



# Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

August 7, 2025

## Main Points

- Wet conditions over the Northern Plains and Upper Midwest this past week.
- Small drought improvements across the region, though some areas where wet conditions pose a problem for current harvest.
- Corn and soybean are generally looking good.
- Warmer than normal temperatures likely across the region, with wetter conditions possible in the upper Corn Belt.

## Current Conditions

Parts of the Corn Belt continued to be more active over the last 7 days, while other parts were very quiet. Storms dropped several inches of rain (200% or more) again from western Iowa and eastern Nebraska northward into the Dakotas and Minnesota. Similar pockets occurred in the eastern Corn Belt, though more isolated. Temperatures over the first week of August were decidedly below average with a large area 4°F or more below average. While this was a welcomed break from heat, it likely slowed crop progress in row crops and specialties across the region.

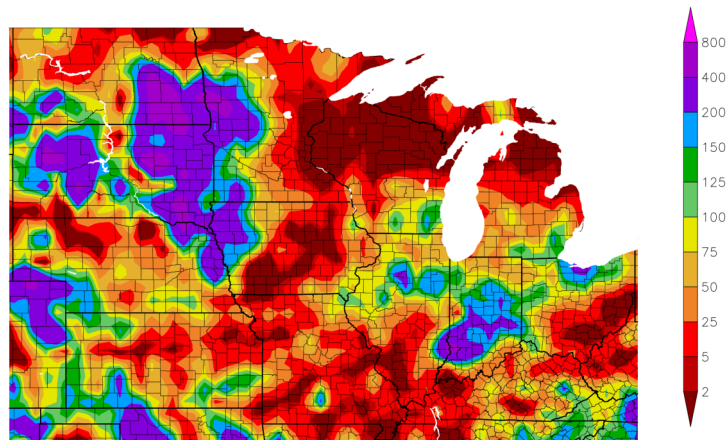
Smoke also returned to the region with cooler Canadian air covering the region leading to more air quality issues in many states with smoke from the Canadian wildfires.

## Impacts

### Drought

As of August 5<sup>th</sup>, 79% of the North Central region is classified as no drought intensity, 14% as abnormally dry (D0),

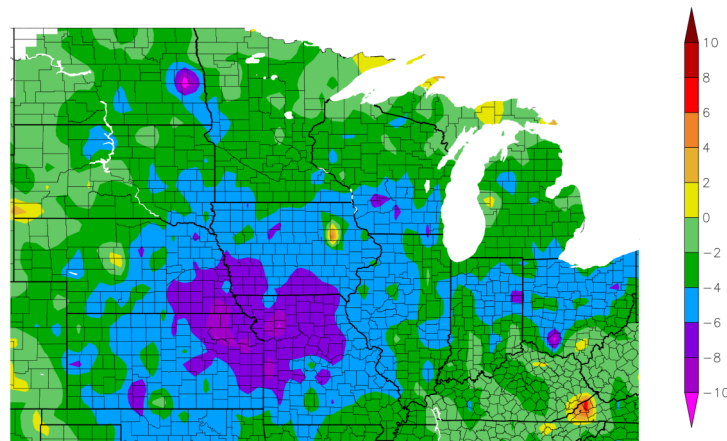
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
7/31/2025 – 8/6/2025



Generated 8/7/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
7/31/2025 – 8/6/2025



Generated 8/7/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 08/07/2025.

6% as moderate drought (D1), and less than 0.5% as severe drought (D2). In comparison to last week, drought conditions improved by 1-class across Nebraska and northern Illinois. Drought conditions degraded by 1-class across pockets of southern Missouri, Kansas and central Michigan. Corn and soybean drought coverage is 3%, which occurred last in June 2024.

Generally, crop conditions have continued to be good overall with some areas of excess wetness and pockets of drought issues persisting. As of the week ending August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 64 to 80% of topsoil moisture is adequate across the region. Near record rainfall across Iowa has left 31% of topsoil moisture in surplus, where oat and hay would benefit from a break in the rain. On the other end of the spectrum, 28% of topsoil moisture is short to very short across Michigan and Nebraska.

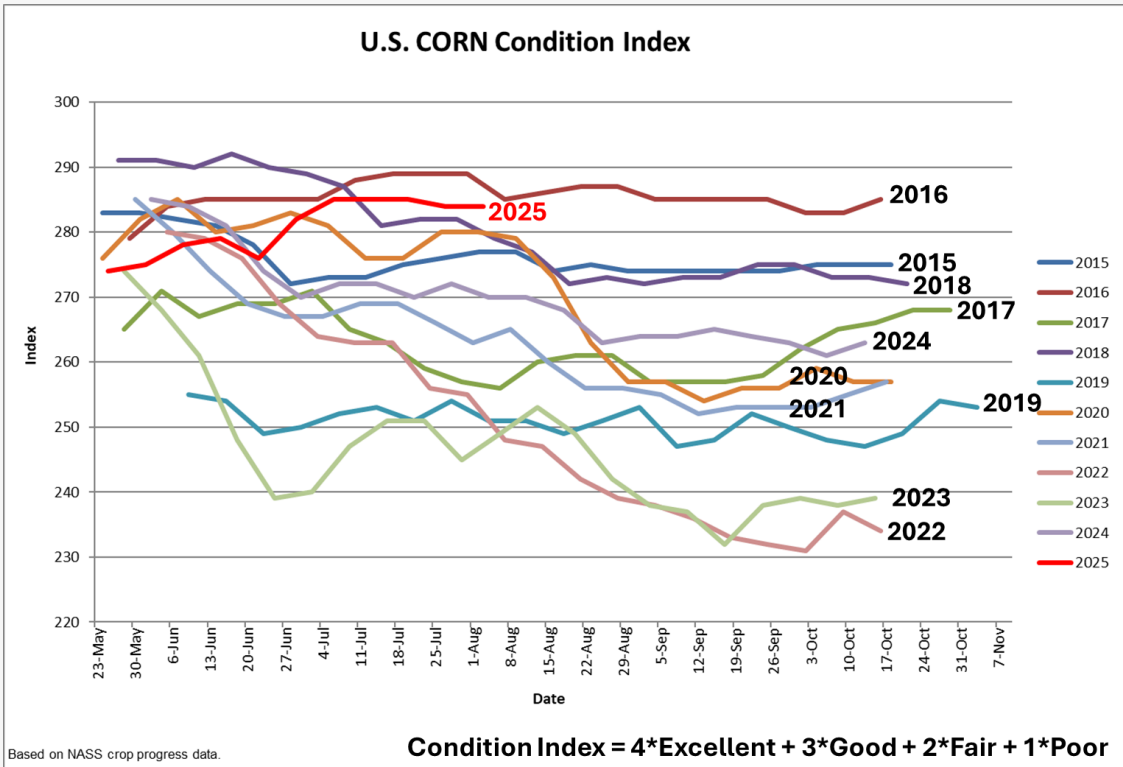
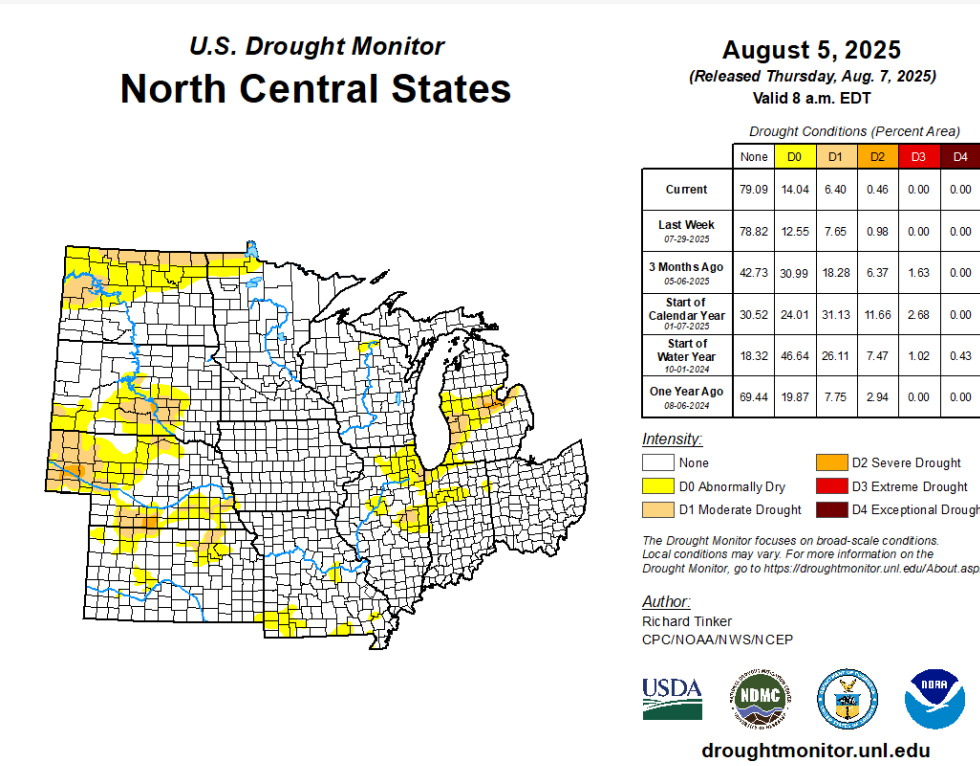
## Soils, Crops and Live-stock

With warm temperatures, corn and soybean progress continues. As of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 75 to 96% of corn is silking across the region. Roughly 17 to 65% of corn is at the dough stage across the region, with the eastern edge tracking ahead of the 5-year average and Minnesota tracking 11 points below the 5-year average. Turning to soybeans,

72 to 92% of soybeans are blooming across the region and 35 to 66% are setting pods.

Oat harvest is underway and 5 to 77% of oats are harvested across the region. Spring wheat harvest has begun, and 1 to 23% has been harvested across the region. Winter wheat harvest is wrapping up, and as of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 79 to 100% is harvested. Similarly, barley heading is near completion.

As we enter August, crop conditions remain good across the region. Across the Corn Belt, 56 to 85% of corn and 51 to 81% of soybeans are in good to excellent condition.

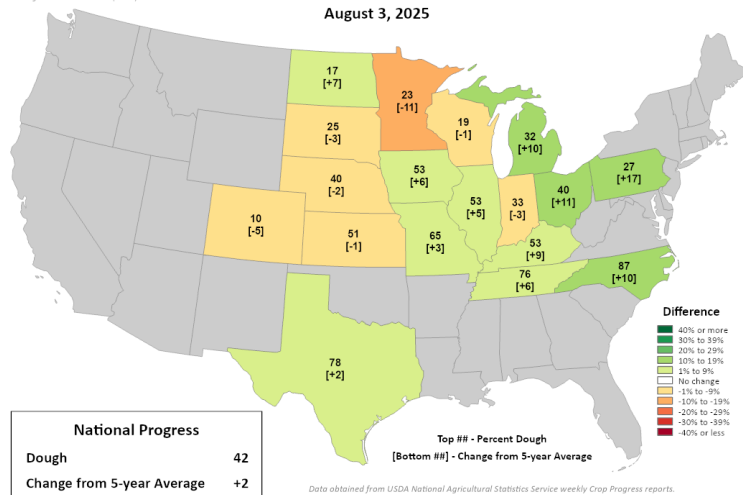


Maps generated by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#) and Brad Rippey [USDA Office of the Chief Economist](#).

## Corn Progress

### Percent Dough

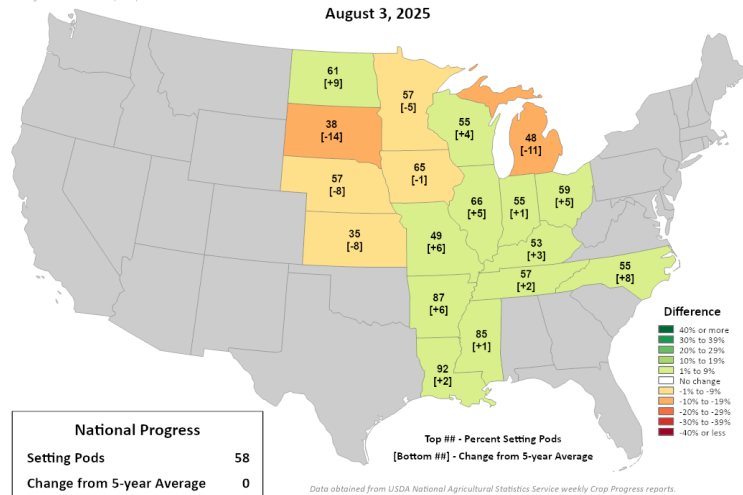
August 3, 2025



## Soybeans Progress

### Percent Setting Pods

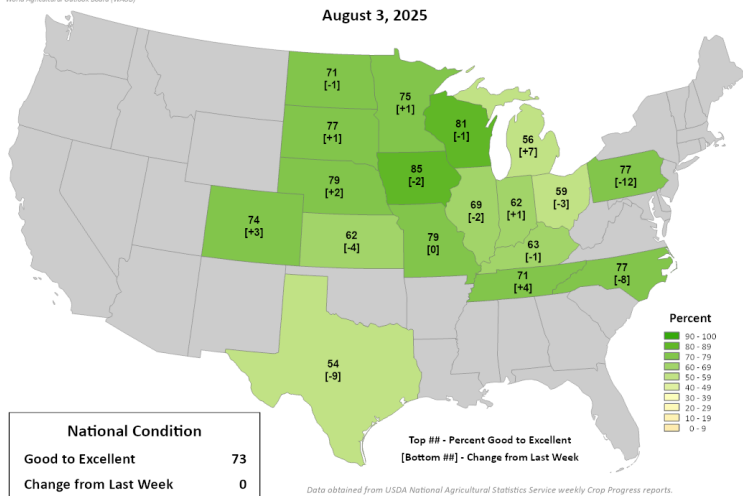
August 3, 2025



## Corn Conditions

### Percent Good to Excellent

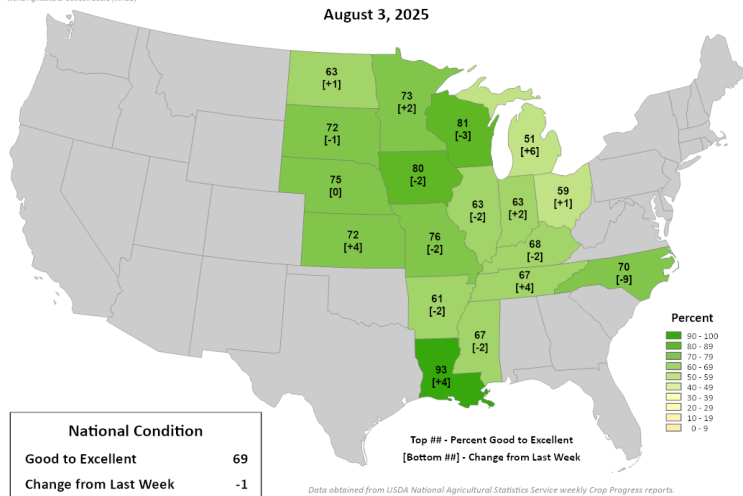
August 3, 2025



## Soybean Conditions

### Percent Good to Excellent

August 3, 2025



Maps generated by the [United States Department of Agriculture](https://www.usda.gov/).

Corn currently has the highest rating for this time of year since 2016. In the Upper Midwest, 51 to 85% of spring wheat is in good to excellent condition. July rains helped improve pasture and range conditions, currently 44 to 86% of pasture and rangeland are in good to excellent condition.

Wet and humid conditions have generated some pest and disease concerns. There are currently reports of armyworm, tar spot, wheat streak mosaic, and white mold. Tight tassel wrap has also been reported across the region. However, most crop concerns are relatively minor and many are reporting the potential for record yields.

## Severe Weather

According to NOAA Storm Prediction Center, there is a marginal to slight chance of severe thunderstorms along the eastern Dakotas and Upper Midwest as we enter the weekend.

## Fire

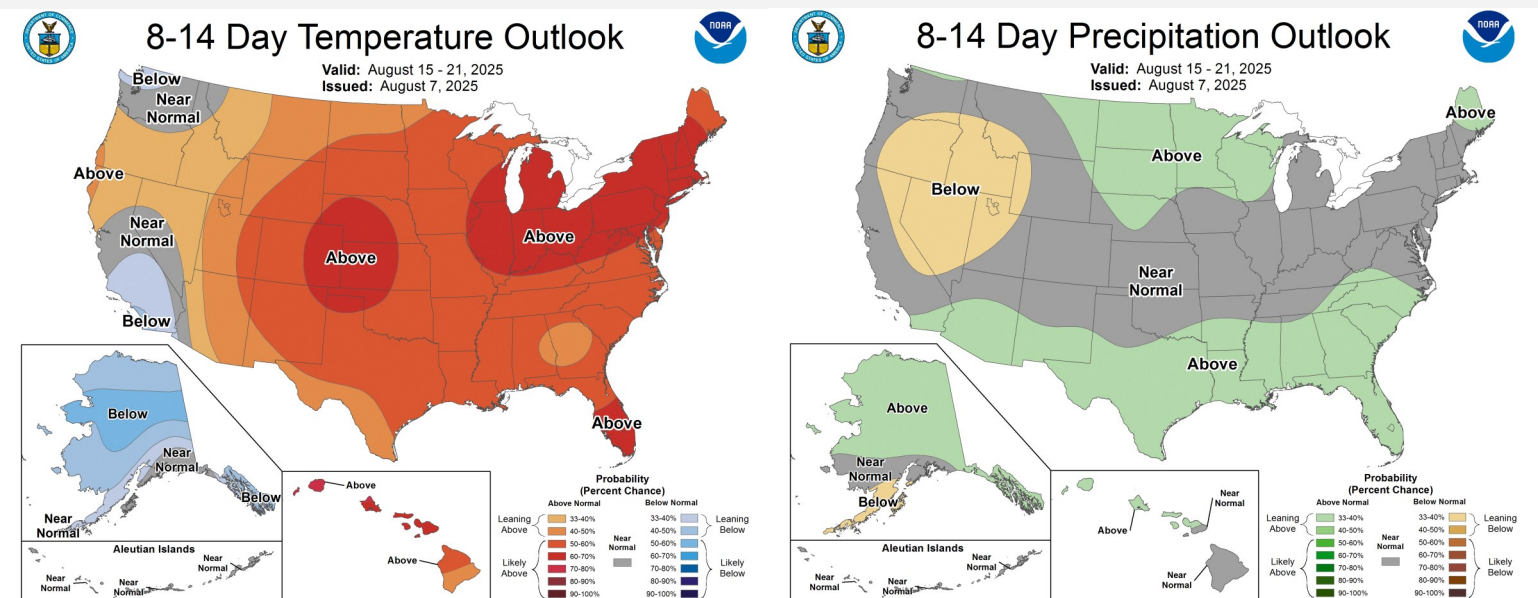
Canadian wildfires have continued to impact air quality across the Upper Midwest this past week. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, there is little to no risk for fire potential through August 12<sup>th</sup>. Portions of south-

ern Missouri, South Dakota, and western Nebraska are at low risk.

## Outlook

For the second week of August, the central and northern Corn Belt have chances for some heavier rains again. In Iowa particularly, this would not be good news as soils have become quite wet in areas and flooding has started to increase. Looking into the middle of August, warmer than average conditions seem more likely throughout the region with better likelihoods to the east. Humidities should also increase leading to higher heat index conditions again, though extreme conditions may not be quite as common. Precipitation probabilities still lean slightly above average, though some of the wetter conditions should start to ease a little.

The current wet conditions have been causing problems with harvesting oats and forages around Iowa. While this bears watching for later harvest issues, there still is a long time for crops to use water in the soils and evaporation to occur before harvest. The larger precipitation amounts continue to miss some of the worst of the limited drought areas in the region.



## 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 \(HPRCC\)](#)

## For More Information

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