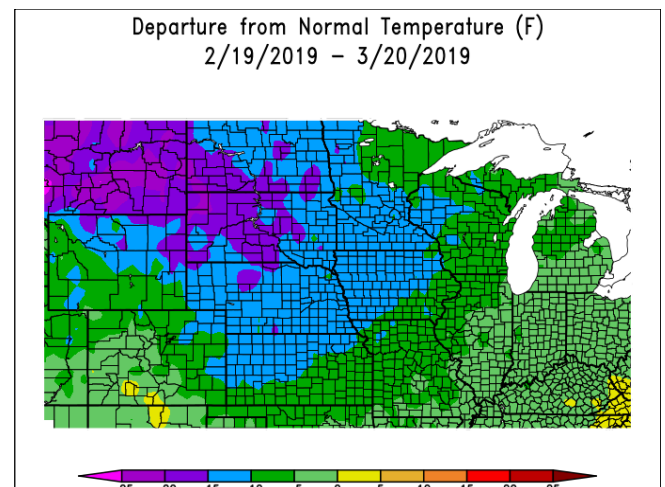
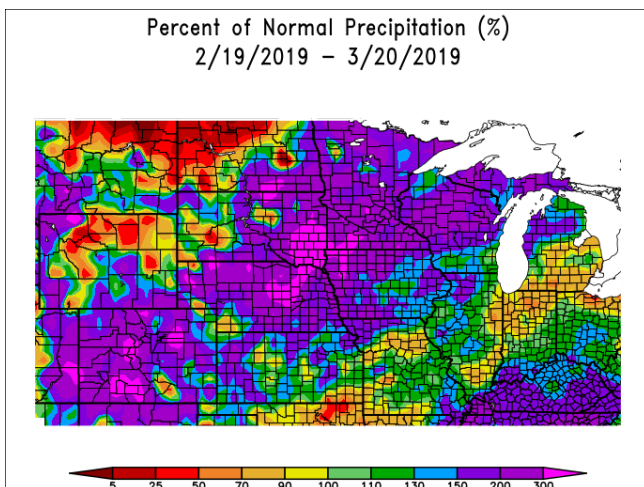


## Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

### Current Conditions



Spring-like conditions have finally started to cover the region after severe cold and snow well into March over much of the area. The recent warmth followed a major storm which crossed the region in mid-March bringing more snow, heavy rains and warmth that quickly melted snow and led to severe flooding in Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa along with some very severe agricultural impacts (noted below). Colder-than-average conditions have been pervasive in the last 30 days from a few degrees below to 20°F below average. Precipitation has mostly been above average with 2-3x-average precipitation widespread. Only small areas have been below average in this time.



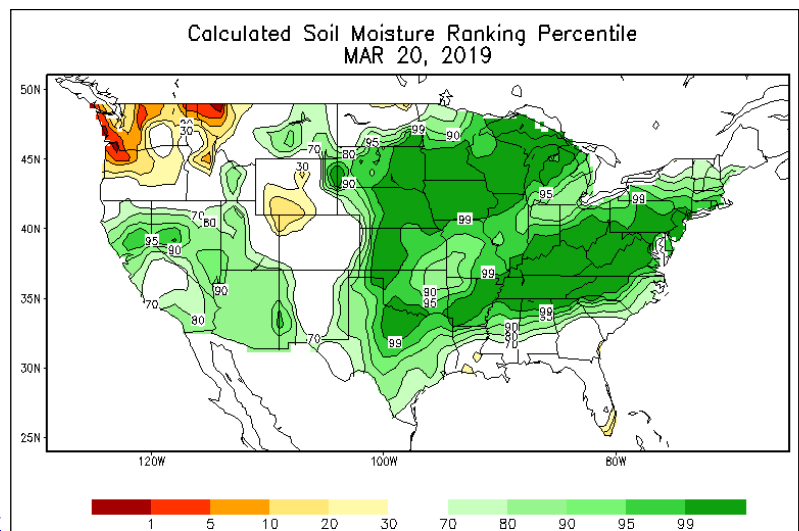
Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 3/21/2019

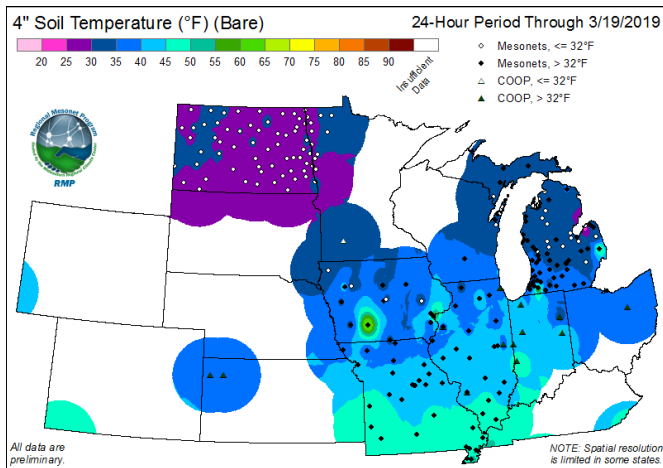


### Impacts

By far the largest impacts have been in eastern Nebraska, far western Iowa and small parts of South Dakota (so far) where large numbers of livestock have been killed by flooding. Equipment and buildings have been damaged and large areas inundated. Large amounts of stored grain are likely lost (details are still being accumulated). Over a \$1B in agriculture losses are possible in Nebraska alone. Widespread overland flooding occurred in parts of Iowa and adjacent states with the quick snow melt and rains. Livestock and calf losses have also been noted in the plains, though overall conditions have been swamped by the flood issues.

[NOAA Climate Prediction Center, Soil Moisture Maps](#)





Map provided by Regional Mesonet Program, hosted by MRCC



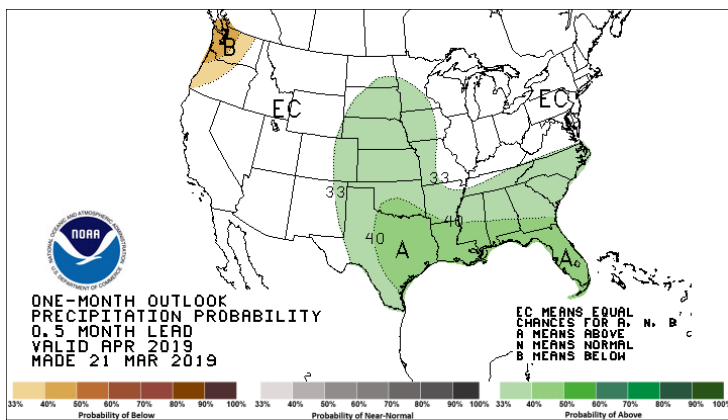
**Impacts Cont.**

Most of the eastern Corn Belt has missed the major issues. Overall wet soils have been the largest issue there. Soil moisture issues will continue to be a problem over the whole region. Percentile ranking range from mostly 95th to 99th over the middle of the country except for parts of the northern plains. Soil temperatures are making slow progress warmer.

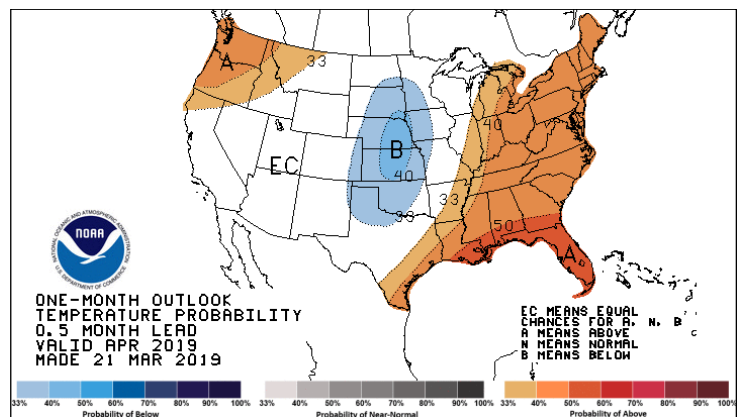


**Outlook**

More flooding issues are expected further north and along the major rivers south as snow melt is only now ramping up in the Dakotas, Minnesota and northern Wisconsin and Michigan. Longer term wetness issues are possible indicated by the NOAA-CPC outlooks. April outlooks (not pictured) continue possible cooler conditions in the plains with a slight chance of cooler than average from eastern South Dakota to north Texas.



Over this same area is a slight chance of above-average precipitation. Over the three month period (April to June) much of that same area has a similar chance of below-average temperatures. Wetter-than-average conditions are possible over the whole region except areas bordering Canada. Given current wet soils and lesser chances for dry conditions, planting season could have difficulties throughout the region.



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)

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

