Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

June 16, 2025

Main Points

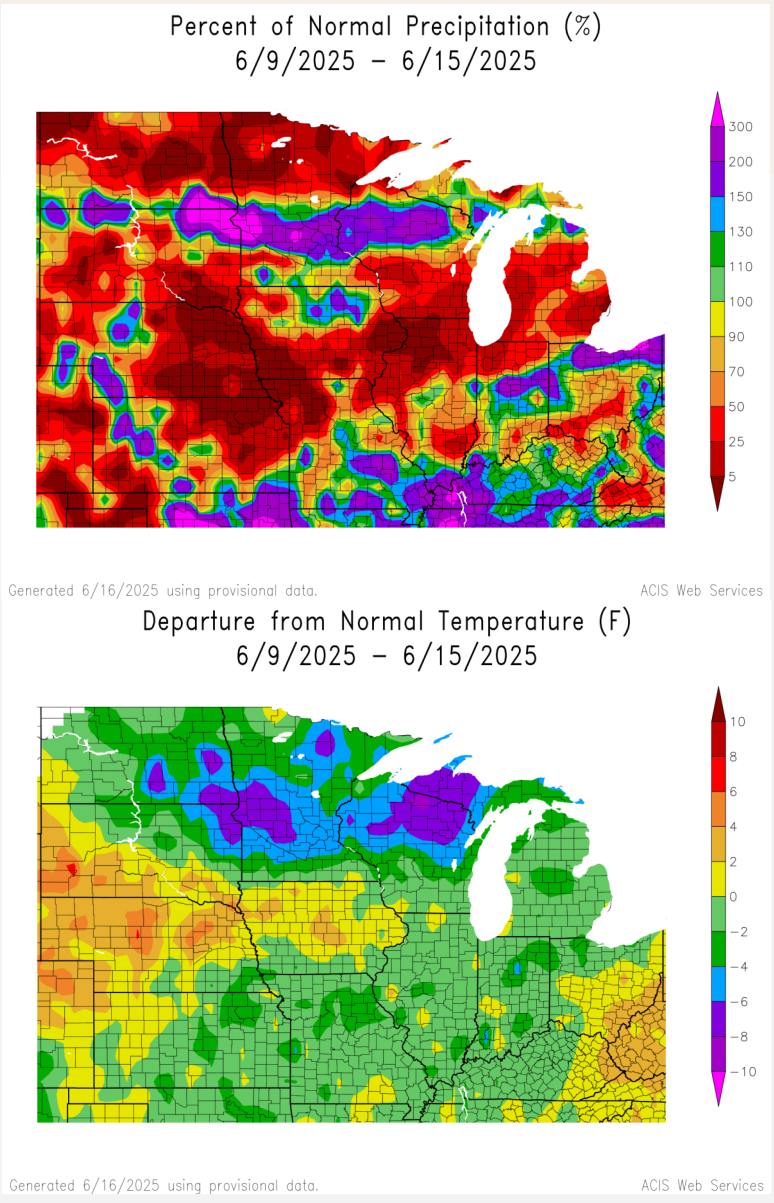
- Cooler and drier than normal conditions prevailed across much of the region.
- Corn and soybean emergence are ahead of the 5-year average for most states in the region, slightly behind in the eastern portion of the region.
- Crop conditions are generally good to excellent across the region, pasture and rangeland conditions remain poor across portions of the Plains.
- Precipitation chances increase for the region this week into the next.
- Temperatures more likely to be above average over the next week.

Current Conditions

Over the past week (June 9th – 15th), wetter than normal precipitation continued across the southern to southeastern and north central portions of the region, with many locations receiving 1 to 2.5 inches of precipitation. Over 2.5 inches of precipitation fell in locations in South Dakota through Wisconsin. The northern and central portion of the region remains dry, with some locations receiving less than 0.25 inches of precipitation during the past week.

Despite the warmer temperatures of the last few days, most of the region, excluding South Dakota and Nebraska, was near normal to cooler than normal. The biggest departures from normal were over the Dakotas through Wisconsin, where temperatures were 6 to 8°F below normal with some locations reaching 8 to 10°F below normal. Areas in South Dakota and Nebraska were 4 to 6°F above normal. Across the region average temperatures ranged from the upper 50°Fs in the northern quarter of the region to the mid 70°Fs in the southern quarter of the region.

Cooler temperatures have limited the accumulation of Growing Degree Days (GDD) throughout the Midwest



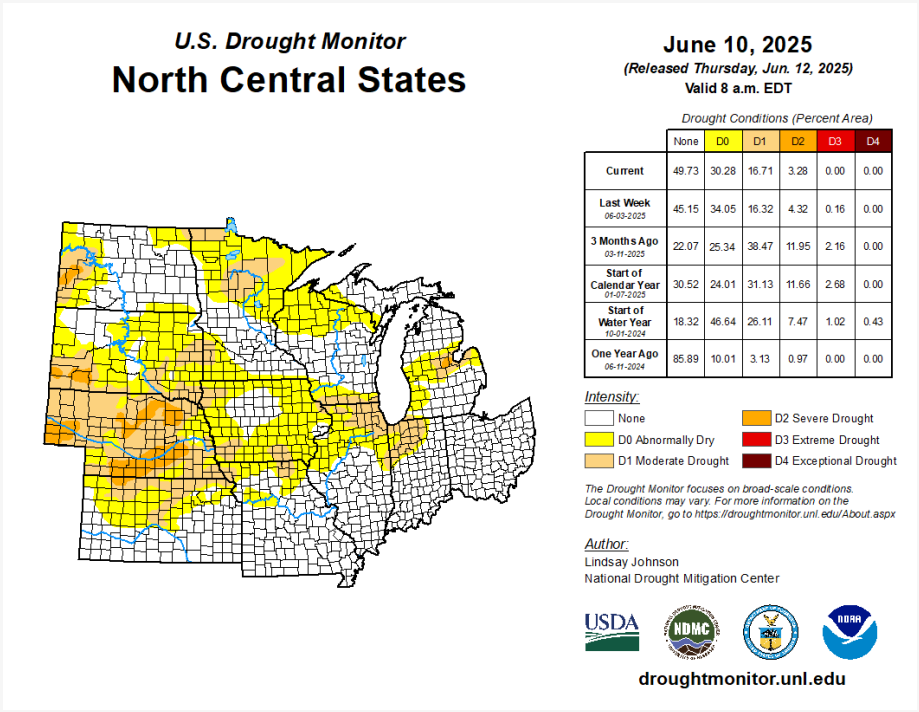
Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: ACIS Climate Maps. Generated: 06/16/2025.

over the past weeks, resulting in a slightly below normal accumulation for much of the area. GDDs accumulated since April 1st range from 500 GDD around the northern Great Lakes, to over 1100 GDD in the southern states of the region. Warmer temperatures will increase the accumulation of GDD in the coming days. To see where your corn's GDD accumulation is check out the Corn Growing Degree Day decision support tool.

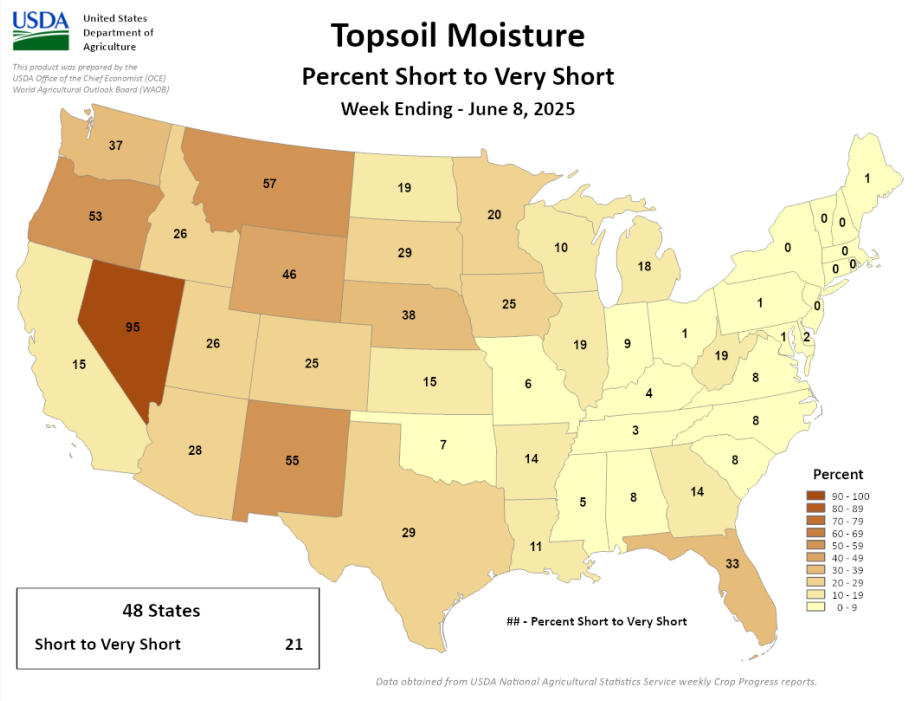
Impacts

Drought

As of June 10th, 50% of the North Central region is classified as no drought intensity, 30% as abnormally dry (D0), 17% as moderate drought (D1), and 3% as severe drought (D2). In comparison to last week, drought conditions improved by 1-class across portions of the Plains, southern Minnesota, and northern Missouri through Indiana, while pockets of Iowa, Kansas, and northern Minnesota experienced a 1-class degradation.



As of the week ending June 8th, topsoil moisture conditions are adequate across much of the North Central region, ranging from 61 to 82% adequate. However, lack of moisture is still a concern in portions of the Plains and Midwest, as 38%, 29%, and 25% of topsoil moisture is short to very short across Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa, respectively. While western portions of the region struggle with inadequate soil moisture levels, 35% of Ohio topsoil moisture is in surplus. Subsoil moisture is adequate across most of the region, and generally shorter in the west with some surplus conditions in the east. Currently, 61%, 41%, and 33% of subsoil moisture remains short to very short in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa, respectively.

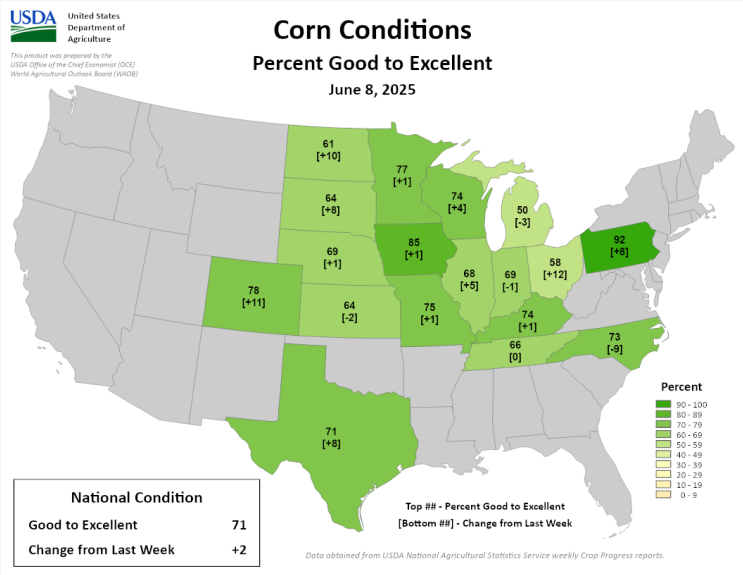


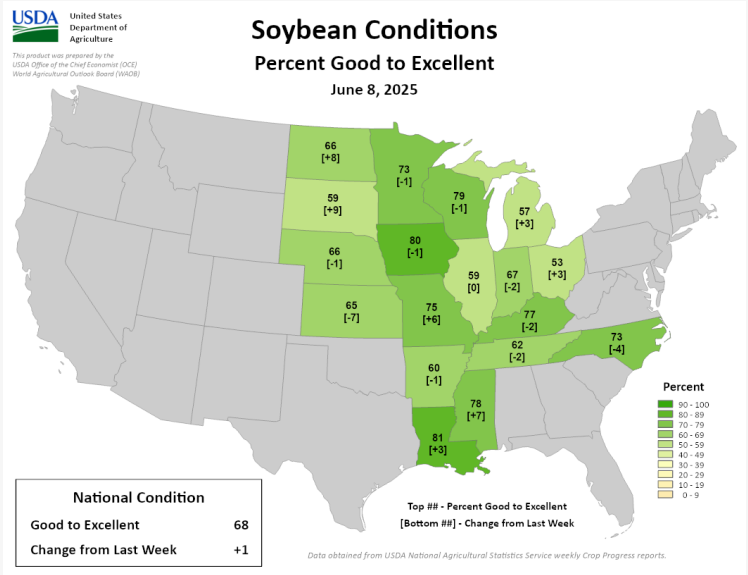
Soils, Crops and Livestock

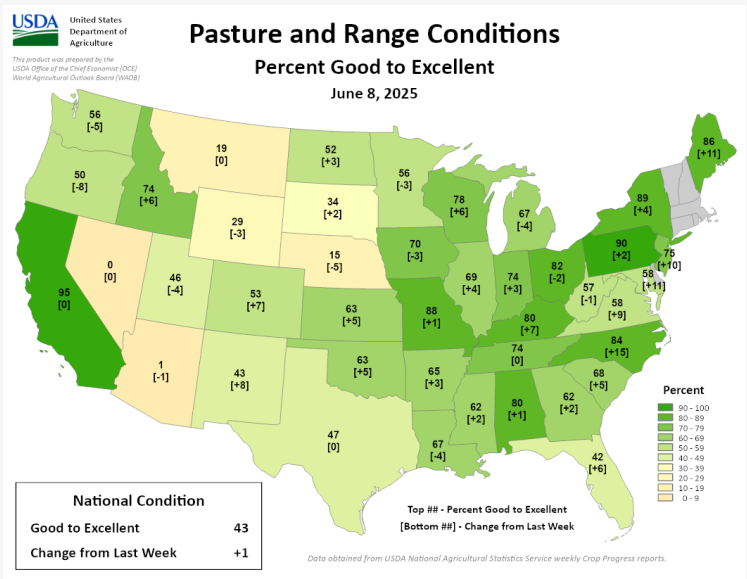
As of the week ending June 8th, corn and soybeans are almost entirely planted across the region. Consistent with past weeks, the eastern portion of the region continues to lag slightly behind the 5-year average for corn and soybean planting progress. In Nebraska, sorghum planting progress is 33% behind the 5-year average. Spring wheat progress tracks ahead of the 5-year average for states in the North Central region; however, further west, progress has fallen considerably behind average.

According to USDA-NASS, 68 to 95% of corn and 53 to 88% of soybeans have emerged across states in the region. Currently, the northwest corner of the region is tracking

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







Maps generated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

ahead of the 5-year average for both corn and soybean emergence; in contrast, the eastern portion of the region lags slightly behind. Roughly 69 to 98% of oats have emerged and approximately 52 to 99% of winter wheat has headed across states in the region.

Corn and soybean conditions are generally good to excellent across the region. Improvements in corn conditions over the last week are most evident in the Dakotas and Ohio, where the proportion of corn in good to excellent condition increased by roughly 10%, likely driven by favorable weather conditions. Similarly, spring wheat conditions have also improved compared to last week, with 57% and 61% in good to excellent condition in North Dakota and South Dakota, respectively. Currently, 43% of Nebraska's winter wheat is in good to excellent condition, a 20% increase compared to last week. Pasture conditions remain in good to excellent condition across the central and eastern portion of the region. While an improvement from last week, 42% of pasture and rangeland in Nebraska remains poor to very poor.

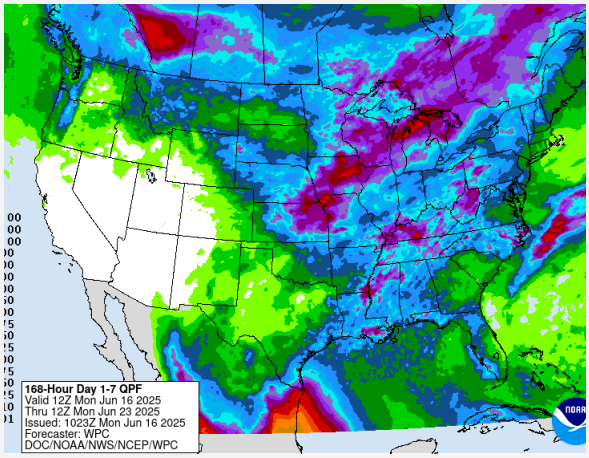
Severe Weather

According to NOAA Storm Prediction Center, this past week brought a line of high wind across Iowa and reports of tornadoes in southeast Missouri. Currently, there are marginal to enhanced risks for severe thunderstorms across the region June 16-18.

Fire

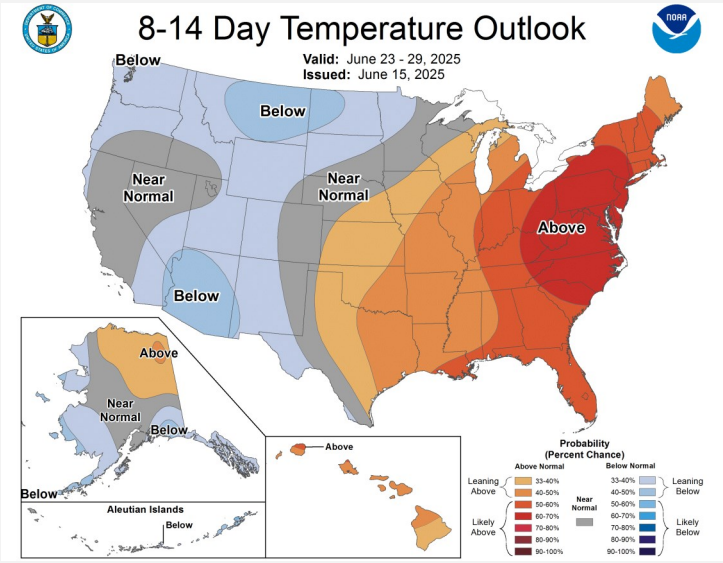
According to the National Interagency Fire Center weekly outlook, there is little to no risk for significant fire potential across much of the region, with portions of North Dakota and Kansas classified as low risk. Wildfire smoke from Canada continues to impact air quality across portions of the region, especially for those in the Upper Midwest.

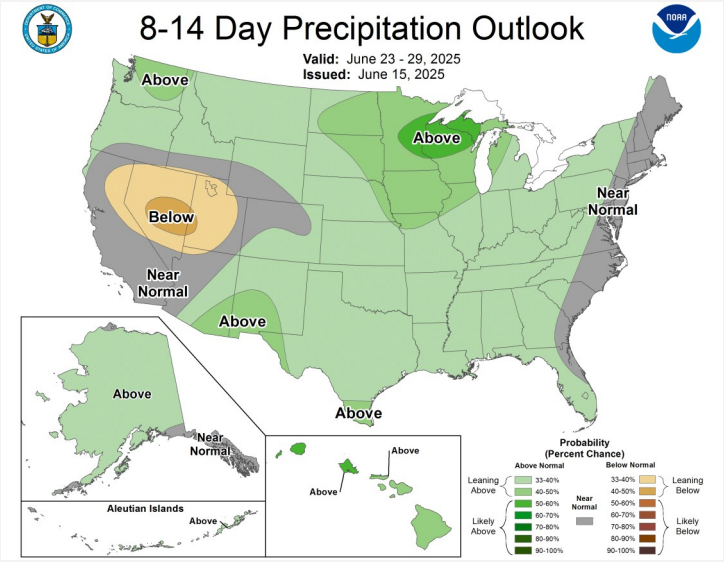
Outlook



Forecasts over the northern and eastern portions of the region are fairly active over the next seven days. The highest precipitation amounts are expected in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin in the north. Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio are also expected to receive more precipitation. Michigan, Minnesota and Kansas are expected to be less active during the time period.

According to the Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature outlook, temperatures for mid to late June are leaning to above normal, with the southern half of the region more likely to be above normal. The very northern portions of the region are expected to be near normal. In terms of precipitation, precipitation over the plains into Missouri is expected to be normal for this time period. Western Kansas is leaning toward below precipitation, elsewhere around the region is leaning toward above normal precipitation. Overall precipitation probabilities differences from average are quite low (i.e. not really much to say about below or above normal).





Outlooks provided by the Weather Prediction Center and 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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