

Midwest Ag-Focus Outlook

September 18, 2025

Main Points

- Very dry conditions along the southern/eastern region, and very wet conditions along the western edge of the Corn Belt.
- Drought is worsening along the southern and eastern edge of the Corn Belt.
- Disease and dry conditions continue to impact crop harvest, with dry-down continuing.
- Warmer than normal temperatures expected through the end of the month.

Current Conditions

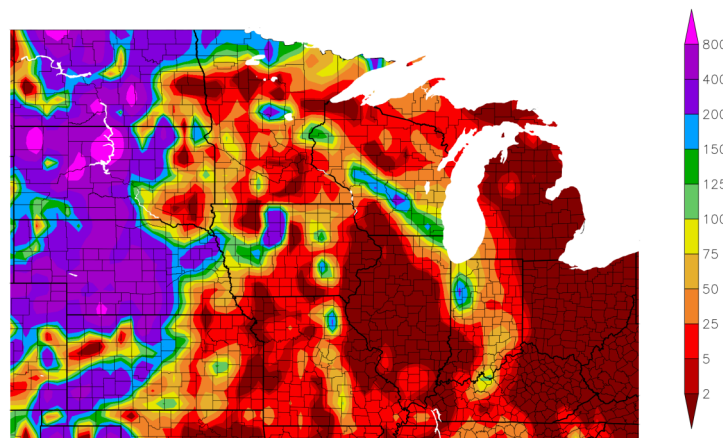
The last seven days shifted from previous weeks with widespread warmer than average conditions. From the Dakotas to Missouri temperatures were largely 6 to 10°F above average. The eastern Corn Belt was also warmer but by a smaller amount (2 to 4°F). Very dry conditions continued over most of the area with 0 to 25% of average very common. Wetter than average conditions covered the Plains (200% of average was common) and a narrow path from Minnesota to Indiana. These amounts were not very large as averages drop off quickly into the fall.

Impacts

Drought

As of September 16th, 56% of the North Central region is classified as no drought intensity, 21% as abnormally dry (D0), 18% as moderate drought (D1), 5% as severe drought (D2), and 0.4% as extreme drought (D3). Compared to last week, drought conditions degraded by 1-class across pockets of Missouri and southern Iowa, and much of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

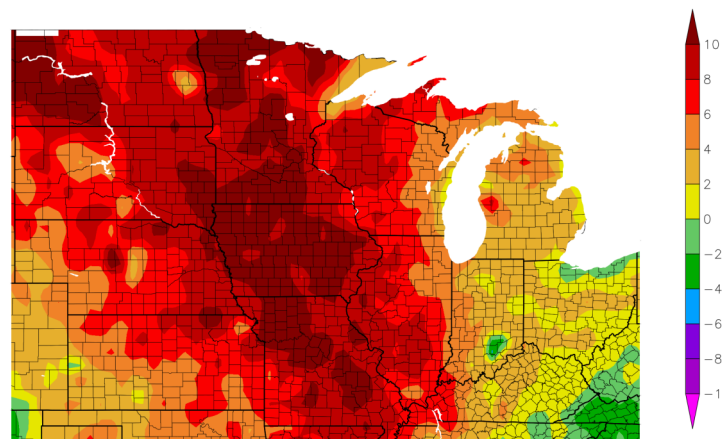
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/11/2025 – 9/17/2025



Generated 9/18/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/11/2025 – 9/17/2025



Generated 9/18/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](https://climate.hprcc.org/). Generated: 09/18/2025.

Soils, Crops and Live- stock

World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB)

Percent Short to Very Short

Week Ending - September 14, 2025

State	Percent Short to Very Short	Change from Last Week
Alaska	93	[0]
Arizona	20	[0]
California	81	[0]
Colorado	56	[+1]
Connecticut	75	[+2]
Delaware	59	[-9]
District of Columbia	29	[+5]
Florida	25	[+4]
Georgia	35	[+11]
Hawaii	75	[+8]
Idaho	64	[0]
Illinois	22	[+7]
Indiana	60	[+20]
Iowa	11	[-2]
Kansas	26	[+2]
Kentucky	72	[+9]
Louisiana	60	[+19]
Maine	75	[+13]
Maryland	55	[0]
Massachusetts	83	[+6]
Michigan	70	[+9]
Minnesota	9	[+1]
Mississippi	72	[+12]
Missouri	26	[+11]
Montana	64	[+2]
Nebraska	27	[+3]
Nevada	95	[0]
New Hampshire	71	[+16]
New Jersey	50	[-20]
New Mexico	34	[-2]
New York	67	[+2]
North Carolina	56	[+21]
North Dakota	18	[-1]
Ohio	85	[+12]
Oklahoma	41	[+10]
Oregon	81	[0]
Pennsylvania	78	[+8]
Rhode Island	75	[+8]
South Carolina	50	[+11]
South Dakota	26	[+11]
Tennessee	69	[+3]
Texas	54	[+3]
Utah	59	[-9]
Vermont	75	[+8]
Virginia	56	[+21]
Washington	93	[0]
West Virginia	72	[+12]
Wisconsin	22	[+7]
Wyoming	64	[+2]

Percent

- 90 - 100
- 80 - 89
- 70 - 79
- 60 - 69
- 50 - 59
- 40 - 49
- 30 - 39
- 20 - 29
- 10 - 19
- 0 - 9

48 States

Short to Very Short 44

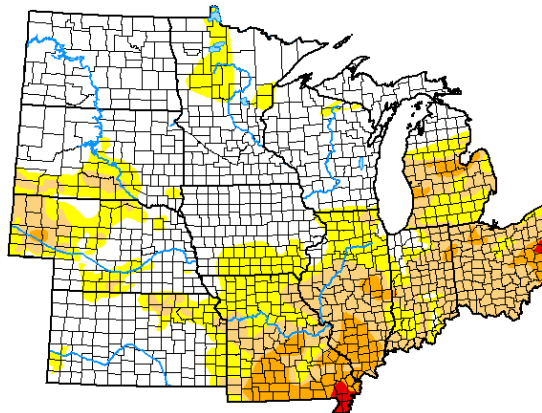
Change from Last Week +5

Top ## - Percent Short to Very Short
[Bottom ##] - Change from Last Week

Data obtained from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service weekly Crop Progress reports.









September 16, 2025
(Released Thursday, Sep. 18, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	56.01	20.52	17.56	5.48	0.42	0.00
Last Week 09-09-2025	62.64	24.29	10.88	2.19	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-17-2025	54.22	27.87	15.05	0.86	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	30.52	24.01	31.13	11.66	2.68	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	18.32	46.64	26.11	7.47	1.02	0.43
One Year Ago 08-17-2024	26.73	39.31	25.15	7.06	1.24	0.51

Intensity:

	None		D2 Severe Drought
	D0 Abnormally Dry		D3 Extreme Drought
	D1 Moderate Drought		D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

mately 0 to 23% of winter wheat is planted.

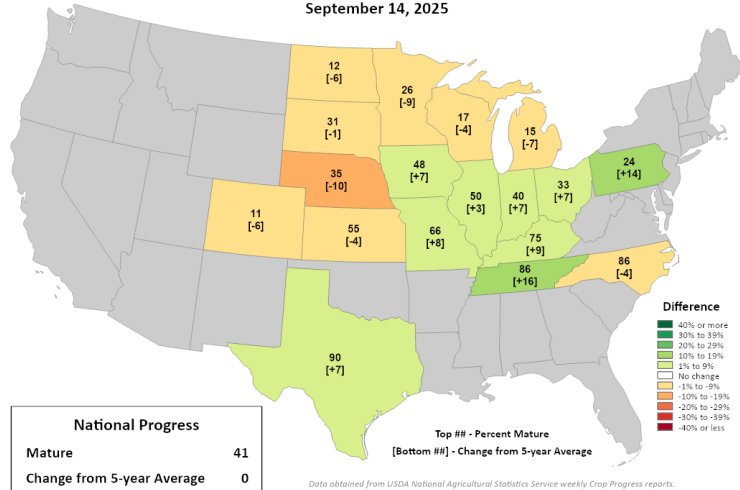
Currently, 20 to 68% of pasture and range are in good to excellent condition. However, pasture and rangeland are feeling the impact of persisting drought conditions along the southern and eastern Corn Belt, and conditions have degraded by up to 18 percentage points over the last week. Reports of producers moving livestock off pastures in this area were common.

Disease and dry conditions continue to impact crops across the Midwest and may threaten to reduce yields. Additionally, with high temperatures and reduced streamflow and pond levels, livestock are likely to experience greater stress. In the Dakotas this is much less of an issue with the additional rainfalls.

Corn Progress

Percent Mature

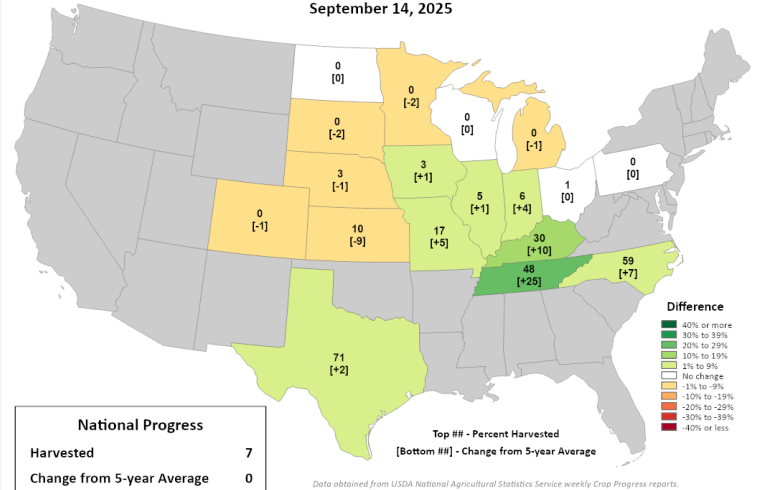
September 14, 2025



Corn Progress

Percent Harvested

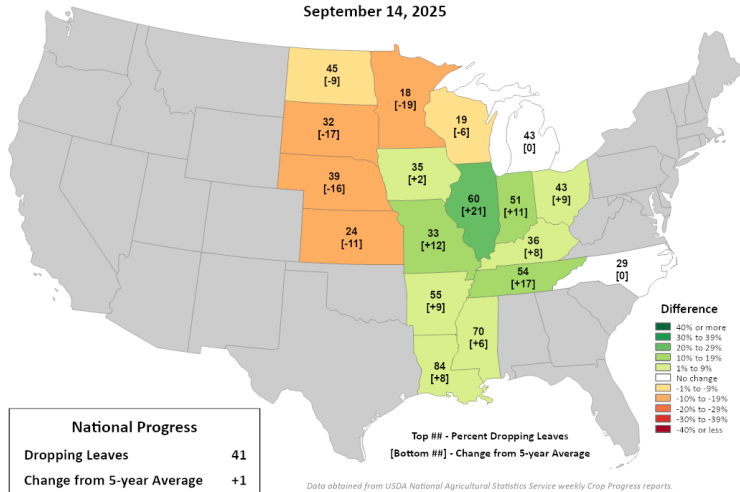
September 14, 2025



Soybeans Progress

Percent Dropping Leaves

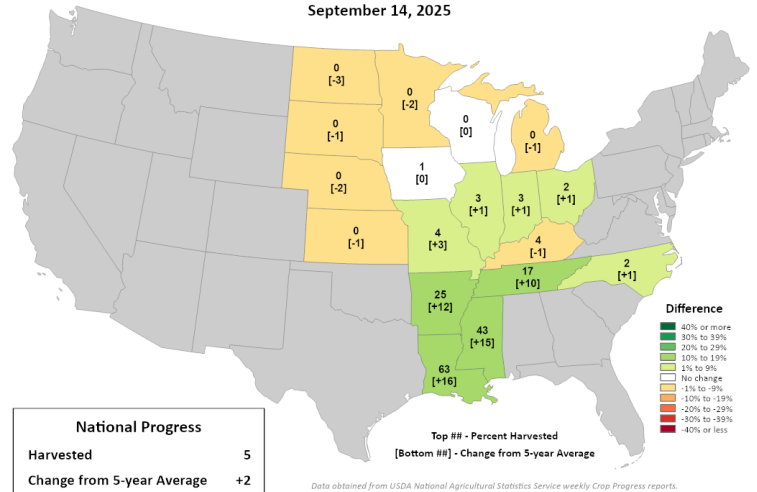
September 14, 2025



Soybeans Progress

Percent Harvested

September 14, 2025



Maps generated by the [United States Department of Agriculture](https://www.usda.gov/).

Severe Weather

Over the past week, there were several reports of high wind and hail across portions of the Lower Midwest and Plains. Additionally, a line of tornadoes touched down across central North Dakota on September 14th. Preliminary reports from the National Weather Service indicate that at least 15 tornadoes may have touched down during this event, bringing with them damage, record setting rainfall, and flash flooding.

Fire

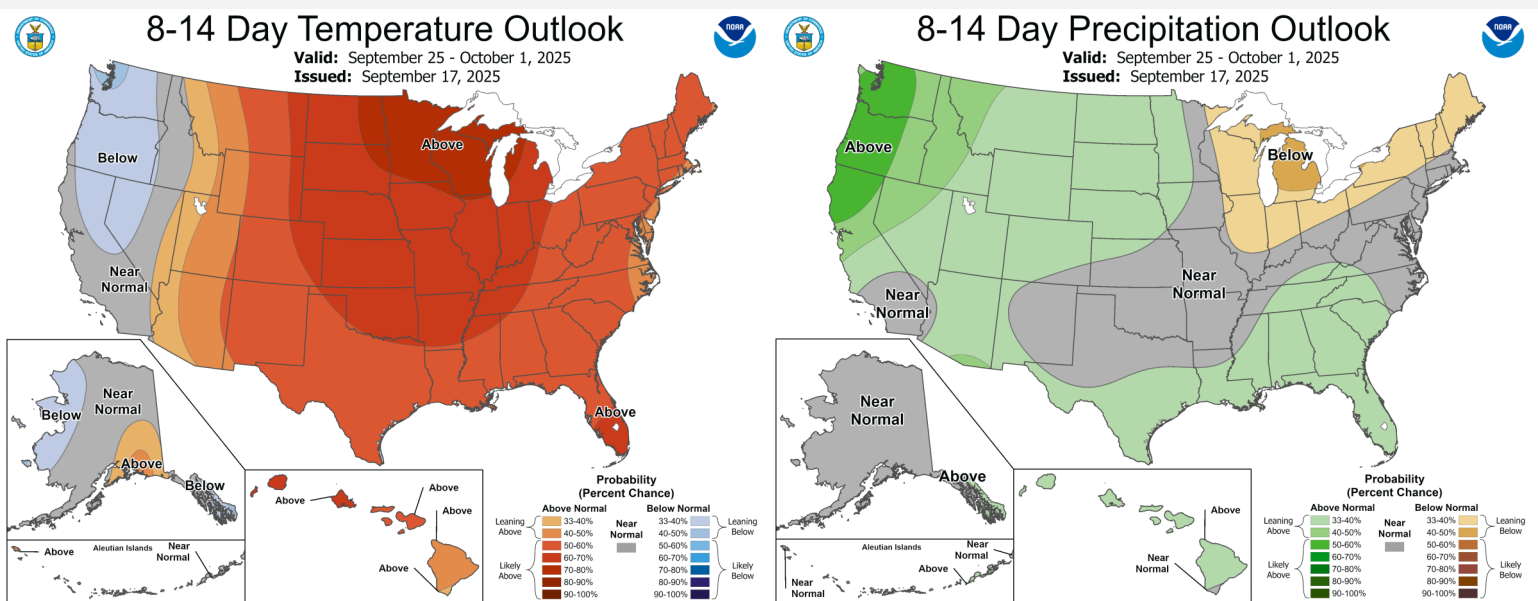
According to the National Interagency Fire Center, much of the region has little or no risk for significant fire potential over the next 5 days. Currently, the southeastern portion of the region is at low risk, and western Kentucky is at moderate risk. Local reports from KY, IL, IN and OH do note many county burn bans and concerns about field fires during harvest.

Outlook

There is a clear and consistent message that above average temperatures are very likely through the end of the month and into early October over the whole area. For precipitation, the 6-10 outlook (not shown) leans dry for most of the region while in the 8-14 day outlook the drier area is focused on the Great Lakes with hints toward wetter in the Plains.

For agriculture, the warmer temperatures will continue to push crops to maturity and provide good drying conditions. Harvest will likely continue to move ahead with minimal delays. Planting for fall seeding should be in better shape in the Plains while dryness could continue to be an issue in the southern/eastern Corn Belt.

The downside of the dryness is that drought conditions should persist in the southern/eastern Corn Belt and possibly worsen. Field fires are also a potential issue with the drying conditions.



Partners and Contributors

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)
[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)
[Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#)
[National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#)
[National Center for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#)
[National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](#)
[National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](#)
[Midwestern Regional Climate Center \(MRCC\)](#)
[Midwest State Climatologists](#)
[High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](#)

For More Information

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