MAC-T Monthly Call
Midwest Agriculture and Climate Team

February 2, 2022

For more information: Dennis.todey@usda.gov
- Fairly limited precipitation for January
- Ohio Valley and other pockets above average.
- Most below average (large area less than 50%)
January flipped from December to be much cooler than average.
Snow covered area north central coldest (up to 10 F below average)
Plains (no snow) near to above average.
Soil Moisture

Plains (central/south) soils continue to dry with limited precip and warmer temperatures.

Eastern Corn Belt some drying though NASA model may be drying a bit too much.

- Both percentile maps
- Upper – whole profile
- Lower – top 100 cm (~40”)
Drought in the Midwest

- Plains still have most USDM coverage and the worst overall conditions.
- Northern areas still some coverage also.
- Drying east now showing issues yet.
- USDM changes are fairly slow during the cold season.
Assorted AG Issues

• Flip to colder conditions had mixed ag effects

• Cold and snow in Ohio eased mud issues for now and provided cover. But likely some wheat and alfalfa freeze damage

• Cold/warm cycling (and wet) in Illinois has damaged winter wheat. Frozen ground is limiting horseradish harvest (digging).

• Cold in Iowa damaged high tunnel greens that had grown more lush in December. Also leading to more heaters running and increased cost.

• Central plains winter wheat has been affected by ongoing drought. Have to wait for spring to know full effect.

• Non-Midwestern issue that could help Midwest. Recent cold likely damaged southeast US blueberries (Georgia).
Next 7 days

- Major storm ramping up through Plains and much of eastern Corn Belt with a mixture of precipitation (rain/snow/ice) with a band of very large snow accumulation.
- Likely increased soil wetness post-event.
- Mostly dry northern plains.
- Cold will follow later in the week.
Temperature Outlook

- Quick recovery from cold to warmer slightly more likely Northern Plains
Precipitation Outlook

- Slightly increased precip chances northern Plains.
- Mostly near-normal elsewhere.

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
1-Month Outlook

- February outlook
  - Outlooks continue with La Niña look
  - Better chance of wetter Northern Plains into Great Lakes/Ohio Valley
  - Colder also possible north with slight chance warmer than average east.
  - Likely more bouncing around in temperatures

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February-April Outlook

- Still La Niña pattern – relatively small changes
- Slight chance warmer south/east returns.
- Slight chance wetter Great Lakes/Ohio Valley and far NW.

- Recent dryness may ease some concerns for wetness eastern Corn Belt.
- Increasing drought concerns Plains (central/south)

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Drought in the Midwest/Plains

- Monthly outlook for February 2022
- Drought continues with little change in the plains
- Could see expansion.
- Improvements less likely as wettest area outside drought regions.
Summary

• Despite off-season, still impacts to various crops around the region.

• La Niña impacting late-winter/spring outlooks.
  – Could lead to excess wetness east – and possible delays in planting.
  – Drought areas unlikely to improve much and could see some worsening in Plains (central/south).
  – Northern Plains still unclear with no strong signals.
Next MAC-T Monthly Call

Next Call
March 2, 2022, 9-10am CT