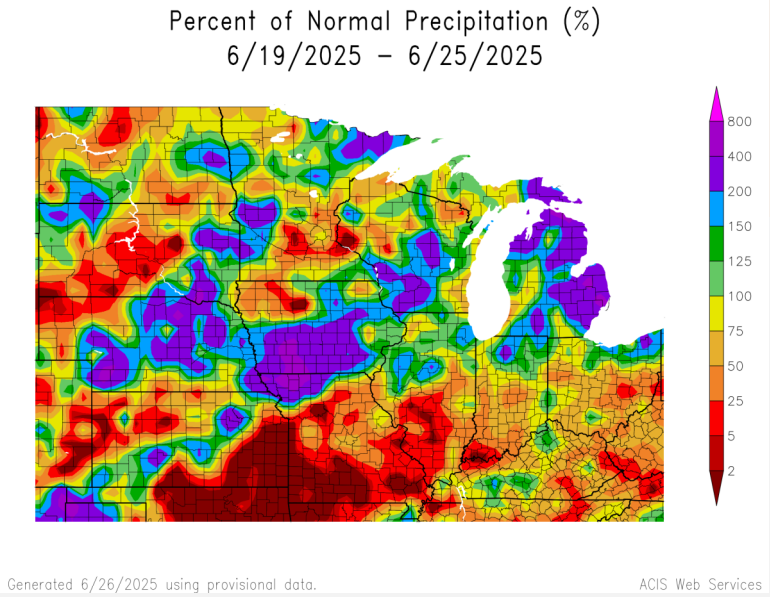
Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

June 26, 2025

Main Points

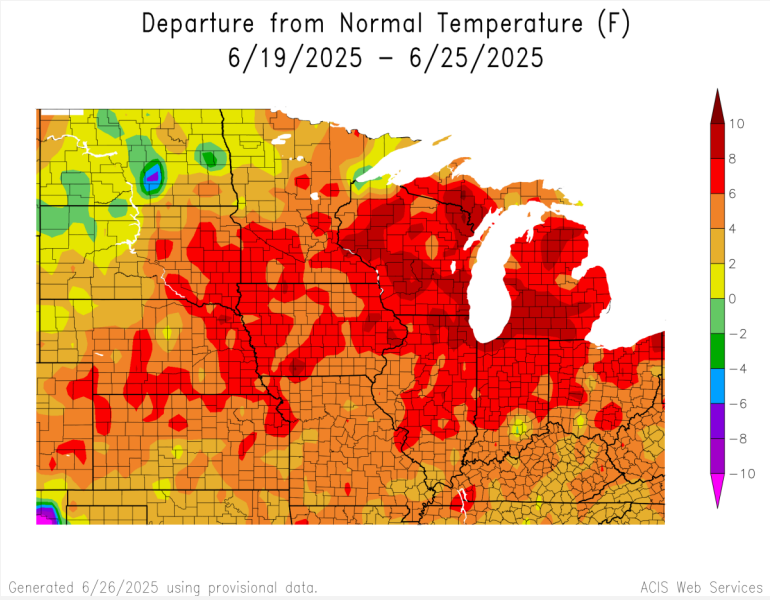
- Warmer than normal temperatures across the region in the last week.
- Dry conditions persist across the Northern Plains.
- Mixed conditions with pockets of heavy rains in other parts of the region.
- Corn is beginning to silk, and soybeans are beginning to bloom.
- A heat dome brought hot temperatures and high humidity to the region.
- Looking ahead - overall crop stress will be limited because of non-extreme temperatures and generally moderate to moist soils (except for Northern Plains).



Current Conditions

Precipitation over this past week (June 19th - 25th) was ±1.5 inches of normal for most locations across the North Central region with most locations receiving less than normal. This is not accounting for any precipitation received since early Thursday morning (June 26). An area in eastern Kansas into western Missouri and small pockets throughout the region received less than 0.1 inches of precipitation. In contrast, areas where storm tracks were common in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin received 1 to 3 inches of precipitation with areas of Iowa receiving 4 to 6 inches of precipitation in the past week .

Warm summer like temperatures were felt across the North Central region this past week along with very high dew points and unusually strong winds for summer. Average temperatures ranged from the upper 60°Fs in the northwest to the low 80°Fs in the southern portions. Temperatures were at least 4°F above normal across the region, locations in Wisconsin and Michigan were 8 to 10°F above normal temperatures. Bringing growing degree day (GDD) accumulation to near normal values across the region.

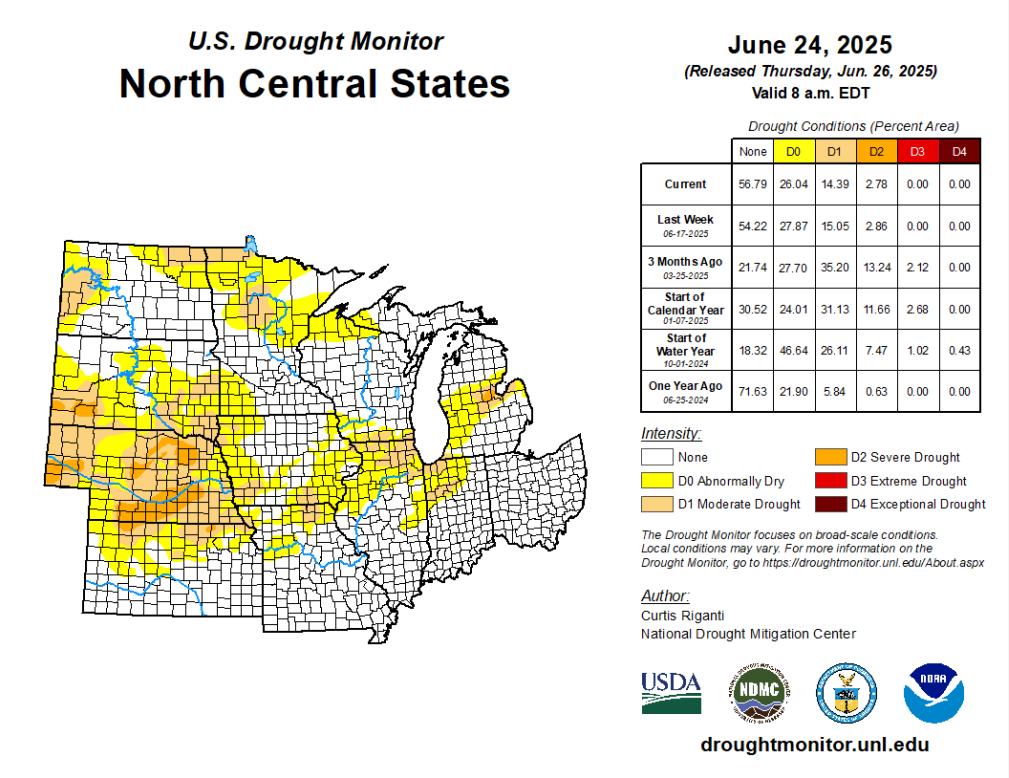


Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: ACIS Climate Maps. Generated: 06/26/2025.

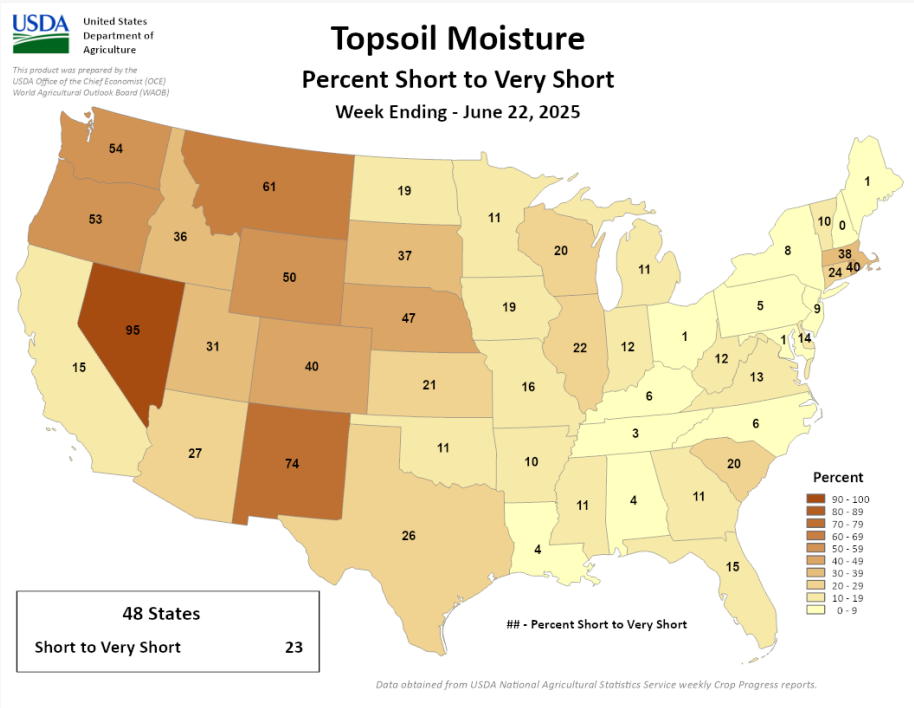
Impacts

Drought

As of June 24th, 57% of the region is classified as no drought intensity, 26% as abnormally dry (D0), 14% as moderate drought (D1), 3% and as severe drought (D2), and no areas are classified as extreme (D3) or exceptional (D4) drought. In comparison to last week, pockets of Iowa and Minnesota improved by 1-class (with smaller pockets of improvement scattered across the region), and pockets from Nebraska to Michigan degraded by 1-class.



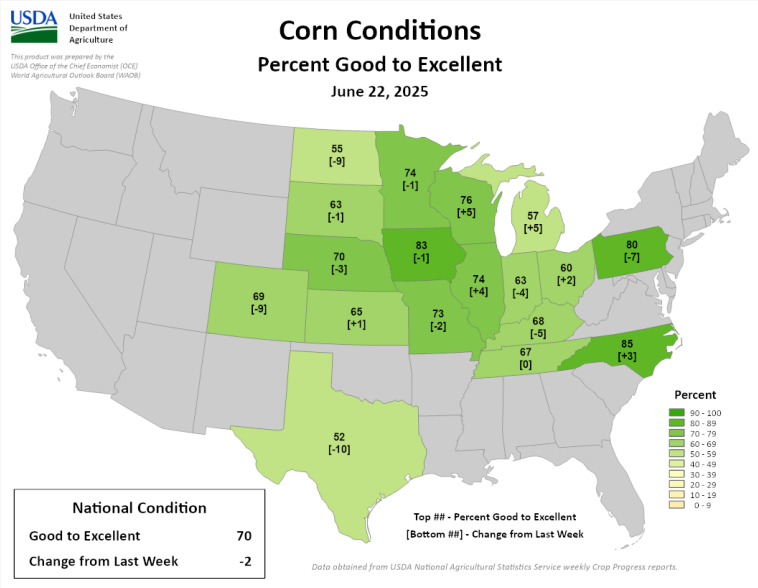
As of the week ending June 22nd, topsoil moisture is adequate across much of the region, ranging from 52 to 75% adequate. However, dry soil persists across the Plains, with 37% and 47% of topsoil moisture in South Dakota and Nebraska short to very short, respectively. In contrast, 42% of topsoil moisture is in surplus across Ohio, similar to previous weeks. Subsoil moisture follows a similar trend, and 44% and 60% of subsoil moisture in South Dakota and Nebraska is short to very short.

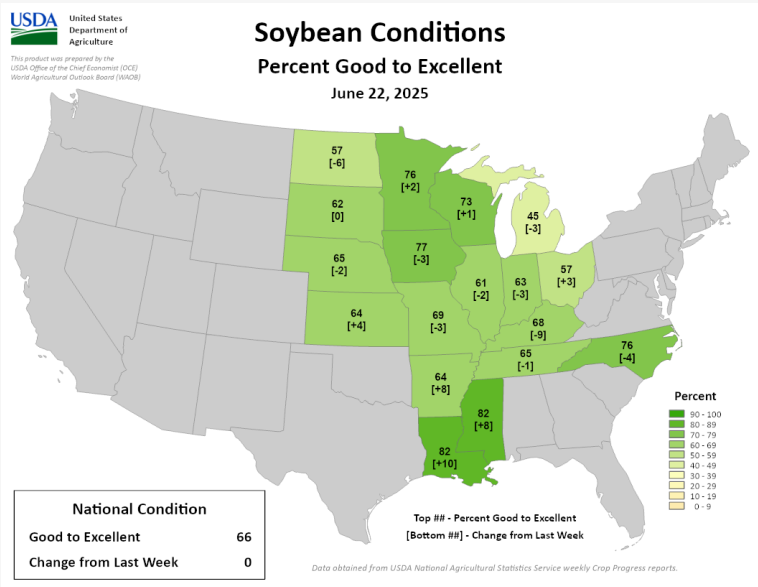


Maps generated by the National Drought Mitigation Center and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Soils, Crops and Livestock

With warm temperatures over the past week, crop progress continues. As of the week ending June 22nd, corn emergence is approaching 100% across the region and corn silking is beginning in southern portions of the region. Similarly, 76 to 97% of soybeans have emerged across the region, though the eastern portion of the region remain slightly behind the 5-year average. Soybeans are beginning to bloom in the central Corn Belt, with Iowa reporting 13% blooming. In South Dakota, 53% of spring wheat has headed, while only 7% has headed in Minnesota. In the southern portion of the region, winter wheat harvest is underway. Across Missouri and Kansas, 29% and 20% of winter wheat is harvested -- almost a 20% increase from last week. Oat progress varies considerably, with 11 to 83% headed across states in the region.





Maps generated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Fire

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, most of the region is at little to no risk for significant fire potential over the next 7-days, with portions of the Plains at low risk.

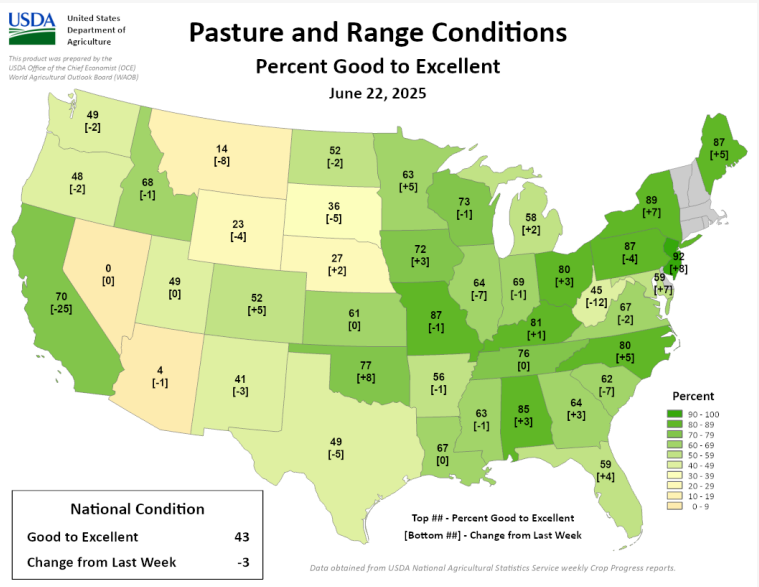
Outlook

Total precipitation forecast over the next seven days shows the central and eastern portions of the region will be more active. The highest precipitation amounts are expected from Kansas into Wisconsin, with Illinois through Ohio also likely to receive their share of precipitation. The Plains region is expected to be less active comparatively during this time period.

According to USDA-NASS, 55 to 83% of corn is in good to excellent condition across states in the region. Similarly, 45 to 77% of soybeans are in good to excellent condition, with minimal change from last week. Spring wheat is generally fairing well, with 52, 68, and 89% in good to excellent condition across South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota, respectively. However, due to minimal precipitation and limited soil moisture in South Dakota, spring wheat in good to excellent condition declined by 18% compared to last week. Similar to past weeks, pasture and range conditions remain good to excellent across the central and eastern portions of the region, with some challenges in the Plains. More specifically, 27% and 31% of pasture and rangeland are in poor to very poor condition across South Dakota and Nebraska, a slight degradation from last week.

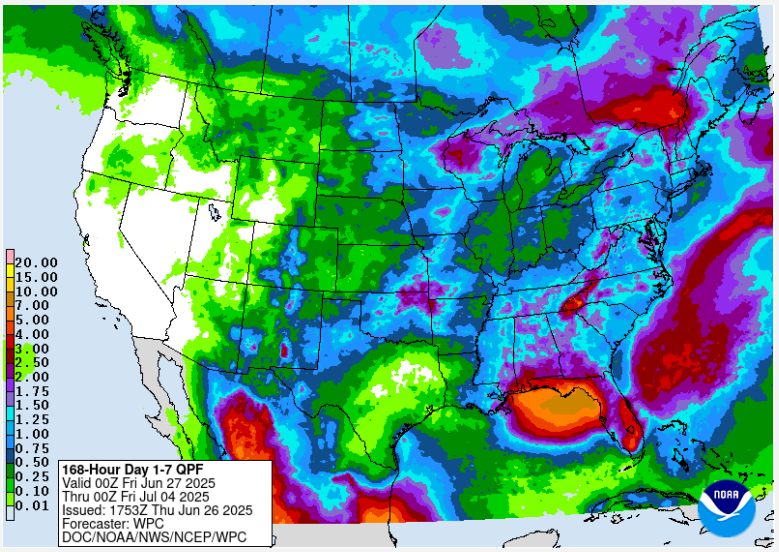
Severe Weather

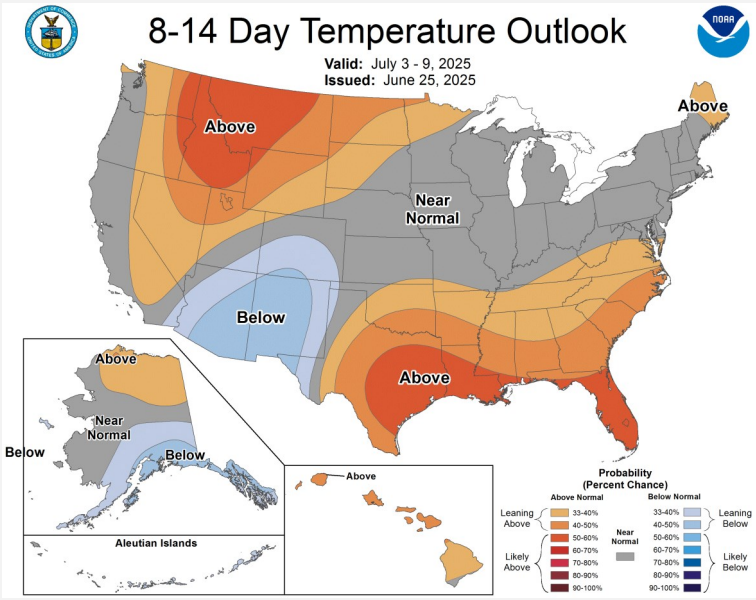
Over the past week, a heat dome created hot temperatures and high humidity, causing heat indexes over 100 across much of the North Central and eastern U.S. leading to some livestock, crop and human stress. Additionally, due to recent heavy rainfall, river gauges across the Midwest are observing minor to moderate flood levels. According to NOAA Storm Prediction Center, portions of the Midwest and Plains have a slight risk for severe thunderstorms through the coming weekend.

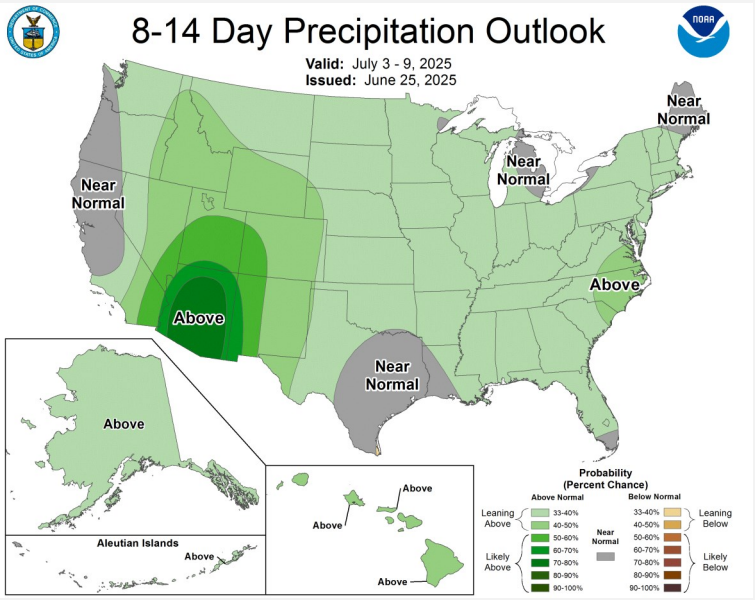


According to the Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature outlook, temperatures for early July are expected to be near normal for much of the region. The northern Plains into Minnesota is leaning to above normal temperatures. The precipitation outlook is leaning toward above normal precipitation for the region, hopefully helping some of the existing drier areas.

The potential for crop stress as corn reaches tasseling looks fairly limited as heat looks more confined to the Northern Plains and drier soils are more isolated. Rangeland conditions will continue to be challenging. Periodic high heat stress conditions for livestock and humans (mostly humidity-driven) will continue as is usual in mid-summer.







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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