



# Drought Information Statement for Eastern NE and Southwest IA

Valid January 9, 2023

Issued By: NWS Omaha/Valley, NE

Contact Information: [nws.omaha@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.omaha@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated February 18, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at [drought.gov/drought-information-statements](https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements).
- Please visit [weather.gov/oax/DroughtInformationStatement](https://weather.gov/oax/DroughtInformationStatement) for previous statements.



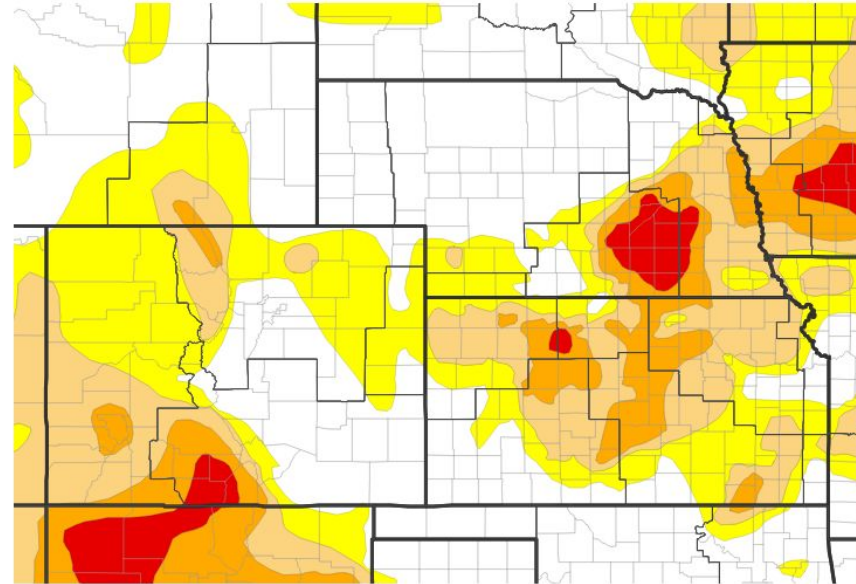


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought conditions over the past six weeks generally **improved** across the area, especially for eastern Nebraska.
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** With improvement in Butler County, there is no part of Nebraska considered to be in exceptional drought for the first time in 17 months,
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Pottawattamie and Shelby counties in western Iowa. Seward, Saline, and Jefferson counties in eastern Nebraska.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Thurston, Burt, Colfax, Dodge, Washington, Saunders, Douglas, Sarpy, Seward, Lancaster, Cass, Saline, Jefferson, and Gage counties in Eastern NE. Monona, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Mills and Montgomery in southwest IA.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most of the remainder of southwest Iowa and much of southeast Nebraska.
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** A ribbon of northeast NE, southeast NE and southern Page County, Iowa.

## U.S. Drought Monitor



## U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 01/09/24



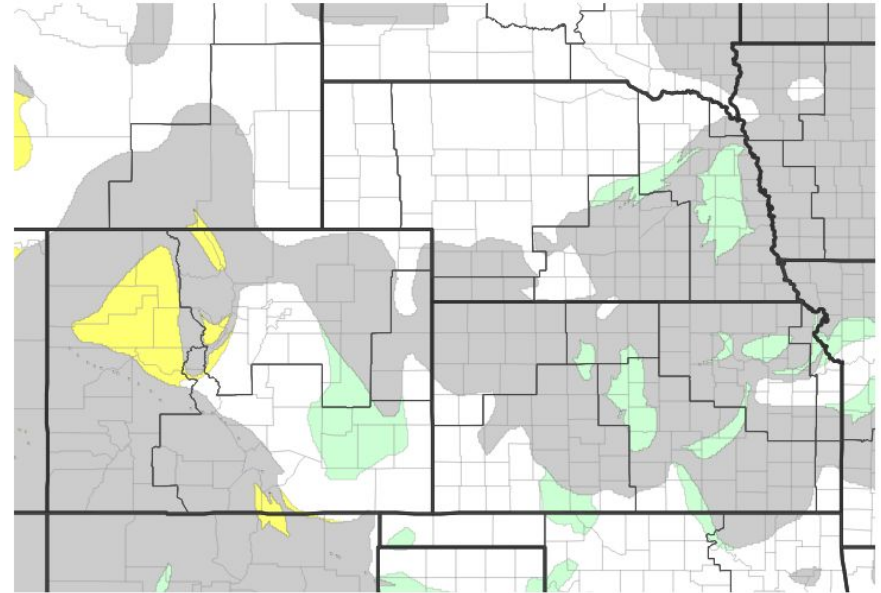


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

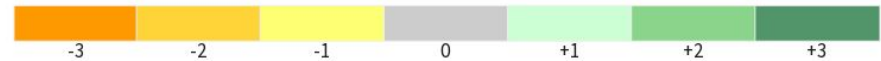
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - **Drought Worsened:** None
  - **No Change:** The bulk of the area
  - **Drought Improved:** Two large swaths of eastern Nebraska
- Drought category adjustments tend to slow in the fall and winter months.
  - Changes are more pronounced on longer timelines: [Change Maps](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 01/09/24



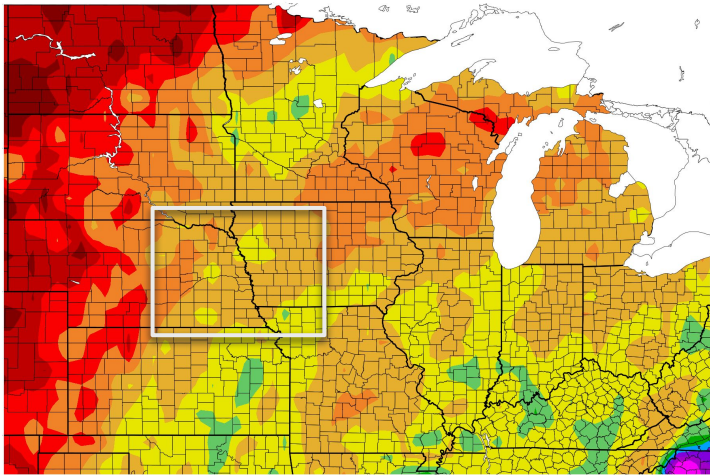




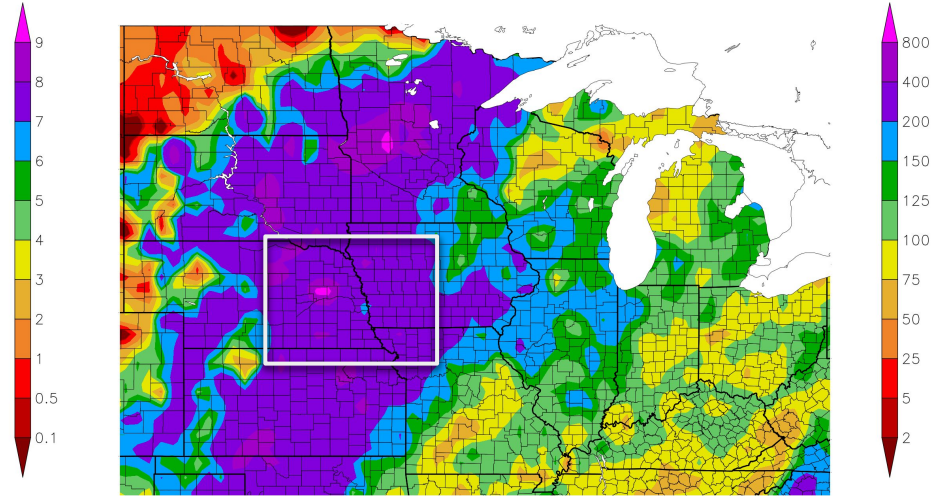
# Precipitation

Over the Past 30 Days

Precipitation (in)  
12/15/2023 – 1/13/2024



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
12/15/2023 – 1/13/2024



Generated 1/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers Generated 1/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- As is the trend in winters with a strong El Nino, we've seen a wetter than normal winter w/ regular bouts of snow. Most of the area has two to three times the normal amount of precip over the past 30 days.

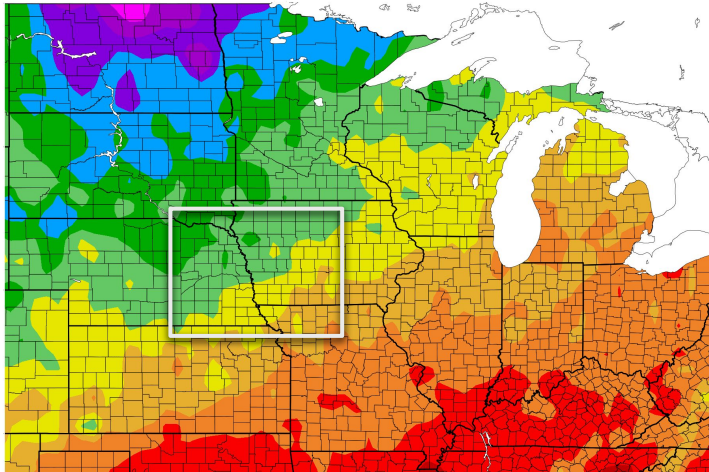




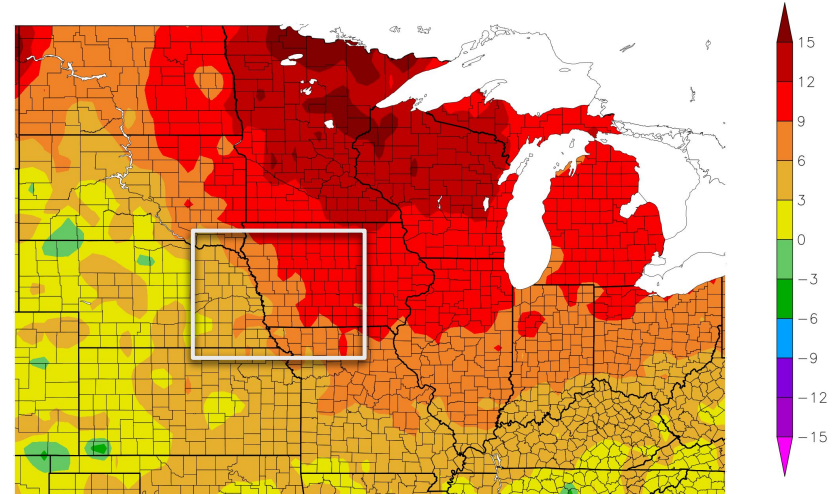
# Temperature

Over the Past 30 Days

Temperature (F)  
12/15/2023 - 1/13/2024



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/15/2023 - 1/13/2024



Generated 1/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers Generated 1/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- After a particularly warm December (warmest on record globally and in Minnesota), cold air has enveloped the Northern Plains and will linger through the foreseeable future.





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Near record dry flow is expected this week on the Missouri River near Omaha due to the drought and an ice jam upstream near Ponca, NE.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Many Christmas tree farms, including across Iowa and Nebraska reported that drought conditions killed most of the seedlings planted in 2023.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- All counties in the area are considered to now have “critical” fuel status. Thankfully, the state is currently covered in snow.

## Other Impacts

- Hundreds of dead deer have been spotted in Southern Iowa this winter.
- Experts say the cause is Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, or EHD. Conventional wisdom holds that the disease gets more prevalent in years with a drought or a flood

## Mitigation Actions

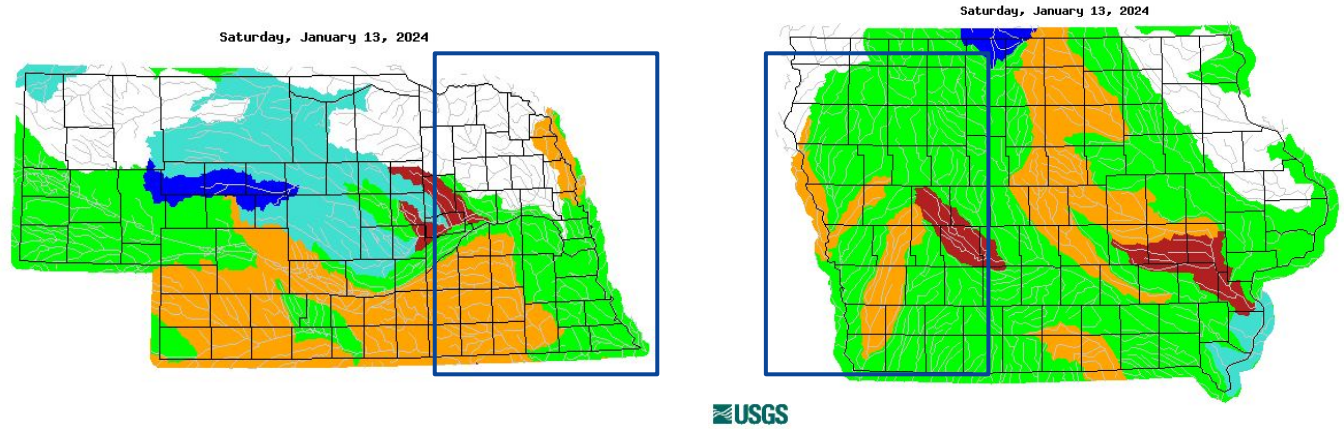
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow reflects where the precipitation has been falling over the past 30 days.
- Much of northeast Nebraska is flowing near normal.
- Fewer Nebraska and Iowa rivers are running below normal than had been running low in the past few months.



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



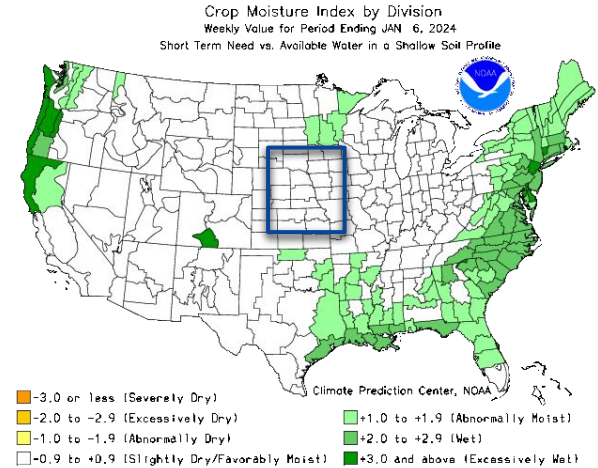
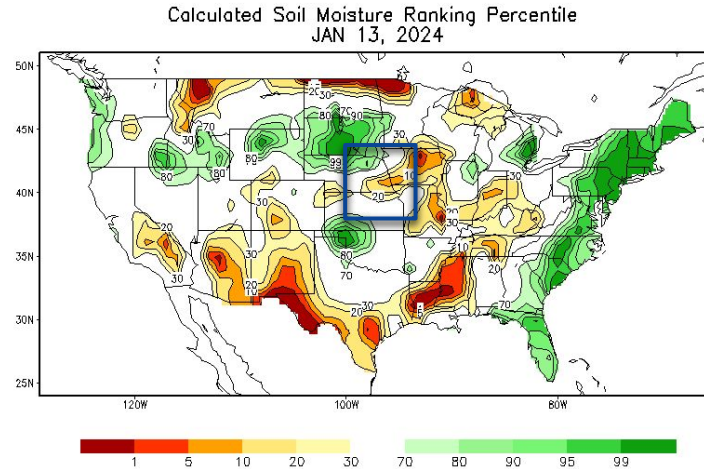




# Agricultural Impacts

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

- Soil moisture remains above normal in northeast Nebraska.
- Soil moisture continues to run below normal for much of the remainder of the area.
- The crop moisture index is running near normal.



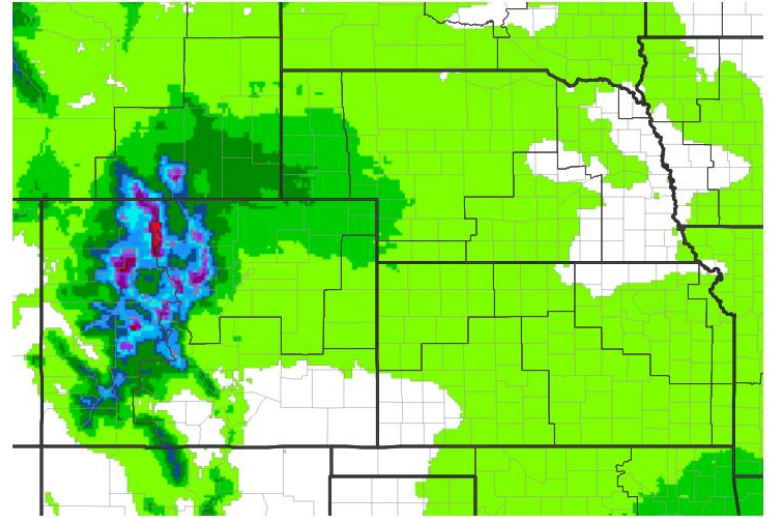




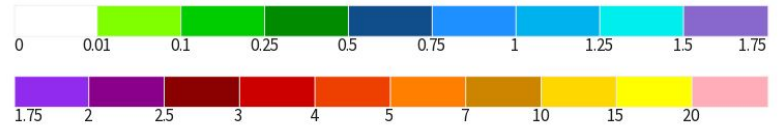
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- There are small precipitation chances in the forecast in the next 7 days.
- Amounts are forecast to remain below 0.10".
- January and February are the driest two months of the year in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

## 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/14/24

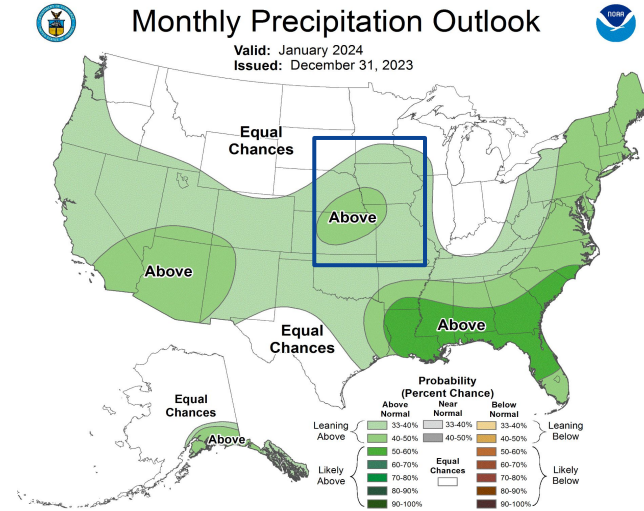
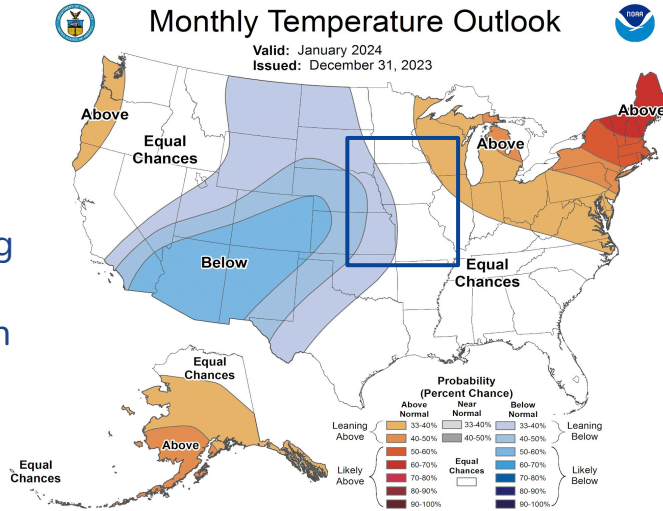




# Climate Outlooks

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

- The temperature outlook for January leans toward a colder than normal January and that has played out so far.
- Precipitation is often higher in the winter during strong El Ninos and that, too, has come to fruition in January 2024.





# Drought Outlook

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

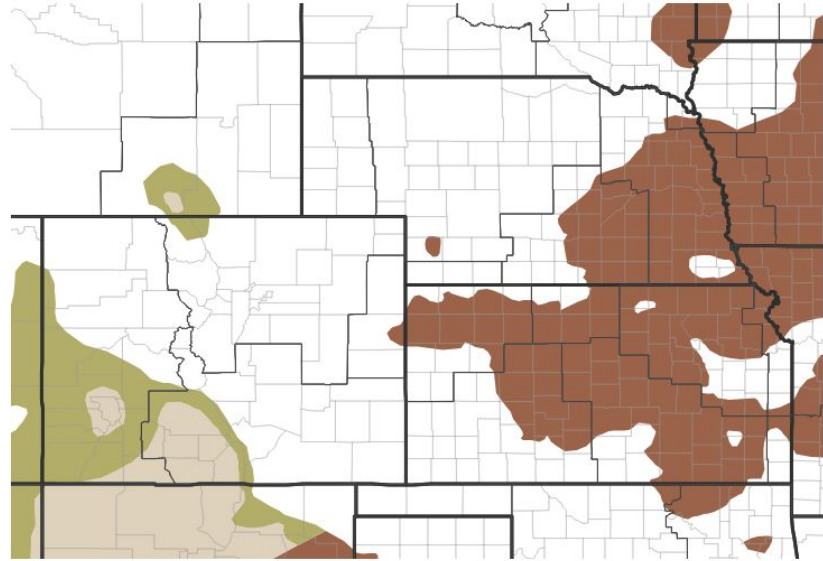
- Winter is typically the driest season of the year in the Corn Belt. Drought category changes typically slow as a result.
- The seasonal 3 month drought outlook calls for drought to persist across much of the region.

Link to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



### Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 12/21/23

