

Midwest Ag-Focus Outlook

September 12, 2025

Main Points

- Generally dry and cooler than normal conditions covered the Corn Belt over the last 7 days.
- Drought has expanded across the Lower Midwest.
- Dry conditions (and disease) are leading to rapid dry-down of mainly corn.
- Warmer than average temperatures are likely through much of September.

Current Conditions

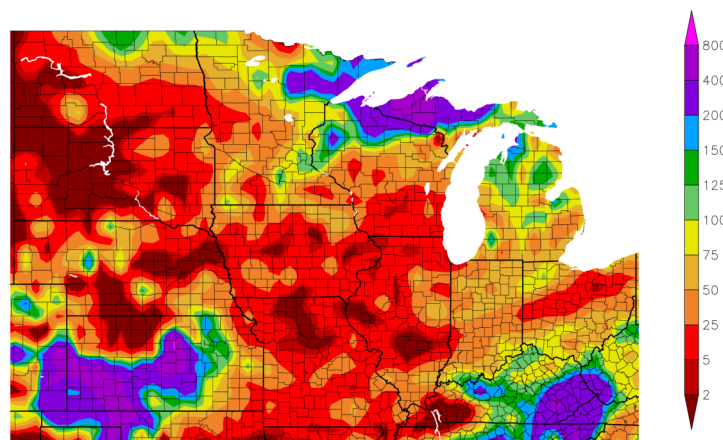
Largely dry conditions covered the Corn Belt over the last seven days with rainfall amounts less than 0.5" very common. A few isolated spots did receive some heavier rainfalls (Kansas, around Lake Superior, and Kentucky). The Kansas rainfalls were over 9" at the largest. Temperatures continued their run being below normal. Nearly the whole area was more than 4°F below average with several states 8 to 12°F below average. Isolated frost and some below freezing temperatures occurred in the western Dakotas. Air was much drier incoming from Canada and with crops rapidly winding down their growing season.

Impacts

Drought

As of September 9th, 63% of the region is classified as no drought category, 24% as abnormally dry (D0), 11% as moderate drought (D1), and 2% as severe drought (D2). Compared to last week, drought worsened by 1-class across the Lower Midwest, and across a pocket of Minnesota. Currently, portions of the Plains, Missouri, Illinois, Indi-

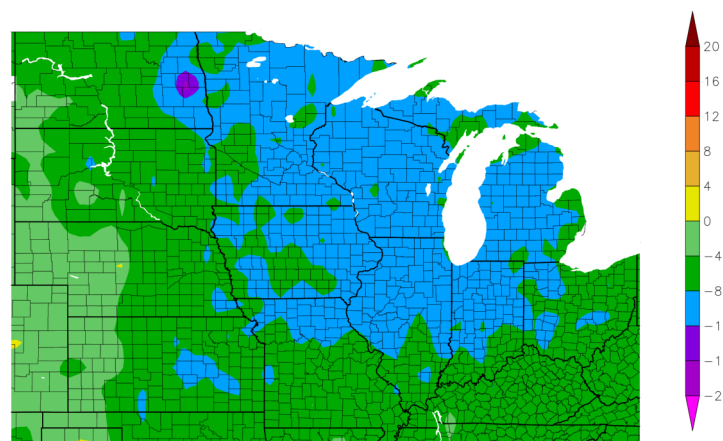
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/4/2025 – 9/10/2025



Generated 9/11/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/4/2025 – 9/10/2025



Generated 9/11/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](https://climate.hprcc.org/). Generated: 09/11/2025.

ana, Ohio and central Michigan are in moderate drought, with pockets of severe drought scattered across the Lower Midwest primarily.

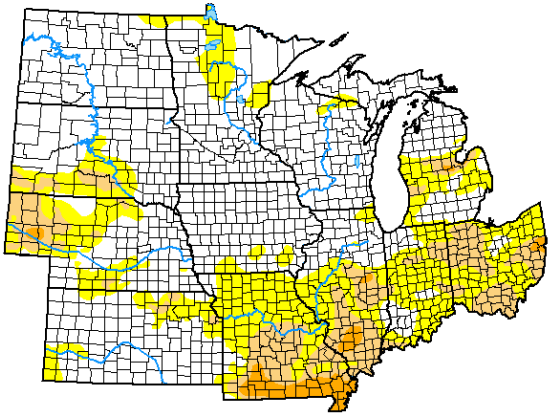
According to USDA-NASS, as of the week ending September 7th, 27 to 81% of topsoil moisture is adequate across the region. Currently, dry conditions are most evident in the Lower Midwest and Ohio River Valley, where from Missouri through Ohio, 60 to 73% of topsoil moisture is short to very short.

Soils, Crops and Live-stock

Corn and soybeans are rapidly maturing and grain harvest is starting. Across the Corn Belt, 50 to 88% of corn has dented and 3 to 50% has reached maturity. In the southern Corn Belt, harvest has begun, with Missouri reporting 9% of corn harvested. For soybeans, 92 to 100% of pods are set and 4 to 36% are dropping leaves, with the northwest corner lagging behind the 5-year average for soybean progress. Oat, barley, and spring wheat harvest ranges from 75 to 100% complete. Winter wheat planting has begun across the Plains.

U.S. Drought Monitor North Central States

September 9, 2025
(Released Thursday, Sep. 11, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



| Drought Conditions (Percent Area) | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| | None | D0 | D1 | D2 | D3 | D4 |
| Current | 62.64 | 24.29 | 10.88 | 2.19 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Last Week | 64.39 | 25.66 | 8.71 | 0.24 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago | 49.73 | 30.28 | 16.71 | 3.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Calendar Year | 30.52 | 24.01 | 31.13 | 11.66 | 2.68 | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year | 18.32 | 46.64 | 26.11 | 7.47 | 1.02 | 0.43 |
| One Year Ago | 34.32 | 40.73 | 18.81 | 4.73 | 0.95 | 0.45 |

Intensity:
None D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

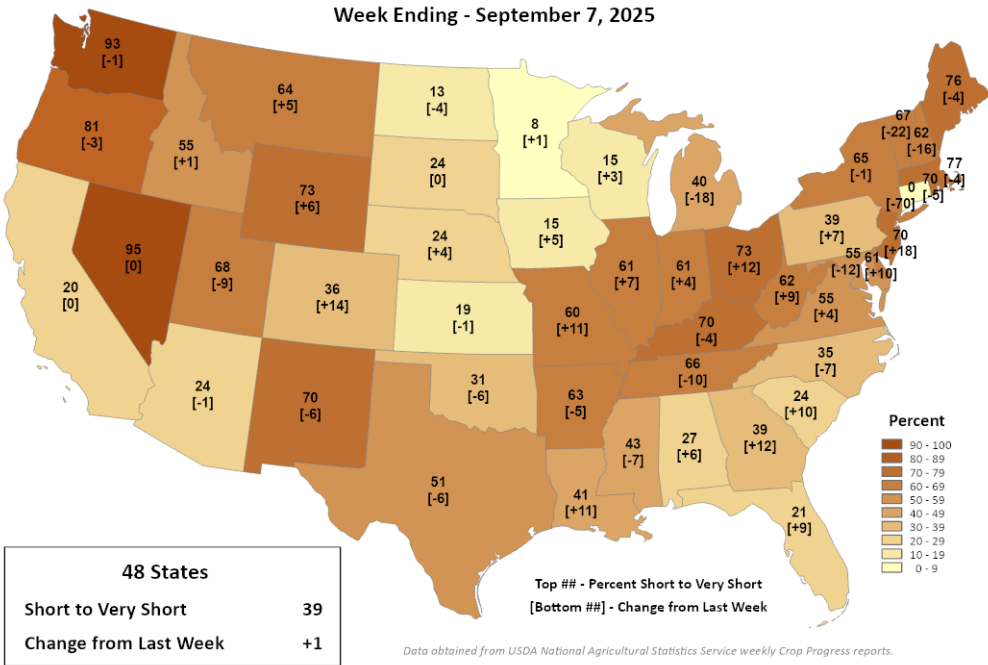
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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USDA
United States
Department of
Agriculture
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USDA Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)
World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB)

Topsoil Moisture Percent Short to Very Short Week Ending - September 7, 2025



Despite dry conditions, 46 to 82% of corn and 46 to 81% of soybeans are in good to excellent condition across the region. Approximately 30 to 71% of pasture and range are in good to excellent condition across the Corn Belt. The eastern Corn Belt is feeling the impacts of lack of rainfall, and 30% of pasture and range are in poor to very poor condition across Illinois and Ohio.

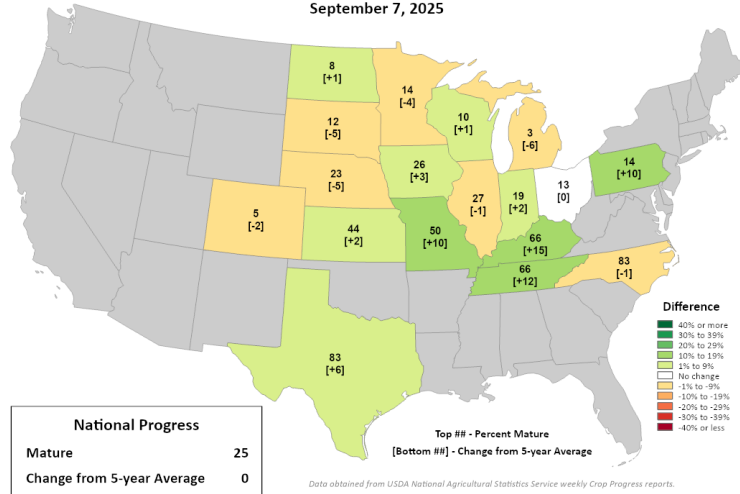
Southern rust continues to impact corn across the region, as wet and humid conditions last month brought pest and disease pressure. There are also reports of soybean sudden death syndrome. Flash drought conditions in the southern Corn Belt are leading to rapid dry-down for crops before maturity, as well as reducing stream-flow and pond levels, contributing to livestock stress. With a warmup ex-

Maps generated by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#) and [United States Department of Agriculture](#).

Corn Progress

Percent Mature

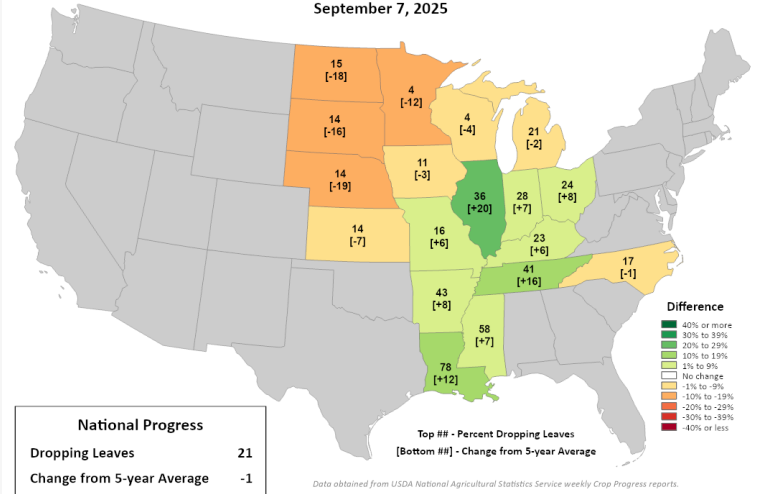
September 7, 2025



Soybeans Progress

Percent Dropping Leaves

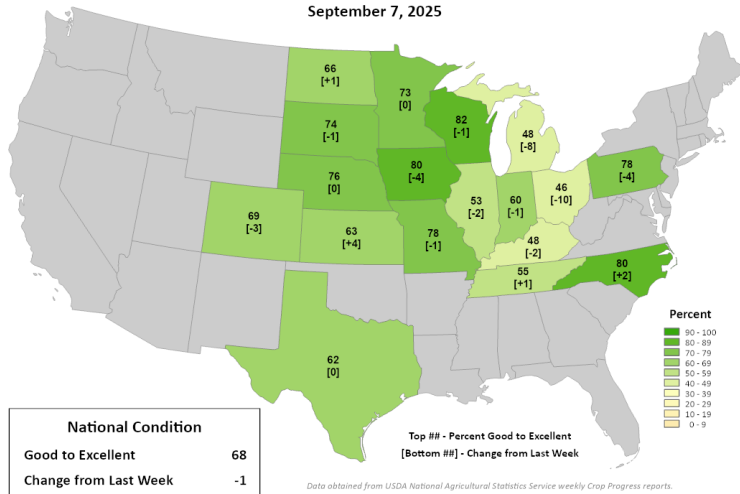
September 7, 2025



Corn Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent

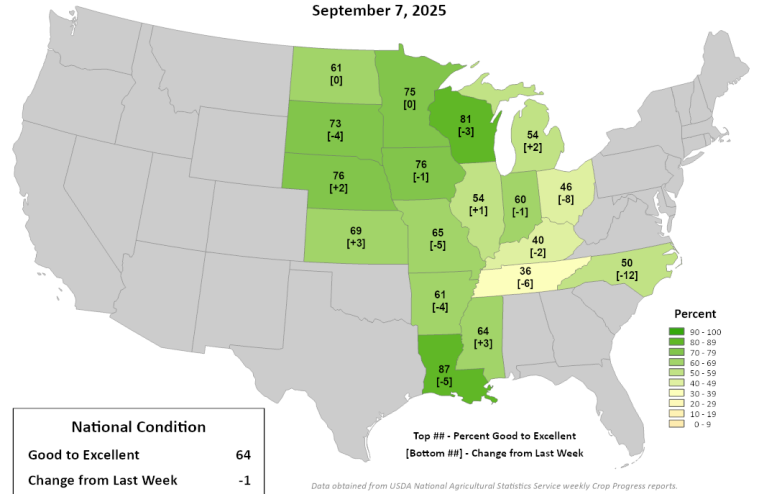
September 7, 2025



Soybean Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent

September 7, 2025



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

pected this coming week, drought conditions are likely to worsen across the Lower Midwest. As the growing season wraps up, crop yields may dip due to ongoing dryness.

Severe Weather

Flash flooding occurred in central Kansas on September 8th, as a slow-moving storm brought 4 to 9 inches of rain to parts of the state.

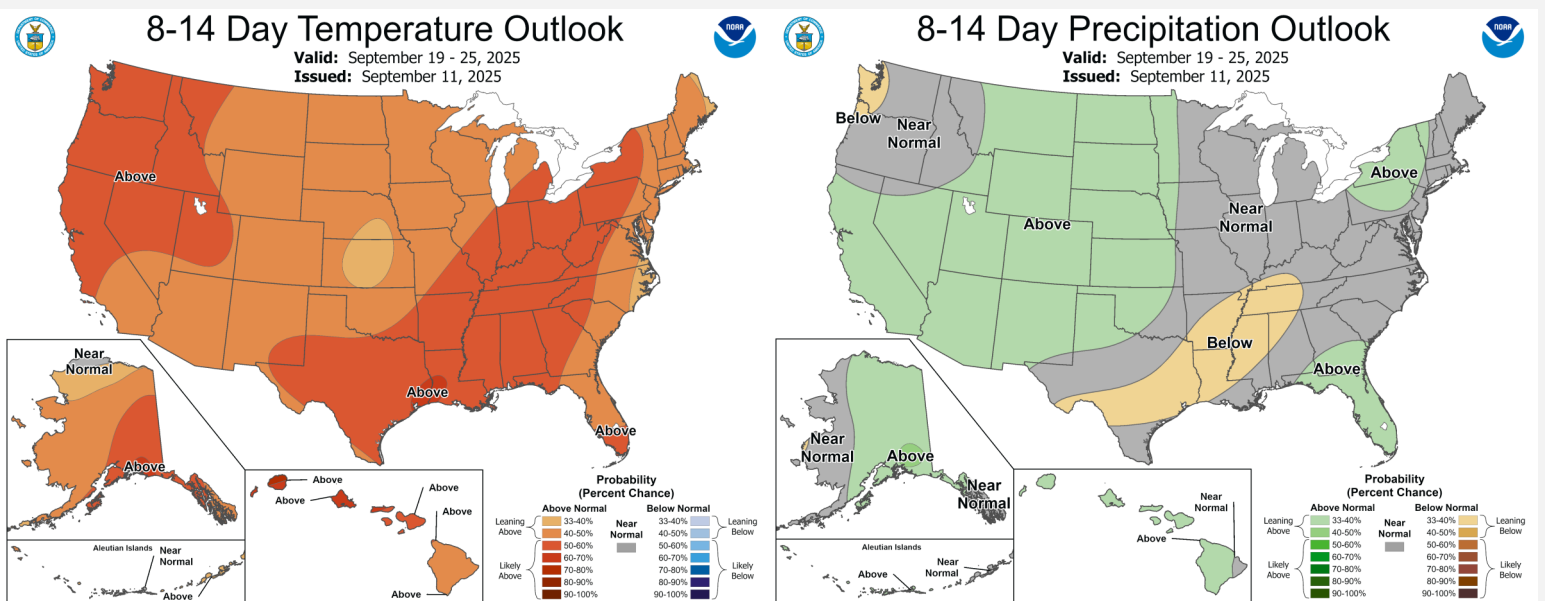
Fire

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, there is low risk for significant wildland fire potential across portions of the Northern Plains, and moderate risk across southern Missouri as we enter the weekend and early next week. Usual fire concerns exist with dry crops at harvest.

Outlook

The cooler than average period is quickly drawing to a close as the outlooks indicate warmer than average conditions as likely through much of the rest of September. Precipitation chances lean wetter in the Plains to central Corn Belt while near normal is more likely east. Humidities are unlikely to be as bad as mid-summer with the quickly maturing crops. The heat and expected drier conditions are expected to intensify drought conditions in the Ohio Valley in the next couple of weeks.

Crops will continue their likely rapid maturing with warm conditions, soils becoming dry in some areas and disease impacts adding another layer of issues. Harvest, which is starting, should pick up pace during the month. Specialty crops may also see an early end to their growing season.



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 \(MRCC\)](#)
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[High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](#)

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