



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

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - March 8, 2024**

- In the *West*, any lingering snow showers are confined to the *central and southern Rockies*. Cool, dry weather covers the remainder of the *western U.S.*, with some frost noted this morning in *near-coastal areas of Oregon and northern California*. Elsewhere, mountain snowpack remains substantially below average for this time of year across the *northern tier of the region*, including much of *Montana and Washington*, as well as *northern sections of Idaho and Wyoming*.
- On the *Plains*, overnight thunderstorms in *Oklahoma and Texas* have shifted eastward, trailed by cool, breezy weather. Meanwhile, snow is gradually ending across the *central Plains*, with the greatest accumulations—locally 6 inches or more—having been observed across *northeastern Colorado and southwestern Nebraska*. The snow, along with a corresponding bump in topsoil moisture, is benefiting rangeland, pastures, and winter wheat.
- In the *Corn Belt*, cooler air and snow showers are arriving across the *upper Midwest* in the wake of a cold front's passage. Meanwhile, warmth lingers in the *Ohio Valley*, where today's high temperatures should range from 60 to 70°F. East of the boundary between cool and warm air, rain is spreading northeastward. The *Midwestern* rain is helping to improve topsoil moisture, following an extended spell of warm, mostly dry weather in February and early March.
- In the *South*, showers and thunderstorms stretch from *eastern Texas into the Tennessee Valley*. The rain is slowing spring fieldwork but generally benefiting pastures and winter grains. However, with rain expected to become heavier today, areas from the *Mississippi Delta to the southern Appalachians* are bracing for possible flooding.

**Outlook:** Showers and thunderstorms will become heavier and more widespread later today into Saturday, especially from the *lower Mississippi Valley into parts of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina*. Some *Southern* thunderstorms may have the potential to produce high winds, large hail, and isolated tornadoes. Meanwhile, significant rain (as much as 1 to 2 inches) will fall from the *eastern Corn Belt into the Northeast*. During the weekend, precipitation should end as snow from areas downwind of the *Great Lakes to interior sections of the Northeast*. Meanwhile, tranquil weather will accompany a warming trend across the *nation's mid-section*, while unsettled weather will gradually return across the *West*. In the latter region, precipitation will first arrive on Saturday across the *Pacific Northwest*, with rain and snow showers overspreading many other parts of the *western U.S.* early next week. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 13 – 17 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in parts of *Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas*. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation in *California, the Great Basin, and the Northwest* should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather across the remainder of the country, generally east of a line from *Arizona to the northern High Plains*.

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