

# Midwest and Great Plains Climate & Drought Outlook 18 October 2018

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*Photo courtesy: Mitchell Equipment, north central NE  
@MitchellEquip*



**United States Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Climate Hub**

# General Information

- **Providing climate services to the Central Region**
  - Collaboration Activity Between:
    - State Climatologists/American Association of State Climatologists
    - NOAA NCEI/NWS/OAR/NIDIS
    - USDA Climate Hubs
    - Midwest and High Plains Regional Climate Centers
    - National Drought Mitigation Center
- **Next Regular Climate/Drought Outlook Webinar**
  - November 15, 2018 (1 PM CDT): Presenter BJ Baule, Michigan State Climate Office
- **Access to Future Climate Webinars and Information**
- <http://www.drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars>
- <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/webinars.htm>
- <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/webinars.php>
- **Open for questions at the end**

# Agenda

- **Recent Conditions**
- **Impacts**
- **Outlooks**
  - **El Niño Watch**
  - **Winter season**



Corn mold, October 2018.  
Photo courtesy: Tamra Jackson-Ziems, UNL Extension



Recent Conditions

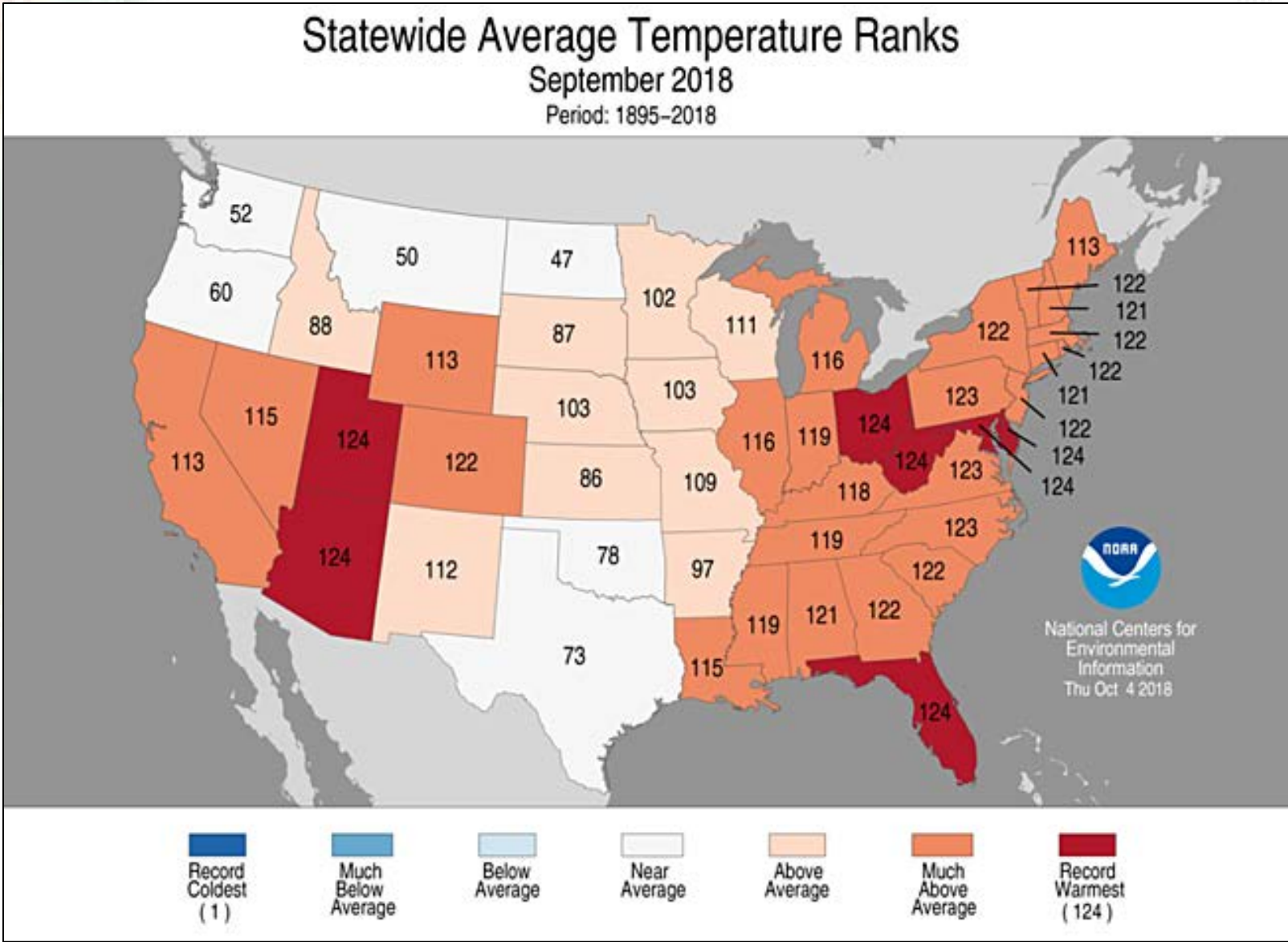
# A LOOK BACK



Photo courtesy Devon Miller, Charles City, IA  
@DevonMurray49



# September Temperature Ranks



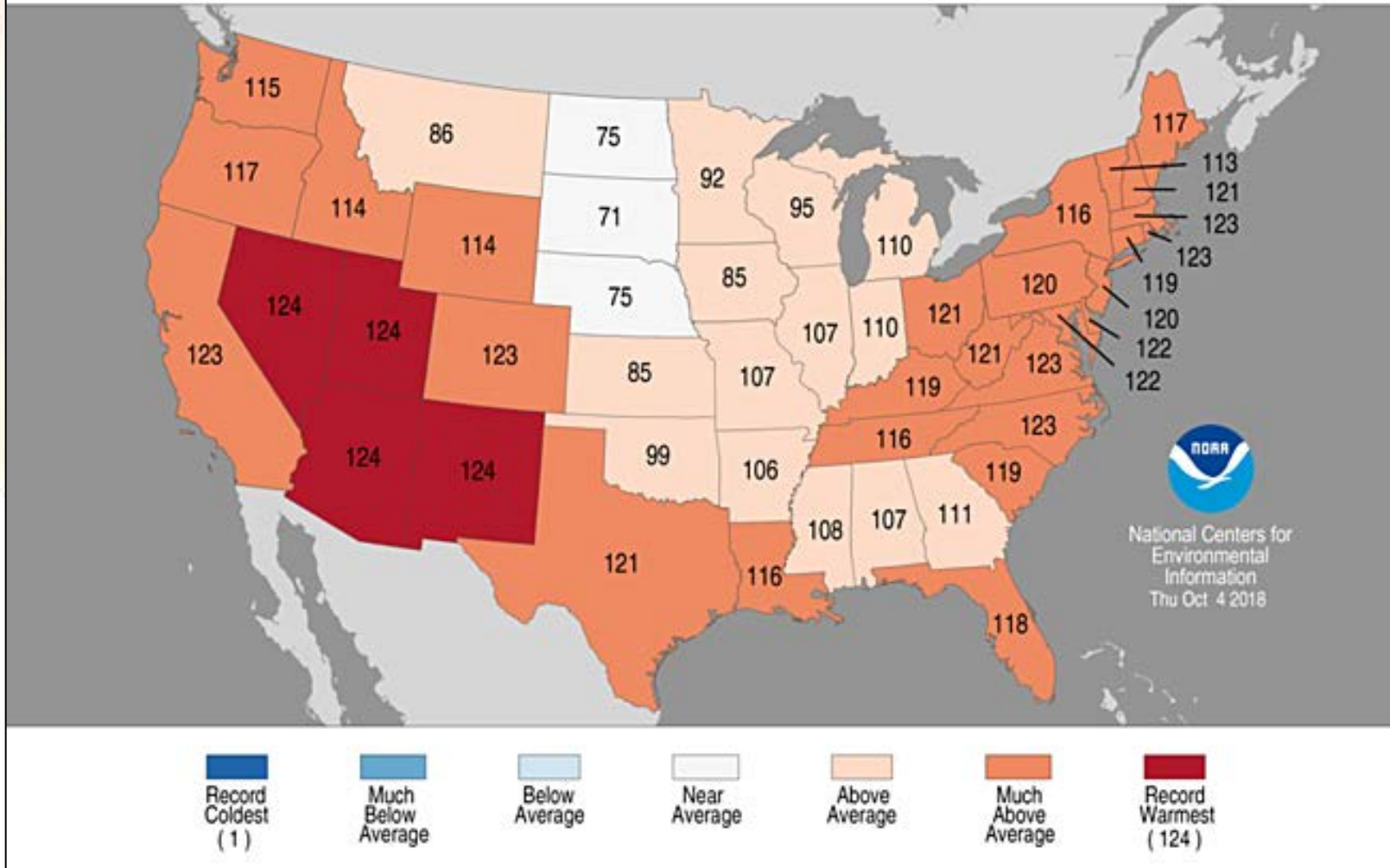
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/us-maps/>

# Growing Season Temperature Ranks

## Statewide Average Temperature Ranks

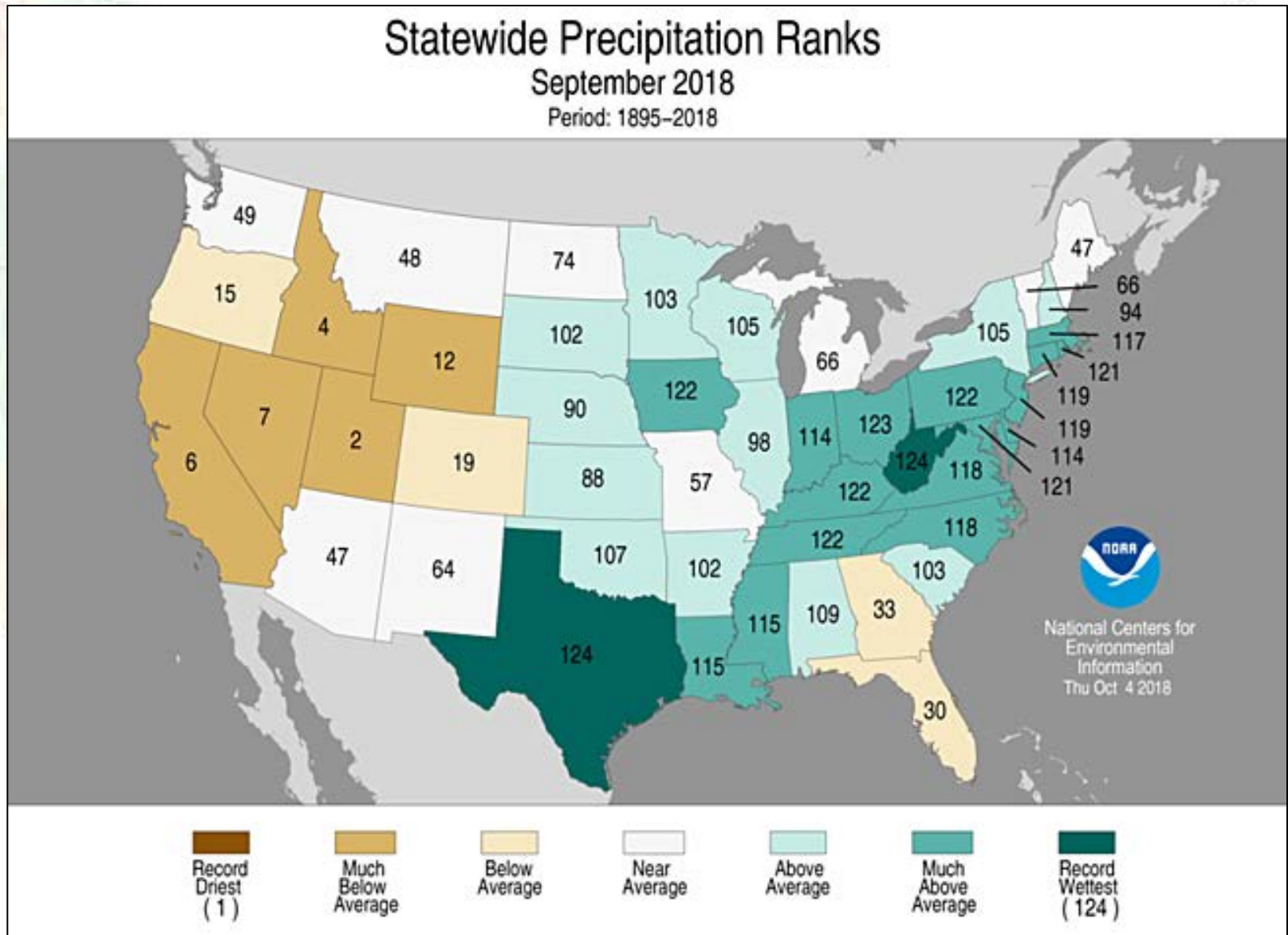
April–September 2018

Period: 1895–2018



<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/us-maps/>

# September Precipitation Ranks



<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/us-maps/>

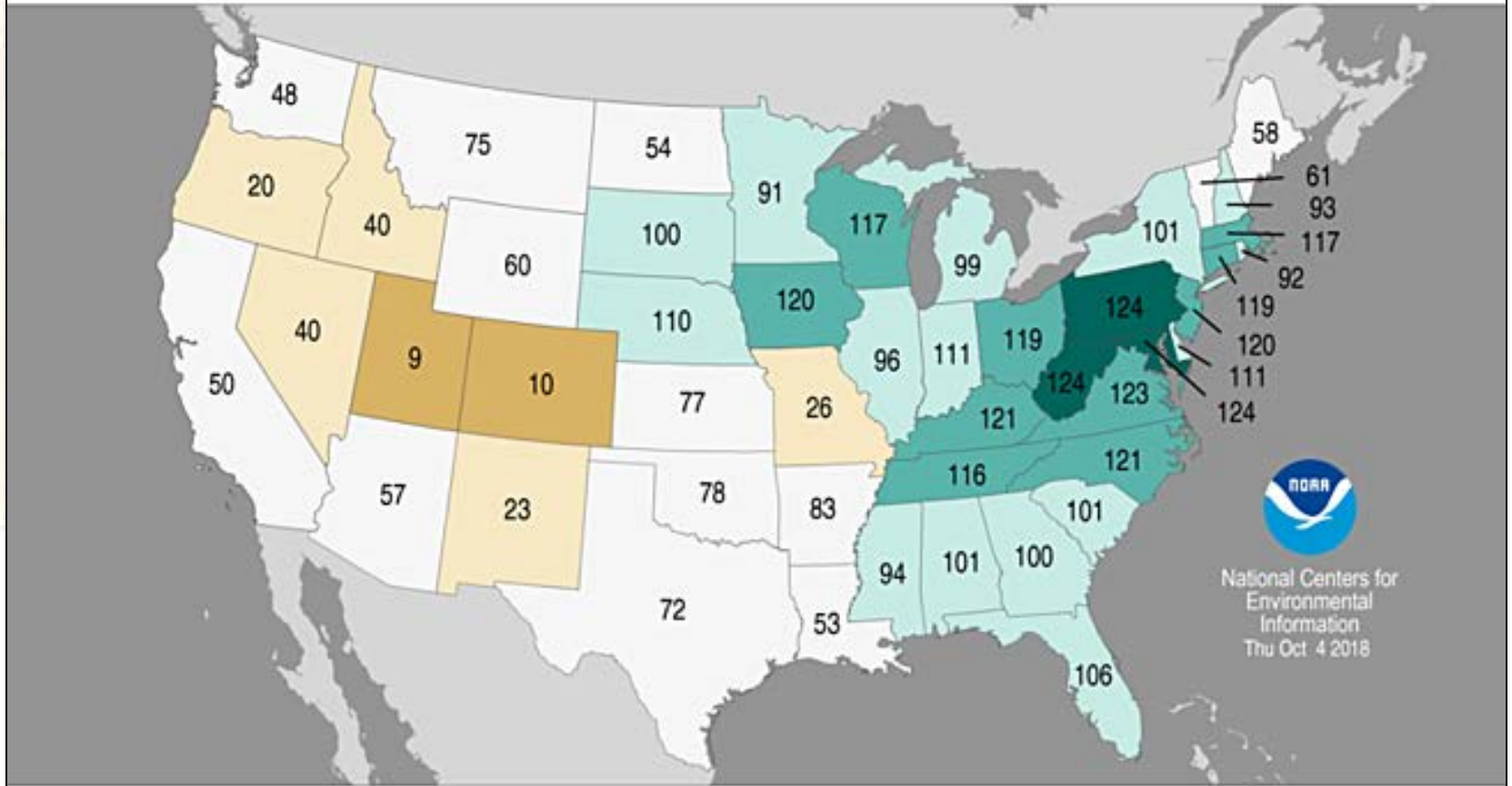


# Growing Season Precipitation Ranks

## Statewide Precipitation Ranks

April–September 2018

Period: 1895–2018



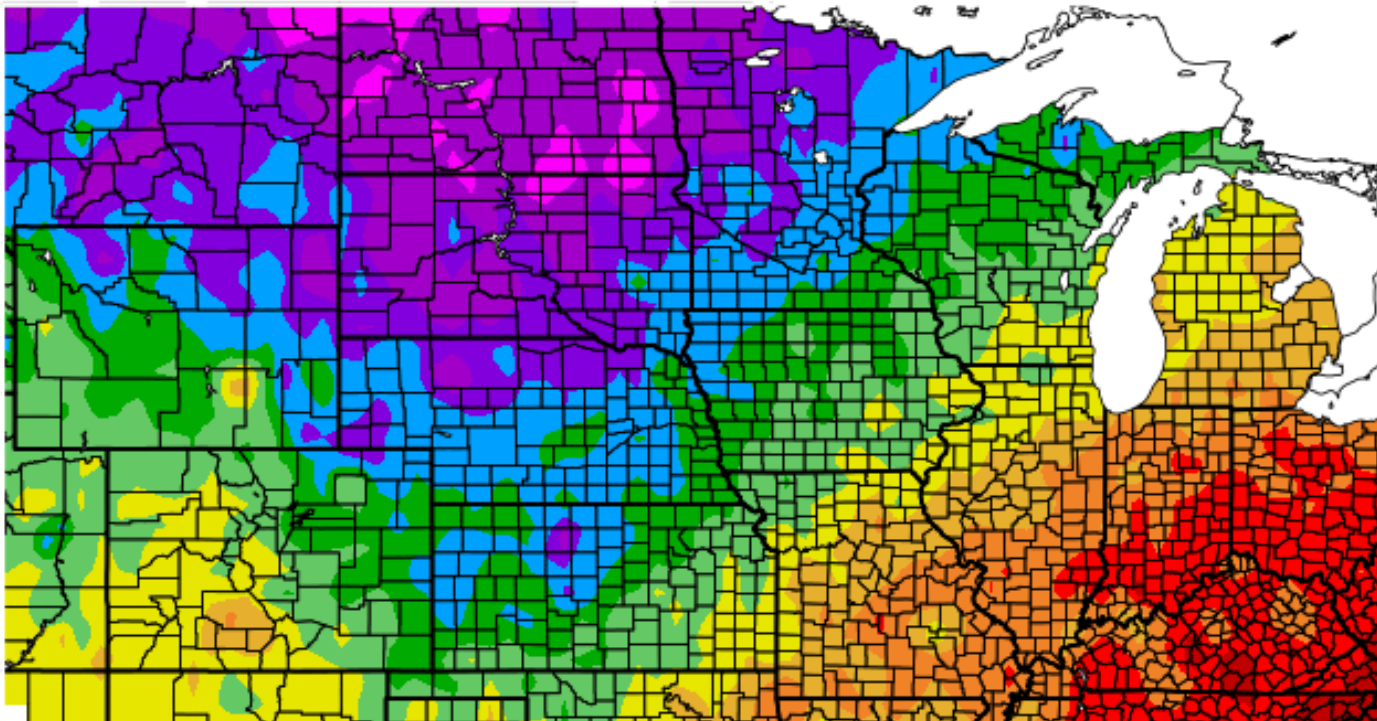
National Centers for  
Environmental  
Information  
Thu Oct 4 2018



<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/us-maps/>

# Last 30 Days

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
9/18/2018 – 10/17/2018



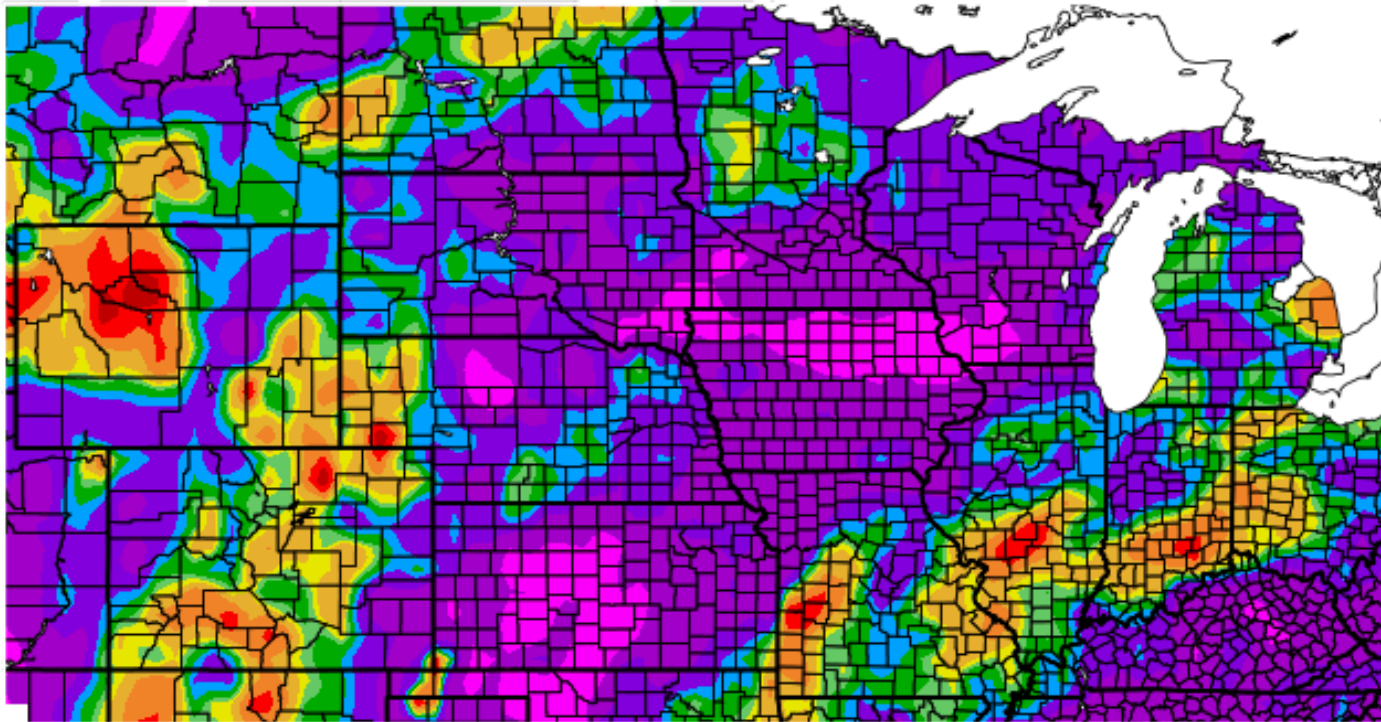
Generated 10/18/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# Last 30 Days

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
9/18/2018 – 10/17/2018



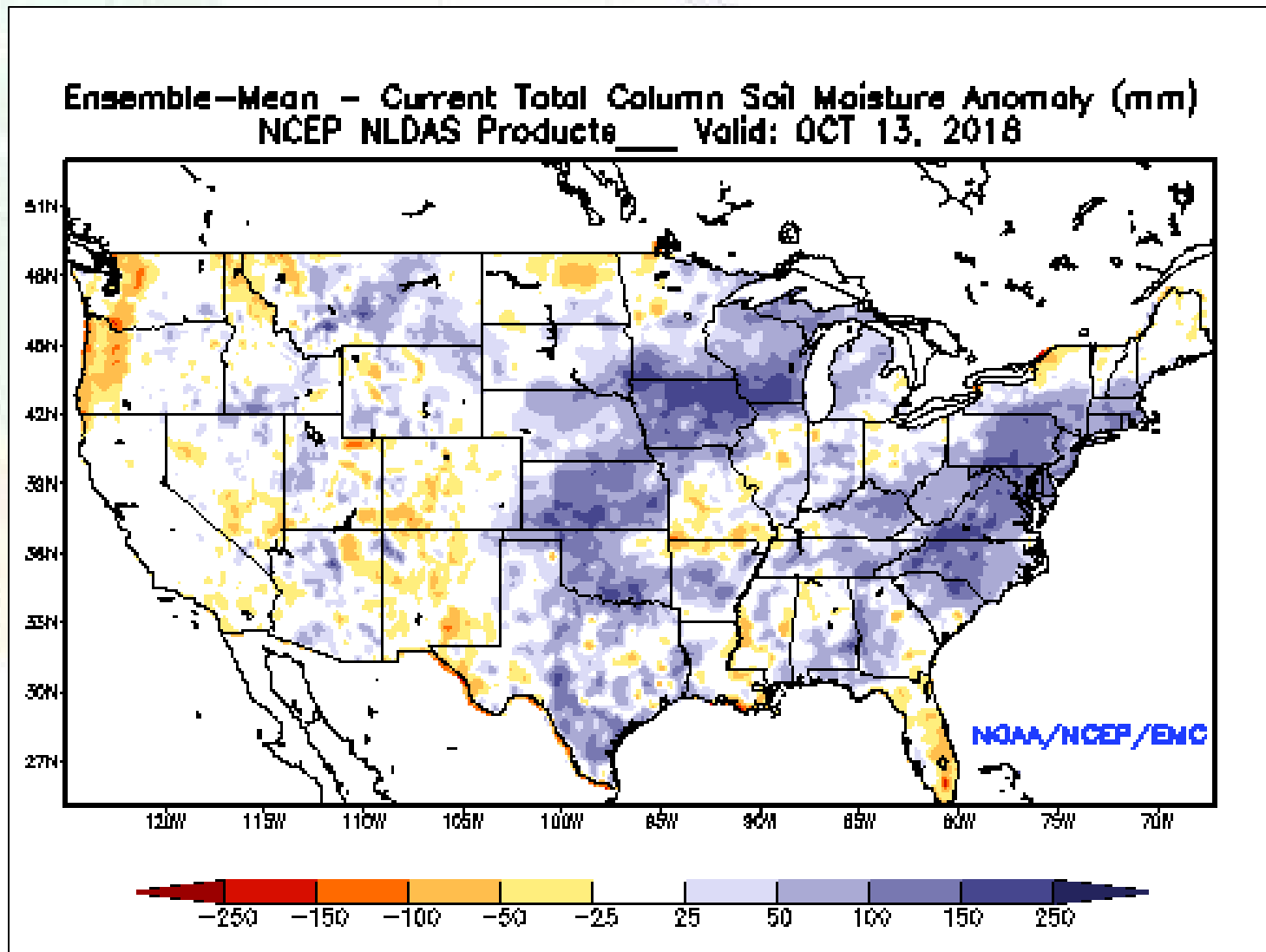
Generated 10/18/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

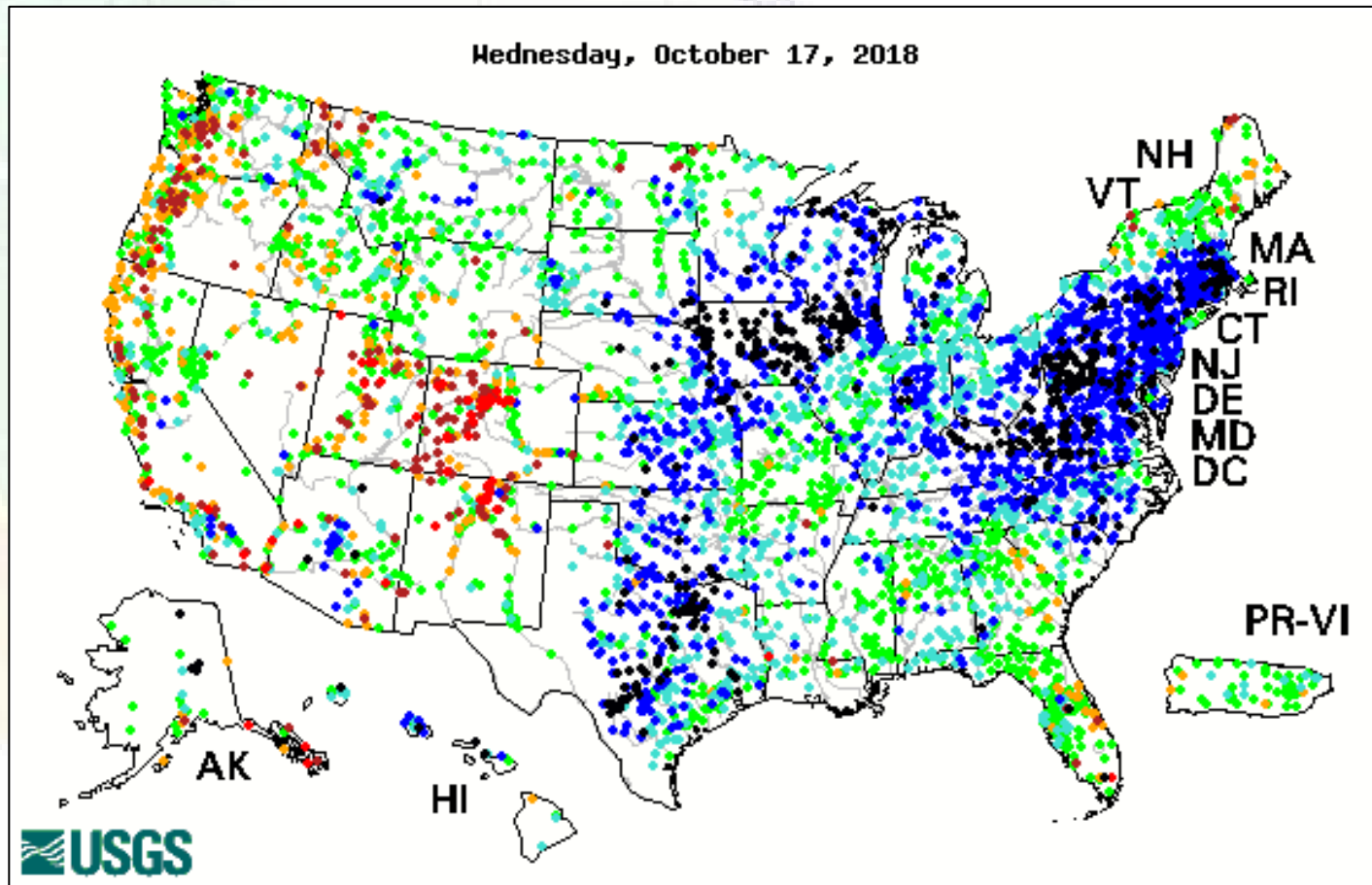


# Modeled Soil Moisture



<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/nldas/drought/>

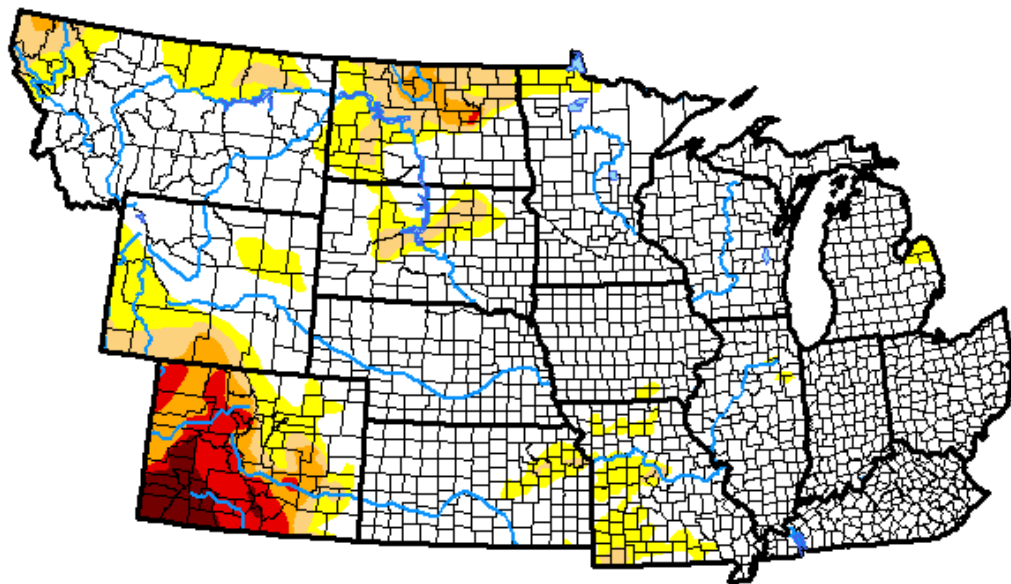
# 28-Day Average Streamflow



Explanation - Percentile classes						
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

# U.S. Drought Monitor NWS Central Region

**October 16, 2018**  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	76.90	23.10	11.40	6.36	3.55	1.23
<b>Last Week</b> <i>10-09-2018</i>	73.50	26.50	13.32	6.83	3.79	1.23
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>07-17-2018</i>	71.92	28.08	16.48	8.98	4.70	1.23
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-02-2018</i>	44.74	55.26	22.30	7.69	2.03	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-25-2018</i>	64.00	36.00	17.93	9.15	5.03	1.49
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>10-17-2017</i>	60.34	39.66	18.82	7.67	2.14	0.00

*Intensity:*

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

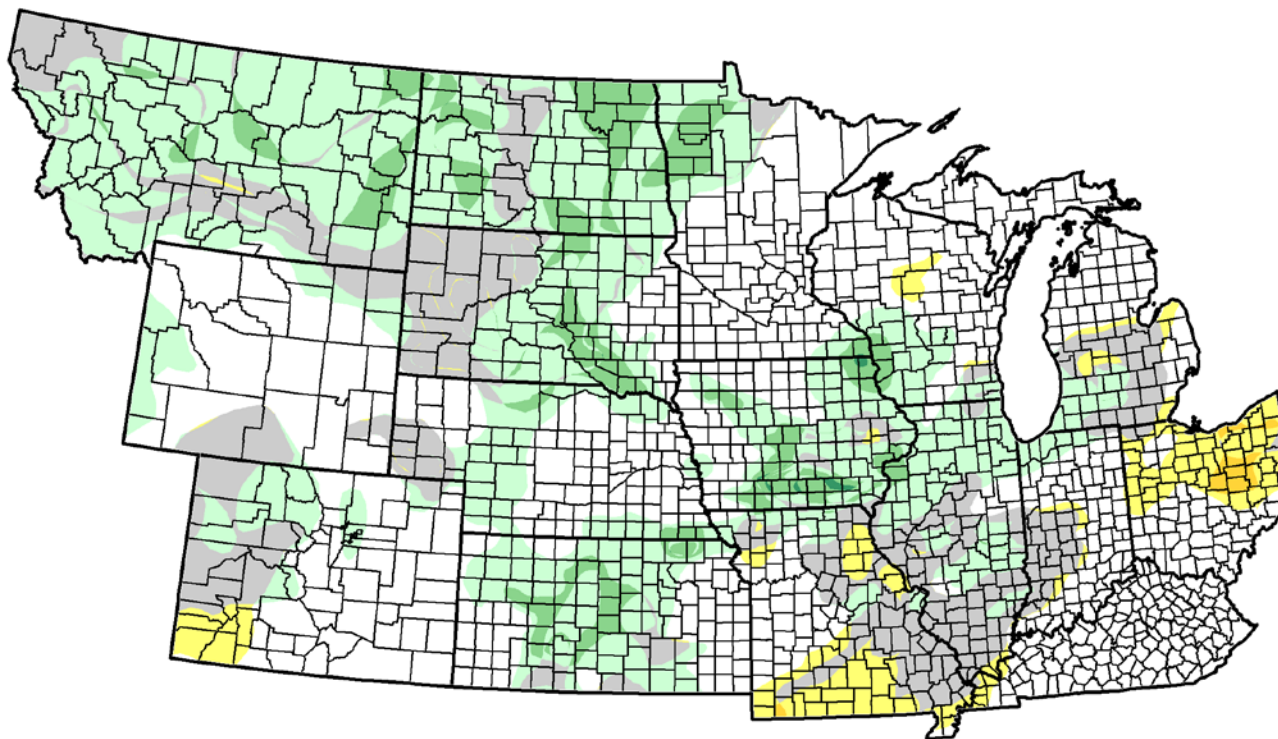
*Author:*

Eric Luebehusen  
U.S. Department of Agriculture





# U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - NWS Central Region 1 Month



October 17, 2017  
compared to  
September 19, 2017

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

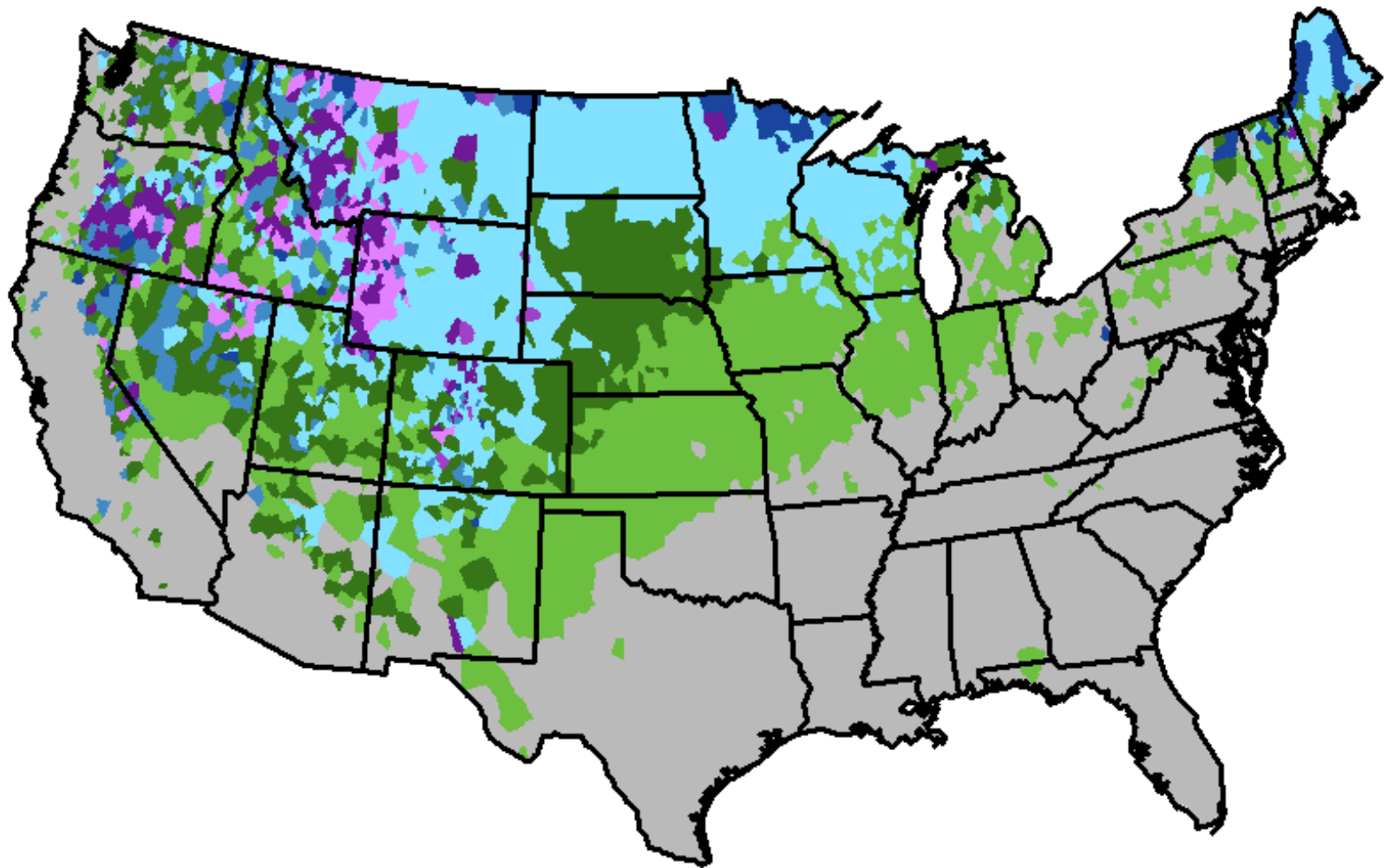
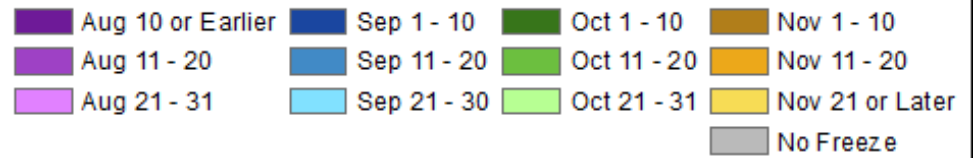
Impacts



October 2018 snow in southeast Nebraska.  
Photo courtesy: Gary Lesoing, UNL

# COLD, SNOW AND WATER

# Date of First 32°F Freeze for period 7/1/18 to 10/17/18



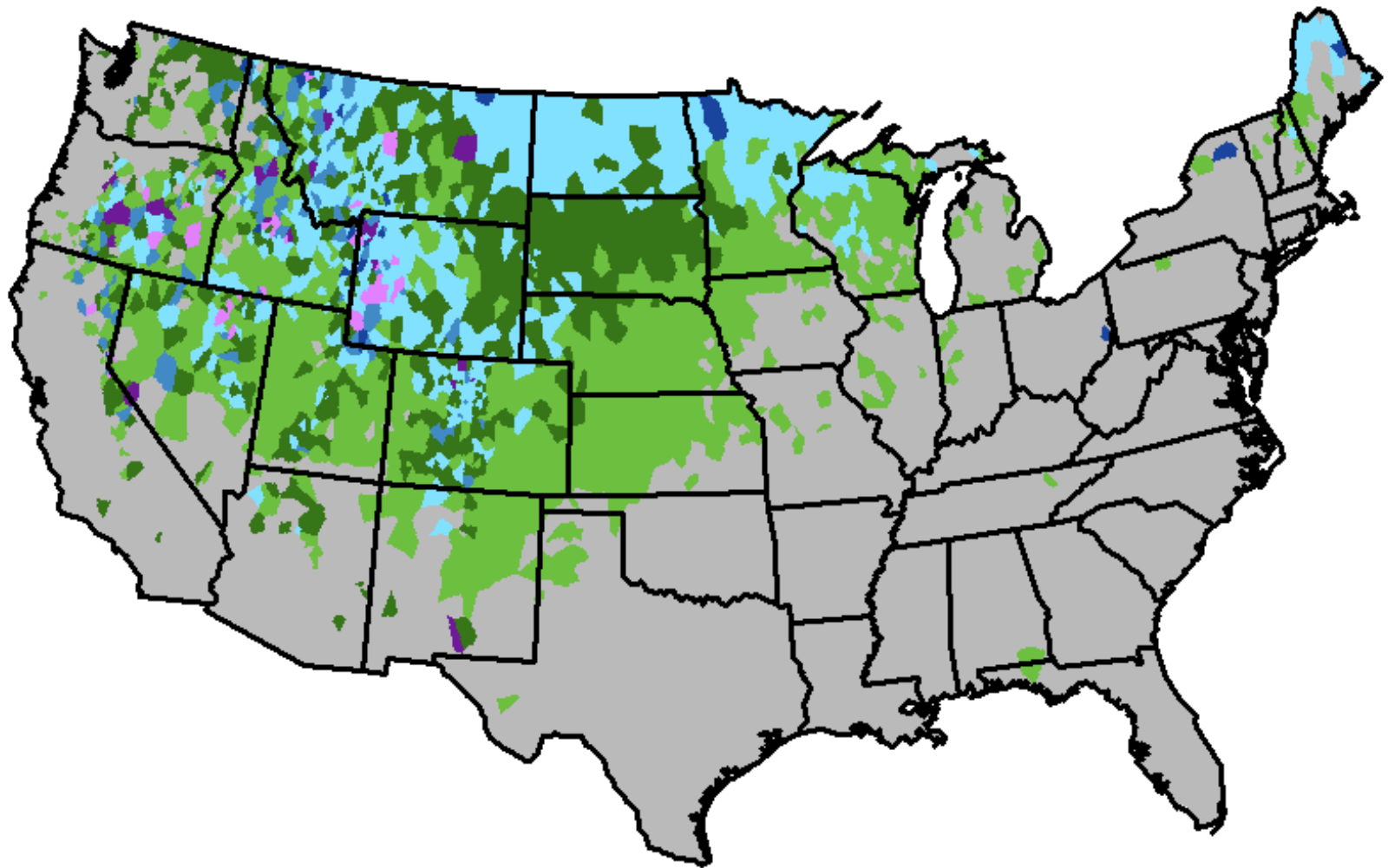
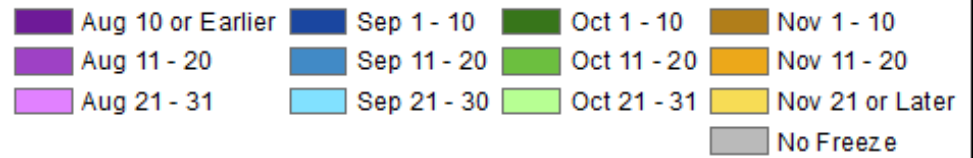
## MRCC Experimental Freeze Guidance:

These experimental maps may be utilized as a guide to local and regional freeze conditions but should NOT be used by themselves for decision processes.





# Date of First 28°F Freeze for period 7/1/18 to 10/17/18



MRCC Experimental Freeze Guidance:

These experimental maps may be utilized as a guide to local and regional freeze conditions but should NOT be used by themselves for decision processes.

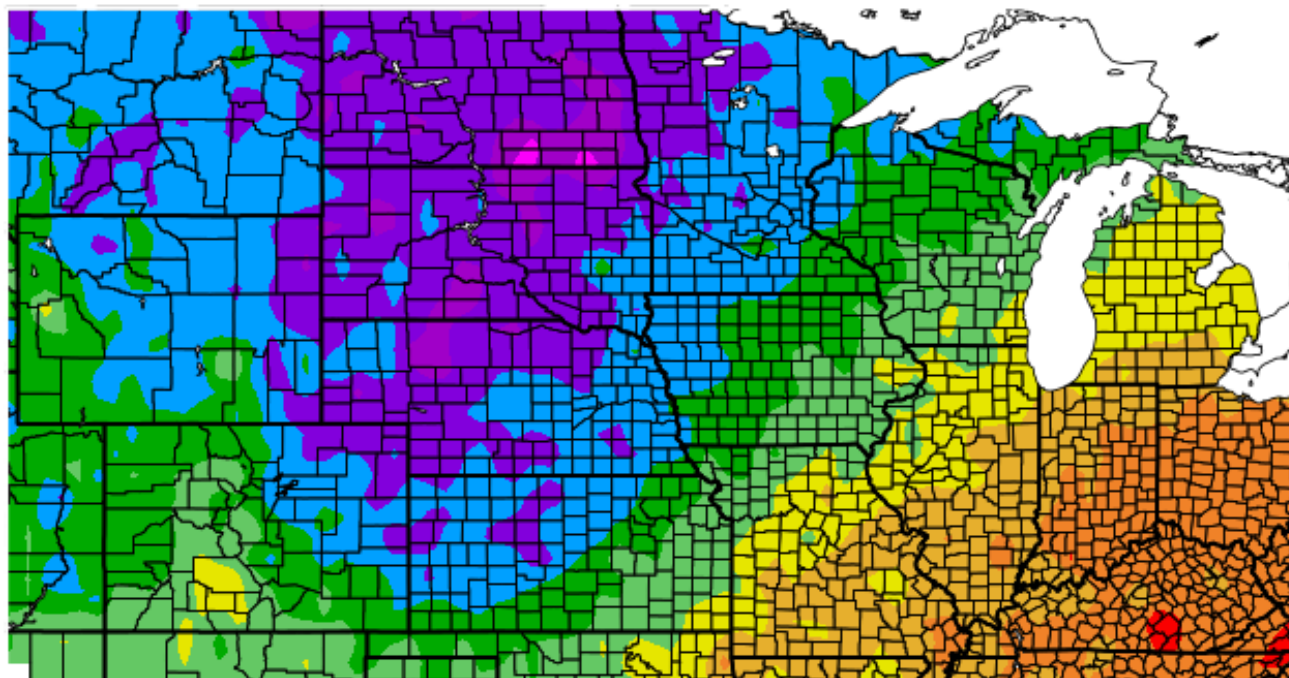




# Record Cold in Northern Plains

## Oct 1-14

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
10/1/2018 – 10/17/2018



Generated 10/18/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

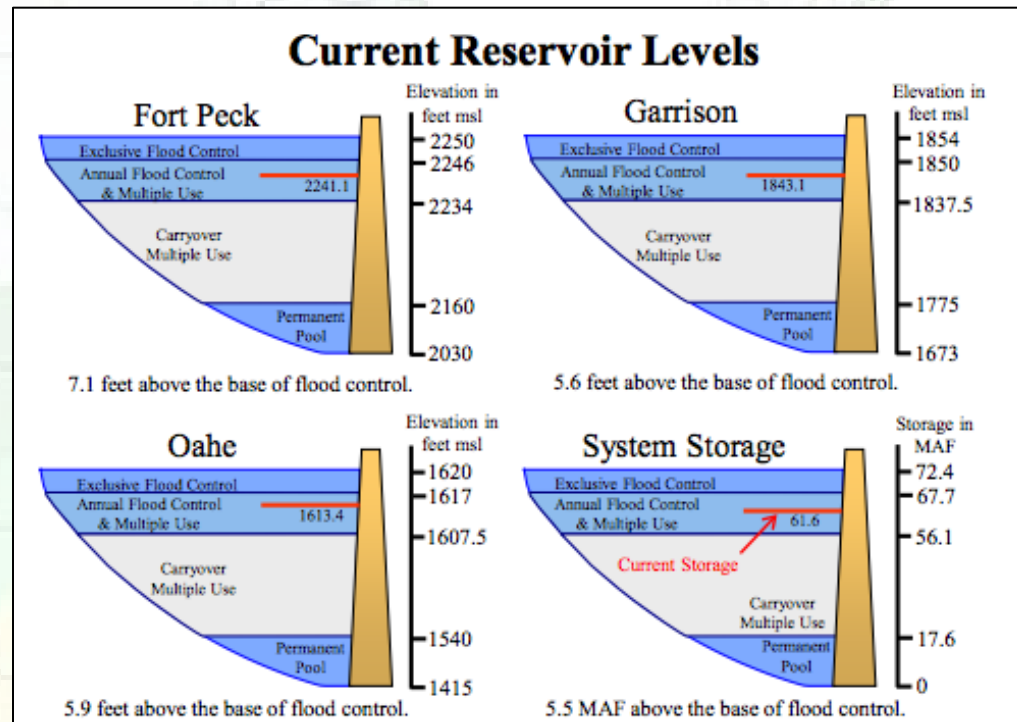
# Record Cold

- Fargo, ND & Aberdeen, SD:
  - Coldest Oct 1-14 on record (120+ years)
- October 2009 v. 2018
  - Oct 1-14, 2009 was coldest on record for SD
  - Many areas are 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> coldest this year
- Lows in single digits in CO, KS
- Snow from Colorado to Iowa
- Average frost date for many, but due to wet conditions, crops are still in the fields. Some early frost damage in Kansas sorghum.

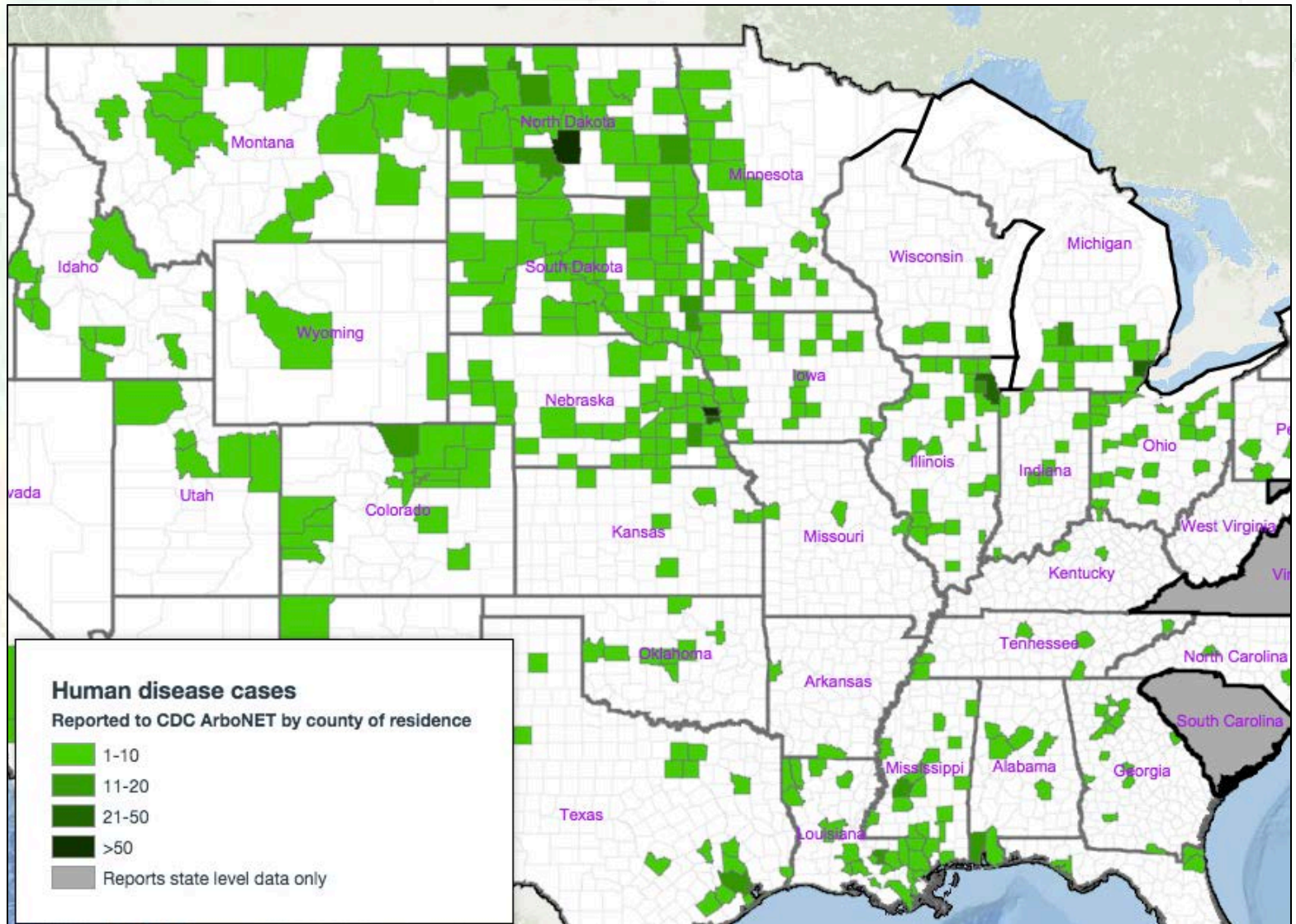
# Missouri River

## Missouri Mainstem Reservoir Status (as of 10/9/18):

- Runoff from eastern SD rivers was record high in September (120 yr). These are unregulated: James, Vermilion and Big Sioux. Currently about 10x average runoff for this time of year from Gavins Pt Dam to Sioux City. Currently about 10x average runoff for this time of year from Gavins Pt Dam to Sioux City.
- 2018 will be 3<sup>rd</sup> highest runoff year for the Upper Missouri River basin, behind 1997 and 2011.
- Higher than average releases expected until late Nov to reduce reservoir levels before freeze.



# West Nile Virus

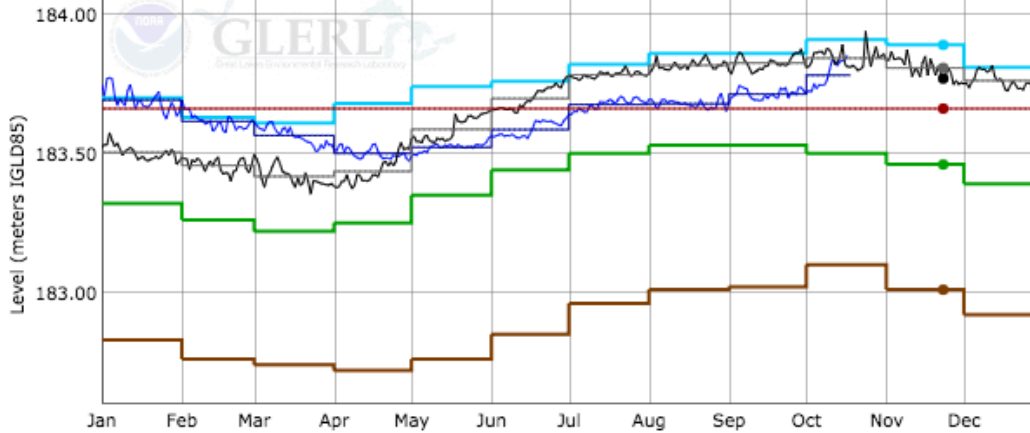


[https://www.cdc.gov/arboNET/Maps/ADB\\_Diseases\\_Map/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/arboNET/Maps/ADB_Diseases_Map/index.html)

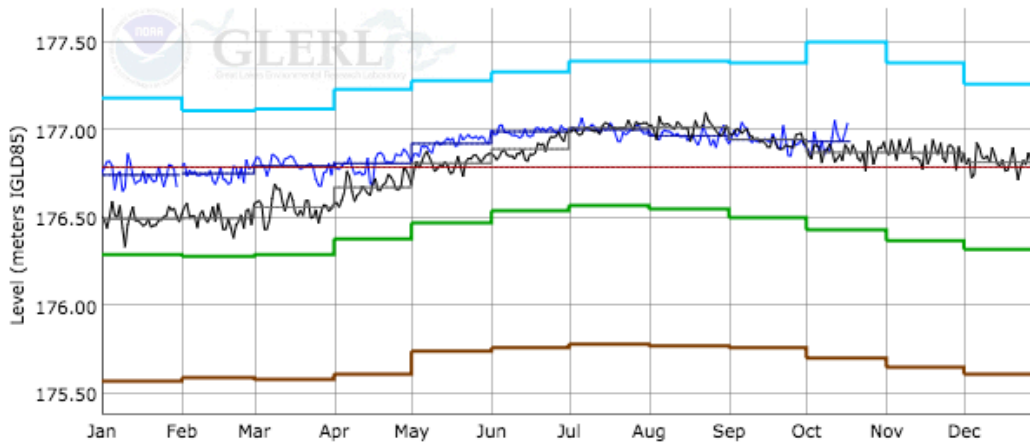


# Great Lakes Water Level

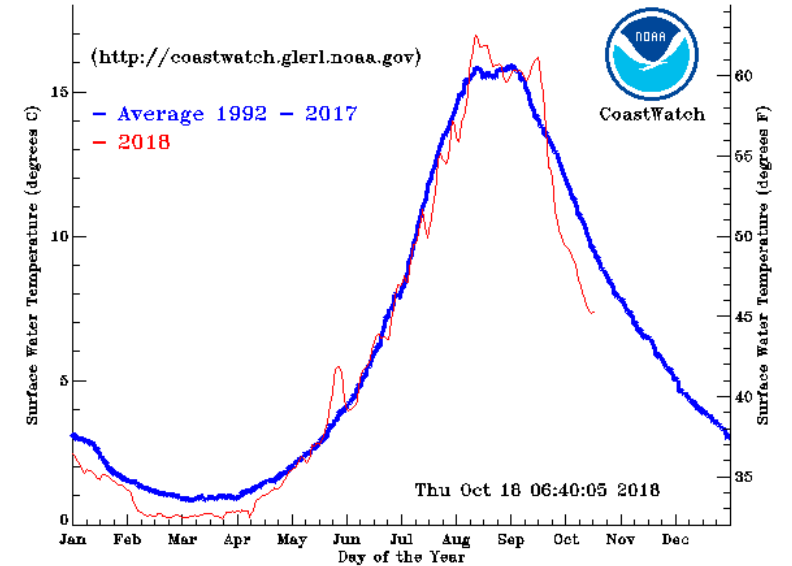
Superior (at Marquette C.G., MI - 9099018)



Michigan-Huron (at Harbor Beach, MI - 9075014)



Lake Superior Average Great Lakes Surface Environmental Analysis (GLSEA) Surface Water Temperature Compared to Current Year

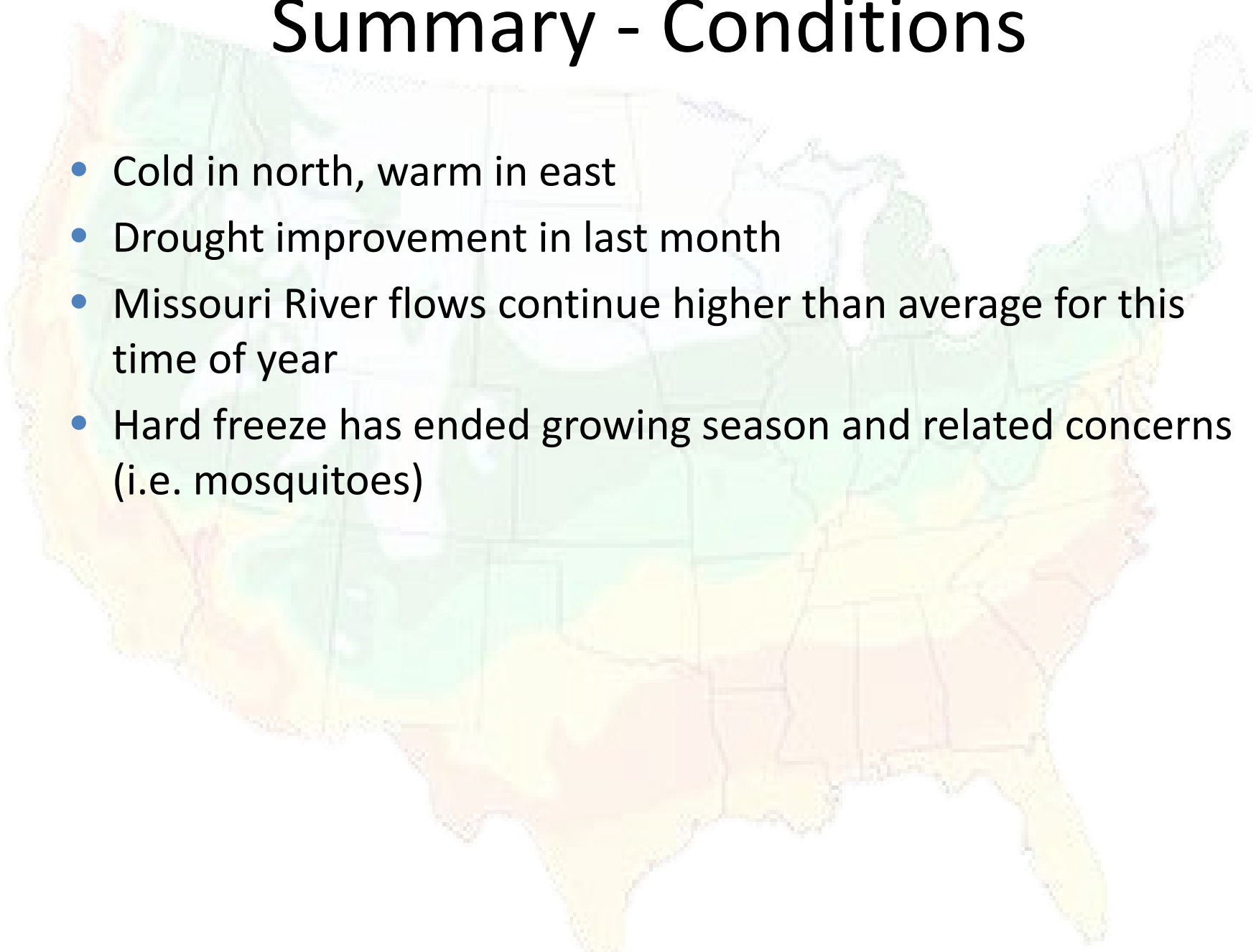


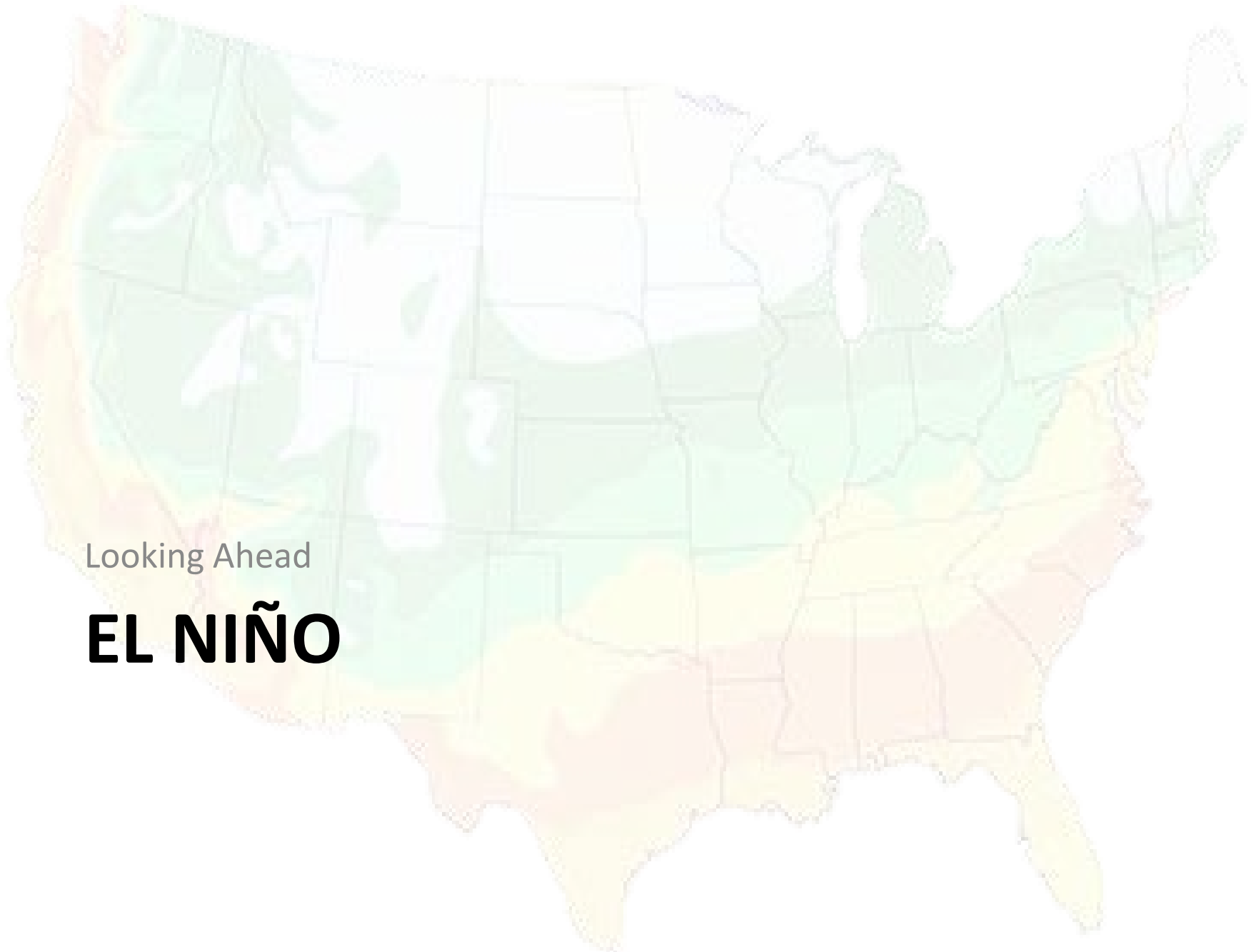
[https://coastwatch.glerl.noaa.gov/statistic/gif/avgtemps\\_s\\_1992-2017.gif](https://coastwatch.glerl.noaa.gov/statistic/gif/avgtemps_s_1992-2017.gif)

<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/levels.html#observations>

# Summary - Conditions

- Cold in north, warm in east
- Drought improvement in last month
- Missouri River flows continue higher than average for this time of year
- Hard freeze has ended growing season and related concerns (i.e. mosquitoes)





Looking Ahead

# EL NIÑO

# El Niño Winter?

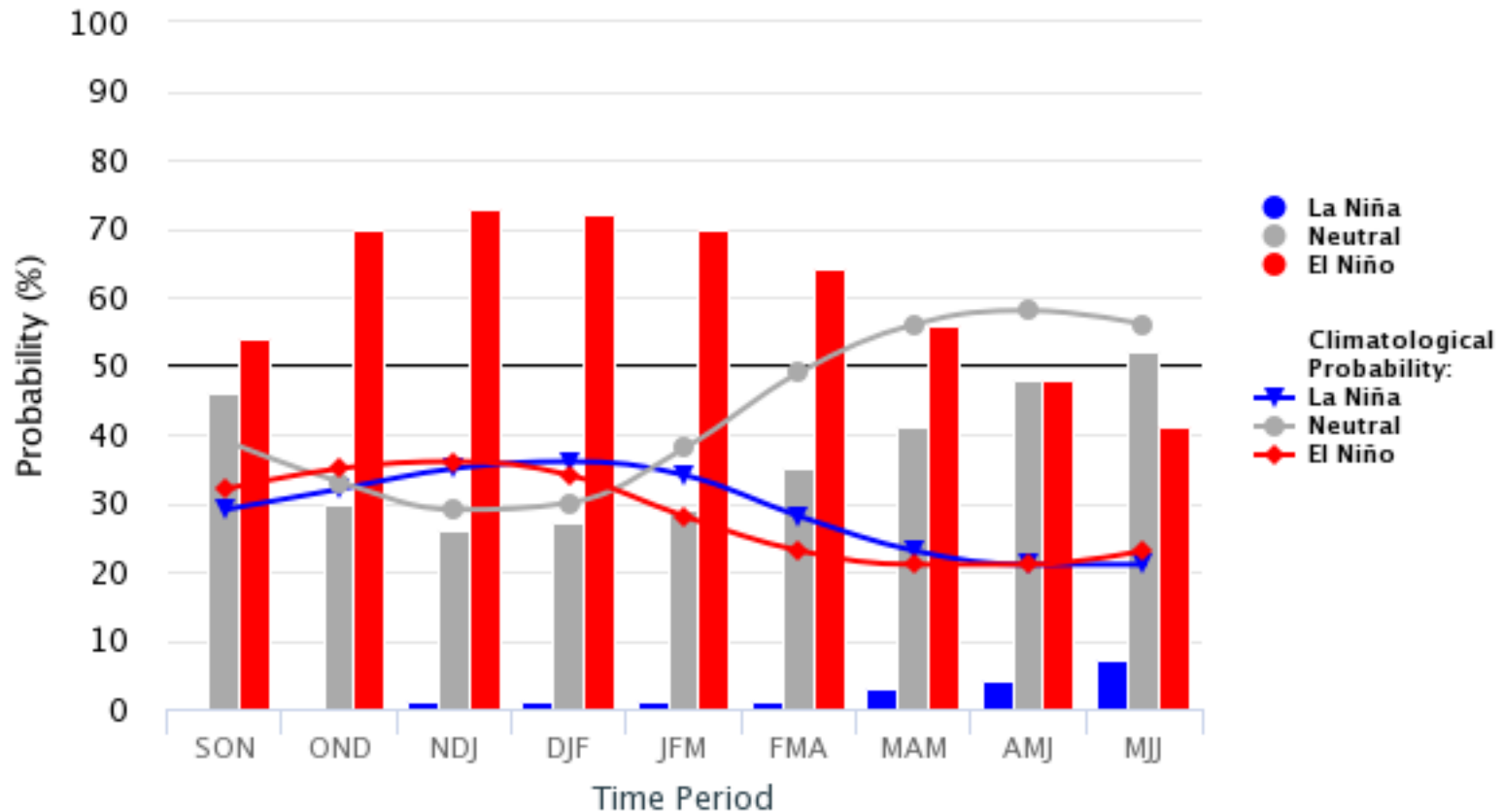
- 70-75% likely development during fall and continue through winter
- Historically, has meant warmer than average temperatures in north central states
- Not well correlated to precipitation for most of our region



# El Niño Probabilities

## Early-Oct CPC/IRI Official Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

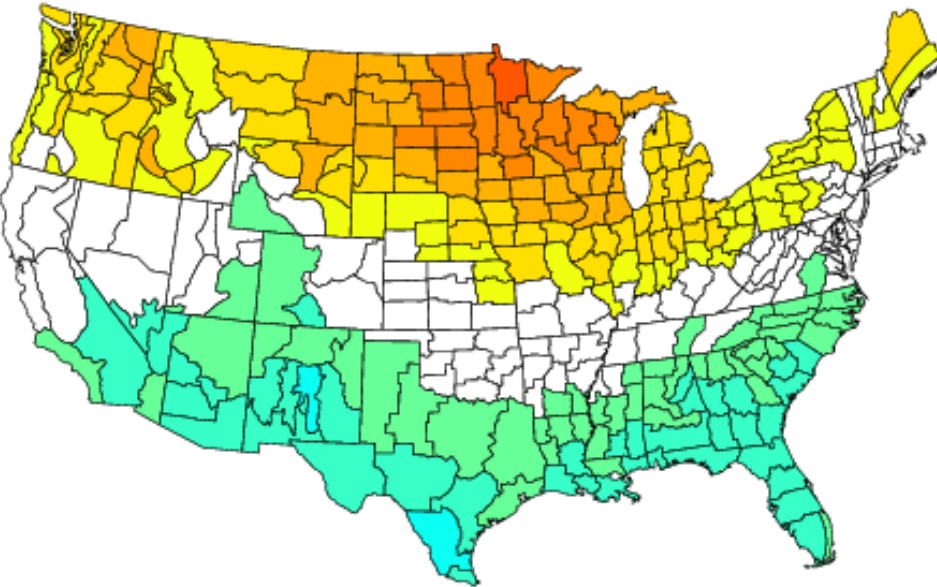
ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly  
Neutral ENSO:  $-0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



# El Niño: Historical temperature & precipitation

Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)  
Versus 1971–2000 Longterm Average

Nov to Mar 1982–83, 1972–73, 1957–58, 1965–66, 1986–87, 1991–92, 1968–69, 1997–98  
2002–03,

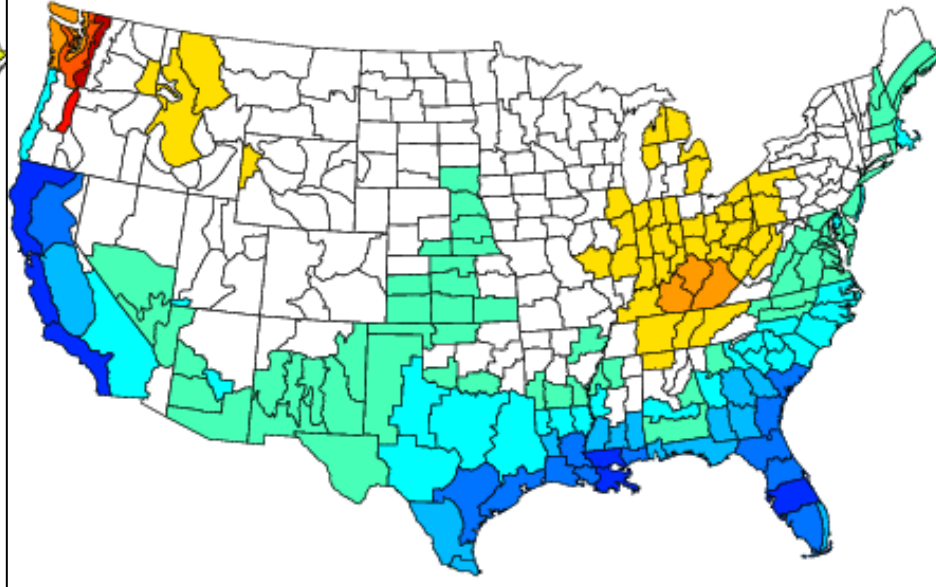


NOAA/ESRL PSD and CIRES-CDC

-4.0 -3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0

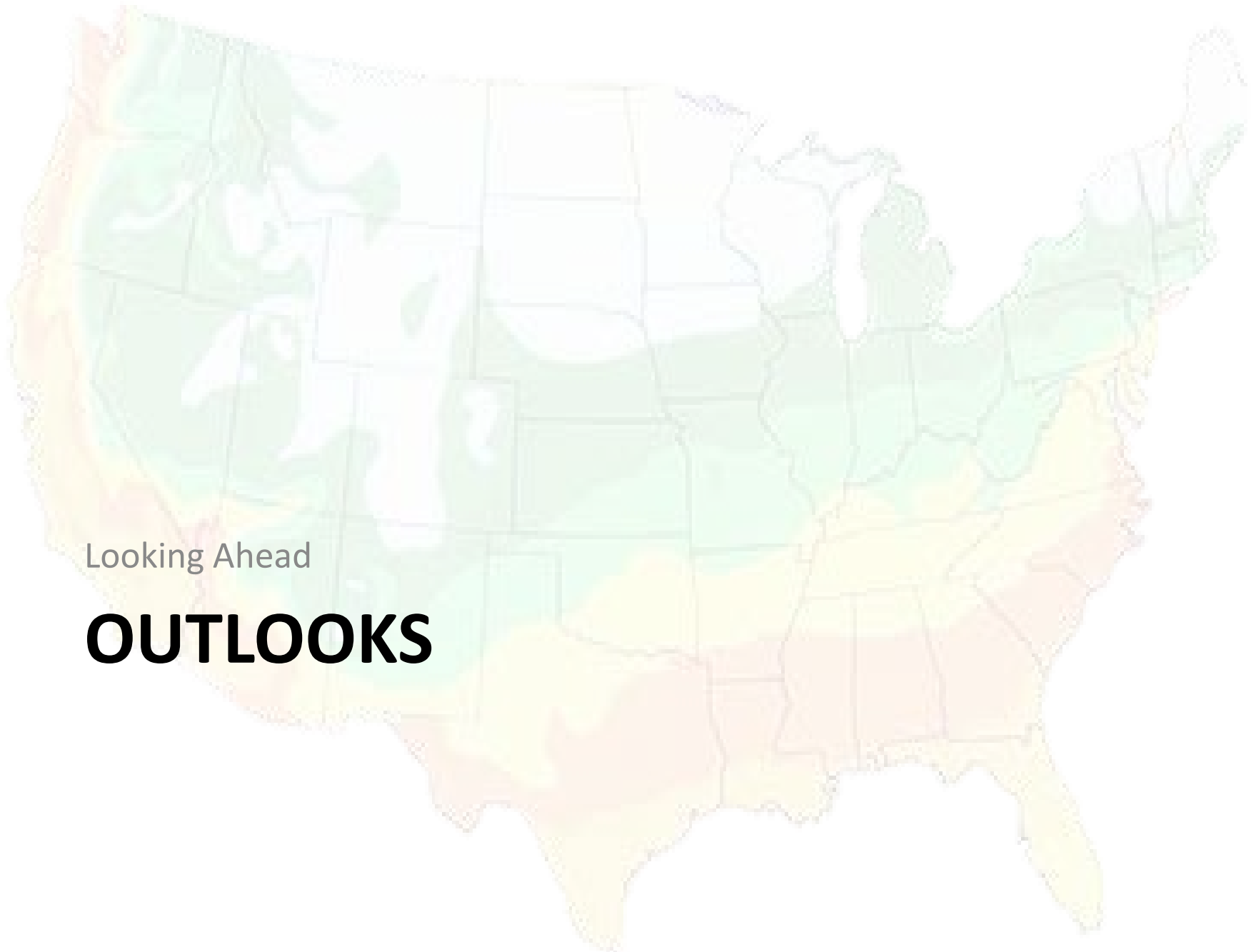
Composite Precipitation Anomalies (inches)  
Versus 1971–2000 Longterm Average

Nov to Mar 1982–83, 1972–73, 1957–58, 1965–66, 1986–87, 1991–92, 1968–69, 1997–98  
2002–03,



NOAA/ESRL PSD and CIRES-CDC

-5.0 -3.0 -1.0 1.0 3.0 5.0



Looking Ahead

# **OUTLOOKS**

# Climate Outlooks

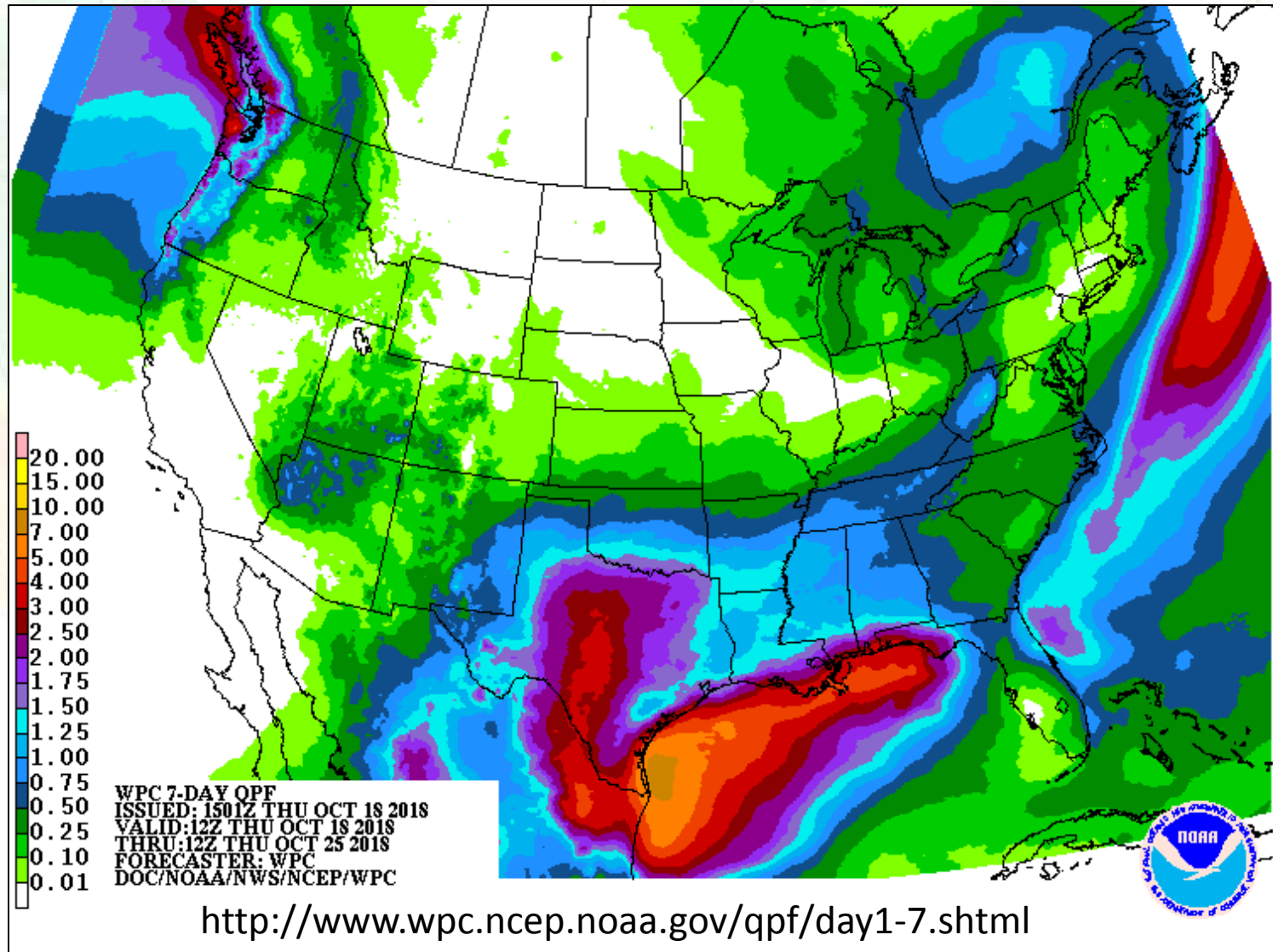


- **7-day precipitation forecast**
- **8-14 day outlook**
- **November temperature and precipitation**
- **Winter season temperature and precipitation**

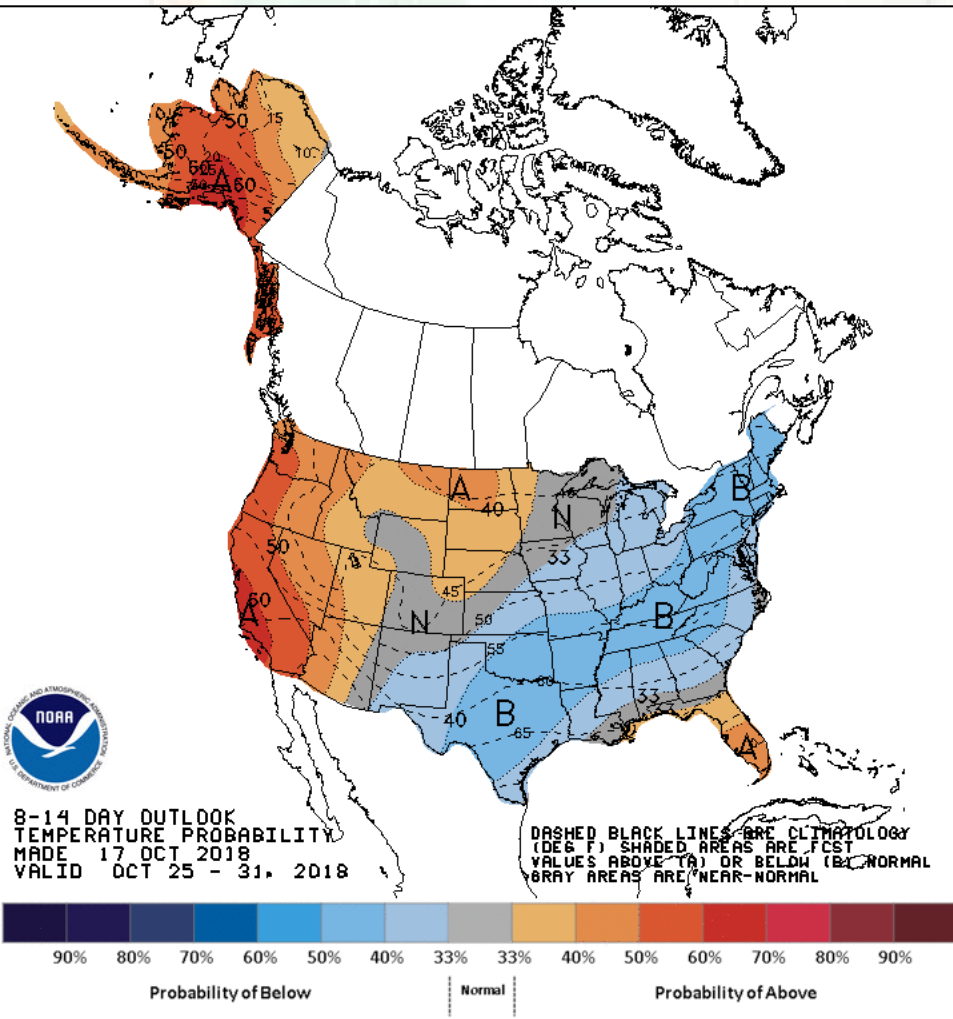


# 7-day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast

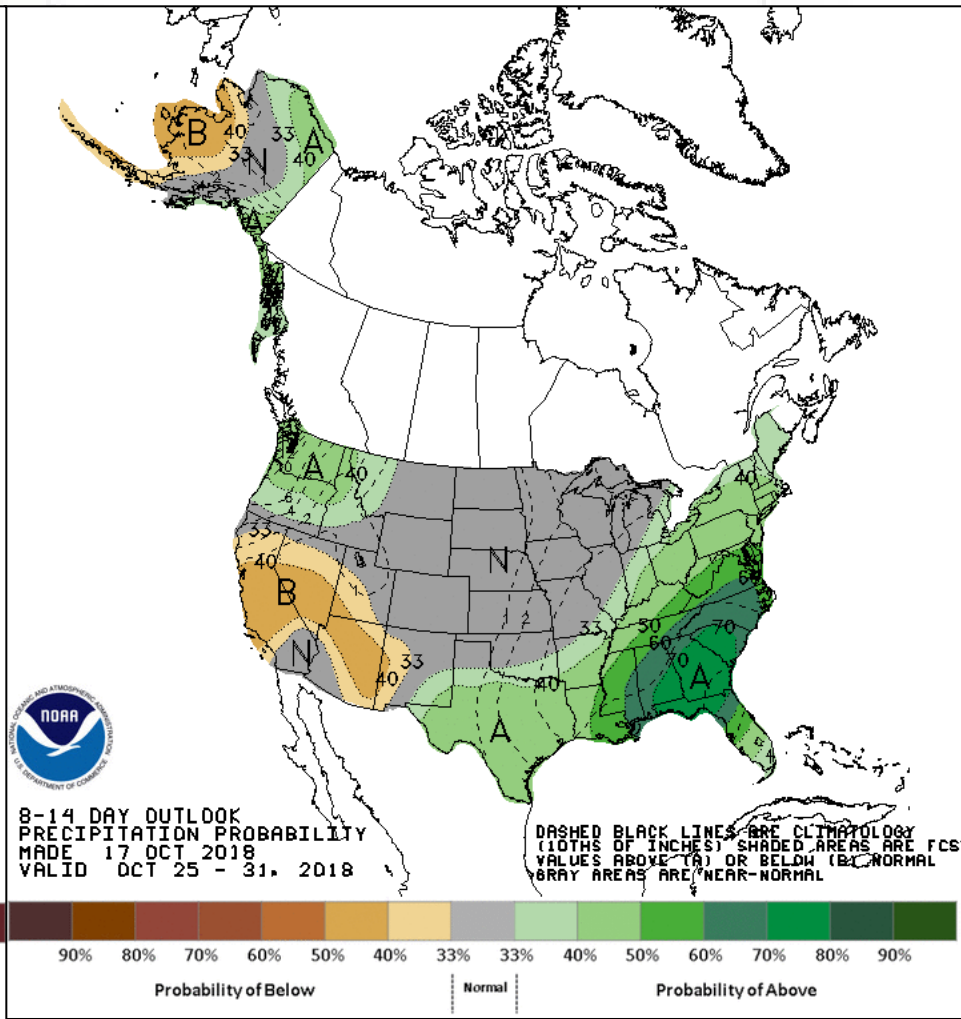
Valid: 18 Oct – 25 Oct



# 8-14 Day Outlook

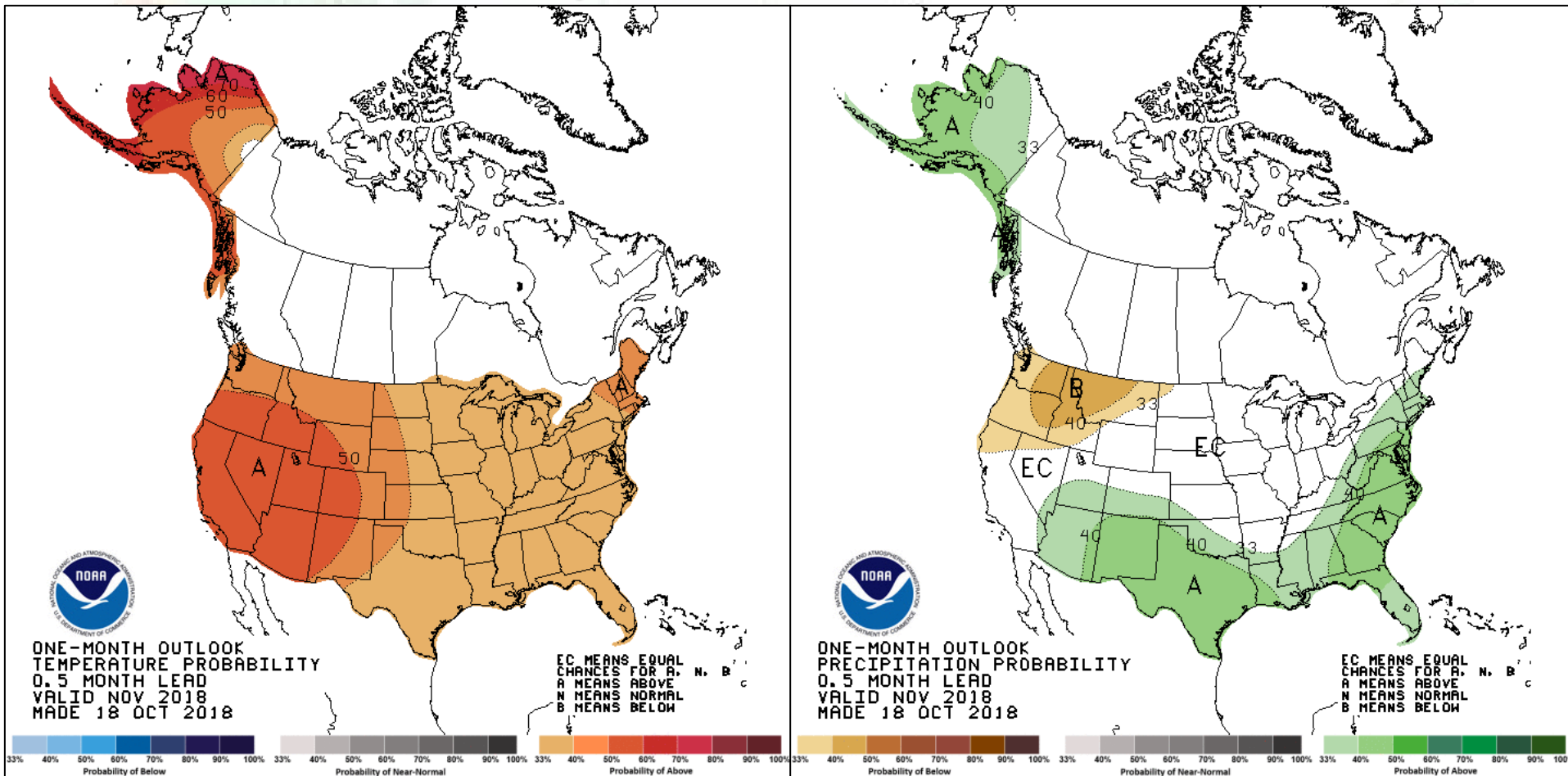


Temperature



Precipitation

# November Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

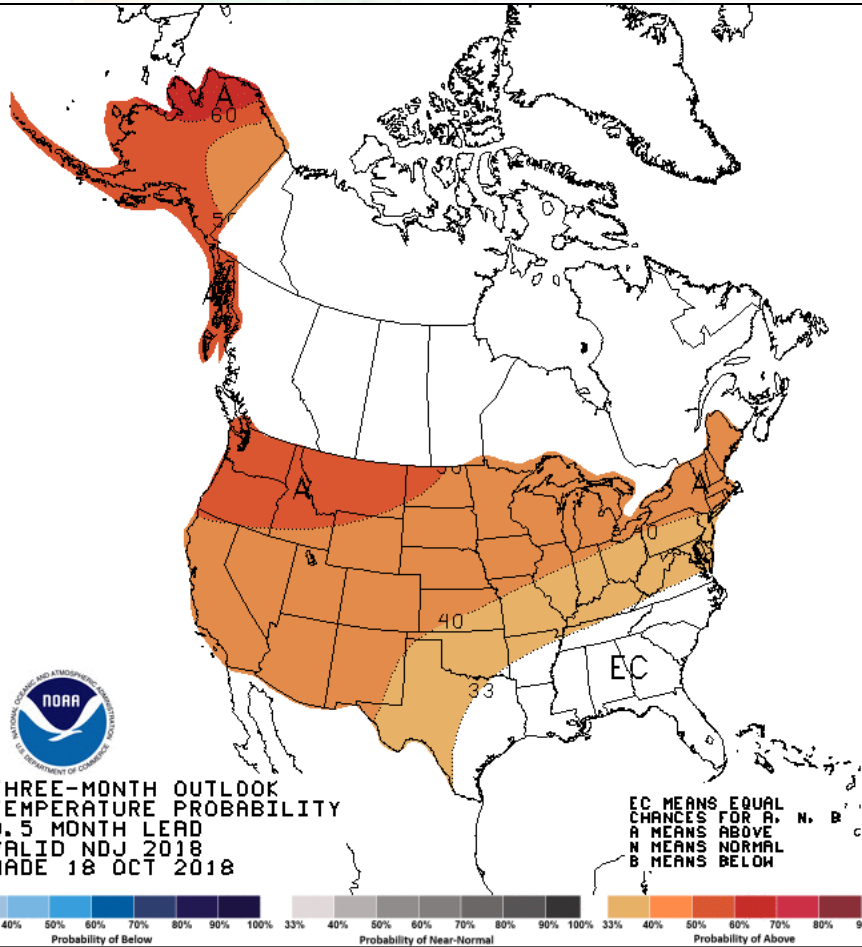


Temperature

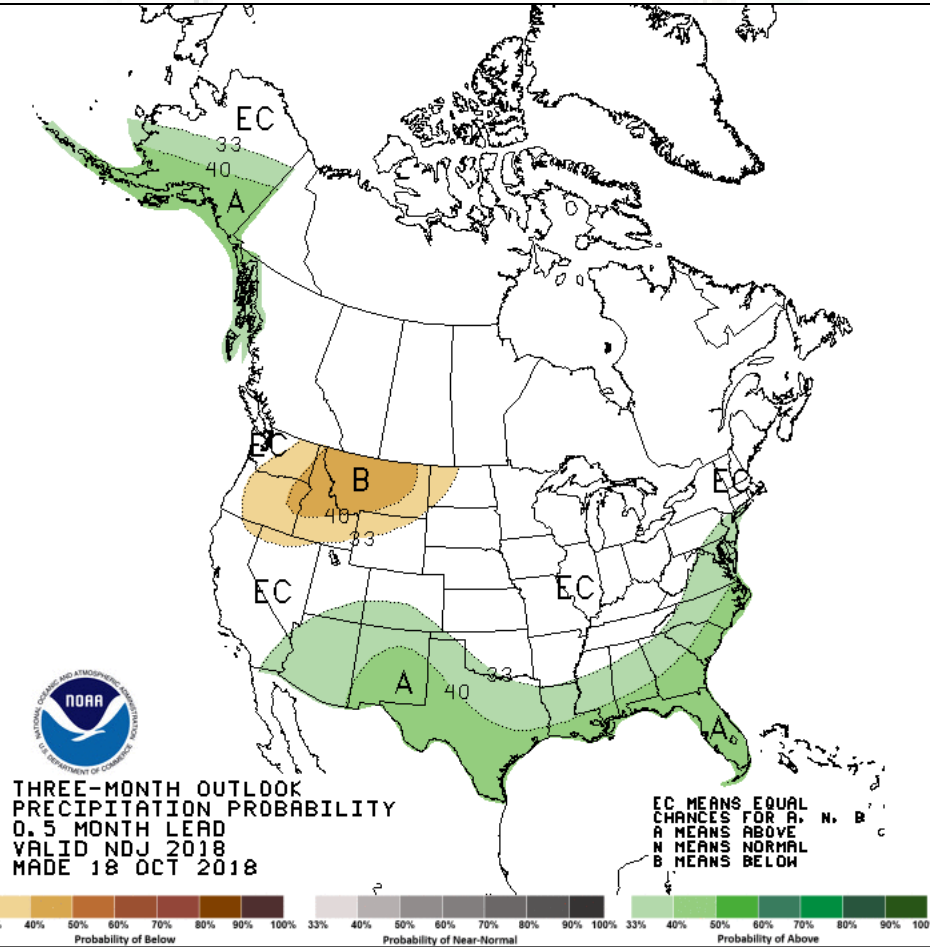
Precipitation

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

# 3 Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks, Nov-Jan

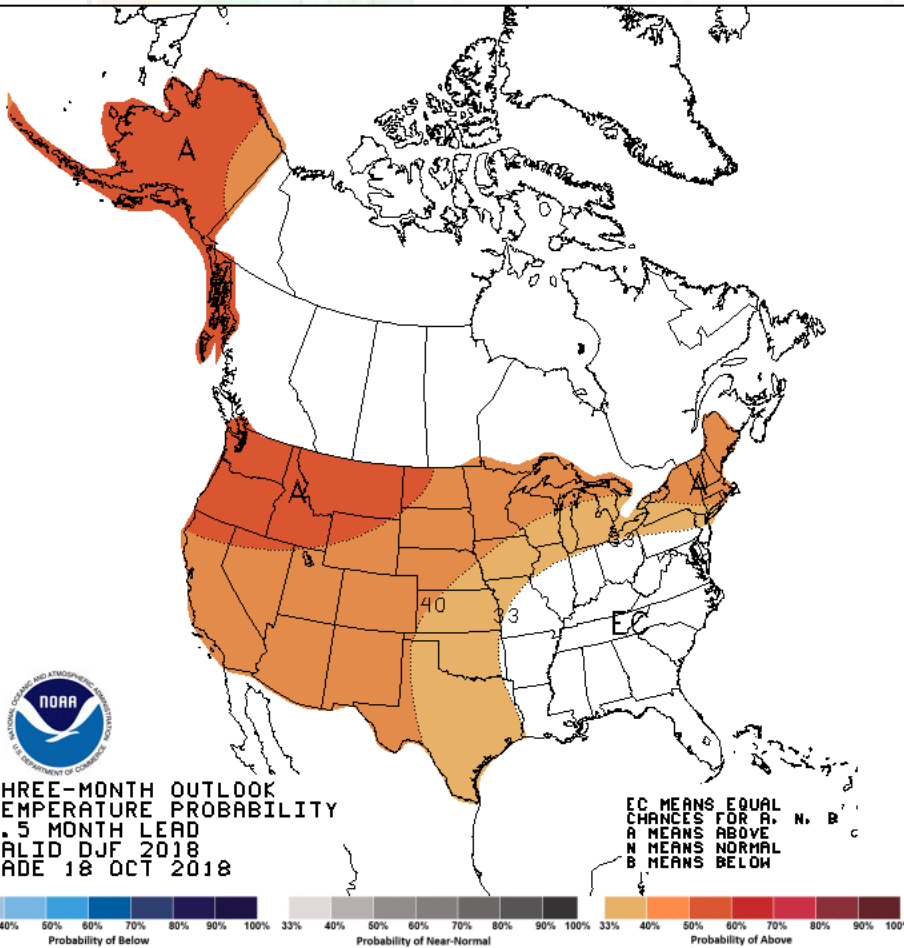


Temperature

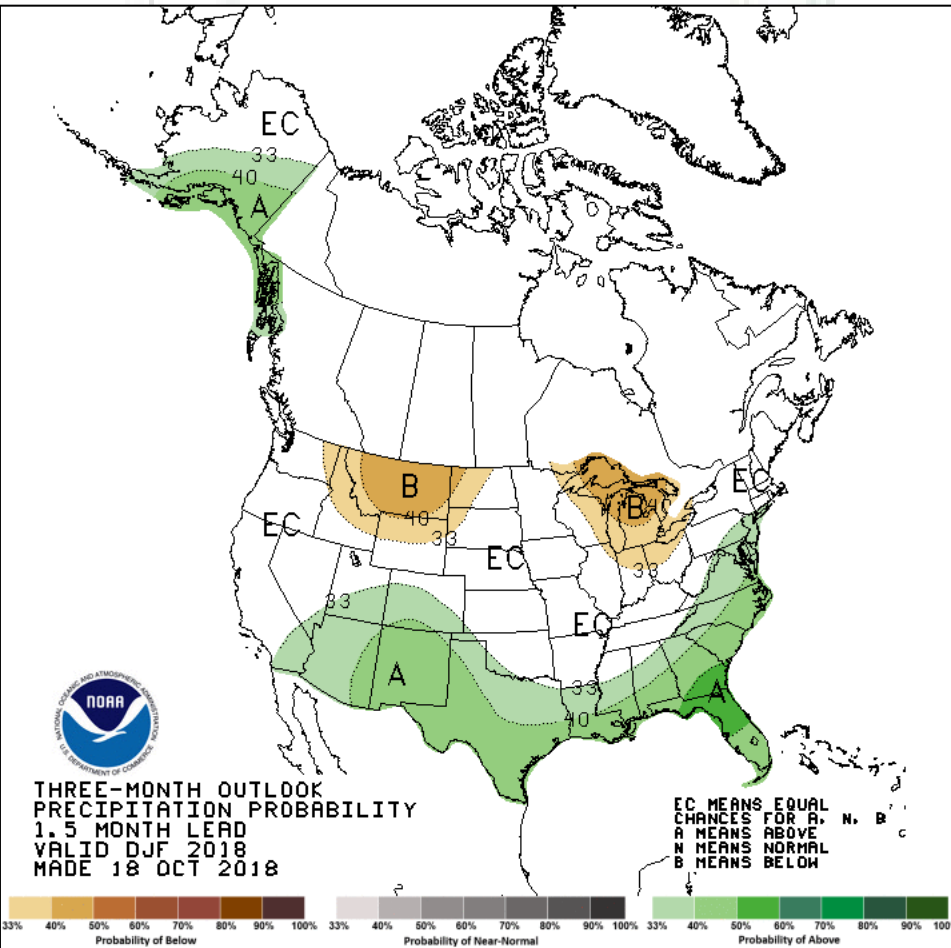


Precipitation

# 3 Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks, Dec-Feb



Temperature



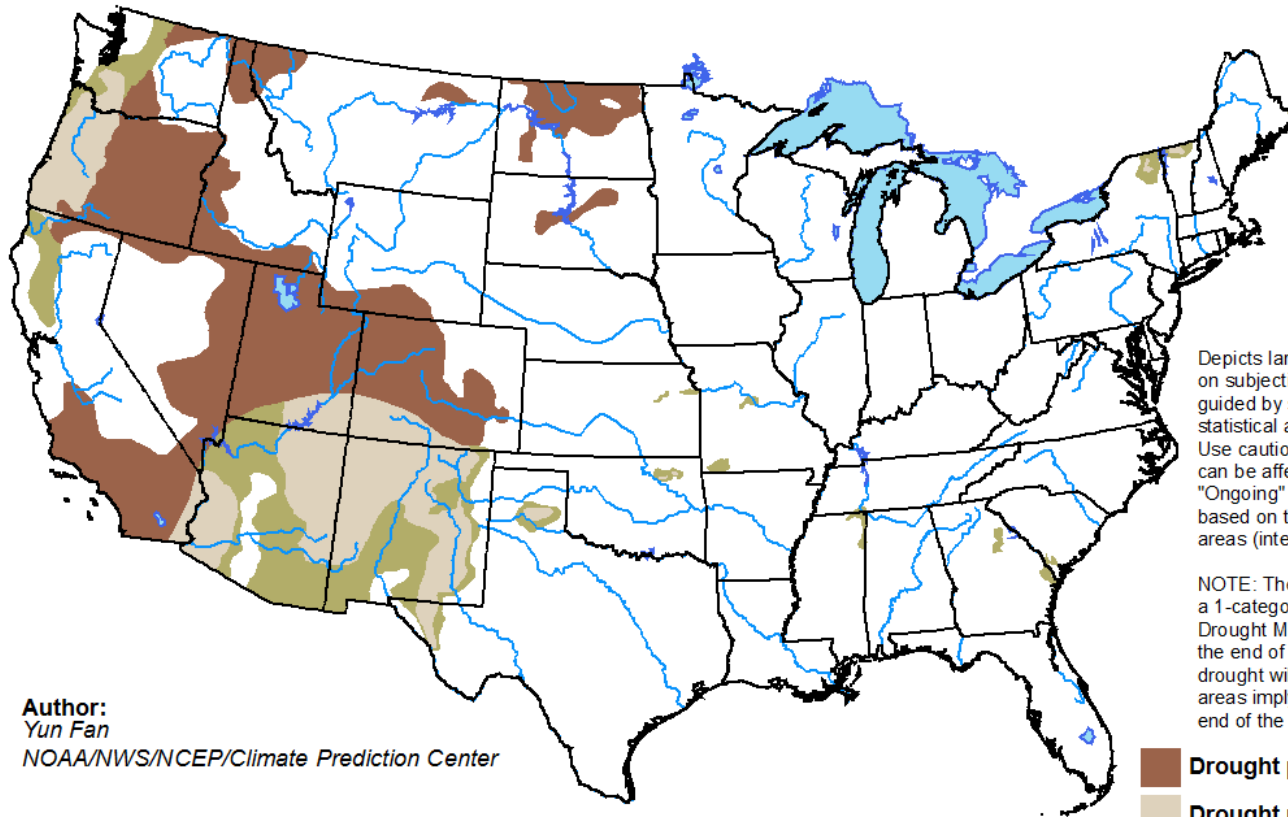
Precipitation



# Seasonal Drought Outlook

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for October 18 - January 31, 2019  
Released October 18, 2018

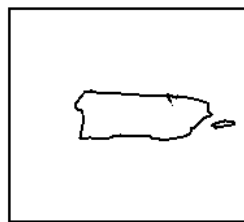
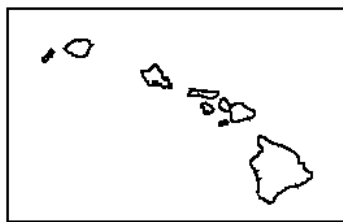
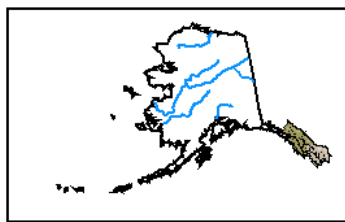


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

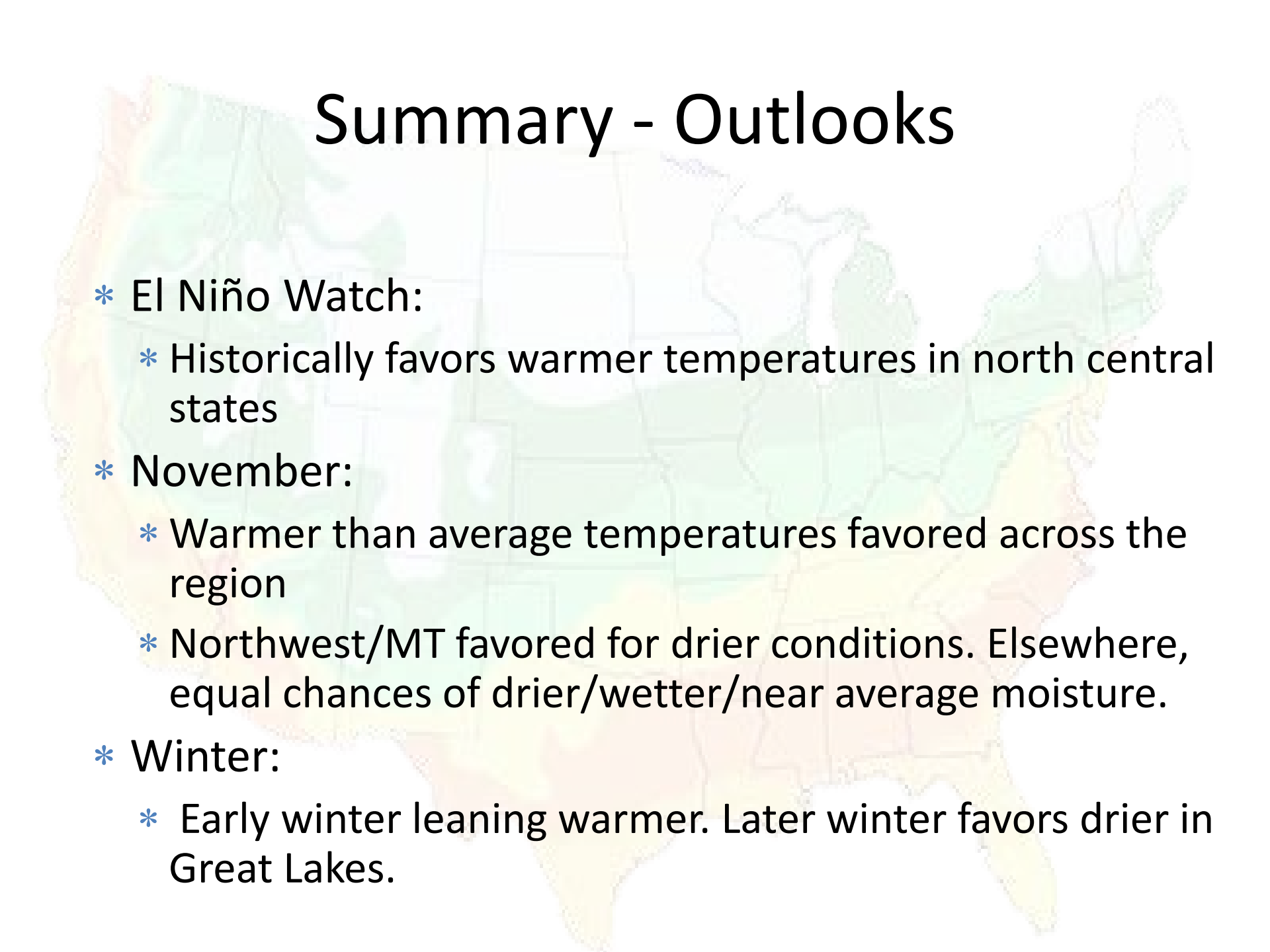
Author:  
Yun Fan  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

# Summary - Outlooks



- \* El Niño Watch:
  - \* Historically favors warmer temperatures in north central states
- \* November:
  - \* Warmer than average temperatures favored across the region
  - \* Northwest/MT favored for drier conditions. Elsewhere, equal chances of drier/wetter/near average moisture.
- \* Winter:
  - \* Early winter leaning warmer. Later winter favors drier in Great Lakes.

## Further Information - Partners

- **Today's and Past Recorded Presentations:**
- <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/webinars.htm>
- <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu>
- NOAA's National Climatic Data Center: [www.ncdc.noaa.gov](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov)
  - Monthly climate reports (U.S. & Global): [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/)
- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center: [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
- Climate Portal: [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov)
- U.S. Drought Portal: [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)
- National Drought Mitigation Center: <http://drought.unl.edu/>
- State climatologists
  - <http://www.stateclimate.org>
- Regional climate centers
  - <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu>
  - <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu>

# Thank You and Questions?

- Questions:
  - **Climate:**
  - Laura Edwards: [laura.edwards@sdstate.edu](mailto:laura.edwards@sdstate.edu), 605-626-2870
  - Dennis Todey: [dennis.todey@ars.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.todey@ars.usda.gov) , 515-294-2013
  - Doug Kluck: [doug.kluck@noaa.gov](mailto:doug.kluck@noaa.gov), 816-994-3008
  - Mike Timlin: [mtimlin@illinois.edu](mailto:mtimlin@illinois.edu); 217-333-8506
  - Natalie Umphlett: [numphlett2@unl.edu](mailto:numphlett2@unl.edu) ; 402 472-6764
  - Brian Fuchs: [bfuchs2@unl.edu](mailto:bfuchs2@unl.edu) 402 472-6775
  - **Weather:**
  - [crhroc@noaa.gov](mailto:crhroc@noaa.gov)





**North-Central U.S. Agricultural Update, Oct. 18, 2018**

**Sweet Cherries in Berrien Co., MI, June 20, 2018. Photo by B. Rippey, USDA.**





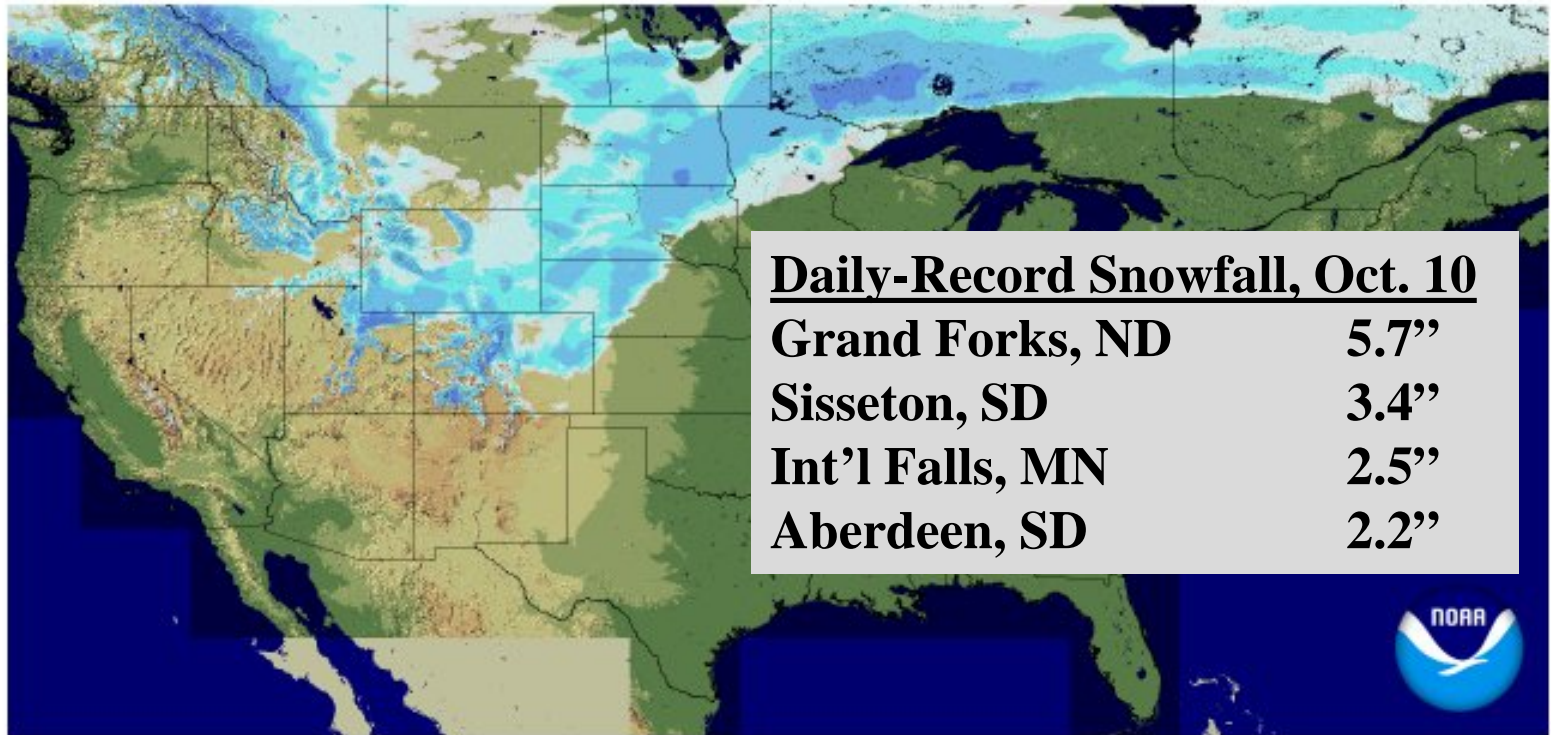
**Berrien County, MI, June 20, 2018**  
**Photo by Brad Rippey, USDA**



# Snow Depth, October 11, 2018

Snow Depth

2018-10-11 06 UTC



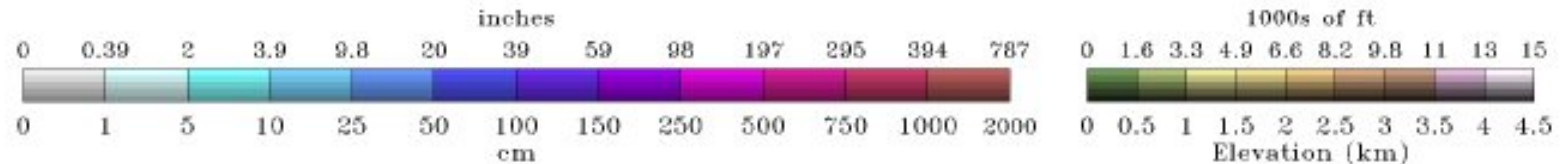
## Daily-Record Snowfall, Oct. 10

**Grand Forks, ND**      **5.7"**

**Sisseton, SD**      **3.4"**

**Int'l Falls, MN**      **2.5"**

**Aberdeen, SD**      **2.2"**



**Early Snow, Colorado Plains**  
**October 10, 2018**  
**(photo by Bryce Anderson, DTN)**

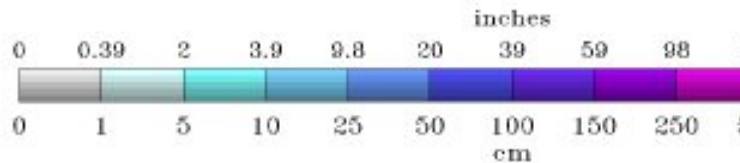
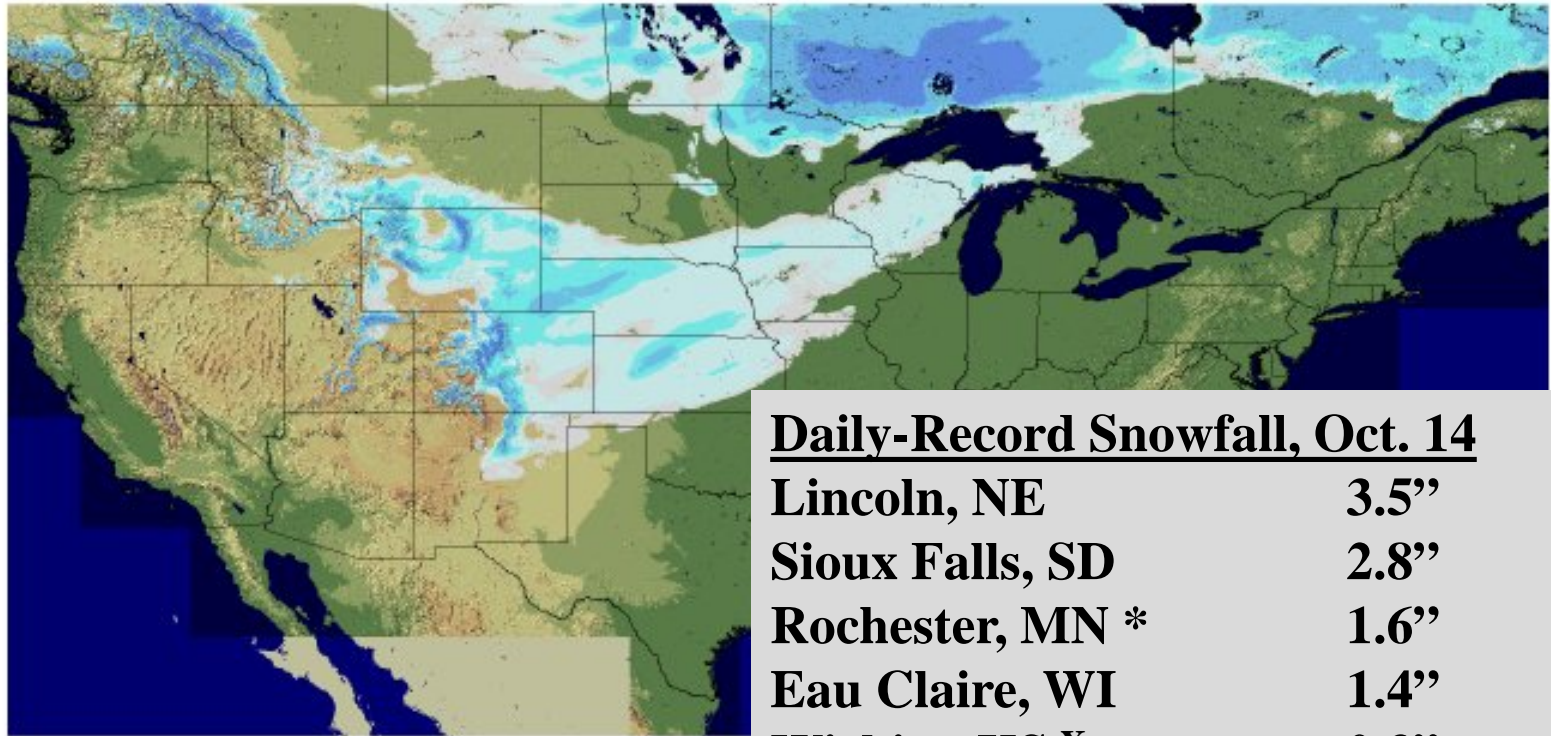




# Snow Depth, October 15, 2018

Snow Depth

2018-10-15 06 UTC



## Daily-Record Snowfall, Oct. 14

<b>Lincoln, NE</b>	<b>3.5''</b>
<b>Sioux Falls, SD</b>	<b>2.8''</b>
<b>Rochester, MN *</b>	<b>1.6''</b>
<b>Eau Claire, WI</b>	<b>1.4''</b>
<b>Wichita, KS <sup>X</sup></b>	<b>0.3''</b>
<b>Kansas City, MO <sup>Y</sup></b>	<b>0.2''</b>

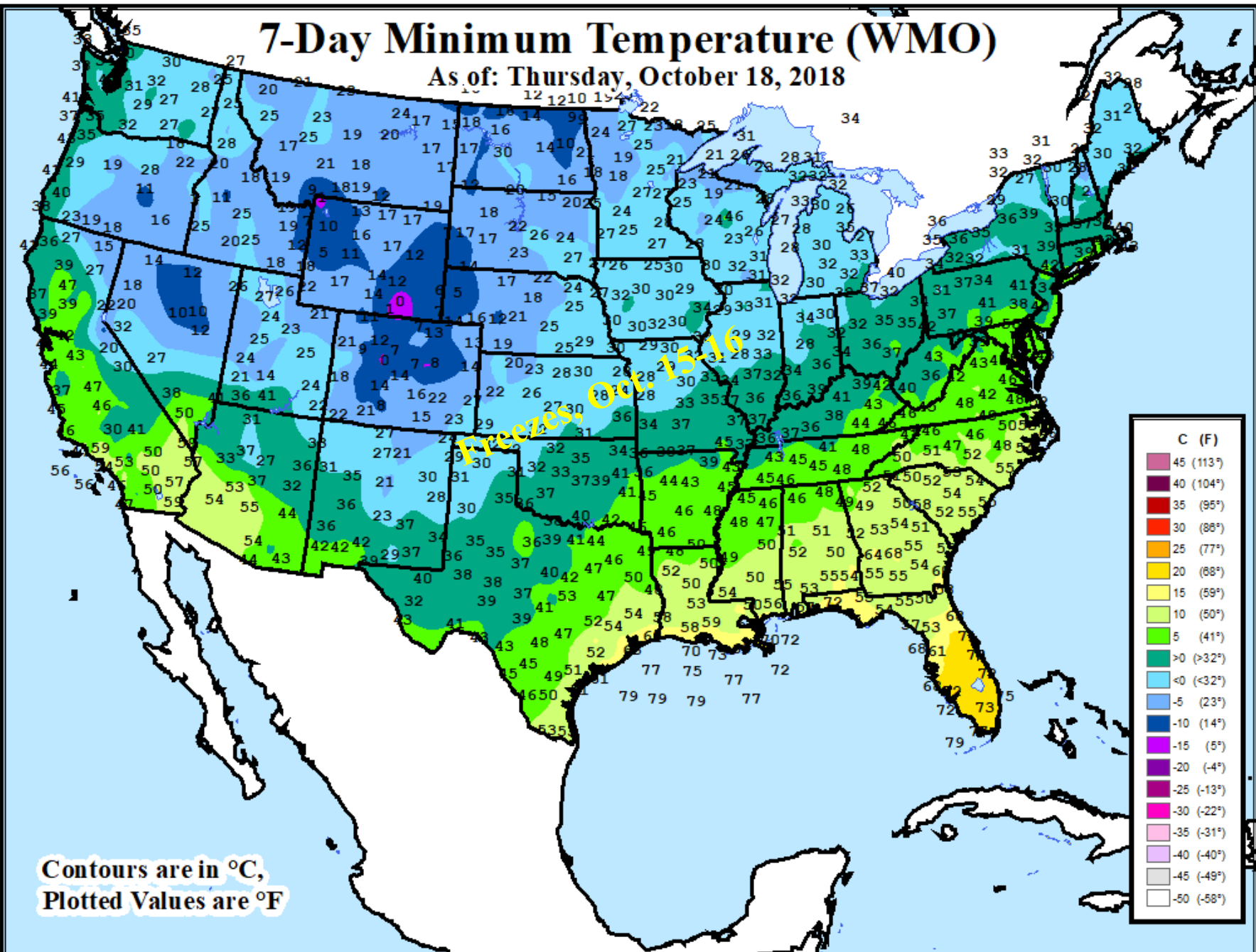
**\* Earliest snow > 1'' (10/15/1969)**

**<sup>X</sup> Earliest meas. snow (10/22/1996)**

**<sup>Y</sup> Earliest meas. snow (10/17/1898)**

# 7-Day Minimum Temperature (WMO)

As of: Thursday, October 18, 2018



Contours are in °C,  
Plotted Values are °F

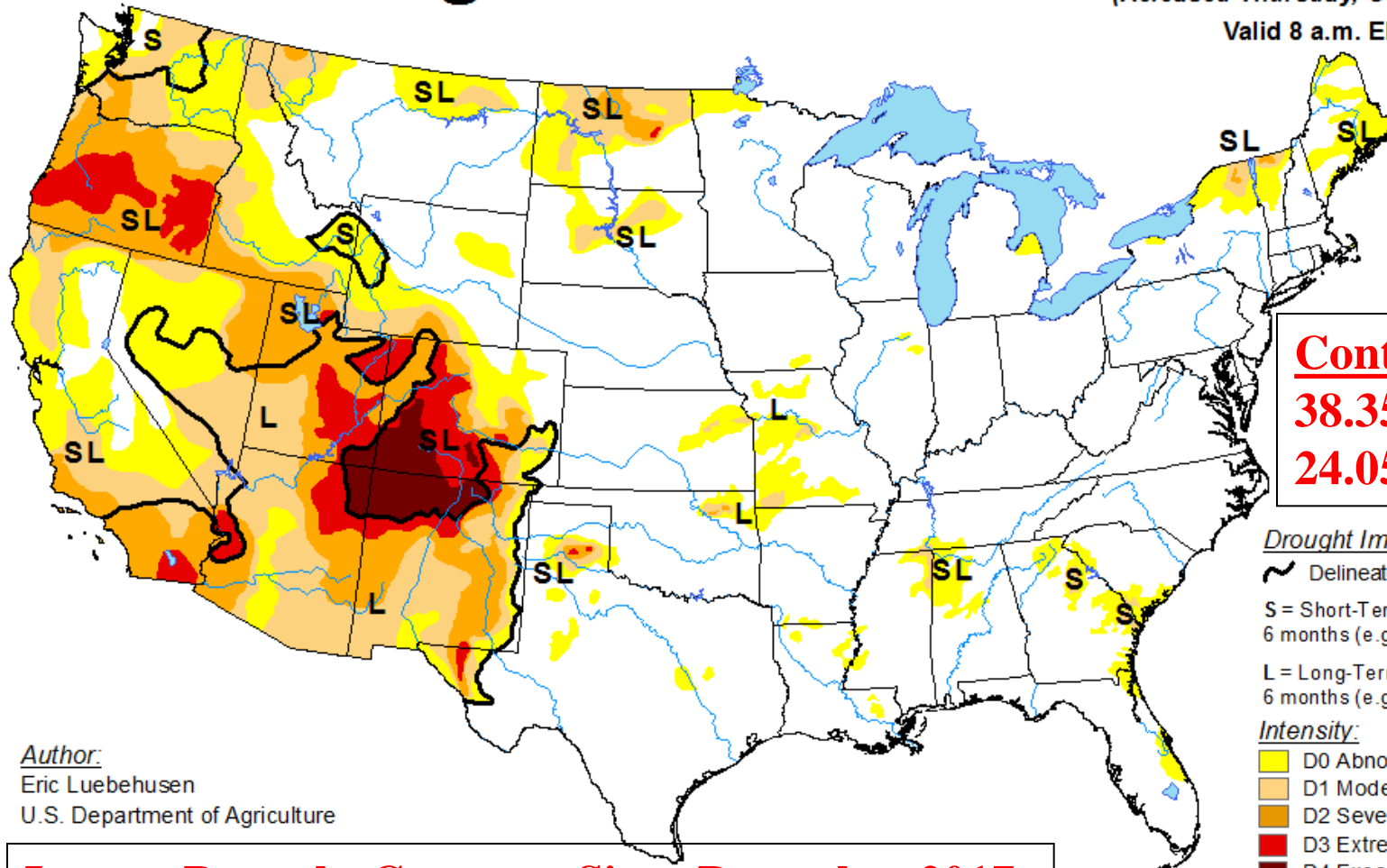
C (F)	
45	(113°)
40	(104°)
35	(95°)
30	(86°)
25	(77°)
20	(68°)
15	(59°)
10	(50°)
5	(41°)
>0	(>32°)
<0	(<32°)
-5	(23°)
-10	(14°)
-15	(5°)
-20	(-4°)
-25	(-13°)
-30	(-22°)
-35	(-31°)
-40	(-40°)
-45	(-49°)
-50	(-58°)



# U.S. Drought Monitor

October 16, 2018  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



**Contiguous U.S.**  
**38.35% D0 – D4**  
**24.05% D1 – D4**

Author:  
Eric Luebehusen  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

### Drought Impact Types:

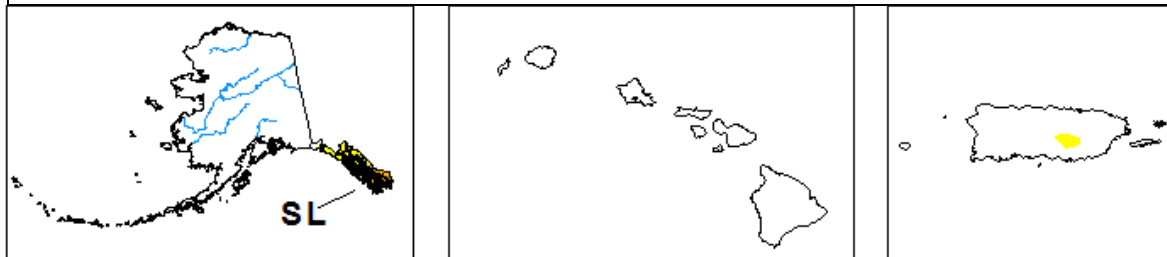
- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

### Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

## Lowest Drought Coverage Since December 2017



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

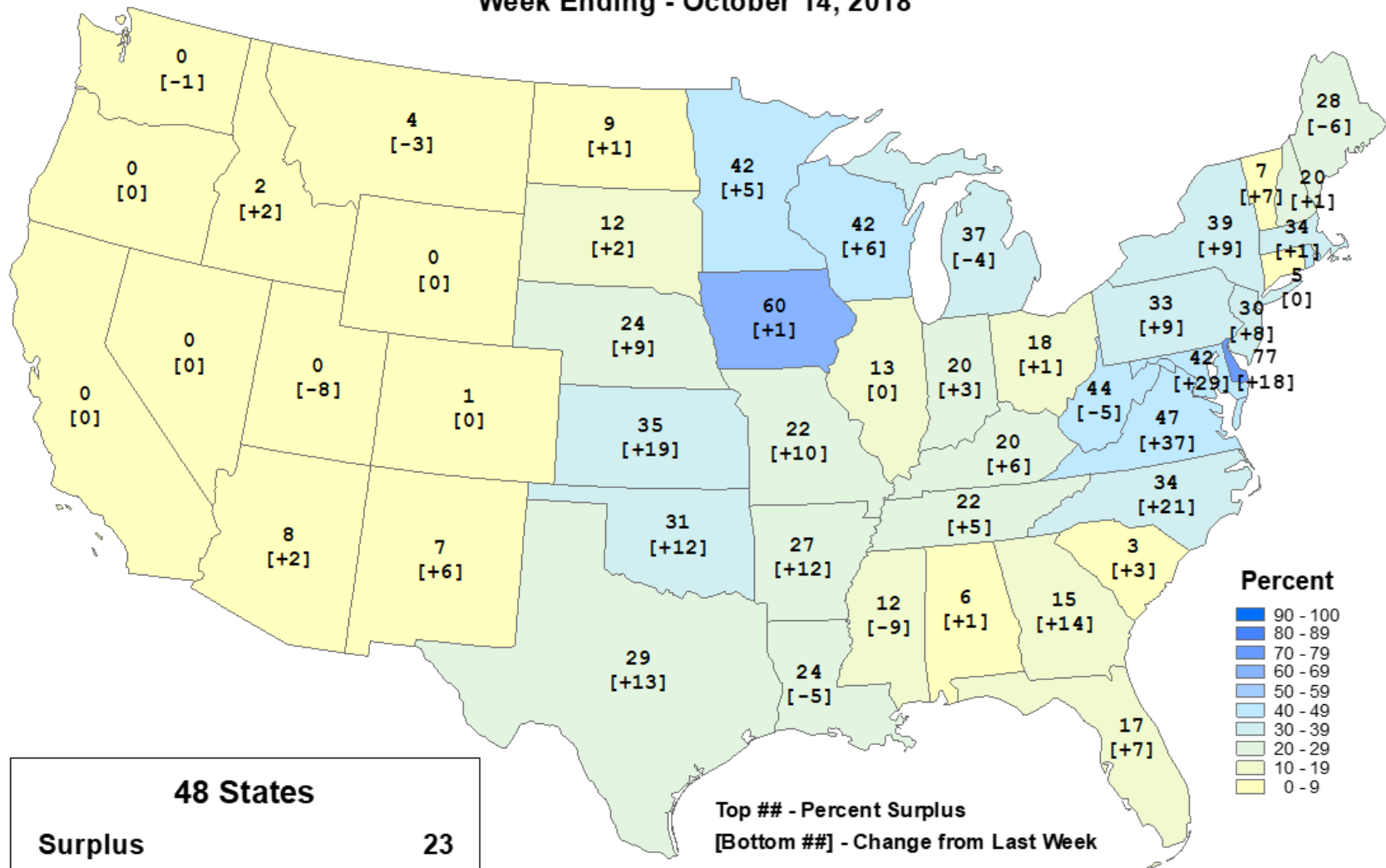


United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

This product was prepared by the  
USDA Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)  
World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB)

# Topsoil Moisture Percent Surplus

Week Ending - October 14, 2018



<b>48 States</b>	
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Change from Last Week</b>	<b>+5</b>

Top ## - Percent Surplus  
[Bottom ##] - Change from Last Week

Data obtained from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service weekly Crop Progress reports. These reports are available through <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>.



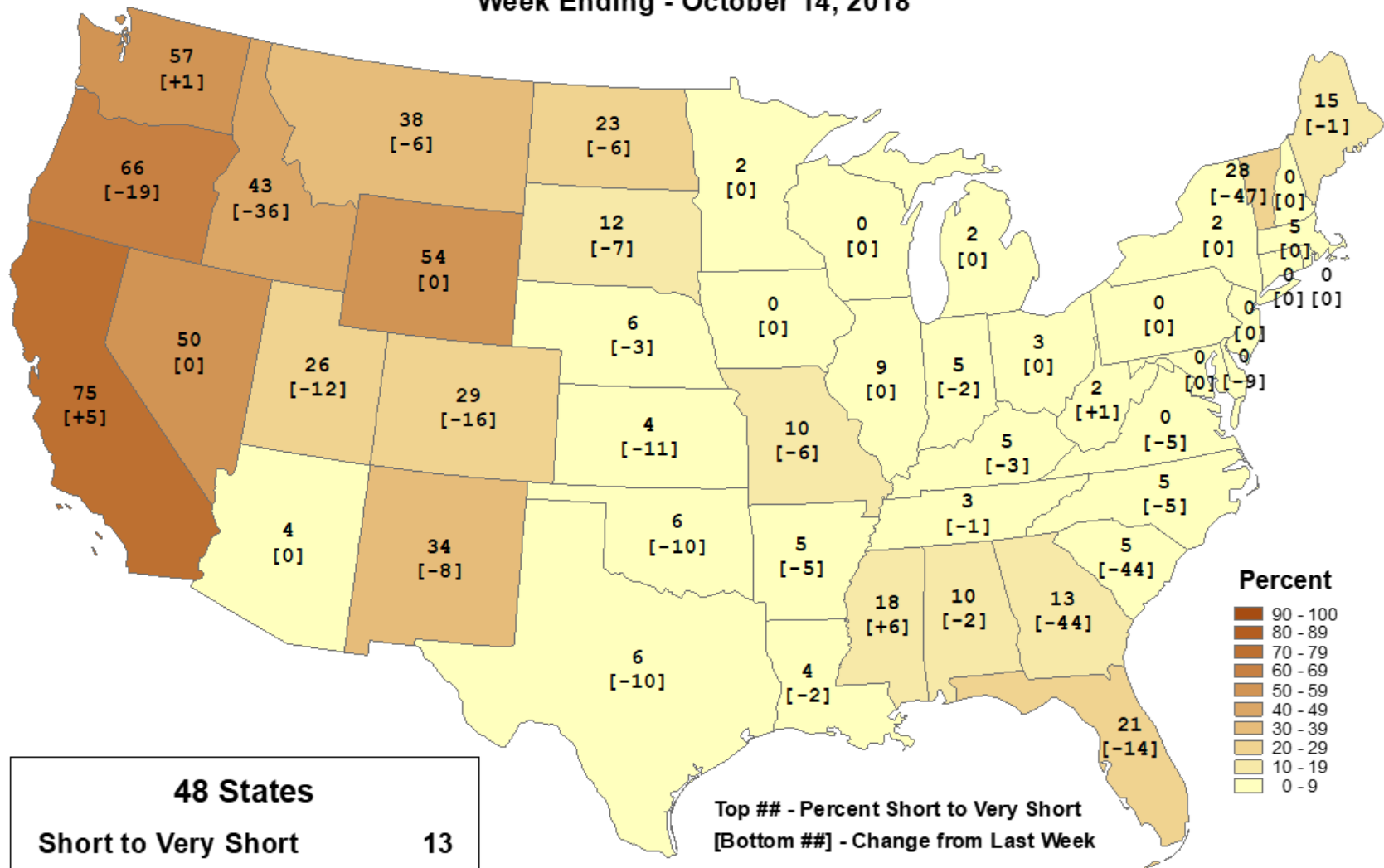
United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

This product was prepared by the  
USDA Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)  
World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB)

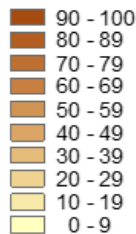
# Topsoil Moisture

## Percent Short to Very Short

### Week Ending - October 14, 2018



#### Percent



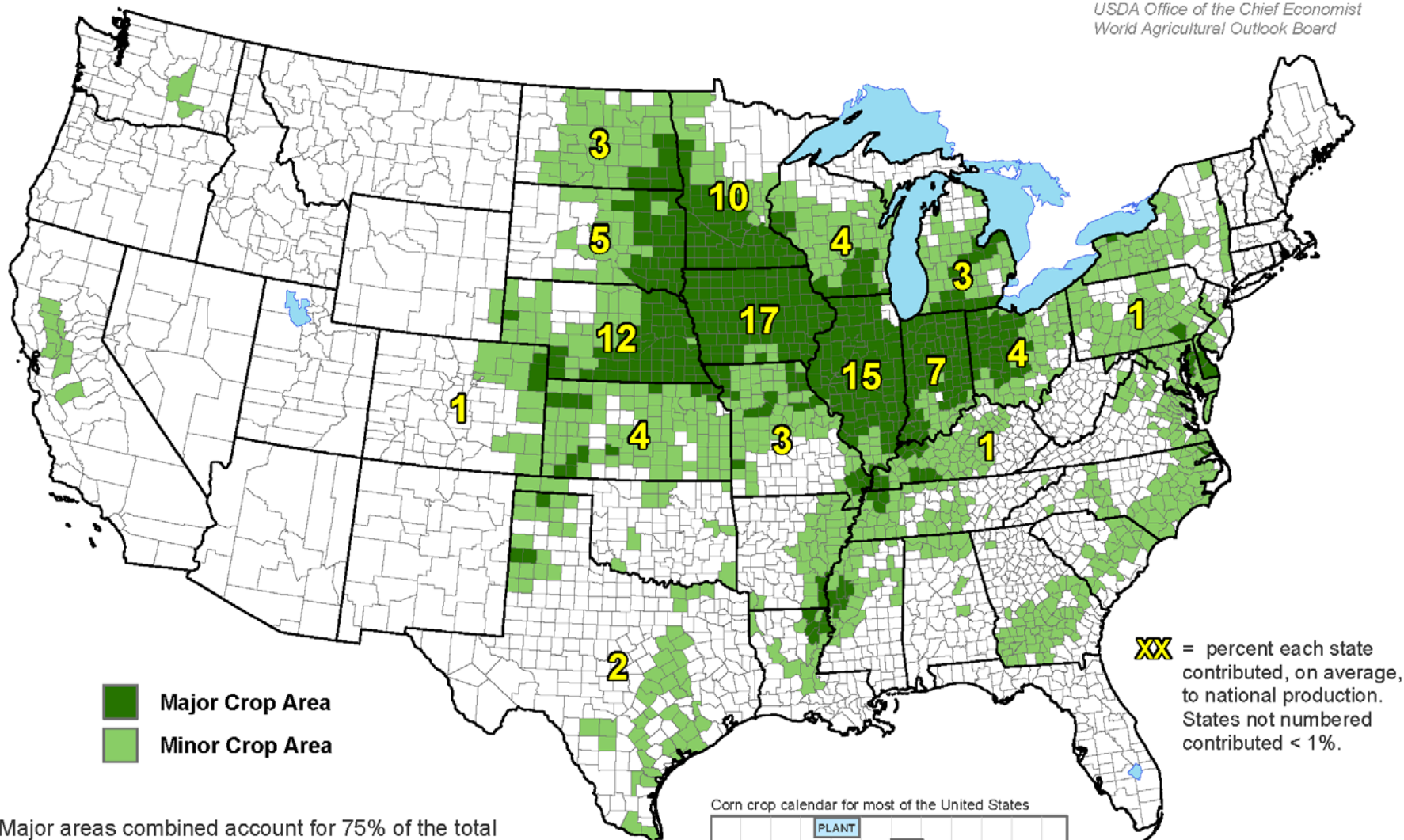
<b>48 States</b>	
<b>Short to Very Short</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Change from Last Week</b>	<b>-6</b>

**Top ## - Percent Short to Very Short**  
**[Bottom ##] - Change from Last Week**

Data obtained from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service weekly Crop Progress reports. These reports are available through <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>.

# United States: Corn

*This product was prepared by the  
USDA Office of the Chief Economist  
World Agricultural Outlook Board*

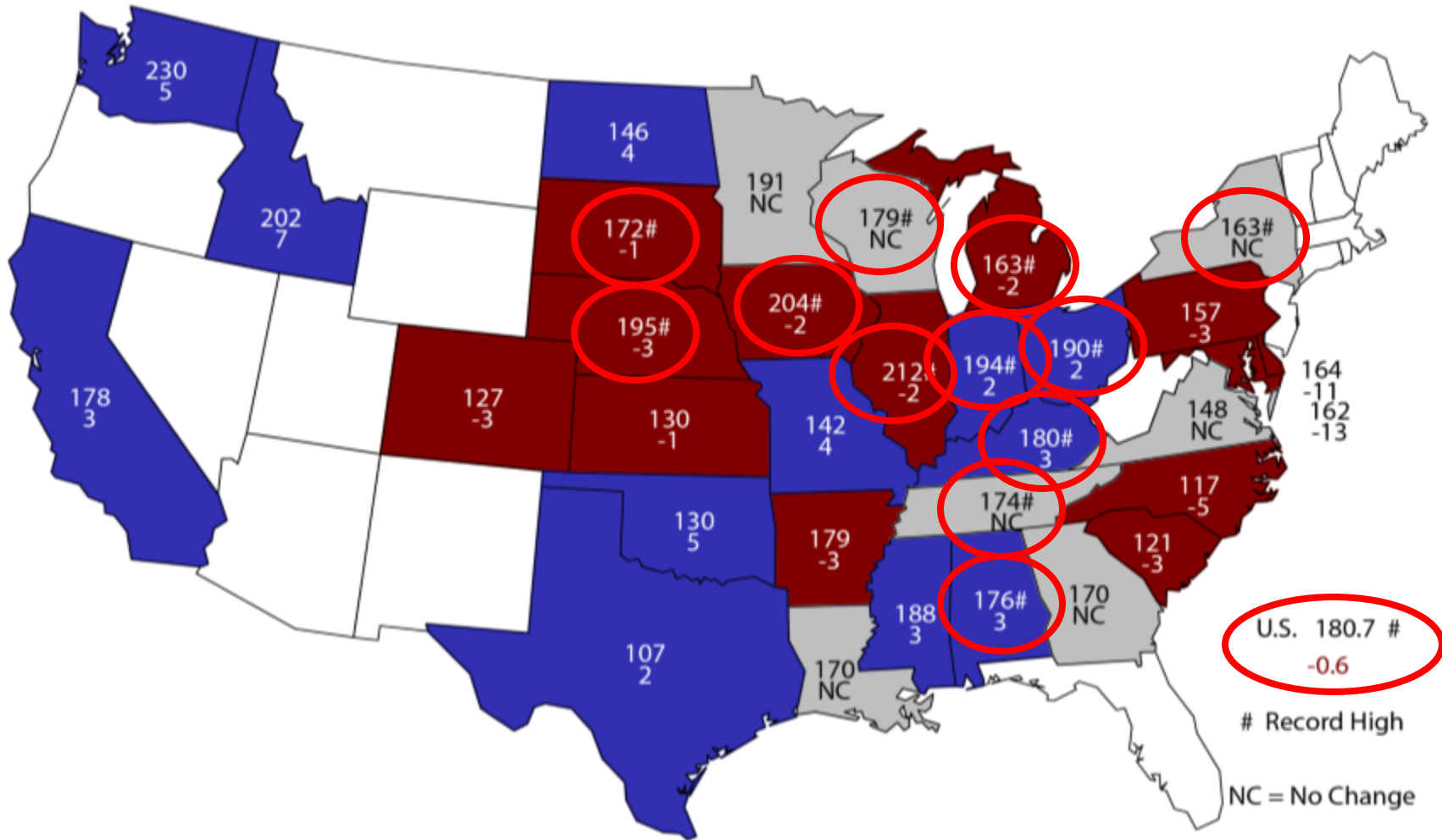


- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS survey data from 2010 to 2014.

The crop calendar was developed using NASS crop progress data from 2010-2014. This calendar illustrates, on average, the dates when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.

# October 1, 2018 Corn Yield

## Bushels and Change From Previous Forecast

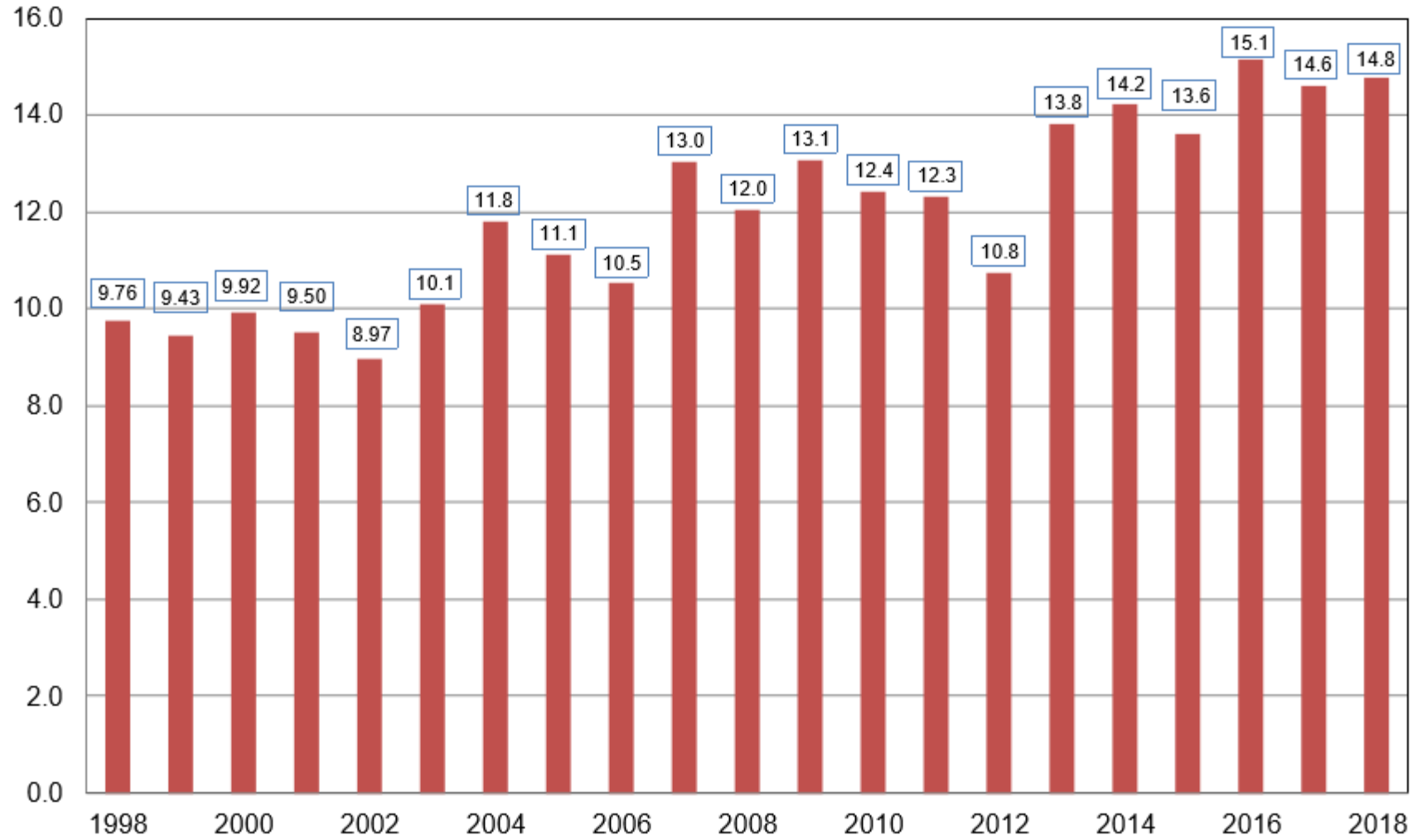




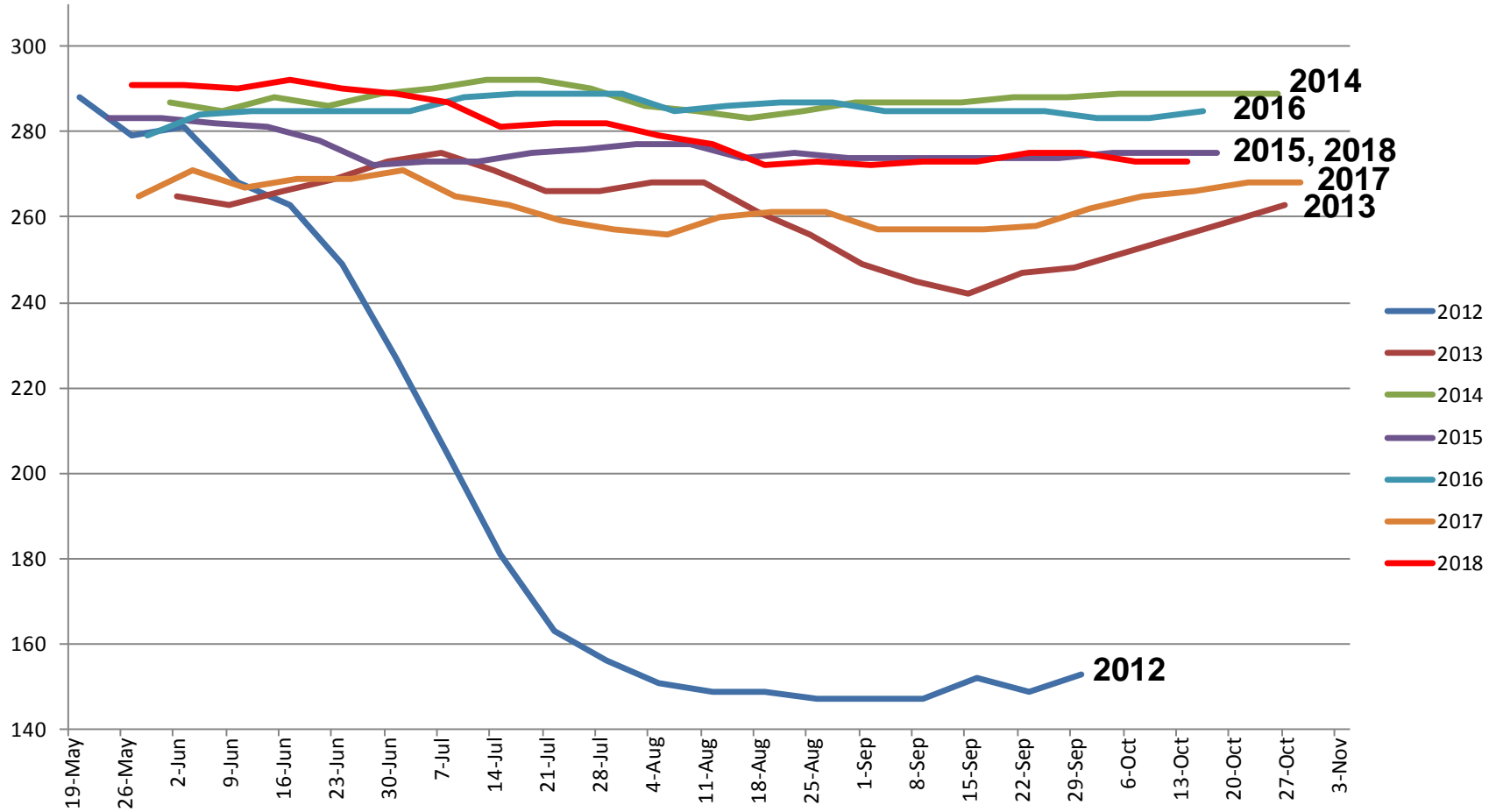


# Corn for Grain Production United States

Billion Bushels



# U.S. CORN Condition Index

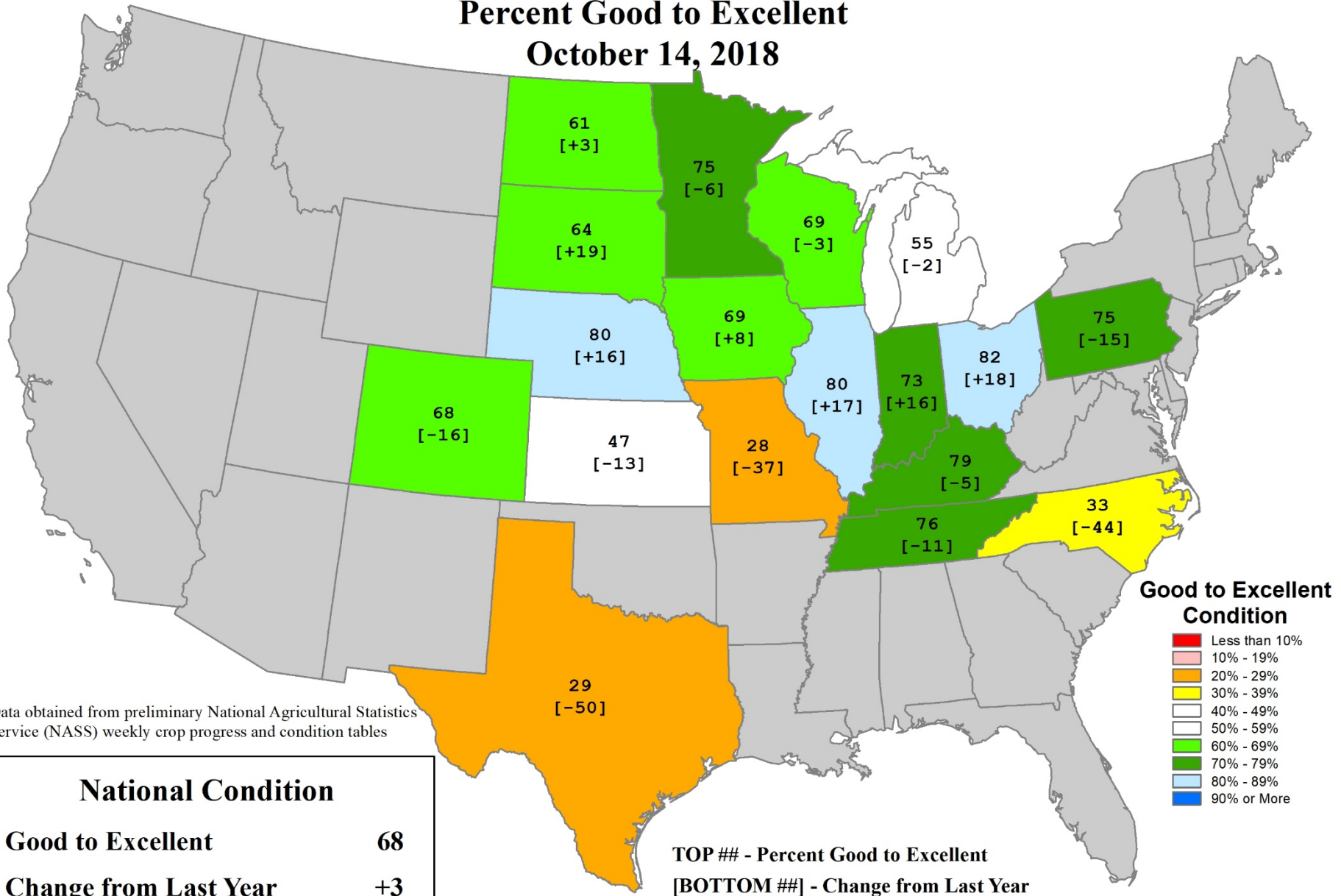


Based on NASS crop progress data.

**Index Weighting: Excellent = 4; Good = 3; Fair = 2; Poor = 1; Very Poor = 0**

# U.S. Corn Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent  
October 14, 2018



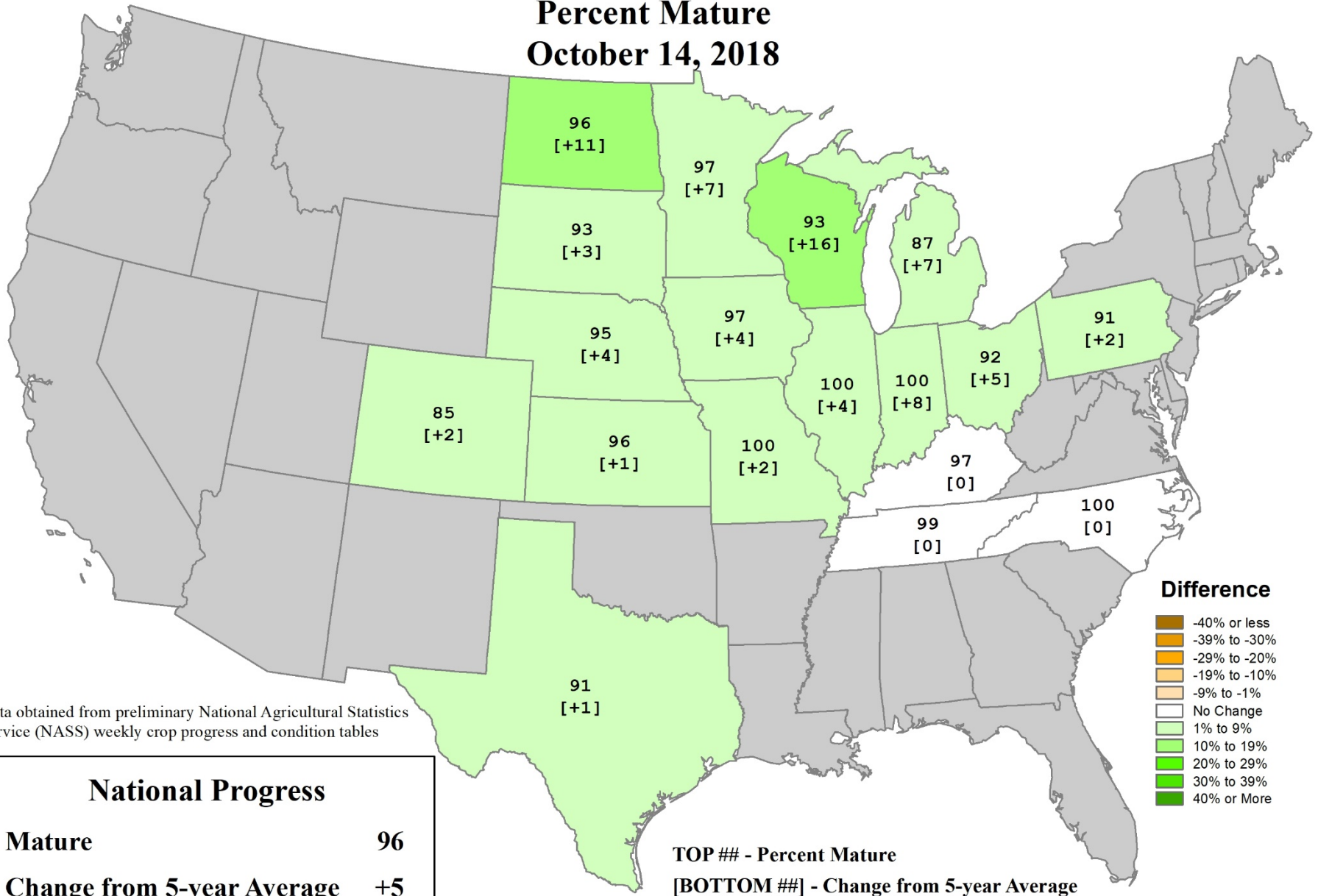
Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

## Good to Excellent Condition

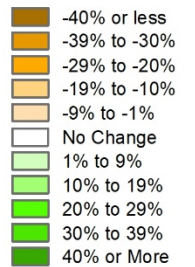
- Less than 10%
- 10% - 19%
- 20% - 29%
- 30% - 39%
- 40% - 49%
- 50% - 59%
- 60% - 69%
- 70% - 79%
- 80% - 89%
- 90% or More

# U.S. Corn Progress

Percent Mature  
October 14, 2018



### Difference



Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

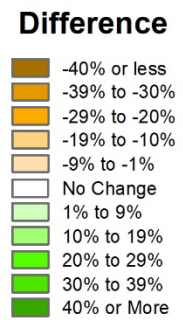
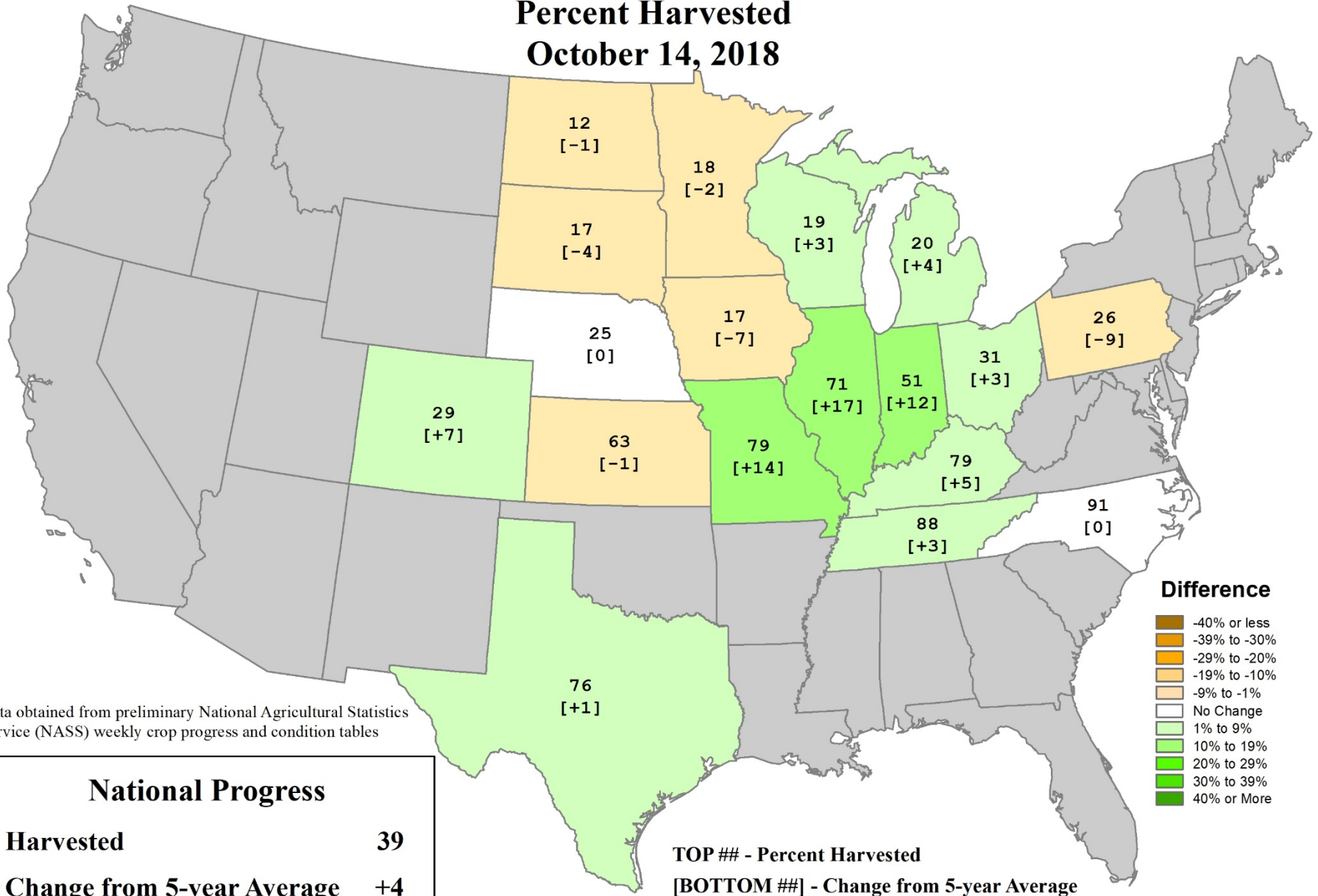
National Progress	
Mature	96
Change from 5-year Average	+5

TOP ## - Percent Mature

[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average

# U.S. Corn Progress

Percent Harvested  
October 14, 2018



Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

National Progress	
Harvested	39
Change from 5-year Average	+4

TOP ## - Percent Harvested  
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average



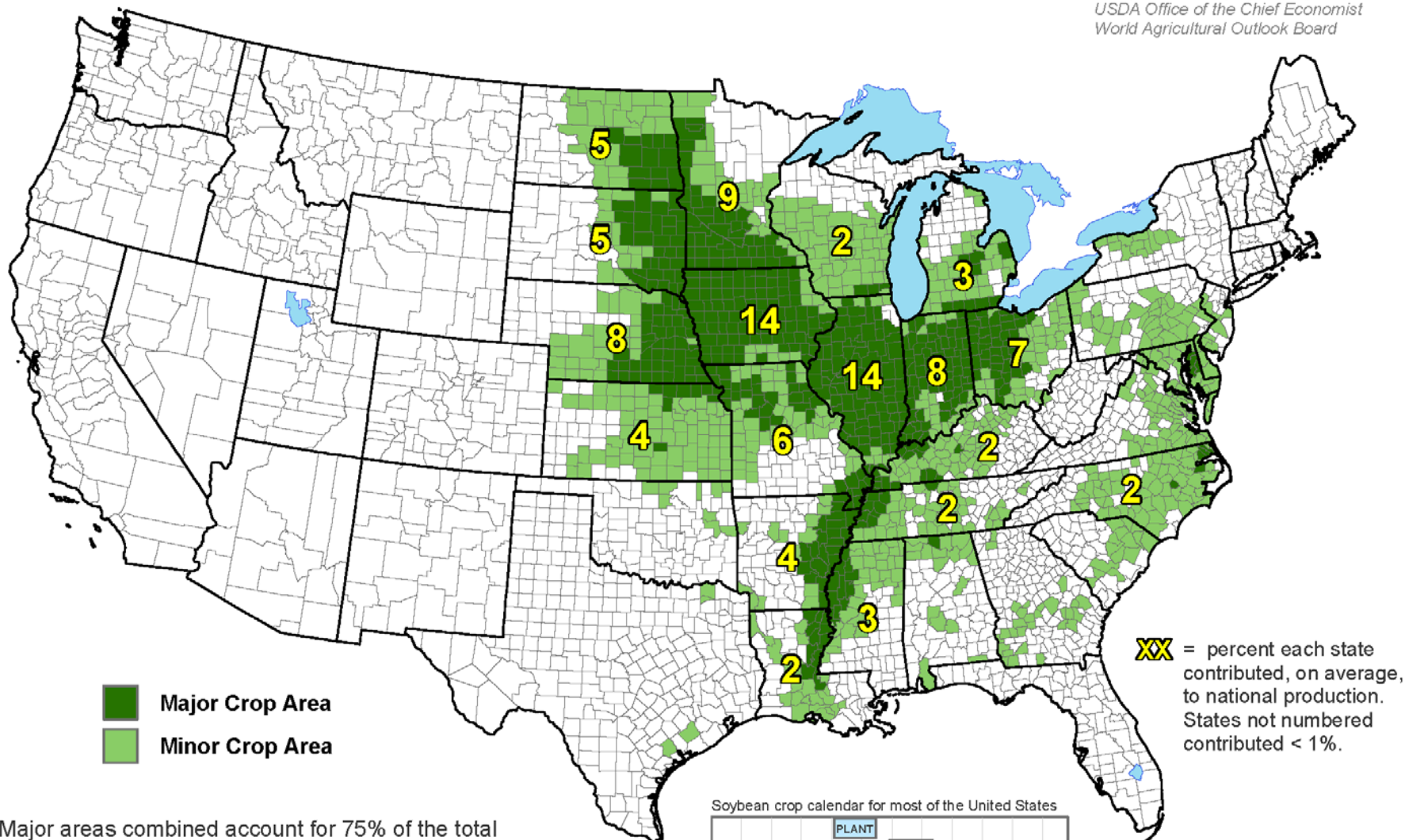
**St. Joseph Co., IN, June 27, 2016**  
**Photo by Brad Rippey, USDA**



- **Despite above-normal temperatures starting in early May, many major production areas avoided extreme heat and had ample moisture. However, heat and drought lowered yield prospects in the southwestern Corn Belt.**
- **Oct. 1 estimates, if realized, indicate record-high corn production in nine Central States (IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, NE, OH, SD, and WI).**
- **If Oct. 1 estimates are realized, 2018 will have a record U.S. corn yield (180.7 bushels/acre) and the second-highest production (14.8 billion bushels).**
- **Drought affected 5 to 13% of the U.S. corn production area during the 2018 growing season. Wetness is a current concern in the upper Midwest.**
- **Currently, 68% of the U.S. corn crop is rated good to excellent.**

# United States: Soybeans

*This product was prepared by the  
USDA Office of the Chief Economist  
World Agricultural Outlook Board*

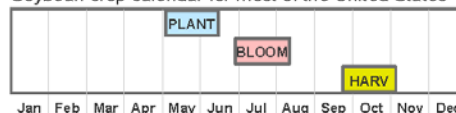


**Major Crop Area**  
**Minor Crop Area**

**XX** = percent each state contributed, on average, to national production. States not numbered contributed < 1%.

- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS survey data from 2010 to 2014.

Soybean crop calendar for most of the United States

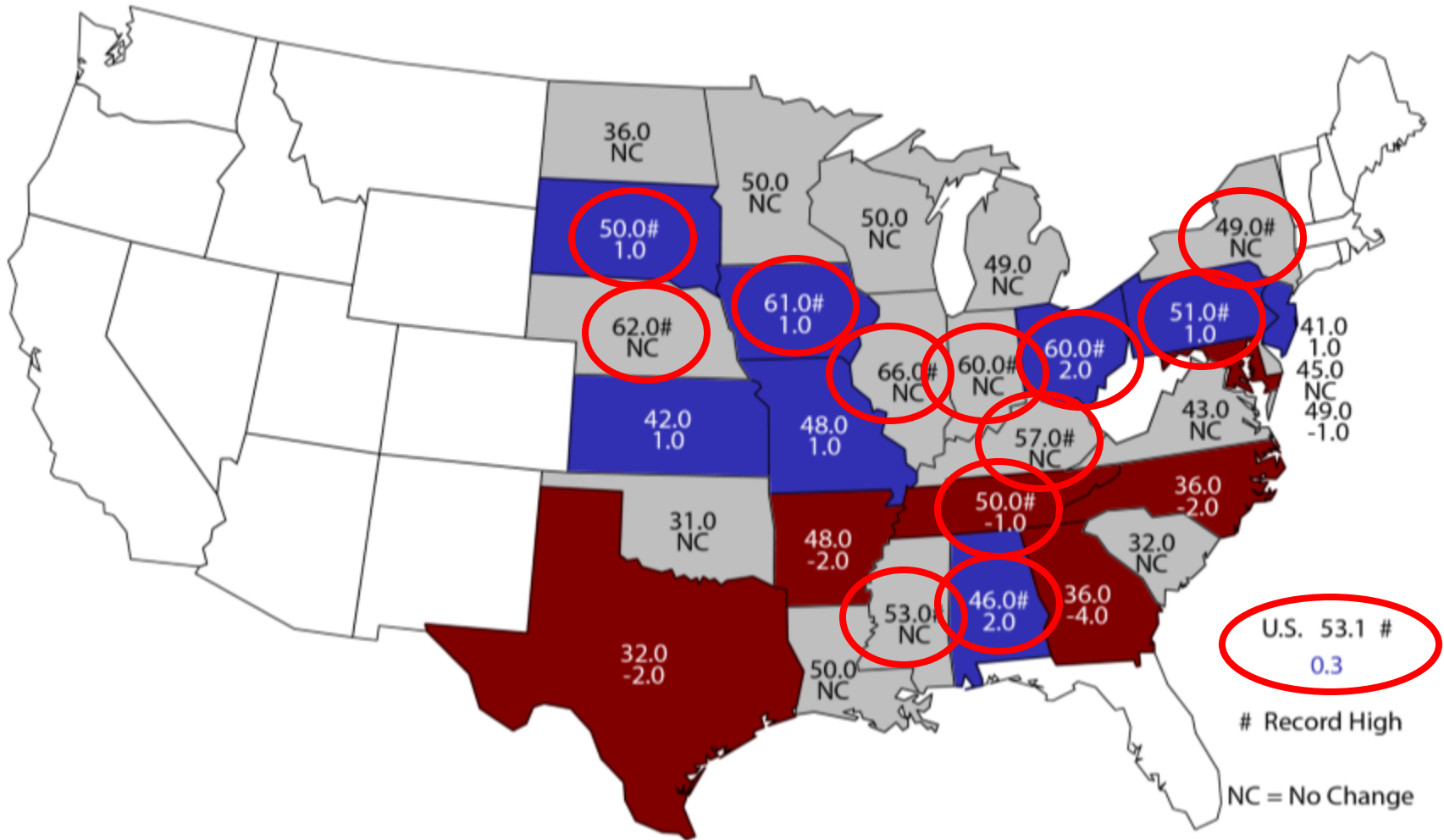


The crop calendar was developed using NASS crop progress data from 2010-2014. This calendar illustrates, on average, the dates when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.



# October 1, 2018 Soybean Yield

## Bushels and Change From Previous Forecast



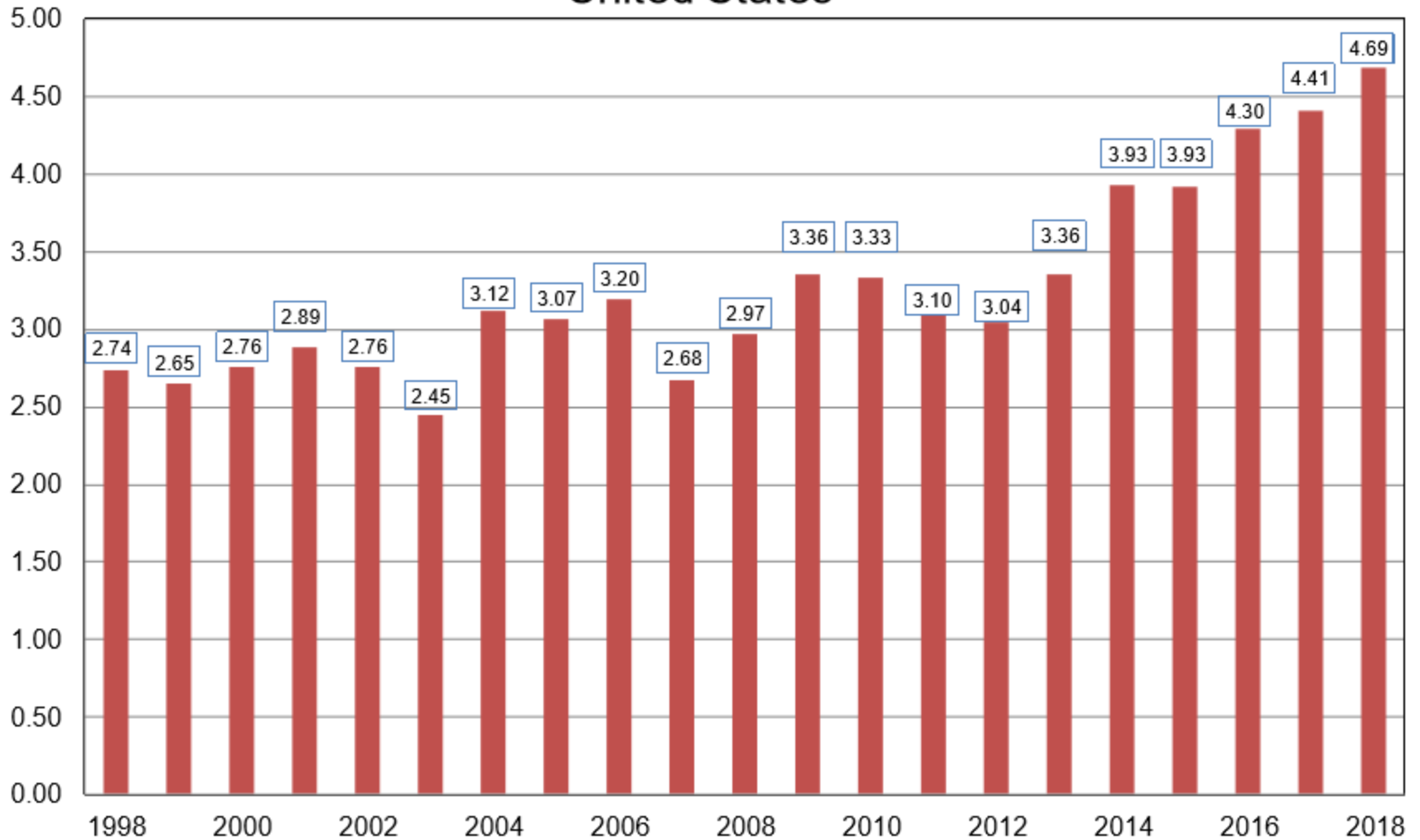
U.S. 53.1 #  
0.3

# Record High

NC = No Change

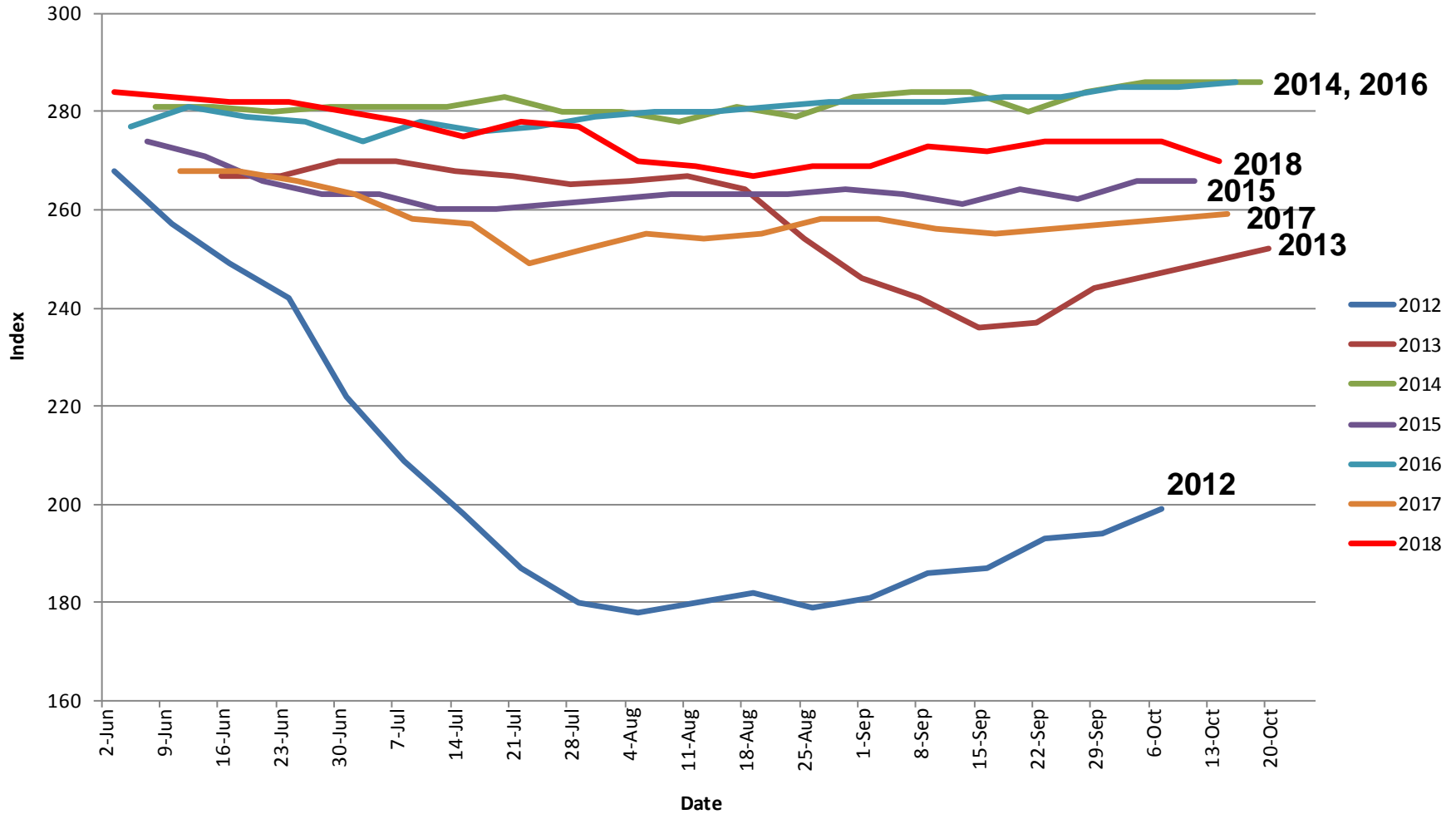
# Soybean Production United States

Billion Bushels





# U.S. SOYBEAN Condition Index

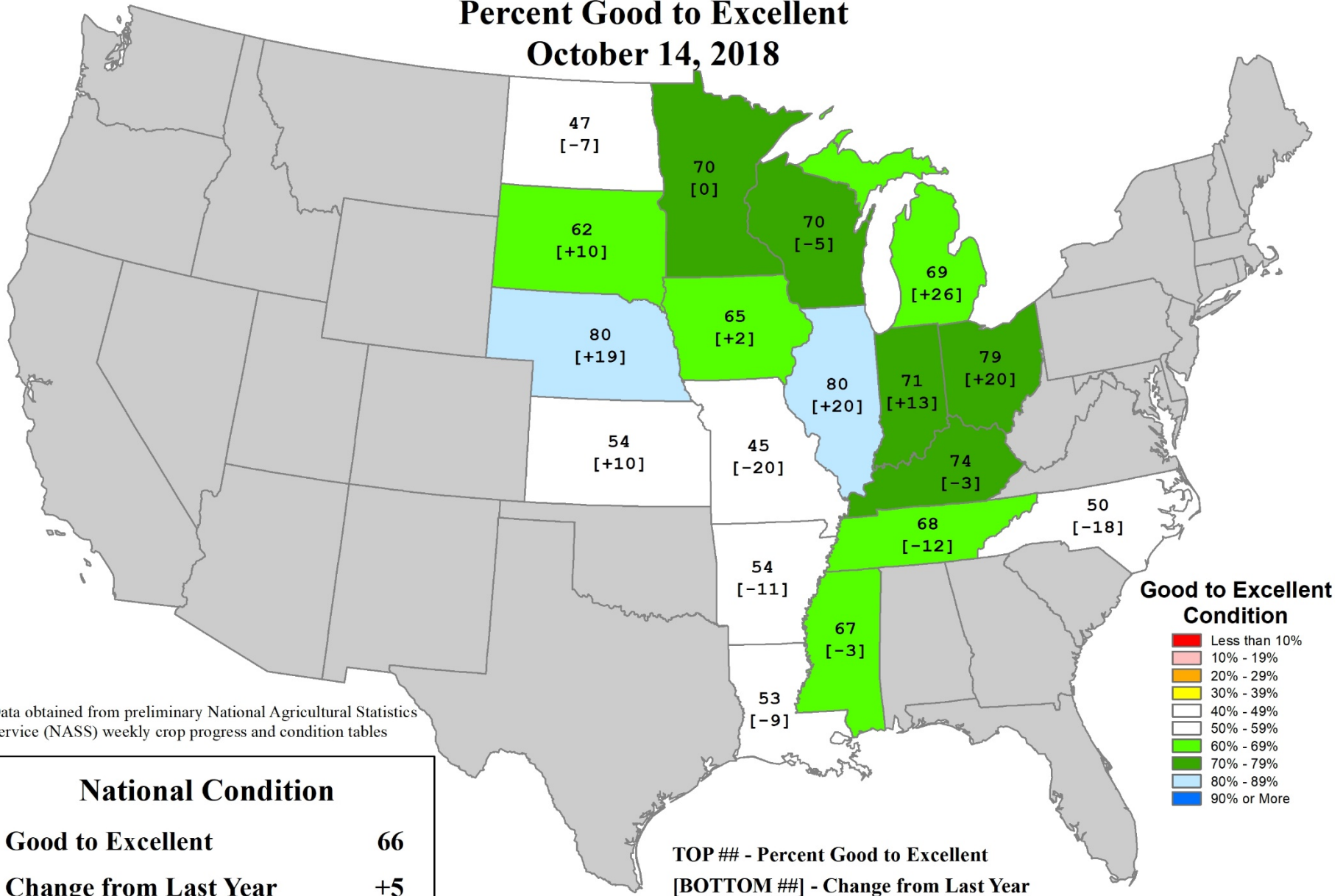


Based on NASS crop progress data.

**Index Weighting: Excellent = 4; Good = 3; Fair = 2; Poor = 1; Very Poor = 0**

# U.S. Soybean Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent  
October 14, 2018

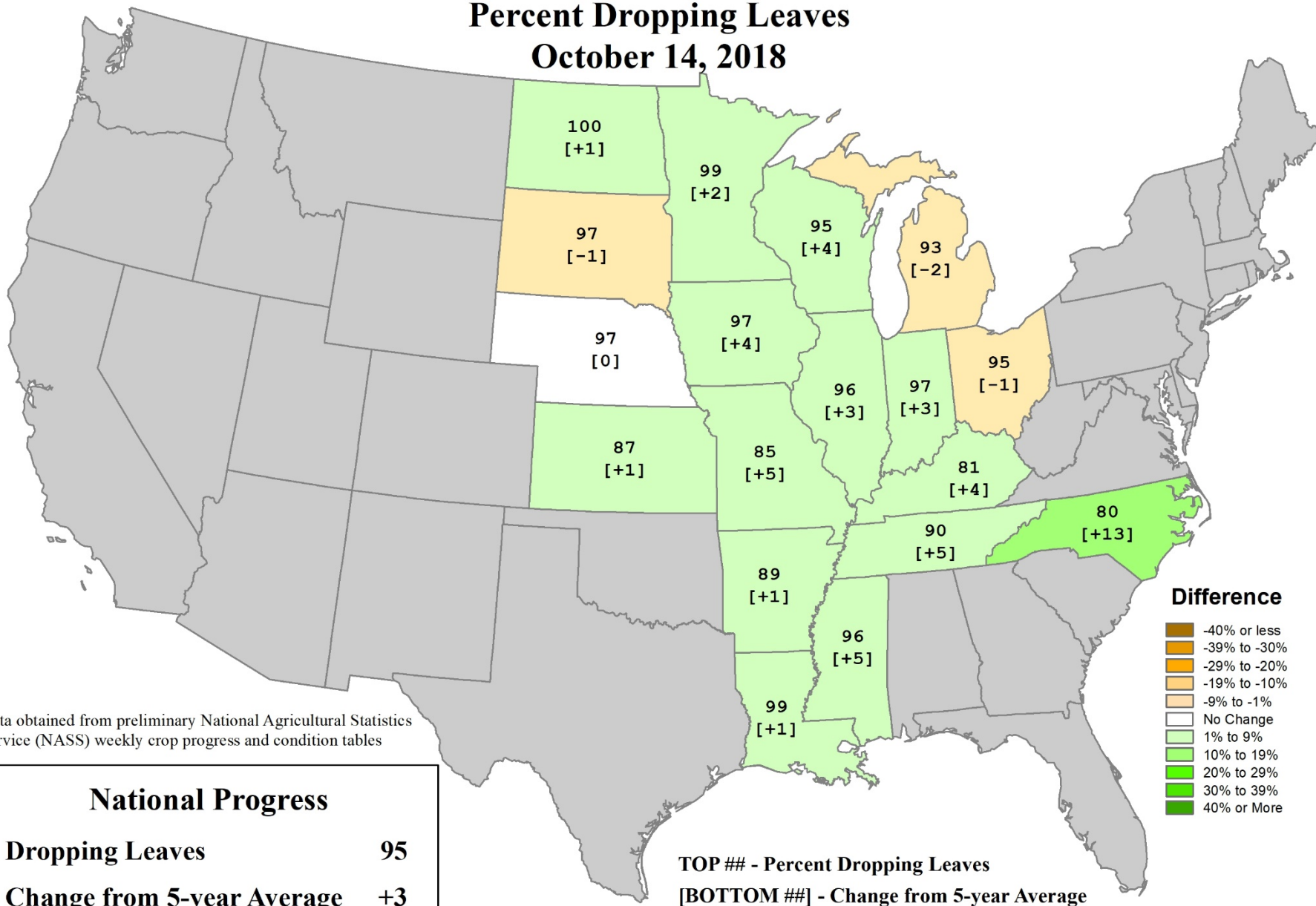


Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables



# U.S. Soybeans Progress

Percent Dropping Leaves  
October 14, 2018



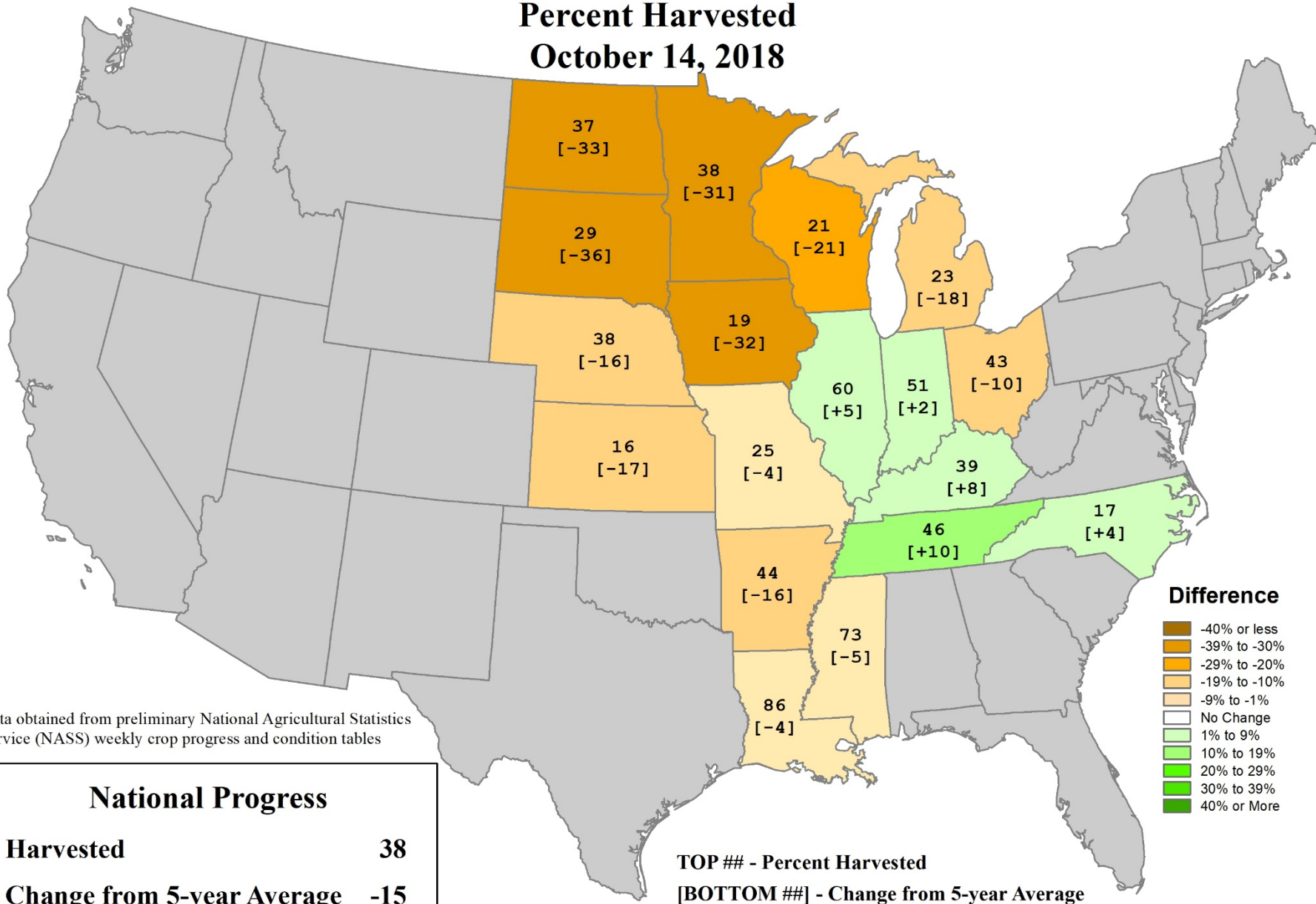
Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

National Progress	
Dropping Leaves	95
Change from 5-year Average	+3

TOP ## - Percent Dropping Leaves  
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average

# U.S. Soybeans Progress

Percent Harvested  
October 14, 2018



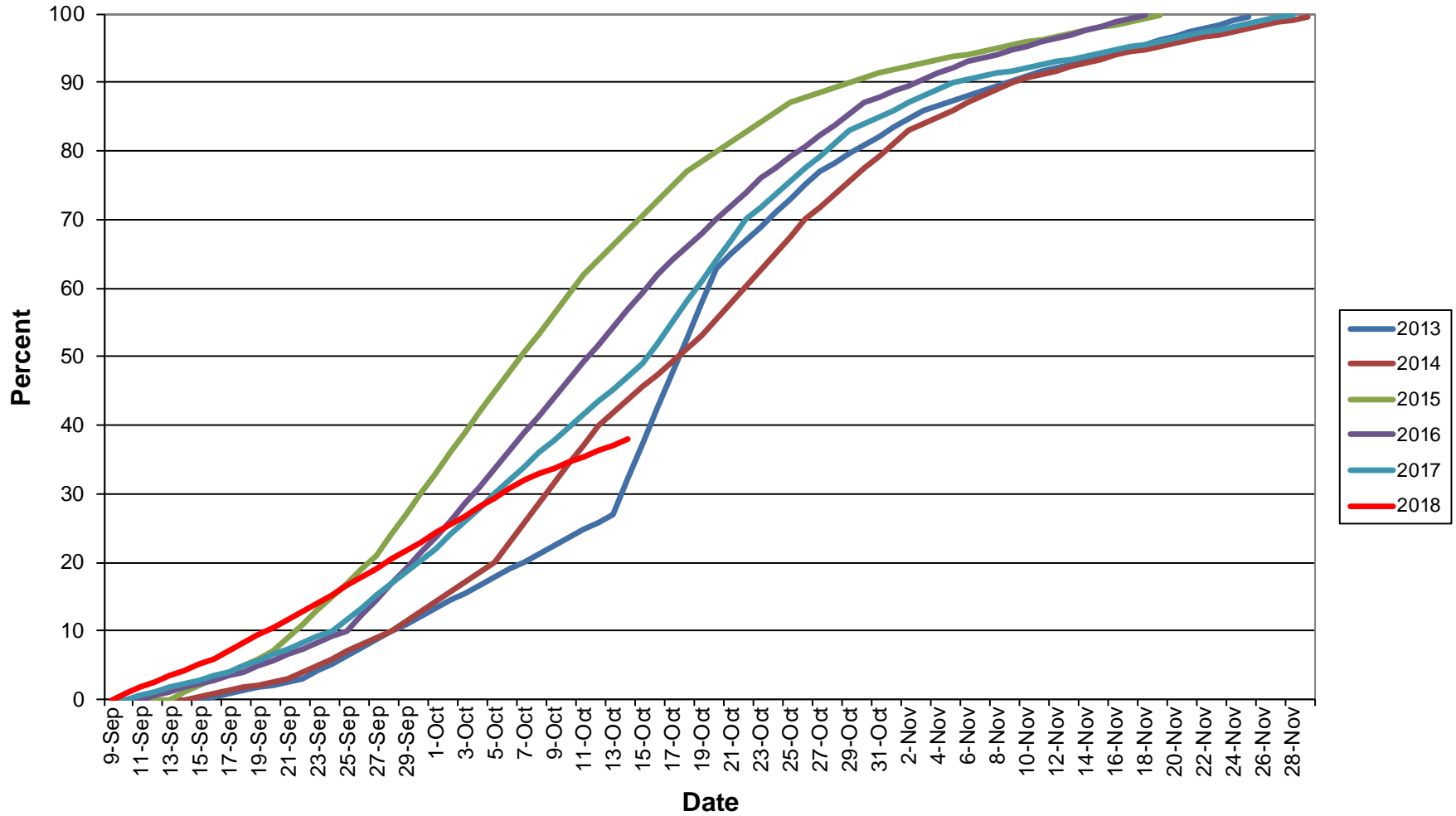
Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

National Progress	
Harvested	38
Change from 5-year Average	-15

TOP ## - Percent Harvested  
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average



# U.S. SOYBEANS: Percent Harvested



Based on NASS crop progress data.

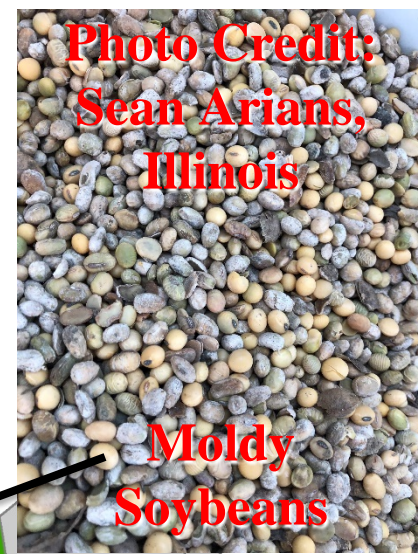


**South Dakota soybean harvest, Oct. 2018.  
Photo courtesy of Laura Edwards.**

- **As with other crops, warm weather after May 1 hastened soybean development.**
- **Oct. 1 estimates, if realized, indicate record-high soybean production in seven Central States (IL, IN, IA, KY, NE, OH, and SD).**
- **If Oct. 1 estimates are realized, 2018 will feature record-high U.S. soybean yield (53.1 bushels/acre) and production (4.69 million bushels).**
- **Drought affected 7 to 18% of the U.S. soybean production area during the 2018 growing season. Cold, wet weather is a current quality concern as harvest begins to languish.**
- **Currently, 66% of the U.S. soybean crop is rated G to EX.**

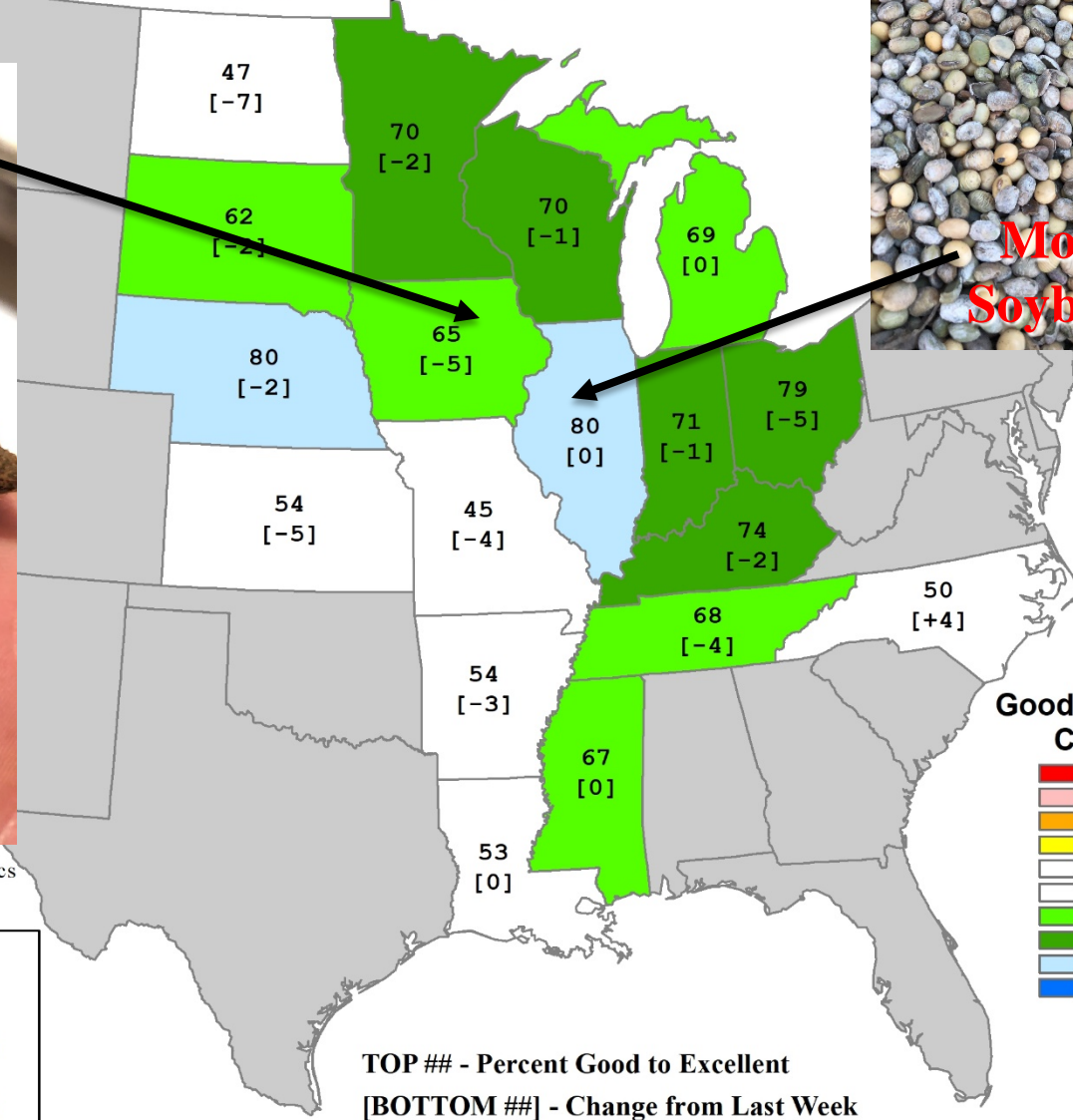
# U.S. Soybean Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent  
October 14, 2018



Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

National Condition	
Good to Excellent	66
Change from Last Week	-2



TOP ## - Percent Good to Excellent  
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from Last Week



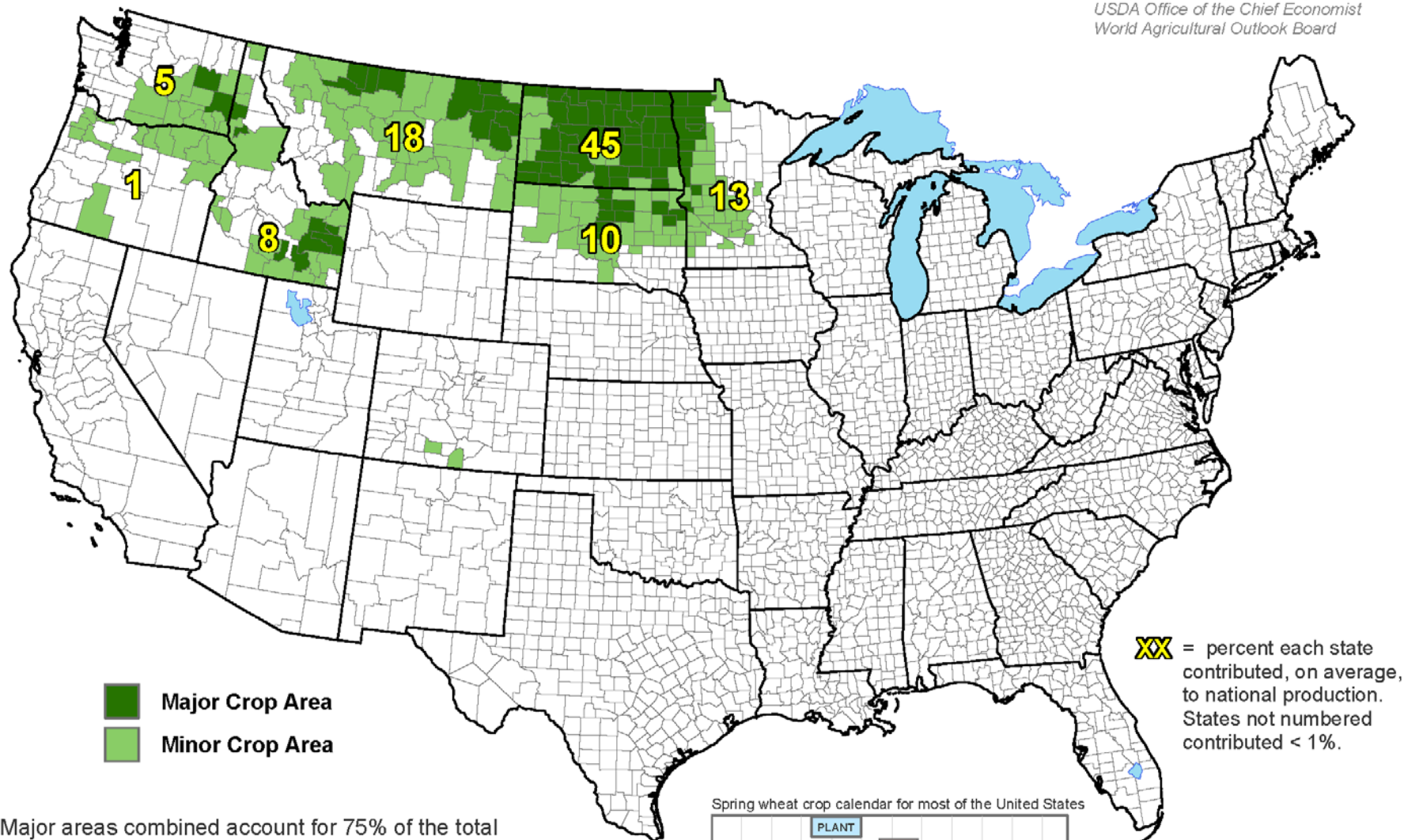
# Other Current Agricultural Highlights

- **Spring wheat bounced back in 2018, following the worst drought since 1988. Production is forecast to be up 48% from last year, while harvest area increased 27%.**
- **Sunflower production is expected to be down 10% from last year, largely due to a 7% percent decrease in harvested area.**
- **Winter wheat is emerging in most major production areas. Late-season planting has been limited by wet weather, while emergence has been slowed by cool conditions.**
- **The sugarbeet harvest is underway, but conditions have not been ideal. The production estimate is virtually unchanged from last year, despite a 1% decrease in harvested area.**
- **Sorghum production is forecast to be up 5% from last year.**
- **Rangeland and pastures are in good shape in most areas. However, there have been lingering drought impacts on the northern High Plains, while drought affected the southwestern Corn Belt.**



# United States: Spring Wheat

*This product was prepared by the USDA Office of the Chief Economist World Agricultural Outlook Board*



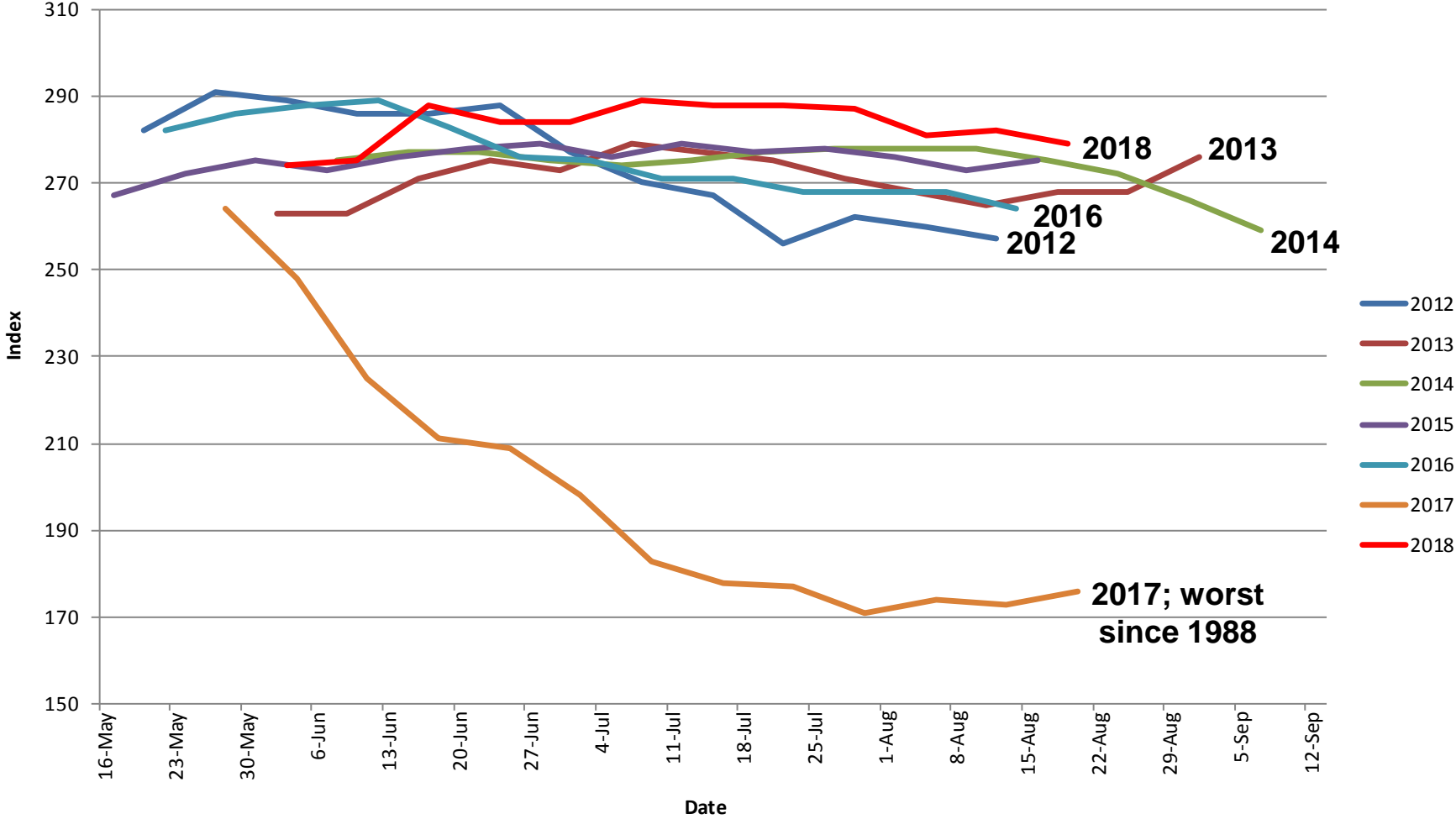
- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS survey data from 2010 to 2014.

Spring wheat crop calendar for most of the United States



The crop calendar was developed using NASS crop progress data from 2010-2014. This calendar illustrates, on average, the dates when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.

# U.S. SPRING WHEAT Condition Index

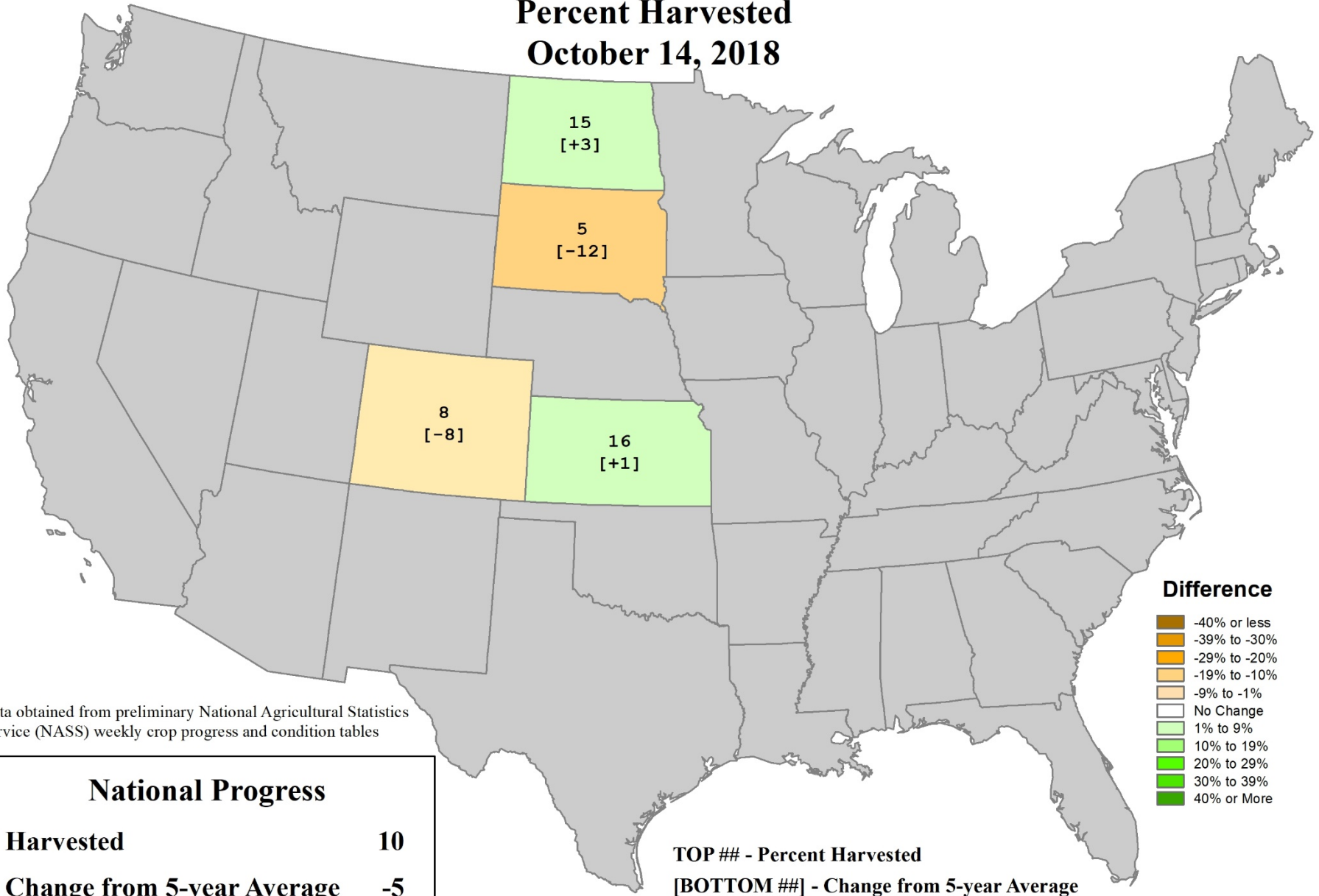


Based on NASS crop progress data.

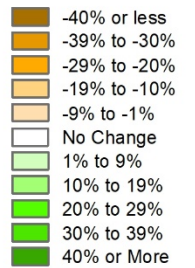
**Index Weighting: Excellent = 4; Good = 3; Fair = 2; Poor = 1; Very Poor = 0**

# U.S. Sunflowers Progress

Percent Harvested  
October 14, 2018



## Difference



Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

## National Progress

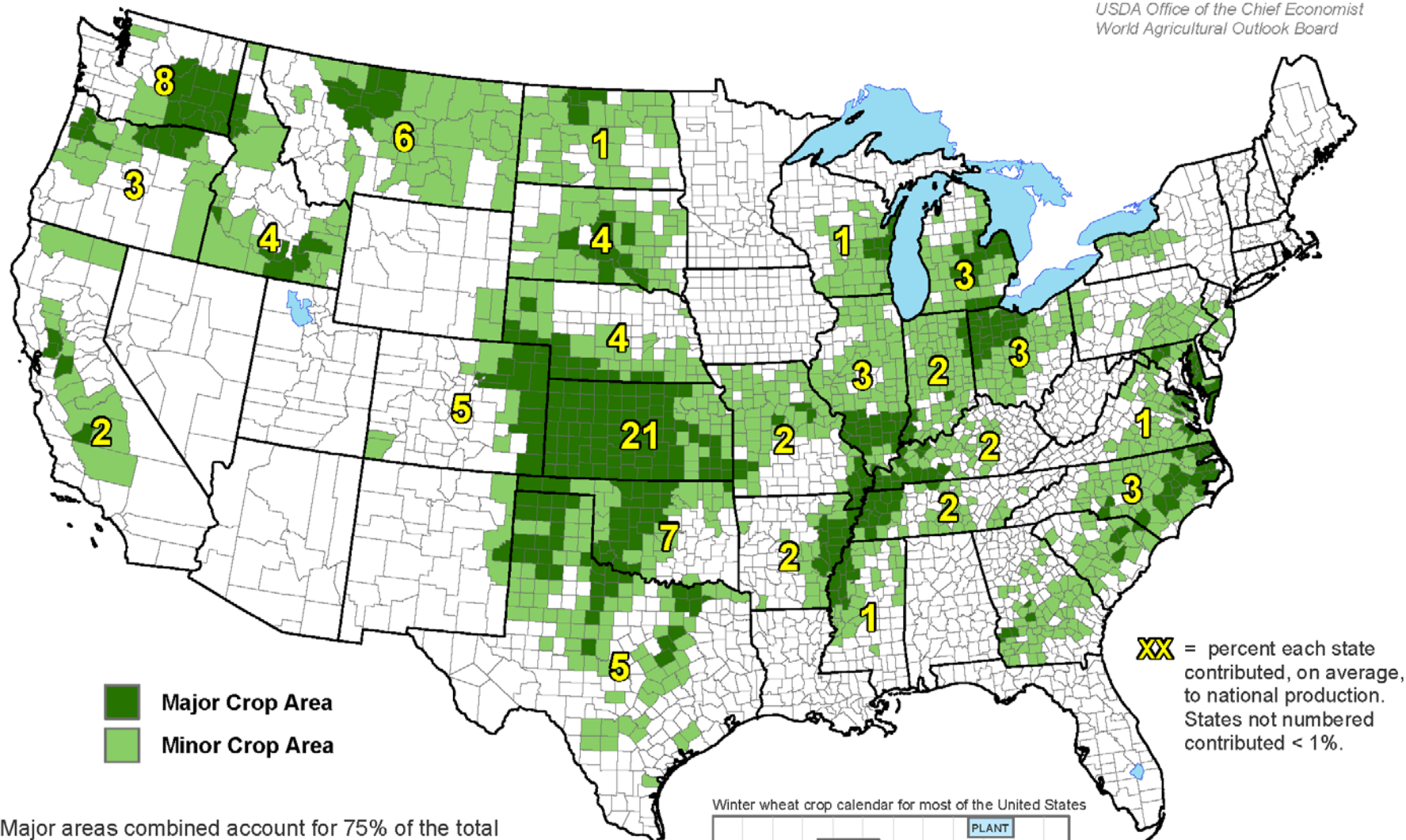
<b>Harvested</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Change from 5-year Average</b>	<b>-5</b>

TOP ## - Percent Harvested

[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average

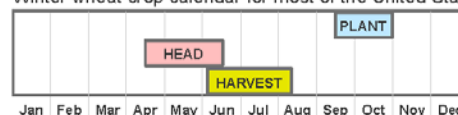
# United States: Winter Wheat

*This product was prepared by the  
USDA Office of the Chief Economist  
World Agricultural Outlook Board*



- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS survey data from 2010 to 2014.

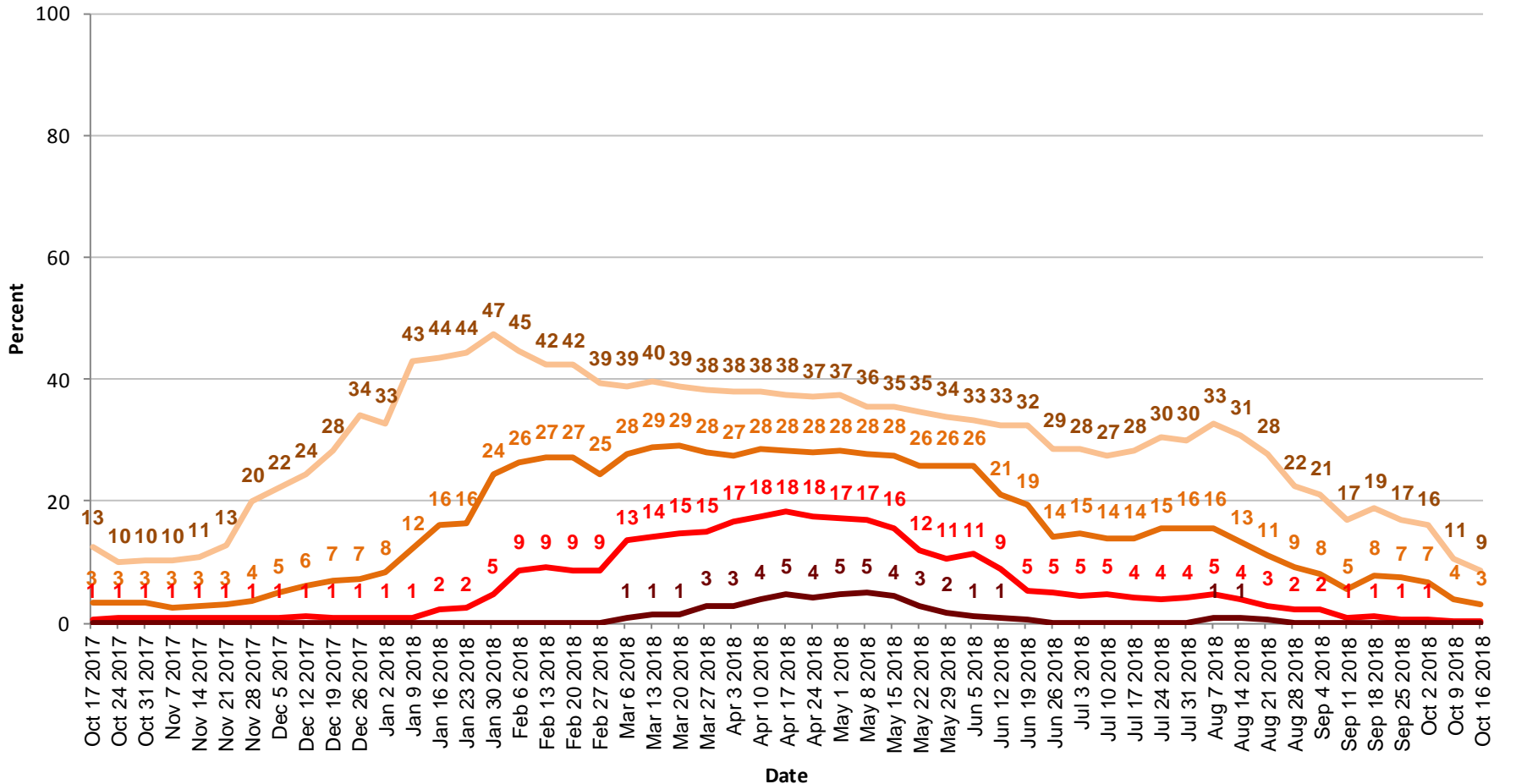
Winter wheat crop calendar for most of the United States



The crop calendar was developed using NASS crop progress data from 2010-2014. This calendar illustrates, on average, the dates when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.



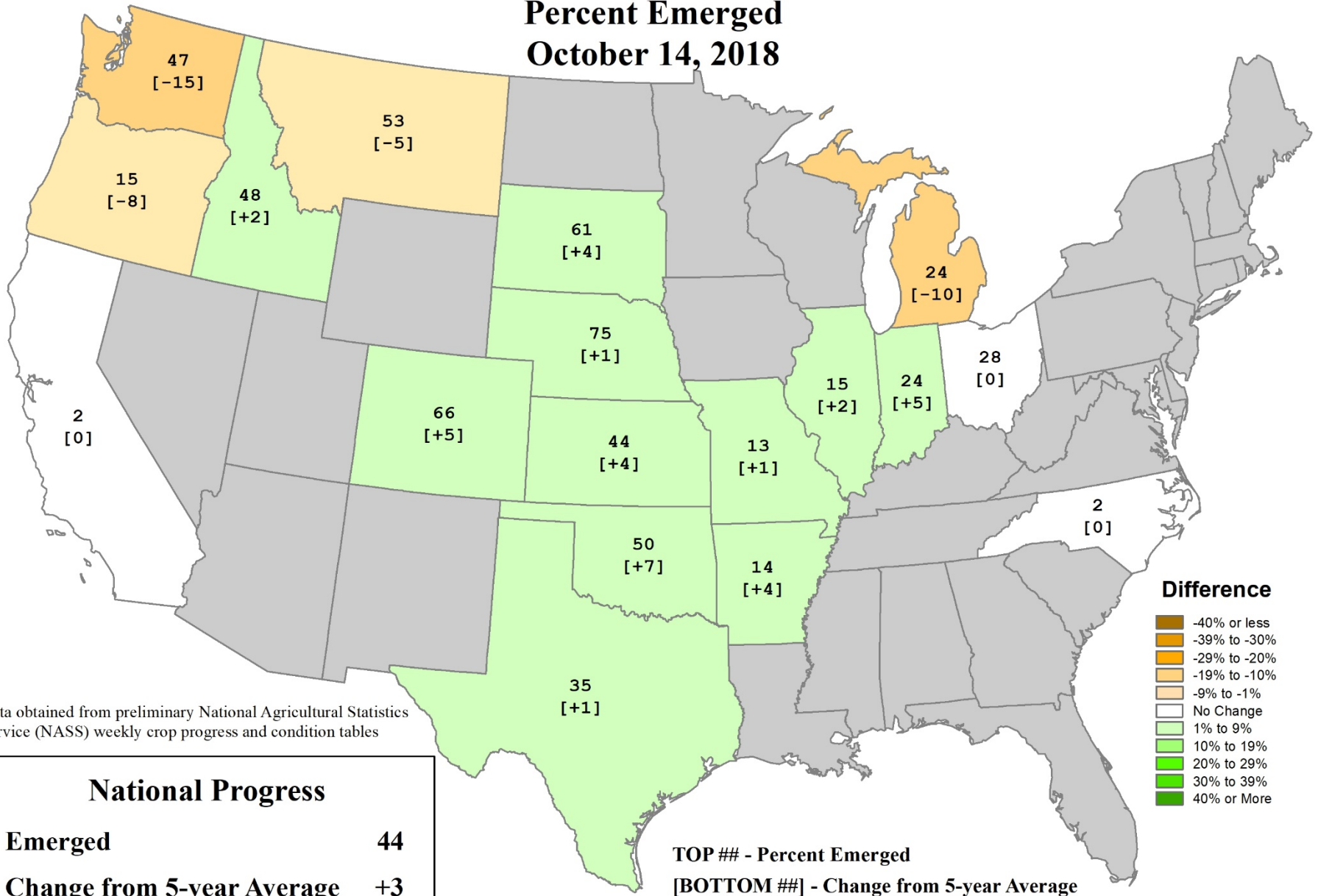
# United States Winter Wheat Areas Located in Drought





# U.S. Winter Wheat Progress

Percent Emerged  
October 14, 2018



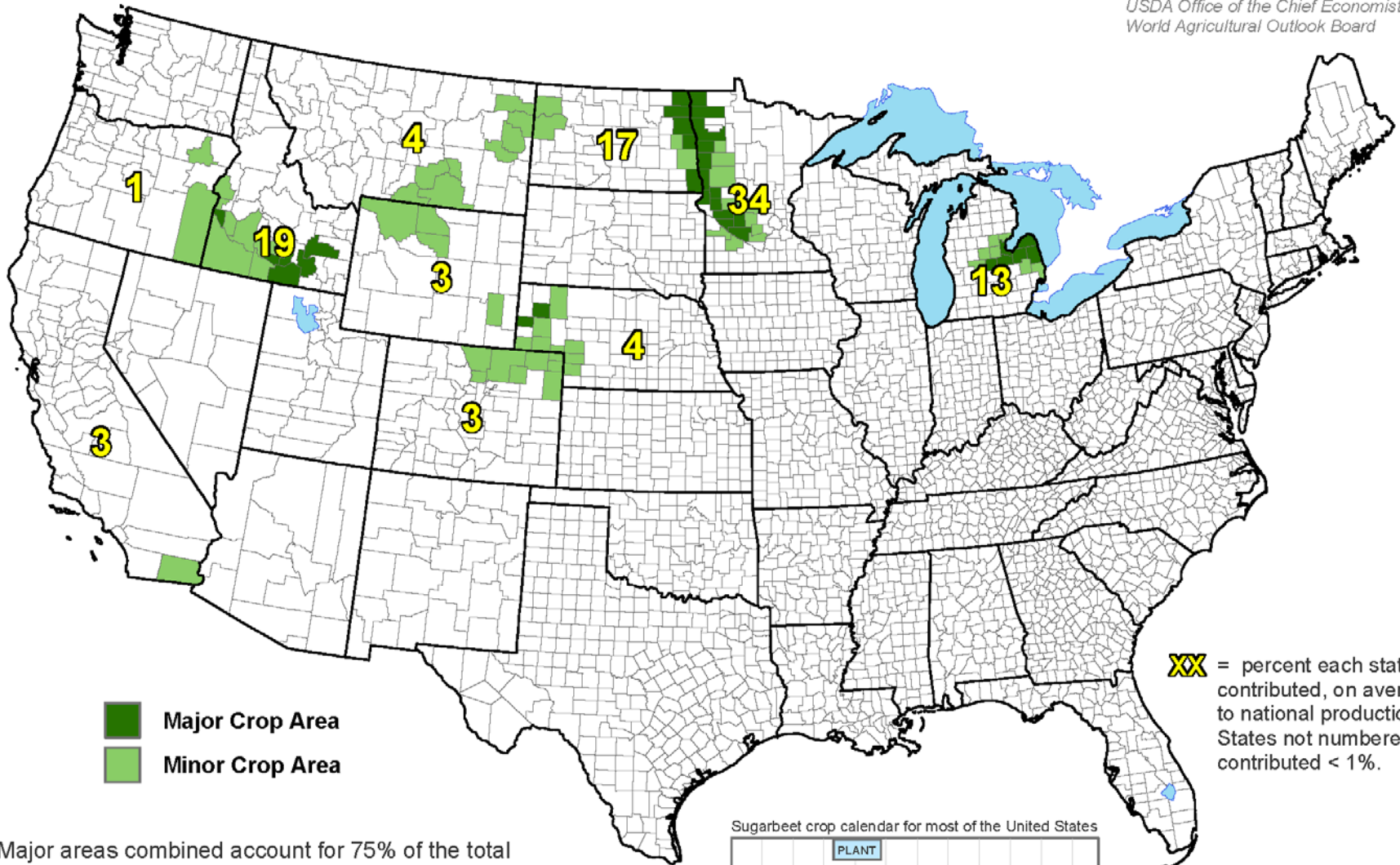
Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables



National Progress	
<b>Emerged</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Change from 5-year Average</b>	<b>+3</b>

TOP ## - Percent Emerged  
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average

# United States: Sugarbeets

*This product was prepared by the  
USDA Office of the Chief Economist  
World Agricultural Outlook Board*

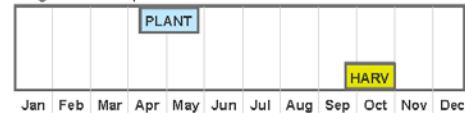


 Major Crop Area  
 Minor Crop Area

**XX** = percent each state contributed, on average, to national production. States not numbered contributed < 1%.

- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS survey data from 2010 to 2014.

Sugarbeet crop calendar for most of the United States

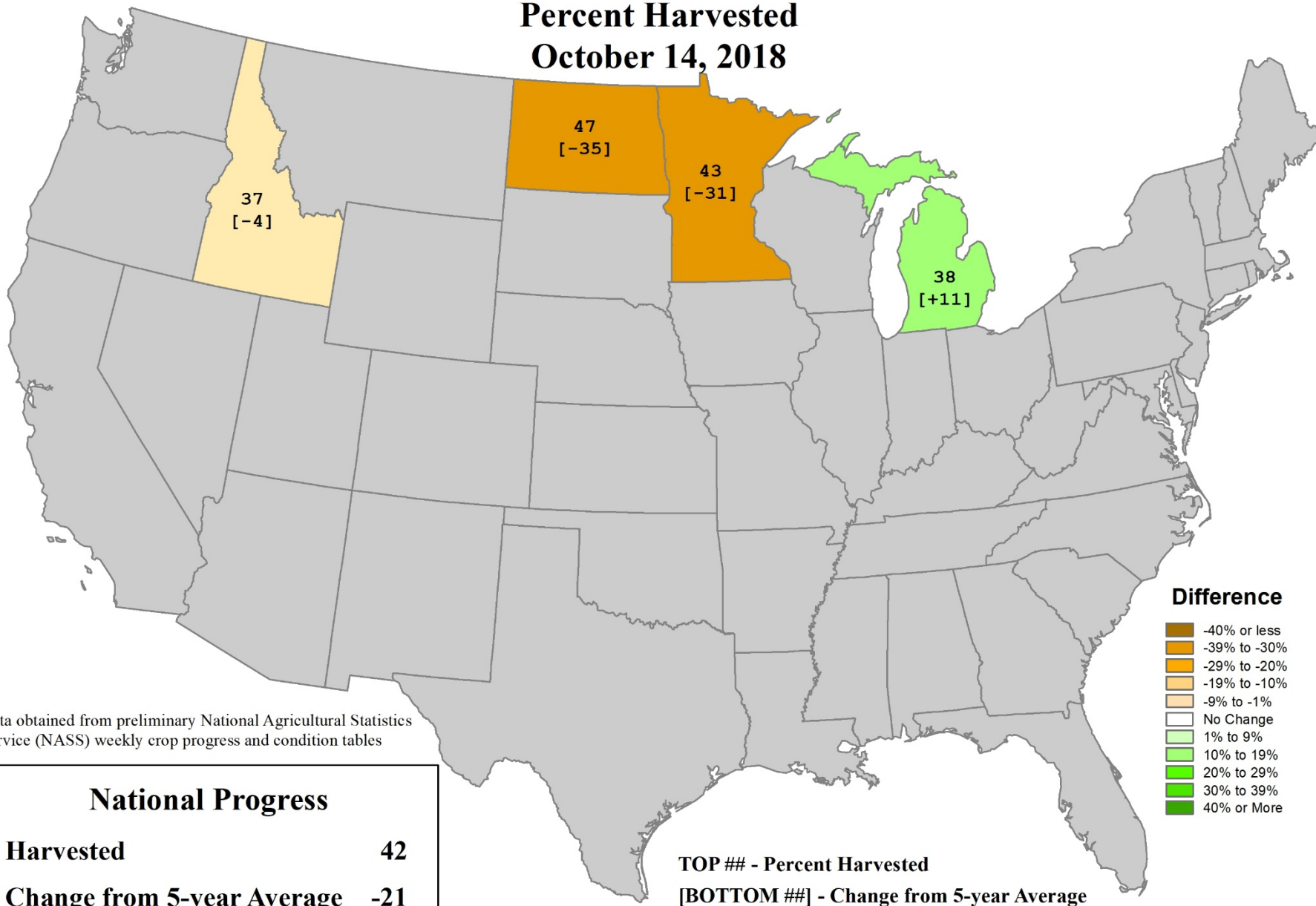


The crop calendar was developed using NASS crop progress data from 2010-2014. This calendar illustrates, on average, the dates when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.



# U.S. Sugarbeets Progress

Percent Harvested  
October 14, 2018



Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

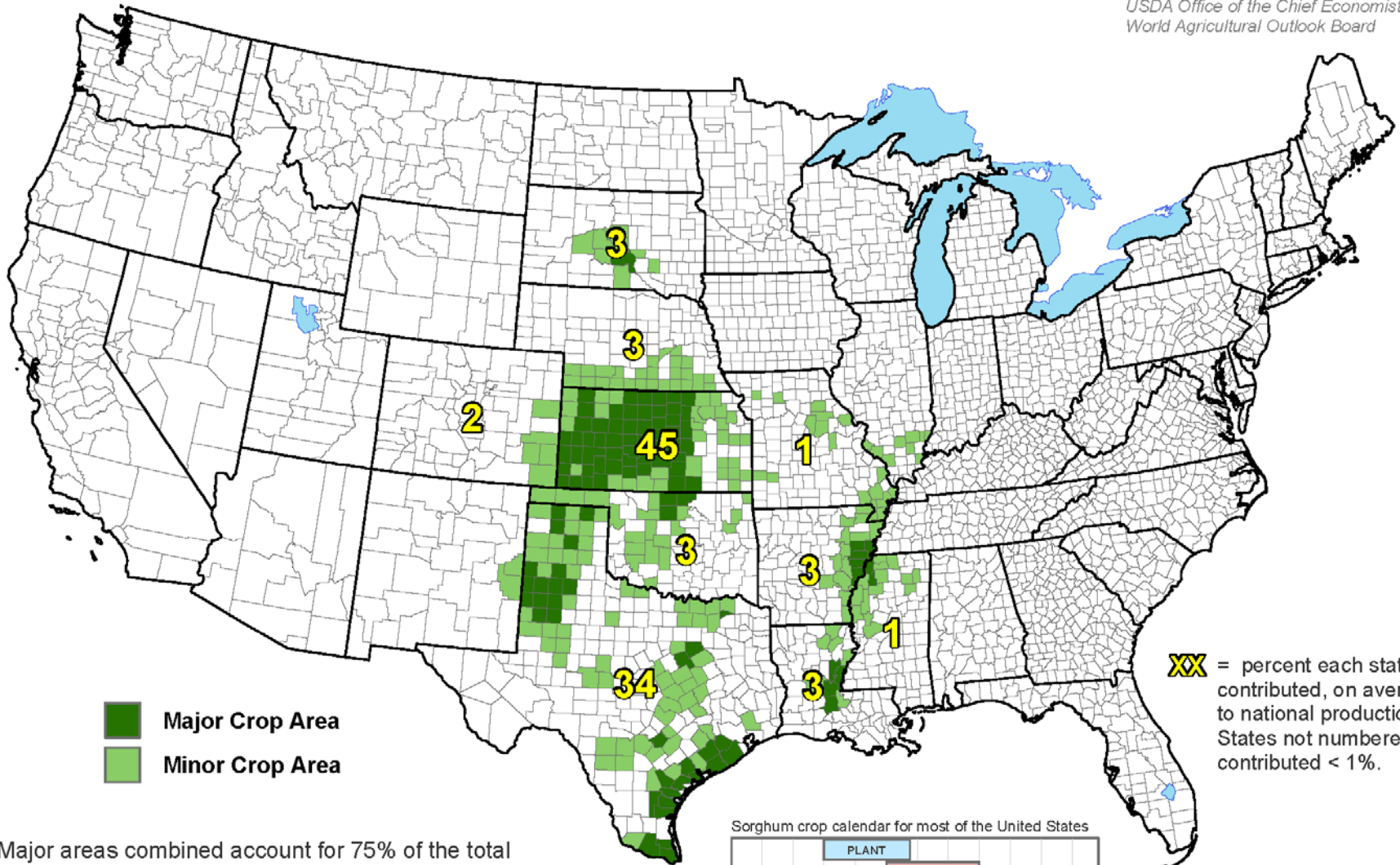
## National Progress

Harvested 42

Change from 5-year Average -21

# United States: Sorghum

*This product was prepared by the  
USDA Office of the Chief Economist  
World Agricultural Outlook Board*

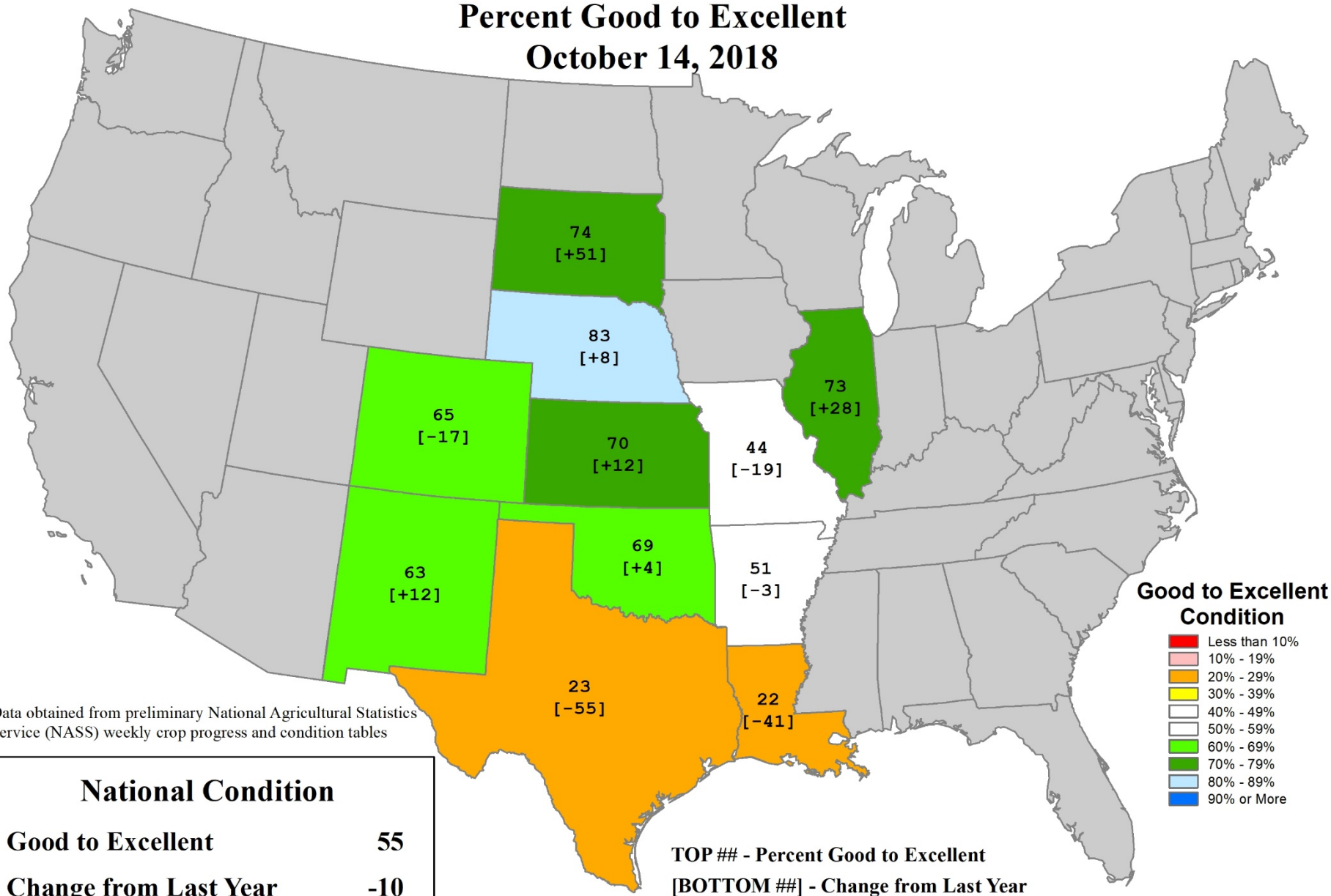


- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS survey data from 2010 to 2014.

The crop calendar was developed using NASS crop progress data from 2010-2014. This calendar illustrates, on average, the dates when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.

# U.S. Sorghum Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent  
October 14, 2018



## Good to Excellent Condition

- Less than 10%
- 10% - 19%
- 20% - 29%
- 30% - 39%
- 40% - 49%
- 50% - 59%
- 60% - 69%
- 70% - 79%
- 80% - 89%
- 90% or More

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

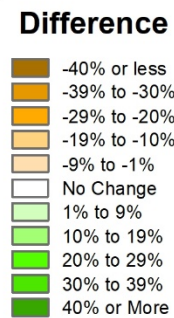
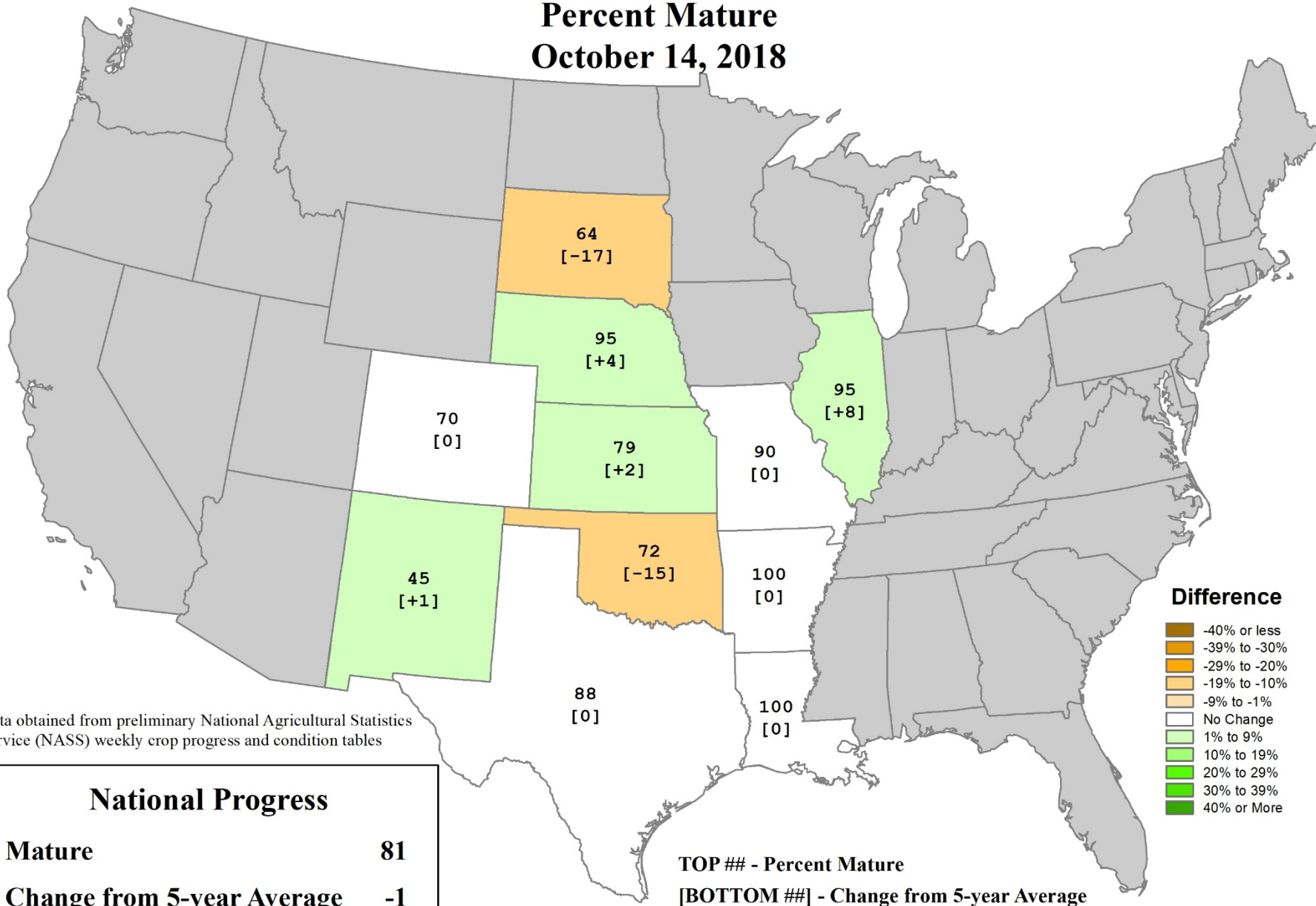
## National Condition

<b>Good to Excellent</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Change from Last Year</b>	<b>-10</b>

TOP ## - Percent Good to Excellent  
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from Last Year

# U.S. Sorghum Progress

Percent Mature  
October 14, 2018



Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

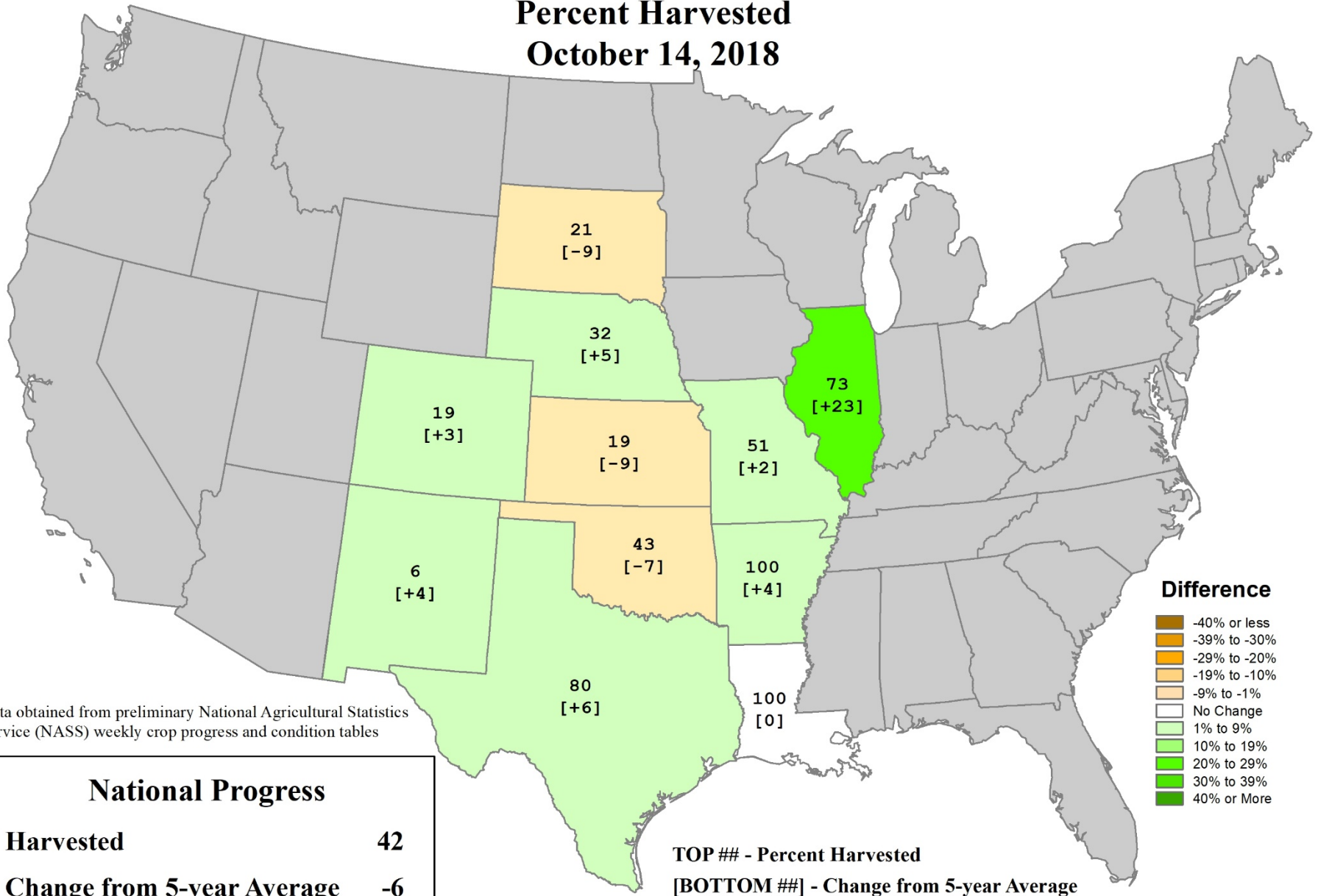
National Progress	
<b>Mature</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Change from 5-year Average</b>	<b>-1</b>

TOP ## - Percent Mature  
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average



# U.S. Sorghum Progress

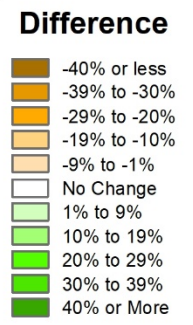
Percent Harvested  
October 14, 2018



Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

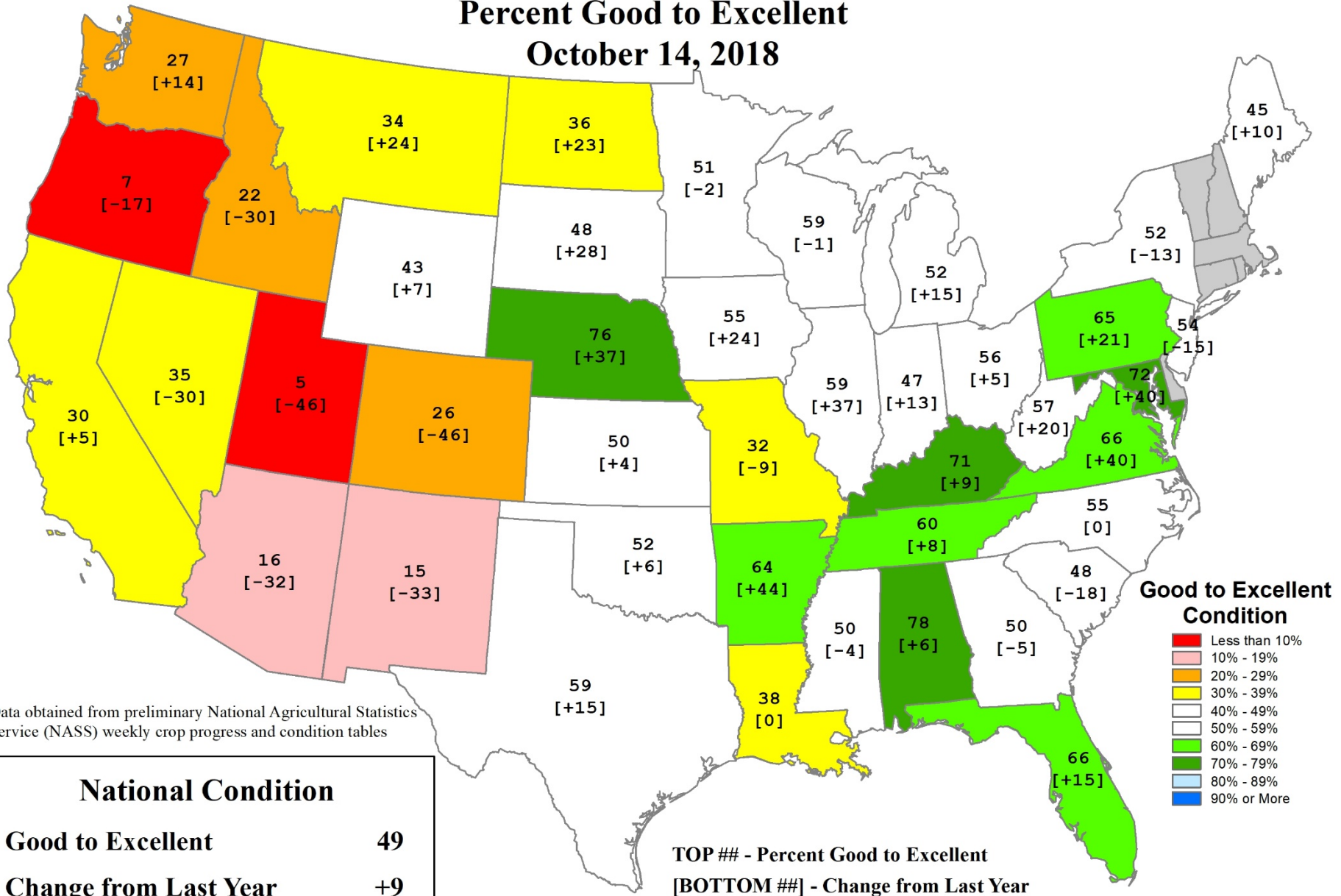
National Progress	
Harvested	42
Change from 5-year Average	-6

TOP ## - Percent Harvested  
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average



# U.S. Pasture and Range Conditions

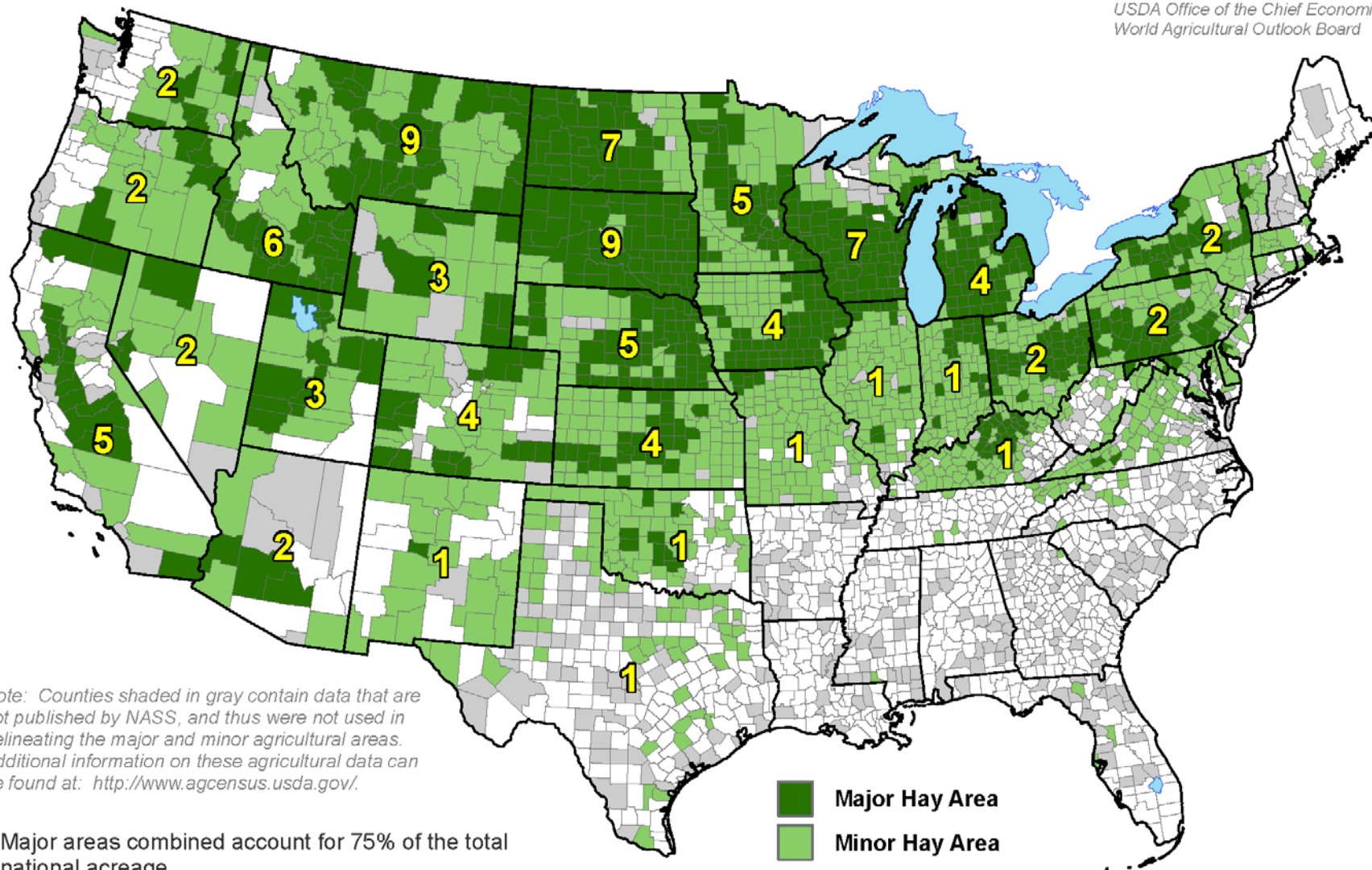
Percent Good to Excellent  
October 14, 2018



Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

# United States: Alfalfa Hay

*This product was prepared by the  
USDA Office of the Chief Economist  
World Agricultural Outlook Board*



*Note: Counties shaded in gray contain data that are not published by NASS, and thus were not used in delineating the major and minor agricultural areas. Additional information on these agricultural data can be found at: <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.*

- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national acreage.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national acreage.
- Major and minor areas and state acreage percentages are derived from NASS 2012 Census of Agriculture data.


Yellow numbers indicate the percent each state contributed to the total national acreage. States not numbered contributed less than 1% to the national total.



## October 2018 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	October 2018	% Change From Previous Forecast	% Change From Previous Season
Alfalfa Hay				
Harvested	Mil Ac	17.4	NC	+4.8
Yield	Tons/Ac	3.43	+3.0	+3.3
Production	Mil Tons	59.5	+3.0	+8.1





**Sunset from  
Mackinac Island, MI  
June 21, 2018  
(photo by B. Rippey)**

Contact information:

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Office of the Chief Economist  
World Agricultural Outlook Board  
Washington, D.C.

Phone: 202-720-2397

E-Mail: [brippy@oce.usda.gov](mailto:brippy@oce.usda.gov)