



Drought Information Statement for Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa

Valid January 21st, 2025

Issued By: NWS Omaha/Valley

Contact Information: nws.omaha@noaa.gov or 1-800-452-9074

- This product will be updated April 3, 2025 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at drought.gov/drought-information-statements
 - Please visit weather.gov/Omaha/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
 - Please visit drought.gov/drought-status-updates?dews_region=41 for regional drought status updates
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- **THE CLIMATOLOGICALLY DRIEST PERIOD OF THE YEAR HAS BEEN DRY THIS YEAR, TOO.**
 - **VERY LITTLE CHANGE IN DROUGHT CATEGORY HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE LATE NOVEMBER.**



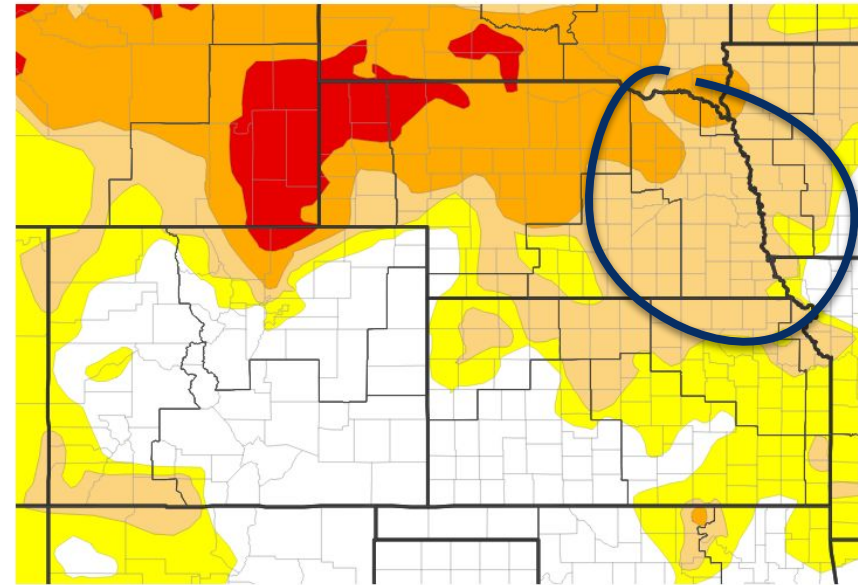


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- The area was drought free in mid-July. Things deteriorated quickly through the fall with very little change since late November.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** None
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Severe drought is relegated to northeast Nebraska.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** The vast majority of the eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** The best conditions are in the southeast corner of the forecast area where “abnormally dry” conditions have been declared.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/21/25

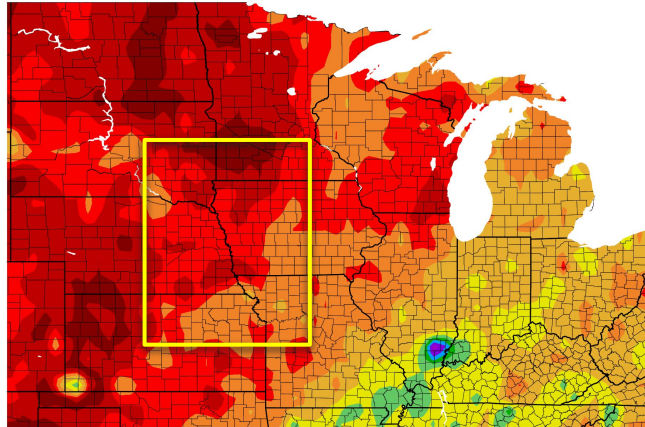




Precipitation

Over the Past 30 Days

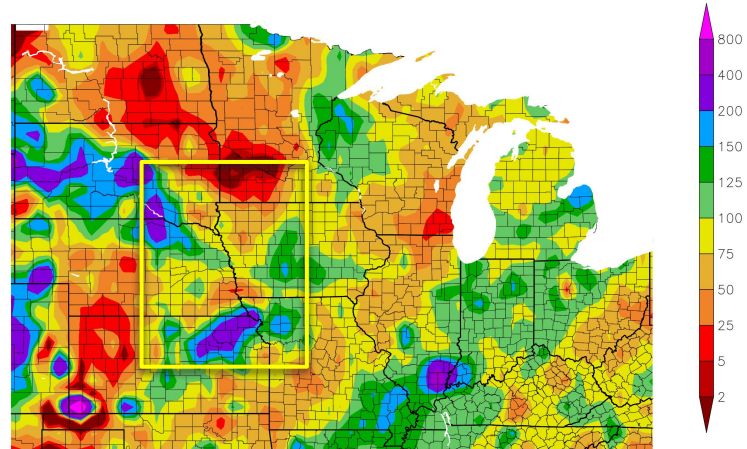
Precipitation (in)
12/24/2024 - 1/22/2025



Generated 1/23/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
12/24/2024 - 1/22/2025



Generated 1/23/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- After historically a historically dry September and October, November came through with some much needed precipitation. Many locations have recorded 150-300% of normal precipitation over the month.
- The dry conditions have returned and have left the area well short of normal snow and precipitation.





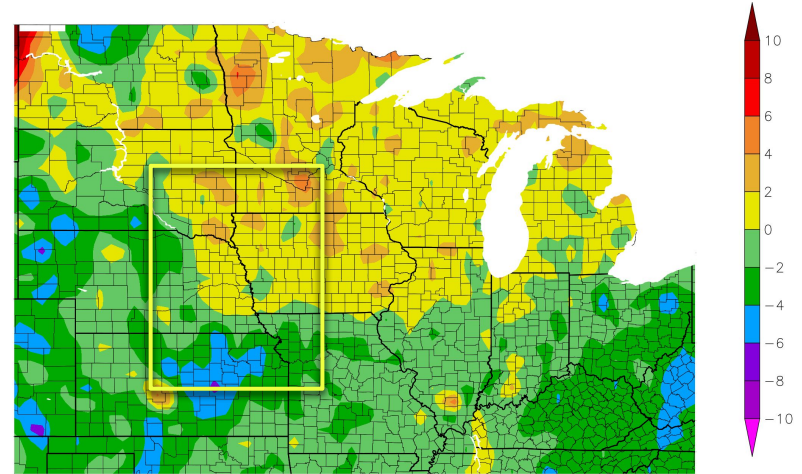
Temperature

Over the Past 30 Days

- Areas along the southern borders of Nebraska and Iowa have been cooler than normal due to the significant snowfall there in January's first week.
- Lincoln, Norfolk, and Omaha were all warmer than recent averages over the past thirty days.

	Norfolk	Omaha	Lincoln
Average Temperature (12/24 to 1/22) vs 30 Year Average (1991-2020)	+1.0°	+0.4°	+1.4°

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/24/2024 – 1/22/2025



Generated 1/23/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Low precipitation this fall has led to concern about aquatic wildlife if streamflows are low during winter. Fish could be at risk when waters freeze. (1380KCIM.com)

Agricultural Impacts

- Urban farmers in the Omaha metropolitan area have blamed the lack of snow on poor bounty. (WOWT-TV)
- Electric fences are not working as well during drought. (FarmAndDairy.com)
- Drought conditions have made it hard to plant and maintain young trees planted to replace those destroyed in the 2020 derecho. (KCRG.com)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- As of 1/23/25, Douglas County, NE has implemented a burn ban based on the dry conditions.
- Iowa has lifted its burn bans.

Other Impacts

- None

Mitigation Actions

- As of 1/23/25, Shenandoah, IA remains in stage 4 water restrictions. (KCCI.com)

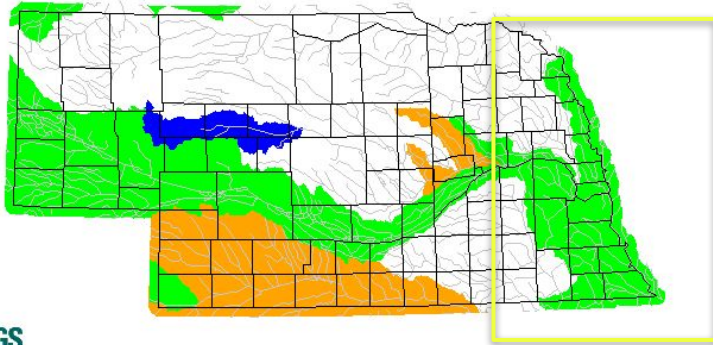




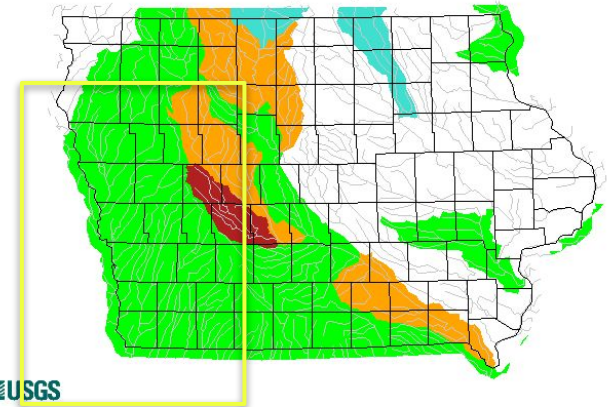
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow has generally returned to normal across the area.
- While close-to-normal for the time of year, this is the dry period so creeks and streams are generally quite low on average anyway.

Hednesday, January 22, 2025



Hednesday, January 22, 2025



Explanation - Percentile classes

Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Captions:

Left USGS 7 day average streamflow NE HUC map
 Right USGS 7 day average streamflow IA HUC map

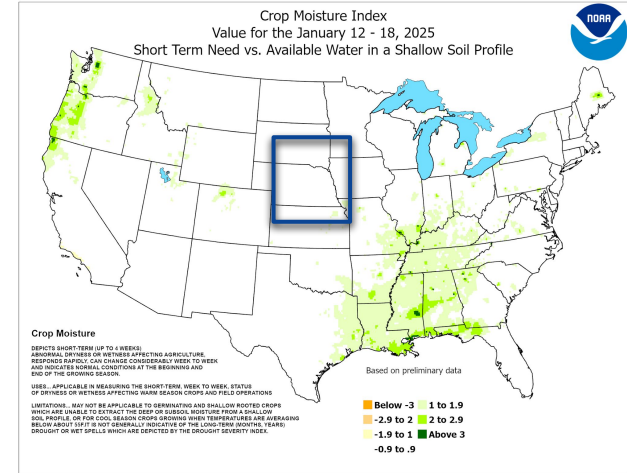
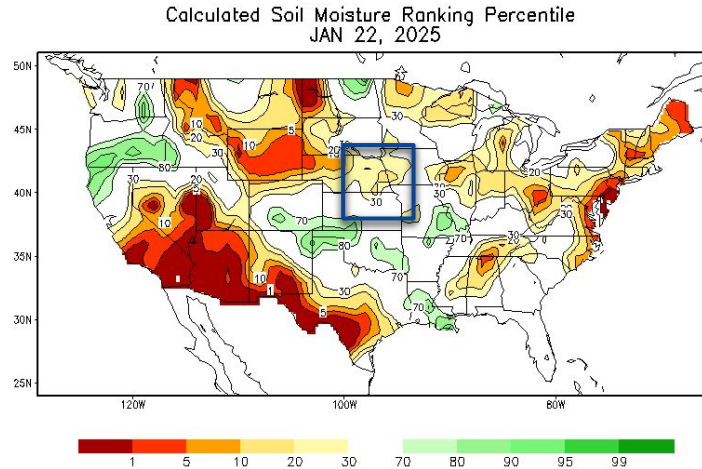




Agricultural Impacts

Link to the Latest [USDA Crop Progress Reports](#) by State

- After some improvements over the course of the last two months of 2024, soil has been drying out across western Iowa and the whole of Nebraska due to the dry conditions which have started to draw declarations of “snow drought”.
- This is beyond even the typical dryness of the winter season.





Drought Outlook

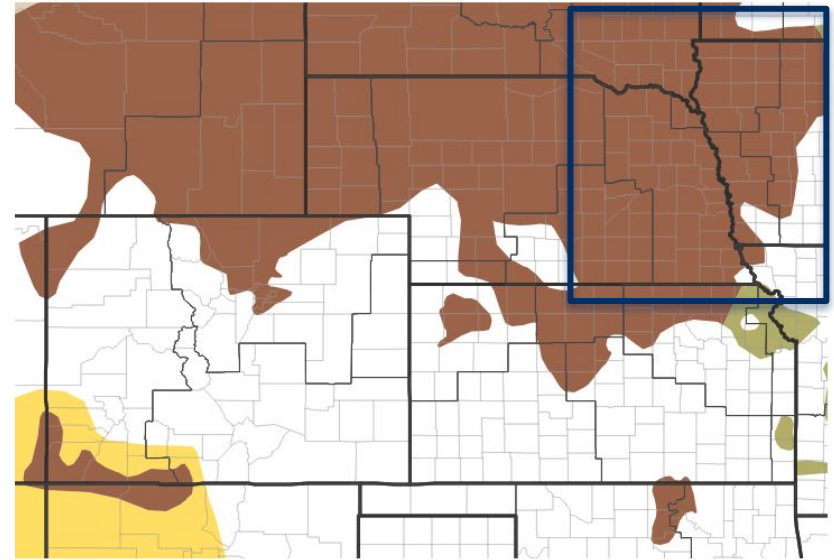
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Very little change has been made in the drought categorizations in the area over the past eight weeks.
- The **3-month drought outlook** calls for drought to remain through at least April for most of the Northern Plains.
- Some improvement is expected in northeastern Kansas where significant snow fell in early January.

Link to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 16, 2025–April 30, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/16/25

