Drought Information Statement for Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa

Valid June 30, 2026

Issued By: NWS Omaha/Valley

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

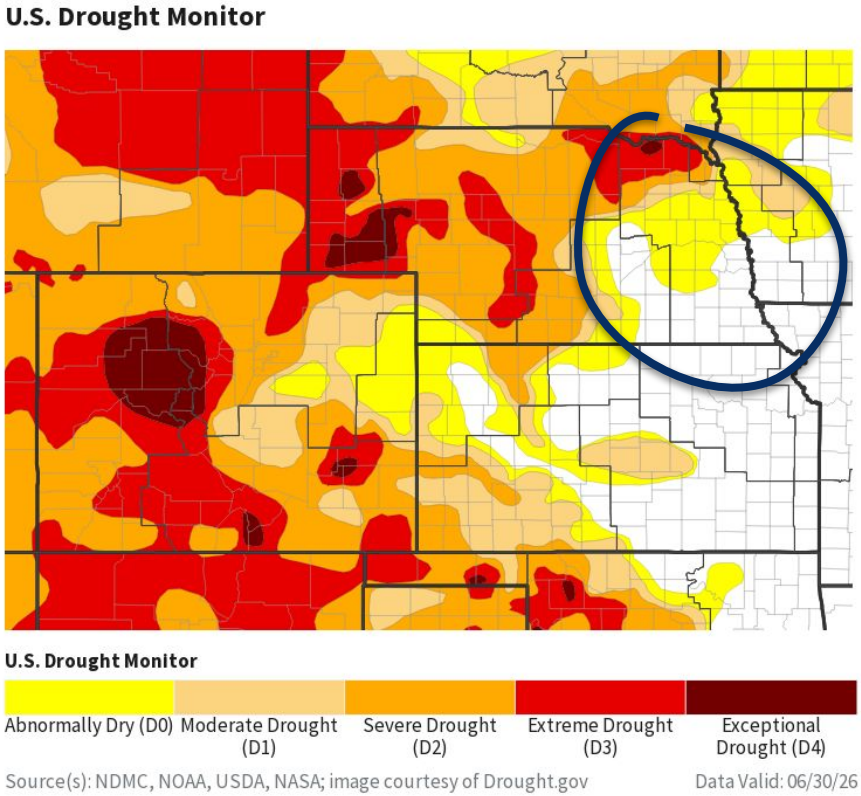
- This product will be updated only when drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at drought.gov/drought-information-statements
- Please visit weather.gov/Omaha/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit drought.gov/drought-status-updates?dews_region=41 for regional drought status updates

- **EXTREME DROUGHT CONTINUES IN THE NORTHERN COUNTIES OF THE FORECAST AREA**
- **EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT (D4) WAS REINTRODUCED TO FAR NORTHEAST NEBRASKA EARLY JUNE 2026 AND REMAINS INTO EARLY JULY**

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

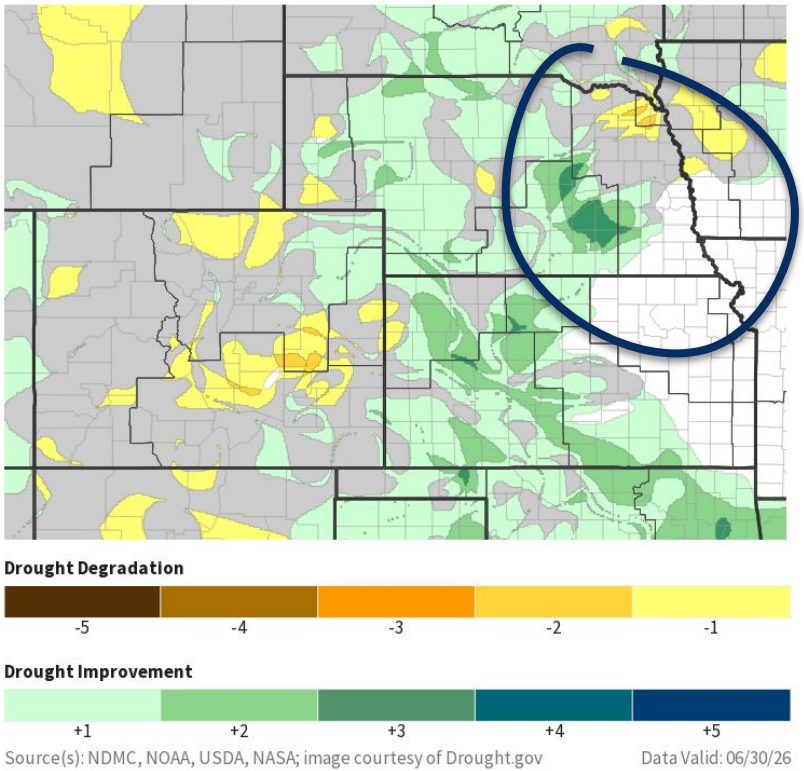
- The area was ***drought free*** in early September 2025 with only 2% of the area considered “abnormally dry”.
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Exceptional drought was reintroduced to northeast Nebraska in June 2026.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: D3’s footprint has changed very little since April 2026.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: From June 2 to June 30, D2 was removed from Boone, Saline, Seward, an Butler Counties.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: D1 was removed from nearly exactly the same areas as D2 was.
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Very little change was recorded in the real estate covered by D0 other than southern Boone County, NE.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map

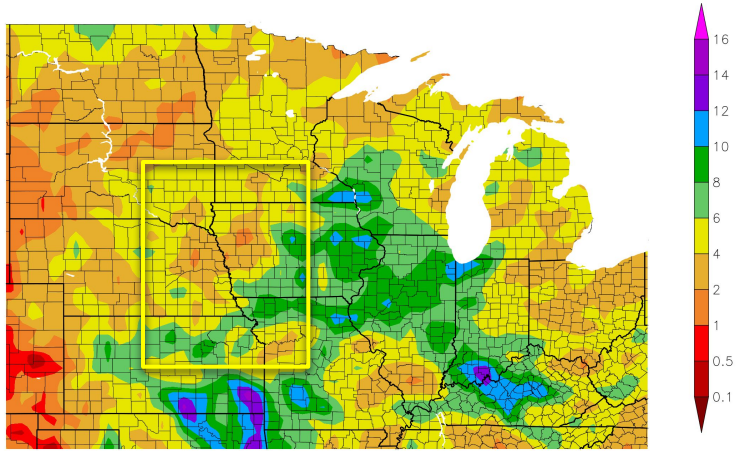
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **Drought Worsened:** One category deterioration in much of northeast Nebraska and parts of Harrison County, IA.
  - **No Change:** The remainder of west-central Iowa and northeast Nebraska.
  - **Drought Improved:** A majority of the southern half of the area where precipitation has been accumulating at a higher than normal rate over the past six months.
- Changes are more pronounced on longer timelines: View the **Change Maps**



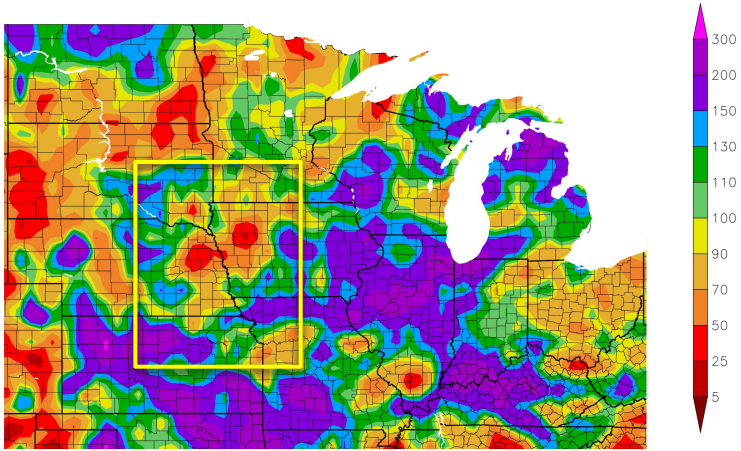
Precipitation

Over the Past 30 Days

Precipitation (in)
6/4/2026 – 7/3/2026



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
6/4/2026 – 7/3/2026



- On the short-term, percent of normal precip is convoluted, but on 60/90/120 day timelines, the trend of a wet southwestern Iowa and far southeast Nebraska emerges.
- The remainder of the area continues to fall short.

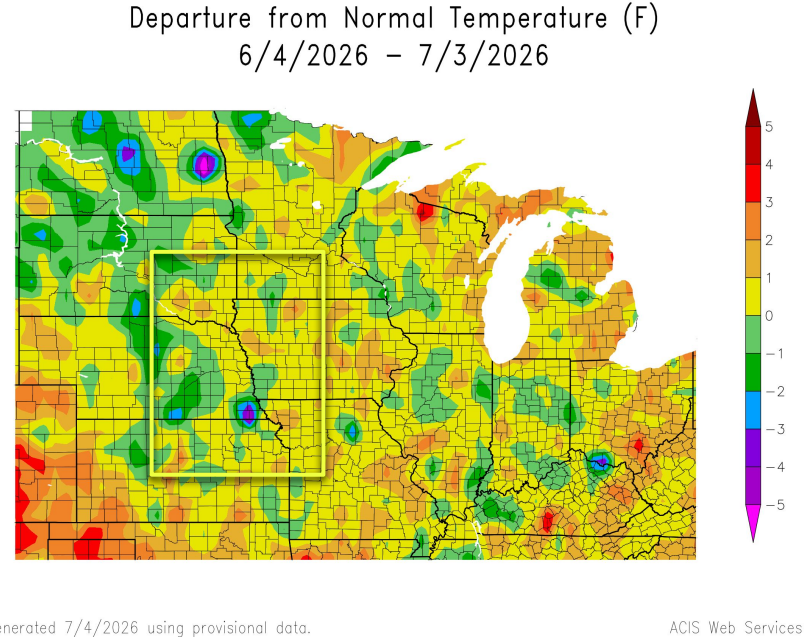
	2026 Precip	Departure	June Precip
Norfolk	9.77”	**-4.18”**	1.96” -2.41”
Omaha	12.64”	**-3.12”**	3.39” -1.05”
Lincoln	12.82”	**-2.43”**	4.09” -0.39”

Temperature

Over the Past 30 Days

- Temperatures for June 2026 have been close to normal overall.
- For 2026 as a whole, all three major climate sites are running about three degrees warmer than normal. This puts each city on pace for a top ten warmest year.

	Norfolk	Omaha	Lincoln
Average Temperature (6/1 to 6/30) vs Normal (1991-2020)	**+0.1°**	**-0.1°**	**-0.2°**
Average Temperature (1/1 to 6/30) vs Normal (1991-2020)	**+3.1°**	**+2.7°**	**+3.0°**



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Persistent dry weather, low precipitation, and a lack of mountain snowpack have triggered below-average runoff and drought conditions across 80% of the Missouri River Basin. Consequently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reduced its water runoff forecast for the upcoming summer and fall. (usace.army.mil)

Agricultural Impacts

- Persistent drought and repeated freeze events have forced the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to cancel or modify several stops on its annual Wheat Variety Tour schedule, reflecting what researchers describe as one of the toughest wheat seasons in recent memory. (ruralradio.com)
- U.S. farmers this year will harvest their smallest wheat crop since 1972, as a severe drought in the U.S. Plains has curbed production of hard red winter wheat, the largest variety grown in the U.S., according to the Department of Agriculture. (agweb.com)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no current burn bans in Iowa and Nebraska.

Other Impacts

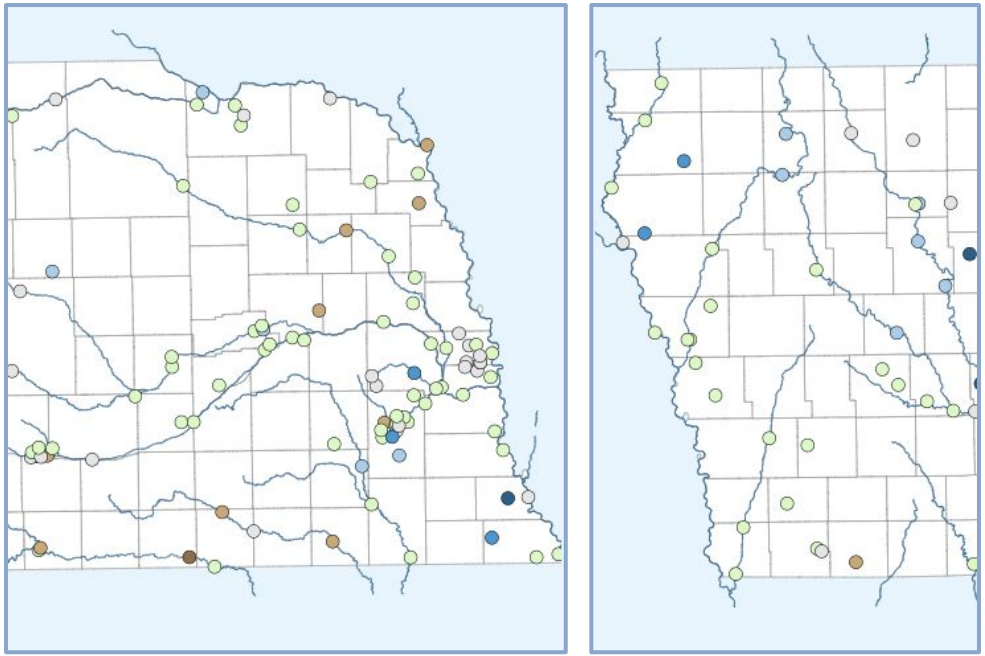
- The persisting drought has resulted in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission having to close several of its managed boat ramps. (outdoornebraska.gov)

Mitigation Actions

- The Platte Basin Coalition, the Lower Platte River Drought Consortium, the Republican River Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), and the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) are urging the public to utilize water conservation best practices due to ongoing drought conditions across Nebraska. (centralnebraskatoday.com)

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Most gauges are reporting normal streamflow, but northeastern Nebraska shows dry areas.
- As reflected in the current drought monitor, hydrologic conditions have improved across the state of Iowa. In fact, there are more locations reporting above normal flow than below it.



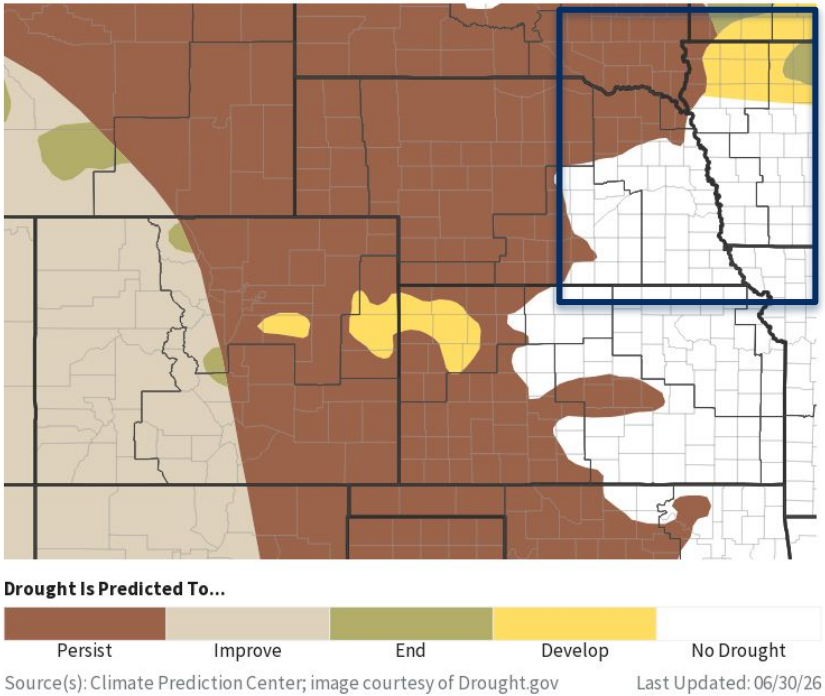
0-5	5-10	10-25	25-75	75-90	90-95	95-100
Extremely below	Much below	Below	Normal	Above	Much above	Extremely above

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The drought outlook suggests little foreseeable change in the drought monitor in July, August, and September.
- The Climate Prediction Center's (cpc.ncep.noaa.gov) precipitation outlook for the same three month period shows no strong lean toward dryer or wetter than normal conditions.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for June 30, 2026–September 30, 2026



Link to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook