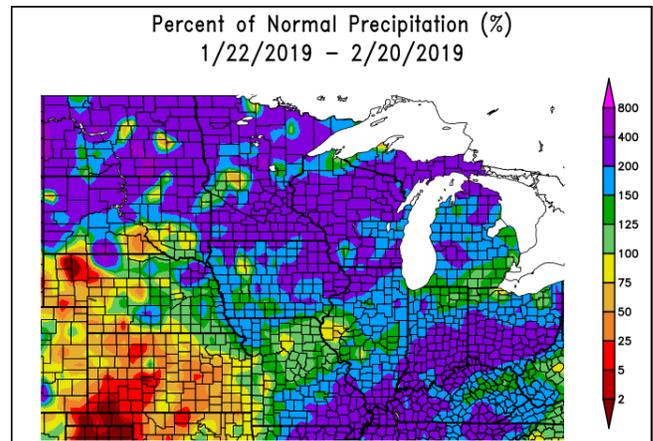
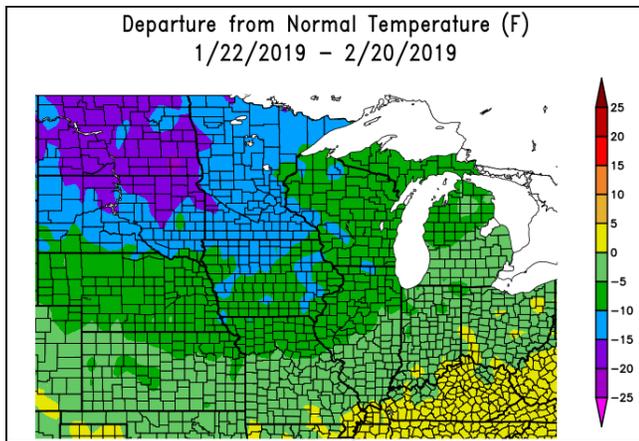


## Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

### Current Conditions



Cold temperatures and numerous storm events have been the dominant feature for much of February across the Northern Plains and Midwest. Heavy snow pack north and wetter soils further east have been the result. Thirty day temperature departures from average are  $-15^{\circ}$  to  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Those are quite large for a 30-day period. Note that the deviations are fairly small in the eastern Corn Belt/Ohio Valley. More than double-average precipitation has been common across northern states and along the Ohio Valley. Much of the central plains has been quite dry. Many temperature records were broken (mainly daily lows and low record highs). Illinois is investigating an all-time state low temperature record. Monthly snow records for February have already been broken in many places with a week left in the month.

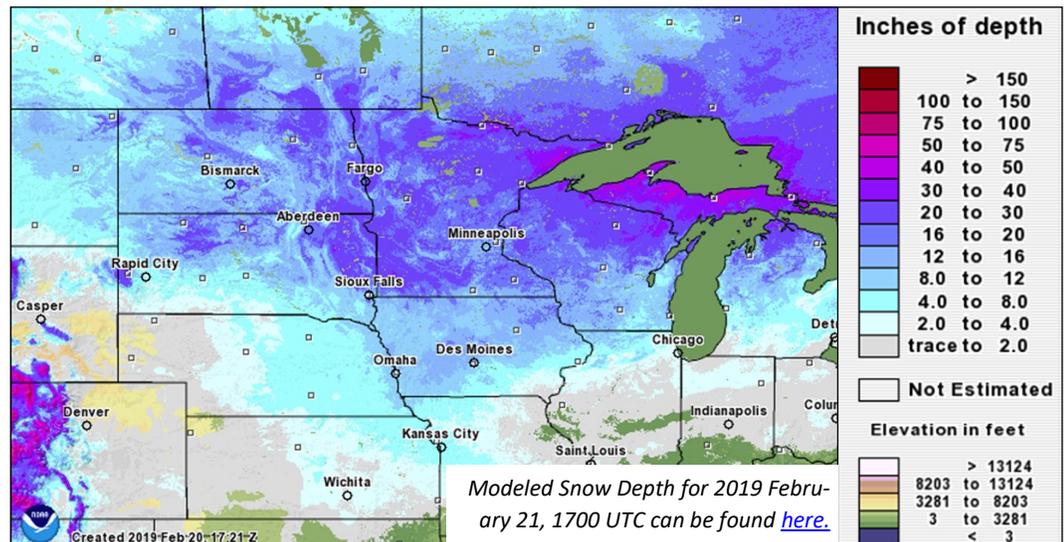


Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 1/31/2019



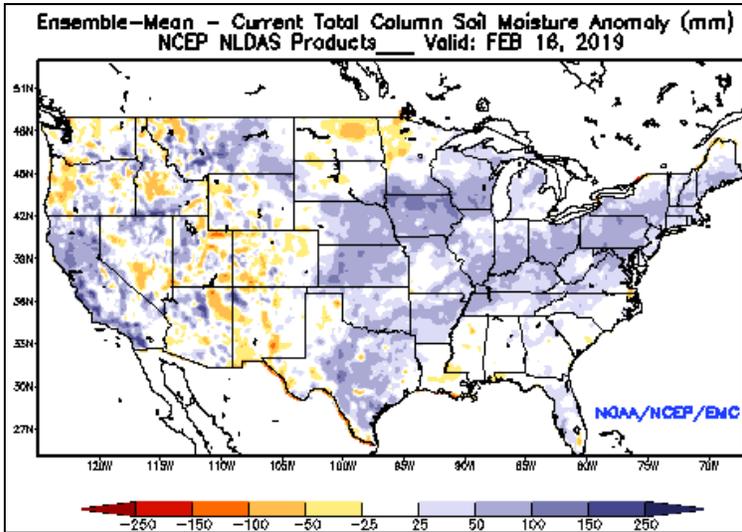
### Impacts

The direct current impacts are a little varied: Early calving in the northern plains was likely made tougher, though no reports of unusual losses have been noted. Moving snow for livestock probably increased workload for livestock producers. The extreme temperatures likely damaged potential fruit on trees and vines: Total impact will not be known until spring. There was likely increased mortality on overwintering insects.



For more information, please visit:

<https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>



Impacts Cont.

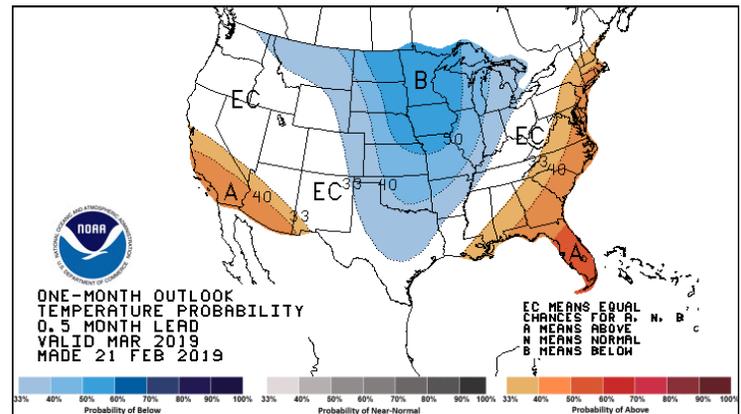
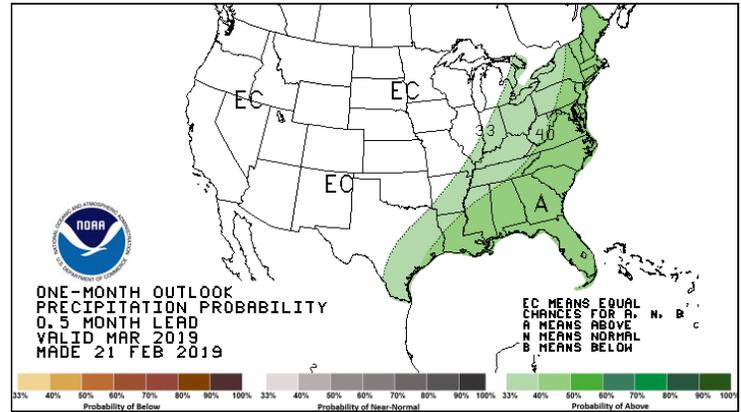
The current heavy snow pack over frozen/wet soils will likely slow spring field work progress. At this time concern is early snow runoff and soil wetness limiting early field work. Delayed field work is a possibility at this point, but too early to determine. Drought is not an issue anywhere in the region.

*Current Total Column Soil Moisture Anomaly*

Outlook



Colder-than-average conditions are likely to continue into early March over the Midwest and Plains. The precipitation chances should ease a little from the recent multiple storm events. The take home here is that cold is likely to persist into early March slowing the snow melt and warming of soils, thus early field work concerns. The multiple storm events should ease, but not go away completely. Bud break/dormancy issues should not be a problem over most of the region with the cold keeping warm temperatures at bay for now. Excess water/runoff especially in heavier snow pack areas will likely be a problem. Some areas have 2-4" of liquid on the ground currently. Longer term hints of wetness exist through the summer outlooks throughout most of the area.



*Climate Prediction Center*

Partners and Contributors



- [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#)
- [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#)
- [National Center for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#)
- [National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](#)
- [National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](#)
- [Midwestern Regional Climate Center \(MRCC\)](#)
- [Midwest State Climatologists](#)
- [High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](#)



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