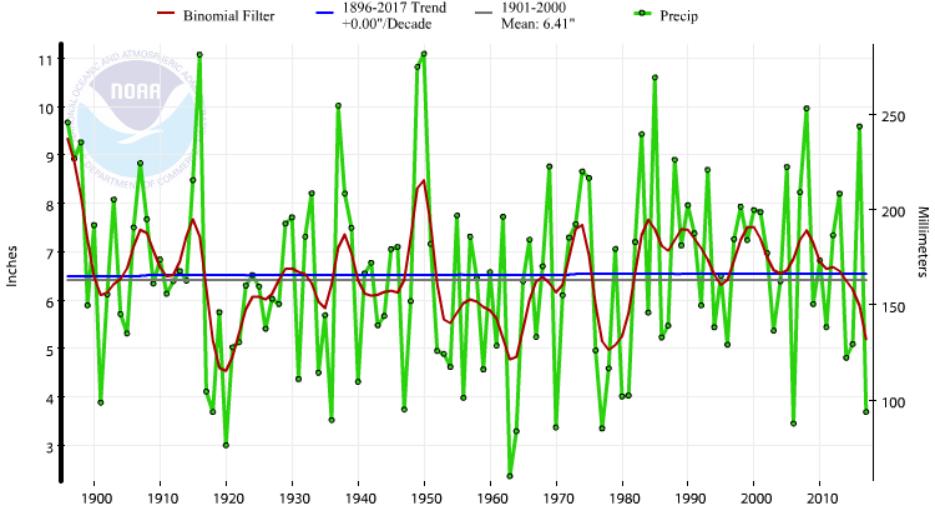
# Observed U.S. Precipitation Change



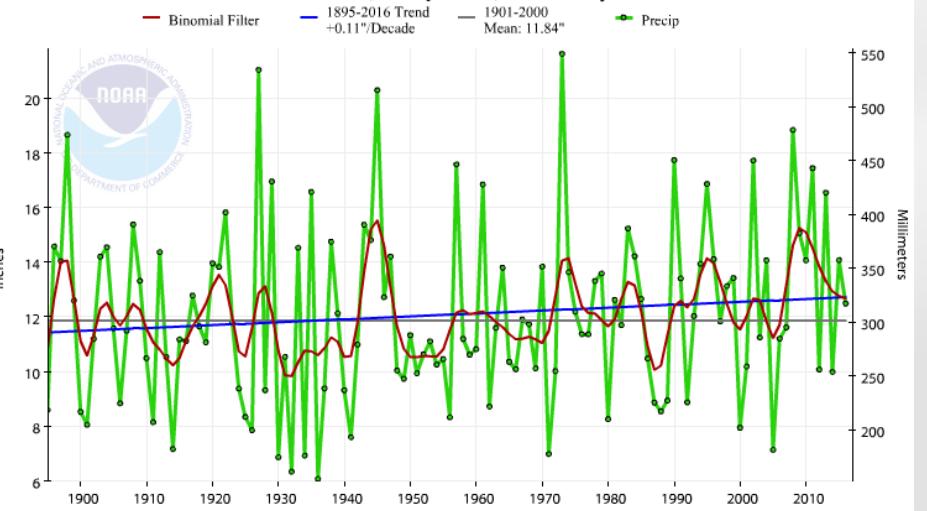
# Time of Year

- Variable across the Corn Belt
- Precip intensity
- Larger events
- Transition seasons more prevalent

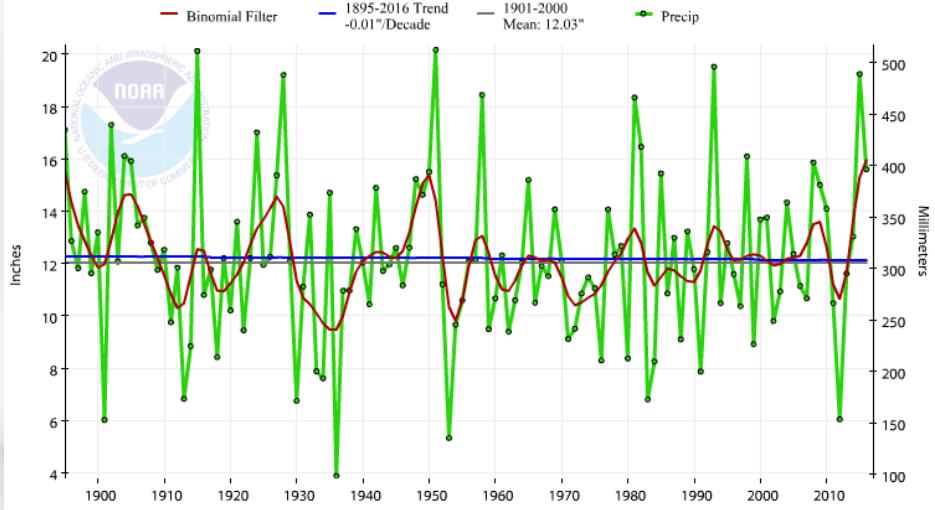
### Missouri, Precipitation, December-February



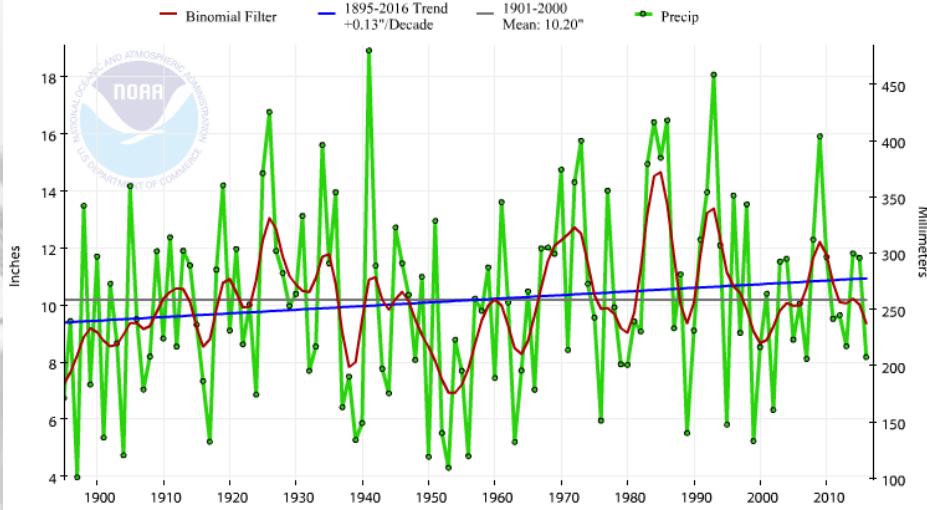
### Missouri, Precipitation, March-May



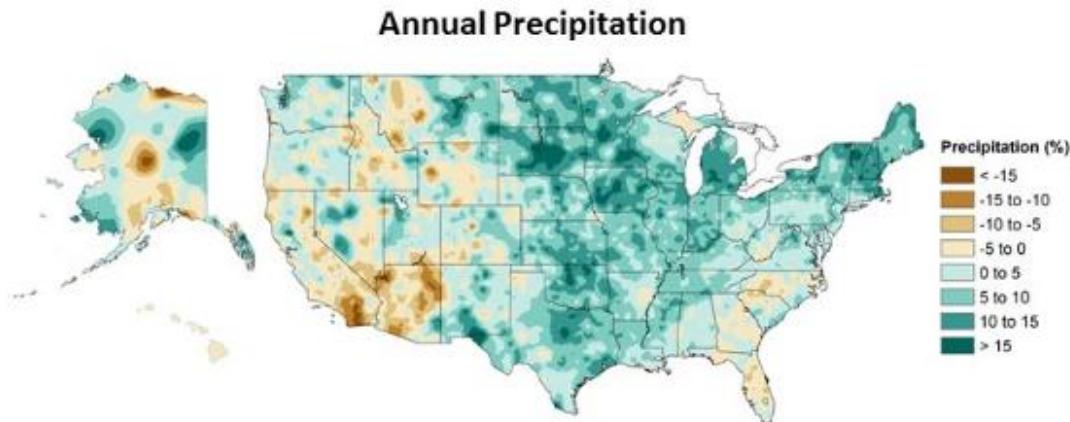
### Missouri, Precipitation, June-August



### Missouri, Precipitation, September-November



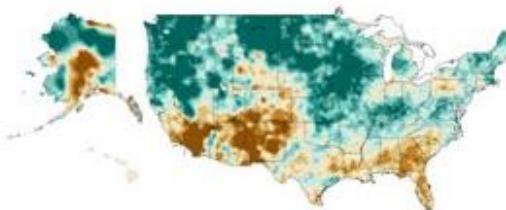
Spring and Fall biggest increases in MO



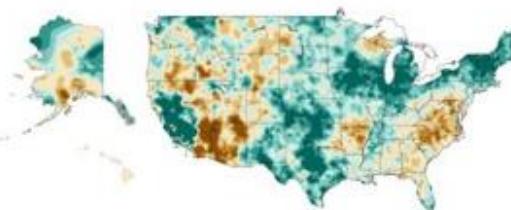
**Winter Precipitation**



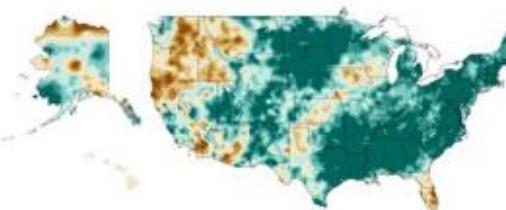
**Spring Precipitation**



**Summer Precipitation**

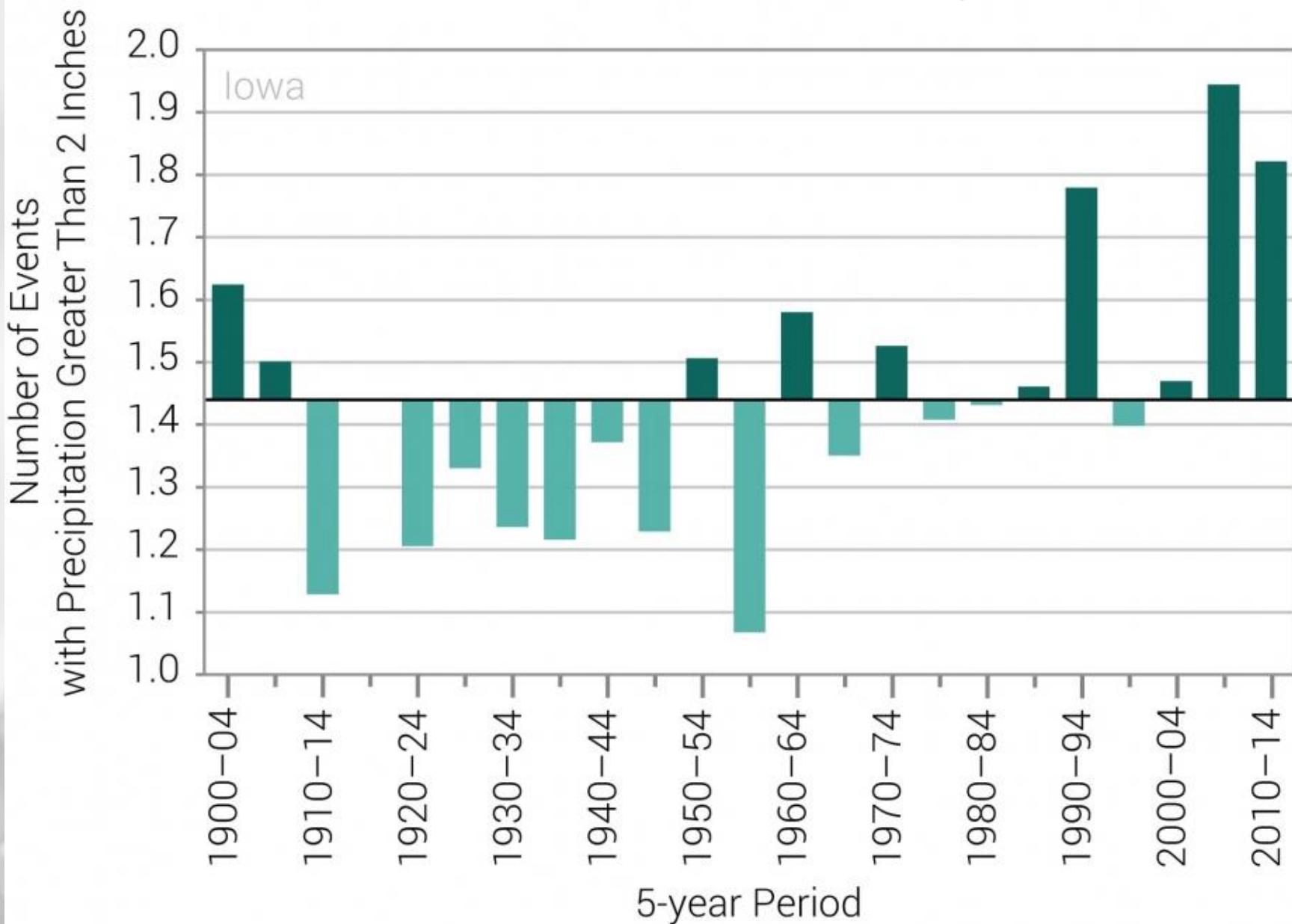


**Fall Precipitation**

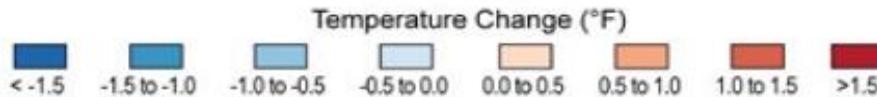
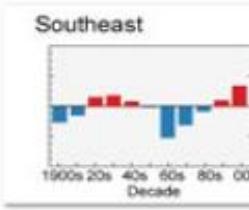
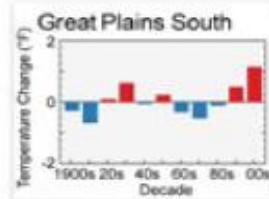
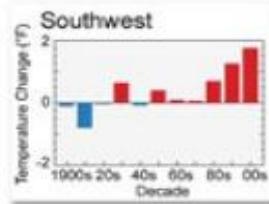
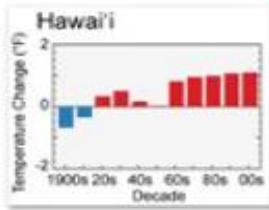
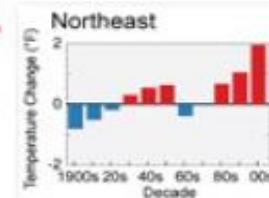
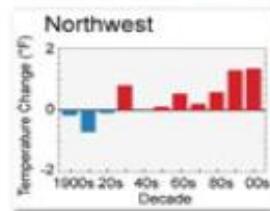
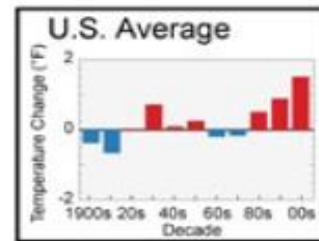
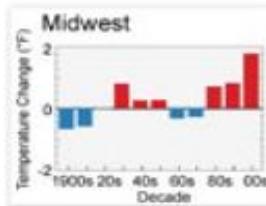
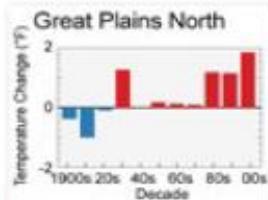
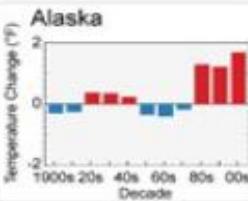


**Figure 7.1:** Annual and seasonal changes in precipitation over the United States. Changes are the average for present-day (1986–2015) minus the average for the first half of the last century (1901–1960 for the contiguous United States, 1925–1960 for Alaska and Hawai'i) divided by the average for the first half of the century. (Figure source: [top adapted from Peterson et al. 2013,<sup>78</sup> © American Meteorological Society. Used with permission; [bottom four NOAA NCEI, data source: nCLIMDiv].

# Observed Number of Extreme Precipitation Events



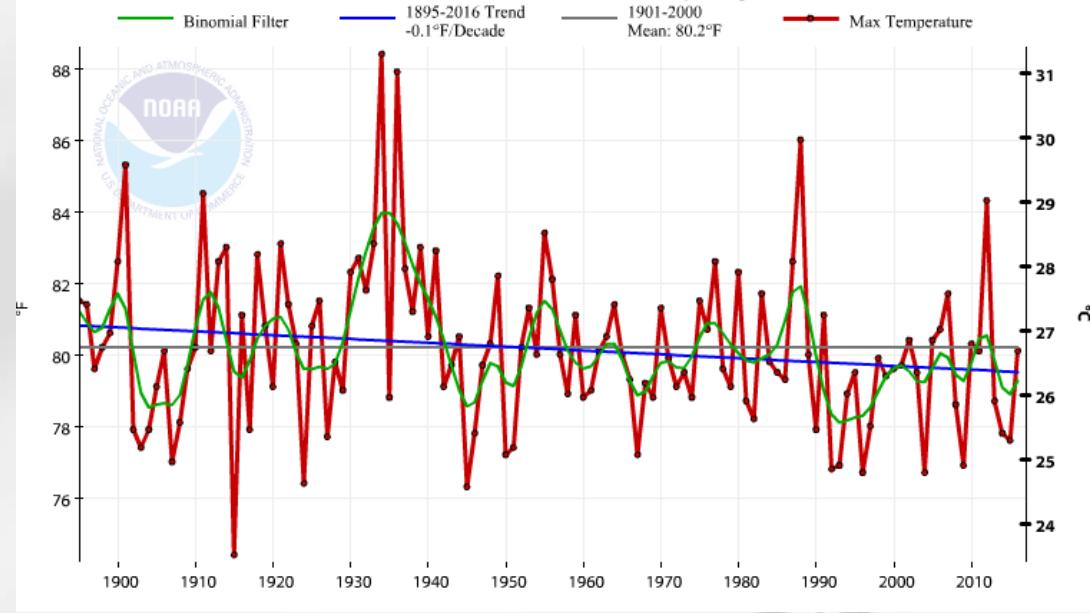
## Observed U.S. Temperature Change



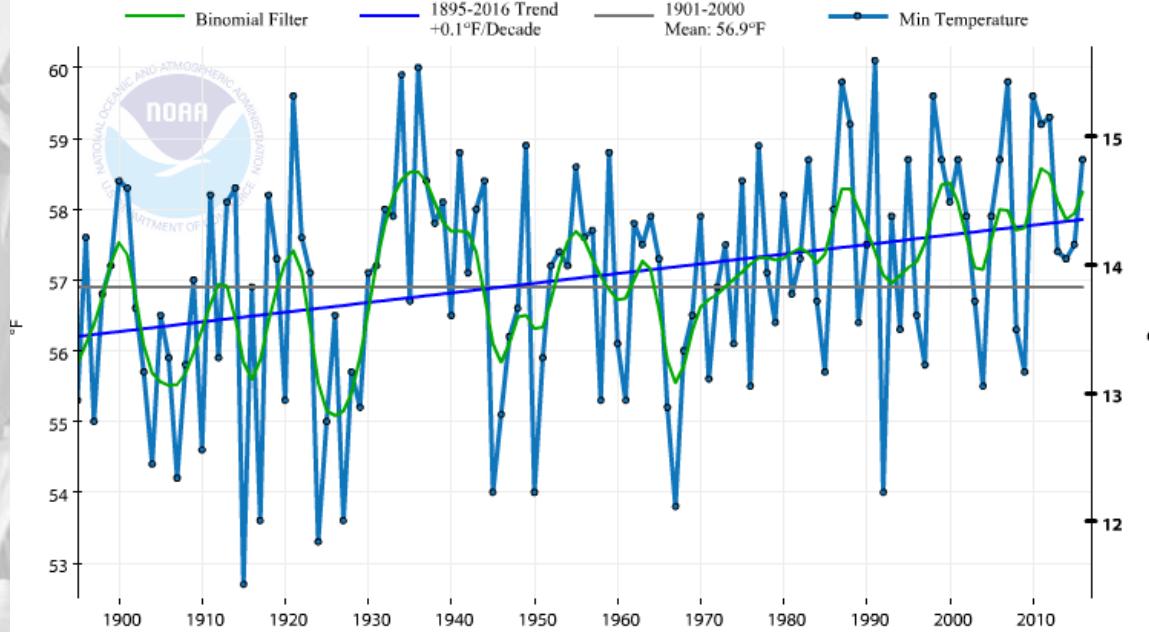
# Getting warmer

- The whole Corn Belt is getting warmer. But occurring in different ways/times of year
- Warming in the cold season
- Minimums driving much of warming – especially in the summer

### Iowa, Maximum Temperature, May-August

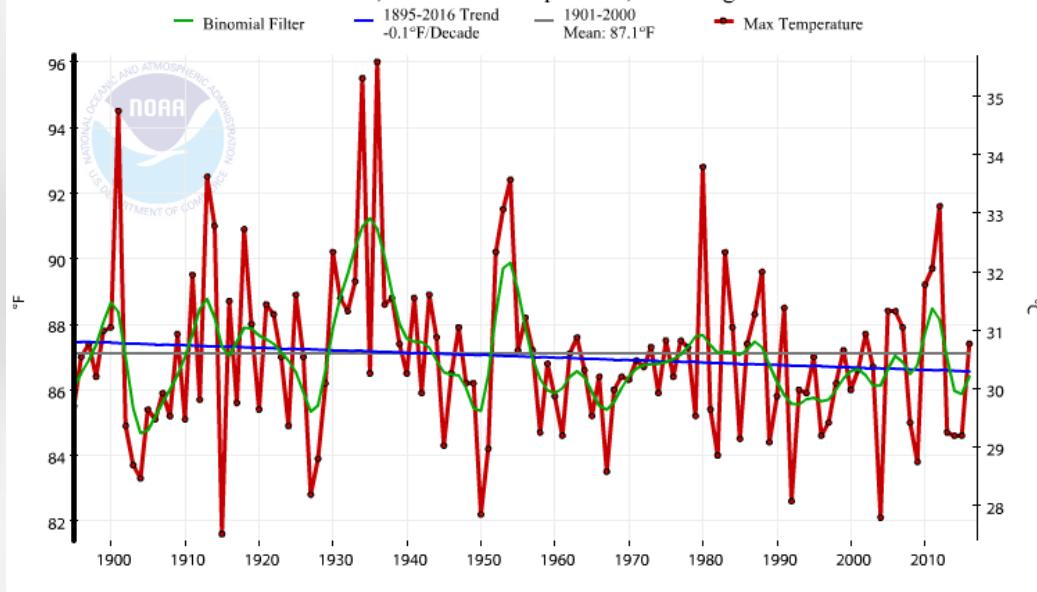


### Iowa, Minimum Temperature, May-August



<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag>

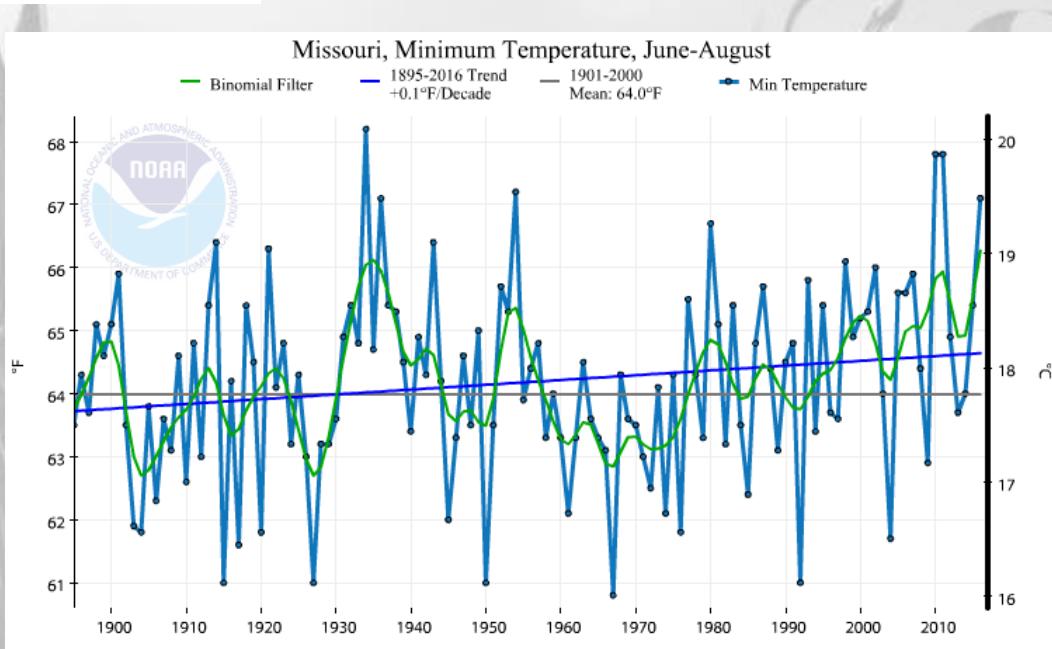
### Missouri, Maximum Temperature, June-August



Summer getting warmer

Driven by overnight lows not by daily highs

### Missouri, Minimum Temperature, June-August

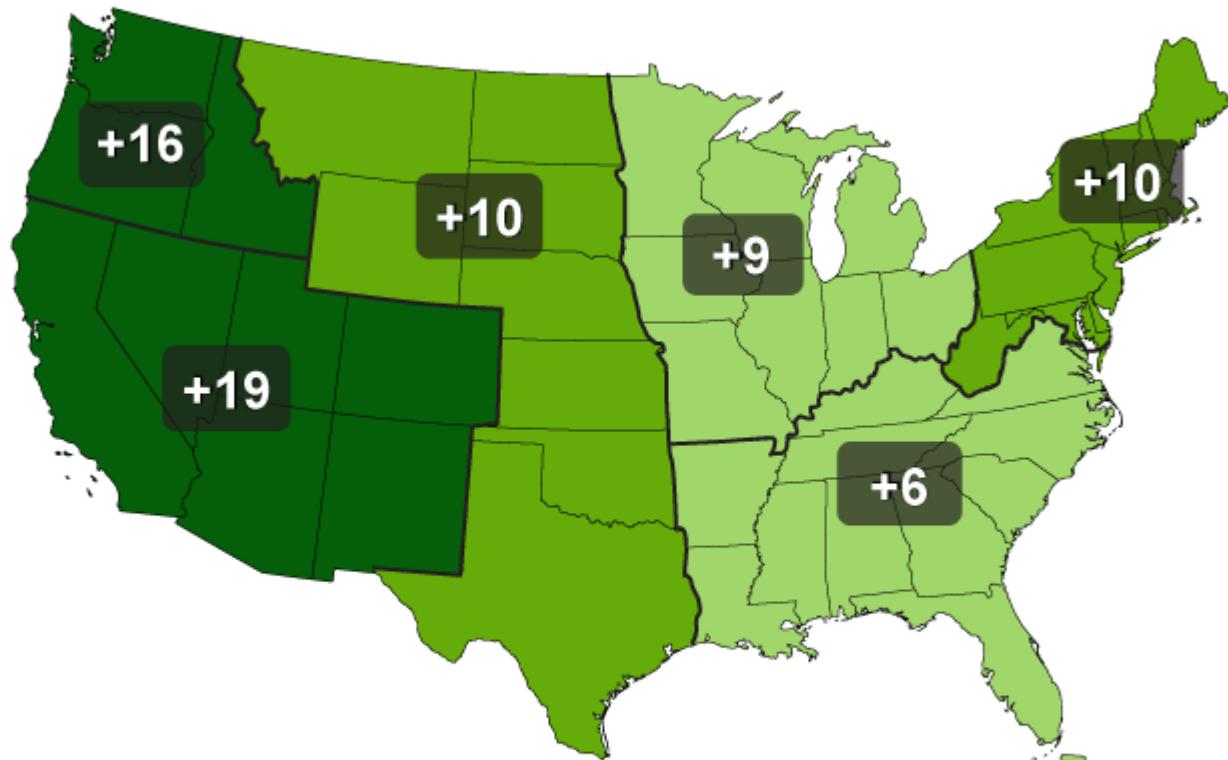


<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag>

# Warm Nights

- Added livestock/human stress
- Additional cooling needed
- Push GDD accumulation/phenological state
- Does help increase frost free season period

# Observed Increase in Frost-Free Season Length



Change in Annual Number of Days



The frost-free season length, defined as the period between the last occurrence of 32°F in the spring and the first occurrence of 32°F in the fall, has increased in each U.S. region during 1991-2012 relative to 1901-1960.

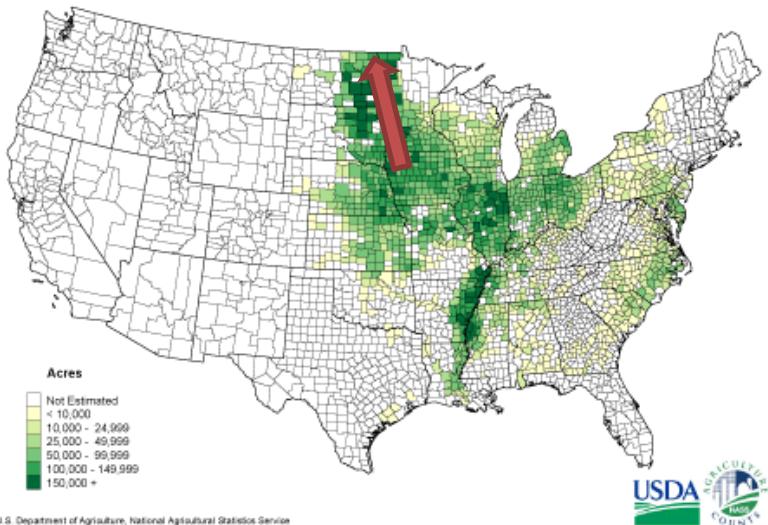
Increases in frost-free season length correspond to similar increases in growing season length. (Figure source: NOAA NCDC / CICS-NC).

# Frost Free Season Change

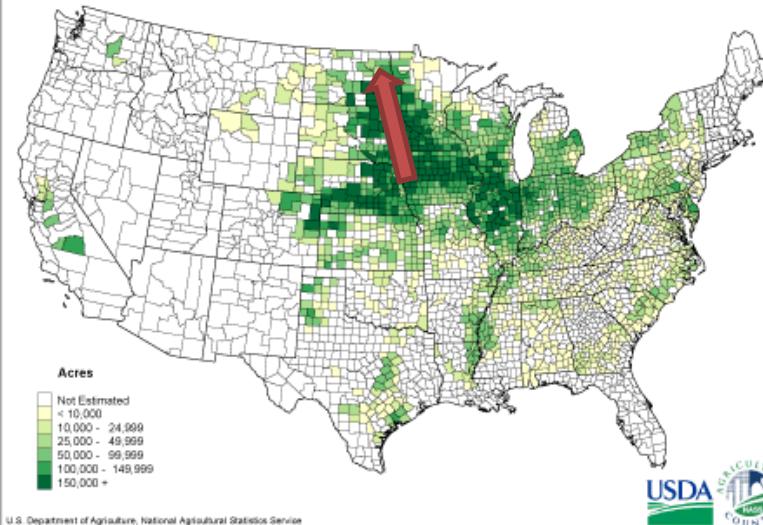
- Longer hybrid
- Earlier spring (confounded)
- Earlier planting not always possible/soil conditions

# Crop Production

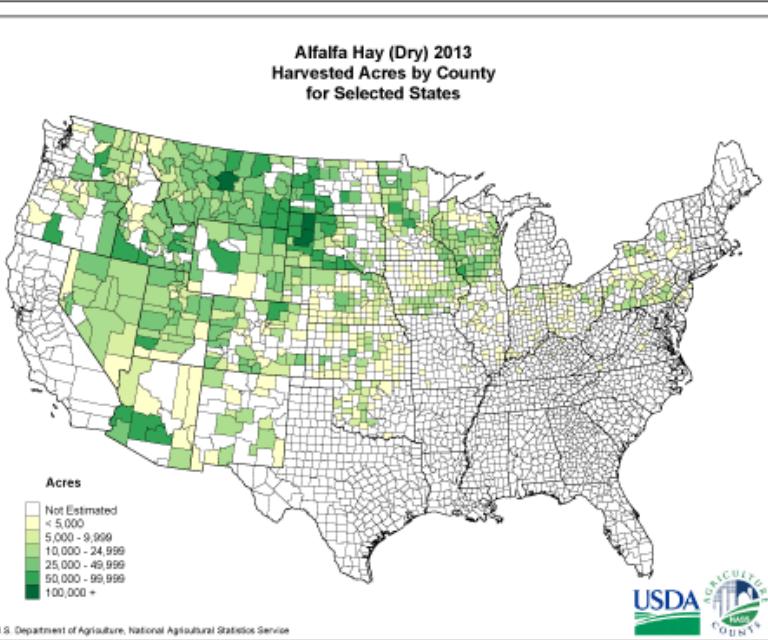
Soybeans 2013  
Planted Acres by County  
for Selected States



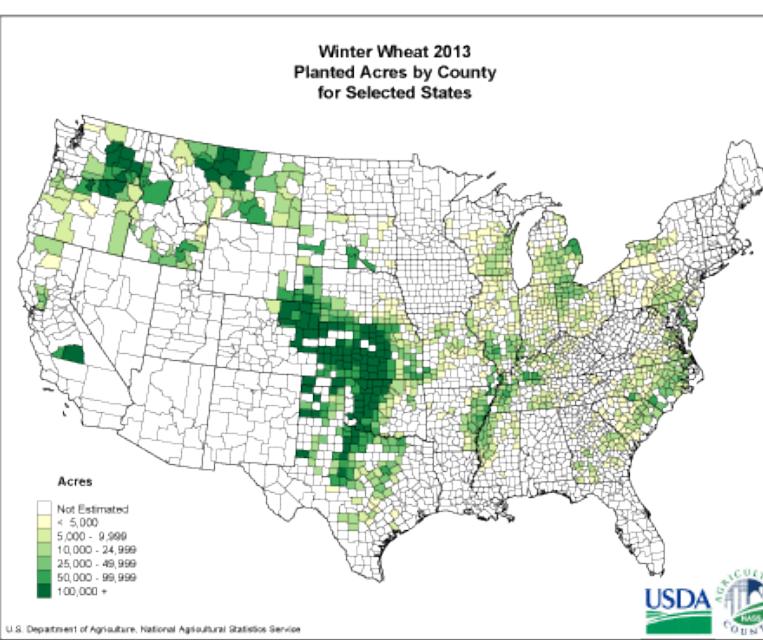
Corn for All Purposes 2013  
Planted Acres by County  
for Selected States



Alfalfa Hay (Dry) 2013  
Harvested Acres by County  
for Selected States



Winter Wheat 2013  
Planted Acres by County  
for Selected States



# Resources: Website



About Us Original Site Contact Us

Midwest Climate Hub

REGIONAL HUBS

TOPICS

CLIMATE IMPACTS

ACTIONS & RESOURCES

Search

## MIDWEST CLIMATE HUB

Welcome to the Midwest Climate Hub, where our goal is to provide information that will help producers cope with climate change through linkages of research, education and extension partnerships. The Midwest Climate Hub encompasses eight states: Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana and Illinois. This region represents one of the most intense areas of agricultural production in the world with a wide array of products including corn, soybean, livestock, vegetables, fruits, berries, and nursery/greenhouse plants.

ABOUT US

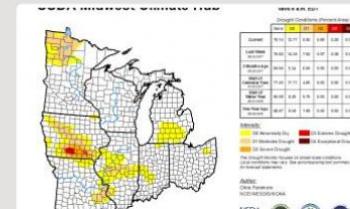
Search for tools, research and events by Region, Topic, type of crop, or climate Impact.

<https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>



### Agriculture in the Midwest

The Midwest represents one of the most intense areas of agricultural production in the world and consistently affects the global economy. Agriculture is impacted by climate. Find out how and how best to adapt agricultural practices to maintain yields here.



### Climate and Agriculture

Agriculture is indelibly connected to surrounding weather and climate conditions, which impact crop growth along with diseases and soils. Understanding current weather and climate issues is imperative to supporting sustainable crop production in the Midwest.



### Additional Resources and Tools

For the most up to date newsletters, research publications and events, check out this Additional Resources page. Access to the Midwest Climate Hub archives and additional Tools can also be found here.



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# Resources: Operational Products

**Agriculture in the Midwest**

The Midwest represents one of the most intense areas of agricultural production in the world and consistently affects the global economy. Agriculture is impacted by climate. Find out how and how best to adapt agricultural practices to maintain yields here.

**Climate and Agriculture**

Agriculture is inextricably connected to surrounding weather and climate conditions, which impact crop growth along with diseases and soils. Understanding current weather and climate issues is imperative to supporting sustainable crop production in the Midwest.

**Additional Resources and Tools**

For the most up to date newsletters, research publications and events, check out this additional Resources page. Access to the Midwest Climate Hub archives and additional Tools can also be found here.

## Midwest Ag-Focus Climate outlook

**USDA Midwest Climate Hub**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

February 2, 2018

**Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook**

**Outlook**

Accumulated Snowfall: Percent of Mean, November 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

USDA Midwest Climate Hub

January 30, 2018  
Accumulated Snowfall: Percent of Mean, November 1, 2017 to January 30, 2018

Impacts

For more information, please visit: <http://www.climatehub.usda.gov/midwest>

**USDA Midwest Climate Hub**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

January 30, 2018

**Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook**

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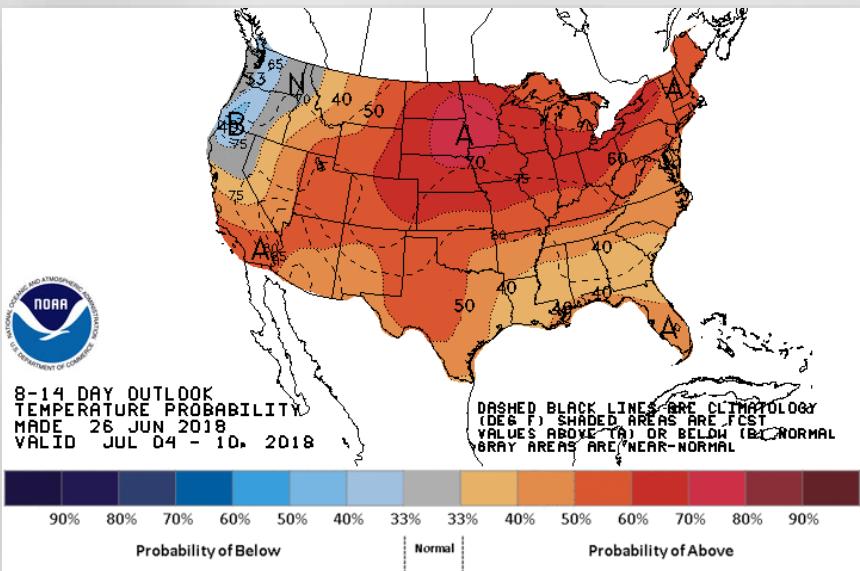
Impacts

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Midwest Climate Hub  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Sample information-outlooks



- High probability of above avg. temperatures
- Corn reaching reproductive stage
  - High water use – ET (very humid conditions likely)
  - More potential stress on corn
  - Livestock stress and potentially loss.
- Recent rains help part but also add to humidity

# Monthly Climate-Drought Outlook Webinars

## Midwest and Great Plains Climate- Drought Outlook 17 May 2018

Dr. Dennis Todey  
Director – USDA Midwest  
Climate Hub  
Nat'l Lab. for Ag. and Env.  
Ames, IA  
[dennis.todey@ars.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.todey@ars.usda.gov)  
515-294-2013

Photo:  
Pete  
Boulay



# Drought Status Updates



- Partnered with other federal agencies to create a drought update
- Will continue updating when conditions warrant

<https://www.drought.gov/drought/node/58356>



# Resources: Website

The Midwest represents one of the most intense areas of agricultural production in the world and consistently affects the global economy. Agriculture is impacted by climate. Find out how and how best to adapt agricultural practices to maintain yields here.

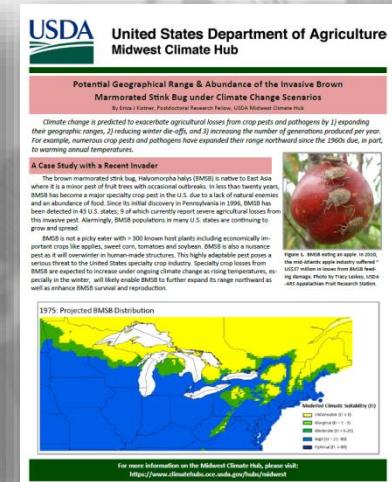
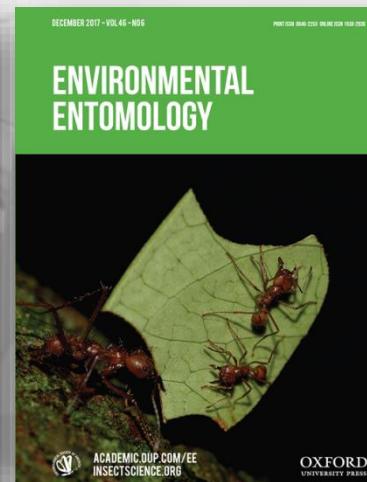
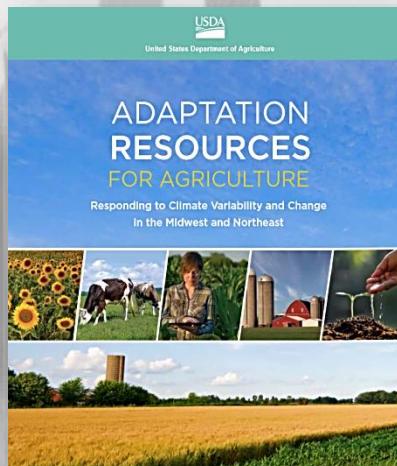
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To our Newsletter,  
Resources,  
Publications and  
One-Pagers

Promoting Climate-Informed Decisions Since 2014.



# Summary

- Current conditions
  - Drought issues still pervasive – slow recovery likely
  - Decent conditions much of Corn Belt
- Outlook
  - Early harvest likely
  - Watch El Niño coming this winter
  - Longer issues – continue with similar trends (w/variability)
  - Overall changes likely

# For More Information



Midwest Climate Hub



@dennistodey



<https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>



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