Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

July 2, 2025

Main Points

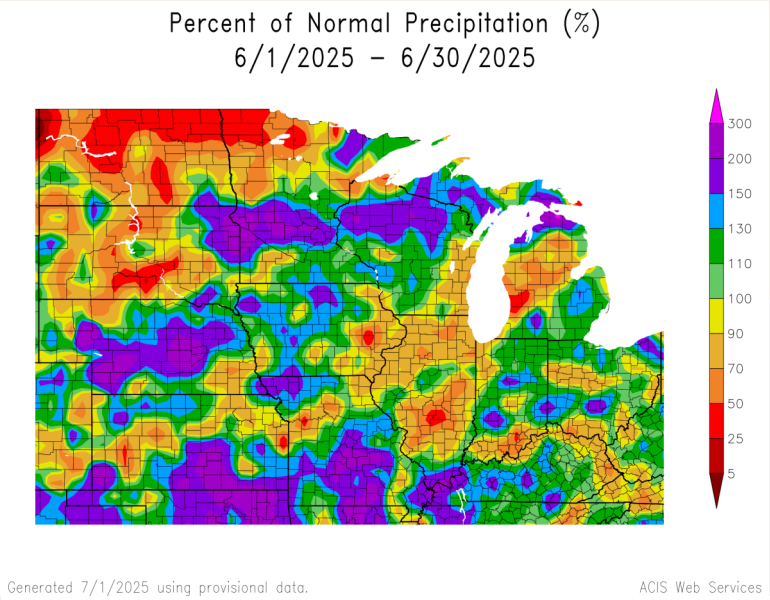
- June was wetter and warmer than normal for much of the Corn Belt.
- Rainfall has improved some soil moisture and drought conditions.
- Crop conditions are good to excellent across the region.
- July may bring warmer than normal temperatures.
- Increased drought conditions are more likely in the Plains during July.

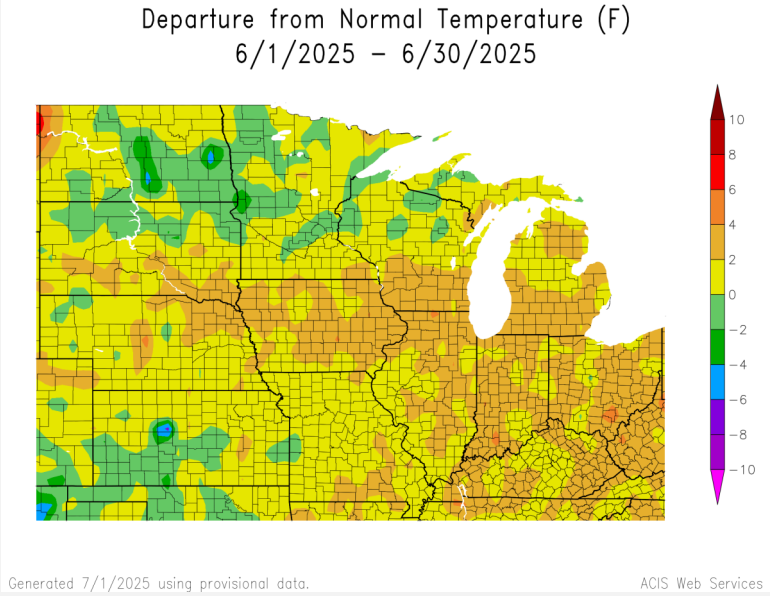
Current Conditions

Over the past 30-days (June 1 to June 30), much of the North Central region was wetter than average, with some pockets very wet (over 10" totals). In Kansas, the month of June likely approached record rainfall levels, and record setting rainfall also occurred in southwest Minnesota and parts of Nebraska. In contrast, much of the Plains and an area from eastern Iowa to Michigan received below average precipitation, or roughly 0 to 3 inches less rainfall than normal.

The first month of summer saw warmer than average temperatures over most of the Corn Belt. In particular, the central portion of the region was 0 to 2°F above normal, and the eastern portion was 2 to 4°F above normal. In contrast, temperatures were near to below normal (-2°F) across northwestern and southwestern areas.

Throughout June, the additional heat helped push along crop development without too much crop stress. Currently, the total accumulated modified Growing Degree Days (GDD) since April 1 ranges from 600 to 1600 GDD across the region. Producers and managers can access the Corn Growing Degree Day decision support tool to determine how their corn compares to average accumulation.





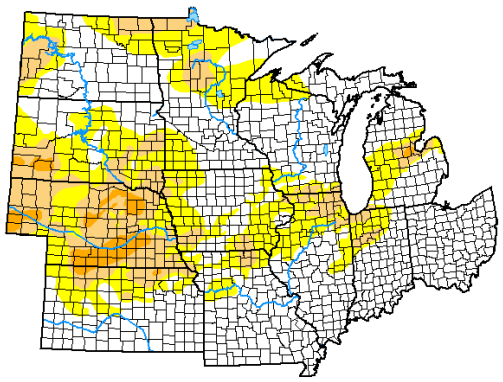
Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: ACIS Climate Maps. Generated: 07/01/2025.

Impacts

Drought

The additional precipitation throughout June added to soil moisture and reduced some US Drought Monitor (USDM) coverage. As of June 24th, 57% of the region is classified as no drought intensity, 26% of the region as abnormally dry (D0), 14% as moderate drought (D1), 3% as severe drought (D2), and no areas as extreme drought (D3). In comparison to last month, drought conditions have improved by 1 to 2-classes across the Northern Plains, with small pockets of improvement scattered across the region.

As of the week ending June 29th, topsoil moisture conditions are adequate across the region, ranging from 61-75% adequate. While an improvement from previous weeks, 32% of topsoil is still short to very short across Nebraska. On the other hand, due to greater than normal rainfall across the central Corn Belt, 21% of topsoil moisture is in surplus in Iowa and Wisconsin, 27% in Minnesota, and 29% in Ohio. Similarly, subsoil moisture ranges from 44 to 75% adequate across the region.



U.S. Drought Monitor
North Central States

June 24, 2025
(Released Thursday, Jun. 26, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	56.79	26.04	14.39	2.78	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-17-2025	54.22	27.87	15.05	2.86	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-25-2025	21.74	27.70	35.20	13.24	2.12	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	30.52	24.01	31.13	11.66	2.68	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	18.32	46.64	26.11	7.47	1.02	0.43
One Year Ago 06-25-2024	71.63	21.90	5.84	0.63	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

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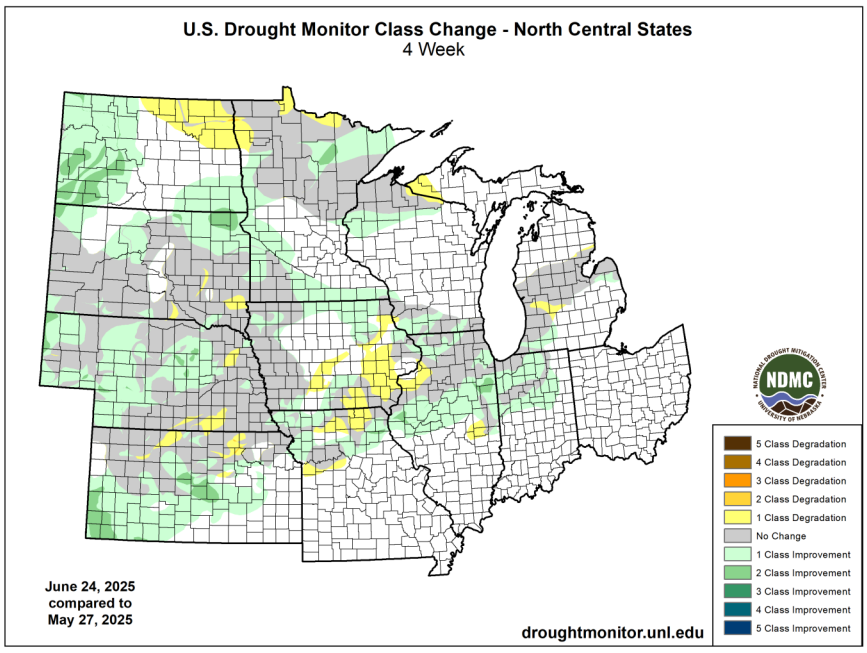
National Drought Mitigation Center

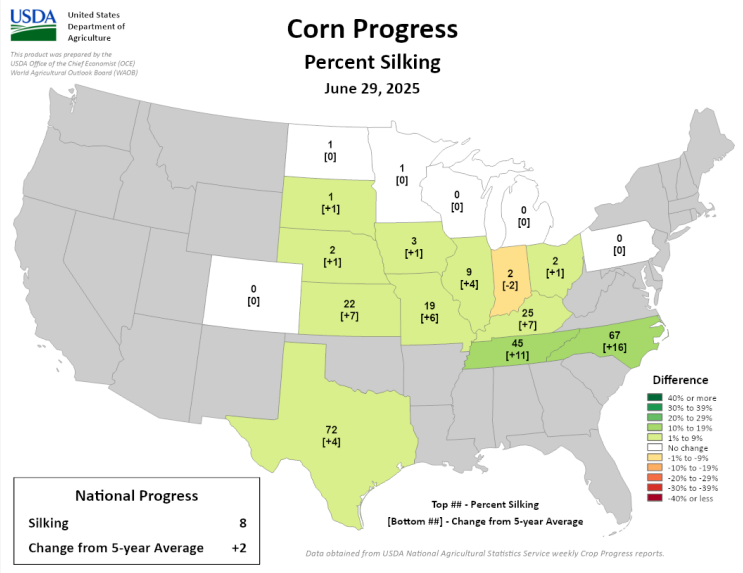
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

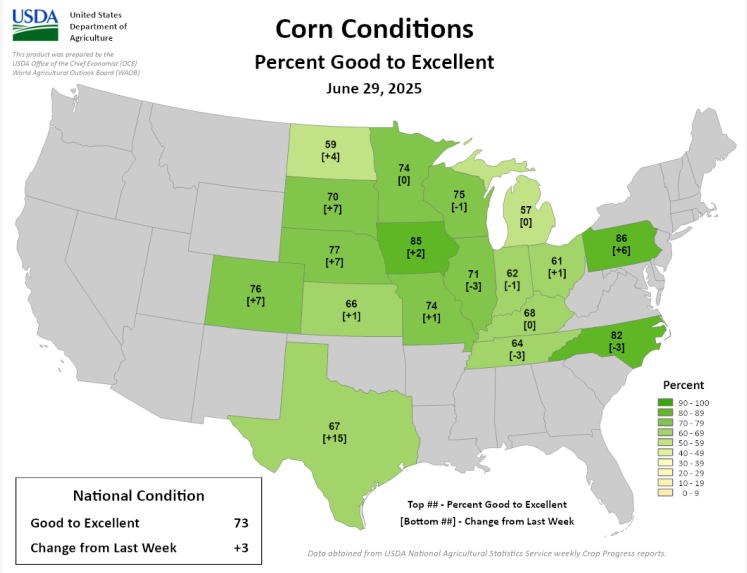


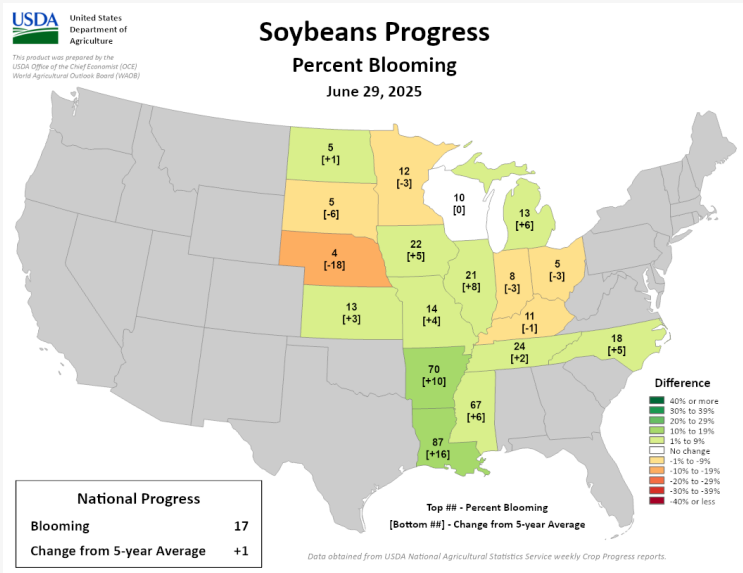
Maps generated by the National Drought Mitigation Center.

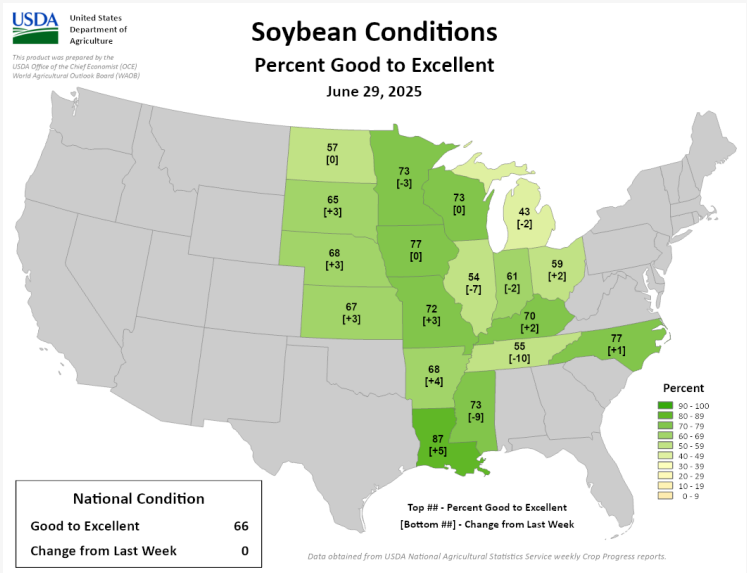
Soils, Crops and Livestock

As we enter July, corn silking is underway across southern states in the region, tracking ahead of the 5-year average for most of the region. About 82 to 100% of soybeans have emerged and 5 to 22% of soybeans are blooming across the region. Nebraska is lagging roughly 18% behind the 5-year average for soybean blooming, likely driven by dry conditions. In the lower Midwest, 53, 65, and 69% of winter wheat is harvested in Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois, respectively. For spring wheat, 32, 38, and 87% have headed in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, respectively. Currently, spring wheat progress in South Dakota tracks 16% above the 5-year average, in contrast, Minnesota is tracking 12% behind the 5-year average.





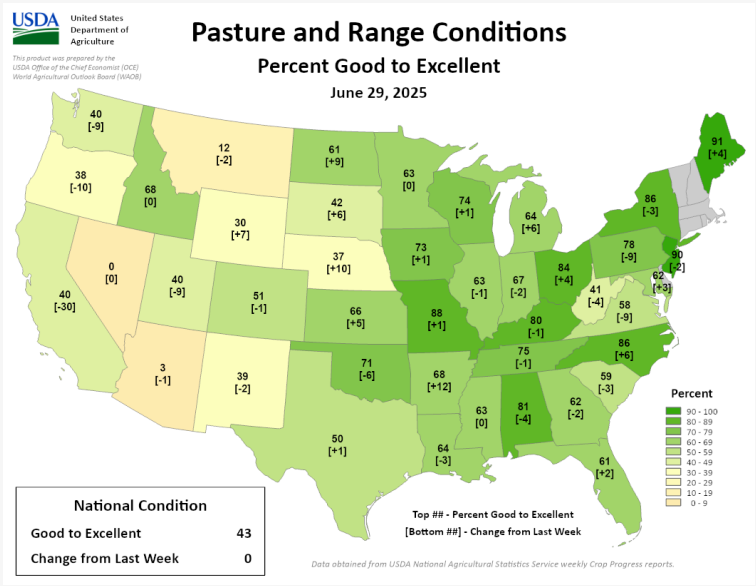


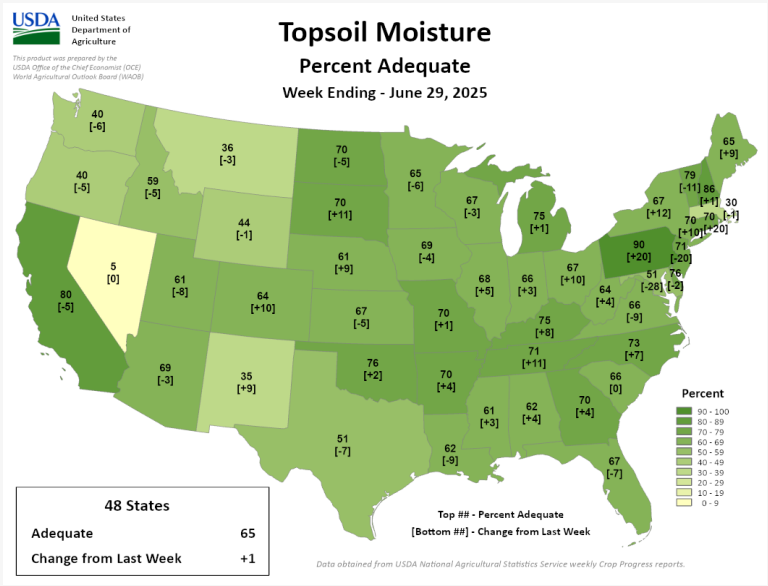


Maps generated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

According to USDA-NASS, 57 to 85% of corn and 43 to 77% of soybeans are in good to excellent condition across the region. Wetter conditions have limited soybeans in places. While winter wheat conditions are in good to excellent condition across the central and eastern portion of the region, only 31 and 36% are classified as such in Nebraska and South Dakota, respectively. In the North Central region, spring wheat conditions are generally good to excellent, though conditions drop off sharply across Montana. Pasture and range remain in good to excellent condition across much of the region. While recent rain has improved conditions, 16 and 27% of pasture and rangeland remain poor to very poor in South Dakota and Nebraska, respectively.

Pest and disease pressure remain low across much of the region. However, there are some reports of isolated tar spot, and University Extension educators recommend diligent scouting. In Iowa, rainy and windy conditions have made spraying soybean fields challenging. For drier areas, such as northern Illinois, there is some concern about limited water sources for livestock, in addition to stress caused by high nighttime temperatures.





Map generated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Severe Weather

Over the month of June, active weather systems brought severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, flash floods, and high winds to the region. Additionally, with the official start of summer, a heat dome caused dangerously high temperatures and humidity across much of the Corn Belt. Earlier in the month, Canadian wildfires impacted air quality across much of the Upper Midwest.

Fire

According to the National Interagency Fire Center July outlook, there is no significant risk for wildland fire for the region.

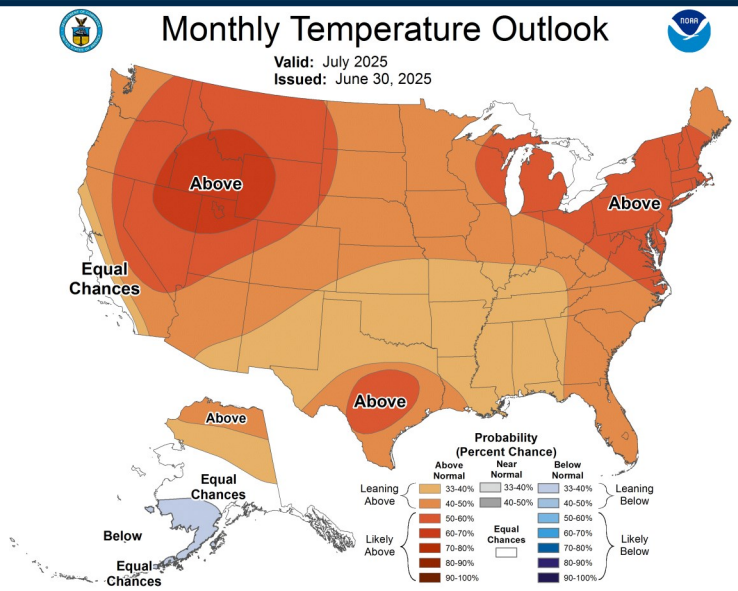
Outlook

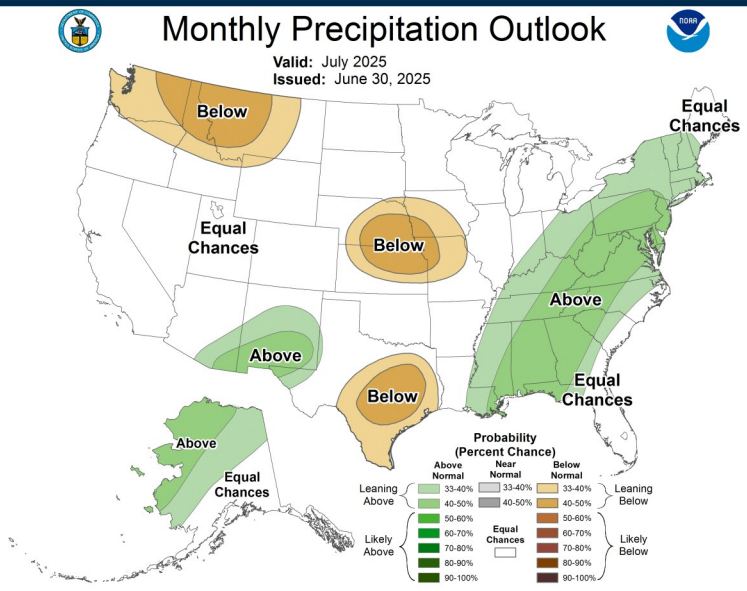
The updated monthly outlook for July shows some likely trends and some larger unknowns. Consistent with the last several months, the Northern Plains are more likely to be warmer and drier, leading to increased drought coverage and severity. According to the Climate Prediction Center, much of the rest of the region leans warm, with the Great Lakes having a better chance of warmer than average temperatures. Monthly precipitation outlooks hint at a few dry and wet areas scattered across the region, but model probability and accuracy are low.

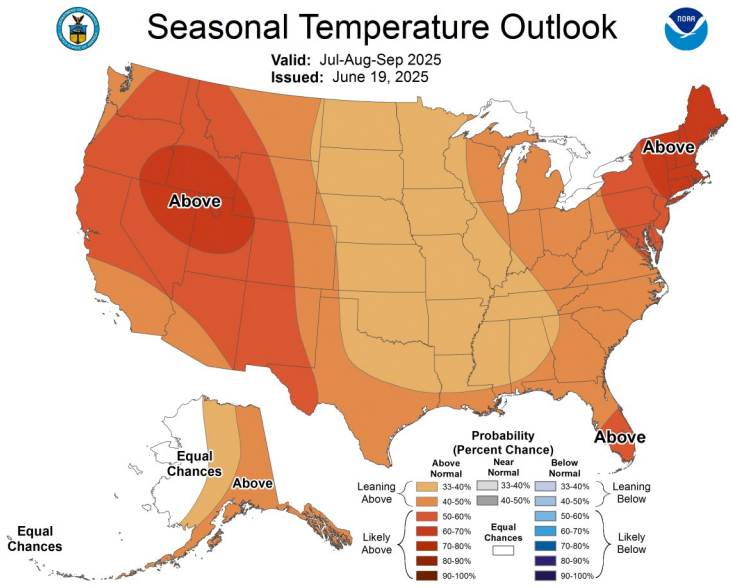
The seasonal temperature outlook shows the entire region leaning warmer than normal through September. Seasonal precipitation is a bit more of a mixed bag, with the northwest corner leaning below normal and the eastern region leaning above, while much of the central Corn Belt is a toss-up.

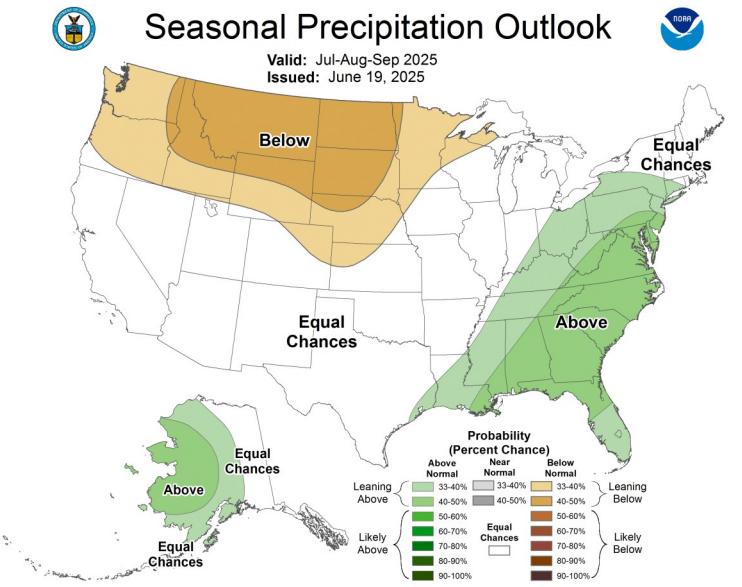
Most row crop areas are likely to be in good shape for the next couple of weeks based on soil moisture and recent rainfall. Generally, corn should reach tasseling without major stress. There are some hints of worsening conditions in later July that might start to affect soybeans more and late tasseling corn.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) continues to remain in neutral conditions, which are expected to persist through the summer.









Outlooks provided by 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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