



Satellite image with enhanced low ground and cloud-top temperatures for 6:10 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - January 17, 2025

- In the **West**, diminishing winds across **southern California** have greatly reduced the threat of new or rapidly expanding wildfires, although critically dry conditions persist. Since July 1, 2024, rainfall in downtown **Los Angeles** has totaled 0.16 inch (3% of normal), while **San Diego** has also received 0.16 inch (4% of normal). In fact, dry weather prevails throughout the **West**, although colder air is starting to overspread the **region's northern tier**.
- On the **Plains**, a low-pressure system crossing **southern Canada** is generating windy weather and snow showers across **Montana**. High winds are also developing across parts of the **Dakotas**. Meanwhile, mild, dry weather on the **central and southern Plains** is eroding or eliminating winter wheat's protective snow cover.
- In the **Corn Belt**, mild, breezy weather prevails, well in advance of an approaching Arctic cold front. **Midwestern** livestock producers are making final preparations for an impending cold wave, which could broadly result in the region's lowest temperatures since mid-January 2024.
- In the **South**, mild, dry conditions have temporarily returned. Open weather is allowing producers to prepare for next week, which will feature markedly lower temperatures and the possibility of wintry precipitation.

Outlook: The most significant cold outbreak of the season will engulf areas **east of the Rockies** from late in the weekend through much of next week. As frigid air drives southward during the weekend, snow showers will affect the **eastern slopes of the Rockies** and adjacent **High Plains**. By Monday morning, January 20, widespread temperatures below -20°F will occur in the **north-central U.S.** **Midwestern** cold will generally peak on January 21-22, with sub-0°F temperatures extending as far south as the **central Plains** and the **Ohio Valley**. Readings below 32°F could reach into **Deep South Texas**, with the greatest threat of a freeze expected on Wednesday, January 22. In advance of the Arctic outbreak, precipitation will fall in many areas from the **Mississippi Valley eastward**, starting tonight with rain in the **mid-South**. By Sunday into early Monday, snow may blanket portions of the **middle and northern Atlantic States**. Early next week, areas from **southern and eastern Texas to the southern Atlantic Coast** will need to monitor for the potential of snow, sleet, and freezing rain, as subtropical moisture interacts with increasingly cold air across the **Deep South**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for January 22 – 26 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures nationwide, except for warmer-than-normal weather across portions of the **northern Plains** and from **northern and central California into the Great Basin**. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across much of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions across the **northern Plains** and **far upper Midwest**, as well as an area stretching from **southern and eastern Texas to the southern Atlantic Coast**.

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Web Site: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TODAYSWX.pdf>

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The outlook is an interpretation of National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts and products.

Next scheduled noon release of the "Agricultural Weather Highlights" will be Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025. On other weekdays, this product will be posted by 9 am ET.