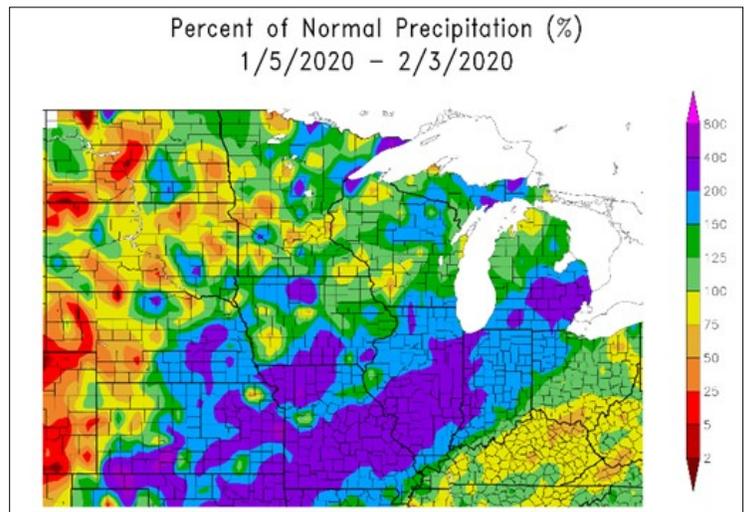
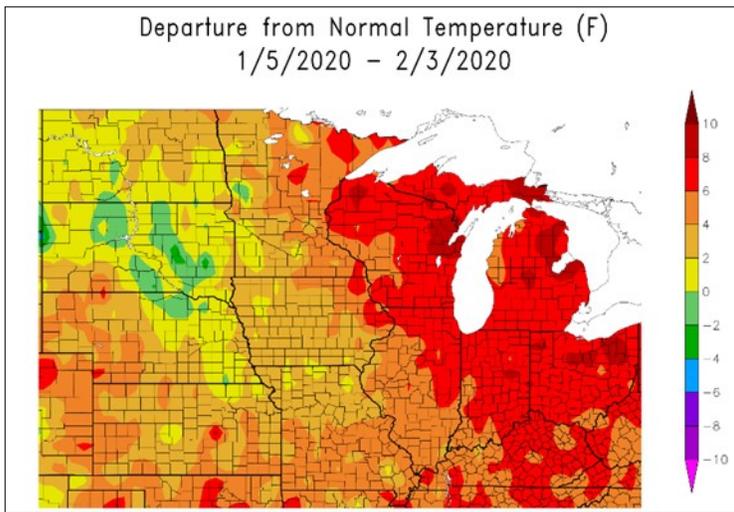


Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

Current Conditions



Overall cloudy conditions impacted much of the central to eastern Corn Belt through January. Extensive cloudiness was noted around the region. Overall data is not readily available to compare “sunlight amounts” climatologically. But several individual locations did seem to indicate a climatologically cloudy period. Precipitation was still mostly above average from Kansas to Michigan (over 200% average in part of the area). Drier-than-average conditions were a little more prevalent in the plains and south of the Ohio River. Temperatures were still well above normal in the eastern regions (6-8°F or more). The only place slightly cooler was a small area in the northern plains.



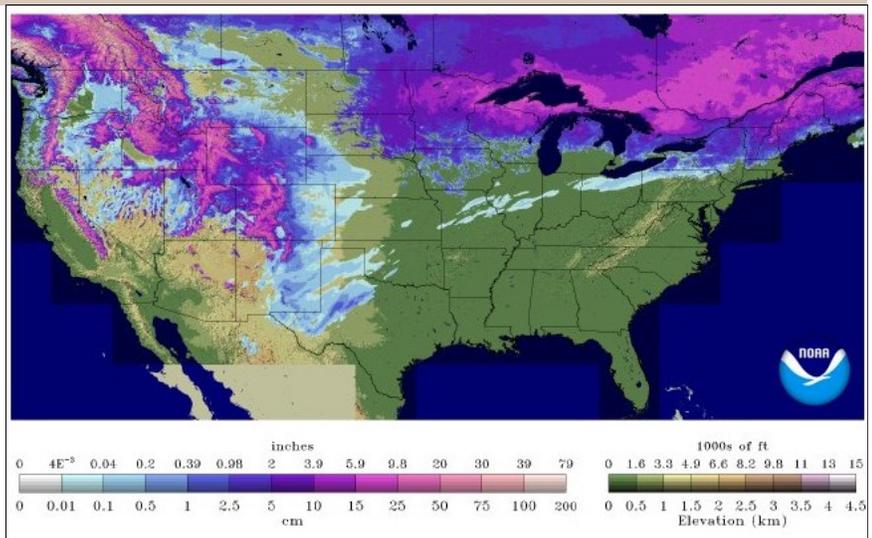
Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 2/4/2020



Impacts

Harvest continues to continue very slowly in the northern plains. Corn progress numbers (as of January 31, 2020) reached North Dakota - 49%, South Dakota - 96%; sunflower harvest North Dakota - 67%, South Dakota - 96%. These showed some decent progress in South Dakota, but limited progress in North Dakota. A few isolated acres were not harvested in other states, but no data was available.

The warm conditions in the eastern Corn Belt have led to reports of green-up wheat and pastures and horticultural plants and trees starting to begin activity in Ohio. These conditions are of serious concern because the region is well before potential last freeze. Wheat can handle some freezing conditions while horticultural plants are much more at risk.

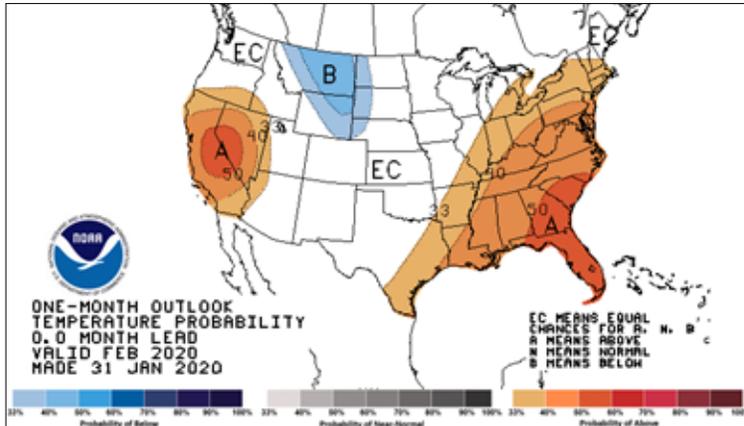


[Snow Water Equivalent: Generated Feb 5th, 2020, National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center](#)

(Impacts Cont.) 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. Frost depths are also relatively shallow over the whole region with the deepest being no more than 2 ft at a few locations in the eastern Dakotas and western Minnesota.

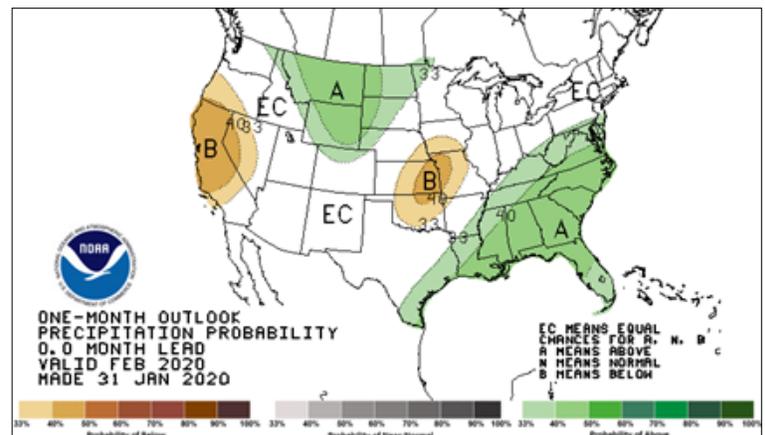
Snow pack overall is confined to the eastern Dakotas to northern Michigan. What is of concern is the amount of water in the snow and potential for adding to flood issues during spring melt. Several inches of water (as snow) is currently sitting over northern areas on top of very wet soils. The risk for flooding is high along with the potential for spring planting delays.

Outlook



February outlooks from NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center provide some good news and some not so good news to the region. Temperatures are slightly more likely to be colder than average in the northern plains with slightly above more likely in the eastern Corn Belt. The bigger issue here is likely the continued warm temperatures helping push early perennial development (before last freeze) increasing the chances for crop damage. A small pocket of drier than average is centered on KS-MO with wetter than average more possible in the Northern Plains. With already wet soils, additional precipitation is a serious concern for agriculture and flood issues looking ahead.

The 90 day outlook (Feb-Apr.) has changed little with slightly increased chance for cold over most of the northern areas. Slightly increased chances for wetter cover much of the area except for Iowa to the south and west. This could provide a little better chance for crop planting progress in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. Concerns still exist for most of the region, particularly northern areas.



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 \(HPRCC\)](#)



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