



# Drought Information Statement for Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa

Valid July 31st, 2025

Issued By: NWS Omaha/Valley

Contact Information: [nws.omaha@noaa.gov](mailto: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](https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements)
- Please visit [weather.gov/Omaha/DroughtInformationStatement](https://weather.gov/Omaha/DroughtInformationStatement) for previous statements.
- Please visit [drought.gov/drought-status-updates?dews\\_region=41](https://drought.gov/drought-status-updates?dews_region=41) for regional drought status updates

- **SUMMER 2025 BROUGHT WETTER CONDITIONS THAN ANTICIPATED**
- **SEVERE DROUGHT (D2) HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AREA DUE TO RECENT SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL**



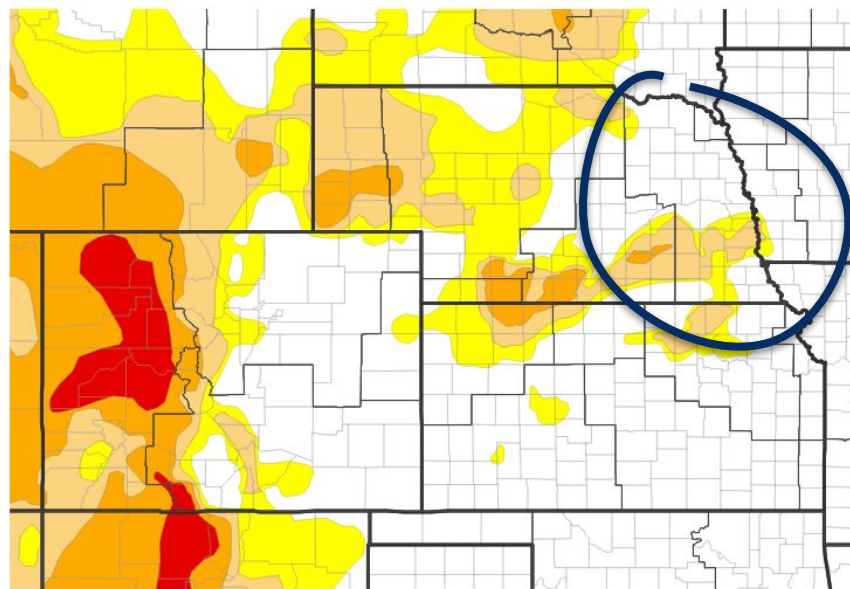


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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 was completely removed from the area on July 15, 2025.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** The only significant real estate in this area still considered to be in drought is a portion of southeast Nebraska.
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** The periphery of the moderate drought area is considered “moderately dry”.

## U.S. Drought Monitor



## U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 07/29/25



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

National Weather Service  
Omaha/Valley, NE

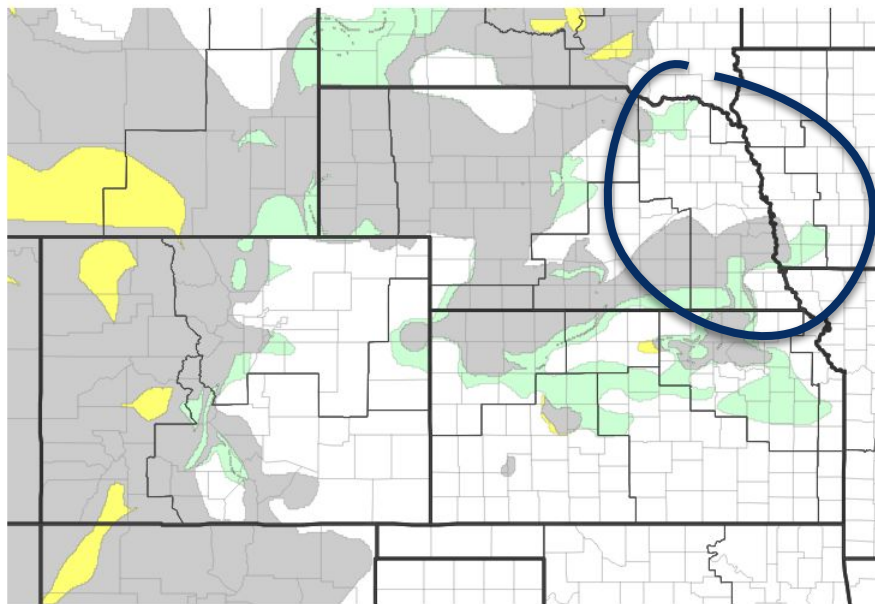


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

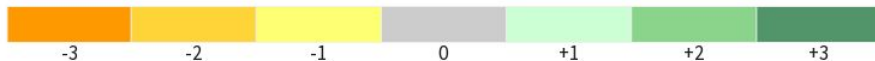
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **Drought Worsened:** None
  - **No Change:** Most of southeast Nebraska, especially along I-80.
  - **Drought Improved:** Far northeast Nebraska, far southeast Nebraska, far southwest Iowa.
- Changes are more pronounced on longer timelines: View the [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: 07/29/25



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Atmospheric Administration  
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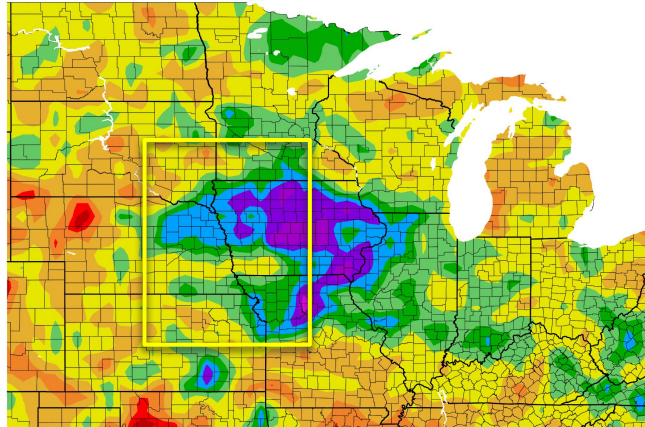
National Weather Service  
Omaha/Valley, NE



# Precipitation

Over the Past 30 Days

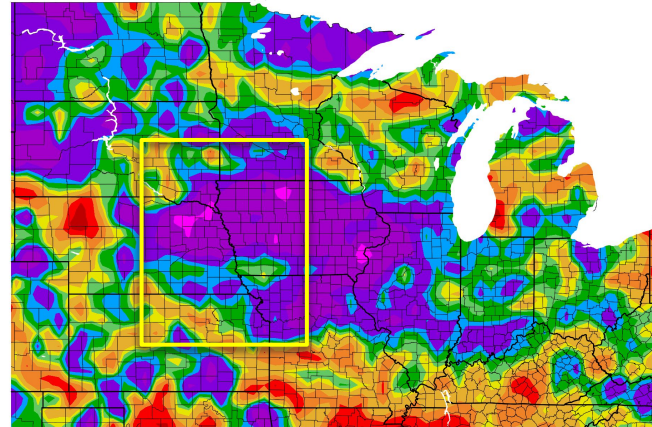
Precipitation (in)  
7/4/2025 – 8/2/2025



Generated 8/3/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
7/4/2025 – 8/2/2025



Generated 8/3/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- A wet July was welcomed across eastern Nebraska and Iowa, bringing an end to much of the drought designation across the area. It did bring occasional flooding concerns.
- Out of 133 years of record keeping, only six Julys were wetter in Norfolk, NE than July 2025.
- Drought improvement spilled into the Dakotas, Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado, Minnesota, etc.



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# 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](#))

## Agricultural Impacts

- A Falls City ag producer says recent rainfall has improved pasture conditions. ([BrownfieldAgNews.com](#))
- The US cattle herd hit a new low on July 1st... the lowest mid-year count on record since 1973. It's been attributed to high costs and drought. ([USDA.gov](#))

## 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](#))

## Mitigation Actions

- As of 7/31/25, Shenandoah, IA remains in stage 4 water restrictions. ([KMALand.com](#))
- On 7/31/25, Auburn, NE moved from stage 3 water emergency to stage 2 as eight of the ten wells of the Public Works show rebounding levels of water. ([Auburn.NE.gov](#))
- 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. ([RWRWA.org](#))



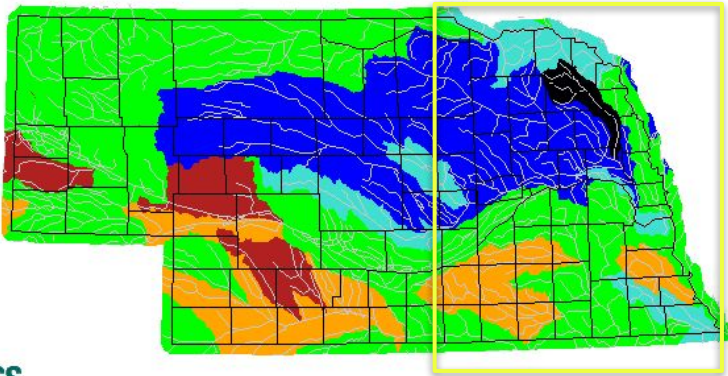




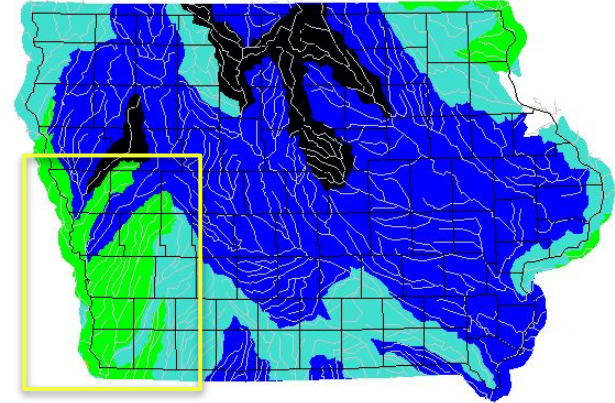
# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- 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.

Saturday, August 02, 2025



Saturday, August 02, 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

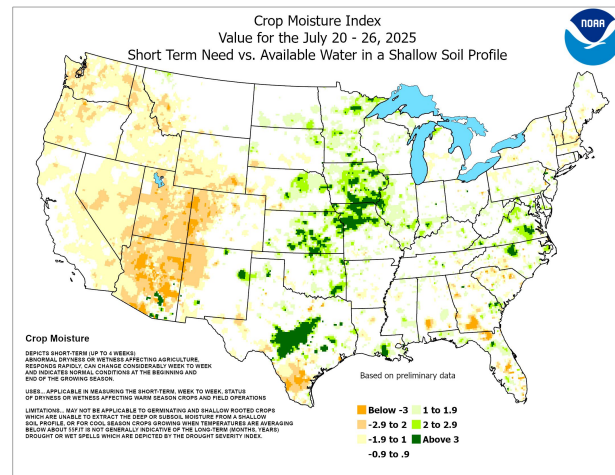
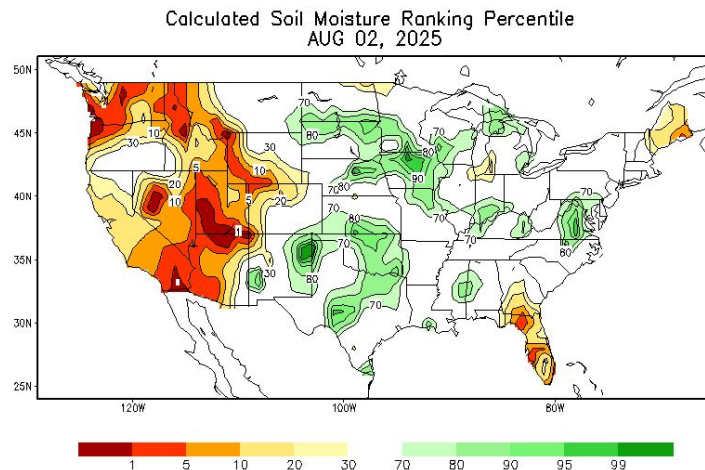




# Agricultural Impacts

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

- Both measurements of agricultural moisture have improved dramatically over the past 90 days.
- Soil Moisture shows no dry spots across the area. This is a marked change from this spring.





# Drought Outlook

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

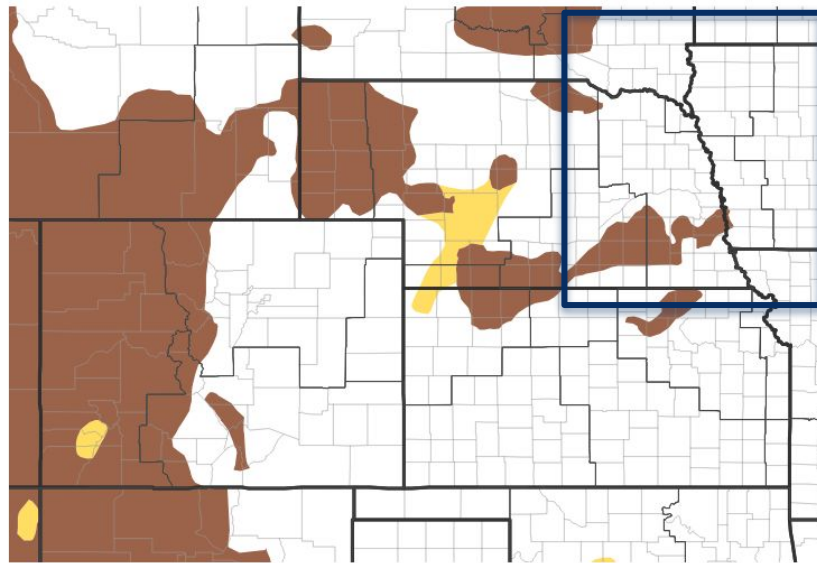
- Longer outlooks for eastern Nebraska and western Iowa suggest no strong lean toward wetter/drier conditions or warmer/cooler conditions.
- For that reason, drought conditions are not expected to improve or deteriorate in this part of the country.

Link to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

## 1-Month Drought Outlook for August 1, 2025–August 31, 2025



### Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 07/31/25



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