



Drought Information Statement for South Central NE and North Central KS

Valid May 9, 2024

Issued By: NWS Hastings, NE

Contact Information: nws.hastings@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated sometime in June 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/gid/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
-
- The entire NWS Hastings coverage area is now void of Severe Drought (D2) for the first time since February 2022!
 - However, due to mainly longer-term dryness, roughly 27% of our 30-county area is still in Moderate Drought (D1), with an additional roughly 32% of our area indicated as Abnormally Dry (D0)





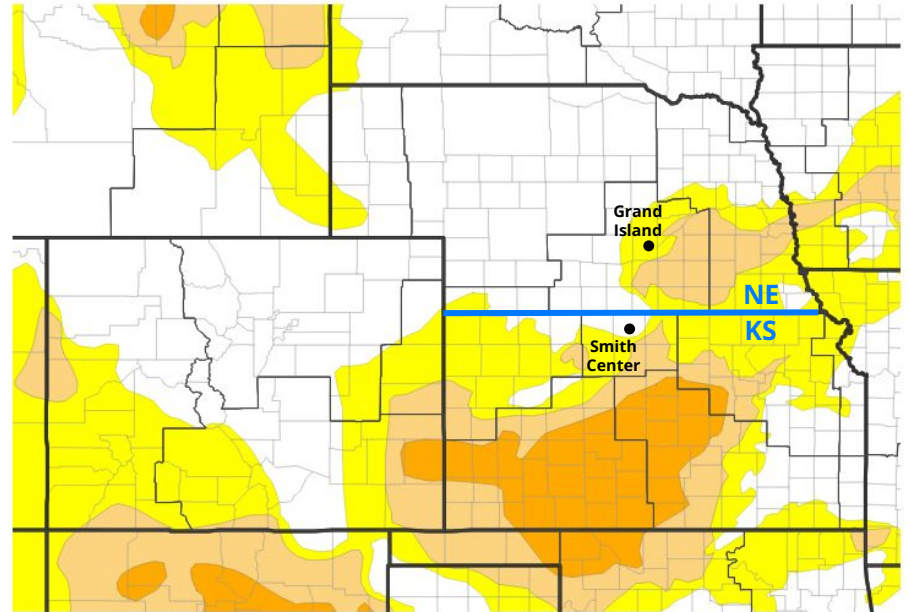
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for High Plains Region

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D1 (Moderate Drought):**
Includes all or part of the following counties:
Merrick, Polk, Hall, Hamilton, York, Kearney, Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, Smith, Jewell, Rooks, Osborne, Mitchell
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):**
Includes all or part of the following counties:
Greeley, Nance, Sherman, Howard, Merrick, Buffalo, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Adams, Franklin, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, Phillips, Smith, Jewell, Rooks, Osborne, Mitchell

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/07/24





Common Drought Impacts By Category

Link to the [Common Drought Impacts By Category](#)

D0	Abnormally Dry	Going Into Drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops and pastures	Coming Out Of Drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some lingering water deficits• Crops and pastures not fully recovered
D1	Moderate Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some damage to crops and pastures• Streams, reservoirs, wells low - some water shortages developing or imminent	
D2	Severe Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crop or pasture losses likely• Water shortages common• Water restrictions can be imposed	
D3	Extreme Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major crop and pasture losses• Widespread water shortages or restrictions possible	
D4	Exceptional Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exceptional and widespread crop and pasture losses• Water shortages in reservoirs, streams, and wells can create water emergencies	





Short-Term Precipitation Recap (the last week) and Forecast (the next week)

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for High Plains Region

- Recap of U.S. Drought Monitor "data week" May 1-7 :

(NOTE: any precipitation that fell since 7am TUESDAY "didn't count" for this week's Drought Monitor)

The May 1-7 "Drought Monitor Week" featured **widespread, beneficial rainfall** across our entire coverage area!

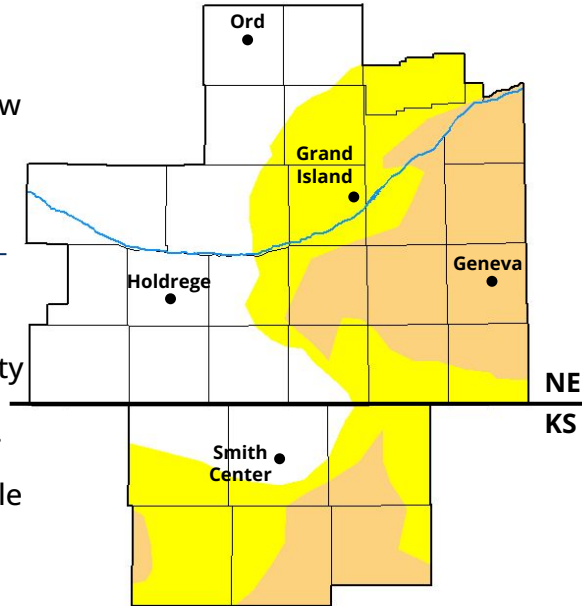
Over the course of a few rounds of showers/thunderstorms, nearly our entire area received between 1-3". There were very few exceptions on either side of this range, with only a few localized pockets exceeding 3", while conversely, very little of our area fell short of 1".

- Looking ahead May 10-16:

Although the May 10-16 time frame does not look overly-wet, chances for somewhat-widespread rain and thunderstorm activity are mainly centered on Sunday-Sunday night (May 12-13) and again around Wednesday-Thursday (May 15-16).

The latest official WPC precipitation forecast, along with ensemble forecast model data, calls for widespread amounts of generally 0.25-0.75" across our area...generally lowest north of I-80 and highest in north central KS.

U.S. Drought Monitor Hastings, NE WFO



May 7, 2024

(Released Thursday, May. 9, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	40.79	59.21	27.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-30-2024	40.76	59.24	41.10	14.40	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-06-2024	29.28	70.72	50.44	32.19	0.72	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2024	16.14	83.86	62.04	46.34	25.12	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	5.23	94.77	78.96	63.84	36.89	15.81
One Year Ago 05-09-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.06	44.92	6.39

Intensity:



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>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Hastings, Nebraska



Latest Regional Drought Monitor Map + April 2024 Precip Extremes For NWS Hastings Area

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for High Plains Region

April 2024 Local Precipitation Extremes:

Most of Our Area Totaled Between 1.00-4.75" (40-190% of normal), BUT Highly-Variable and Overall-Wettest North of a Beaver City-Hastings-York Line

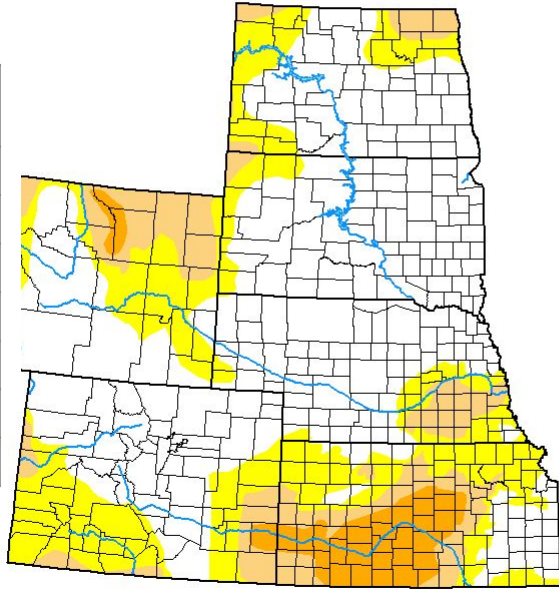
U.S. Drought Monitor High Plains Climate Region

May 7, 2024

(Released Thursday, May. 9, 2024)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

APRIL 2024 Highest Precipitation	APRIL 2024 Lowest Precipitation
<i>Some of our WETTEST stations (NWS/CoCoRaHS/NeRAIN)</i>	<i>Some of our DRIEST stations (NWS/CoCoRaHS/NeRAIN)</i>
Aurora NE (NeRAIN): 5.78"	Webster Dam KS (NWS observer): 0.39"
2NW Elwood NE (NeRAIN): 5.72"	6E Phillipsburg KS (CoCoRaHS): 0.44"
3SW Boelus NE (NeRAIN): 5.42"	10WNW Stockton KS (CoCoRaHS): 0.56"
Riverdale NE (NeRAIN): 5.42"	Cawker City KS (NWS observer): 0.65"
6N Elwood NE (NeRAIN): 5.37"	7NNE Natoma KS (CoCoRaHS): 0.70"
2NW Rockville NE (NeRAIN): 5.20"	Natoma KS (NWS observer): 0.78"
2NNE Stromsburg NE (NeRAIN): 5.19"	Cowles NE (NeRAIN): 0.79"



- Intensity:**
- None
 - D0 Abnormally Dry
 - D1 Moderate Drought
 - D2 Severe Drought
 - D3 Extreme 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>

Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

FOR REFERENCE: "normal" April precipitation across MOST of our coverage area ranges from 2.25-2.80" (generally lowest west/highest east)

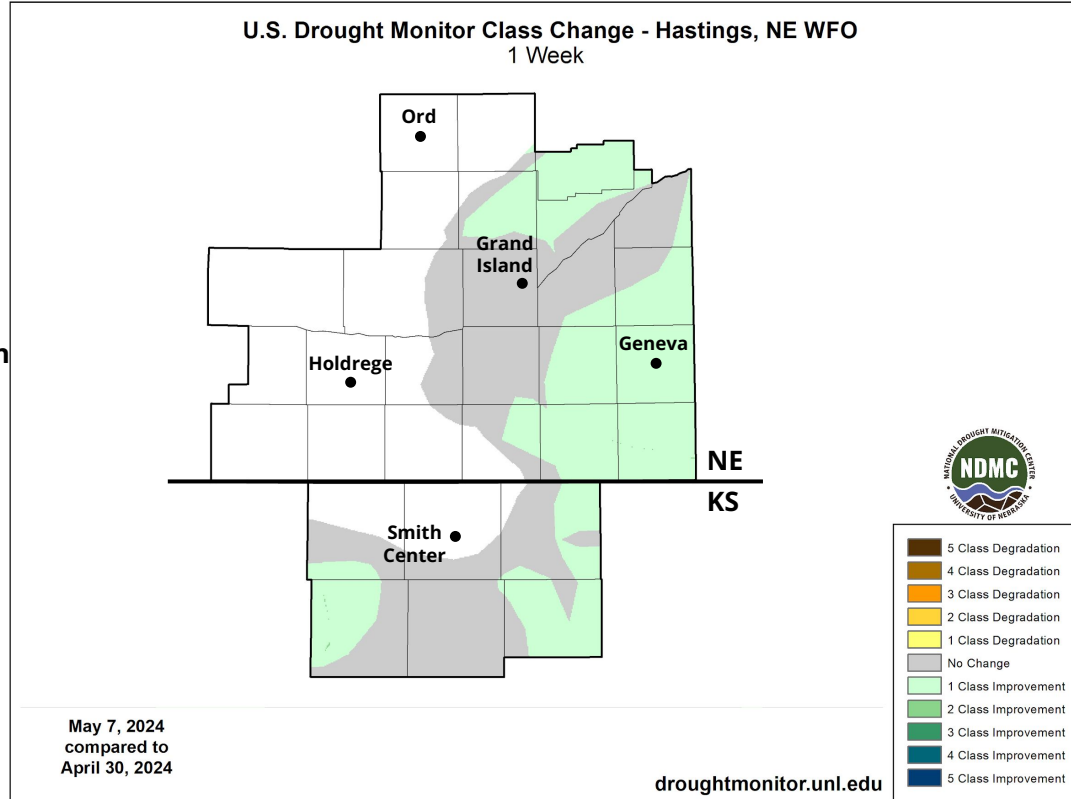


Recent Change in Drought Intensity - 1 Week Change

NWS Hastings [1-Week Drought Class Change...](#) May 7 vs. April 30

One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:

- **Drought Worsened:**
- NO drought class degradation occurred
- **No Change:**
- There was NO CHANGE in drought classification within the gray-shaded areas
- **Drought Improved:**
- Widespread 1-class improvement occurred within many counties!
- This included the removal of all remaining Severe Drought (D2) from the area



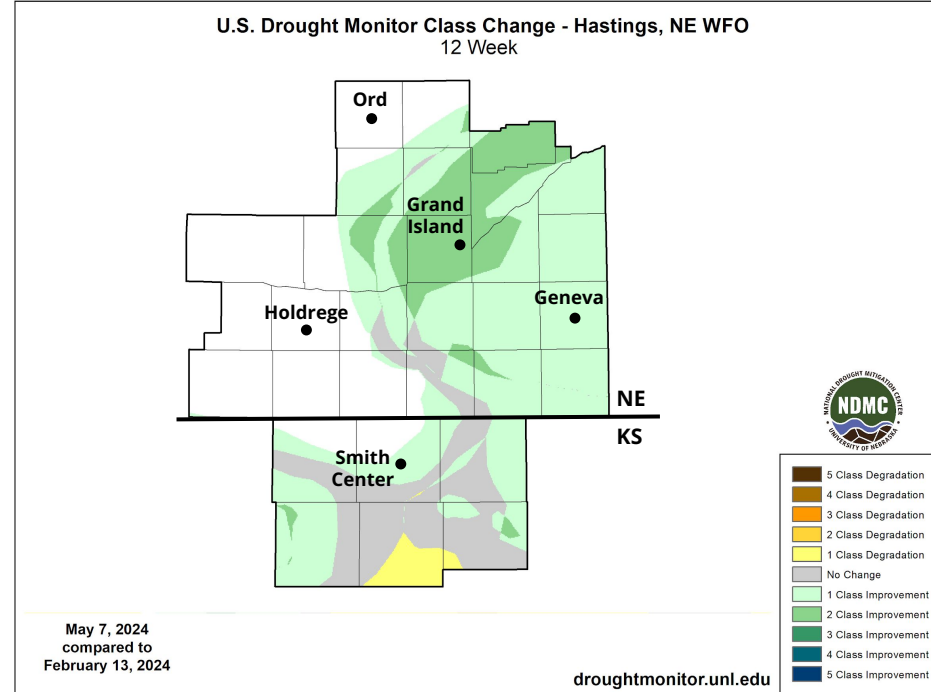
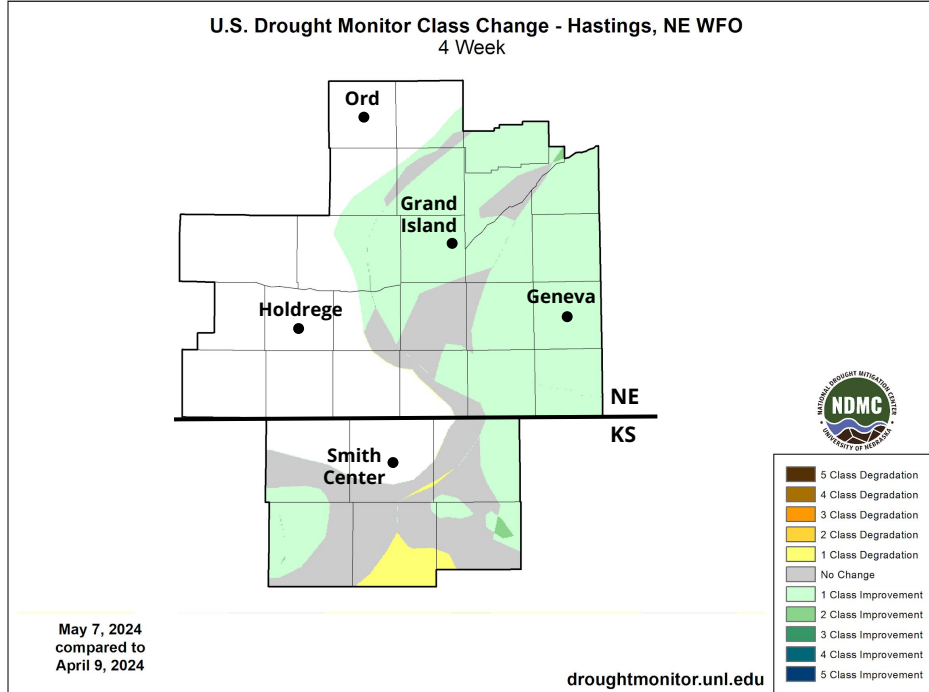


Recent Change in Drought Intensity - 4 and 12 Week Change

NWS Hastings 4-week & 12-week Drought Class Changes...vs. current May 7 maps

4-WEEK CHANGE MAIN TAKEAWAYS: *widespread* 1-class improvement in several counties...limited 1-class degradation mainly in Osborne/Mitchell

12-WEEK CHANGE MAIN TAKEAWAYS: *widespread* 1-2 class improvement in several counties...limited 1-class degradation mainly in Osborne/Mitchell





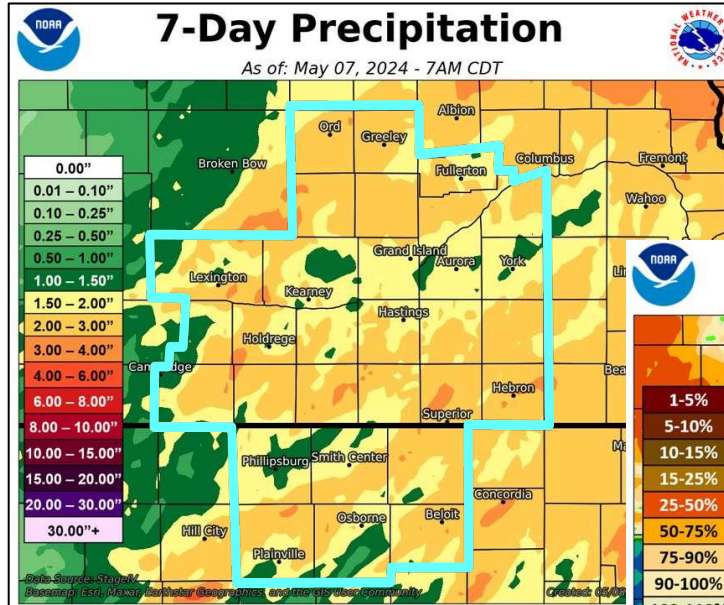
Precipitation (Last 7-Day Drought Monitor Period)

7-Day Precipitation/Percent-of-Normal (May 1-7)...Map Links [HERE](#)

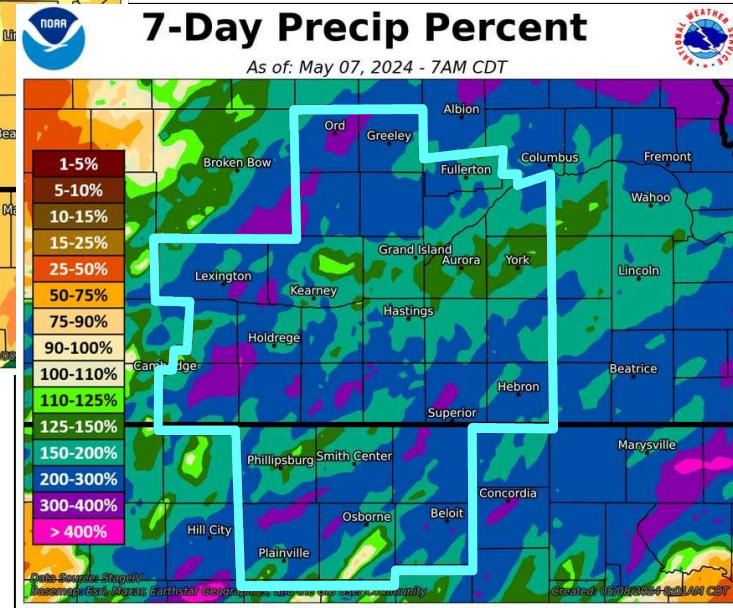
Main Takeaways:

The May 1-7 “Drought Monitor Week” featured **widespread, beneficial rainfall across our entire coverage area!**

Over the course of a few rounds of showers/thunderstorms, nearly our entire area received between 1-3”. There were very few exceptions on either side of this range, with only a few localized pockets exceeding 3”, while conversely, very little of our area fell short of 1”.



NWS Hastings area outlined in light blue (24 NE counties, 6 KS counties)



PLEASE NOTE:

Any precipitation that fell AFTER 7am Tuesday, May 7 is not reflected here as it fell after the weekly Drought Monitor “data cutoff”.





Precipitation (Last 30-Day Drought Monitor Period)

30-Day Precipitation/Percent-of-Normal (April 8 - May 7)...Map Links [HERE](#)

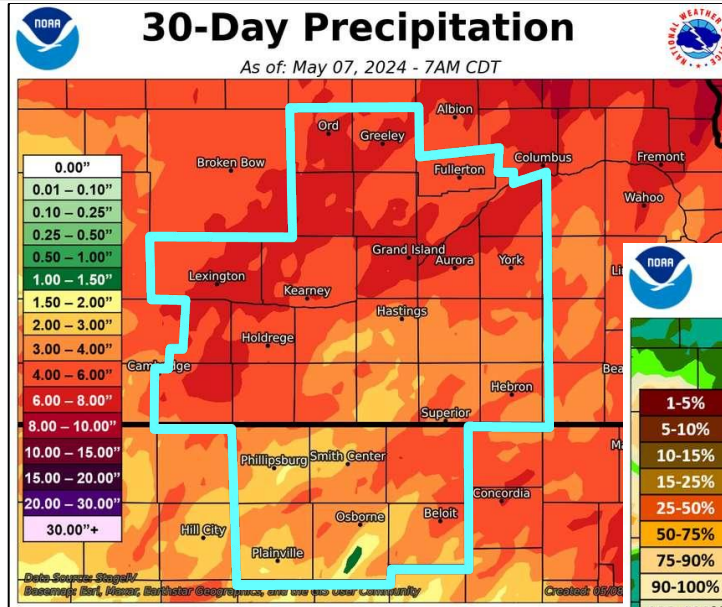
Main Takeaways:

The vast majority of our coverage area had **ABOVE NORMAL** precipitation over the last 30 days.

The majority of our area measured between 2.50-6.00" ...or roughly 90-200% of normal.

The greatest concentration of amounts at least 3-6" focused primarily north of a line from Beaver City-Hastings-York.

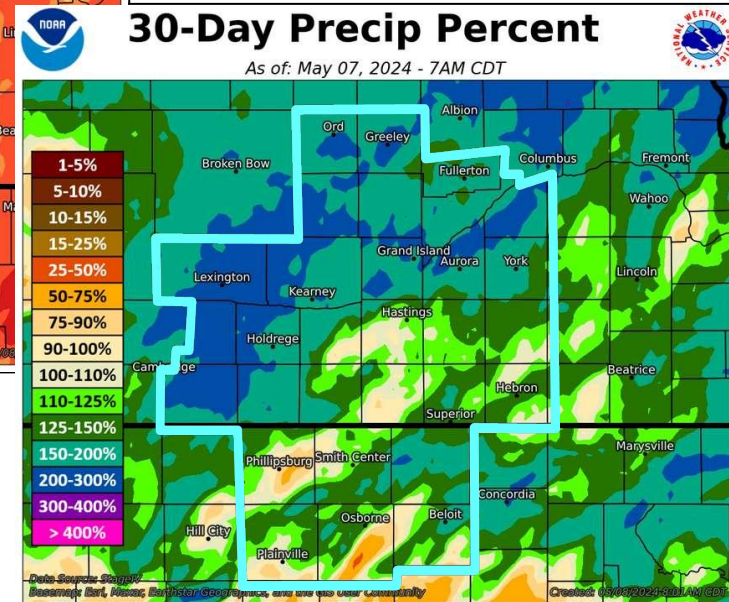
In contrast, the greatest concentration of amounts 2.50" or less were found within portions of various counties south of that same line, including (but not limited to): Webster, Phillips, Rocks and Osborne.



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NWS Hastings area outlined in light blue (24 NE counties, 6 KS counties)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Hastings, Nebraska



Precipitation (Last 90-Day Drought Monitor Period)

90-Day Precipitation/Percent-of-Normal (Feb. 8 - May 7)...Map Links [HERE](#)

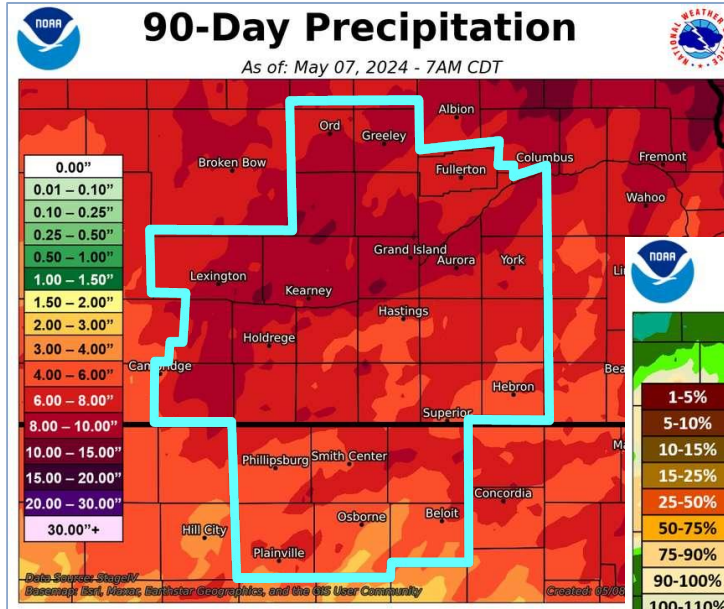
Main Takeaways:

Roughly two-thirds of our coverage area had **ABOVE NORMAL** precipitation over the last 90 days.

The majority of our area measured somewhere between 4-8"...or roughly 75-150% of normal.

The greatest concentration of above normal amounts at least 6-8" focused primarily north of a line from Beaver City-Hastings-York.

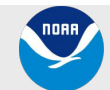
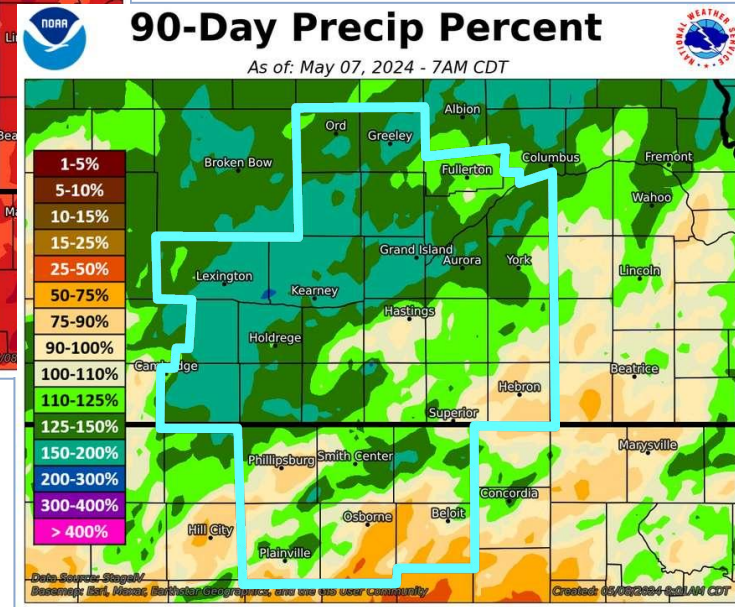
In contrast, the greatest concentration of at least slightly below normal amounts no more than 3-5" were found within portions of various counties south of that same line, particularly: Thayer, Phillips, Osborne and Mitchell.



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NWS Hastings area outlined in light blue (24 NE counties, 6 KS counties)





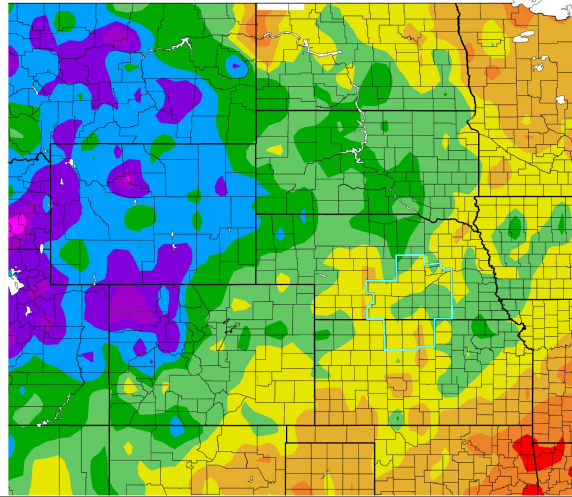
Temperature Trends (Last 7 and 30 Days)

High Plains Regional Climate Center [7-Day](#) & [30-Day](#) Temperature Departures From Normal

Main Takeaways (Last 7 Days):

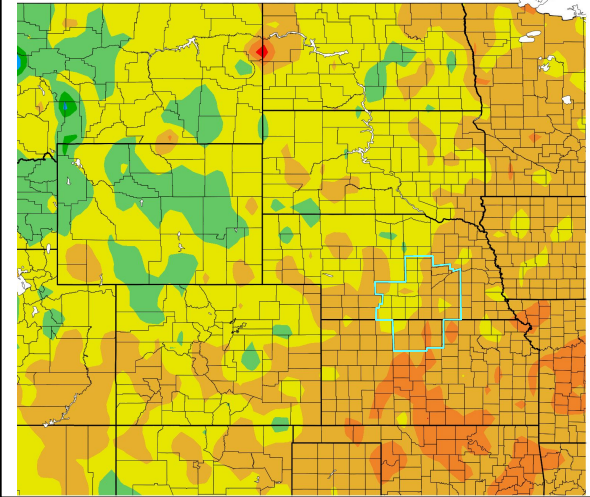
The first week of May actually featured VERY-NEAR-NORMAL temperatures across our area, with most places within 1° either side of normal.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/2/2024 - 5/8/2024

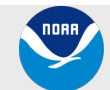


NWS Hastings area outlined in light blue

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/9/2024 - 5/8/2024



NWS Hastings area outlined in light blue





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts:

- There are no known impacts at this time

Agricultural Impacts:

- USDA Nebraska Crop Progress and Condition Reports can be found [here](#)
- USDA Kansas Crop Progress and Condition Reports can be found [here](#)

Fire Hazard Impacts:

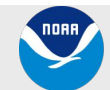
- There are no known significant impacts/threats at this time. In fact, vegetation fuel status has recently been deemed unfavorable for widespread fire growth across the NWS Hastings area due to seasonal green-up and recent above normal rainfall.

Other Impacts:

- There are no known impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions:

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





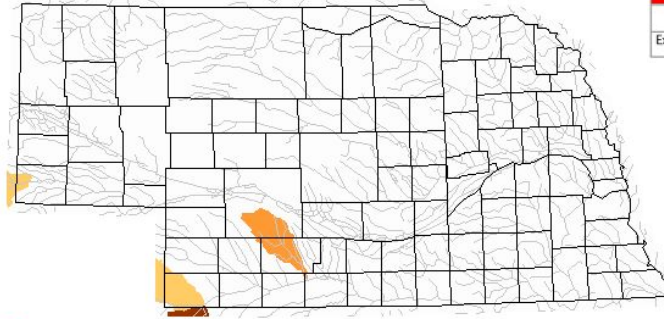
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

USGS Streamflow Information...Maps Shaded Only For Areas With BELOW NORMAL Flows

Main Takeaways:

- Thanks to recent above-normal rainfall across our area, the vast majority of our area is seeing normal to above normal flows on area rivers.
- The main exception in our coverage area involves some of the creeks in southern Osborne/Mitchell counties in KS that feed into the Saline River...where below normal flow is currently indicated.

Hednesday, May 08, 2024



Explanation - Percentile classes

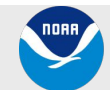
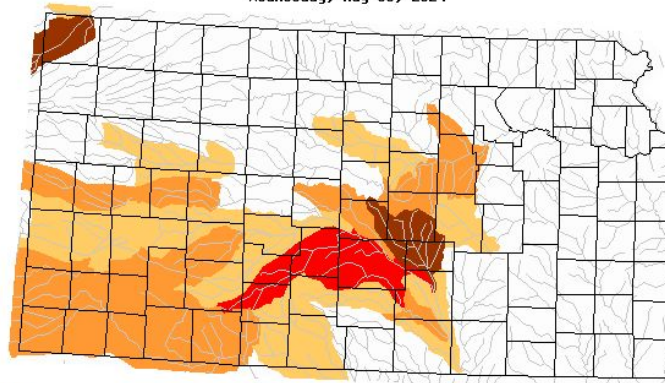
Low	<=5	6-9	10-24
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal

Image Captions:

Top - [Nebraska Below Normal 7-Day Average Streamflow Compared To Historical Streamflow For The Day Of The Year](#) , from USGS, valid May 8

Bottom - [Kansas Below Normal 7-Day Average Streamflow Compared To Historical Streamflow For The Day Of The Year](#) , from USGS, valid May 8

Hednesday, May 08, 2024



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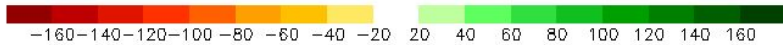
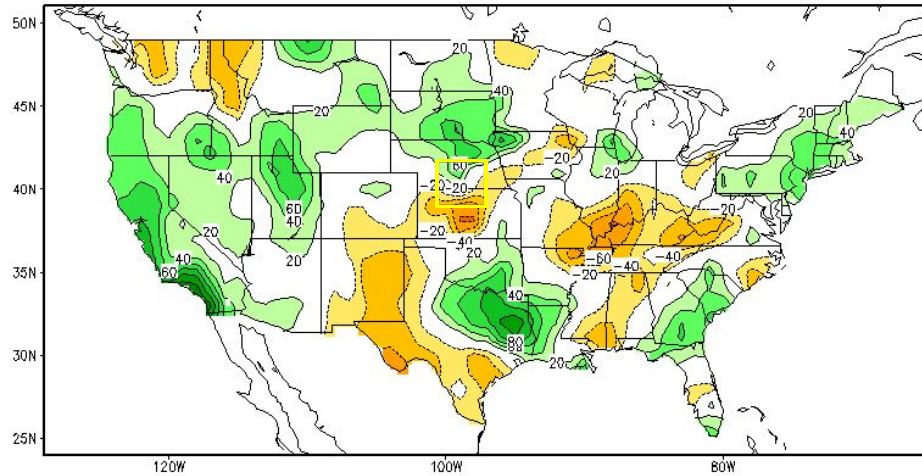


Agricultural Impacts / Soil Moisture

Climate Prediction Center (CPC) [Soil Moisture Status](#)

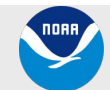
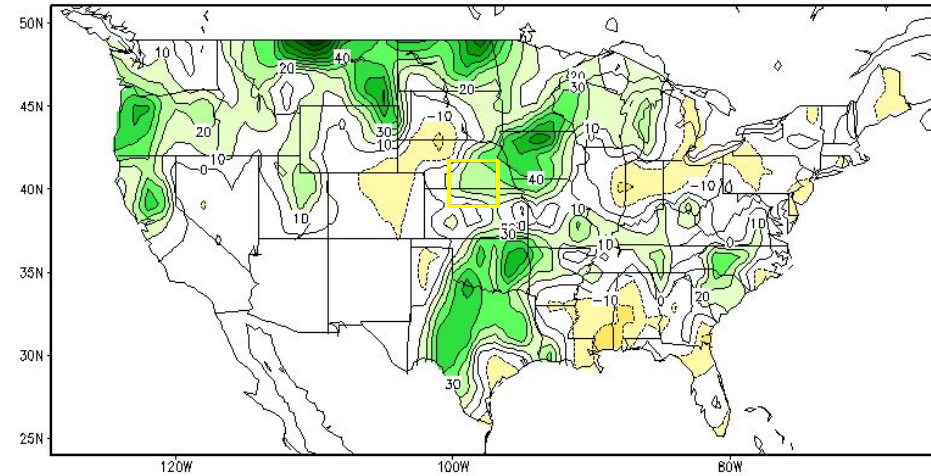
Soil Moisture Departure From Normal (mm)

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
MAY 08, 2024



Soil Moisture Change Since End Of Previous Month (mm)

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly Change
MAY 08, 2024 from APR.30





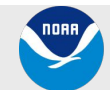
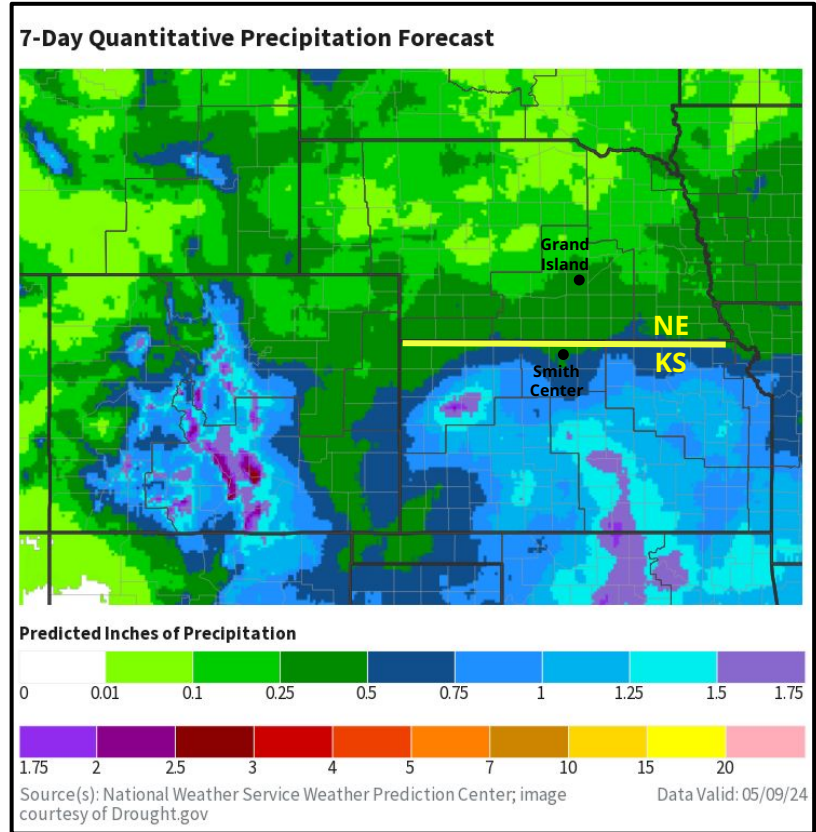
7-Day Precipitation Forecast

From [Weather Prediction Center \(WPC\)](#)...Valid May 10-16

Main Takeaways:

Although the May 10-16 time frame does not look overly-wet, chances for somewhat-widespread rain and thunderstorm activity are mainly centered on Sunday-Sunday night (May 12-13) and again around Wednesday-Thursday (May 15-16).

The latest official WPC precipitation forecast, along with ensemble forecast model data, calls for widespread amounts of generally 0.25-0.75" across our area...generally lowest north of I-80 and highest in north central KS.



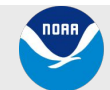
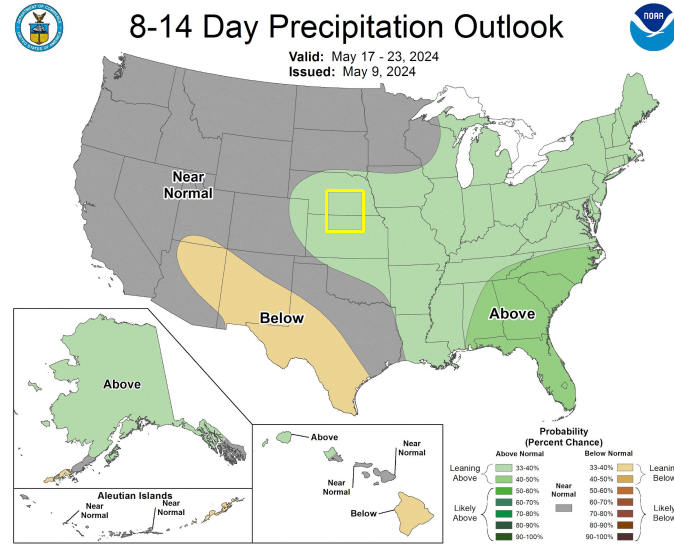
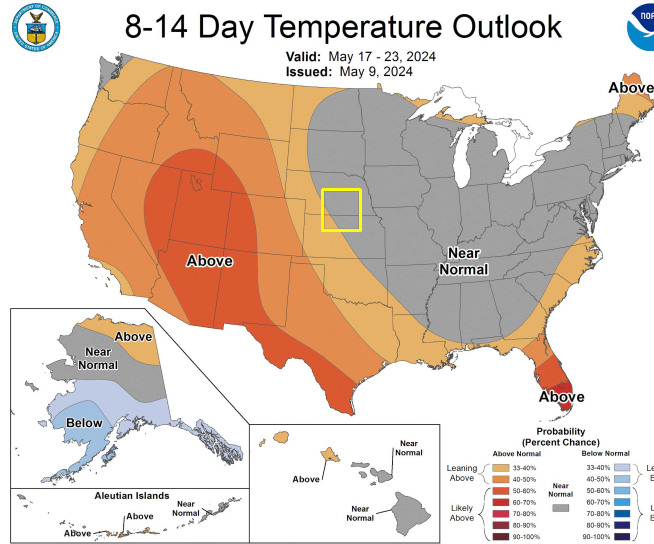


8-14 Day Outlooks - Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

CPC [Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks](#)...Valid May 17-23

Main Takeaways:

- Temperatures:**
 The vast majority of our coverage area is expected to have near-normal temperatures (daily highs mainly in the 70s to around 80)
- Precipitation:**
 Our entire coverage area features a slight lean toward above normal precipitation.



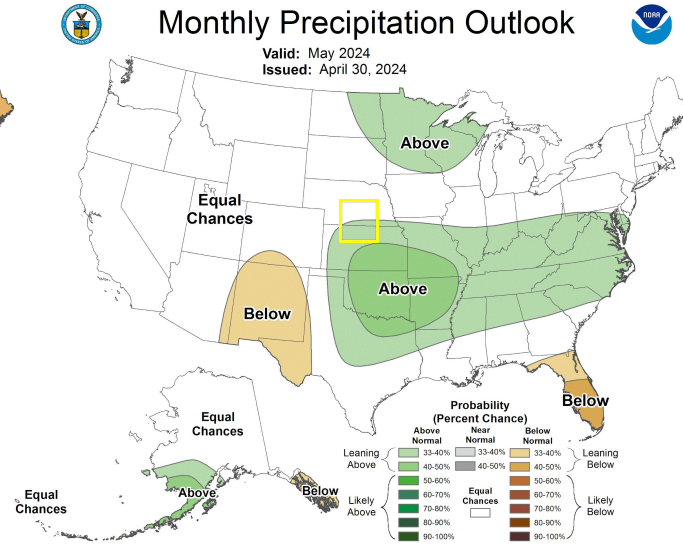
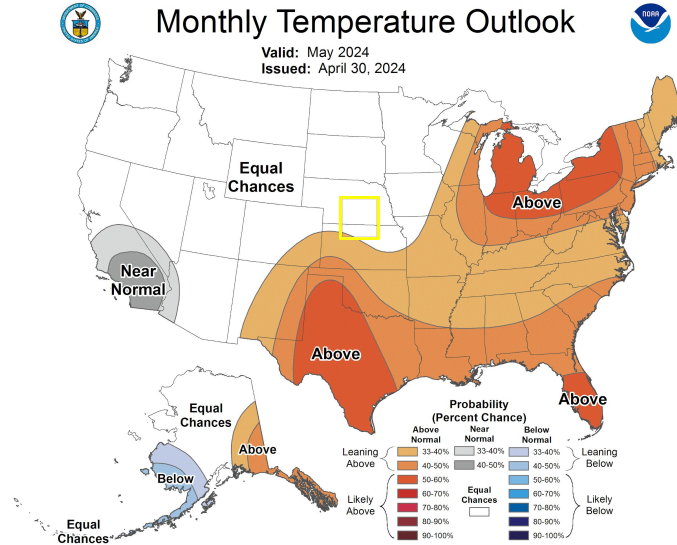


Monthly Outlooks - Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

CPC [Monthly Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks](#)...Valid For MAY 2024

Main Takeaways:

- **Temperatures:** Nearly our entire coverage area is slated to have “equal chances” of having above, below or near-normal temperatures.
- **Precipitation:** Our coverage area is on the “dividing line” between a slight lean toward above normal precipitation (mainly in KS) and having “equal chances” of having above, below or near-normal precipitation (most of our Nebraska area).



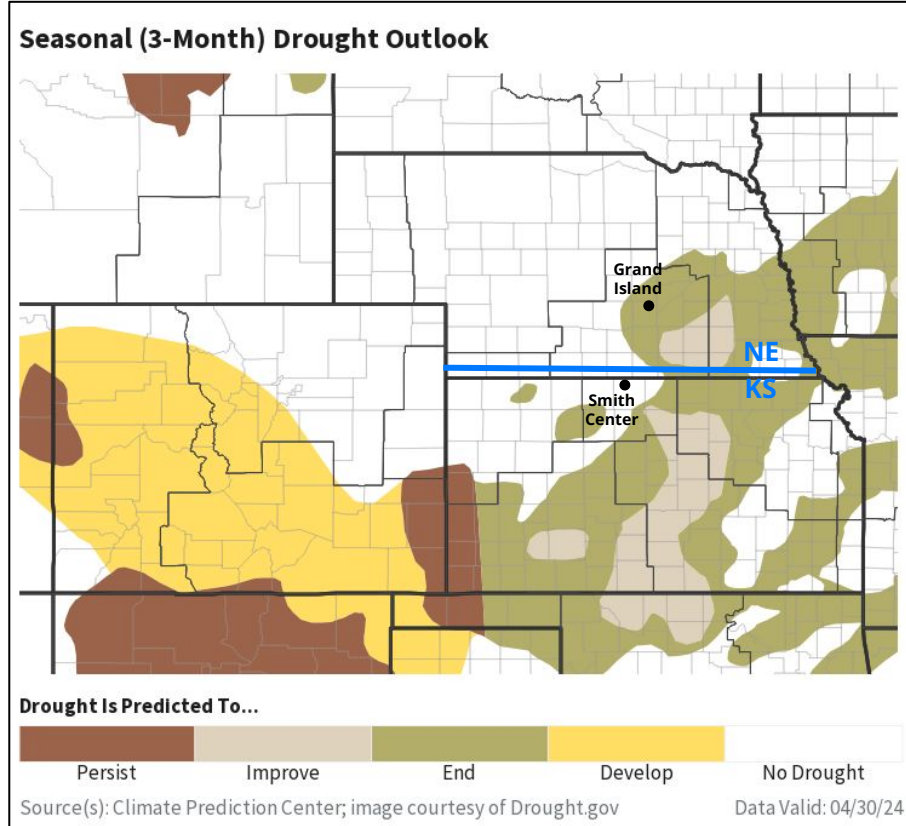


Drought Outlook (Seasonal)

CPC [Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)...Valid Through JULY 2024

Main Takeaways:

- Between now and the end of July, those portions of our coverage area currently assigned a drought category are currently expected to either observe some degree of improvement or perhaps have drought removed altogether.



Links to the latest:

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





Contact Information & References

For feedback, comments, questions specific to THIS INFO PACKET:

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Assistant State Climatologist
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The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced through a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Additional Information Sources:

- [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)
- [National Integrated Drought Information System](#)
- [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)
- [USGS River Information](#)
- [NWS River Stages & Forecasts](#)
- [NWS Hastings LOCAL Temperature & Precipitation Data](#)

Monitor our webpage for forecast information out to 7 days [HERE](#)

Social media: Follow us on **Facebook (US National Weather Service Hastings)** and **X (@NWSHastings)** for more information!

