

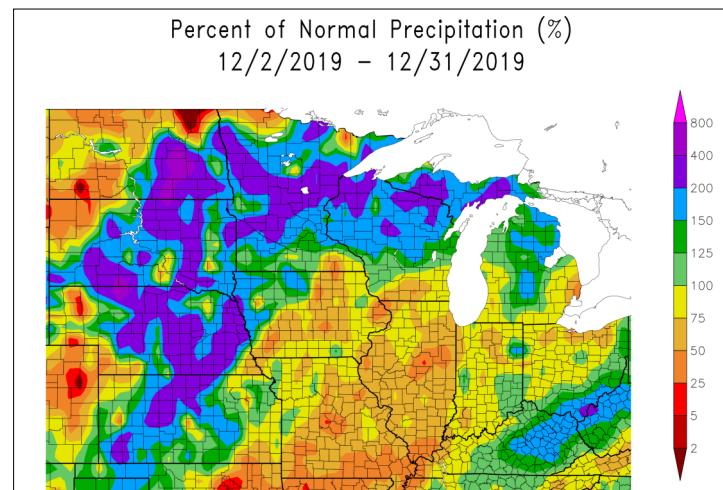
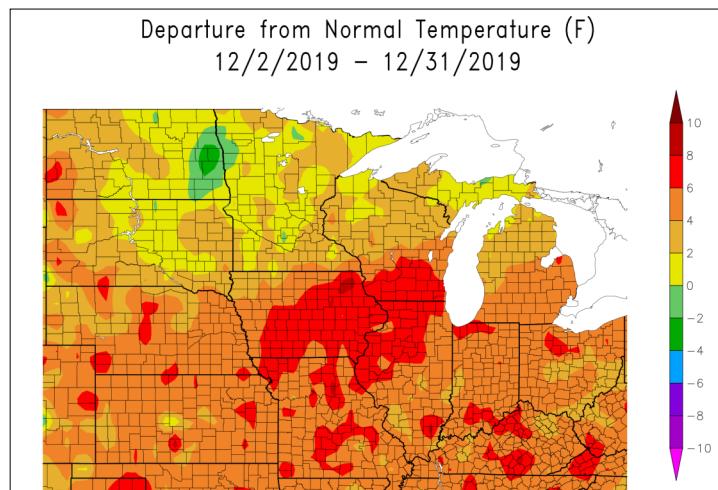


## Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

Current Conditions



Wet conditions overall continued to impact the Plains and Northern Midwest through December. Several storm systems dropped snow and rain over these areas. Much of this area was 200%+ of average. Missouri-Iowa-Illinois had large areas of less than 75% of average. To the south overall drier-than-average conditions extended from parts of Kansas northeastward to Ohio. Many annual precipitation records were set throughout the area. Final numbers will be reported by mid-January. Temperatures were much warmer than average (4-8°F) for most of the area except for a pocket in the north where more snow had occurred (Dakotas and northern Minnesota were near average). The warmth overcame a cool start to December to lead to much warmer-than-average conditions for the month.



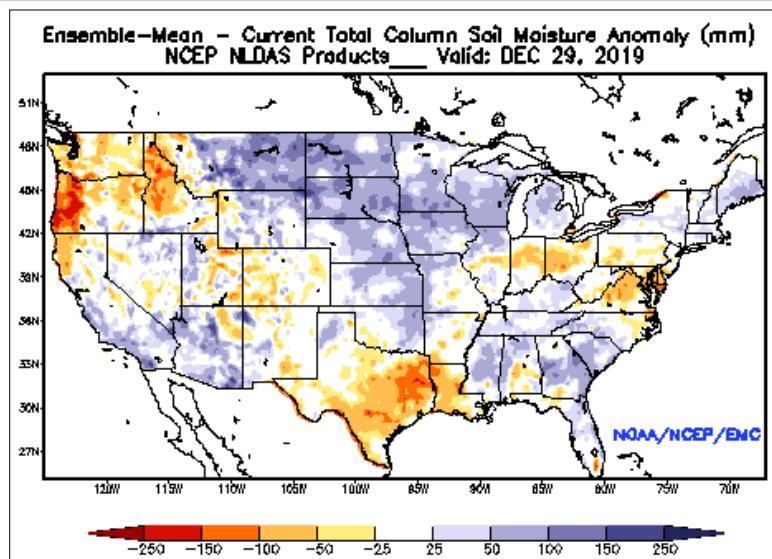
Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 1/3/2020



## Impacts

Harvest continues to drag on in the northern plains: Corn harvest (as of December 31, 2019) reached North Dakota - 48%, South Dakota - 90%; sunflower harvest North Dakota – 66%, South Dakota – 87%. The overall dry area had allowed some final harvesting in parts of the Corn Belt while the northern areas continued through the additional precipitation. This included harvesting through snow covered ground in many places. Soils have dried a little in some of the band of below average precipitation. But they mostly remain wetter than average across the region.

Soil temperatures have been mainly frozen in North Dakota and parts of Minnesota and South Dakota, while fluctuating around freezing in a band south of there. The frozen soils have probably helped with some additional harvest activity.



[NLDAS Drought Monitor Soil Moisture](#)



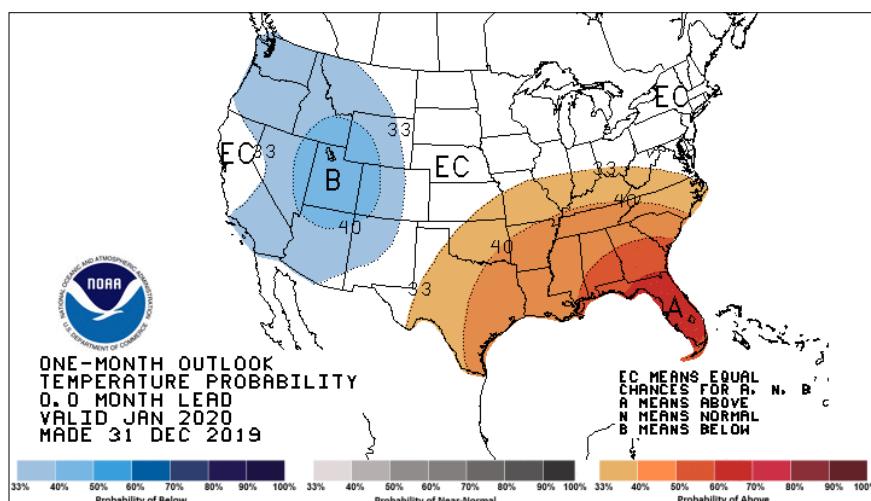
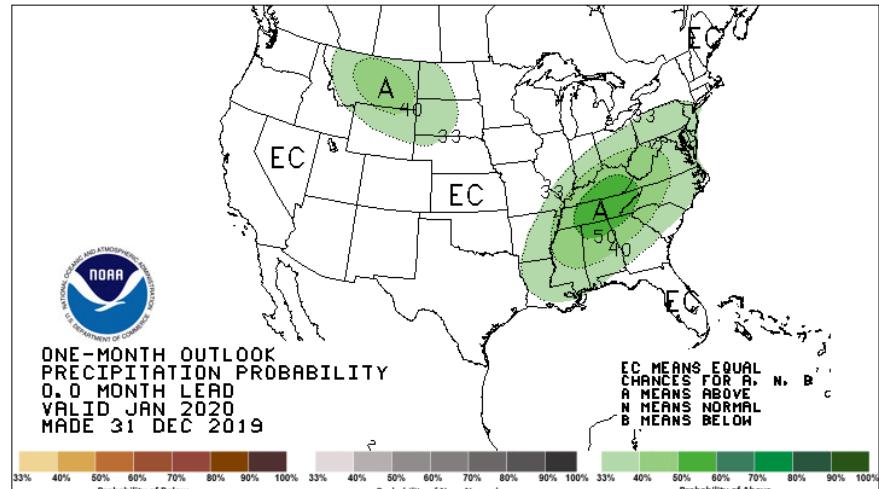
For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>



## Outlook



The January outlooks from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center have large areas of equal chances for below and above for temperature and precipitation. Southern areas have a slightly increased chance for warmth. The Ohio Valley and Northern Plains have slightly increased chances for precipitation. Soils in the Ohio Valley have been somewhat drier than areas to the north. This precipitation outlook could push them into wetter conditions. This in turn, will continue to create muddy conditions for livestock and producers.



The longer range outlooks (3-month and into spring) include slightly increased chance of precipitation throughout most of the region. Some increased chance for colder-than-average conditions cover areas from the northern Plains to Great Lakes into the spring. Risk of increased wetness leading to flooding and delayed harvest still exist.

For more information and to access the 3-month outlook, select here: [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 \(HPRCC\)](#)



## For More Information

Charlene Felkley, Coordinator  
USDA Midwest Climate Hub  
1015 N University Blvd., Ames, IA 50011  
515-294-0136  
[charlene.felkley@ars.usda.gov](mailto:charlene.felkley@ars.usda.gov)

