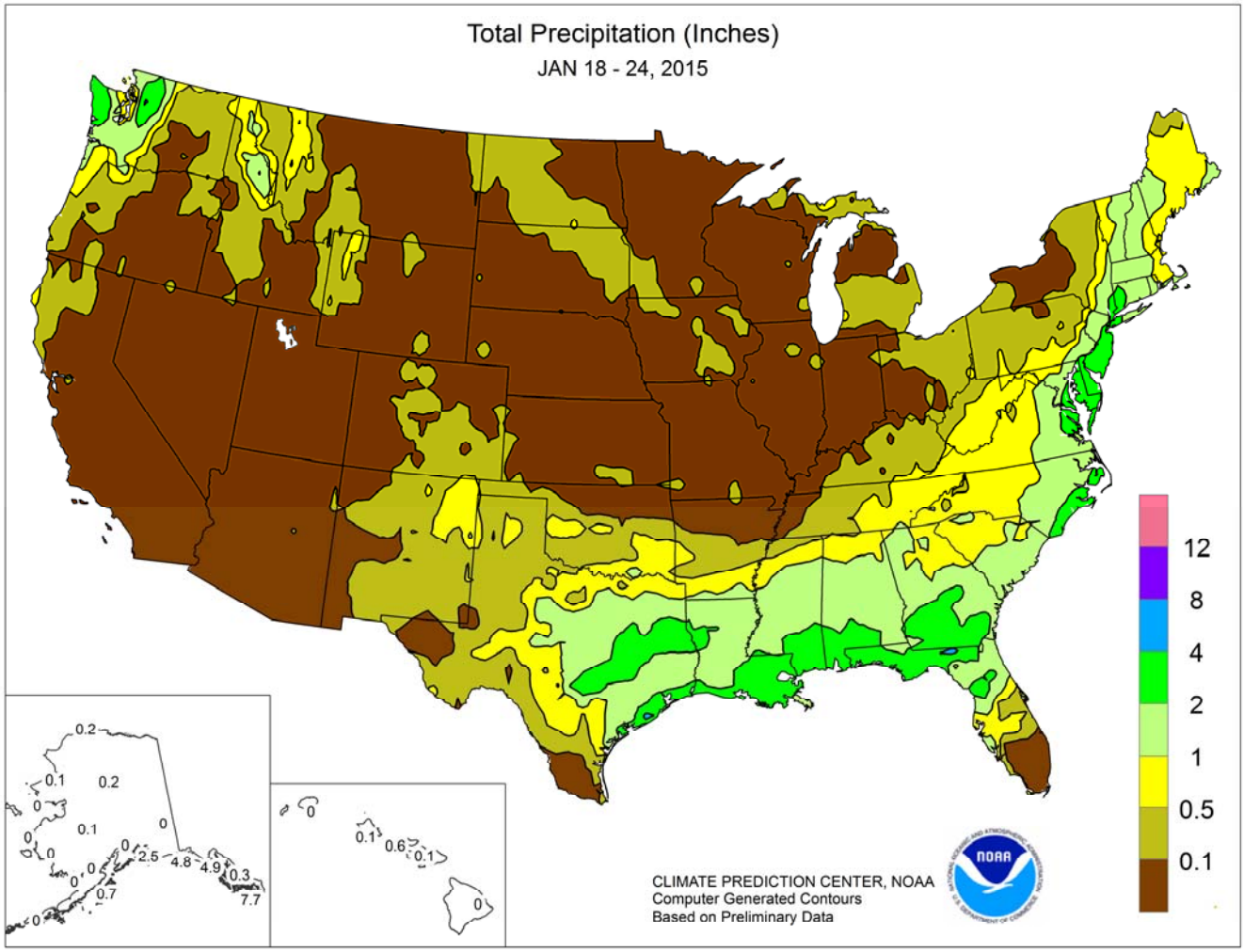
Volume 101, No. 4 http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather January 27, 2015

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board



HIGHLIGHTS

January 18 – 24, 2015

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Precipitation again bypassed **California**, extending a stretch of unfavorably dry weather to 5 weeks. The average water content of the high-elevation **Sierra Nevada** snowpack dipped slightly to 4 inches, about one-quarter of the late-January normal. Dry weather also prevailed across the remainder of the **West**, except for light showers from the **Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies** and some snow in the **southern Rockies**. The overall dry pattern also extended across large sections of the **northern and central Plains**, **mid-South**, and

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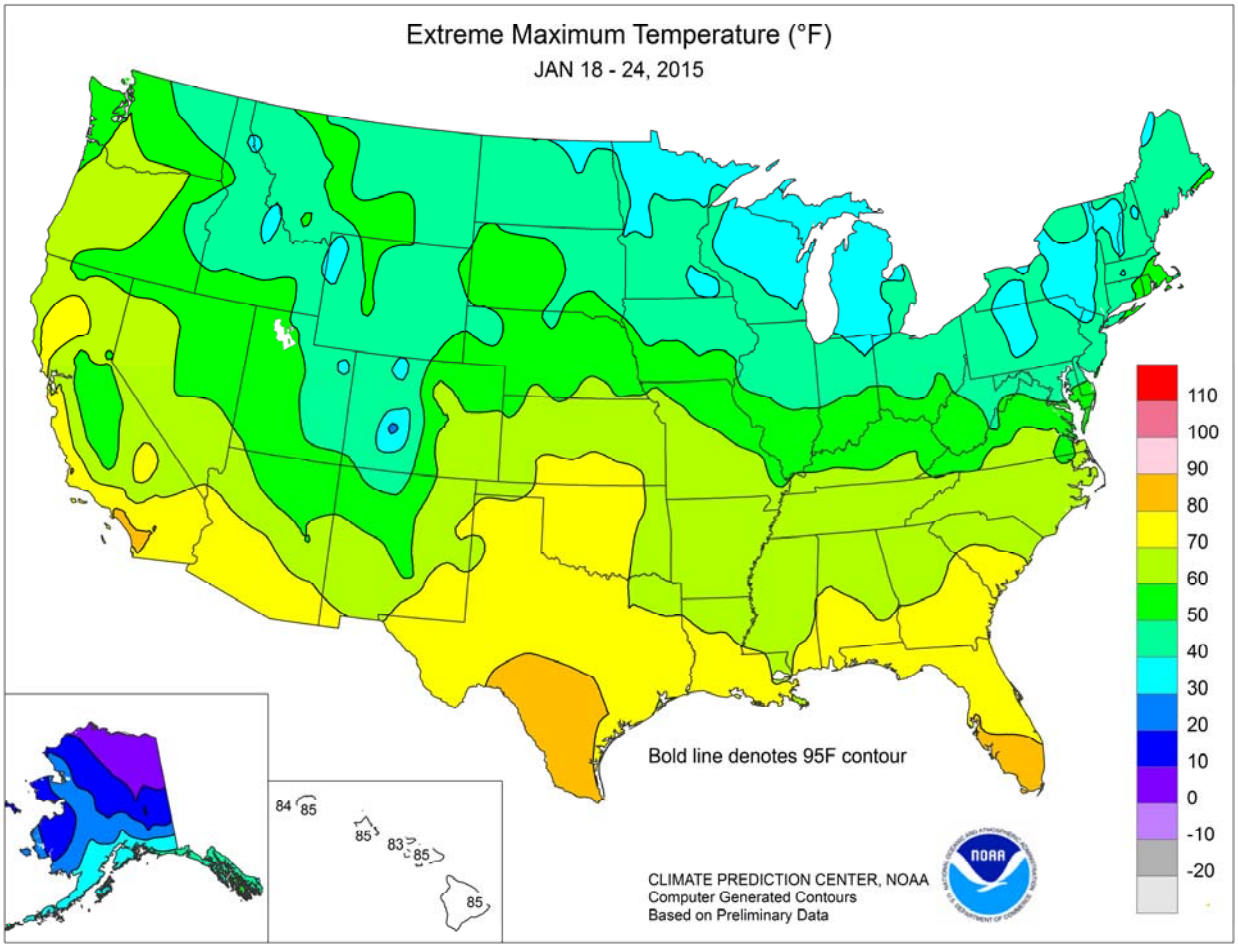
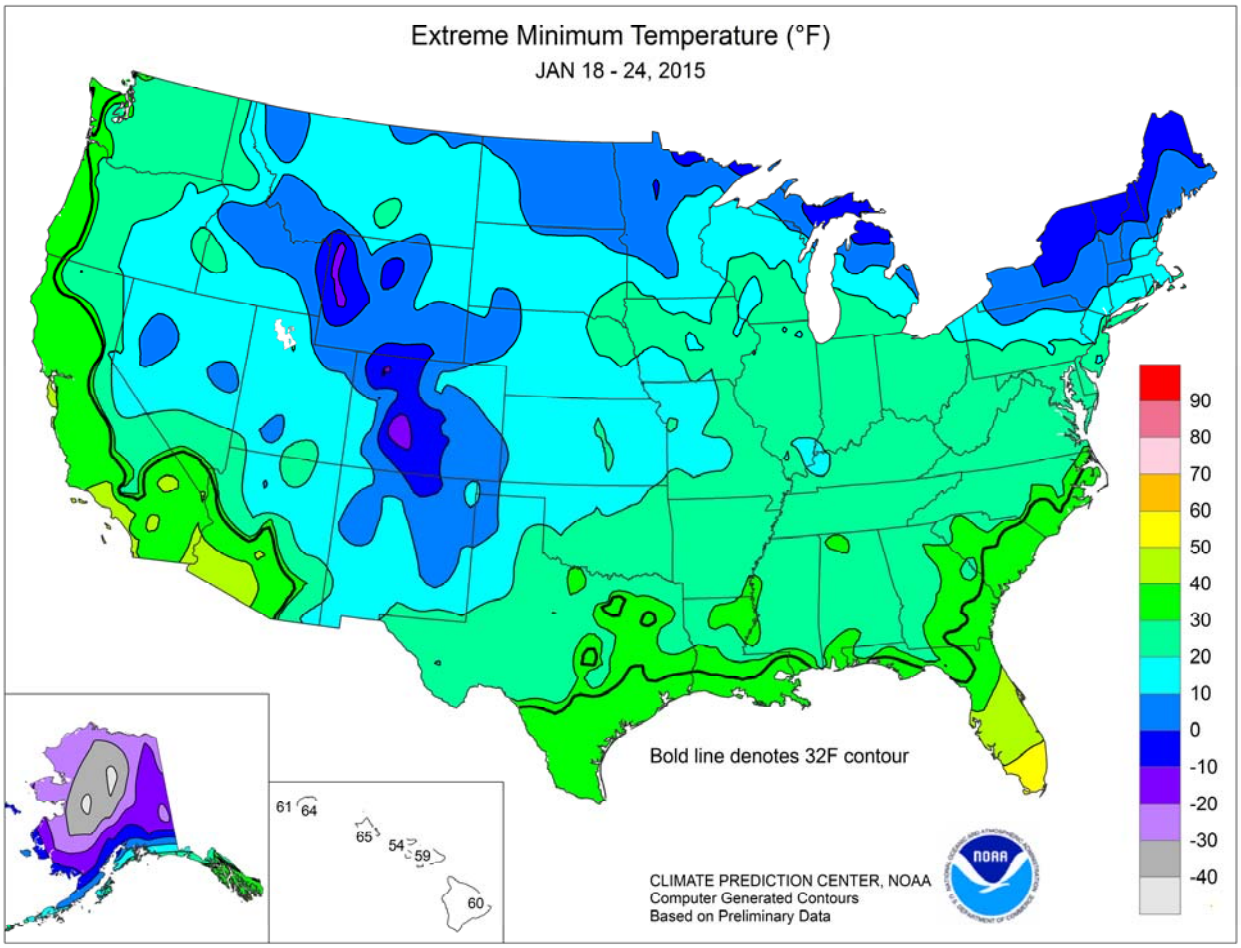
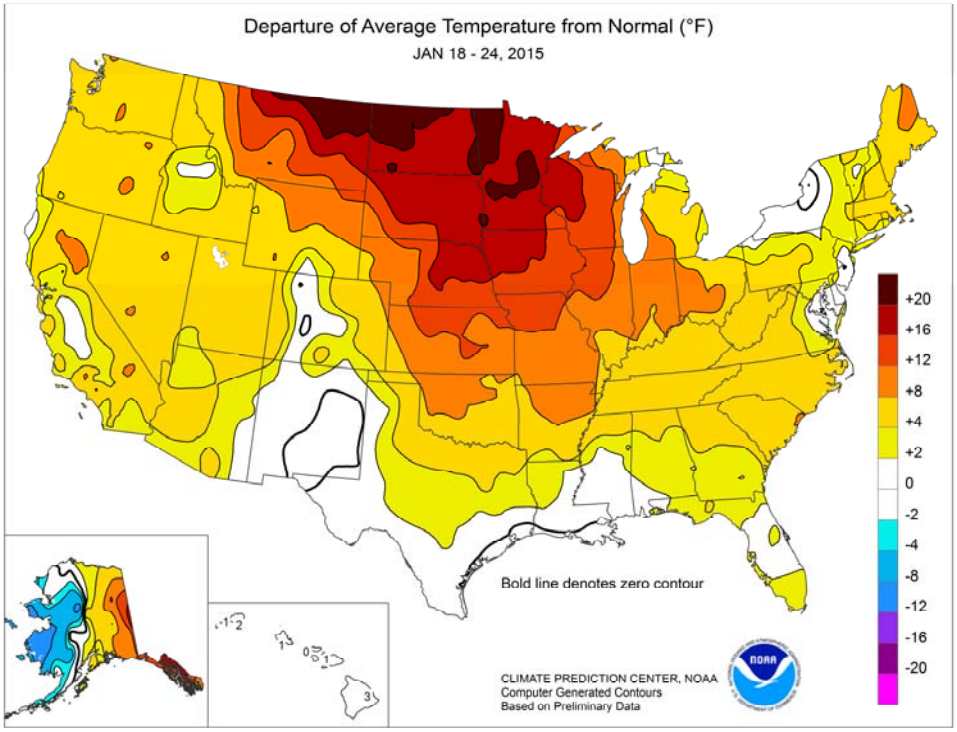

Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
JAN 18 - 24, 2015
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
Bold line denotes 95F contour
84
85
85
83
85
85
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
JAN 18 - 24, 2015
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
Bold line denotes 32F contour
61
64
65
54
59
60
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data

(Continued from front cover)

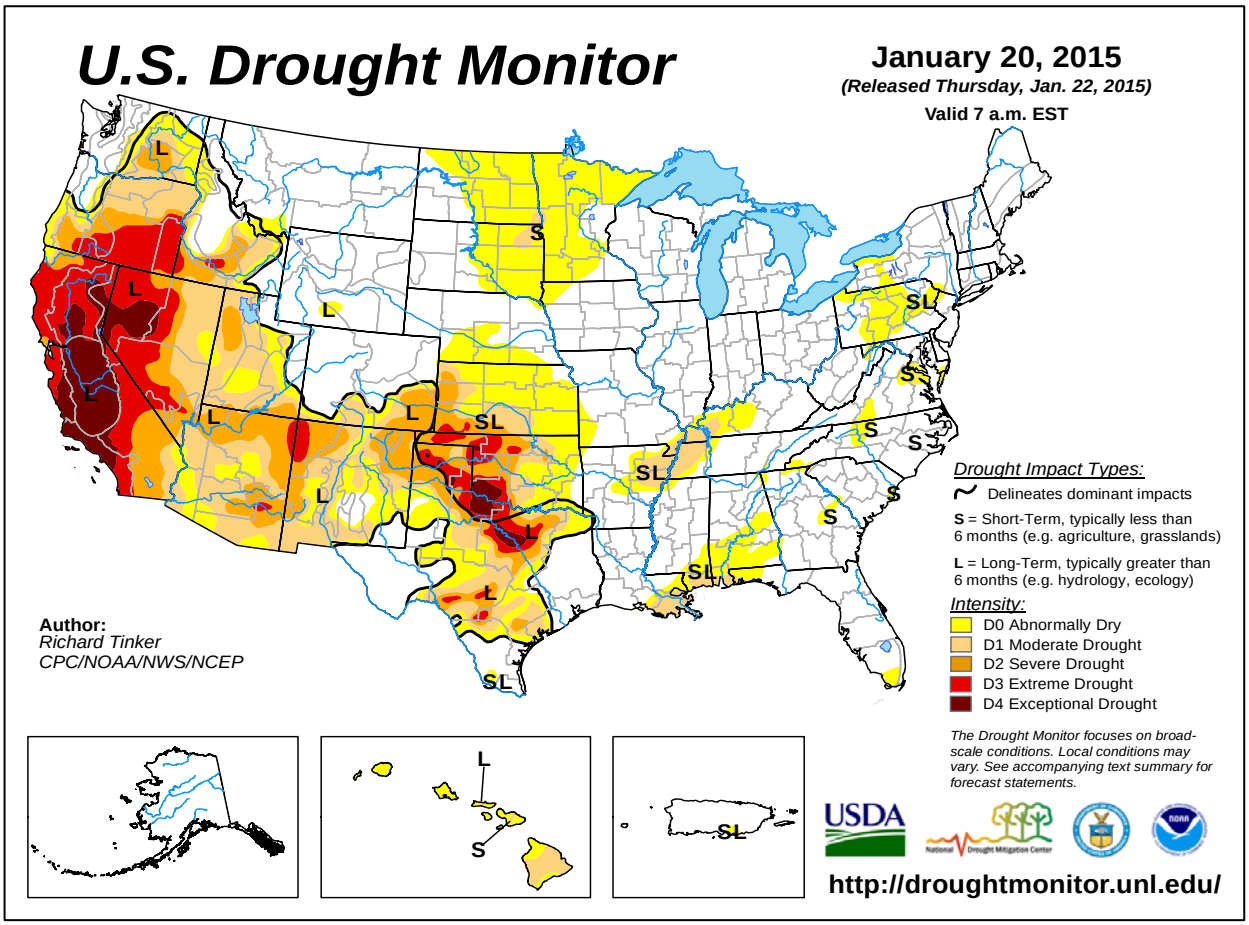


Midwest, accompanied by mid-winter warmth. In fact, **Pacific** warmth overspread much of the country for the second time this winter; the previous observance of unusually mild weather occurred during a 3-week period in December. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 10 to 20°F above normal throughout the **northern and central Plains** and the much of the **Midwest**. Across the **northern and central Plains**, mild weather melted winter wheat's protective snow cover. Near-normal temperatures lingered, however, in parts of the **East**. In addition, cool weather developed in conjunction with a storm system crossing **southern portions of the Rockies and High Plains**. The mid- to late-week storm produced widespread precipitation across the **South** and **East**. Snow blanketed the **southern High Plains**, temporarily increasing livestock stress but providing highly beneficial moisture for winter wheat. Later, heavy rain (at least 1 to 3 inches) fell across the **South** from **central and eastern Texas to the southern Atlantic Coast**, excluding **southern Florida**. At week's end, precipitation—including some sleet and snow—spread northward along the **Atlantic Seaboard**.

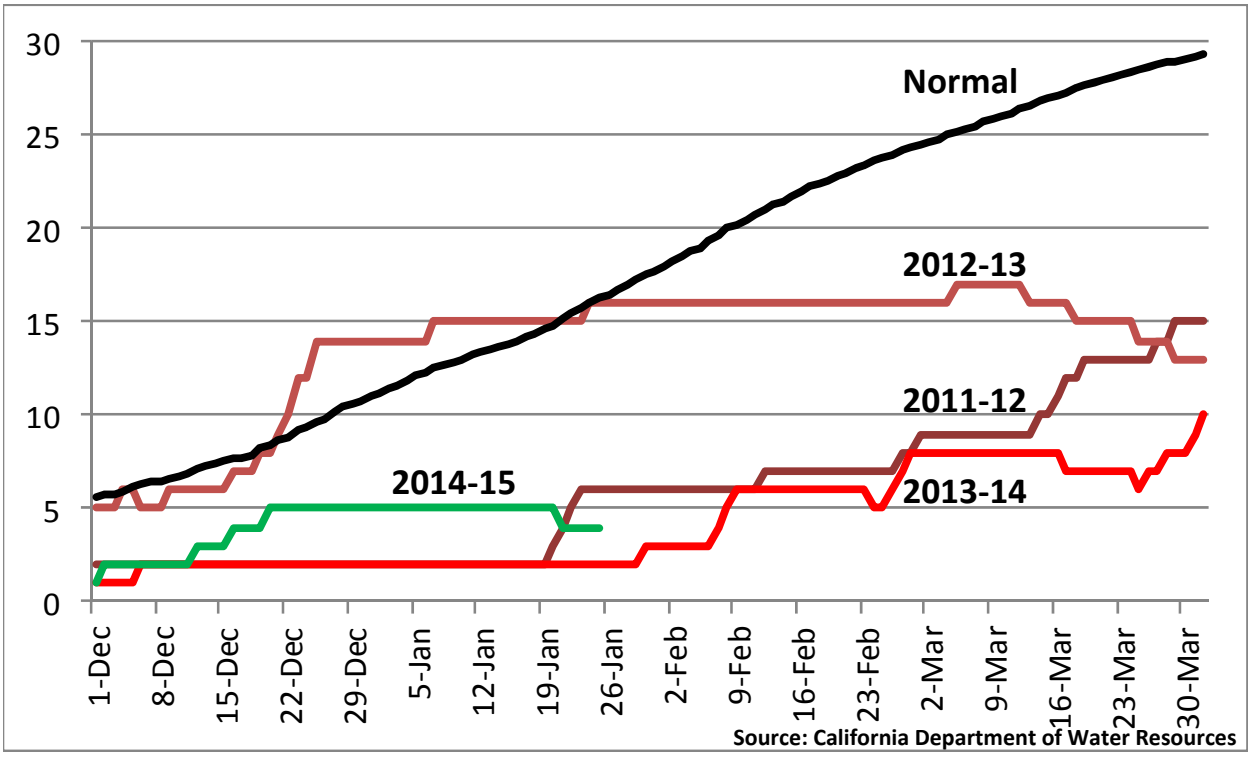
Early in the week, a coastal storm produced some heavy rain (and freezing rain) in the **Mid-Atlantic region**. Record-setting precipitation totals for January 18 reached 2.10 inches in **New York's Central Park**; 1.84 inches in **Newark, NJ**; and 1.54 inches in **Richmond, VA**. Meanwhile, a surge of moisture across the **Northwest** led to a daily-record snowfall (4.0 inches on January 18) in **Kalispell, MT**. By mid-week, snow overspread **southern sections of the Rockies and High Plains**. Record-setting snowfall amounts for January 21 reached 11.0 inches in **Amarillo, TX**, and 4.5 inches in **Colorado Springs, CO**. **Amarillo's** 2-day (January 21-22) snowfall climbed to a foot. Rain erupted across **central and eastern Texas** on January 22, resulting in daily-record totals in locations such as **College Station** (2.90 inches), **Austin** (2.44 inches), and **Beaumont-Port Arthur** (2.28 inches). A day later, record-setting totals for January 23 were broken at several **Florida** locations, including **Apalachicola** (3.14 inches) and **Tallahassee** (2.77 inches). By January 24, snow in the **Mid-Atlantic States** resulted in daily-record totals in **Bridgeport, CT** (5.5 inches), and **Newark, NJ** (5.1 inches).

Early-week warmth stretched from the **Pacific Coast to the central and southern Plains**. On January 18, **Sandberg, CA**, tied a monthly record high (71°F) most recently attained on January 6, 1969. Elsewhere in the **West**, daily-record highs for January 18 included 66°F in **Reno, NV**, and 54°F in **Pocatello, ID**. On the **Plains**, daily-record highs for the 18th soared to 77°F in **Childress, TX**; 75°F in **Gage, OK**; and 65°F in **Wichita, KS**. The **central and southern Plains'** warmth lingered through January 19, when daily-record highs in **Kansas** surged to 74°F in **Medicine Lodge** and 73°F in **Wichita**. By January 20, warmth was confined to the **Deep South**, where **Del Rio, TX**, collected a daily-record high of 86°F. Late in the week, record-setting warmth returned to the **West**. In fact, monthly record highs were established on January 24 in **Heppner, OR** (68°F), and **Goldendale, WA** (64°F). Meanwhile, daily-record highs for the 24th rose to 80°F in **Redding, CA**; 68°F in **Eugene, OR**; and 58°F in **Olympia, WA**. For **Eugene**, it was the warmest January day since January 27, 1931, when the high was 69°F. In **southern California**, locally high winds accompanied temperatures that on January 24 peaked at daily-record levels in **Fullerton** (85°F) and **Santa Maria** (82°F). On the same day, **southern California** wind gusts were clocked to 82 mph in **Malibu Hills**, 77 mph in **Fremont Canyon**, and 65 mph in **Ontario**.

Colder air overspread the **western half of Alaska**, but mild weather accompanied periods of heavy precipitation in the **southeastern part of the state**. Precipitation was especially heavy on January 20-21, when totals reached 10.24 inches in **Ketchikan**, 6.90 inches in **Petersburg**, and 3.21 inches in **Juneau**. Respective weekly amounts in those three communities were 14.34, 9.85, and 5.06 inches. On January 21, **Hyder** received daily-record precipitation (2.42 inches) and snowfall (10.0 inches) totals. **Port Alexander**, which netted a daily-record rainfall (3.56 inches) on January 21, posted consecutive daily-record highs (48 and 49°F, respectively) on January 20-21. Similarly, **Juneau** notched consecutive daily-record highs (47 and 48°F, respectively) on January 21-22. On January 24, highs climbed to daily-record levels in **Ketchikan** (52°F) and **Annette Island** (51°F). Farther south, unusually dry conditions persisted for much of the week in **Hawaii**, accompanied by warm weather. Daily-record highs were set in locations such as **Honolulu, Oahu** (85°F on January 18), and **Lihue, Kauai** (85°F on January 23). Despite late-week showers in windward sections of the **Big Island**, **Hilo's** January 1-24 rainfall totaled just 0.78 inch (11 percent of normal). Elsewhere on the Big Island, 24-hour rainfall totals on January 24-25 included 7.82 inches at **Honokaa** and 1.94 inches at **Mountain View**.



Daily Sierra Nevada Snowpack (Inches) vs. Normal



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 24, 2015

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	58	34	68	30	46	4	1.23	-0.03	0.68	11.50	138	4.35	112	88	39	0	2	3	2
	HUNTSVILLE	56	35	67	33	46	7	0.50	-0.74	0.43	9.70	102	3.97	100	77	51	0	0	3	0
	MOBILE	64	38	71	30	51	1	2.18	0.83	1.21	9.16	106	3.89	97	98	48	0	1	2	2
	MONTGOMERY	64	37	71	26	50	4	1.43	0.28	1.02	7.67	91	2.78	81	88	37	0	3	2	1
AK	ANCHORAGE	24	15	31	6	20	4	0.29	0.16	0.14	0.99	66	0.31	67	79	72	0	7	4	0
	BARROW	-5	-18	3	-25	-12	2	0.22	0.22	0.10	0.42	323	0.22	2200	88	74	0	7	3	0
	FAIRBANKS	3	-10	11	-25	-3	7	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.93	82	0.00	0	75	70	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	45	40	48	33	42	17	4.95	3.91	2.32	14.03	158	10.74	310	93	87	0	0	7	4
	KODIAK	37	30	39	23	33	3	0.70	-1.14	0.29	22.84	169	9.05	154	87	77	0	4	5	0
	NOME	3	-12	15	-25	-5	-11	0.00	-0.19	0.00	1.25	77	0.71	115	87	81	0	7	0	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	48	21	61	11	35	5	0.04	-0.45	0.04	4.49	136	1.05	72	74	25	0	7	1	0
	PHOENIX	72	49	77	43	60	6	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.05	70	0.14	24	49	30	0	0	0	0
	PRESCOTT	58	26	68	20	42	5	0.04	-0.31	0.04	2.63	113	0.70	67	71	22	0	7	1	0
	TUCSON	70	44	77	41	57	5	0.00	-0.20	0.00	2.49	143	0.32	45	50	28	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	59	32	67	27	45	7	0.41	-0.11	0.41	4.47	88	2.16	129	82	38	0	5	1	0
	LITTLE ROCK	61	35	68	29	48	8	0.15	-0.65	0.15	6.13	84	2.97	116	77	26	0	2	1	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	52	42	57	36	47	-1	0.00	-0.27	0.00	2.66	171	0.64	80	92	83	0	0	0	0
	FRESNO	50	43	54	38	47	1	0.00	-0.50	0.00	2.29	82	0.00	0	95	87	0	0	0	0
	LOS ANGELES	68	51	76	48	60	3	0.00	-0.70	0.00	5.12	136	1.08	55	76	49	0	0	0	0
	REDDING	68	42	80	36	55	9	0.11	-1.40	0.11	10.65	116	0.26	6	87	57	0	0	1	0
	SACRAMENTO	56	43	60	38	50	4	0.00	-0.91	0.00	8.60	171	0.00	0	97	69	0	0	0	0
	SAN DIEGO	70	52	79	49	61	3	0.00	-0.52	0.00	4.87	170	0.37	24	67	44	0	0	0	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	62	49	67	45	55	5	0.00	-1.04	0.00	10.66	181	0.00	0	95	81	0	0	0	0
	STOCKTON	54	42	57	36	48	2	0.02	-0.61	0.01	6.13	168	0.04	2	98	92	0	0	2	0
CO	ALAMOSA	39	1	49	-9	20	5	0.02	-0.02	0.01	0.31	62	0.10	59	79	48	0	7	2	0
	CO SPRINGS	44	20	58	2	32	4	0.23	0.19	0.23	0.96	155	0.80	400	77	40	0	6	1	0
	DENVER INTL	47	24	63	6	35	7	0.14	0.11	0.12	0.88	176	0.30	158	77	36	0	5	2	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	42	21	47	17	32	6	0.00	-0.12	0.00	1.49	157	0.44	102	82	51	0	7	0	0
	PUEBLO	49	16	69	-1	33	4	0.17	0.11	0.17	0.43	68	0.19	79	77	51	0	6	1	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	39	26	45	20	33	3	2.03	1.19	1.28	9.06	148	3.41	128	73	57	0	6	2	2
	HARTFORD	38	23	41	15	30	4	1.80	0.93	1.32	7.44	118	2.89	106	72	55	0	7	2	1
DC	WASHINGTON	46	34	50	31	40	6	1.83	1.12	0.87	6.99	130	3.49	151	81	50	0	2	4	2
DE	WILMINGTON	41	28	46	25	35	4	2.64	1.88	1.67	7.42	126	4.41	178	94	58	0	6	5	2
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	72	48	75	43	60	2	0.54	-0.17	0.31	5.28	107	2.45	111	96	53	0	0	2	0
	JACKSONVILLE	70	42	75	33	56	3	1.46	0.61	1.37	6.80	131	3.06	120	99	49	0	0	2	1
	KEY WEST	76	68	79	66	72	2	0.78	0.29	0.51	3.28	88	1.03	64	92	70	0	0	4	1
	MIAMI	78	64	82	57	71	3	0.00	-0.41	0.00	2.24	65	0.92	74	85	56	0	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	74	52	80	45	63	2	0.37	-0.18	0.35	5.05	126	3.46	205	94	52	0	0	2	0
	PENSACOLA	66	44	72	36	55	3	2.99	1.75	2.64	9.97	129	6.47	173	87	48	0	0	2	1
	TALLAHASSEE	71	41	76	29	56	4	2.80	1.57	2.80	13.57	172	4.79	126	81	47	0	1	1	1
	TAMPA	74	54	81	47	64	3	1.22	0.72	0.98	3.08	81	1.51	99	90	53	0	0	2	1
	WEST PALM BEACH	77	60	80	51	69	3	0.02	-0.88	0.02	2.76	48	1.00	39	85	61	0	0	1	0
GA	ATHENS	59	36	68	31	48	6	0.85	-0.22	0.80	7.67	110	2.98	92	80	40	0	2	3	1
	ATLANTA	58	40	67	36	49	7	1.10	-0.08	0.98	9.83	135	4.32	125	76	42	0	0	2	1
	AUGUSTA	63	36	71	27	49	4	1.16	0.12	0.99	6.32	101	2.11	67	89	41	0	1	2	1
	COLUMBUS	62	38	68	29	50	3	1.66	0.59	1.50	7.78	100	3.16	94	93	35	0	1	3	1
	MACON	61	35	69	27	48	3	1.61	0.46	1.61	8.36	113	2.47	71	95	39	0	2	1	1
	SAVANNAH	68	41	72	35	54	5	1.62	0.71	0.82	8.14	145	4.12	148	85	45	0	0	2	2
HI	HILO	84	64	85	60	74	3	0.02	-2.26	0.02	6.14	35	0.04	1	79	66	0	0	1	0
	HONOLULU	81	67	85	65	74	1	0.12	-0.47	0.12	1.94	41	0.87	45	90	76	0	0	1	0
	KAHULUI	83	64	85	59	73	1	0.08	-0.77	0.08	4.99	87	0.76	28	87	75	0	0	1	0
	LIHUE	81	67	85	64	74	2	0.00	-1.02	0.00	2.59	32	1.19	36	83	78	0	0	0	0
ID	BOISE	40	28	50	23	34	4	0.12	-0.18	0.12	4.17	178	0.83	86	94	82	0	6	1	0
	LEWISTON	47	34	54	27	41	7	0.04	-0.21	0.02	2.66	146	0.82	106	84	74	0	3	2	0
	POCATELLO	37	23	54	12	30	5	0.02	-0.23	0.02	1.14	60	0.37	47	96	84	0	6	1	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	36	28	43	25	32	10	0.01	-0.35	0.01	1.91	52	1.12	93	86	73	0	7	1	0
	MOLINE	40	27	48	19	33	12	0.04	-0.29	0.03	1.67	50	0.95	84	90	77	0	7	2	0
	PEORIA	42	30	49	25	36	14	0.14	-0.16	0.14	2.67	78	1.44	138	86	65	0	6	1	0
	ROCKFORD	36	26	42	19	31	12	0.06	-0.24	0.05	1.79	59	0.86	88	86	76	0	7	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	44	28	50	23	36	11	0.00	-0.33	0.00	2.82	76	0.87	74	86	62	0	7	0	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	50	27	57	24	39	8	0.00	-0.64	0.00	5.99	108	2.56	127	85	54	0	7	0	0
	FORT WAYNE	36	28	40	23	32	9	0.13	-0.31	0.09	3.70	88	1.98	137	91	77	0	7	2	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	41	26	50	20	34	8	0.00	-0.55	0.00	4.20	88	1.65	94	95	65	0	7	0	0
	SOUTH BEND	37	29	42	24	33	10	0.02	-0.46	0.01	2.94	63	1.47	91	86	74	0	6	2	0
IA	BURLINGTON	41	28	48	24	35	12	0.04	-0.24	0.04	1.42	47	0.76	82	91	69	0	6	1	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	40	25	49	21	32	14	0.01	-0.21	0.01	0.69	32	0.04	6	98	72	0	7	1	0
	DES MOINES	45	27	53	21	36	16	0.01	-0.21	0.01	1.49	73	0.45	64	82	60	0	7	1	0
	DUBUQUE	36	25	43	21	30	13	0.12	-0.16	0.11	1.42	55	0.49	56	92	82	0	7	2	0
	SIOUX CITY	46	26	54	22	36	17	0.04	-0.08	0.03	1.68	154	0.28	65	86	64	0	7	2	0
	WATERLOO	39	25	47	20	32	16	0.03	-0.14	0.02	2.19	133	0.55	102	94	80	0	7	2	0
KS	CONCORDIA	53	27	63	20	40	14	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.85	63	0.11	22	77	46	0	6	0	0
	DODGE CITY	55	26	72	15	41	11	0.06	-0.05	0.06	1.29	106	0.29	64	76	35	0	7	1	0
	GOODLAND	49	25	59	17	37	9	0.14	0.06	0.14	1.67	232	0.21	66	79	49	0	6	1	0
	TOPEKA	54	24	67	17	39	12	0.00	-0.19	0.00	2.35	113	0.08	12	84	44	0	7	0	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals ***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 24, 2015

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	57	27	73	20	42	12	0.12	-0.03	0.12	1.73	87	0.44	70	75	42	0	7	1	0
KY	JACKSON	48	34	60	27	41	7	0.60	-0.17	0.41	4.39	65	1.90	76	80	50	0	3	3	0
	LEXINGTON	46	27	57	22	37	5	0.55	-0.17	0.44	4.82	75	1.52	63	85	62	0	7	3	0
	LOUISVILLE	51	31	60	26	41	8	0.18	-0.54	0.12	4.31	72	0.74	32	85	45	0	5	2	0
	PADUCAH	52	27	61	22	40	7	0.04	-0.72	0.04	4.39	65	1.50	64	90	43	0	6	1	0
LA	BATON ROUGE	64	39	73	31	51	1	2.23	0.80	2.19	12.04	126	6.37	148	93	39	0	1	2	1
	LAKE CHARLES	62	39	71	34	51	0	1.67	0.39	1.66	8.93	104	6.90	174	96	53	0	0	2	1
	NEW ORLEANS	63	43	69	36	53	1	3.19	1.82	2.17	9.66	107	5.70	145	88	52	0	0	2	2
	SHREVEPORT	61	37	70	28	49	3	1.96	0.93	1.88	11.21	145	7.46	234	85	42	0	1	3	1
ME	CARIBOU	30	6	44	-4	18	9	0.39	-0.26	0.26	7.54	141	1.66	77	85	57	0	7	3	0
	PORTLAND	39	21	49	12	30	9	0.63	-0.28	0.30	8.09	113	1.82	62	79	48	0	6	3	0
MD	BALTIMORE	42	27	46	24	35	3	1.97	1.20	0.75	7.27	124	3.69	148	91	63	0	6	4	2
MA	BOSTON	40	26	51	20	33	4	0.85	-0.03	0.71	8.95	138	2.39	87	78	54	0	7	2	1
	WORCESTER	35	20	47	14	28	5	1.91	0.99	1.30	8.19	122	3.29	112	84	56	0	7	2	2
MI	ALPENA	31	9	38	-3	20	3	0.05	-0.33	0.04	2.25	73	0.56	44	88	65	0	7	2	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	33	27	38	24	30	8	0.15	-0.29	0.09	2.86	70	1.29	91	90	72	0	7	3	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	30	17	36	8	24	7	0.08	-0.27	0.05	2.34	81	0.91	81	86	74	0	7	2	0
	LANSING	33	24	39	20	29	8	0.26	-0.09	0.15	2.72	83	1.16	106	89	75	0	7	3	0
	MUSKEGON	35	29	39	23	32	9	0.10	-0.39	0.06	2.86	68	1.14	72	83	73	0	5	3	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	32	19	38	10	26	5	0.03	-0.65	0.02	2.19	46	0.37	18	89	66	0	7	2	0
MN	DULUTH	31	20	40	16	25	17	0.01	-0.26	0.01	1.57	93	0.31	42	83	75	0	7	1	0
	INT'L FALLS	31	7	38	-5	19	17	0.03	-0.16	0.03	1.90	152	1.05	191	88	69	0	6	1	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	36	25	42	18	30	17	0.07	-0.15	0.05	1.19	70	0.33	47	88	71	0	7	3	0
	ROCHESTER	32	22	36	16	27	15	0.17	-0.05	0.12	1.56	94	0.54	84	93	84	0	7	3	0
	ST. CLOUD	36	23	44	12	29	21	0.02	-0.15	0.01	0.98	82	0.23	45	93	69	0	7	2	0
MS	JACKSON	61	35	70	28	48	3	1.66	0.37	1.14	8.65	92	4.72	117	91	40	0	3	2	2
	MERIDIAN	60	34	69	26	47	1	1.65	0.30	1.12	15.44	163	6.76	163	95	45	0	3	2	2
	TUPELO	57	34	67	29	46	6	0.66	-0.45	0.39	9.21	93	4.13	110	76	54	0	2	2	0
MO	COLUMBIA	50	30	60	22	40	12	0.00	-0.37	0.00	2.72	75	0.54	47	78	45	0	5	0	0
	KANSAS CITY	53	27	64	18	40	13	0.06	-0.19	0.06	2.01	82	0.18	22	80	38	0	6	1	0
	SAINT LOUIS	49	30	58	27	40	10	0.00	-0.47	0.00	3.74	86	1.02	68	73	53	0	6	0	0
	SPRINGFIELD	53	28	66	20	41	10	0.04	-0.42	0.04	2.53	55	0.76	53	76	49	0	5	1	0
MT	BILLINGS	45	30	56	25	38	14	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.69	136	1.02	179	65	46	0	5	0	0
	BUTTE	37	17	46	5	27	9	0.07	-0.04	0.06	0.74	83	0.18	50	87	52	0	7	2	0
	CUT BANK	42	28	51	14	35	16	0.06	-0.02	0.06	0.42	70	0.10	37	78	52	0	5	1	0
	GLASGOW	42	25	47	17	34	24	0.13	0.07	0.11	0.69	113	0.58	242	85	67	0	7	3	0
	GREAT FALLS	43	30	53	18	36	14	0.00	-0.14	0.00	2.05	175	0.95	190	79	50	0	5	0	0
	HAVRE	41	27	49	17	34	20	0.10	0.02	0.07	1.51	180	1.17	355	82	67	0	7	3	0
	MISSOULA	37	23	43	11	30	6	0.20	-0.02	0.16	2.48	130	1.22	161	93	78	0	7	3	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	50	24	59	20	37	15	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.79	77	0.03	8	82	55	0	7	0	0
	LINCOLN	52	23	60	18	37	15	0.03	-0.11	0.03	1.29	95	0.07	14	80	51	0	7	1	0
	NORFOLK	49	28	54	23	38	18	0.02	-0.09	0.02	1.30	129	0.10	28	85	57	0	7	1	0
	NORTH PLATTE	50	16	58	10	33	10	0.01	-0.07	0.01	1.10	164	0.06	22	91	36	0	7	1	0
	OMAHA	49	26	57	20	37	15	0.02	-0.15	0.02	1.74	120	0.06	11	84	53	0	7	1	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	43	20	50	7	32	7	0.04	-0.07	0.04	1.72	187	0.25	69	78	62	0	7	1	0
	VALENTINE	45	21	50	13	33	12	0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.98	188	0.08	42	85	53	0	7	1	0
NV	ELY	47	16	58	6	31	6	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.93	92	0.20	39	86	61	0	7	0	0
	LAS VEGAS	63	44	68	39	54	7	0.01	-0.12	0.01	0.77	100	0.47	127	46	30	0	0	1	0
	RENO	55	28	66	22	41	7	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.93	59	0.00	0	78	56	0	5	0	0
	WINNEMUCCA	51	22	61	10	36	6	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.32	94	0.16	27	78	52	0	6	0	0
NH	CONCORD	36	18	47	12	27	7	1.04	0.38	0.78	7.59	150	2.43	116	81	52	0	7	2	1
NJ	NEWARK	40	28	43	22	34	3	2.47	1.56	1.84	8.86	138	3.95	139	76	55	0	6	2	2
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	49	26	58	18	38	2	0.21	0.12	0.21	1.56	190	0.42	127	78	38	0	6	1	0
NY	ALBANY	33	19	40	8	26	4	0.65	0.10	0.59	7.11	161	1.74	100	80	54	0	7	2	1
	BINGHAMTON	30	15	38	3	23	2	0.07	-0.50	0.02	4.88	102	1.58	89	90	75	0	7	5	0
	BUFFALO	31	20	44	7	25	1	0.08	-0.61	0.04	4.00	66	1.85	82	84	66	0	7	2	0
	ROCHESTER	31	17	41	3	24	0	0.02	-0.50	0.02	3.34	76	1.03	62	80	64	0	6	1	0
	SYRACUSE	30	15	41	-2	23	1	0.04	-0.54	0.02	4.37	88	1.35	74	92	66	0	7	3	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	53	31	66	28	42	6	0.82	-0.11	0.77	5.45	88	3.05	109	79	42	0	5	2	1
	CHARLOTTE	59	34	67	25	46	4	1.06	0.15	0.89	5.36	89	2.79	99	77	31	0	2	3	1
	GREENSBORO	55	34	67	30	45	7	0.93	0.13	0.72	4.26	77	2.05	83	84	36	0	3	3	1
	HATTERAS	60	44	65	38	52	6	2.21	0.87	1.64	6.68	76	4.23	100	93	59	0	0	3	2
	RALEIGH	56	35	67	30	46	6	1.32	0.38	0.71	8.06	138	3.10	110	83	51	0	2	3	2
	WILMINGTON	65	40	67	34	53	7	3.34	2.30	1.29	9.86	141	4.88	153	92	46	0	0	3	3
ND	BISMARCK	40	18	46	1	29	19	0.48	0.40	0.24	0.78	110	0.67	248	87	71	0	7	4	0
	DICKINSON	40	26	47	17	33	19	0.06	-0.01	0.05	0.18	33	0.11	55	84	60	0	5	2	0
	FARGO	36	20	46	9	28	22	0.03	-0.14	0.02	0.57	52	0.32	60	89	74	0	7	2	0
	GRAND FORKS	33	15	44	2	24	19	0.03	-0.11	0.02	0.64	65	0.42	95	91	70	0	7	2	0
	JAMESTOWN	35	18	42	5	27	19	0.18	0.04	0.14	0.29	34	0.26	63	93	72	0	7	2	0
	WILLISTON	38	22	42	11	30	22	0.14	0.03	0.08	0.37	40	0.34	94	84	73	0	7	2	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	36	28	44	22	32	7	0.46	-0.09	0.26	5.05	107	2.74	156	85	78	0	6	5	0
	CINCINNATI	46	31	55	24	39	10	0.08	-0.55	0.08	5.30	99	1.70	82	82	60	0	3	1	0
	CLEVELAND	34	27	44	23	30	5	0.31	-0.24	0.21	4.59	94	2.64	151	89	74	0	6	4	0
	COLUMBUS	41	30	54	25	36	8	0.11	-0.44	0.08	4.98	106	2.28	130	87	70	0	5	3	0
	DAYTON	42	29	50	26	36	10	0.03	-0.53	0.02	5.19	106	2.40	131	86	65	0	6	2	0
	MANSFIELD	35	28	43	22	32	8	0.34	-0.24	0.23	4.43	87	2.57	138	95	73	0	6	3	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals ***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 24, 2015

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	33	27	41	24	30	6	0.13	-0.28	0.08	2.89	72	1.80	133	86	78	0	6	3	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	34	23	46	17	29	4	0.35	-0.16	0.19	4.71	102	2.39	145	88	76	0	7	5	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	60	34	73	28	47	11	0.81	0.56	0.48	1.94	69	1.24	132	73	30	0	3	2	0
	TULSA	60	29	72	21	44	8	0.00	-0.33	0.00	2.38	67	0.41	36	80	41	0	6	0	0
OR	ASTORIA	55	42	58	31	48	6	1.07	-1.11	0.47	19.77	115	9.20	135	91	84	0	1	5	0
	BURNS	44	23	56	16	33	8	0.01	-0.24	0.01	2.69	127	0.40	49	89	76	0	7	1	0
	EUGENE	54	38	68	35	46	6	0.30	-1.44	0.28	9.45	69	2.38	44	94	87	0	0	3	0
	MEDFORD	51	34	60	31	43	4	0.22	-0.33	0.22	3.56	77	1.25	72	98	75	0	3	1	0
	PENDLETON	46	31	64	27	39	5	0.04	-0.29	0.02	3.51	142	0.71	72	91	81	0	4	2	0
	PORTLAND	52	40	60	31	46	6	0.46	-0.67	0.35	9.29	100	3.24	91	95	82	0	1	5	0
	SALEM	54	40	64	29	47	7	0.57	-0.74	0.49	10.08	96	3.21	79	92	82	0	1	3	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	38	24	42	19	31	4	1.18	0.38	0.64	6.18	105	2.53	102	83	59	0	7	4	1
	ERIE	33	22	46	14	27	0	0.25	-0.28	0.12	4.99	90	2.54	140	84	71	0	7	3	0
	MIDDLETOWN	37	24	41	18	31	3	0.78	0.15	0.31	5.10	98	1.84	95	95	62	0	7	3	0
	PHILADELPHIA	41	28	46	24	35	3	2.64	1.85	1.84	7.72	133	4.45	178	88	58	0	6	5	1
	PITTSBURGH	36	29	46	25	33	6	0.35	-0.26	0.16	3.95	83	1.32	69	92	72	0	6	5	0
	WILKES-BARRE	35	21	41	11	28	2	0.64	0.09	0.47	4.33	102	1.55	92	85	61	0	7	5	0
	WILLIAMSPORT	36	24	42	18	30	5	0.43	-0.22	0.21	3.87	79	1.27	65	84	67	0	7	4	0
RI	PROVIDENCE	40	25	52	19	33	4	1.03	0.04	0.75	8.70	120	2.45	79	78	55	0	7	3	1
SC	BEAUFORT	67	42	72	37	54	6	1.64	0.70	0.94	6.24	104	2.57	89	91	44	0	0	2	2
	CHARLESTON	68	42	72	35	55	7	1.92	0.99	1.21	6.93	113	3.53	122	90	43	0	0	3	1
	COLUMBIA	64	39	70	33	51	7	0.73	-0.34	0.53	6.53	98	2.63	80	83	43	0	0	2	1
	GREENVILLE	60	35	69	31	48	7	1.10	0.11	0.93	7.49	107	3.86	124	79	29	0	1	3	1
SD	ABERDEEN	40	20	48	11	30	19	0.41	0.32	0.16	0.71	99	0.46	135	88	73	0	7	4	0
	HURON	41	22	49	12	32	18	0.09	-0.02	0.04	1.05	146	0.35	106	93	71	0	7	4	0
	RAPID CITY	47	22	57	12	35	13	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.55	86	0.13	54	74	45	0	7	0	0
	SIOUX FALLS	41	26	47	23	33	19	0.11	0.00	0.08	1.86	216	0.53	156	90	71	0	7	3	0
TN	BRISTOL	51	27	61	23	39	5	0.97	0.17	0.78	5.11	88	2.08	85	93	43	0	7	3	1
	CHATTANOOGA	57	34	67	29	45	6	0.89	-0.35	0.83	7.89	92	3.49	92	83	45	0	2	2	1
	KNOXVILLE	52	36	63	32	44	7	0.57	-0.46	0.34	6.93	89	2.70	83	79	42	0	1	3	0
	MEMPHIS	57	37	65	29	47	7	0.09	-0.83	0.09	3.71	43	1.11	38	71	38	0	1	1	0
	NASHVILLE	55	34	67	28	44	7	0.46	-0.42	0.44	5.33	72	2.12	75	76	40	0	2	2	0
TX	ABILENE	58	35	70	31	47	4	0.99	0.80	0.57	1.99	102	1.47	213	75	50	0	2	2	1
	AMARILLO	49	26	71	11	37	1	0.88	0.76	0.71	1.39	131	1.26	280	80	50	0	7	2	1
	AUSTIN	63	35	80	26	49	-1	3.26	2.87	2.44	7.16	188	5.05	371	84	60	0	3	3	1
	BEAUMONT	65	41	76	33	53	1	2.28	0.99	2.28	9.13	97	5.99	145	97	49	0	0	1	1
	BROWNSVILLE	72	50	81	39	61	2	0.17	-0.14	0.17	5.00	253	3.57	410	94	68	0	0	1	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	69	45	79	35	57	1	1.09	0.76	0.96	3.03	107	1.99	183	92	70	0	0	3	1
	DEL RIO	66	39	86	30	52	1	0.19	0.08	0.14	0.68	64	0.43	134	83	54	0	1	3	0
	EL PASO	58	31	70	22	45	0	0.25	0.17	0.24	0.38	35	0.26	84	72	35	0	4	2	0
	FORT WORTH	61	37	70	33	49	5	1.37	1.00	1.06	4.21	107	3.08	225	81	40	0	0	2	1
	GALVESTON	60	46	66	41	53	-3	3.12	2.18	3.02	9.31	145	5.44	188	98	65	0	0	3	1
	HOUSTON	65	42	76	34	54	2	0.90	0.07	0.87	8.77	139	3.17	121	92	65	0	0	2	1
	LUBBOCK	54	28	73	16	41	3	0.54	0.45	0.44	1.42	148	1.03	355	80	48	0	6	2	0
	MIDLAND	57	32	75	25	45	2	0.35	0.24	0.18	1.54	152	1.32	367	81	55	0	3	3	0
	SAN ANGELO	61	34	79	27	48	3	1.02	0.85	0.50	1.86	127	1.50	288	80	50	0	4	3	1
	SAN ANTONIO	65	41	82	33	53	3	2.18	1.82	1.88	4.64	149	3.40	293	86	50	0	0	3	1
	VICTORIA	69	44	80	37	56	3	1.08	0.54	1.01	5.21	124	3.00	173	91	71	0	0	2	1
	WACO	60	35	72	29	48	2	1.56	1.17	1.31	3.60	88	3.06	230	91	58	0	3	3	1
	WICHITA FALLS	60	34	73	32	47	7	0.69	0.47	0.45	2.39	97	1.44	182	78	48	0	2	2	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	42	27	51	21	35	6	0.05	-0.25	0.05	2.26	104	0.86	91	85	50	0	5	1	0
VT	BURLINGTON	31	12	39	0	22	4	0.62	0.12	0.58	4.91	131	1.06	69	83	56	0	7	3	1
VA	LYNCHBURG	50	28	60	25	39	5	0.71	-0.09	0.57	4.92	86	1.80	72	91	46	0	7	2	1
	NORFOLK	53	35	59	30	44	4	1.85	0.94	0.94	7.22	124	3.52	127	89	62	0	2	3	2
	RICHMOND	50	32	60	26	41	5	2.04	1.25	1.54	6.25	110	3.11	121	89	58	0	4	3	1
	ROANOKE	51	31	64	29	41	5	0.50	-0.24	0.48	3.77	74	1.23	55	77	45	0	4	2	0
	WASH/DULLES	42	26	46	21	34	2	1.22	0.53	0.86	6.22	119	2.96	136	88	63	0	7	4	1
WA	OLYMPIA	52	39	58	29	45	7	1.12	-0.59	0.42	12.68	96	6.68	127	93	87	0	3	5	0
	QUILLAYUTE	52	41	54	31	47	6	3.49	0.42	2.10	25.62	106	11.41	119	99	96	0	2	6	2
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	52	43	58	31	47	6	1.35	0.19	1.04	8.42	91	3.63	101	92	83	0	1	6	1
	SPOKANE	38	29	45	24	33	5	0.67	0.28	0.50	3.88	110	1.91	149	99	86	0	6	2	1
	YAKIMA	47	29	58	21	38	8	0.29	0.04	0.28	1.65	75	0.73	88	88	80	0	5	2	0
WV	BECKLEY	43	30	54	25	36	6	0.85	0.13	0.78	4.77	89	1.78	79	77	56	0	6	3	1
	CHARLESTON	46	32	54	27	39	6	0.52	-0.22	0.40	4.70	84	1.85	82	87	53	0	5	3	0
	ELKINS	41	25	47	20	33	5	0.72	-0.05	0.50	5.88	101	2.27	94	98	61	0	7	4	1
	HUNTINGTON	46	31	55	28	39	7	0.60	-0.11	0.40	5.28	94	1.97	87	90	56	0	5	4	0
WI	EAU CLAIRE	32	26	39	20	29	17	0.02	-0.22	0.02	0.71	41	0.03	4	87	67	0	7	1	0
	GREEN BAY	31	23	38	17	27	12	0.08	-0.20	0.06	2.11	94	0.43	52	86	69	0	7	2	0
	LA CROSSE	37	27	44	22	32	16	0.15	-0.13	0.10	1.59	79	0.49	62	90	70	0	7	3	0
	MADISON	35	27	42	21	31	14	0.05	-0.23	0.03	1.48	59	0.45	54	86	74	0	7	3	0
	MILWAUKEE	36	30	42	26	33	13	0.04	-0.37	0.02	1.75	50	0.72	58	79	68	0	6	2	0
WY	CASPER	38	22	46	12	30	8	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.60	163	0.35	97	77	54	0	7	0	0
	CHEYENNE	42	23	53	5	32	6	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.69	95	0.02	7	59	31	0	6	0	0
	LANDER	38	13	53	0	25	5	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.82	188	0.00	0	77	47	0	7	0	0
	SHERIDAN	43	18	50	5	30	9	0.03	-0.14	0.03	1.19	98	0.45	85	75	53	0	7	1	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals ***** Not Available**

2014 U.S. Weather Review

Annual "Weather Review" provided by USDA/WAOB; rankings provided by NCDC

The same general weather pattern that led to the most severe Midwestern winter in more than three decades contributed to a cool summer regime that fueled record-high U.S. corn and soybean yields and production. However, the Midwestern growing season was not perfect, as spring planting delays and cool conditions resulted in late-developing crops and subsequent harvest delays across the northern Corn Belt. In addition, too much rain fell in some parts of the Midwest in June and August, while unfavorably dry weather prevailed in July.

Farther west, the central and southern Plains' hard red winter wheat crop was effectively wrecked by a combination of drought, winter weather extremes, and spring freezes. In the same region, summer crops performed better than winter wheat due to relatively cool weather and occasional rainfall. However, the lingering effects of a 4-year drought still led to disappointing outcomes for several commodities, including cotton. Meanwhile, too much late-summer rain proved an untimely detriment to small grains across the northern High Plains and the Northwest, disrupting harvest and compromising crop quality.

In contrast, drought records were set in the Far West, where California completed its warmest, driest stretch of 3 consecutive water years (October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2014) during the 120-year period of record. California's reservoir storage fell below 60 percent of normal by the end of June and spent several months at its second-lowest level behind 1977. Other impacts of California's historic drought included groundwater depletion, rangeland stress, and fallow farmland.

On the strength of generally wet summer conditions across the central Plains and the Midwest, overall U.S. drought coverage fell to 29 percent by year's end, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, down from 33 percent on January 7, 2014. However, drought steadfastly continued through a fourth year across portions of the southern Plains, and persisted through a third year in California and neighboring areas. The U.S. Drought Monitor's peak coverage for 2014 occurred on May 6, when 40 percent of the country was experiencing drought.

According to preliminary information provided by the National Climatic Data Center, persistent warmth in the West contrasted with generally cool weather in a broad area centered on the Mississippi Valley. As a result, the nation's annual average temperature of 52.6°F was 0.5F above the 1901-2000 mean (figure 1). It was the 34th-warmest year on record, but 2.7°F cooler than 2012—the nation's hottest-ever year. The hottest year on record in Arizona, California, and Nevada contrasted with one of the ten coolest years on record in seven states in the Great Lakes region and the Mississippi Valley (figure 2).

On the strength of wet weather across the North, the U.S. experienced its 40th-wettest year during the 120-year period of record. Precipitation averaged 30.76 inches across the Lower 48 States, 103 percent of normal (figure 3). However, drier-than-normal conditions affected the southern Plains, while precipitation in California was insufficient to provide much drought relief. Annual state precipitation rankings ranged from the 26th-driest year in Oklahoma to the seventh-wettest year in Michigan and Wisconsin (figure 4).

Figure 1

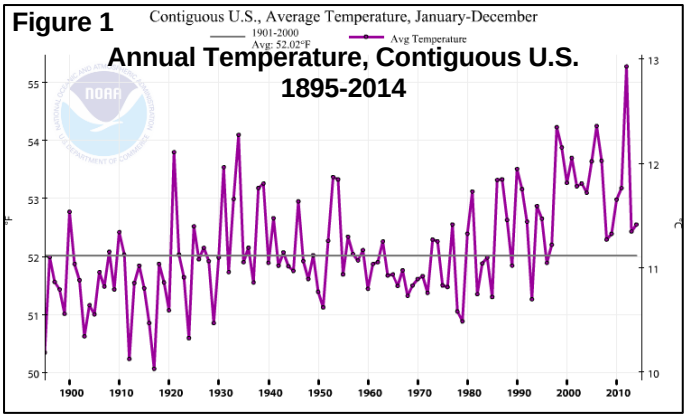
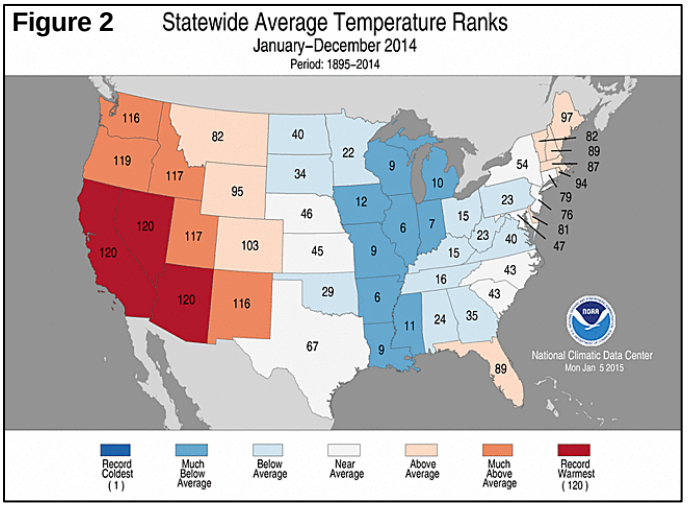


Figure 2



Winter (December 2013 – February 2014)

The coldest winter since 1978-79 gripped six Midwestern States (IL, IN, IA, MN, MO, and WI); Michigan endured its coldest winter since 1976-77. The Midwest experienced not only bitter cold, but also abundant snowfall, which resulted in stressful conditions for livestock and frequent travel disruptions.

Meanwhile, drought persisted or intensified from California to the southern Plains under a mild, mostly dry weather regime. Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas endured near-record winter dryness. California, nearing the end of a third consecutive year of drought, noted its warmest, third-driest winter on record. Previously, California's warmest winter had occurred in 1980-81, while the only drier winters had been 1976-77 and 1990-91. Ironically, California's warm winter began with a December freeze that harmed crops, including citrus, in the Central Valley.

Between the extremes, the Plains were subjected to frequent and rapid temperature changes. Abundant precipitation, mostly

snow, fell across the northern Plains, but generally dry, breezy conditions—along with the frequent lack of protective snow—led to declines in winter wheat condition across the central and southern Plains.

Elsewhere, the South and East endured periodic bouts of wintry weather and extreme cold, although conditions were not as chronically harsh as those observed in the Midwest. In addition, winter agricultural areas of Texas and Florida escaped without a significant freeze.

Figure 3

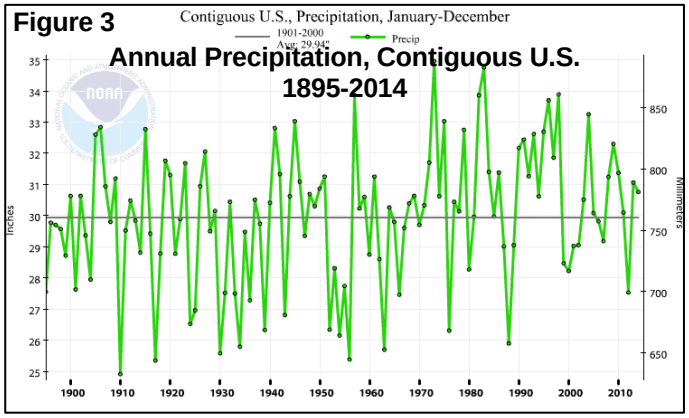
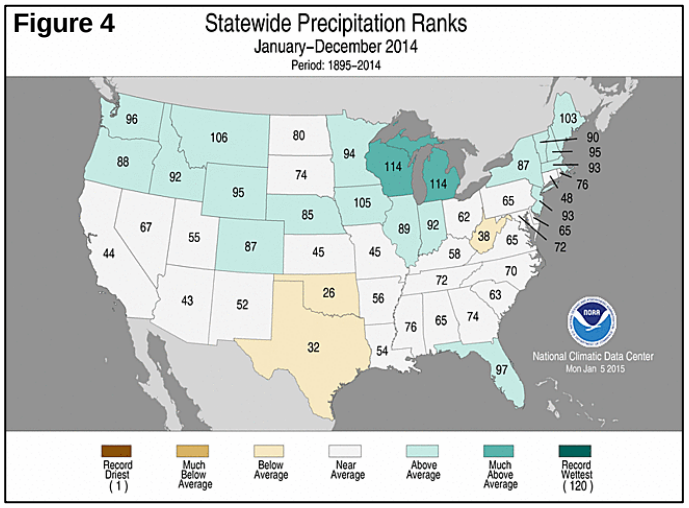


Figure 4



Winter featured regionally contrasting temperatures and mostly drier-than-normal conditions. The nation's average December-February temperature of 31.3°F was 1.0°F below the 20th century mean, while the average precipitation of 5.69 inches was 84 percent of normal—marking the 34th-coldest, ninth-driest winter since 1895. The last drier winter occurred in 1980-81.

State temperature rankings were impressive, ranging from the warmest winter on record in California to the fifth-coldest winter in Wisconsin (figure 5). Arizona experienced its fourth-warmest winter, while top-ten rankings for winter cold were also noted in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, and Minnesota. Meanwhile, state precipitation rankings ranged from the third-driest winter in Arizona, California, and New Mexico to the 18th-wettest winter in Delaware and West Virginia (figure 6).

Figure 5

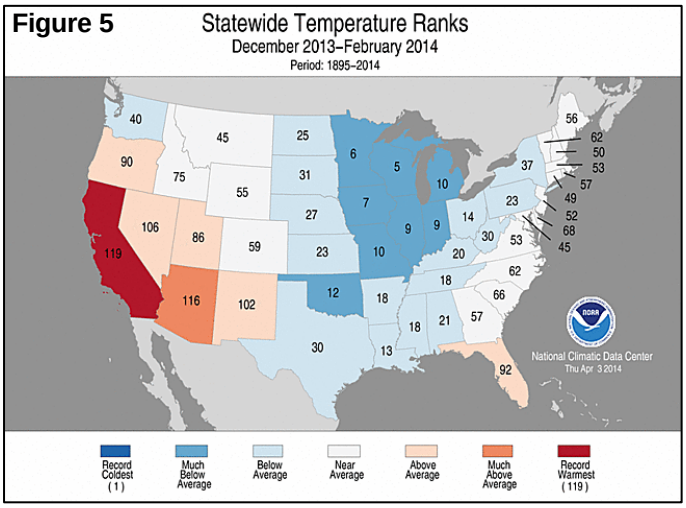
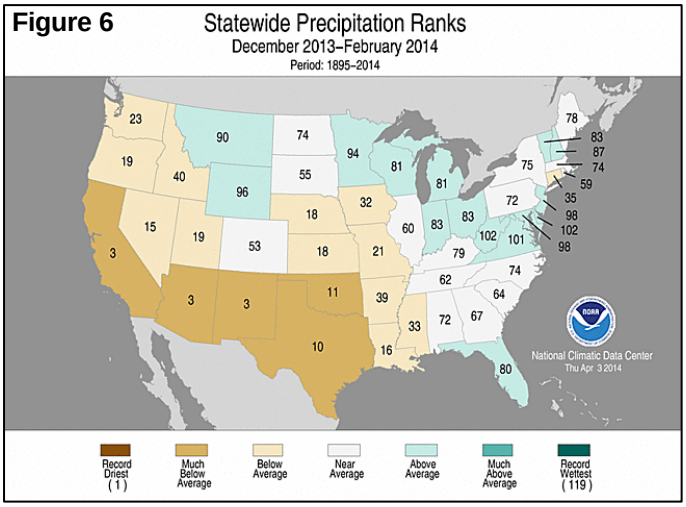


Figure 6



Spring (March-May)

The central and eastern U.S. rebounded from a severe winter, although lingering cool, wet conditions delayed spring planting activities for several weeks in some areas—especially across northern portions of the Plains and Corn Belt. Much warmer weather arrived across the northern Plains and Midwest during the second half of May, promoting the germination and establishment of late-planted crops. Farther south, late-spring rainfall on the central and southern Plains benefited summer crops and revived rangeland and pastures, but arrived too late to salvage a winter wheat crop that had been battered by drought, winter weather extremes, and spring freezes. Meanwhile, a late-spring drying trend across the interior Northwest became an agricultural concern with respect to rangeland, pastures, winter wheat, and spring-sown crops, despite wetness earlier in the season. Elsewhere, occasional spring showers from California into the Southwest failed to significant dent a 3-year drought or improve water-supply prospects. Above-normal temperatures aggravated the drought situation in California and neighboring areas, as meager snowpack melted early and late-spring heat boosted irrigation demands.

Spring temperatures averaged at least 2 to 4°F above normal in much of California and parts of adjoining states, while near- to

below-normal temperatures prevailed from the Plains to the East Coast. Spring was slowest to arrive in the upper Great Lakes region, where March-May temperatures averaged at least 4 to 6°F below normal.

Below-normal spring precipitation dominated the central and southern Plains and the Southwest, despite widespread, late-May rainfall. Much of the remainder of the country experienced near- to above-normal precipitation, with the wettest areas—relative to normal—including the Pacific Northwest, parts of the upper Midwest, and portions of the eastern Gulf Coast region.

Figure 7 Statewide Average Temperature Ranks
March–May 2014
Period: 1895–2014

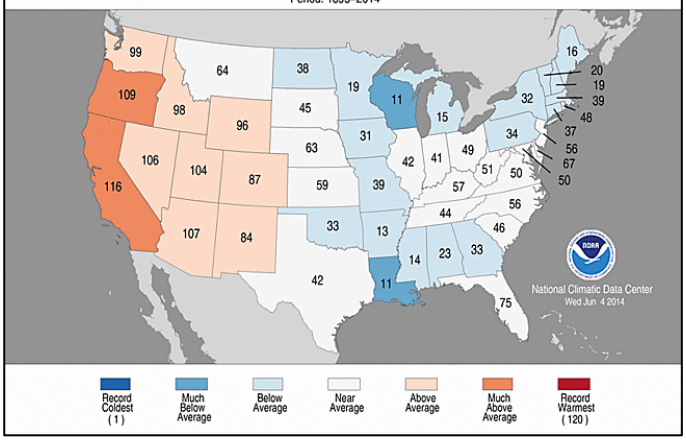
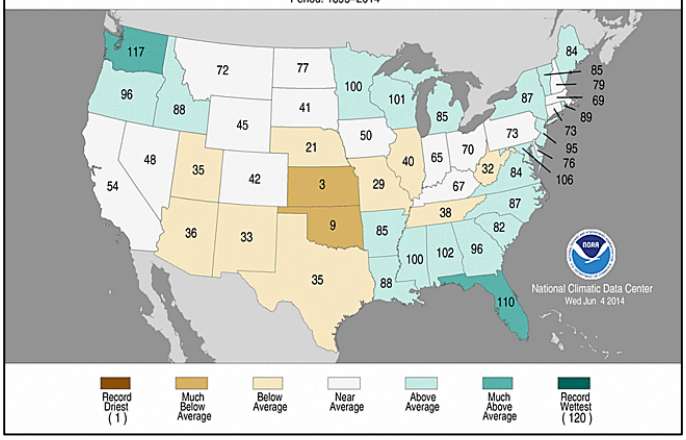


Figure 8 Statewide Precipitation Ranks
March–May 2014
Period: 1895–2014



Spring featured regionally contrasting temperatures and drier-than-normal conditions across much of the central and south-central U.S. Conversely, spring wetness was noted in many Northern and Southeastern States. The nation's average March-May temperature of 51.1°F was 0.2°F above the 20th century mean, while the average precipitation of 8.01 inches was 101 percent of normal—marking the 51st-warmest, 52nd-wettest spring since 1895.

Cool weather in the central and eastern U.S. contrasted with spring warmth in the West. State temperature rankings ranged from the 11th-coolest spring in Louisiana and Wisconsin to the fifth-warmest March-May period in California (figure 7). State precipitation rankings ranged from the third-driest spring in Kansas to the fourth-wettest spring in Washington (figure 8).

Summer (June-August)

The summer of 2014 featured plenty of Midwestern rain in June and August, but a dry spell during July. However, temperatures rarely, if ever, climbed to stressful levels for Midwestern summer crops, allowing corn and soybeans to develop under mostly favorable conditions. Farther south, precipitation was more erratic and temperatures were slightly higher. As a result, pockets of stress for crops such as cotton and peanuts developed across the South. Areas of greatest concern included the southern Plains, due to lingering subsoil moisture shortages, and the Southeast, where summer dryness was rather persistent. Meanwhile, untimely, late-summer rainfall harmed maturing small grains across the northern High Plains and the interior Northwest. The heavy rain caused not only crop-quality issues, including sprouting in grain heads, but also slowed small grain harvesting. Elsewhere, a robust summer monsoon season in the Four Corners States and parts of the Great Basin contrasted with hot, mostly dry weather in the Far West. In particular, California's reservoir storage fell to 57 percent of average by the end of August. Low reservoir levels also remained a concern in several other Western States, including Nevada and New Mexico. Summer temperatures averaged at least 2°F below normal in several areas from the northern Plains to the Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes. In contrast, persistent heat in the Pacific Coast States and the western Great Basin boosted summer temperatures as much as 2 to 4°F above normal.

Figure 9 Statewide Average Temperature Ranks
June–August 2014
Period: 1895–2014

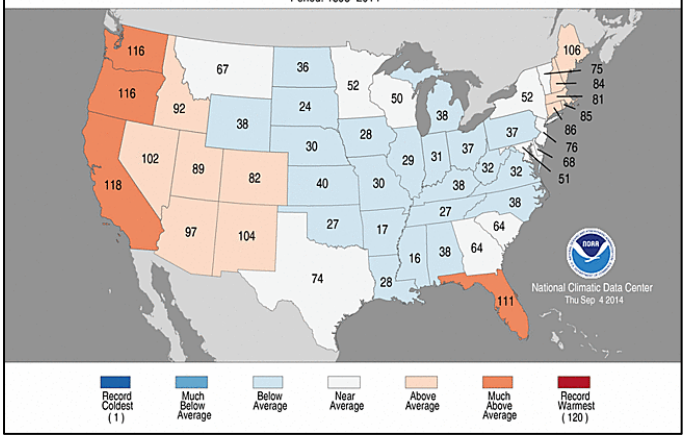
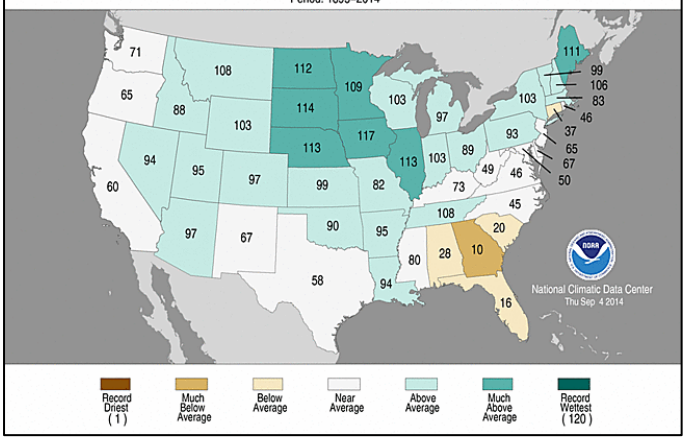


Figure 10 Statewide Precipitation Ranks
June–August 2014
Period: 1895–2014



Summer featured regionally contrasting temperatures and general wetness in all but the Southeastern States. The nation's average June-August temperature of 71.7°F was 0.3°F above the 20th century mean, while the average precipitation of 9.39 inches was 113 percent of normal—marking the 57st-warmest, ninth-wettest summer since 1895. It was also the coolest U.S. summer since 2009 and wettest summer since 2004.

Cool weather in much of the central and eastern U.S. contrasted with summer heat in Florida and the Far West. As a result, state temperature rankings ranged from the 16th-coolest summer in Mississippi to the third-hottest June-August period in California (figure 9). Top-ten rankings for summer heat were also noted in Florida, Oregon, and Washington. Meanwhile, state precipitation rankings ranged from the tenth-driest summer in Georgia to the fourth-wettest summer in Iowa (figure 10). Five other states (Illinois, Maine, Nebraska, and the Dakotas) joined Iowa in reported one of their ten wettest summers on record.

Autumn (September-November)

Western warmth contrasted with chilly autumn conditions in much of the central and eastern U.S. Although overall temperatures were slightly above the long-term mean on the strength of Western and Northeastern warmth, it was among the ten coolest autumns in Illinois and Indiana. Meanwhile, California experienced it warmest September-November period during the 120-year period of record.

Most of the nation experienced near- to above-average autumn precipitation, although somewhat dry conditions existed across the interior Northeast and upper Midwest. In the latter region, dry fall weather aided in the maturation and harvesting of late-developing corn and soybeans. Other precipitation highlights included the contribution of four former eastern Pacific hurricanes—Norbert, Odile, Simon, and Vance—to autumn rainfall in parts of the southern U.S., as well as the onset of seasonal storminess in the West. In general, precipitation was heavier across the Rockies and the Northwest than in California and the Great Basin, resulting in very little relief in the West's core drought areas.

For autumn, neither temperatures nor precipitation strayed too far from historic averages. The nation's autumn average temperature of 54.1°F was 0.6°F above the 20th century mean, while precipitation averaged 7.12 inches (103 percent of normal). Those numbers represented the 40th-warmest, 52nd-wettest autumn during the 1895-2014 period of record.

Regionally, however, cool autumn weather in the Midwest and neighboring areas contrasted with warmth in the West and Northeast. California experienced its warmest September-November period on record (figure 11), toppling a 1995 standard. It was among the ten warmest autumns on record in five other Western states: Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Conversely, it was the eighth-coolest autumn in Illinois and ninth coolest in Indiana. Finally, state precipitation rankings for September to November ranged from the 19th-driest autumn in Pennsylvania to 15th wettest in Michigan (figure 12).

Figure 11 Statewide Average Temperature Ranks
September–November 2014
Period: 1895–2014

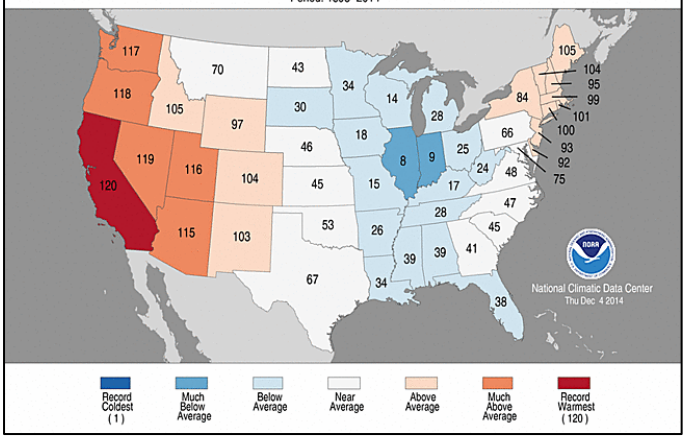
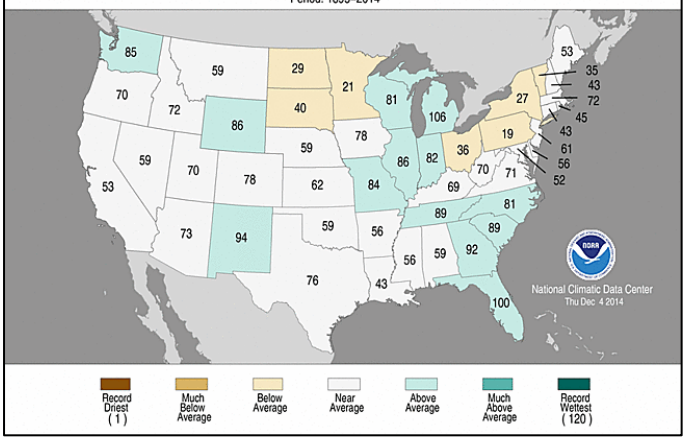


Figure 12 Statewide Precipitation Ranks
September–November 2014
Period: 1895–2014



December

Limited drought relief came to California in the form of several periods of heavy precipitation, highlighted by a moisture-laden storm on December 11-12. Though the rain improved topsoil moisture, benefited winter grains, and helped to revive rangeland and pastures, significant effects from the 3-year drought—including groundwater depletion and low reservoir levels—persisted. Precipitation also spread into other areas of the West. Like California, however, snowpack in the Pacific Northwest languished due to warm conditions, despite an abundance of storms. Farther east, a very cold November was followed by a mostly mild December. Thawing, muddy fields led to delays in final corn harvest efforts in the Great Lakes region. Most other late-season fieldwork across the South, East, and Midwest was eventually curtailed due to increasingly wet conditions. Elsewhere, mid- to late-month precipitation (rain and snow) provided a little bit of beneficial moisture across winter wheat areas of the central and southern Plains. Moving through the overwintering period, wheat-related concerns included lingering drought (on the southern Plains); the effects of November's cold wave (on the central High Plains); and issues related to late planting and poor crop establishment (in the southern and eastern Corn Belt).

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

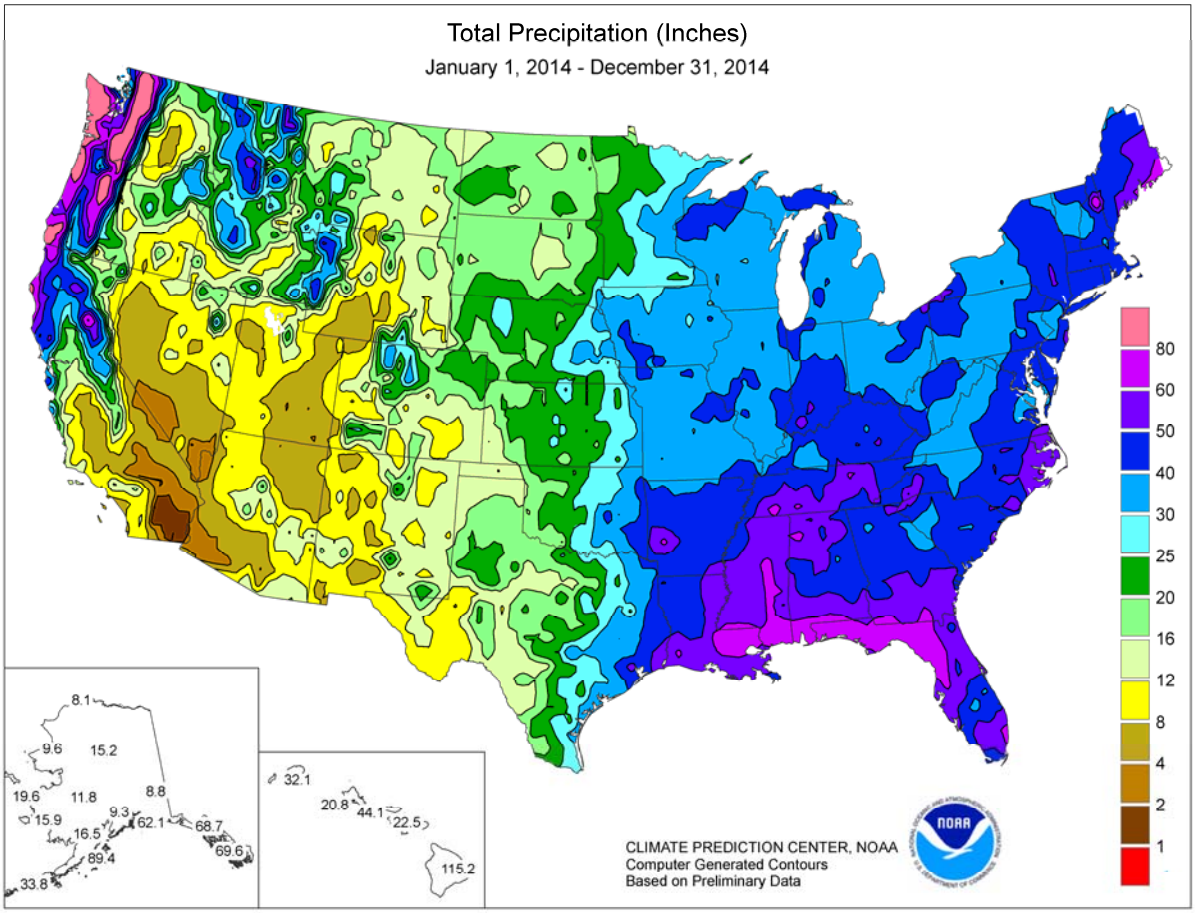
2014

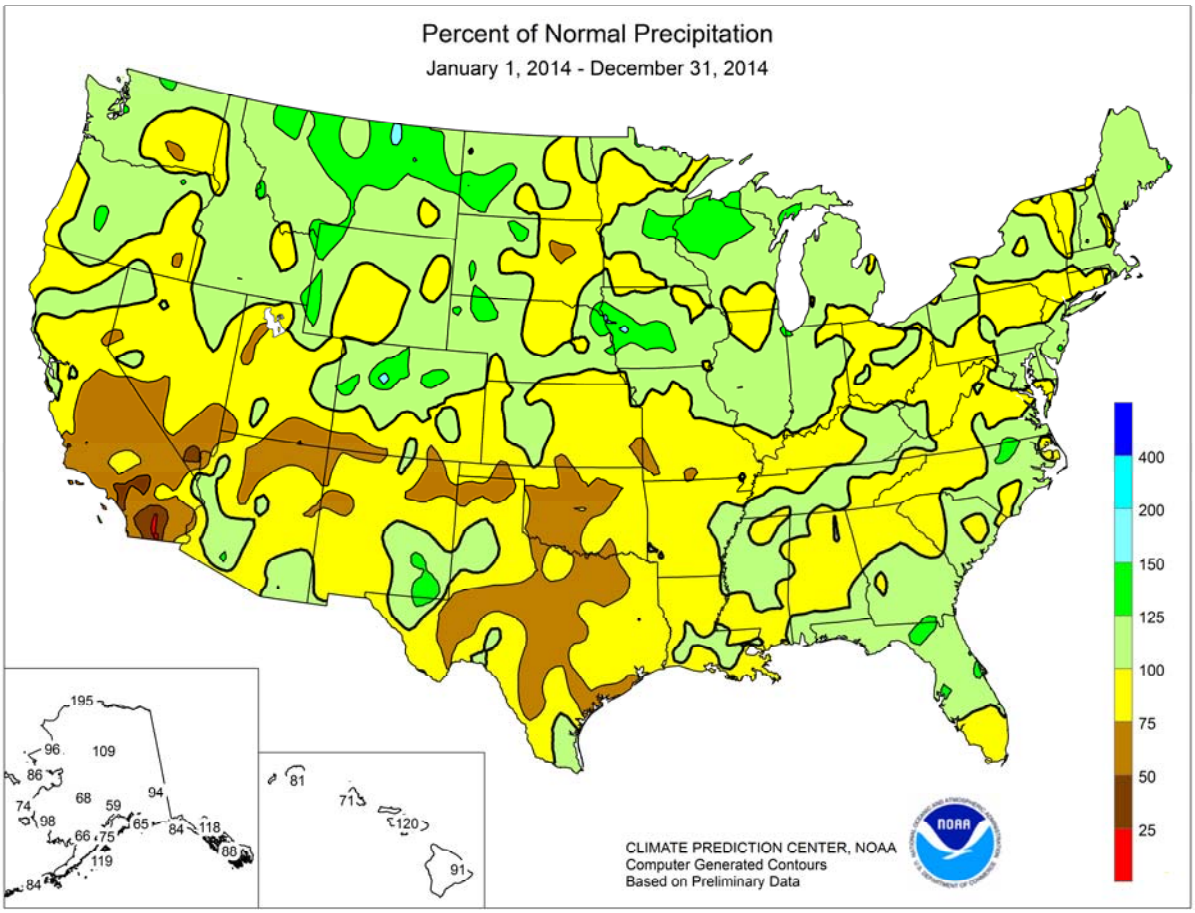
Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center

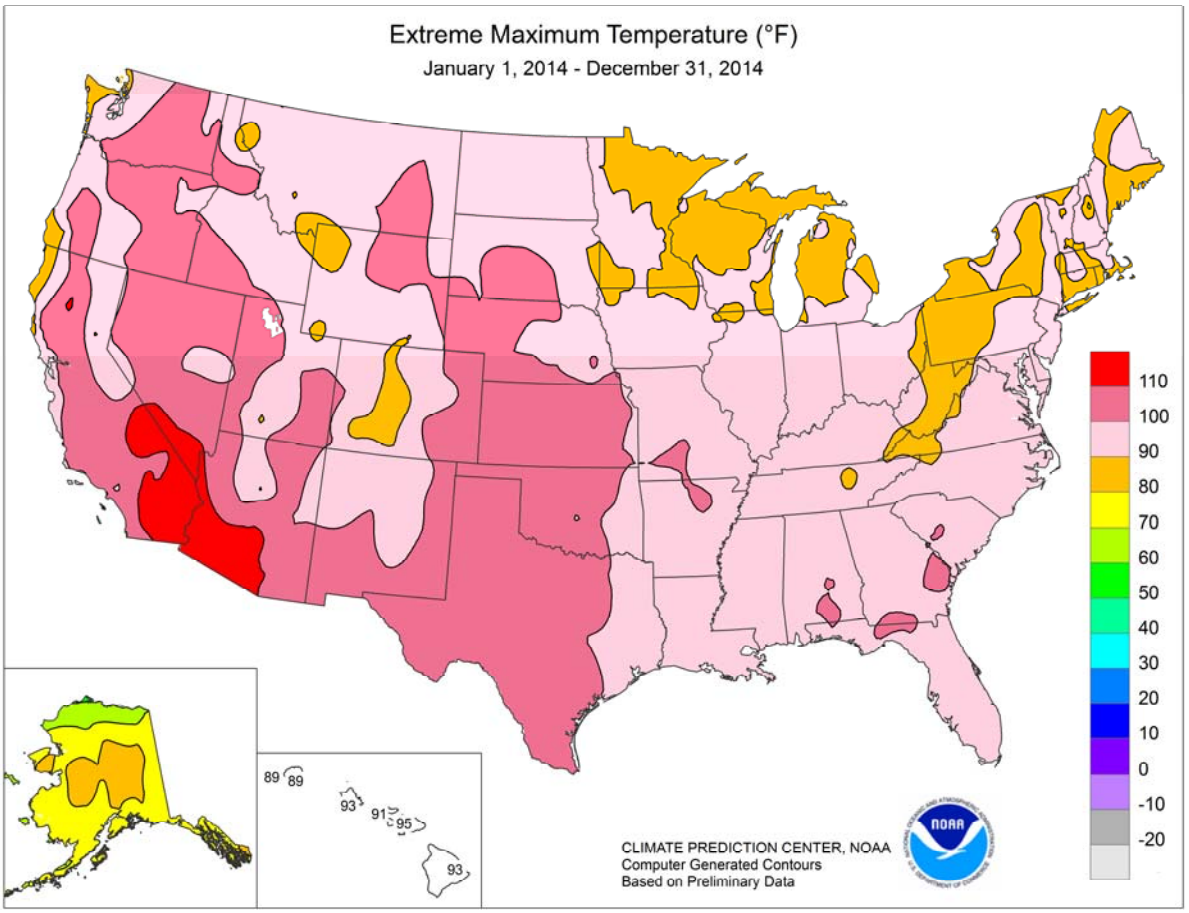
STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F AVERAGE	TEMP, °F DEPARTURE	PRECIP. TOTAL	PRECIP. DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	62	0	49.76	-4.22
HUNTSVILLE	61	0	53.45	-4.06
MOBILE	65	-2	72.71	6.42
MONTGOMERY	65	0	48.59	-6.18
AK ANCHORAGE	41	5	18.59	2.53
BARROW	15	4	8.10	3.95
COLD BAY	42	4	33.79	-6.49
FAIRBANKS	31	4	17.16	6.83
JUNEAU	43	1	68.67	10.34
KING SALMON	41	6	22.42	3.01
KODIAK	44	3	89.44	14.09
NOME	32	5	14.19	-2.37
AZ FLAGSTAFF	49	3	20.67	-2.24
PHOENIX	77	4	8.36	0.07
TUCSON	72	3	10.19	-1.98
AR FORT SMITH	61	0	42.14	-1.73
LITTLE ROCK	61	-1	48.11	-2.82
CA BAKERSFIELD	69	4	4.02	-2.46
EUREKA	54	1	37.49	-0.61
FRESNO	69	6	7.45	-3.78
LOS ANGELES	66	3	8.30	-4.85
REDDING	65	3	33.95	0.43
SACRAMENTO	64	3	18.74	0.81
SAN DIEGO	67	3	7.76	-3.01
SAN FRANCISCO	62	5	20.70	0.60
STOCKTON	64	2	14.23	0.39
CO ALAMOSA	43	2	5.52	-1.73
CO SPRINGS	50	2	17.04	-0.35
DENVER	51	2	18.76	5.14
GRAND JUNCTION	52	0	11.94	2.96
PUEBLO	53	1	11.82	-0.57
CT BRIDGEPORT	52	0	46.17	2.02
HARTFORD	50	0	45.81	-0.35
DC WASHINGTON	58	0	44.40	5.05
DE WILMINGTON	54	0	50.90	8.09
FL DAYTONA BEACH	71	0	63.81	14.52
FT LAUDERDALE	78	2	61.54	-2.66
FT MYERS	75	0	42.31	-11.88
JACKSONVILLE	68	0	55.46	3.12
KEY WEST	78	0	36.62	-2.32
MELBOURNE	73	1	56.88	8.59
MIAMI	77	0	63.59	5.06
ORLANDO	73	0	55.33	6.98
PENSACOLA	67	-1	83.17	18.89
ST PETERSBURG	73	-1	48.48	-1.10
TALLAHASSEE	68	0	68.46	5.26
TAMPA	73	0	57.87	13.11
WEST PALM BEACH	76	1	61.28	-0.11
GA ATHENS	62	0	45.43	-2.39
ATLANTA	62	0	47.62	-2.57
AUGUSTA	63	0	38.70	-5.89
COLUMBUS	64	-1	52.12	3.55
MACON	63	-1	48.48	3.49
SAVANNAH	67	1	50.55	0.97
HI HILO	75	1	115.22	-11.05
HONOLULU	78	1	20.84	2.56
KAHULUI	77	1	22.48	3.68
LIHUE	76	0	32.09	-7.47
ID BOISE	54	2	15.45	3.25
LEWISTON	55	2	12.09	-0.63
POCATELLO	49	2	12.65	0.06
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	48	-1	39.47	3.19
MOLINE	47	-3	39.29	1.25
PEORIA	50	-1	39.76	3.74
ROCKFORD	46	-2	33.50	-3.11
SPRINGFIELD	51	-2	45.44	9.88
IN EVANSVILLE	55	-1	47.20	2.93
FORT WAYNE	47	-3	42.84	6.29
INDIANAPOLIS	50	-3	41.56	0.62
SOUTH BEND	48	-2	41.43	1.73
IA BURLINGTON	49	-3	40.47	2.53
CEDAR RAPIDS	46	-3	38.55	5.14
DES MOINES	50	0	41.98	7.26
DUBUQUE	44	-3	37.49	1.98
SIOUX CITY	48	0	41.36	15.37
WATERLOO	44	-3	34.91	1.77
KS CONCORDIA	53	-1	27.20	-1.23
DODGE CITY	55	0	23.19	0.84
GOODLAND	51	0	17.87	-1.89
HILL CITY	54	1	21.96	-0.93
TOPEKA	55	1	31.15	-4.49
WICHITA	57	1	25.59	-4.79
KY JACKSON	55	-1	53.86	4.47
LEXINGTON	55	0	54.19	8.29
LONDON-CORBIN	56	0	48.93	1.52
LOUISVILLE	57	0	43.28	-1.25
PADUCAH	57	0	46.83	-2.41
LA BATON ROUGE	67	0	61.68	-1.39
LAKE CHARLES	67	-1	68.63	11.45
NEW ORLEANS	69	0	54.74	-9.42
SHREVEPORT	65	-1	41.20	-10.10
ME BANGOR	44	-1	44.32	4.75
CARIBOU	40	1	46.29	8.86
PORTLAND	46	0	55.87	10.04
MD BALTIMORE	54	-1	52.57	10.63
MA BOSTON	51	-1	45.25	2.72
WORCESTER	47	0	53.59	4.54
MI ALPENA	41	-2	34.78	6.38
DETROIT	48	-2	37.56	4.66
FLINT	46	-1	35.43	3.82
GRAND RAPIDS	46	-2	40.23	3.11
HOUGHTON LAKE	41	-2	30.98	2.54
LANSING	45	-2	37.47	5.94
MUSKEGON	46	-1	38.60	5.73
TRAVERSE CITY	43	-3	39.26	5.79
MN DULUTH	38	-1	30.61	-0.39
INT'L FALLS	35	-3	30.24	6.30
MINNEAPOLIS	43	-2	35.42	6.01
ROCHESTER	42	-2	33.24	1.83
ST. CLOUD	42	0	36.72	9.59
MS JACKSON	64	0	56.20	0.26
MERIDIAN	63	-2	54.29	-4.36
TUPELO	61	0	57.08	1.22
MO COLUMBIA	53	-1	44.12	3.84
JOPLIN	56	-2	31.70	-14.37
KANSAS CITY	53	-1	39.99	2.00
SPRINGFIELD	55	-1	38.59	-6.38
ST JOSEPH	51	-3	31.98	-3.26
ST LOUIS	56	0	43.42	4.67
MT BILLINGS	47	0	14.02	-0.74
BUTTE	40	0	14.83	2.05
GLASGOW	42	-1	15.01	3.78
GREAT FALLS	44	0	20.11	5.22
HELENA	46	2	12.23	0.91
KALISPELL	44	1	21.63	4.42
MILES CITY	45	-1	13.30	-0.19
MISSOULA	46	1	15.64	1.82
NE GRAND ISLAND	50	0	27.55	1.66
HASTINGS	50	-1	29.20	1.26
LINCOLN	51	0	34.74	6.37
MCCOOK	51	0	24.20	2.58
NORFOLK	48	-1	29.71	3.05
NORTH PLATTE	48	-1	21.52	1.86
OMAHA/EPPLEY	51	0	39.14	8.92
SCOTTSBLUFF	49	1	19.26	2.93
VALENTINE	47	0	21.79	2.27
NV ELKO	50	4	10.30	0.71
ELY	48	3	9.26	-0.71
LAS VEGAS	72	4	1.81	-2.68
RENO	57	6	4.99	-2.49
WINNEMUCCA	52	3	8.55	0.22
NH CONCORD	45	-1	46.12	8.52
NJ ATLANTIC CITY	53	-1	54.36	13.77
NEWARK	54	-1	49.33	3.07
NM ALBUQUERQUE	59	2	8.81	-0.65
NY ALBANY	48	0	39.69	1.63
BINGHAMTON	45	-1	39.61	0.96
BUFFALO	47	-1	42.41	1.87
ROCHESTER	48	0	32.96	-1.00
SYRACUSE	48	0	40.50	0.46
NC ASHEVILLE	55	0	46.91	-0.13
CHARLOTTE	60	-1	45.46	1.94
GREENSBORO	58	0	36.36	-6.77
HATTERAS	62	-1	61.84	4.09
RALEIGH	59	-1	55.24	12.19
WILMINGTON	64	0	59.76	2.69
ND BISMARCK	42	0	13.92	-2.92
DICKINSON	41	-2	21.86	5.51
FARGO	41	-1	20.20	-0.99
GRAND FORKS	39	-1	23.06	3.46
JAMESTOWN	40	-2	21.03	2.54
MINOT	40	-2	16.32	-2.12
WILLISTON	41	0	10.69	-3.47
OH AKRON-CANTON	49	-1	45.69	7.22
CINCINNATI	53	-1	42.29	-0.32
CLEVELAND	49	-1	44.17	5.47
COLUMBUS	52	-1	38.09	-0.41
DAYTON	51	-1	35.96	-3.62
MANSFIELD	48	-1	36.52	-6.71
TOLEDO	47	-3	31.70	-1.51
YOUNGSTOWN	47	-2	39.27	1.25
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	61	1	28.37	-7.48
TULSA	60	-1	29.58	-12.84
OR ASTORIA	54	3	72.86	5.73
BURNS	47	3	10.74	0.17
EUGENE	55	3	40.85	-10.06
MEDFORD	59	5	20.28	1.91
PENDLETON	53	1	13.24	0.48
PORTLAND	56	2	40.10	3.03
SALEM	56	3	41.19	1.19
PA ALLENTOWN	50	-1	44.71	-0.46
ERIE	48	-2	40.76	-2.01
MIDDLETOWN	52	-1	43.65	3.15
PHILADELPHIA	55	0	47.37	5.33
PITTSBURGH	50	-1	36.83	-1.02
WILKES-BARRE	49	-1	30.85	-6.70
WILLIAMSPORT	49	-1	37.17	-4.42
PR SAN JUAN	82	2	58.63	7.87
RI PROVIDENCE	51	0	46.93	0.47
SC CHARLESTON	67	2	52.99	1.46
COLUMBIA	64	0	42.22	-6.05
FLORENCE	63	-1	44.45	-0.31
GREENVILLE	60	0	49.89	-0.33
MYRTLE BEACH	64	0	44.19	-1.52
SD ABERDEEN	41	-3	17.79	-2.43
HURON	44	-1	16.38	-4.51
RAPID CITY	45	-2	21.53	4.90
SIOUX FALLS	44	-1	29.26	4.57
TN BRISTOL	55	0	38.13	-3.19
CHATTANOOGA	60	0	45.27	-9.25
JACKSON	58	-2	58.28	3.50
KNOXVILLE	58	0	41.64	-6.58
MEMPHIS	61	-1	57.63	2.98
NASHVILLE	59	0	50.58	2.47
TX ABILENE	65	1	15.01	-8.76
AMARILLO	58	1	19.40	-0.32
AUSTIN	67	-2	29.46	-4.19
BEAUMONT	69	0	51.85	-8.04
BROWNSVILLE	74	1	28.59	1.04
COLLEGE STATION	68	-1	39.61	-0.06
CORPUS CHRISTI	72	0	29.36	-2.89
DALLAS/FT WORTH	66	0	21.31	-13.42
DEL RIO	71	1	15.70	-2.53
EL PASO	67	2	8.57	-0.86
GALVESTON	70	-1	31.88	-11.96
HOUSTON	69	0	43.72	-4.12
LUBBOCK	61	1	22.56	3.88
MIDLAND	65	1	7.67	-7.13
SAN ANGELO	67	2	16.71	-4.19
SAN ANTONIO	70	1	28.19	-4.73
VICTORIA	71	1	30.18	-9.92
WACO	66	-1	30.09	-3.25
WICHITA FALLS	63	0	23.76	-5.05
UT SALT LAKE CITY	56	4	14.47	-2.03
VT BURLINGTON	46	1	37.33	1.28
VA LYNCHBURG	55	0	44.73	1.42
NORFOLK	60	0	50.30	4.56
RICHMOND	59	1	35.74	-8.16
ROANOKE	56	0	39.41	-3.07
WASH/DULLES	53	-1	46.06	4.25
WA OLYMPIA	52	2	54.51	3.72
QUILLAYUTE	52	3	105.14	3.42
SEATTLE-TACOMA	55	3	48.48	11.42
SPOKANE	50	3	14.99	-1.68
YAKIMA	53	4	6.52	-1.74
WV BECKLEY	51	-1	40.09	-1.53
CHARLESTON	54	-1	46.19	2.15
ELKINS	49	-1	41.99	-4.10
HUNTINGTON	54	-1	48.59	6.28
WI EAU CLAIRE	42	-2	42.98	10.86
GREEN BAY	42	-3	32.12	2.93
LA CROSSE	45	-2	37.69	5.33
MADISON	45	-1	35.31	2.36
MILWAUKEE	45	-3	32.11	-2.70
WAUSAU	40	-4	40.89	7.53
WY CASPER	45	0	12.11	-0.92
CHEYENNE	46	1	17.77	2.32
LANDER	46	1	11.70	-1.72
SHERIDAN	45	0	15.08	0.36

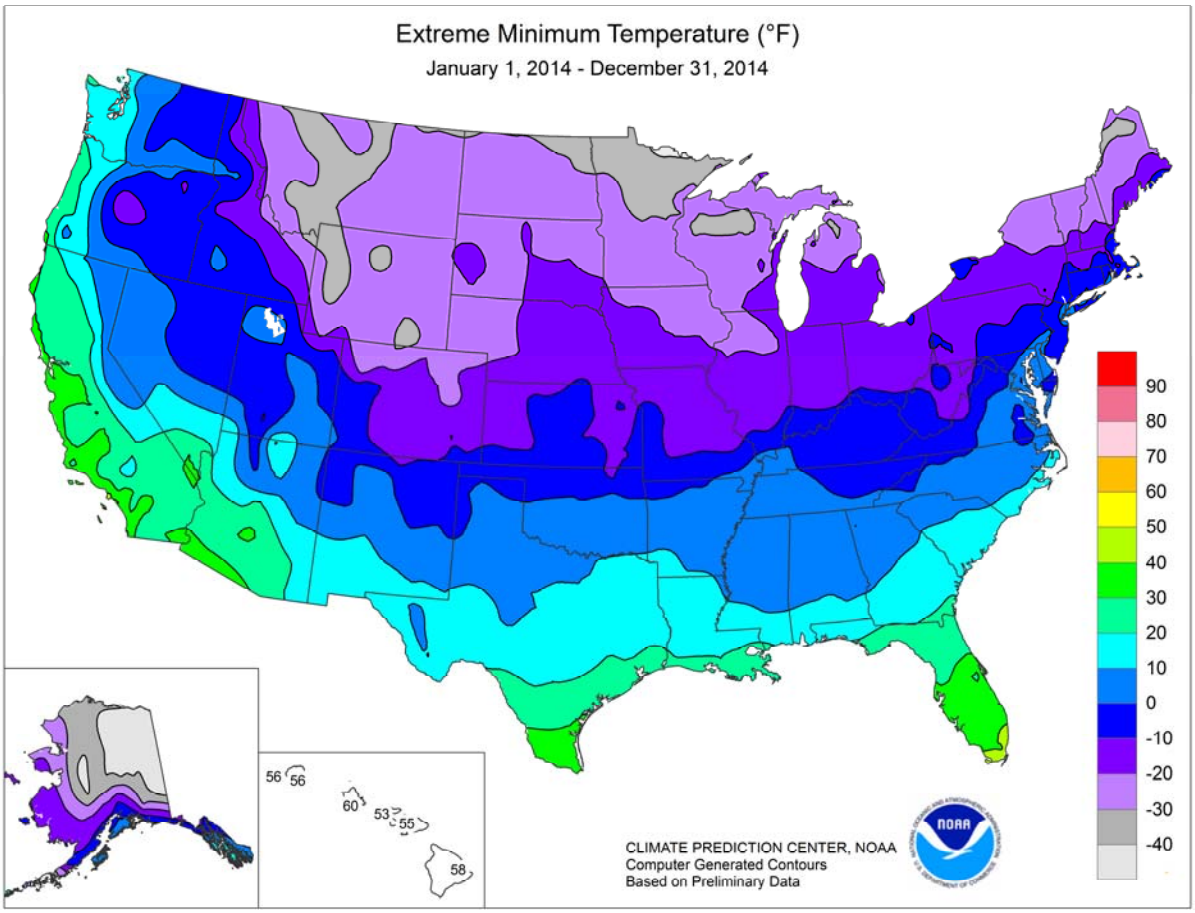
Based on 1971-2000 normals

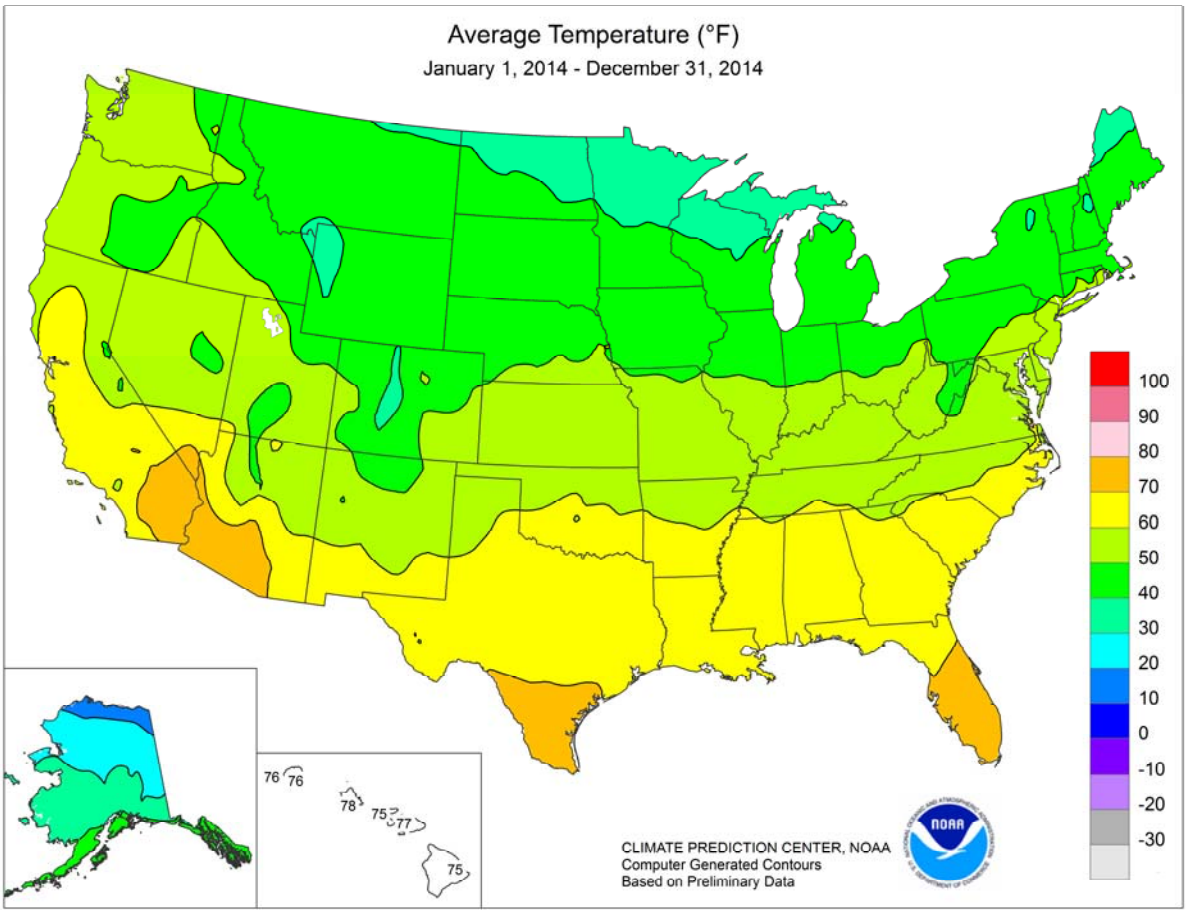
***** Not Available**

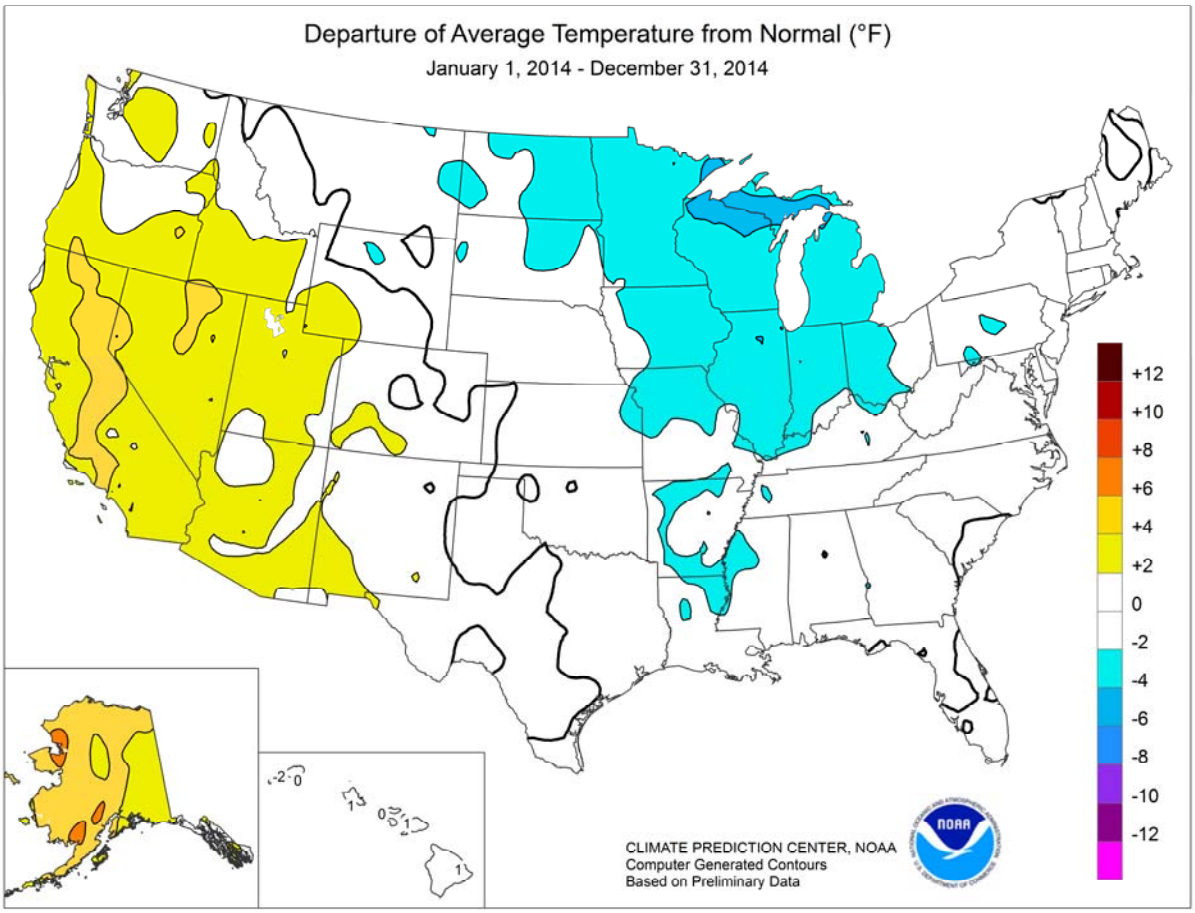

Total Precipitation (Inches)
January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014
80
60
50
40
30
25
20
16
12
8
4
2
1
8.1
9.6
15.2
19.6
11.8
8.8
15.9
9.3
16.5
62.1
68.7
89.4
69.6
33.8
32.1
20.8
44.1
22.5
115.2
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data
NOAA


Percent of Normal Precipitation
January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014
400
200
150
125
100
75
50
25
195
96
109
86
68
94
74
98
59
65
84
118
66
75
88
119
84
81
71
120
91
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data
NOAA


Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
89
89
93
91
95
93
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
56
56
60
53
55
58
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Average Temperature (°F)
January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
76
76
78
75
77
75
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014
+12
+10
+8
+6
+4
+2
0
-2
-4
-6
-8
-10
-12
-2
0
1
0
1
1
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data

2014 U.S. Fieldwork Highlights

Highlights, released on January 12, 2015, were provided by USDA/NASS.

April: Most of the nation recorded near-average temperatures and precipitation, but cold, wet field conditions delayed planting across the northern Plains and northern sections of Great Lakes region. Corn producers had planted 3 percent of the 2014 crop by April 13, slightly ahead of last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Planting progressed slowly during the month due to snow-covered or wet fields and low soil temperatures. By May 4, twenty-nine percent of the corn was planted, 18 percentage points ahead of last year but 13 points behind the 5-year average. With activity limited to Arizona, California, and Texas, 6 percent of the nation's cotton crop was planted by April 6, slightly ahead of last year but equal to the 5-year average. By May 4, producers nationwide had planted 16 percent of the cotton crop, slightly behind the same time last year and 9 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Late in the month, a storm bringing rainfall, tornadoes, strong winds, and sub-freezing temperatures damaged crops with varying severity from Colorado into the southern U.S.

May: Above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation in May across much of the U.S. allowed producers to catch up in planting progress, following an April marked by cool, wet field conditions. At the beginning of the month, the heading pace of winter wheat was at or behind the 5-year average in all states except Oklahoma and Oregon. Severe drought on the Southern Plains had a dramatic impact on winter wheat, with poor fields in Oklahoma and Texas being baled for hay or otherwise abandoned. Late-month precipitation was beneficial to this area but too late to revive drought-stricken wheat. Producers had planted 57 percent of this year's rice crop by May 4, four percentage points ahead of last year but 8 points behind the 5-year average. Planting progress advanced 18 percentage points nationwide during the week ending May 11, bringing the overall total to 75 percent—8 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. By May 25, rice seeding was 95 percent complete nationally, and nearly complete in all estimating states except California and Mississippi. As the month began, soybean producers were just starting to plant this year's crop. Progress was most advanced in the lower Mississippi Valley, but was well behind normal elsewhere due to previously unfavorable planting conditions. Many producers in the central Great Plains, middle Mississippi Valley, and Ohio River Valley were able to make significant planting gains during the first half of the month, but all states were able to see significant gains towards the end of the month, as producers had ample time for fieldwork and were able to switch their focus from planting corn to planting soybeans. Producers had planted 78 percent of the nation's soybean crop by June 1, twenty-three percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average.

June: Notable areas of heavy precipitation occurred in portions of the northern Great Plains and the lower Mississippi Valley. Parts of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Tennessee recorded June rainfall in excess of 12 inches. Early in the month, storms brought high winds, minor hail damage, and flooding to portions of Tennessee. The second half of the month featured heavy rainfall across the northern Great Plains and upper Midwest, which left soils saturated, stressed crops, and delayed efforts to finish planting. By June 29, seventy-five percent of the corn was reported in good to excellent condition, 8 percentage points above the same time last year. Nationally, 94 percent of the soybean crop had emerged by June 29, four percentage points ahead of last year but equal to the 5-year average. Ten percent of the nation's soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage by June 29, seven percentage points ahead of last year but equal to the 5-year average. By June 22, a majority of the barley crop had reached the heading stage in Idaho and Washington, while the crop had just begun heading in Minnesota and North Dakota. Seventeen percent of the nation's barley crop was at or beyond the heading stage by June 22, slightly ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-one percent of the barley crop was at or beyond the heading stage by June 29, five percentage points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. By the end of the month, barley development was well ahead of normal in the Pacific Northwest, but heading progress was 29 percentage points behind the 5-year average in Minnesota. By June 29, winter wheat producers had harvested 43 percent of the nation's crop, 3 percentage points ahead of last year but 5 points behind the 5-year average.

July: Nearly all areas east of the Rocky Mountains recorded below-average temperatures in July. Temperatures averaged at least 4°F below normal in much of the Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys. Conversely, warm, dry conditions were noted in the Pacific Northwest and California, with some locations more than 6°F above normal. Overall, cool weather in major corn- and soybean-producing states helped balance dry conditions, preventing a significant decrease in soil moisture and crop condition. Sorghum planting, which was 98 percent complete on July 6, was nearly finished nationwide by the beginning of the month. In early July, sorghum was reported to have reached the coloring stage only in Louisiana and Texas. By July 27, however, eight of the eleven estimating states reported sorghum coloring. Forty-four percent of the peanut crop was at or beyond the pegging stage by July 6, nine percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Near the beginning of the month, producers in Alabama were reporting deteriorating peanut conditions due to persistent rainfall. By the end of the month, producers in Florida and Georgia were reporting issues with army worms in the peanut crop. By August 3, ninety-one percent of the peanuts were pegging, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. By July 20, eighty-five percent of the cotton was at or beyond the squaring stage, 9 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Nationwide, 38 percent of the cotton crop was setting bolls by July 20, twelve percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. By August 3, ninety-five percent of the cotton was at or beyond the squaring stage, 2 percentage points ahead of last year but on par with the

5-year average. Nationally, 68 percent of the cotton was setting bolls by August 3, seventeen percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. While cool weather and localized moisture issues caused a slight decline in corn condition late in the month, ratings—73 percent good to excellent—continued to be at historically high levels for this point in the season.

August: Temperatures varied during August, with most of the Corn Belt and the Great Plains averaging within 2°F of normal. Precipitation totals were also near normal levels. The most notable exception was the western Corn Belt, where some locations received more than 10 inches. Six percent of the spring wheat was harvested by August 10, slightly ahead of last year but 15 percentage points behind the 5-year average. At the beginning of the month, spring wheat harvest was well behind normal in the upper Midwest. Thirty-eight percent of the spring wheat crop was harvested by August 31, twenty-three percentage points behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. At the end of the month, spring wheat harvest in Minnesota was nearly 3 weeks behind the 5-year average. Ninety percent of the soybeans were setting pods by August 24, eight percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Ninety-five percent of the crop was setting pods by August 31, four percentage points ahead of last year but equal to the 5-year average. By August 31, five percent of the nation's soybean crop was dropping leaves, 2 percentage points ahead of last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average.

September: Most of the Nation saw above-average temperatures, although cool conditions lingered in the Corn Belt. The corn harvest began in most southern Corn Belt locations by the middle of the month, with 4 percent of the nation's corn harvested by September 14—equal to the same time last year but 5 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Nationally, 12 percent of the corn was harvested by September 28, slightly ahead of last year but 11 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Thirteen percent of the nation's sugarbeet acreage had been harvested by September 28, four percentage points ahead of last year but equal to the 5-year average. Idaho sugarbeets were 23 percent harvested by the end of the month, approximately 10 days ahead of the 5-year average pace. By September 21, ninety-five percent of this year's barley was harvested, 4 percentage points behind last year but equal to the 5-year average. Ninety-four percent of the spring wheat was harvested by September 28, slightly behind last year and 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Fifty-nine percent of the nation's rice crop was harvested by September 28, three percentage points ahead of last year but 3 points behind the 5-year average. The rice harvest was nearly complete in Louisiana and Texas by the end of the month, and a majority of the crop had been harvested in Arkansas and Mississippi. The seeding of the 2015 winter wheat crop was underway early in the month, with 3 percent planted by September 7—two percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Producers had sown 43 percent of the nation's winter wheat acreage by September 28, six percentage points ahead of last year's pace and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Nationally, 10 percent of the soybean crop was harvested by September 28, equal to last year but 7 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 72 percent of the soybeans were was reported in good to excellent condition on September 28, equal to the beginning of the month but 19 percentage points better than the same time last year. Soybean condition ratings in the good to excellent categories were at the highest level so late in the season since 1994.

October: Warmer-than-normal weather was recorded nearly nationwide in October. Exceptions included the Great Lakes region and Florida, where temperatures were slightly below normal. Scattered rain in the Corn Belt led to delays in autumn fieldwork, although periods of warm, dry weather allowed row-crop harvest to progress. By November 2, producers had sown 90 percent of the nation's intended 2015 winter wheat acreage, equal to last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 59 percent of the winter wheat was reported in good to excellent condition at the end of the month, 4 percentage points below the same time in 2013. Nationally, 65 percent of the corn was harvested by November 2, six percentage points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 74 percent of the corn was reported in good to excellent condition on October 26, unchanged from the beginning of the month but 12 percentage points better than the same time last year. This represented the highest October corn condition rating since 2004. Eighty-three percent of the soybean crop was harvested by November 2, two percentage points behind last year but equal to the 5-year average. By November 2, fifty percent of the cotton was harvested, 8 percentage points ahead of last year but slightly behind the 5-year average. Overall, 48 percent of the cotton was reported in good to excellent condition at the end of the month, down slightly from September 28 but 5 percentage points better than the same time last year. Producers had harvested 79 percent of the nation's peanut crop by November 2, three percentage points behind last year but 3 points ahead of the 5-year average.

November: Temperatures were below normal in areas east of the Rocky Mountains, with a large area from the Dakotas to Alabama averaging more than 6°F below normal. A mid-month winter storm led to snow cover in the Northern Plains and the Upper Midwest, but some major winter wheat- producing regions continued to lack protective snow cover for the emerging crop. By November 16, ninety-five percent of the 2015 winter wheat was seeded, 4 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 58 percent of the winter wheat was reported in good to excellent condition at the end of the month, slightly below the beginning of the month and 4 percentage points below than the same time last year. With corn development behind normal for most of the 2014 growing season, harvest progress accelerated in November. By November 9, eighty percent of the corn was harvested, 2 percentage points behind last year but equal to the 5-year average. This marked the first time that the corn harvest pace was not behind the 5-year average during the 2014 growing season, catching up from a 22 percentage point deficit on October 19. Ninety-four percent of the corn crop was harvested by November 23, equal to last year but 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Peanut producers had harvested 97 percent of the nation's crop by November 23, equal to last year but 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Many locations in Georgia saw sub-freezing temperatures, halting crop development and accelerating the peanut harvest. By November 23, seventy-seven percent of the cotton was harvested, equal to last year but 6 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Producers harvested 22 percent of the sugarbeet crop in both Idaho and Michigan during the first week of the month. By November 9, ninety-eight percent of the nation's sugarbeet acreage had been harvested, 2 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average.

2014 U.S. Crop Production Highlights

Highlights, released on January 12, 2015, were provided by USDA/NASS.

Corn: Corn for grain production in the U.S. is estimated at a record 14.2 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November forecast but up 3 percent from the revised 2013 estimate. The average U.S. yield is estimated at a record-high 171.0 bushels per acre. This is down 2.4 bushels from the November forecast but 12.9 bushels above the revised 2013 average yield of 158.1 bushels per acre. Estimated yields in 2014 are up from the previous year across most of the major corn-producing states. Favorable growing conditions across much of the nation helped corn growers achieve a record crop. Record yields are estimated in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

Corn planted area, at 90.6 million acres, is down 5 percent from 2013. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 83.1 million acres, up slightly from the November forecast, but down 5 percent from the revised 2013 estimate. The 2014 corn objective yield data indicate the highest number of ears per acre on record for the combined ten objective yield states (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). Record-high ear counts were noted in Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Corn silage production is estimated at 128 million tons for 2014, up 8 percent from 2013, representing the highest U.S. production on record. The U.S. silage yield is estimated at 20.1 tons per acre, up 1.3 tons from 2013. Area harvested for silage is estimated at 6.37 million acres, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Sorghum: Grain production in 2014 is estimated at 433 million bushels, up 6 percent from the November forecast and up 11 percent from the revised 2013 grain production total. Planted area is estimated at 7.14 million acres, down 11 percent from last year's revised planted acres. Area harvested for grain, at 6.40 million acres, is down 2 percent from the 2013 revised harvested acres. Average grain yield, at 67.6 bushels per acre, is up 1.5 bushels from the previous forecast and up 8.0 bushels from last year. Grain yields are up in all states except Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Dakota. The Southern States experienced yield declines due to cool, wet conditions compared to the previous year.

Oats: The 2014 production is estimated at 69.7 million bushels, up 8 percent from the 2013 total but the fourth-lowest production on record. Yield is estimated at 67.7 bushels per acre, up 3.6 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 1.03 million acres, is 2 percent above the previous year. This is the fourth-lowest acreage harvested for grain on record. Record-low acres were harvested in California, Kansas, Montana, and Utah.

Barley: Production is estimated at 177 million bushels, down 18 percent from the 2013 total. Average yield per acre, at 72.4 bushels, is up 1.1 bushels from the previous year and represents the third-highest U.S. yield on record. Producers seeded 2.98 million acres in 2014, down 16 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 2.44 million acres, is down 20 percent from 2013.

All wheat: All wheat production totaled 2.03 billion bushels in 2014, down 5 percent from the 2013 total. Area harvested for grain totaled 46.4 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous year. The U.S. yield is estimated at 43.7 bushels per acre, down 3.4 bushels from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2013 by type are winter wheat, 1.38 billion bushels, down 11 percent; other spring wheat, 595 million bushels, up 11 percent; and Durum wheat, 53.1 million bushels, down 8 percent.

Winter wheat: Production for 2014 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, down 11 percent from the 2013 total. The U.S. yield, at 42.6 bushels per acre, is down 4.7 bushels from 2013. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 32.3 million acres, down 1 percent from the previous year.

Planted acres were up from 2013 in most of the major Hard Red Winter (HRW) growing states. Particularly large acreage increases occurred in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, and North Dakota. Conversely, Oklahoma and Texas had large decreases in planted acres from the previous year. Harvested acres were up across the HRW region, with large increases in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, and the Dakotas. A record-high yield is estimated in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Nationally, HRW production totaled 738 million bushels, down 1 percent from 2013.

In the Soft Red Winter (SRW) growing area, planted and harvested acreage decreases from 2013 were experienced throughout the region. Record-high yields were realized in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. SRW production totaled 455 million bushels, down 20 percent from 2013.

White winter production totaled 184 million bushels, down 19 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) was below what was harvested in 2013. Yields were also down from last year in all Pacific Northwest States.

Other spring wheat: Production for 2014 is estimated at 595 million bushels, up 11 percent from the 2013 total. Harvested area totaled 12.7 million acres, up 12 percent from 2013. The U.S. yield is estimated at 46.7 bushels per acre, down slightly from 2013. Of the total production, 556 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 13 percent from 2013. Record-high yields are estimated in the Dakotas.

Durum wheat: Production for 2014 is estimated at 53.1 million bushels, down 8 percent from the 2013 total. Grain area harvested totaled 1.34 million acres, down slightly from the previous year. The U.S. yield is estimated at 39.7 bushels per acre, down 3.6 bushels from 2013. Production in North Dakota, the largest durum-producing state, is down 4 percent from 2013. A record-high yield is estimated in South Dakota.

Rice: Production in 2014 is estimated at 221 million cwt, down slightly from the previous forecast but up 16 percent from the revised 2013 total. Planted area for 2014 is estimated at 2.94 million acres, up 18 percent from 2013. Lower prices for competing commodities in 2014 contributed to the increase in rice acres compared with the previous year in many rice-producing states. However, rice planted acreage in California for 2014 declined 23 percent due to continued drought. Area harvested, at 2.92 million acres, is also up 18 percent from the previous crop year. The average yield for all U.S. rice is estimated at 7,572 pounds per acre, down 25 pounds from the previous forecast and 122 pounds below the 2013 U.S. average of 7,694 pounds per acre. Record-high yields were estimated in 2014 for Arkansas and Mississippi.

All hay: Production of all dry hay for 2014 is estimated at 139.8 million tons, down 6 percent from the October 1 forecast but up 4 percent from the revised 2013 total. Area harvested is estimated at 57.1 million acres, down less than 1 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 1 percent from 2013. The average yield, at 2.45 tons per acre, is down 0.13 ton from the October forecast but up 0.12 ton from the previous year.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures: Production in 2014 is estimated at 61.4 million tons, down 5 percent from the October forecast but up 7 percent from the revised 2013 total. Harvested area, at 18.4 million acres, is up 1 percent from the October forecast and 4 percent above the previous year. Average yield is estimated at 3.33 tons per acre, 0.22 ton below the October forecast but up 0.09 ton from 2013. Alfalfa production was generally up across the nation in 2014 as a result of higher yields compared with 2013. Significant yield reductions were noted in many Western States due to persistently dry conditions.

All other hay: Production in 2014 totaled 78.4 million tons, down 7 percent from the October forecast but up less than 1 percent from the revised 2013 total. Harvested area, at 38.6 million acres, is down 2 percent from the October forecast and down 4 percent from last year. Average yield is estimated at 2.03 tons per acre, down 0.10 ton from the October forecast but up 0.10 ton from 2013. Despite lower harvested acreage than in 2013, other dry hay production was up in 2014 due to improved yield. Good moisture during the growing season was beneficial.

Peanuts: Production is estimated at 5.21 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous forecast and up 25 percent from 2013. Planted area is estimated at 1.35 million acres, while area harvested is estimated at 1.33 million acres. Planted and harvested acres are both up 27 percent from the previous crop year. Average yield is estimated at 3,932 pounds per acre, up 72 pounds from the previous forecast but down 69 pounds from 2013. The increase in planted acreage for 2014 was mainly due to lower corn and soybean prices. In 2013, growers decreased peanut acres in many states due to larger supplies and strong grain prices. In Georgia, the largest peanut-producing state, planted acreage was up 40 percent from 2013. Record-high yields are estimated for 2014 in Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia.

Sunflower: The 2014 sunflower production totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 10 percent from 2013 but down 10 percent from the October forecast. The U.S. average yield per acre increased 89 pounds from last year to 1,469 pounds. Planted area, at 1.56 million acres, is 1 percent below last year and represents the second-lowest planted area since 1976. Area harvested increased 3 percent from last year to 1.51 million acres but is the third lowest since 1976. For the third time since data for both states began to be published in 1977, and for the second year in a row, South Dakota out-produced North Dakota to be the leading sunflower-producing state during 2014. Production in South Dakota is estimated at 877 million pounds, a decrease of 12 percent from 2013. Meanwhile, production in North Dakota increased 41 percent, mostly due to an increase in planted area of 33 percent compared with last year, as the crop bounced back from cool, wet conditions that sharply reduced the amount of sunflower that was seeded in 2013. Compared with last year, eight of the nine major sunflower-producing states showed a yield increase, with Minnesota being the only state to show a decline.

Soybeans: Production in 2014 totaled a record 3.97 billion bushels, up slightly from the November forecast and up 18 percent from 2013. The average yield per acre is estimated at a record-high 47.8 bushels, 0.3 bushel above the November forecast and 3.8 bushels above last year's yield. Planted area

for the nation, at 83.7 million acres, is up 9 percent from the previous year and is the largest on record. Soybean growers harvested a record-high 83.1 million acres, down slightly from the November forecast but up 9 percent from last year.

Compared with last year, yields were up or unchanged across most of the nation, with only eight states showing a decline. Increases from last year of more than 8 bushels per acre occurred in Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas. Record-high yields occurred in Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and West Virginia.

The 2014 soybean objective yield survey data indicate that final average pod counts were higher than last year in eight of the eleven objective yield states. Compared with last year, pod counts were up more than 200 pods per 18 square feet in Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri as growing conditions were much improved.

Cotton: Upland cotton production is estimated at 15.5 million 480-pound bales, up 1 percent from the December forecast and up 26 percent from last year. The U.S. yield for Upland cotton is estimated at 781 pounds per acre, up 21 pounds from last month but down 21 pounds from 2013. Upland planted area, estimated at 10.8 million acres, is up 6 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 9.52 million acres, is down 2 percent from last month but up 30 percent from last year. Record-high Upland yields are estimated in Arkansas, California, Kansas, Missouri, and North Carolina.

American Pima producers planted 192,000 acres, down 4 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 189,400 acres, is down 5 percent from last year. Production is estimated at 588,000 bales (480-pound), up 2 percent from the September forecast and up 7 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is estimated at 1,490 pounds per acre, up 25 pounds from the September forecast and up 37 pounds from last year. Record-high Pima yield is estimated in California.

Sugarbeets: Production for 2014 is estimated at 31.4 million tons, down slightly from the November 1 forecast and down 4 percent from last year's revised production. Growers in the ten major sugarbeet-producing states planted 1.16 million acres, down 3 percent from last year revised area. Harvested area, at 1.15 million acres, is down 1 percent from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 27.4 tons per acre, is unchanged from the November forecast but 1.0 ton below last year.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2014 is estimated at 30.9 million tons, of which 29.3 million tons was utilized for sugar and 1.54 million tons for seed. Total production for sugar and seed is down 1 percent from the December 1 forecast but up slightly from 2013. Sugarcane producers harvested 874,100 acres for sugar and seed in 2014, down 1 percent from the December forecast and down 4 percent from last year. Yield for sugar and seed is estimated at 35.3 tons per acre, unchanged from the December forecast but up 1.5 tons from 2013.

Canola: Production in 2014 is estimated at a record 2.51 billion pounds, up 14 percent from 2013 but down slightly from the October forecast. The average yield, at 1,614 pounds per acre, is down 134 pounds from the 2013 average yield and down 8 pounds from October. Planted area is estimated at 1.71 million acres, 27 percent above the previous year's acreage. Harvested area, at 1.56 million acres, is up 23 percent from 2013. Planted and harvested area were both at the second-highest level since records began in 1991. Production in North Dakota, the leading canola-producing state, is estimated at 2.14 billion pounds, up 29 percent from 2013—and representing the second-highest production on record. Planted area in North Dakota is up 30 percent from 2013, as conditions last spring were much improved when compared with the previous year, when cool, wet conditions led to planting delays and a reduction in planted area.

National Agricultural Summary

January 19 - 25, 2015

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Precipitation was near normal across most of the nation during the week. One exception occurred on the Pacific Coast, where areas that received no precipitation were over 2 inches below normal for the week. The other major exception occurred along the Gulf Coast, where some locations in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas recorded more than 4 inches of precipitation late in the week. Above-average temperatures dominated the U.S. during the week, with parts of the northern Great Plains more than 15°F above normal. Exceptions to the mild pattern occurred in California, New Mexico, New York, and Texas, where some areas had slightly below-normal average temperatures.

In **Arizona**, alfalfa conditions were mostly fair to excellent, depending on location. Harvesting occurred on two-thirds of the alfalfa acreage across the state. Sheep continued to graze on various alfalfa fields in many areas. Recent rains helped maintain soil moisture levels. Depending on elevation, some areas were starting to see some new forage growth. Rangeland conditions varied widely from very poor to good, depending on location. Central Arizona growers shipped broccoli, Bok Choy, Chinese cabbage, red and green cabbage, cilantro, kale greens, lemons, and parsley. Western Arizona growers shipped anise, arugula, broccoli, Bok Choy, red and green cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, endive, escarole, kale greens, various lettuce including Boston, iceberg, romaine, green and red leaf lettuce, parsley, and spinach.

Field preparation and planting in **California** continued as weather conditions allowed. Wheat, oats, and other winter forage crops were growing well, but more rain was needed. Some growers were irrigating to make up for the lack of rain. Field cultivation for spring planting continued throughout the state. All pasture and non-irrigated hay was growing slowly due to lack of rain. The wheat crop was rated as 85 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 55 percent poor to fair. Pruning, shredding, and disking wine grapes were reported as about half completed. Weed spraying was picking up in the vineyards and orchards. Copper sprays were applied on cherry orchards in San Joaquin County. Navel oranges, Mandarins, lemons, grapefruit, kiwifruit, and limes continued to be harvested and packed. Persimmons were harvested and sold at roadside stands. Pruning and shredding of walnut and pistachio orchards continued, despite wet mornings and moist soil. Pre-emergence herbicide application continued on nut trees and the ground continued to be prepared for tree planting. Some bud-swell was reported in almond orchards. Fields were prepared for spring plantings. In Monterey County, brassicas, lettuce, and strawberry fields were planted. The planting of spring spinach and broccoli continued. Strawberries progressed well with ideal weather conditions. Processing tomatoes beds were prepared with irrigation tape. Onions were fertilized and irrigated. In San Joaquin County, leafy vegetables and strawberries were harvested. Rangeland feed conditions improved, which resulted in the relocation of cattle to foothill and valley pastures. More rain was needed to help with the germination and development of foothill grasses and forbs. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued, as range and pasture struggled to recover from extended drought conditions. Bee hives continued to be positioned in preparation for the almond pollination.

Florida fieldwork and soil preparation for spring planting has begun on a limited basis in Washington County. Cotton harvest was completed in Gadsden County. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades and Hendry Counties. Fields in Flagler and Putnam Counties were too wet for planting cabbage, and potatoes were planted on a limited basis. Warmer weather has increased yields on vegetable crops. Crops harvested in Miami-Dade County were green beans, pole beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, boniato, bitter melon, avocados, herbs, malanga, and other tropical fruits. Panhandle pastures benefited from rain. In Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties, pasture quality has improved with warm weather and rain. In Okeechobee County, hay for winter feeding was starting to diminish. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly good, while winter forage and pasture condition was fair to good. Citrus processing plants were up and running at full capacity. Harvesting for oranges included both Hamlin and Pineapple oranges, but weekly totals were less than last season's corresponding totals. Navel orange harvest was coming to an end. Colored and white grapefruit harvest was similar to last season's weekly harvest. Tangelo harvest was primarily the Honeybell variety. Honey tangerine harvest was about normal for this time in the season. Grove activity included running irrigation, fertilizing, and some spraying. Field workers across the citrus region have already noticed patchy pin head bloom on orange trees.

Cold conditions prevailed throughout **Texas**, with some areas of the High and Low Plains experiencing snow and ice. The Upper Coast received up to 5 inches of rain, while East Texas averaged 2 inches or more. The rest of the state received at least one-tenth of an inch. Snow and low temperatures worsened winter wheat and oat pasture conditions in the Northern High and Low Plains. Oats continued to progress in southern parts of the state and in the Blacklands. Cotton harvest in the Northern High and Low Plains was near completion. Statewide cotton harvest reached 97 percent complete, down 2 percentage points from the previous year and 3 points below the 5-year average. Pecan harvest continued in parts of the Cross Timbers, North East, and Edwards Plateau. Vegetable planting was underway in parts of South East Texas. Vegetable processing and harvest continued in the Lower Valley. Onions and carrots continued to progress in the North East Texas. Livestock were rated in fair to good condition across the state, as supplemental feeding continued. Range and pasture conditions improved throughout the state.

International Weather and Crop Summary

January 18-24, 2015

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Showery weather maintained favorable moisture reserves for dormant winter crops, while cooler-than-normal conditions in western Europe contrasted with much above-normal temperatures in the east.

WESTERN FSU: Unseasonable warmth overspread key western and southern growing areas, reducing the region's protective snow cover but minimizing the risk of winterkill.

MIDDLE EAST: Dry, mild weather from Turkey into western Iran maintained favorable conditions for overwintering wheat and barley, while rain boosted moisture supplies in southern and eastern Iran.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Widespread rain benefited vegetative winter grains from Morocco into Tunisia.

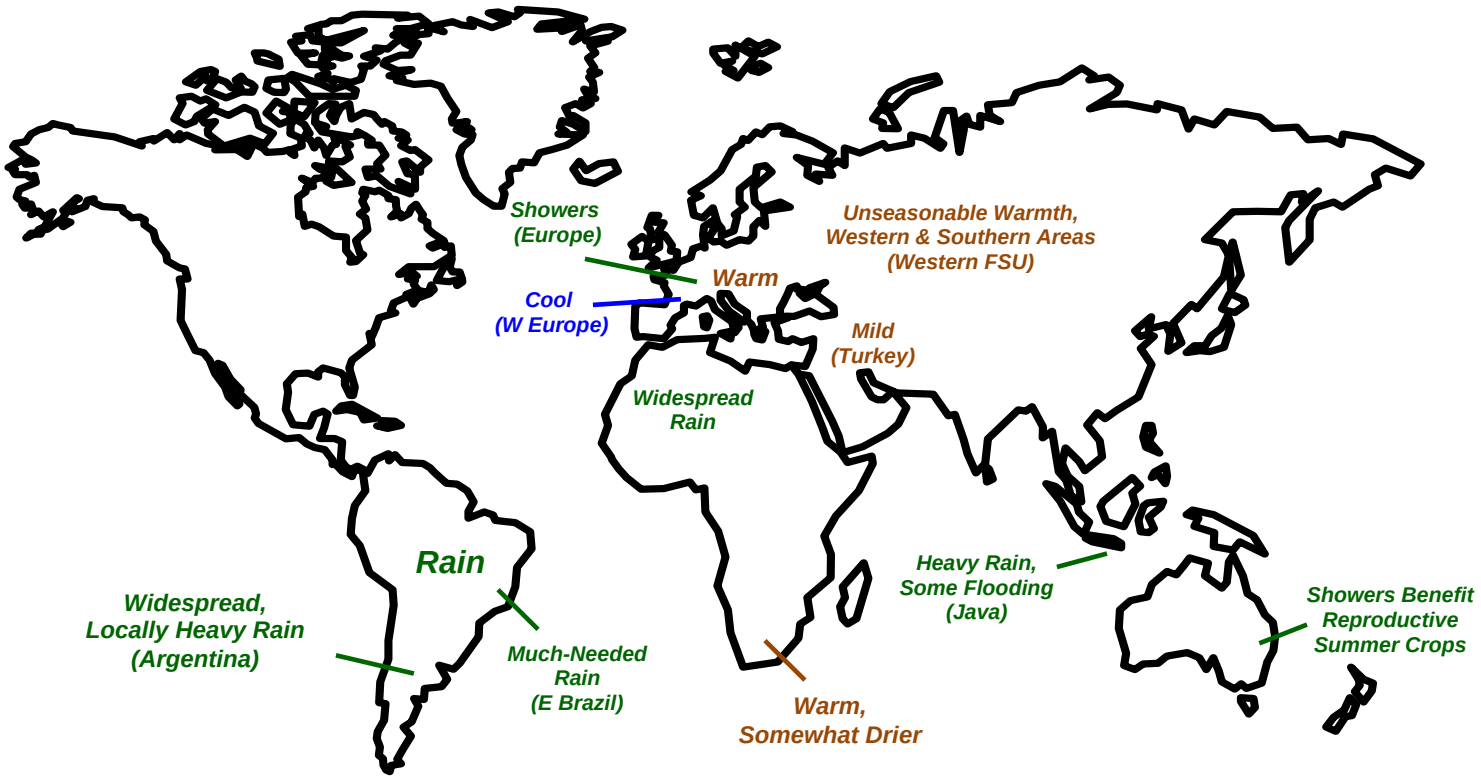
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy showers maintained abundant moisture for rice in Java, Indonesia, but caused localized flooding.

AUSTRALIA: Widespread showers further boosted yield prospects for summer crops, which are in or nearing reproduction.

SOUTH AFRICA: Showers tapered off from the previous week, as summer warmth maintained high crop moisture demands.

ARGENTINA: Widespread, locally heavy rain maintained overall favorable summer crop prospects.

BRAZIL: Showers brought some relief from heat and dryness to eastern soybean areas.



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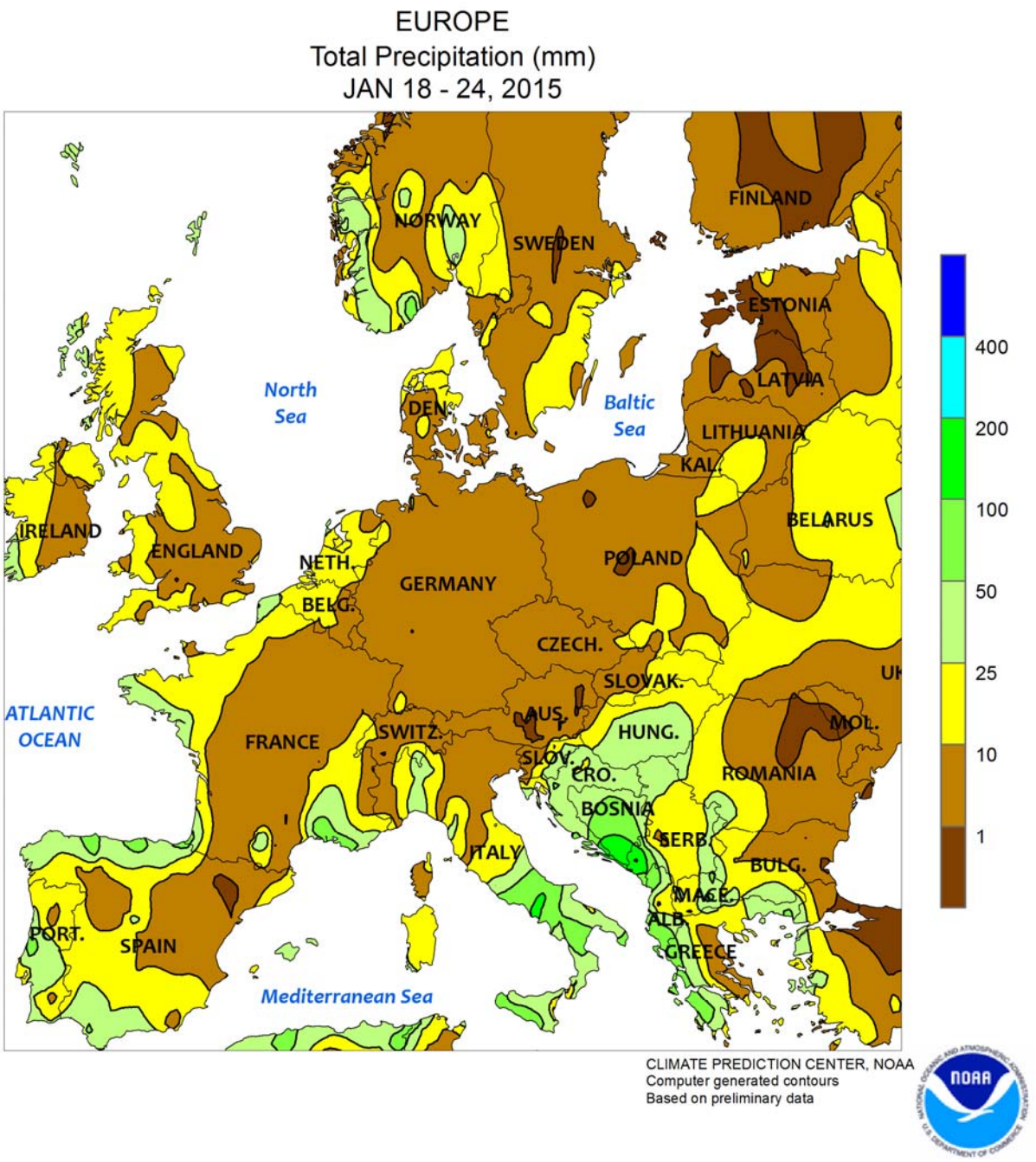

EUROPE

Showery weather maintained favorable moisture reserves for winter crops over much of the continent, with cooler conditions in the west contrasting with unseasonable warmth in eastern growing areas. A pronounced southward dip in the jet stream brought chilly weather (1-5°C below normal) from northern Germany westward to the United Kingdom and southward across the Iberian Peninsula. The seasonably cold conditions ushered winter crops back into dormancy following an extended period of unseasonable warmth. Light showers (generally less than 10 mm) accompanied the cold air's arrival, though somewhat heavier showers (10-50 mm, locally more) benefited winter wheat and barley in Spain and northwestern Italy. Despite the arrival of colder air, nighttime lows remained above -10°C and did not threaten winter crops. Meanwhile, unseasonable warmth (up to 9°C above normal) expanded over eastern Europe, particularly the Balkans, which reduced winter crop cold hardiness, melted the remaining snow cover, and may have encouraged early greening in the warmest locales of southeastern Europe. However, moderate to heavy rainfall (10-75 mm, locally more) maintained adequate to abundant moisture reserves for spring growth from the Balkans into southern and eastern Poland.

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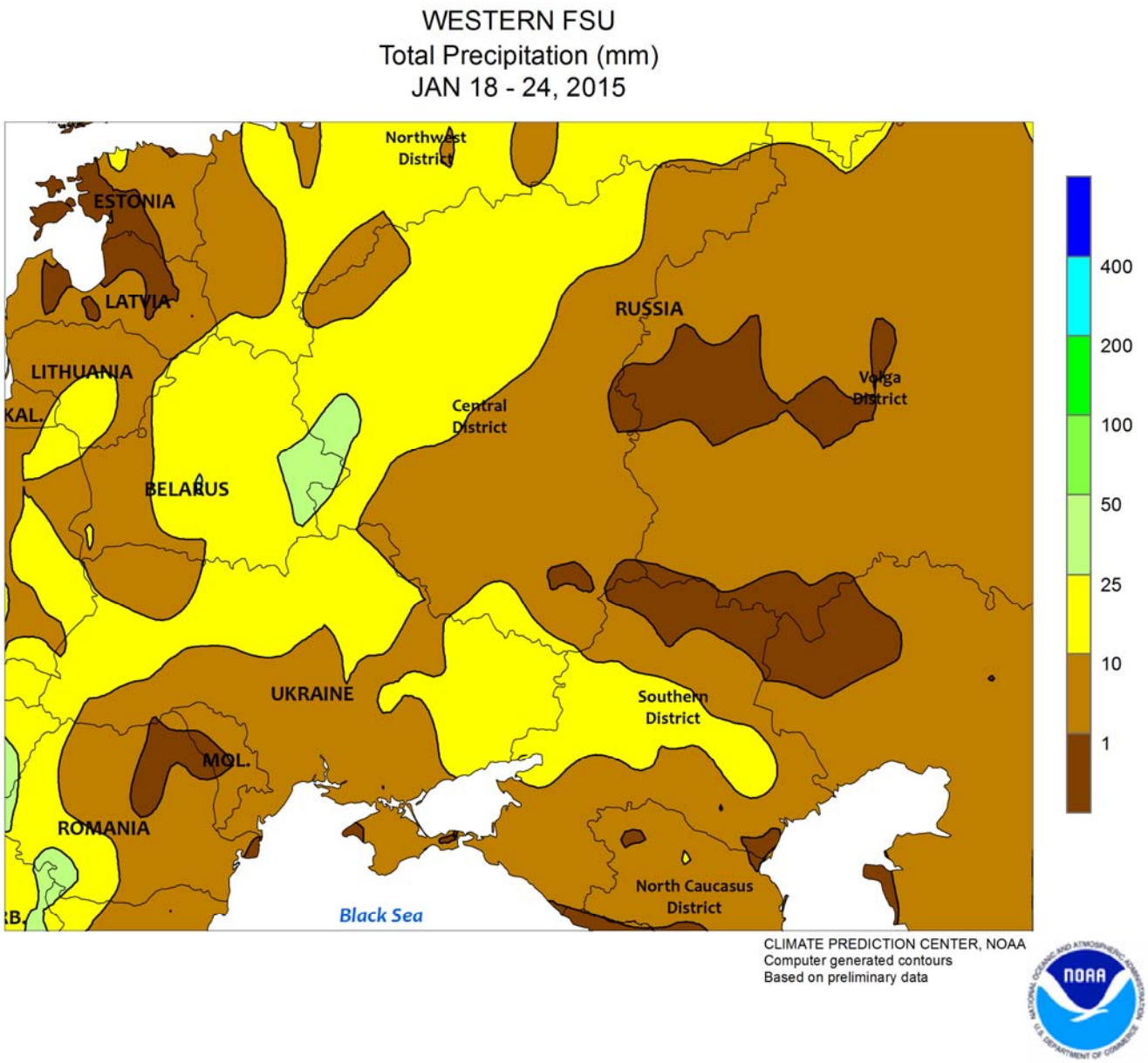

WESTERN FSU

Unseasonable warmth developed over western and southern portions of the region, while eastern-most crop areas remained cold and snow covered. Across key wheat areas of Ukraine as well as western and southern Russia, warmer weather (3-7°C above normal) reduced the region's protective snow cover but minimized the risk for freeze damage to dormant winter wheat. In addition, daytime highs greater than 10°C across southwestern Russia reduced winter wheat cold hardiness and may have encouraged some early greening. In contrast, near- to below normal temperatures prevailed across central Russia, keeping dormant winter crops encased in snow. Precipitation totaled 10 to locally more than 25 mm (liquid equivalent) across central and northwestern crop areas, with much of the precipitation falling as rain.

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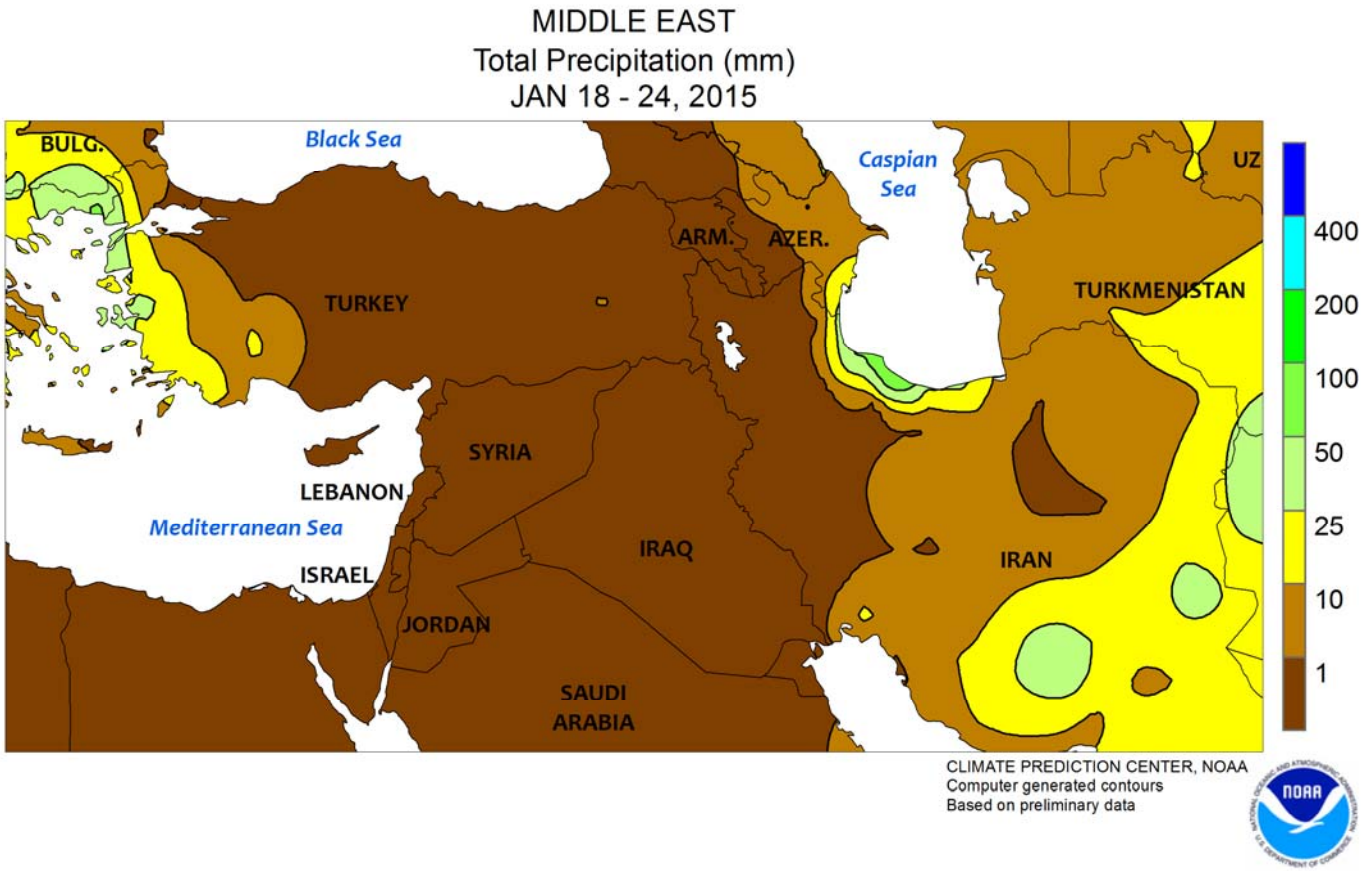

MIDDLE EAST

Mild, dry weather promoted crop development following recent rain and mountain snow, though showers improved soil moisture over eastern and southern Iran. Dry, sunny weather and temperatures 2 to 8°C above normal from Turkey into Iraq and western Iran promoted winter crop growth in the south and melted some of the region's protective snow cover in the north. However, late-week showers (10-30 mm) in western portions of Turkey maintained abundant moisture for dormant winter crops. Meanwhile, widespread, locally heavy showers (10-25 mm) in Iran provided supplemental moisture for irrigated winter crops in the south and maintained favorable moisture reserves for dormant winter grains in northeastern parts of the country.

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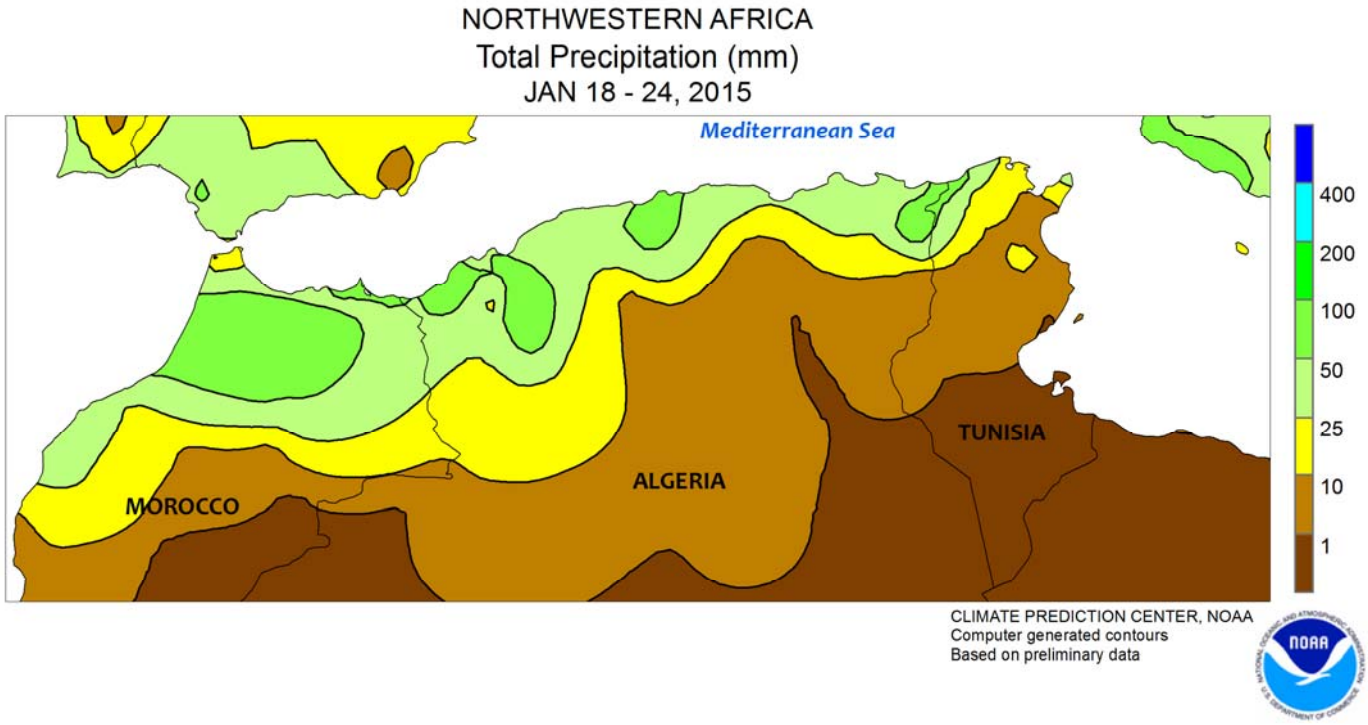

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Widespread rain benefited vegetative winter grains across much of the region. A pronounced southward dip in the jet stream brought rain (20-80 mm, locally more) and below-normal temperatures (1-3°C below normal) to the region, boosting soil moisture for vegetative winter grains from northern Morocco into Tunisia. Most of northern Africa has had an excellent start to the 2014-15 growing campaign, though a drier-than-normal autumn impacted winter crop establishment in eastern portions of the region.

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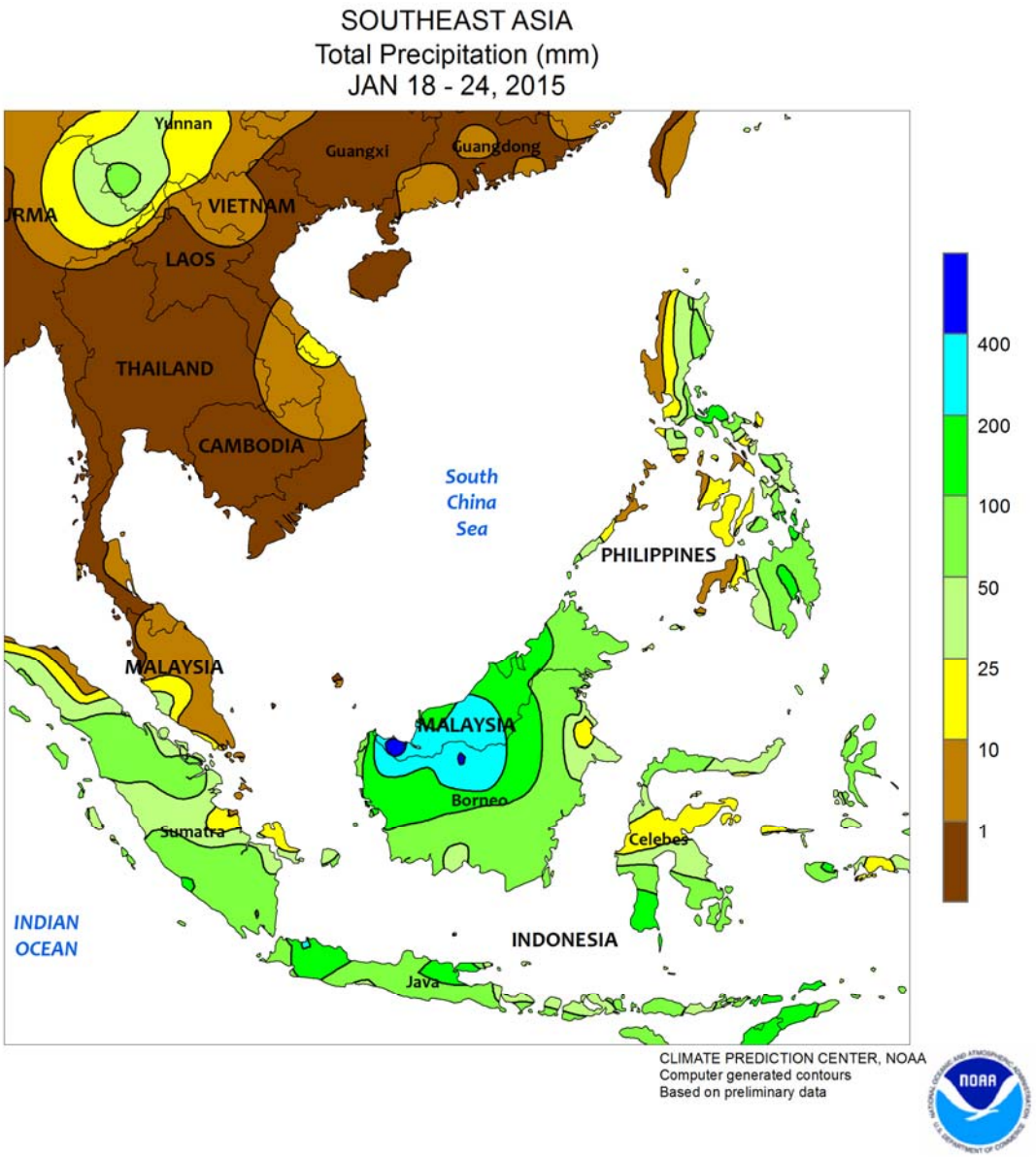

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Heavy showers (50-100 mm) continued across Java, Indonesia, maintaining favorable moisture supplies for rice, however some areas received excessive rainfall (over 200 mm) that caused localized flooding. Similarly, most oil palm areas to the north received beneficial rain (50-100 mm), but across portions of Kalimantan, Indonesia, and neighboring areas in Malaysia, rainfall amounts in excess of 400 mm flooded fields and halted harvesting. Meanwhile in the Philippines, following Typhoon Makkhala's heavy rainfall, more seasonable amounts (50-100 mm) occurred but likely exacerbated localized wetness lingering from storm-related flooding.

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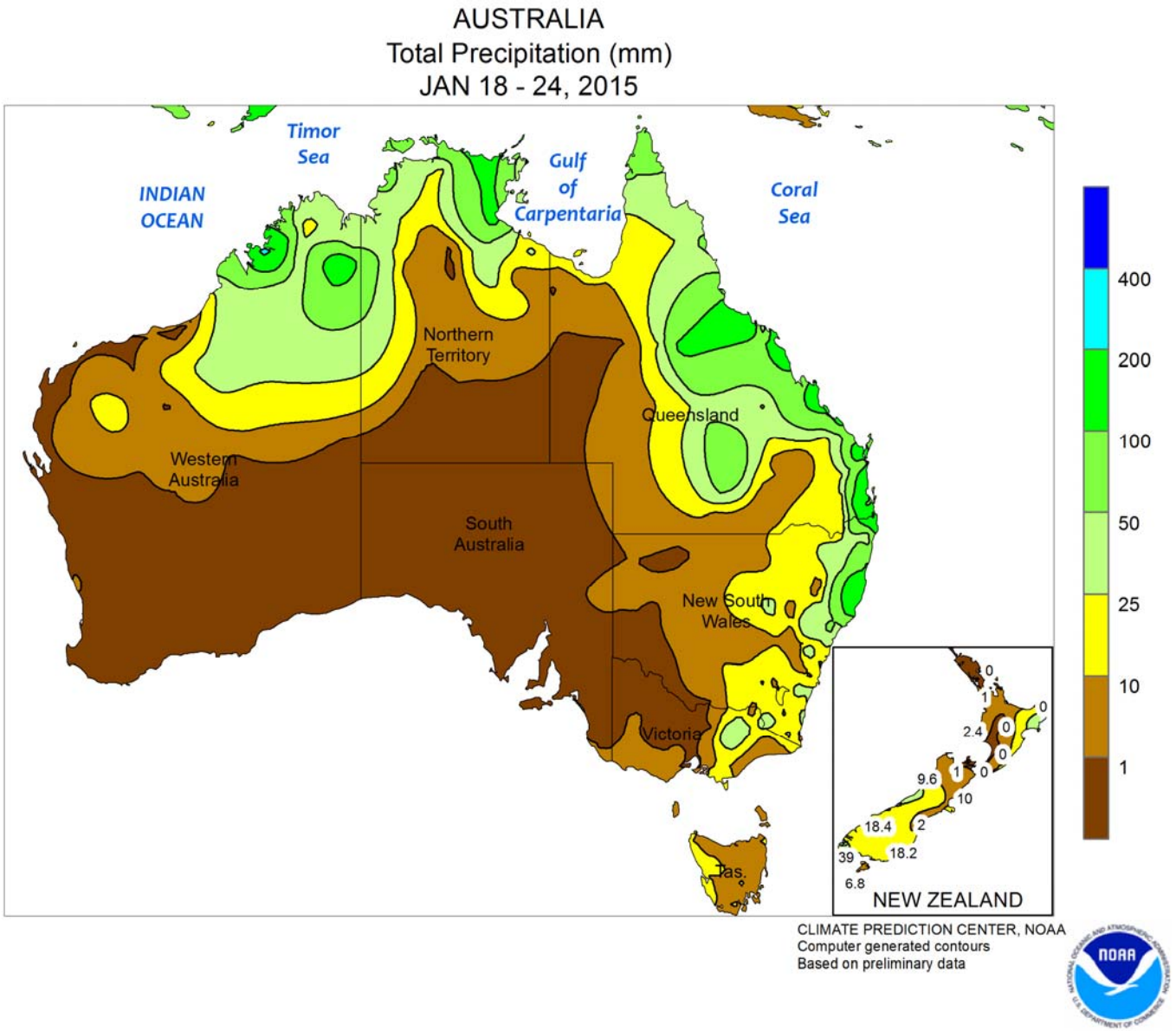

AUSTRALIA

In southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, widespread showers (generally 10-50 mm, locally more) further boosted yield prospects for summer crops, which are in or nearing reproduction. The rain maintained adequate to locally abundant topsoil moisture for dryland crops, such as sorghum, and eased supplemental water requirements for irrigated crops, such as cotton. Temperatures in eastern Australia continued to average near normal, favoring crop development.

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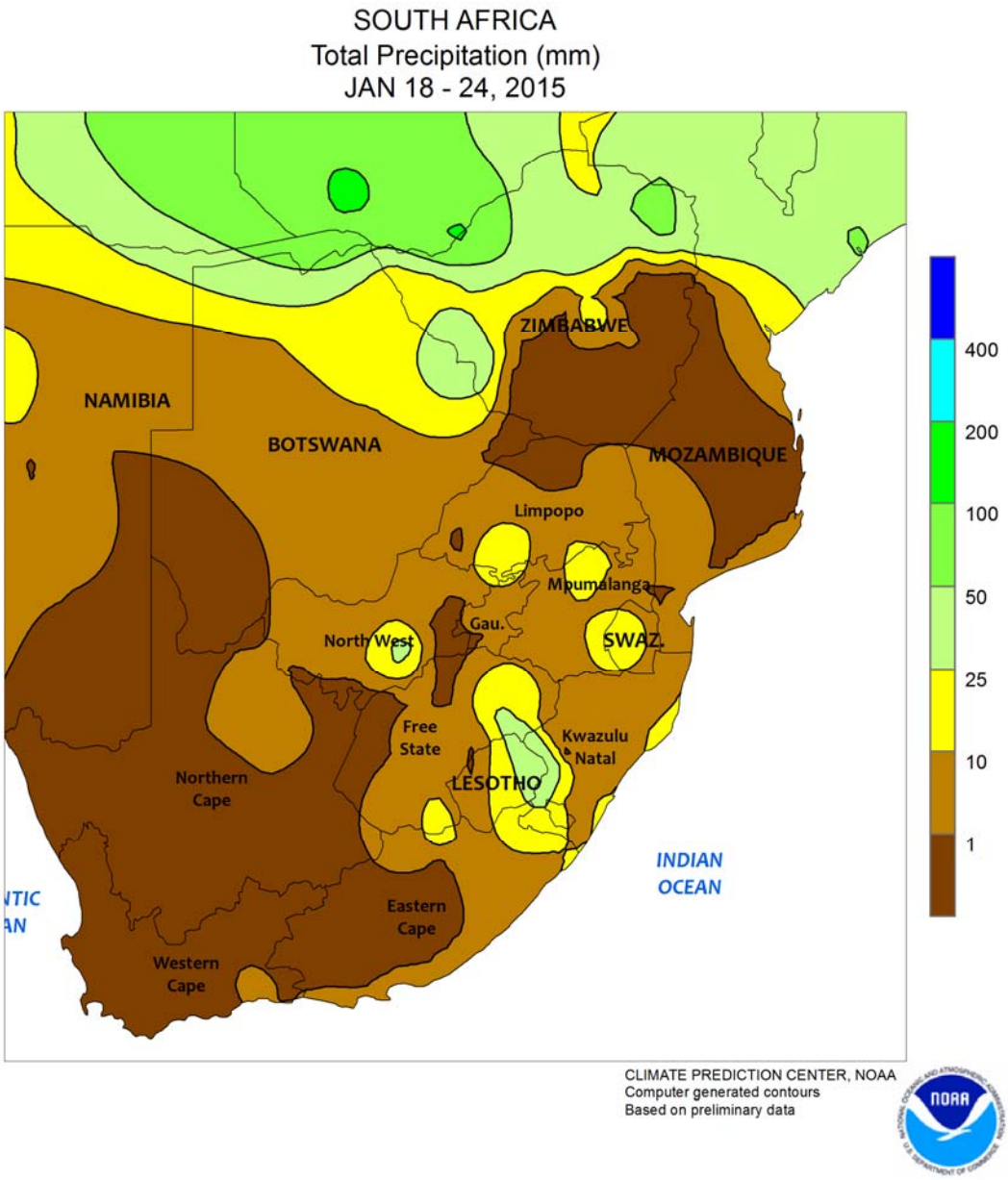

SOUTH AFRICA

Drier weather prevailed across the corn belt, accompanied by summer warmth that sustained moisture demands of vegetative to reproductive summer crops. Rainfall totaled below 10 mm throughout much of the region, though isolated amounts reached 25 mm. In addition, weekly temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal (daytime highs reaching the middle 30s in western and northern production areas). Although conditions have been overall favorable for corn in eastern production areas (Mpumalanga, Gauteng, and eastern Free State) for much of the season, additional moisture would be welcomed for crops currently advancing through reproduction. Farther west (notably North West and central Free State), moisture was limited for normal development of later-planted, vegetative corn due to the trend of unseasonable warmth and dryness that began in December; most crops in these areas will undergo reproduction in February. Elsewhere, little to no rain (5-25 mm) fell in sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal and eastern Mpumalanga, maintaining unfavorably dry conditions for rain-fed sugarcane in southern production areas. Meanwhile, mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather (daytime highs reaching the middle and upper 30s degrees C) dominated the Cape Provinces, spurring rapid development of summer row crops in the Orange River Valley, and tree and vine crops in Western Cape.

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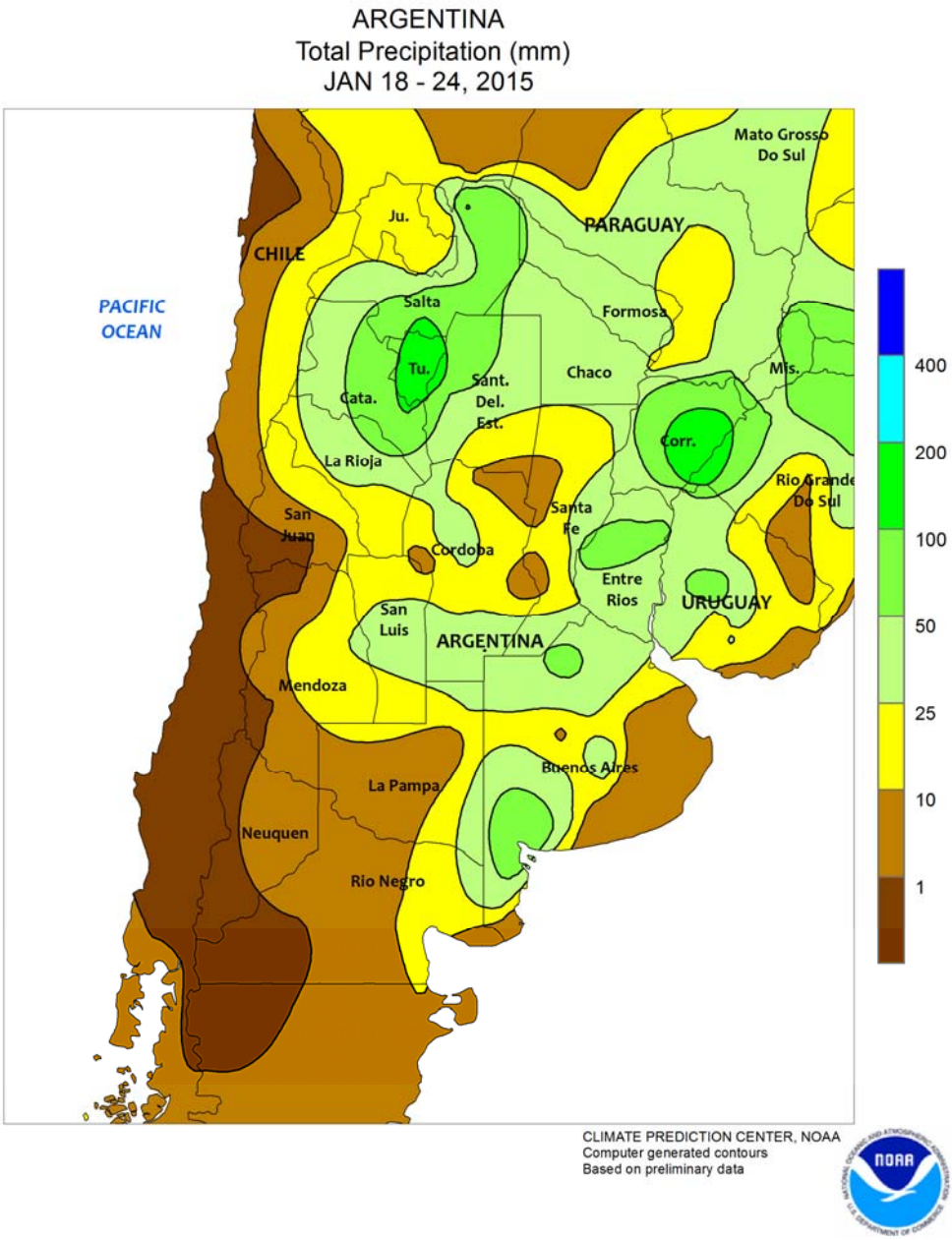

ARGENTINA

Widespread, locally heavy rain maintained generally favorable yield prospects of summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton. Rainfall was highly variable, ranging from 5 to 50 mm in most areas; rain ended a brief dry spell in La Pampa and southwestern Buenos Aires, otherwise most agricultural areas remained well watered. Weekly temperatures averaged within 1°C of normal in most areas, with daytime highs reaching the lower 30s (degrees C) on several days in Buenos Aires and nearby growing areas of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios; temperatures briefly reached the upper 30s in La Pampa. High temperatures also reached the upper 30s on several days in Argentina's northern agricultural areas, hitting 40°C in parts of northern Cordoba and Santiago del Estero. In general, crop prospects are overall favorable; early-planted corn has already advanced through reproduction in the absence of heat stress, and moisture reserves have sustained crops on the warmest days. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, corn was 92 percent planted as of January 22, on par with last year's pace. Soybean planting was virtually complete at 99 percent.

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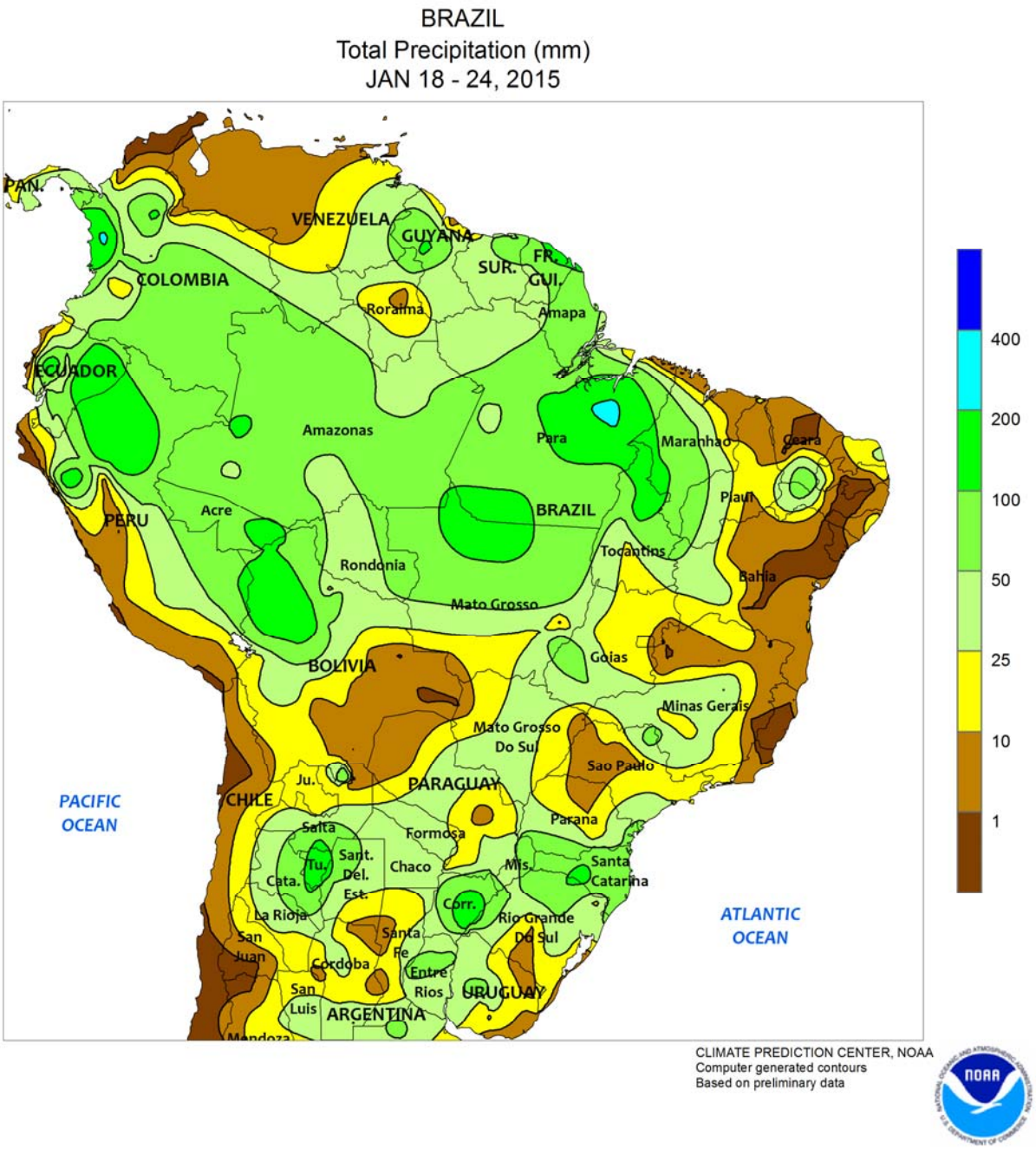

BRAZIL

Much-needed rainfall ended the untimely spell of warmth and dryness that had impacted Brazil's eastern soybean areas since late December. Although amounts were variable, key soybean and first-crop corn areas of Goias, western Minas Gerais, and Piaui received at least 25 mm of rain. Similar amounts were recorded in sugarcane and coffee areas of Sao Paulo and southern Minas Gerais, boosting moisture for sugarcane and coffee. Weekly temperatures averaged 3°C above normal in the southeastern specialty crop areas, with daytime highs prior to the onset of the rain reaching the middle and upper 30s (degrees C). In southern Brazil, heavier rain (greater than 50 mm) was recorded from southern Parana to northern Rio Grande do Sul, maintaining abundant moisture for vegetative to filling corn and soybeans. Heavy rain also fell in Mato Grosso's northern farming areas, with amounts approaching 100 mm in spots; otherwise, showers were light to moderate (10-50 mm) from southern Mato Grosso to northern Parana, boosting moisture for filling to maturing soybeans and corn. Weekly average temperatures were near to above normal in Parana and the Center-West Region, with daily highs in the middle 30s during the early part of the week before the arrival of the rain.

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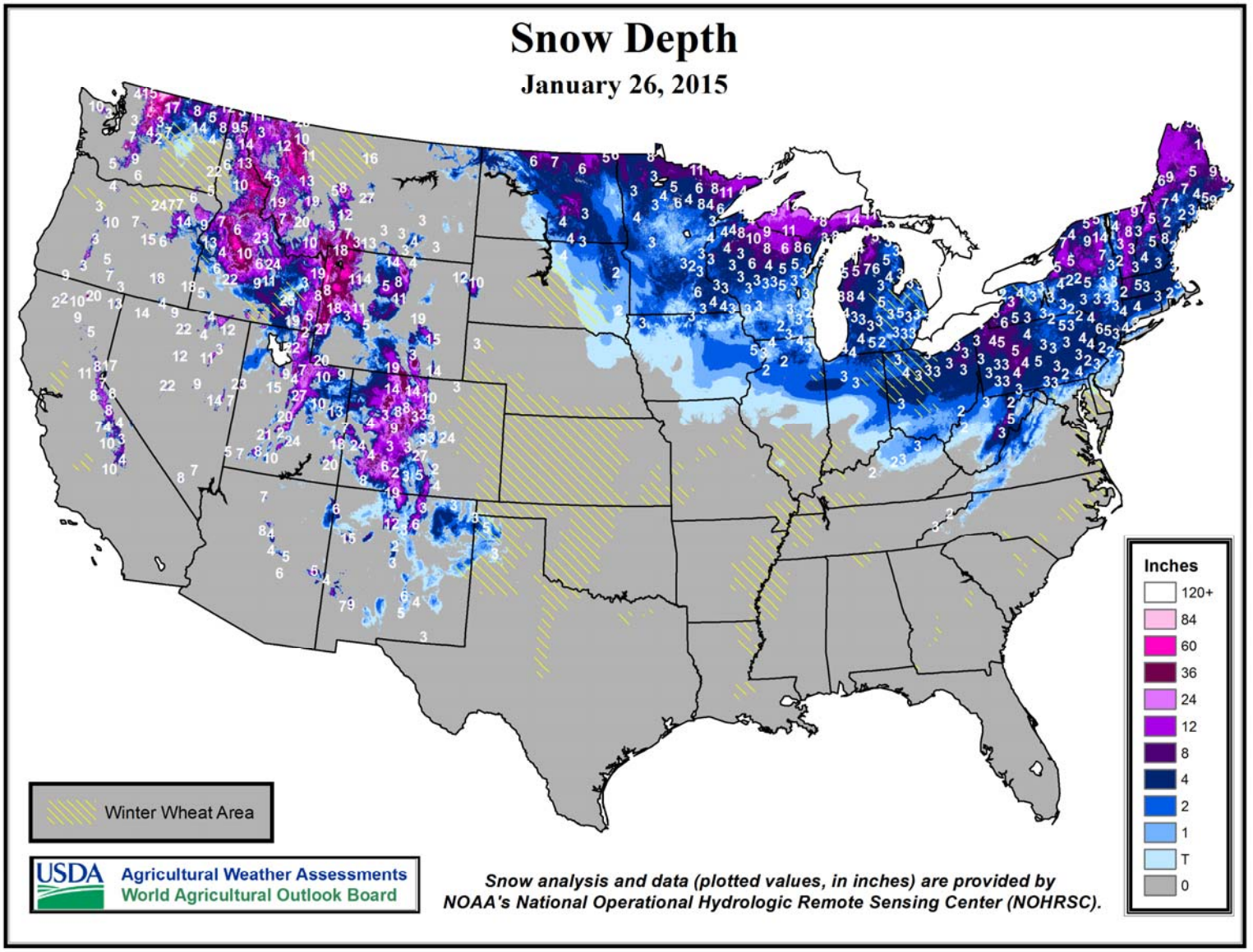

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