Midwest Climate Hub
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

May 29, 2025

Main Points

- Cooler and drier than normal conditions prevailed across much of the region.
- Corn and soybean emergence are ahead of the 5-year average for most states in the region, slightly behind in eastern portion of the region.
- Precipitation chances increase for the region this week into the next.

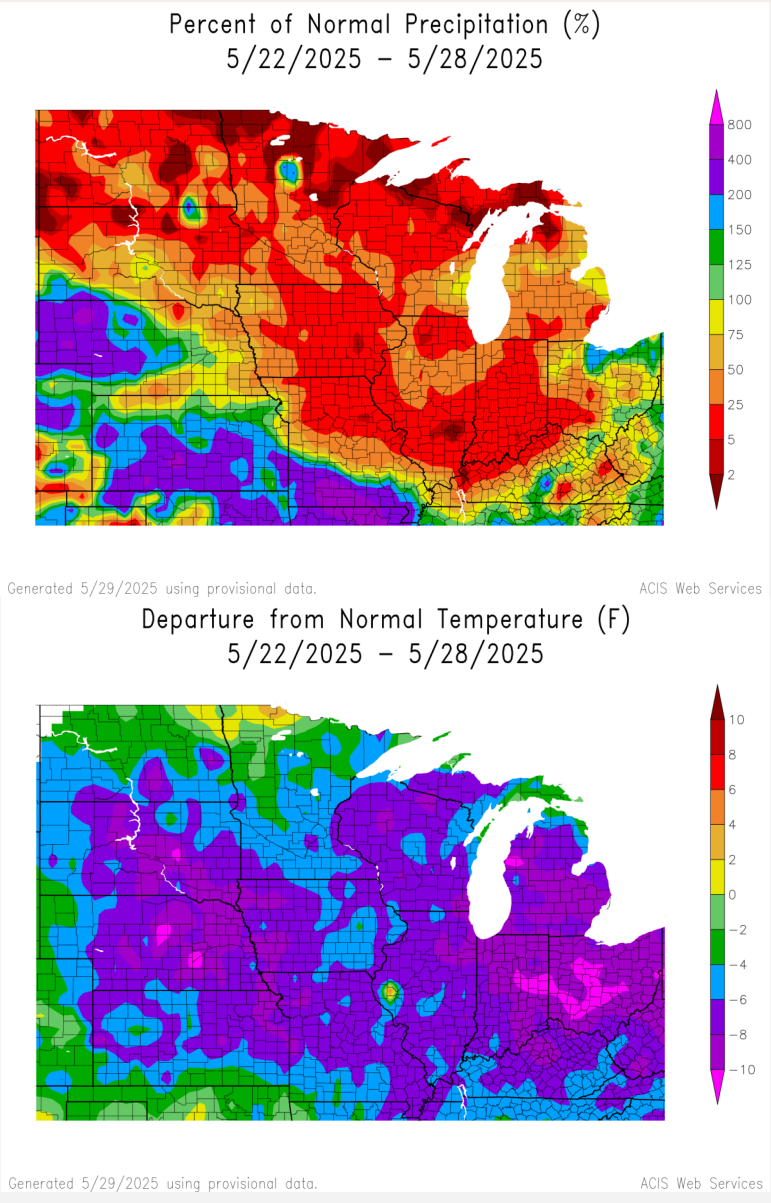
Current Conditions

Over the past week (May 22nd-28th), drier conditions prevailed through much of the northern half and into the southeastern portions of the Corn Belt, with less than 0.5 inches of precipitation received. This is 0 to 1.5 inches below normal. In contrast, eastern Ohio, and Nebraska through southern Missouri received over 1 inch of precipitation. Many locations in Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri received 2-4 inches of precipitation, and a pocket greater than 7 inches fell in Missouri.

Across the Corn Belt region, temperatures were cooler than the 30-year average for this time of the year. Over the last week, northern portions of the region averaged in the upper 40°Fs and southern portions averaged in the mid 60°Fs. Overall temperatures were 4 to 6°F below average with 8 to 10°F below not uncommon for the western and eastern portions. Nebraska, Indiana, and Ohio had pockets that fell 10°F below the average temperature.

Cooler temperatures slowed down the accumulation of Growing Degree Days (GDD) throughout the Midwest, resulting in slightly below normal accumulation for most of the eastern region. GDDs accumulated since April 1st range from 200 around the northern Great Lakes, to over 700 in the southern states of the region. To see where your corn's GDD accumulation is check out the Corn Growing Degree Day decision support tool.

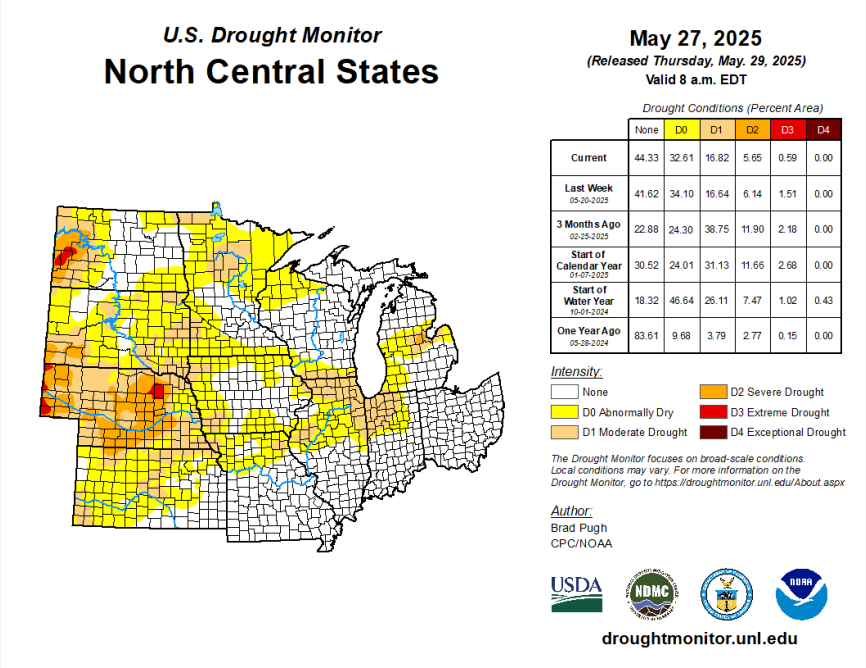
Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: ACIS Climate Maps. Generated: 05/29/2025.



Impacts

Drought

As of May 27th, 44% of the North Central region is classified as no drought category, 33% as abnormally dry (D0), 17% as moderate drought (D1), 6% as severe drought (D2), and less than 1% as extreme drought (D3). Nebraska and North Dakota continue to experience the highest drought intensity of the region. However, in comparison to last week, swaths of Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have experienced a 1-class improvement in drought conditions. A 1-class degradation occurred in pockets of southern Nebraska, Iowa, northern Missouri, and northern Illinois and Indiana.

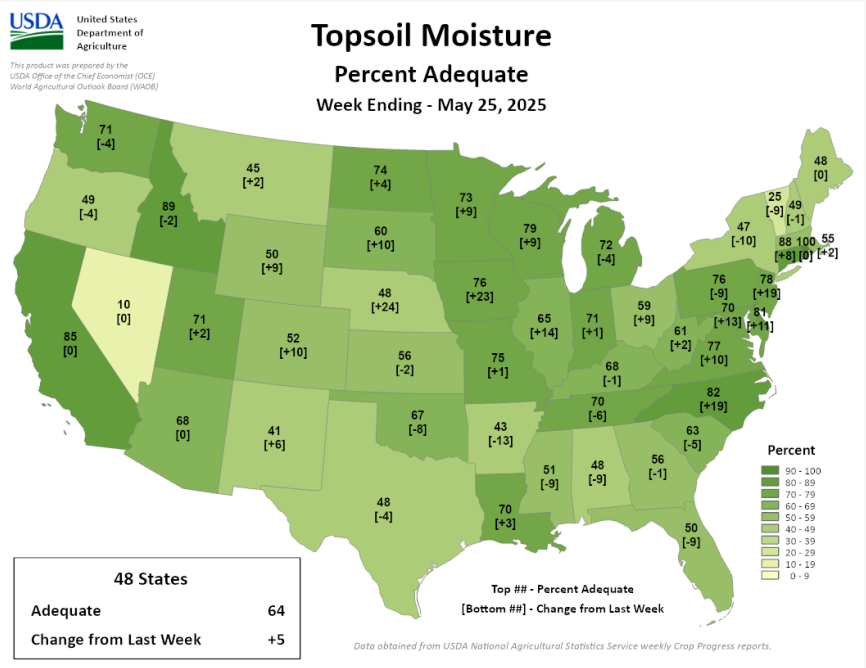


As of the week ending May 25th, topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions have improved across most of the region. In particular, Nebraska experienced a 24% increase in the proportion of topsoil moisture classified as adequate in comparison to last week, with 48% of topsoil moisture in the state now classified as adequate. Considering the rest of the region, 56-79% of topsoil moisture is adequate across states. While rainfall has brought improvements to the western portion of the region, 30, 31, and 50% topsoil moisture is short to very short in Kansas, South Dakota, and Nebraska, respectively. In South Dakota and Nebraska, 46% and 68% of subsoil moisture remain in short to very short condition. On the eastern side of the region, 41% of topsoil moisture in Ohio is surplus, a 9% decrease from last week.

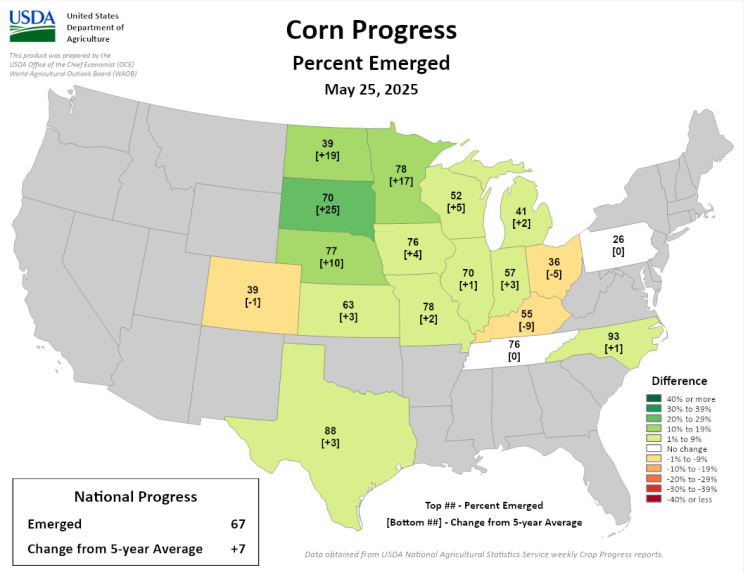
Soils, Crops and Livestock

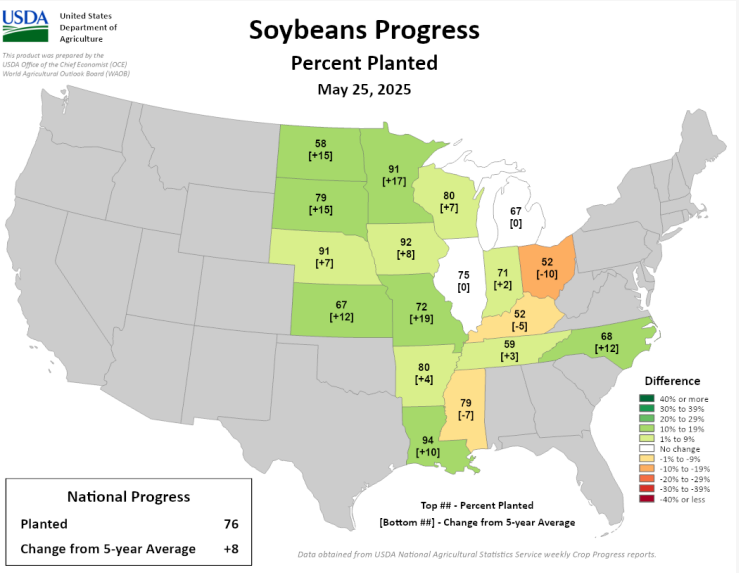
As of the week ending May 25th, planting progress is wrapping up across the region – the majority of corn and soybeans are now planted across the western region. However, planting progress in the southeastern portion of the region continues to lag behind the 5-year average because of wet conditions. According to USDA-NASS, currently, Ohio is 19% behind normal corn planting progress, and 10% behind for soybean planting progress.

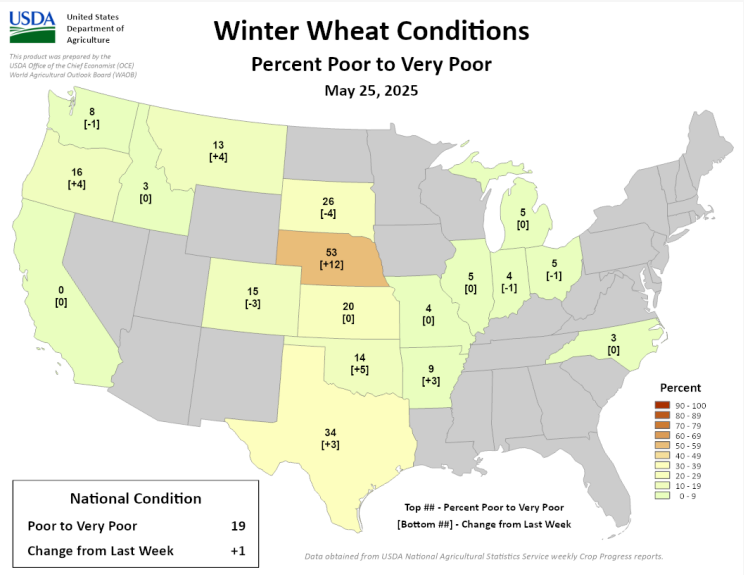
Over the past week corn emergence has increased by 15-20%; currently 78% of corn has emerged in both Missouri and Minnesota. Soybean emergence continues across the region, and many states have experienced a double digit increase in the proportion of soybeans emerged over the past week. Soybean emergence is furthest along in Iowa and Nebraska,



Maps generated by the National Drought Mitigation Center and United States Department of Agriculture.

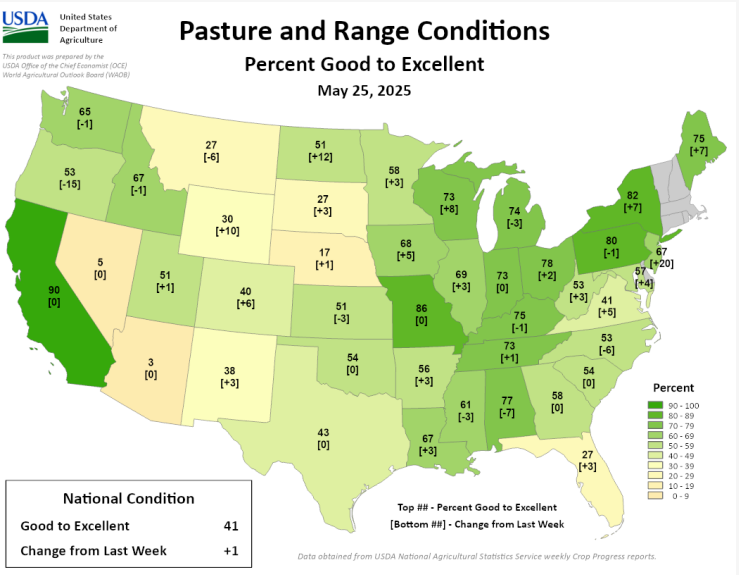






where 60-63% of soybeans have emerged. In the northwest corner of the region, oat and spring wheat emergence is tracking ahead of the 5-year average. Recent rainfall has improved winter wheat conditions in Nebraska, 53% of winter wheat in Nebraska is classified as poor to very poor, an improvement from last week.

Pasture and range conditions remain in good to excellent condition for the central and eastern portions of the region. Despite improvements in topsoil moisture, 51% of pasture and rangeland in Nebraska remain in poor to very poor condition.



Severe Weather

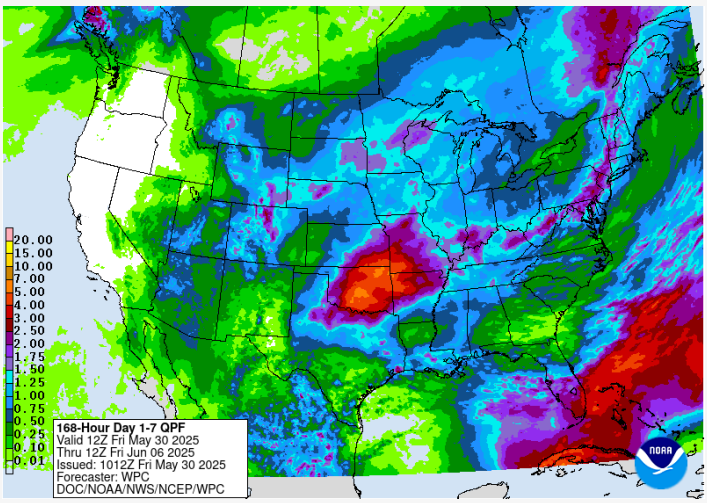
This week was much quieter than last, and tornado clean-up and recovery continue in portions of Missouri and Kentucky.

Fire

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, most of the region remains at little or no risk for significant fire potential through the weekend. Minnesota and Wisconsin continue to have low to moderate fire risk though early next week. Fires have started in Canada and may lead to some smoke appearing over the area.

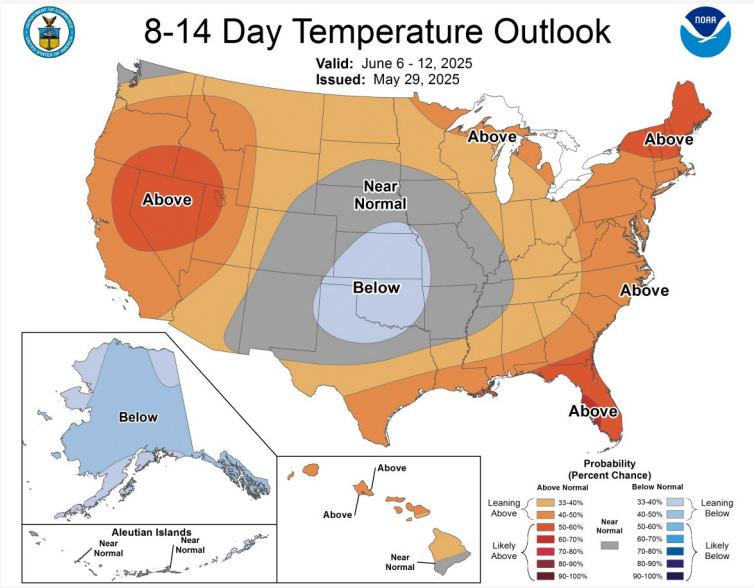
Maps generated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

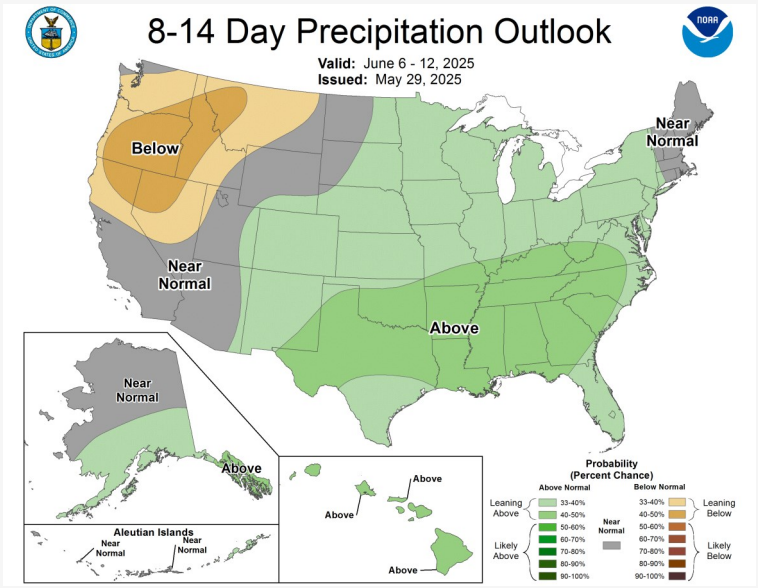
Outlook



Over the next seven days, much of the region is active. Higher amounts are expected Nebraska through northwestern Wisconsin and the southern portions of the region. Southeastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri are especially active and forecasted to receive the highest precipitation amounts.

The 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center show temperatures to warm back up to near normal for the central portion of the region. The northern portions of the region are leaning toward above normal temperatures for the time period, while Kansas is leaning toward below normal temperatures. Precipitation outlooks have the region leaning toward above normal precipitation.





Outlooks provided by the Weather Prediction Center and the Climate Prediction Center.

Partners and Contributors

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

National Weather Service (NWS)

National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI)

National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC)

Midwest State Climatologists

High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC)

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