

## Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

### Main Points

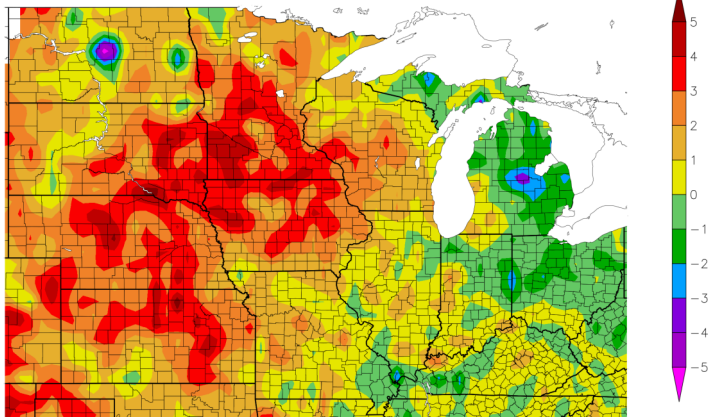


- ◆ Drought conditions have worsened in some areas and improved in others. Precipitation has generally been lower than normal.
- ◆ Dry soils and heat are stressing crops, but corn and soybean harvest may occur early this season.
- ◆ Overall, crop conditions vary, and precipitation outlooks for the rest of the season are uncertain.
- ◆ The quick dry-down with continued dry conditions in much of the region will increase fire potential without additional rainfalls.



### Current Conditions

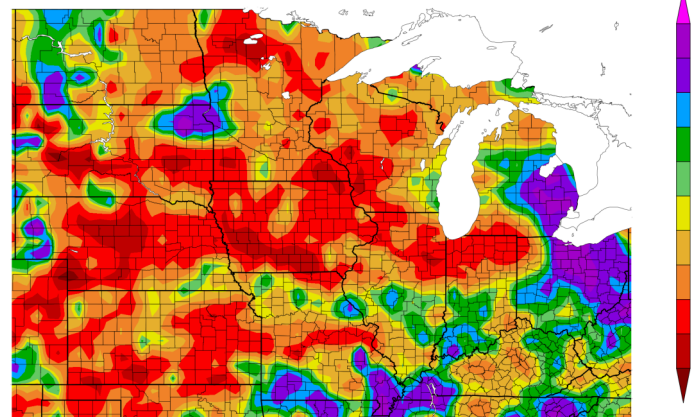
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/7/2023 – 9/5/2023



Generated 9/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
8/7/2023 – 9/5/2023



Generated 9/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Rainfall provided some relief to drought conditions across much of the Corn Belt in the last month. Precipitation in sections of the eastern Corn Belt and northern Plains was above normal, as much as 300% in very select areas. Nonetheless, widespread precipitation was not enough for significant improvements. Large areas of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota received below normal precipitation, with some places seeing less than 50% of average precipitation. Within the last 7 days, temperatures have been as much as 8°F warmer than normal with the intense heat much of the region experienced. Overall, in the past 30 days, the region saw temperatures closer to normal except western areas that were 2-4°F above average. The eastern Corn Belt was slightly below average in terms of temperature, while the western half of the region was slightly above normal.

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest). Generated: 9/6/2023.



## Impacts

Drought conditions largely persisted from Kansas to Wisconsin/Minnesota in the continued dry areas. Outside this area conditions were mainly drought-free. Some improvement did occur in the last 4 weeks over areas receiving above average rainfall. Soil moisture continued to be below average over large parts of the region contributing to the drought issues.

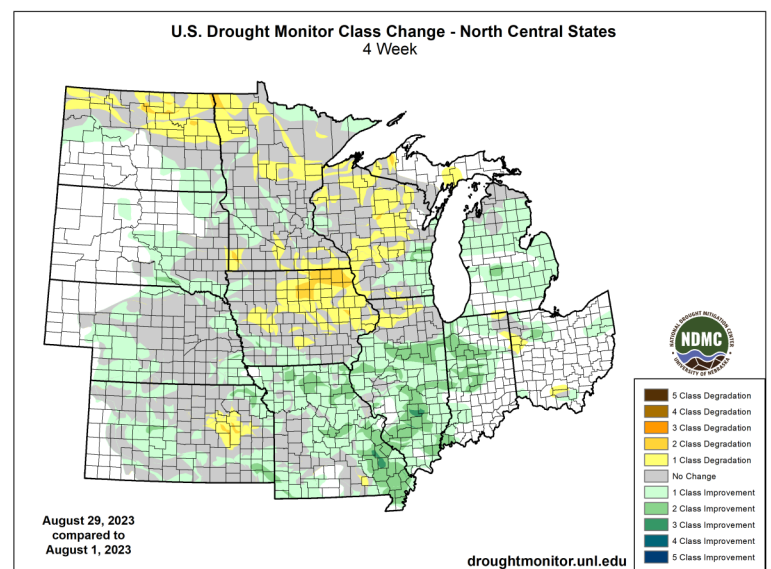
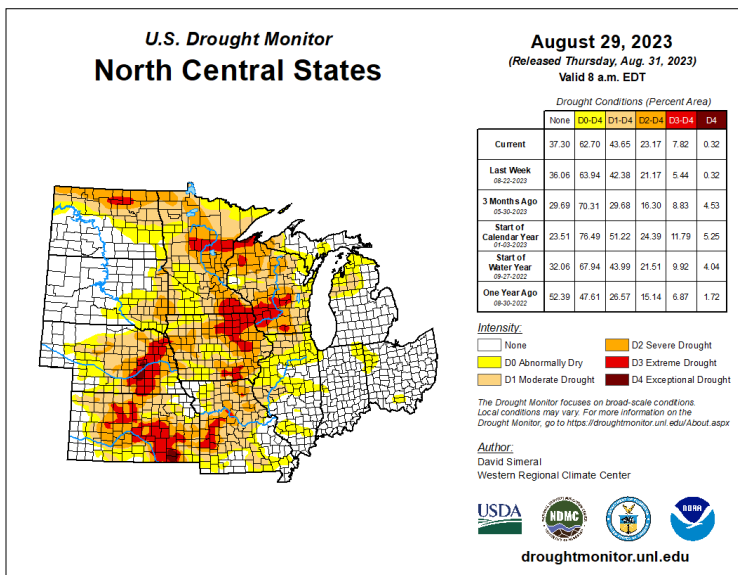
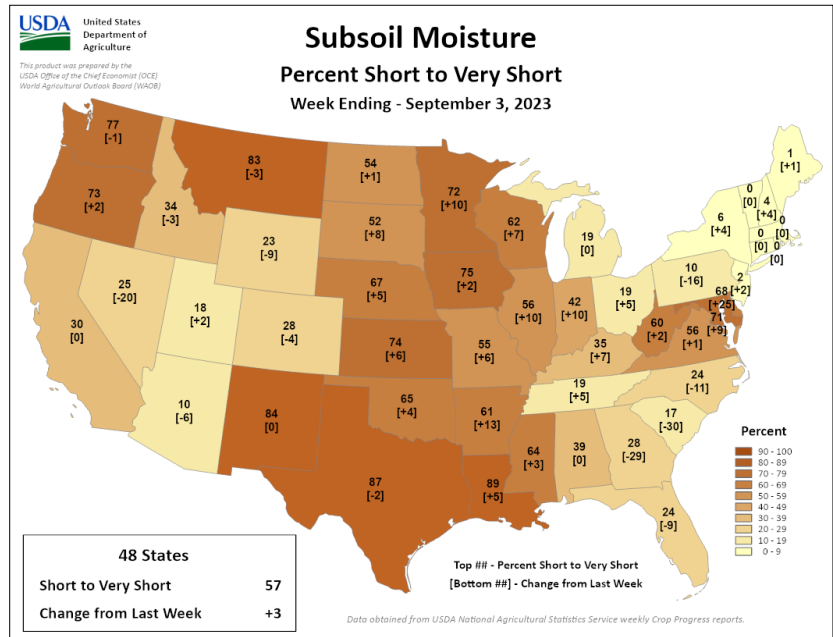
### Crops

Drought impacts to crops (corn, soybeans and pasture) continued and were exacerbated by extreme heat in mid-August. The heat continued to stress crops all crops, which were in some case very moisture-limited, leading to premature senescence. This was despite higher dew points easing atmospheric demand somewhat. Crop conditions have worsened in the drought-covered states while maintaining or even improving in the non-drought areas.

Crop progress continued to be slower than average in eastern states for corn and soy, though the additional heat did help improve progress. There is still some concern with the delays. But outlooks continue to run warm easing the potential risk of freeze. The stress and early senescence likely have reduced yield slightly again.

### Livestock

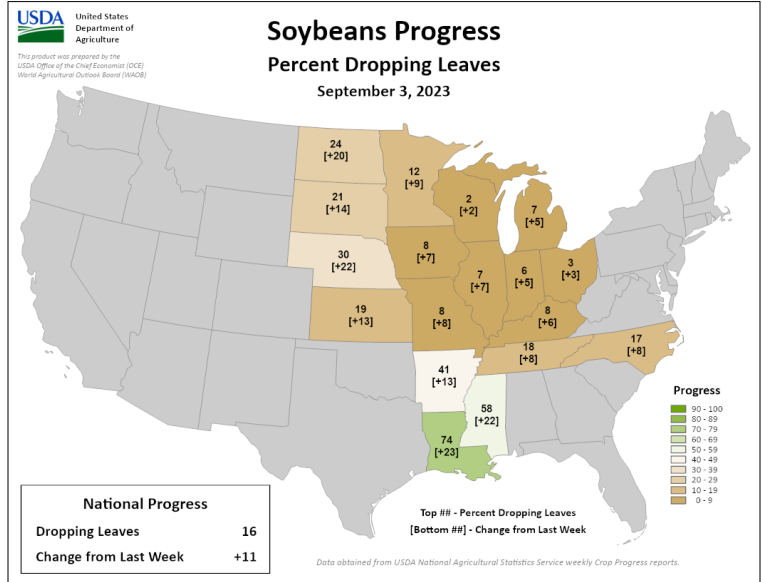
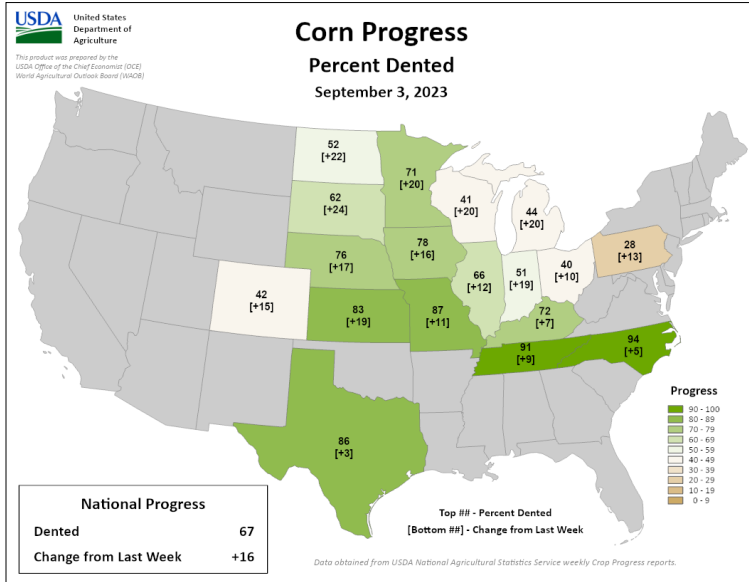
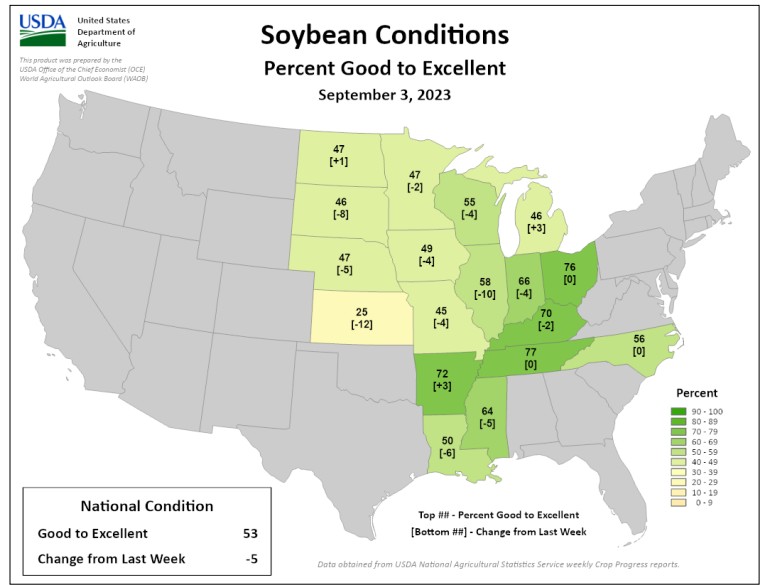
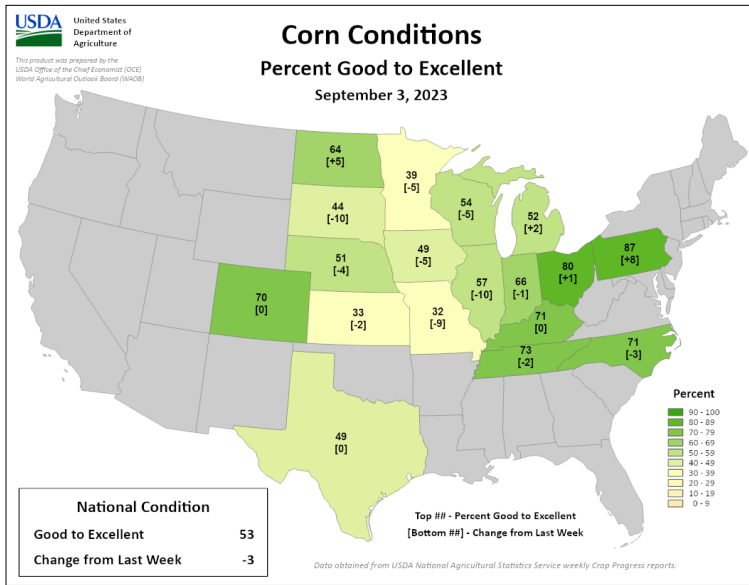
The extended period of heat and humidity also took a toll on livestock because heat eased only a little in the evening after very stressful days. Reports are still being collected. But on the order of hundreds of cattle have already been reported lost.



Maps Generated by the [United States Department of Agriculture](https://www.usda.gov), [National Drought Mitigation Center](https://www.ndmc.gov) and the [Short-term Prediction Research and Transition Center](https://www.sprc.org).



For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>

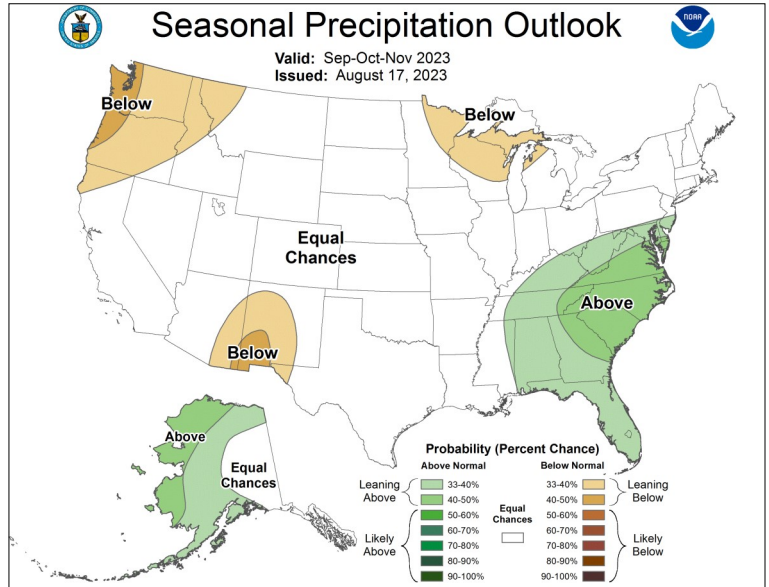
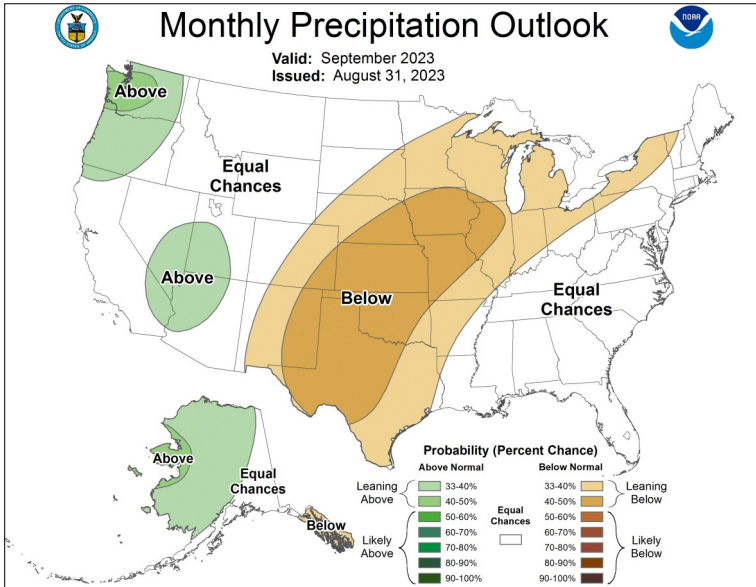
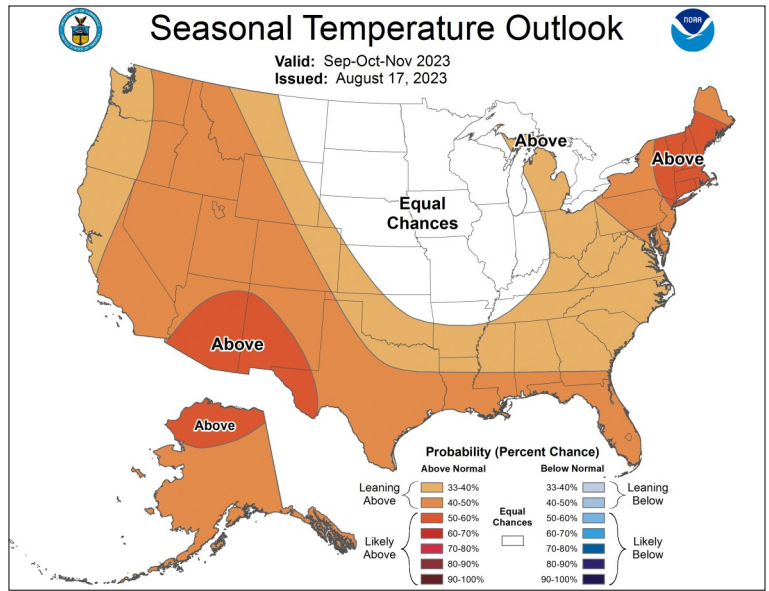
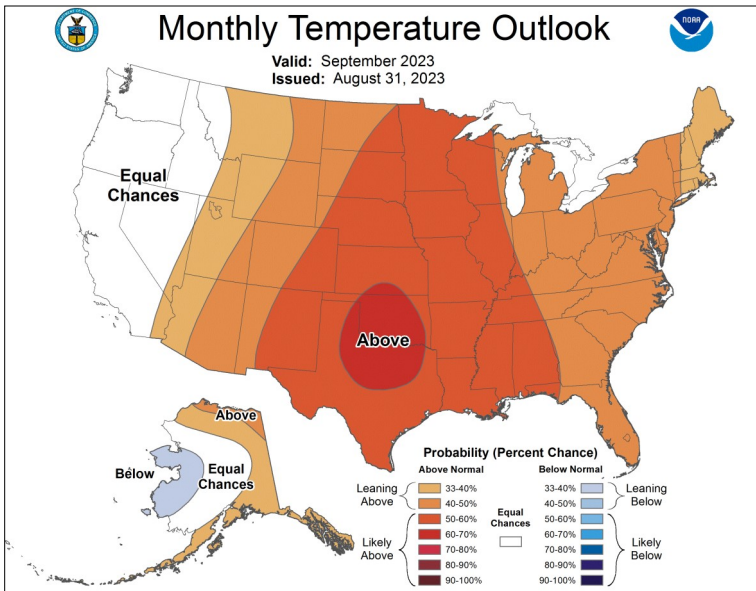


Maps generated by the United States Department of Agriculture and are now available on a National Drought Mitigation Center [webpage](#).

## Outlook

The one-month outlook for September shows a moderate to strong likelihood of warmer-than-average conditions for the entire Midwest, driven by the early-month warmth. Precipitation may be minimal for much of the Midwest, with many areas leaning toward drier than average. Combined with the heat, crops will likely continue toward earlier maturity, soils will stay dry, and drought areas should expand or become more severe in much of the region. The 90-day outlook suggests less overall certainty for the region; there are equal chances for above- or below-normal temperatures over the next 3 months, with the far eastern areas of the Midwest possibly experiencing above normal temperatures. Most of the region also has equal chances for above- and below-average precipitation.

With the rapid maturity and likely better dry-down, conditions may facilitate an early harvest. Green stems for soybeans may still be an issue. Fall seeding of winter grains or cover crops could be a problem with the dry conditions, as soils will likely continue to be quite dry. There are no indications of potential freeze at this point.



Outlooks provided by the [Climate Prediction Center](#).

**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 \(HPRCC\)](#)



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For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>