



Drought Information Statement for Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa

Valid June 17th, 2025

Issued By: NWS Omaha/Valley

Contact Information: nws.omaha@noaa.gov or 1-800-452-9074

- This product will be updated by August 4th, 2025 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at drought.gov/drought-information-statements
- Please visit weather.gov/Omaha/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit drought.gov/drought-status-updates?dews_region=41 for regional drought status updates

- **EXTREME DROUGHT (D3) HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AREA DUE TO RECENT SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL**
- **SUMMER LEANS HOTTER AND DRIER THAN NORMAL ACROSS THE AREA THIS YEAR**



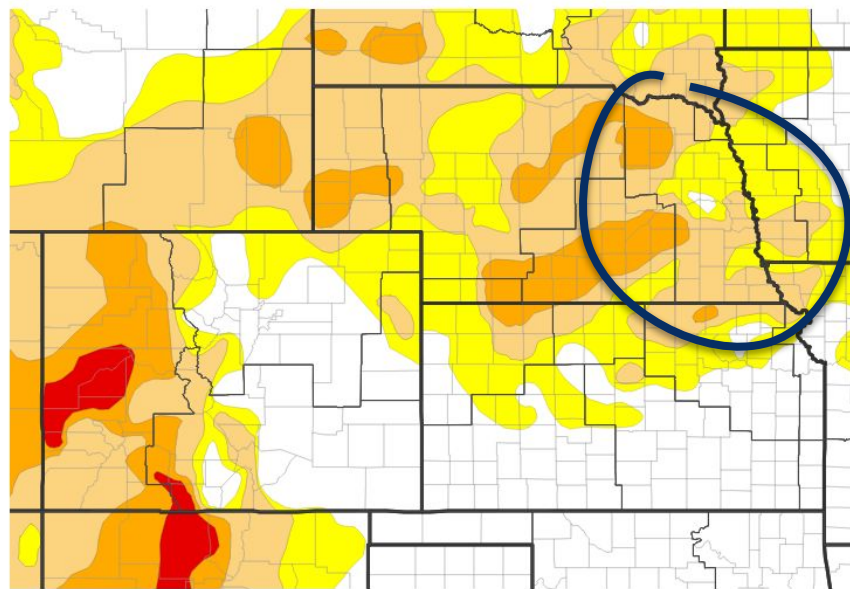


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- The area was drought free in mid-July. Things deteriorated quickly through the fall with very little change since late November.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Extreme drought was introduced to the area in May 2025 and then removed mid-June 2025 due to significant rainfall.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Severe drought is relegated to the western fringe of the forecast area.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Nearly the entire remainder of eastern Nebraska is designated as “moderate drought” as is much of southwestern Iowa.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** The remainder of western Iowa is now considered “abnormally dry”.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 06/17/25

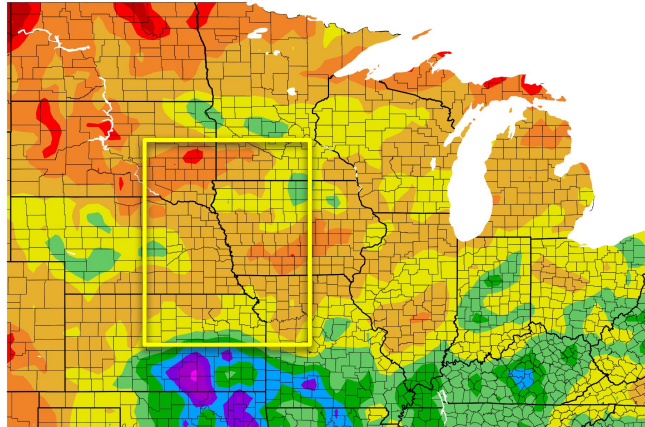




Precipitation

Over the Past 30 Days

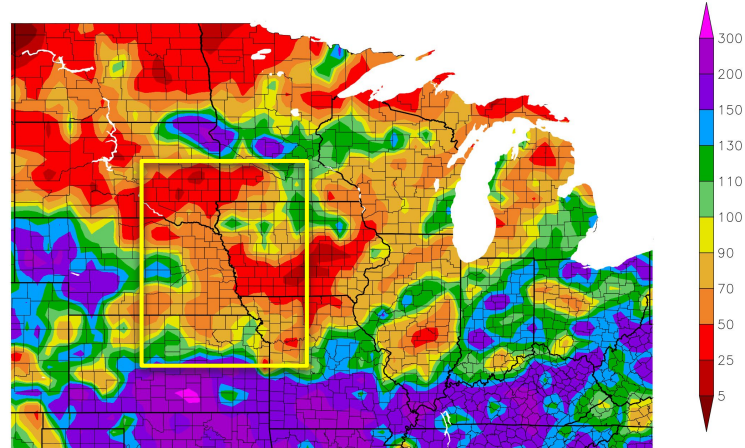
Precipitation (in)
5/21/2025 – 6/19/2025



Generated 6/20/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/21/2025 – 6/19/2025



Generated 6/20/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- While precipitation has been falling at a greater clip over the past 30 days, May and June represent the wettest months of year on average in this part of the country.
- Significant moisture will need to continue into July to see drought conditions improve further or even just hold on to current categories.





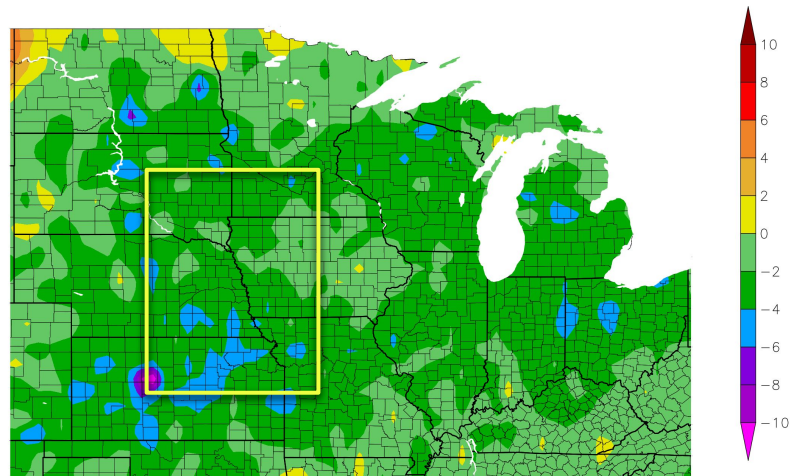
Temperature

Over the Past 30 Days

- Warmer than normal conditions had prevailed over 2025 before taking a cooler turn in June.
- A stormy pattern afflicting the area has brought some relief from the heat with temperatures pushing closer to normal.

	Norfolk	Omaha	Lincoln
Average Temperature (June to date) vs 30 Year Average (1991-2020)	+1.2°	-0.3°	-0.7°

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/21/2025 – 6/19/2025



Generated 6/20/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Groundwater levels in Nebraska generally dipped in 2024. Southeast Nebraska groundwater levels dropped 10-15 feet compared to 2023 according to a UNL study. ([NebraskaPublicMedia.org](https://www.nebraskapublicmedia.org))

Agricultural Impacts

- A Falls City ag producer says recent rainfall has improved pasture conditions. ([BrownfieldAgNews.com](https://www.brownfieldagnews.com))
- Low water in stock ponds and limited water for livestock and/or irrigation. ([weather.gov/MBRFC](https://www.weather.gov/MBRFC))

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Widespread burn bans earlier this season have been lifted in Nebraska and Iowa.

Other Impacts

- Drought is blamed for the death of a 380-year-old burr oak tree at Ponca State Park in northeast Nebraska - one of the state's oldest. ([NebraskaExaminer.com](https://www.nebrask Examiner.com))

Mitigation Actions

- As of 5/15/25, Shenandoah, IA remains in stage 4 water restrictions. ([KMALand.com](https://www.KMALand.com))
- Auburn, NE is pursuing plans to pull water from Long's creek in response to the drought contingency stage 3 water emergency. ([RiverCountry.NewsChannelNebraska.com](https://www.RiverCountry.NewsChannelNebraska.com))
- Residents in several western Iowa communities are back under the strictest level of mandatory water restrictions: "Level RED". Those communities include Avoca, Persia, Panama, Portsmouth, Westphalia, Kirkman, Tennant, Earling, Exira and Brayton. ([KETV.com](https://www.KETV.com))

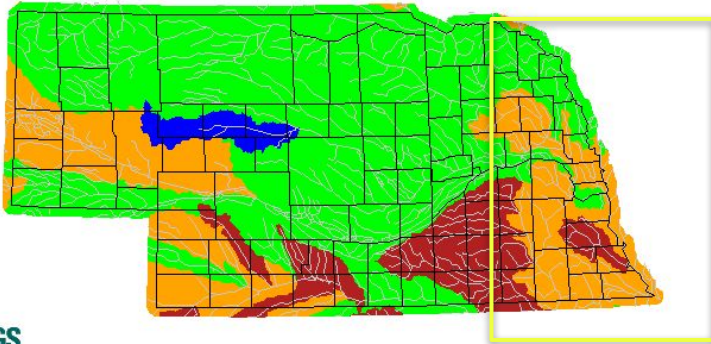




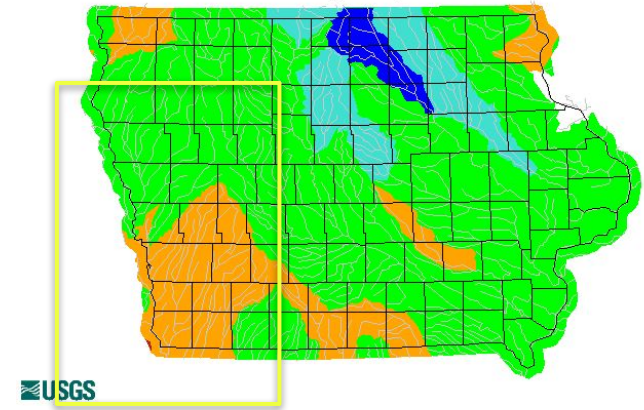
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- As is reflected in the drought monitor, Iowa's hydrologic conditions are much closer to normal than those recorded in Nebraska.
- Despite being below normal - especially in the south - both states have reflected improved conditions through improved streamflow.

Thursday, June 19, 2025



Thursday, June 19, 2025



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

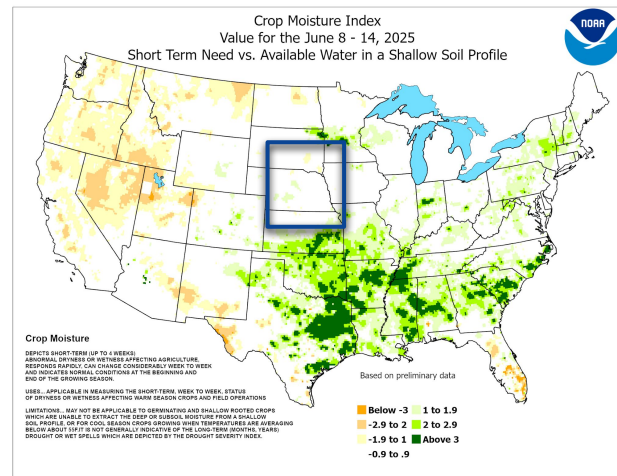
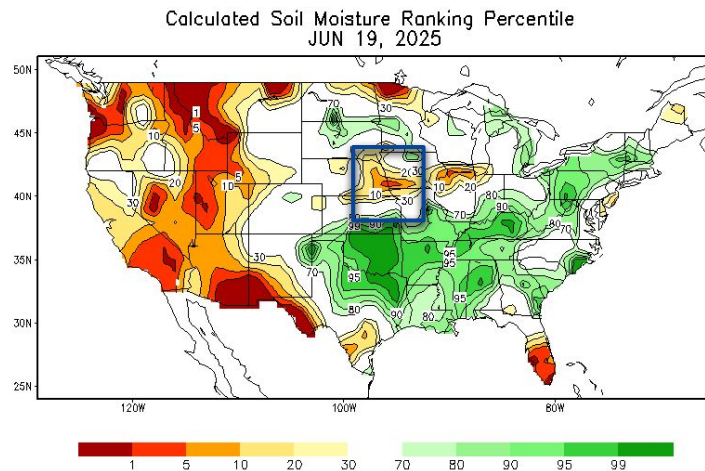




Agricultural Impacts

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

- Both measurements of agricultural moisture have improved over the past 35 days.
- Soil Moisture Ranking remains below the 10th percentile in the south-eastern portions of the area.





Drought Outlook

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

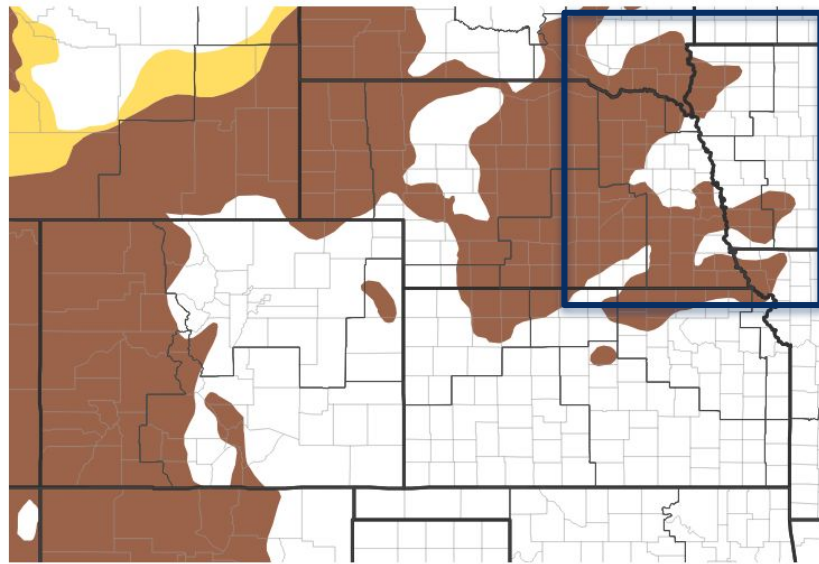
- This area represents some of the eastern-most bastions of the wide swath of drought conditions in the western US.
- While we've enjoyed some recent improvements, the long-range forecast leans warm and dry. As a result, the Climate Prediction Center has forecasted that the drought will continue in eastern Nebraska and Iowa.

Link to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for June 19, 2025–September 30, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 06/19/25



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

National Weather Service
Omaha/Valley, NE