



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top and ground temperatures for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - February 5, 2010

- In the *West*, Pacific moisture continues to spread inland across *northern and central California* and the *Northwest*. The precipitation is boosting high-elevation snow packs and aiding pastures and winter grains.
- On the *Plains*, dry weather has returned to *southern portions of the region*, following recent rain and snow. Farther north, snow is reversing a short-term drying on the *central Plains* and establishing or improving winter wheat's protective snow cover across the *northern and central Plains*.
- In the *Corn Belt*, snow is falling. The latest round of wintry weather is adding to an already impressive snow cover in the *western Corn Belt*, where depths greater than a foot remain common.
- In the *South*, freezing rain is glazing the *southern Appalachians and the neighboring piedmont region*, while locally heavy showers and thunderstorms are maintaining excessively wet conditions in parts of the *Southeast*. Farther north, heavy snow is developing across the *southern Mid-Atlantic region*.

Outlook: A major winter storm will continue to affect most areas from the *Plains to the East Coast*. For the remainder of today, generally light snow will fall across the *northern Plains* and much of the *Midwest*. Farther east, heavy snow will develop across the *Mid-Atlantic States*, while freezing rain will glaze the *southern Appalachians* and adjacent foothills. Meanwhile, locally heavy rain will soak the *Southeast*. During the weekend, cold, dry weather will overspread the *eastern one-third of the U.S.*, although snow will linger through Saturday in the *Mid-Atlantic States*. In fact, cold air will encompass most of the U.S., although freezes are not expected in *winter agricultural areas of the Deep South*. By early next week, a new storm will take shape over the *nation's mid-section*, resulting in a new round of snow across parts of the *Plains* on February 7-8, the *Midwest* on February 8-9, and the *Northeast* on February 9-10. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for February 10-14 calls for below-normal temperatures from the *eastern Rockies to the East Coast*, with warmer-than-normal weather confined to areas near the *northern Pacific Coast*. Meanwhile, above-normal precipitation from *California to the lower Mississippi Valley and Gulf Coast States* will contrast with drier-than-normal conditions across much of the *northern half of the U.S.*

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>