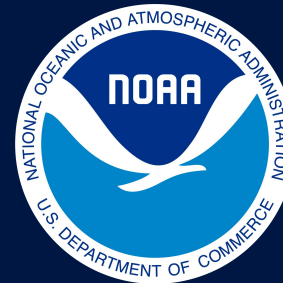


Winter 2025-2026 Outlook

Matt Barnes



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

Winter Climatology



Paul Hadfield
Clinton Lake
January 14, 2024

Average First Snowfall



Earliest Measurable Snowfall (0.1" or more)

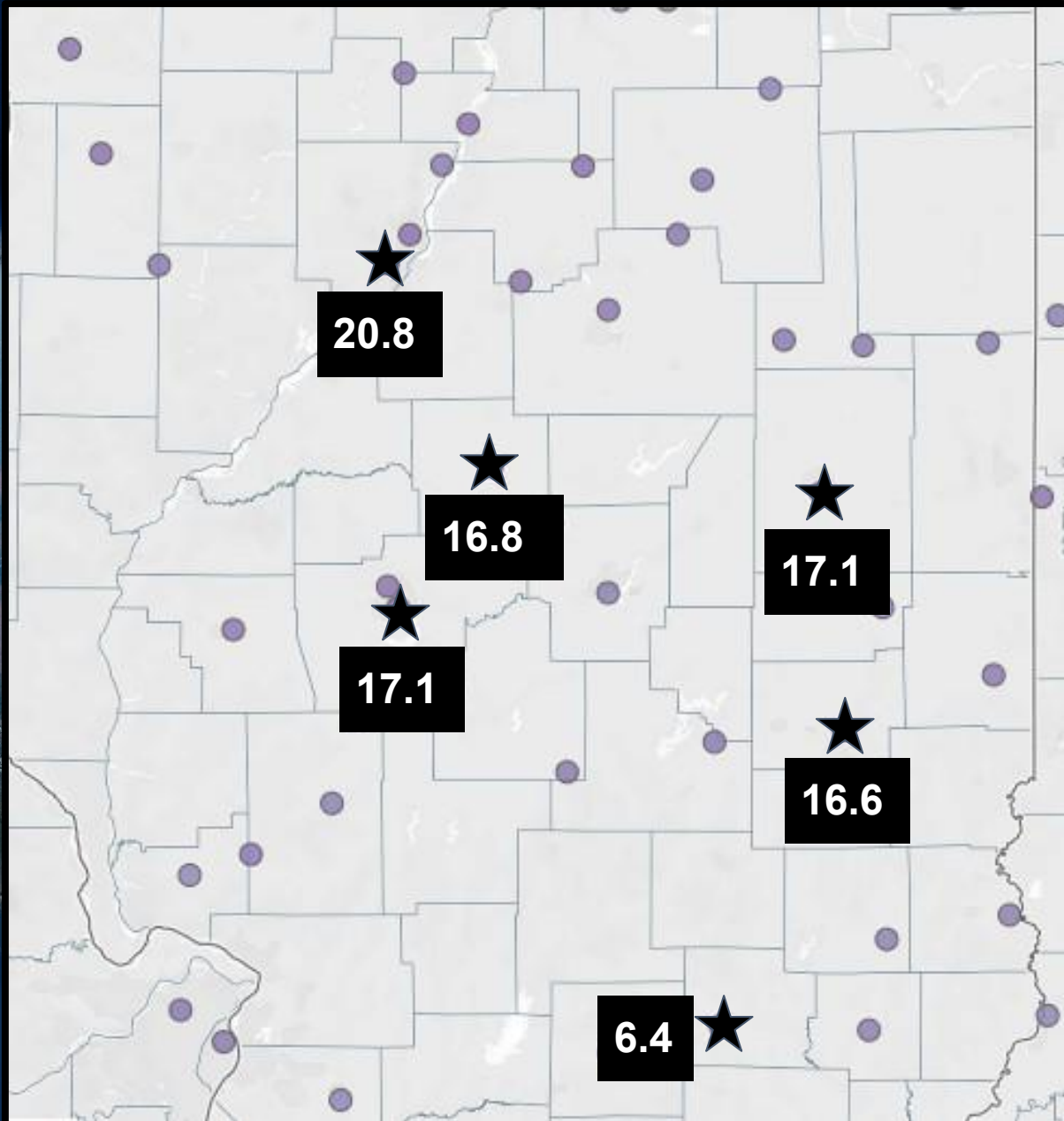
Peoria: September 25, 1942 (1.0)

Springfield: October 19, 1989 (0.3)

Lincoln: October 20, 1916 (2.0)

Averages based on 1991-2020 data

Average Dec-Feb Snowfall



Most Snow in 24 hours

Peoria: January 13, 1979 (12.2)

Springfield: March 24, 2013 (17.4)

Lincoln: February 23, 1914 (13.0)

Averages based on 1991-2020 data

Average Freezing Rain Days

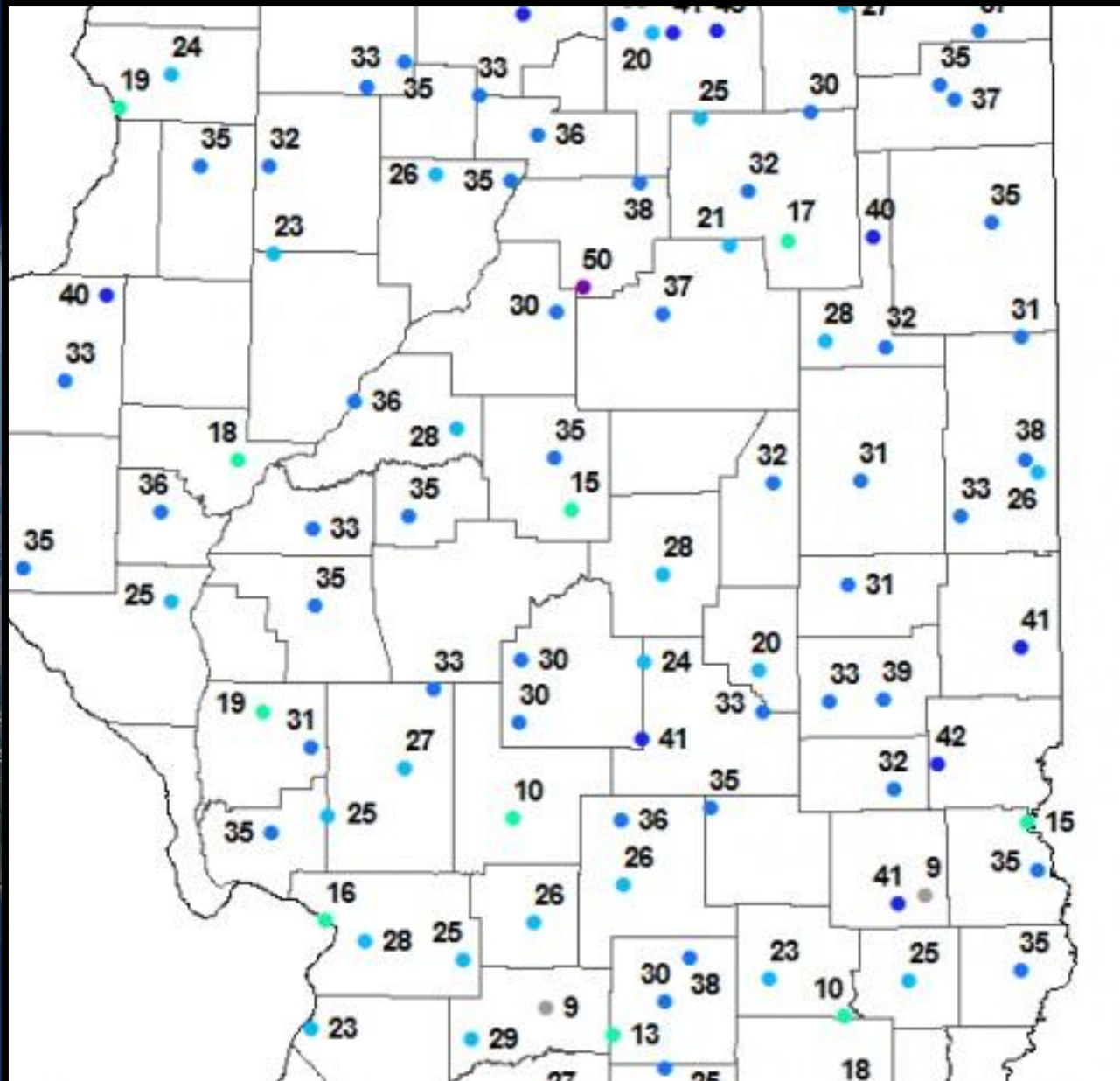


Freezing Rain Climatology

- Local max of 5 days across the heart of central Illinois
- Average one “ice storm” about every other year

Illinois State Water Survey
Based on 1948-2000 data

Probability of a White Christmas



Last Occurrence

Peoria 2022 (1 inch)

Lincoln 2022 (1 inch)

Charleston 2022 (1 inch)

Springfield 2017 (2 inches)

Flora 2017 (1 inch)

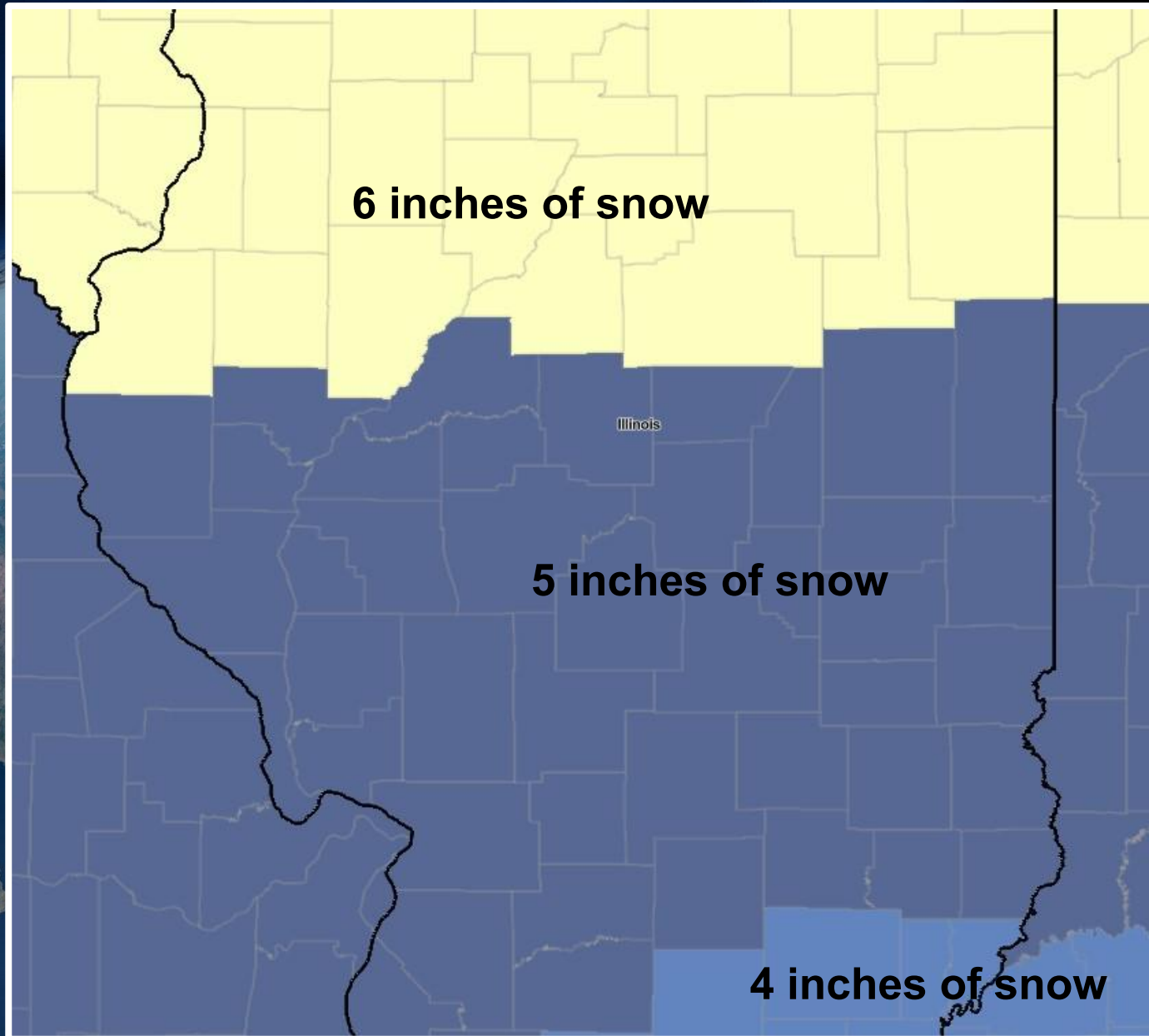
Illinois State Water Survey
Based on 1981-2010 data

Winter Storm Products



Ethan Schisler
Macomb
January 25, 2023

Winter Storm Warning



Winter Weather Warning

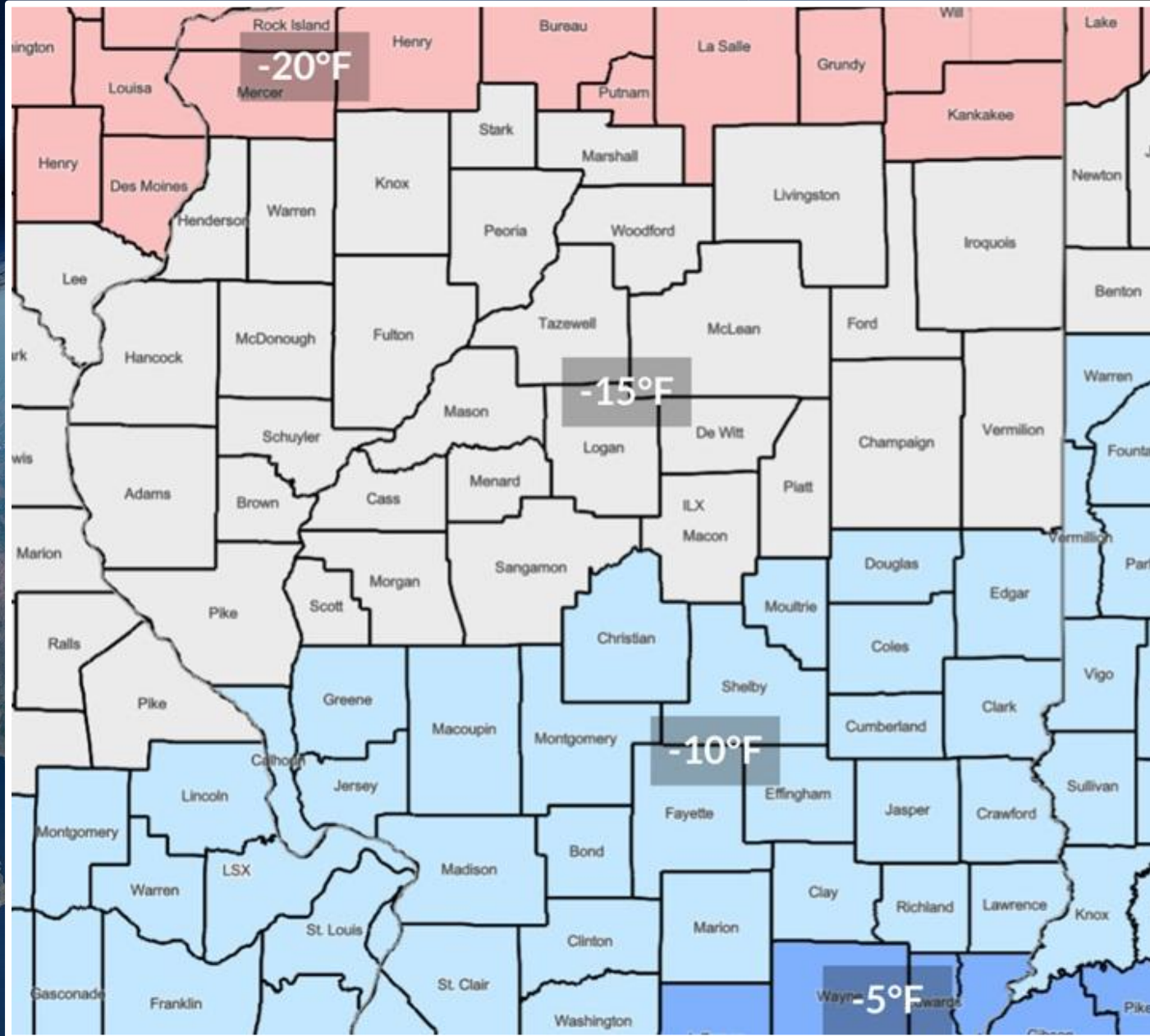
- Issued for one or more significant hazards...including heavy snow or sleet
- Significant glazing of ice will be handled with an Ice Storm Warning



Other Winter Warnings

- Ice Storm Warning: a dangerous glaze of ice is expected with accumulations of $\frac{1}{4}$ " or greater
- Blizzard Warning: wind speeds of 35 mph or greater will create a combination of blowing and/or drifting snow that cuts visibility to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or less for 3 or more hours

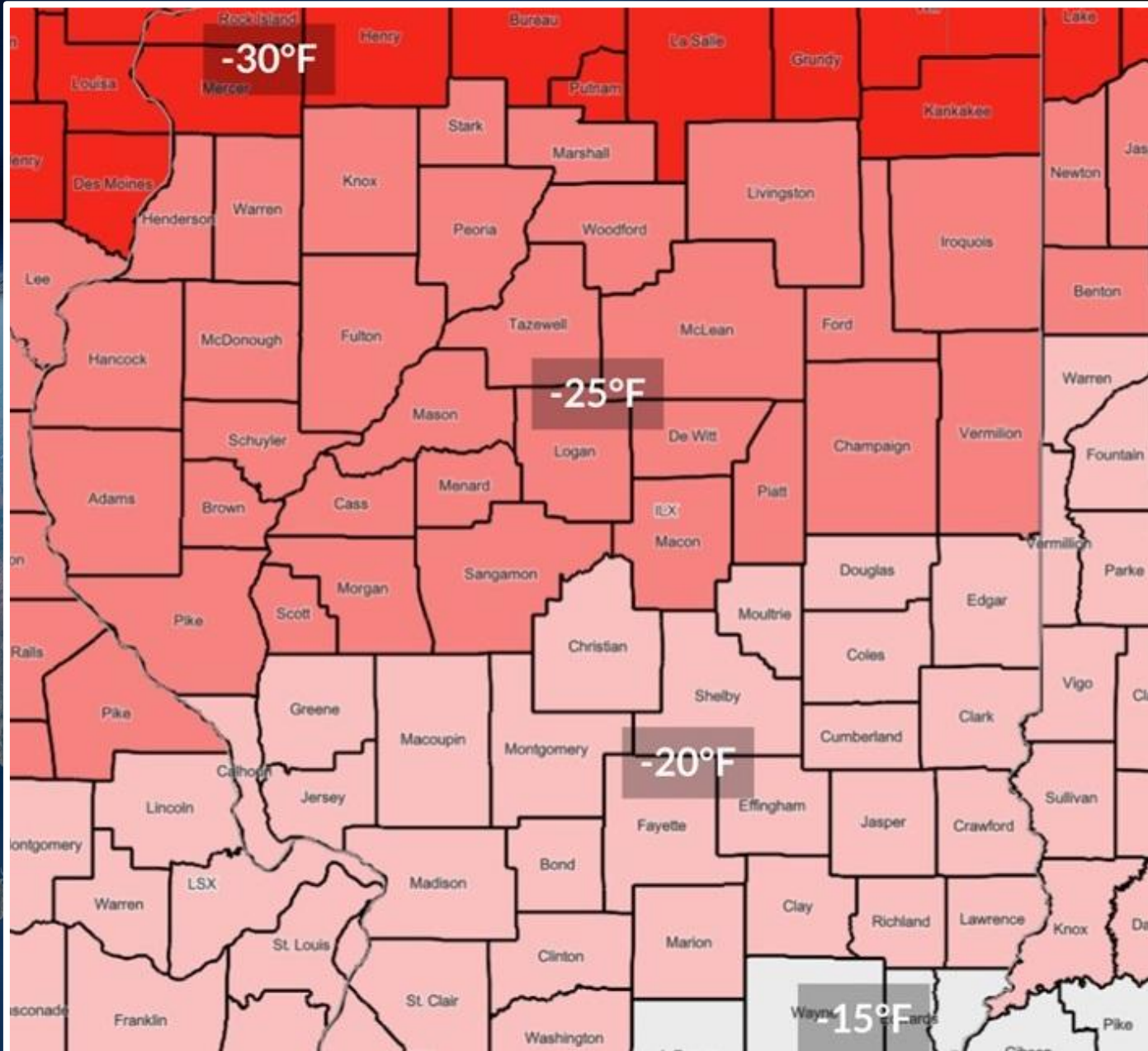
Cold Weather Advisory



Replaces Wind Chill Advisory

Issued for cold apparent temperatures regardless of wind speed

Extreme Cold Warning



Replaces Wind Chill Warning

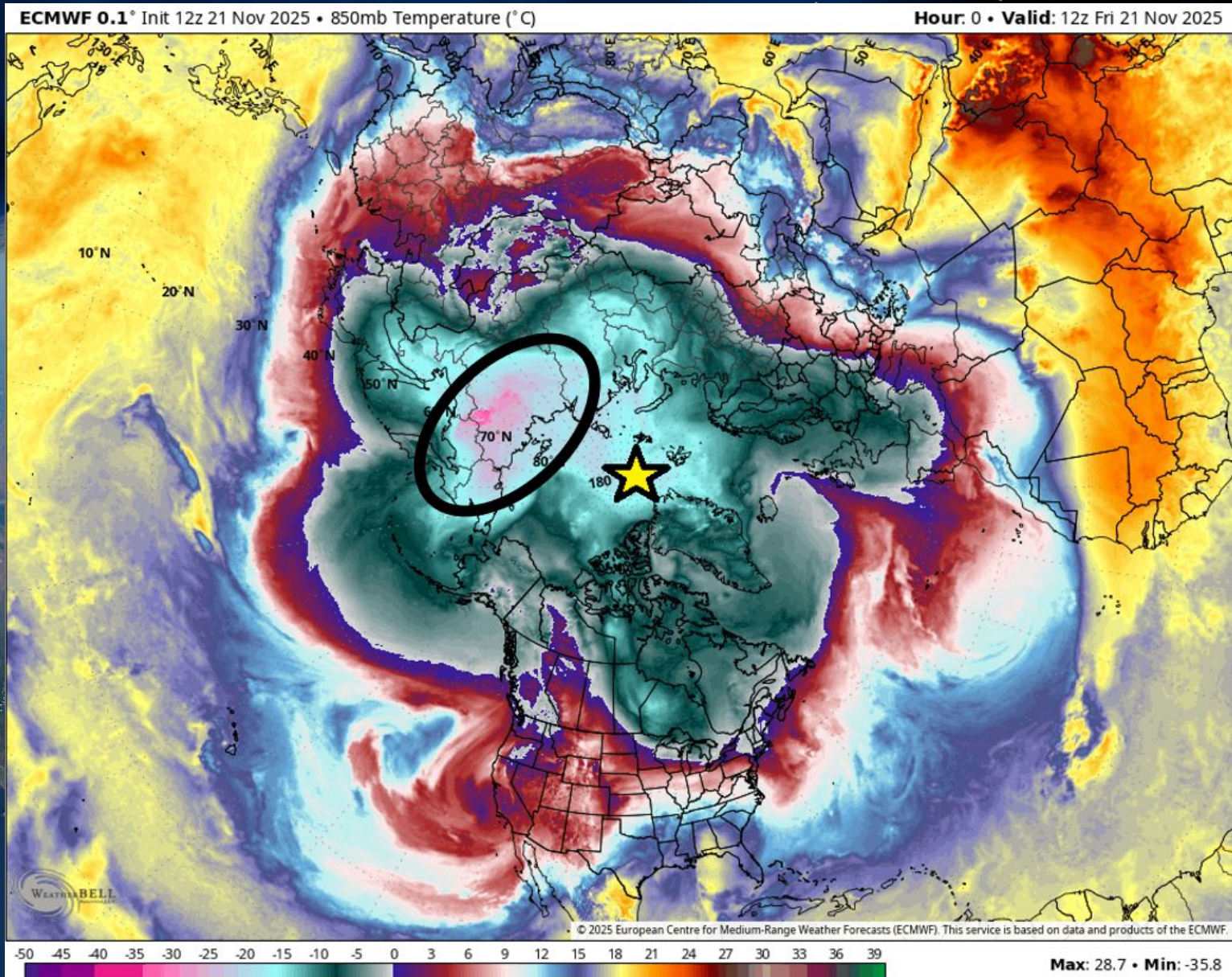
Issued for cold apparent temperatures regardless of wind speed

Current Conditions



**Lynn Starwalt
Neoga
January 12, 2019**

Where is the Coldest Air?



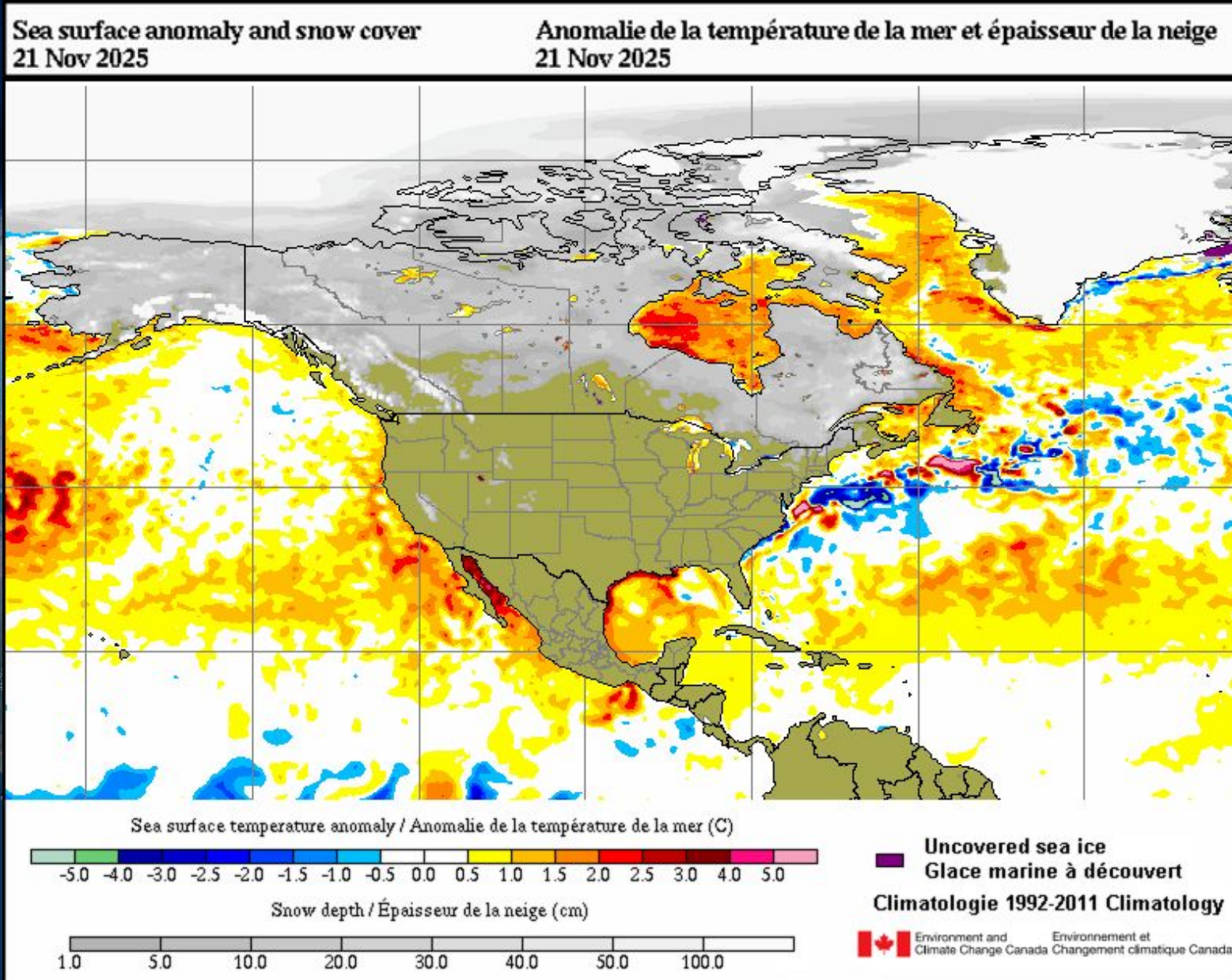
850mb Temps

Morning of November 21

Coldest readings are displaced from the North Pole across Siberia (-30C)

Image courtesy of WeatherBell

Where is the Snow Cover?



Snow Cover

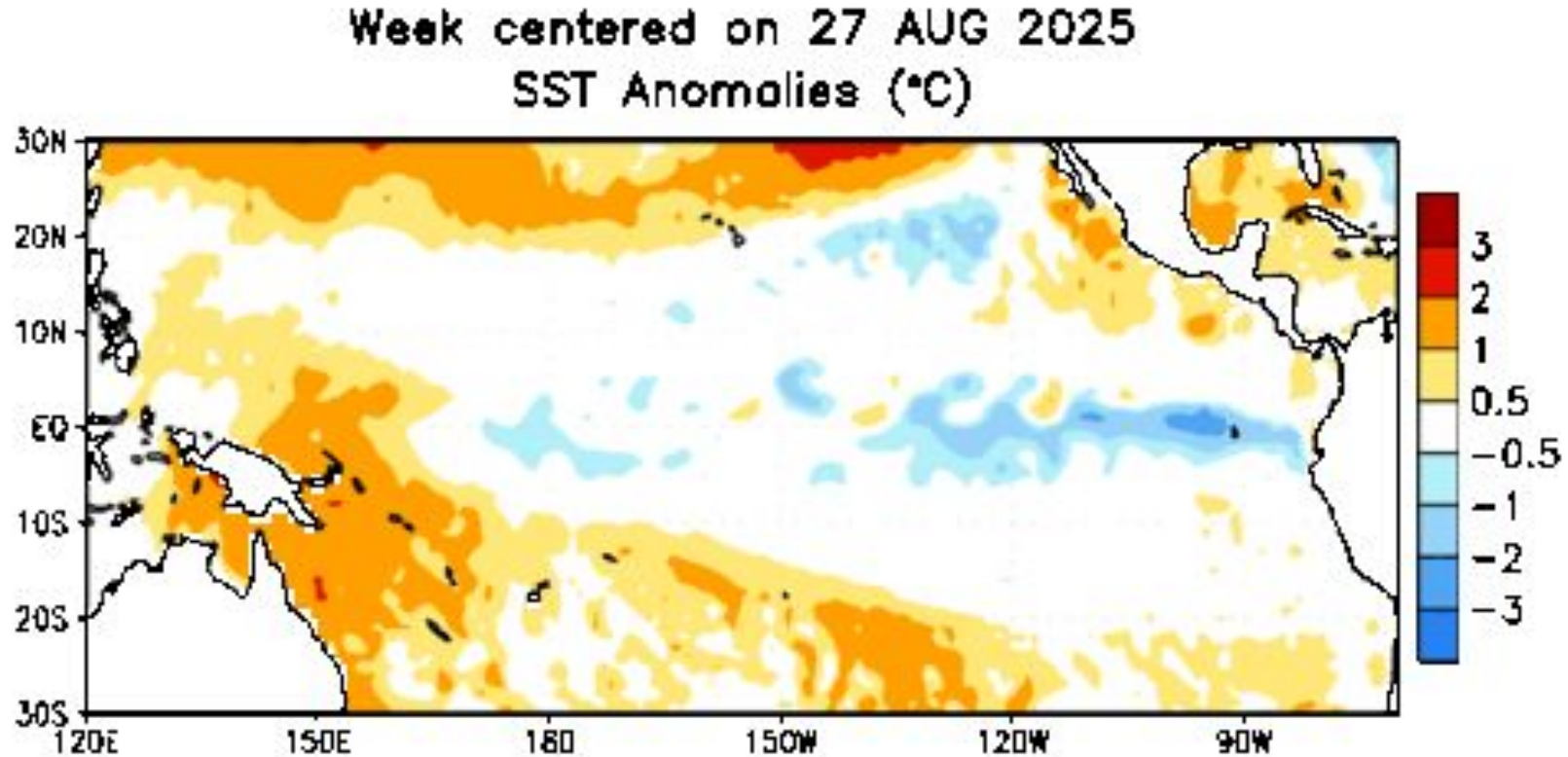
November 21, 2025 map

Little to snow on the ground across the northern U.S. and southern Canada

Warmer than average water in Hudson Bay and the Great Lakes

Image courtesy of Environment Canada

Equatorial Pacific Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies



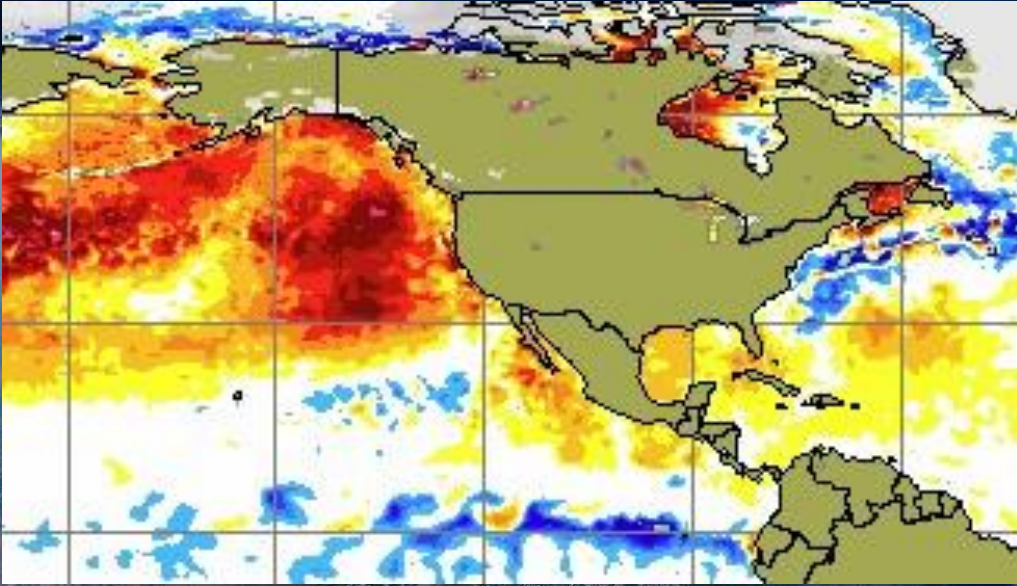
Equatorial Pacific water temps running 1 to 2 degrees below normal

Weak La Nina

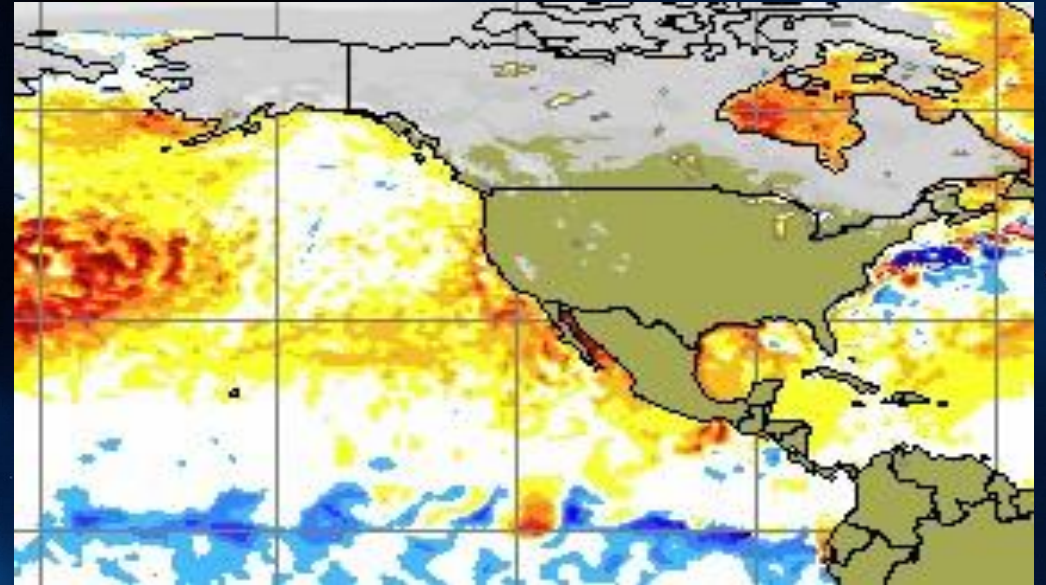
Expected to persist through December 2025...with a transition back to neutral by March 2026

• The North Pacific “Blob”

September 1



November 21

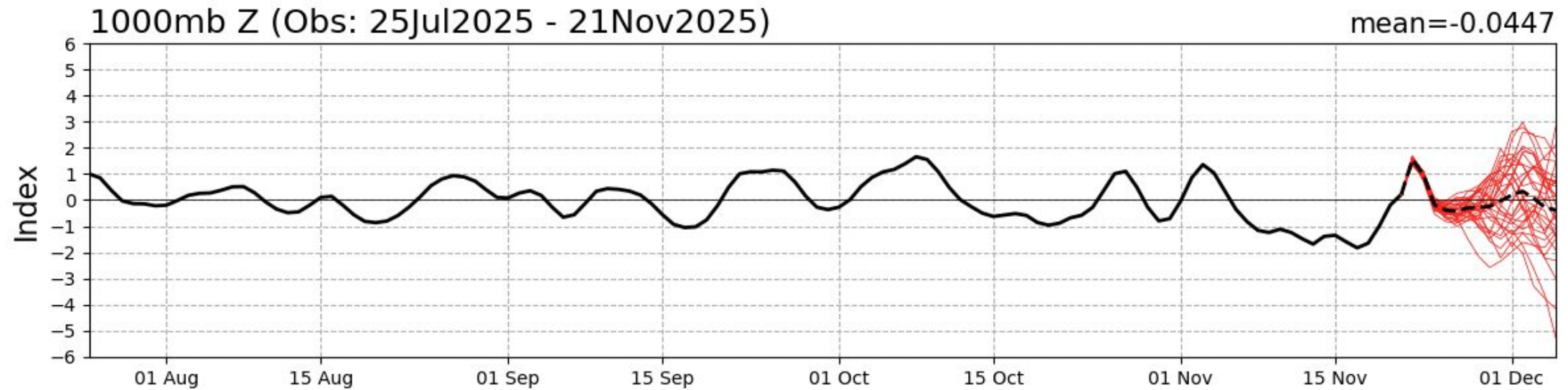


Abnormally warm “blob” of water in the North Pacific. Likely caused by upper ridging, lighter winds, and thus less upwelling of cold sub-surface water.

How does this impact downstream weather?

Arctic Oscillation

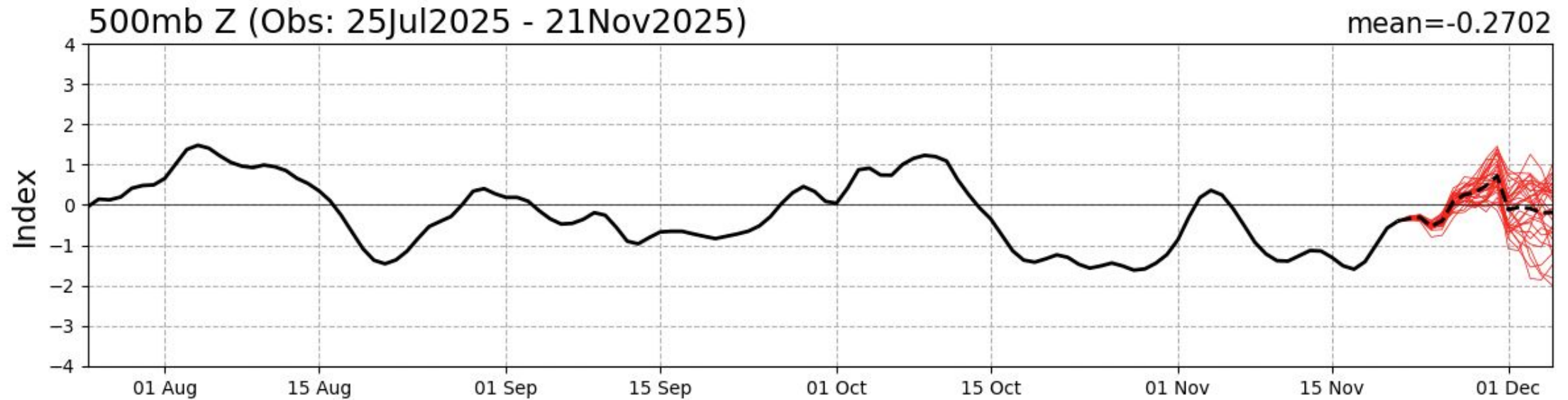
AO Index: Observed & GEFS Forecasts



Negative phase of the AO signals higher than normal pressure at the North Pole...thus a displacement of cold air

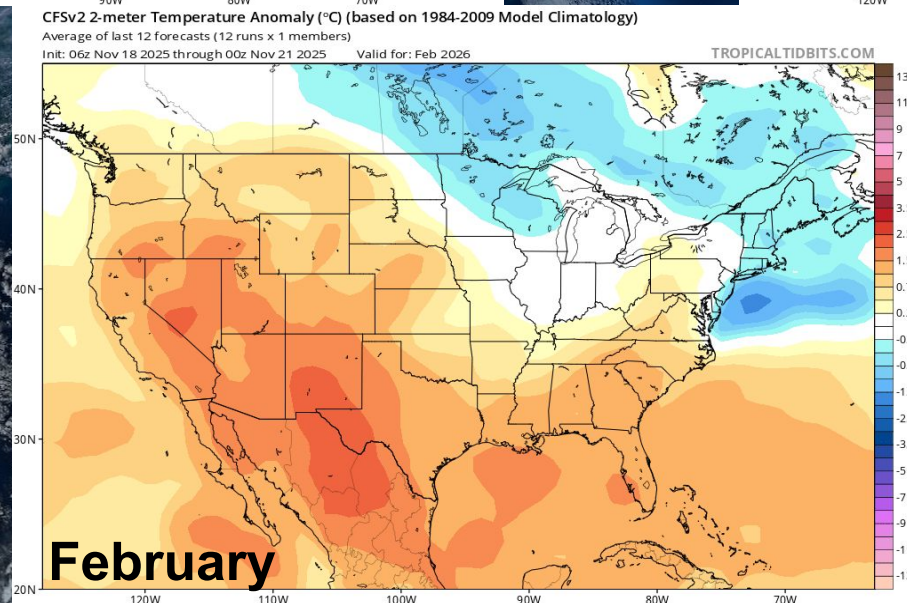
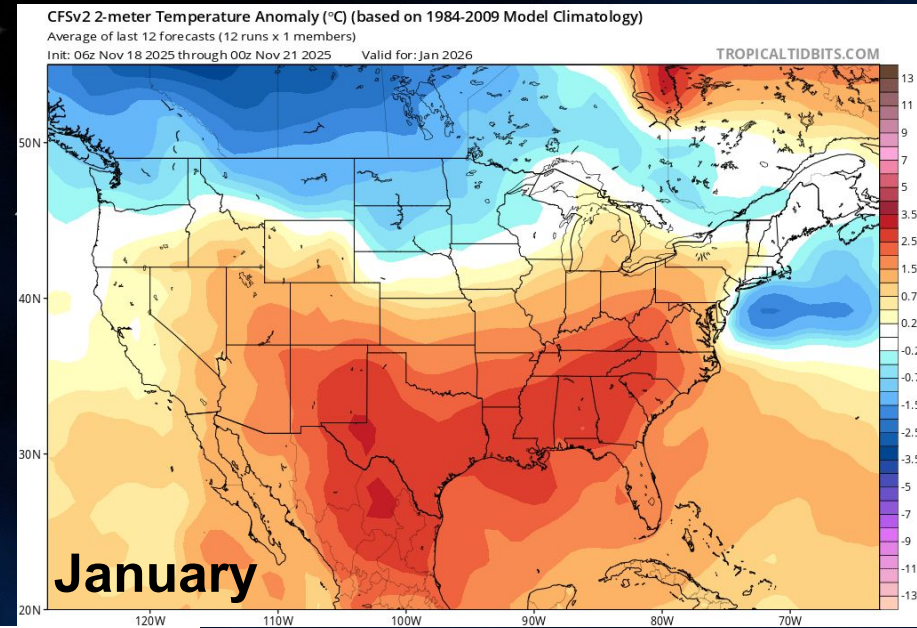
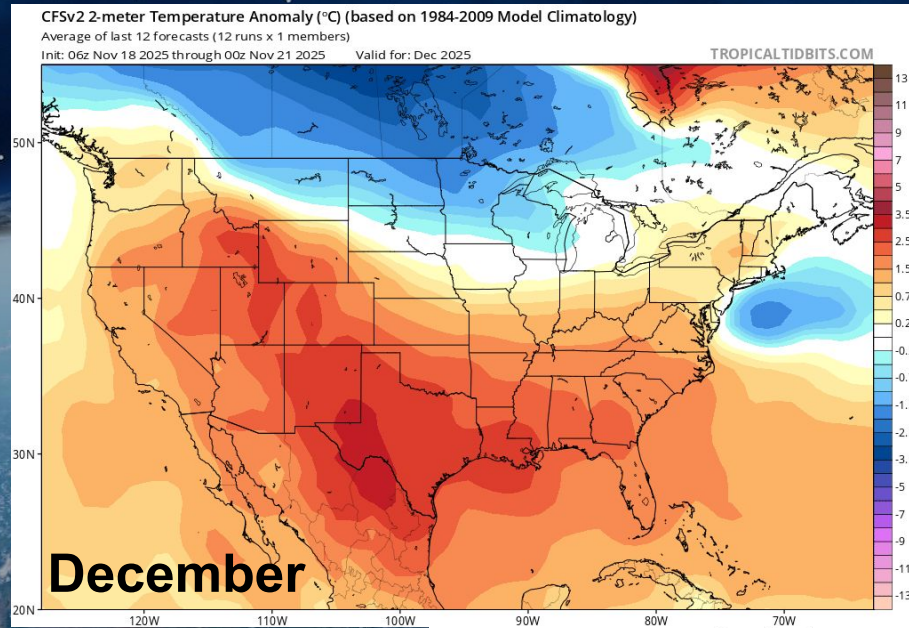
North Atlantic Oscillation

NAO Index: Observed & GEFS Forecasts



Negative phase of the NAO signals a stronger than normal Icelandic low...thus a more highly amplified upper pattern and a displacement of cold air more directly southward.

Climate Forecast System (CFS)



Clear La Nina Signal

NOAA Winter 2025-2026 Outlook



**Ralph Rounds
Watson
January 9, 2025**

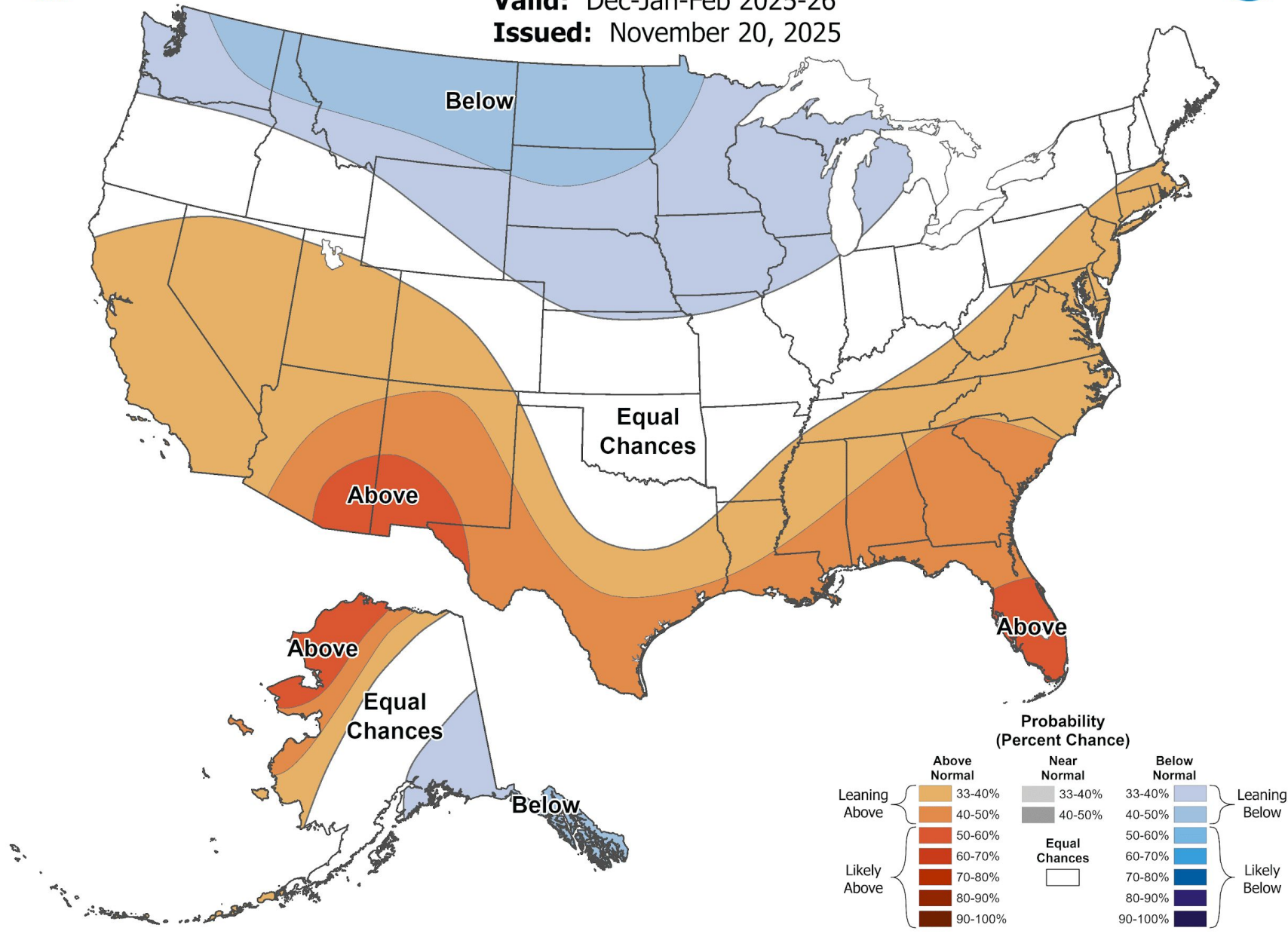


Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26

Issued: November 20, 2025



TEMPERATURE:

Equal Chances in
Central Illinois

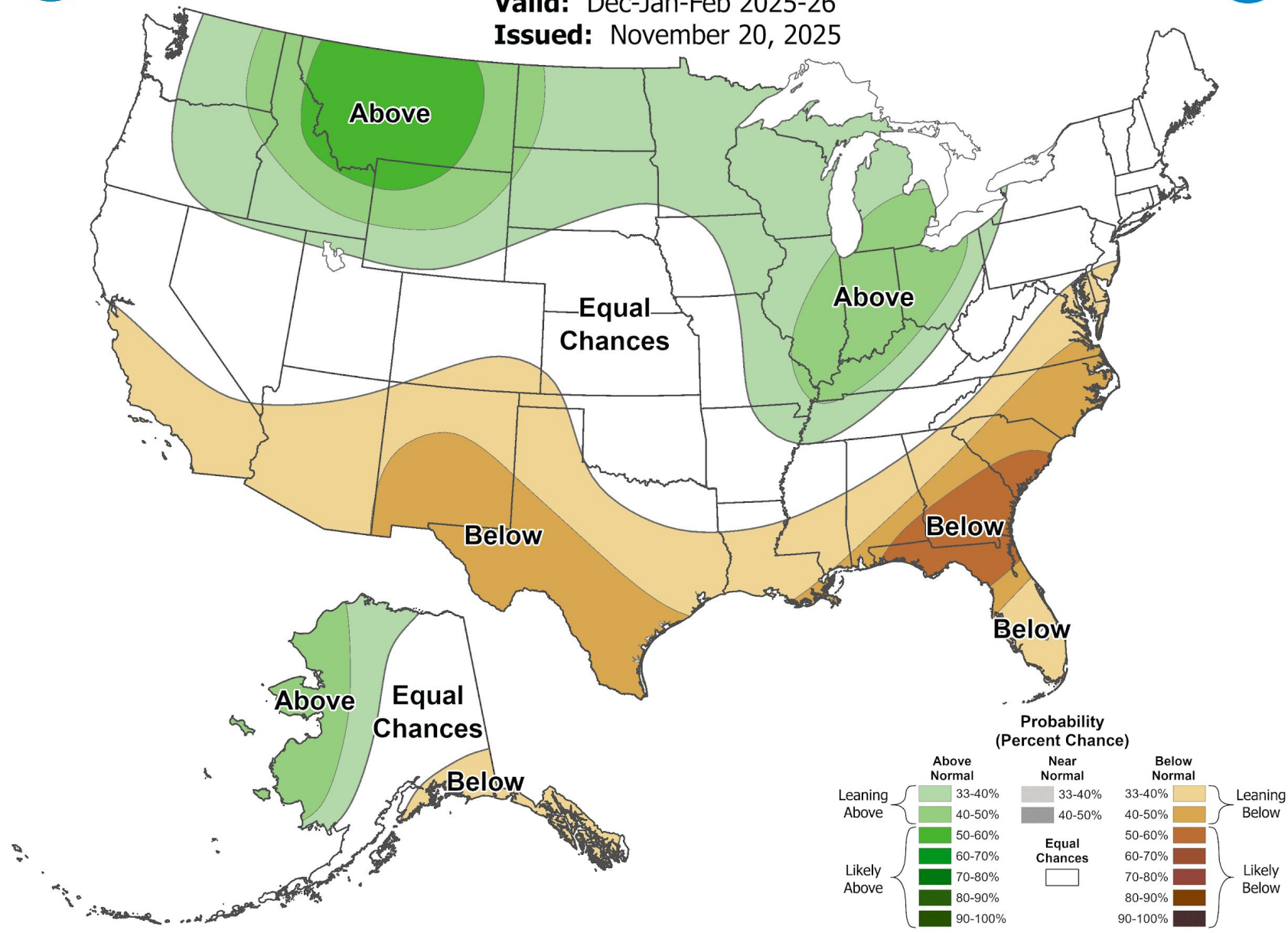


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26

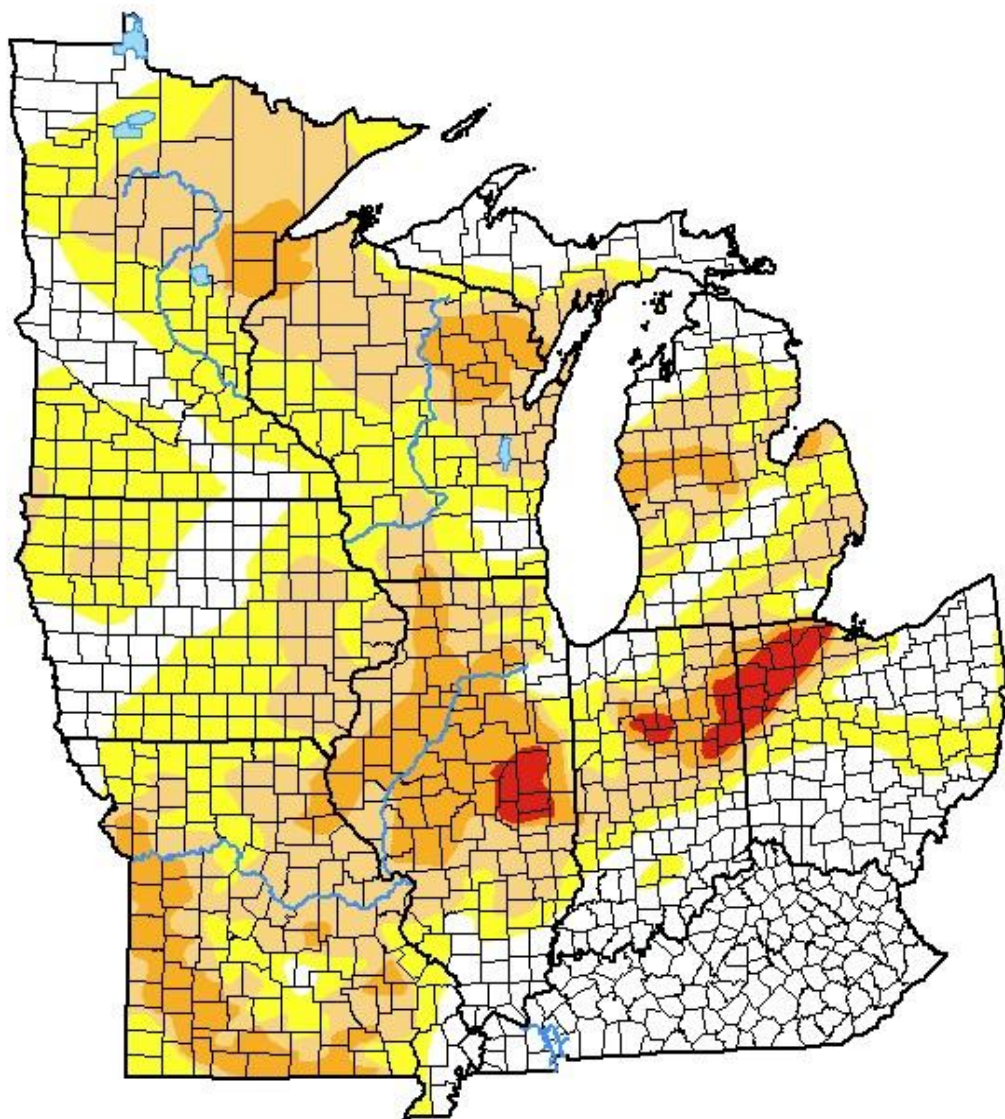
Issued: November 20, 2025



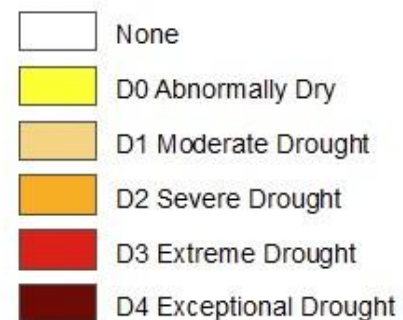
PRECIPITATION:

**Trending Above Normal
in Central Illinois**

November 18 Drought Monitor



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

How will the ongoing drought conditions impact the precip outlook?

Expectations



Joe Armstrong
Springfield
March 25, 2013

Near to slightly below normal temperatures

Coldest periods potentially from late November through mid-December...then again in February

Slightly above normal precipitation

More snow than last year!

A high-resolution image of Earth from space, showing the Americas and the Atlantic Ocean. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in white text on the right side of the image.

Questions?