



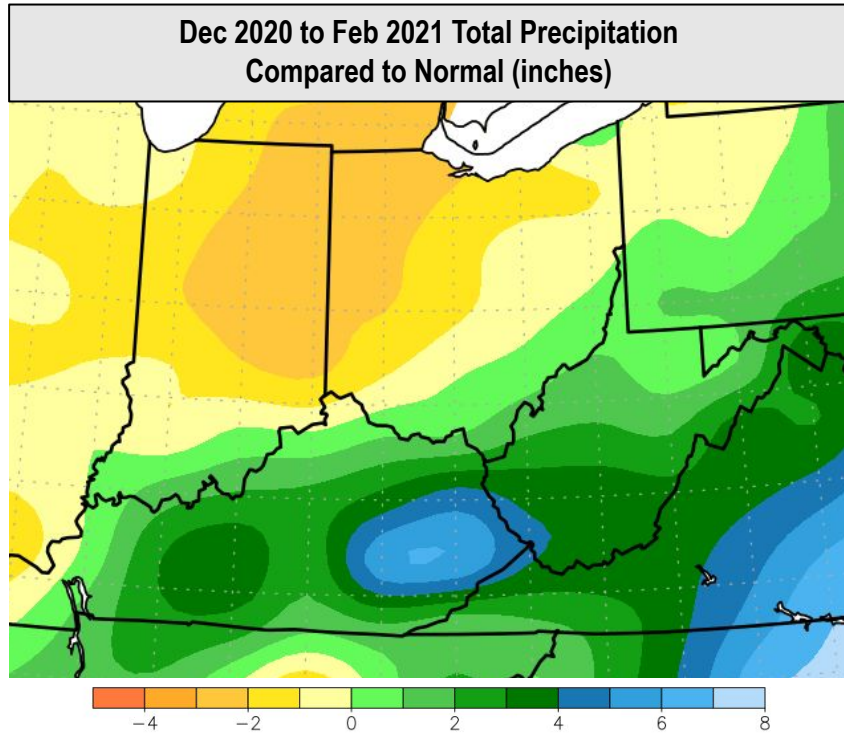
Ohio Basin Spring Hazard Outlook: Flood Risk Above Normal

Setting the Stage:

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

A drier-than-normal meteorological winter (December-February) was occurring north of the Ohio River, however, towards the end of the winter, above-normal snowfall, and several rounds of precipitation had increased the moisture for the region.

Despite near or above normal snowfall across the northern half of the basin, this was not enough moisture to overcome the ongoing drier-than-normal trend. However, across the southern half of the basin, several rounds of precipitation has pushed this region to wetter-than-normal conditions making it prime for flood season.



ABOVE: The northern half of the Ohio River Basin is experiencing drier-than-normal conditions, while the southern half of the basin is wetter-than-normal and thus primed for flood season.

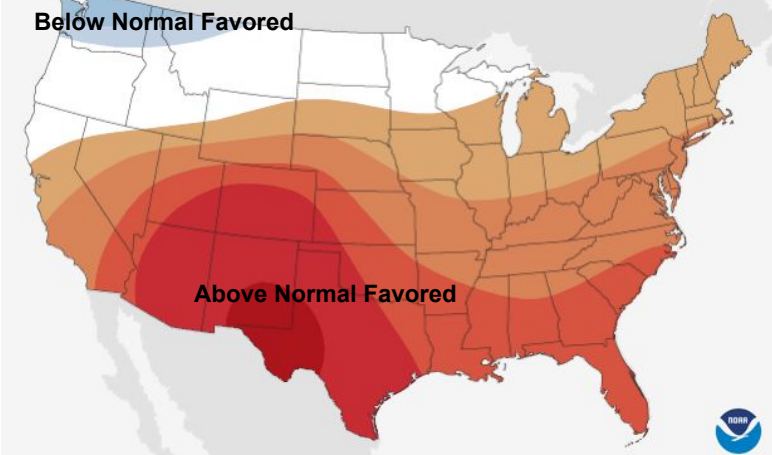
Source: NOAA/NCEI/MRCC

Spring Climate Outlooks (March-May):

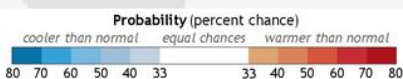
Temperature Outlook

Below Normal Favored

Above Normal Favored



Temperature Outlook for Mar 2021 - May 2021 Issued 18 Feb 2021



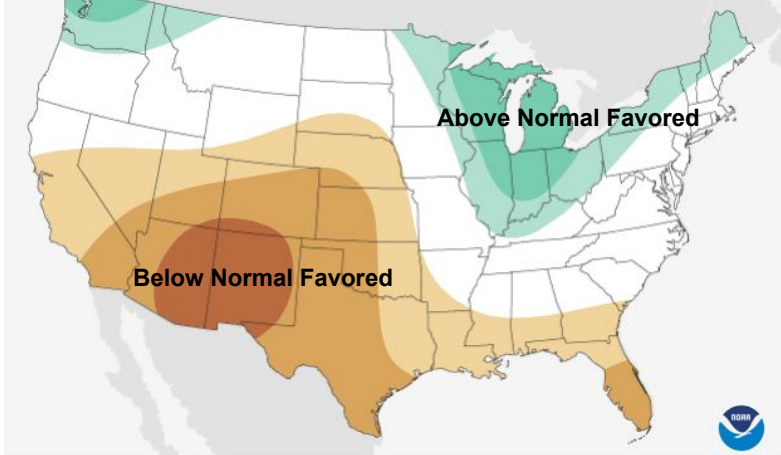
Climate.gov Data: CPC

Source: NOAA/NCEP/CPC

Precipitation Outlook

Above Normal Favored

Below Normal Favored



Precipitation Outlook for Mar 2021 - May 2021 Issued 18 Feb 2021



Climate.gov Data: CPC

We are heading into the spring with mainly **drier-than-normal** conditions north of the Ohio River. Latest guidance shows that a majority of the rivers and streams are running at or above normal.

The latest 2021 Spring Outlook suggests that odds favor **wetter-than-normal** conditions - especially north of the Ohio River. We are also expecting **warmer-than-normal temperatures** as you head further south, with higher confidence across Kentucky and West Virginia.



Potential Impacts this Spring

Flooding Risk:

There is an increased flooding risk across the basin as we head into spring. Minor to moderate flooding is expected across much of the Ohio Valley. Major flooding cannot be ruled out especially across southern Illinois, southern Indiana and into Kentucky. Overall, rainfall and thunderstorms will determine final outcome of flood risk.

Fire Risk:

Below-normal fire potential is expected along the southern half of the basin through March. Otherwise, near-normal significant fire potential is forecast across the region in April and May. If the wetter-than-normal conditions do occur, fire potential may be curtailed through the spring. The spring fire season may begin earlier than normal across parts of the northern tier if precipitation trend does not increase through March.

Drought Potential:

While there is a dry soil trend across the northern areas, the conditions may improve due to the early indications of a wet spring.

Flood Information:

Due to the increase in flood potential, here are some tips to keep in mind when it comes to flooding:

- **Floodwaters can contain chemicals, sewage and disease**
- **Water depth can change unexpectedly (storm drains, washed-out roads)**
- **Heavy rain can cause debris flow, resulting in homes or vehicles being washed away**

For more information visit:

Local Forecast – weather.gov

Long-Range Outlooks – cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

River Forecasts – water.weather.gov/ahps/forecasts.php

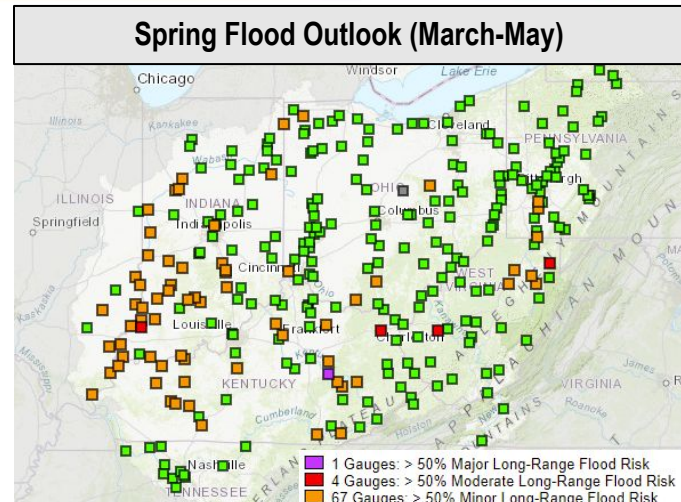
Weather & Climate Data – ncei.noaa.gov

Fire Outlook – nifc.gov/nicc

Drought Information – Drought.gov

Agricultural Outlook – usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum

Streamflow Data - <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=ww>



Source: NOAA/NWS/AHPS



Source: NIFC/Predictive Services

Agricultural Information:

The upcoming wet trend and well above normal temperatures suggest the following potential impacts for those with agricultural interest:

- **Wet spring days may delay or prevent crop planting**
- **Isolated water issues are possible with crop stress potential further north**