Nebraska Climate Update
Climate Assessment Response Committee

Allen Dutcher
Agricultural Extension Climatologist
Nebraska State Climate Office
Fall Temperature Trend

Departure from Normal Temperature (°F)
9/1/2017 – 11/30/2017
Fall Precipitation Trend

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
9/1/2017 - 11/30/2017
Fall Highlights

• Warm October allowed crops to catch up after cold August. Significant yield boost to corn

• Very wet conditions Mid-September through early October. Good start to soil moisture recharge

• Dry and warm conditions mid-October through November

• Large wind outbreak third full week of October. Significant ear drop issues.

• Increased tillage activity. Weed pressure, down corn, headland compaction
Winter Temperature Trend

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2017 – 2/28/2018
Winter Precipitation Trend

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
12/1/2017 – 2/28/2018
Winter Highlights

• Well above normal temperatures first 3 weeks of December

• Bitter cold temperatures dominate through the end of February

• Strong snow event southwest though northeast Nebraska mid-January

• Numerous Arctic intrusion events and light snow events with little moisture

• Deep frost penetration

• Delayed green up of pastures, hay stockpiles short due to supplemental feeding
Spring Temperature Trend

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/1/2018 - 5/31/2018
Spring Precipitation Trend

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
3/1/2018 – 5/31/2018
April Temperature Trend

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/1/2018 – 4/30/2018

Generated 5/20/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.
May Temperature Trend

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/1/2018 – 5/31/2018

Generated 5/2/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers
Spring Highlights

• Cool start to March, followed by above normal temperatures late March

• Cold April, unofficially 2nd coldest on record.

• Dry conditions southeast 1/3 of the state, including south central Nebraska.

• Significant Blizzard activity mid-April

• Planting delays due to wet, cold conditions north. Delays south primarily the result of cold temperatures

• Very warm May, likely top 5 warmest on record. Dry conditions southeast, south central, southern half of east central Nebraska

• Pasture growth disappointing south central and southeast. Short and headed out early.

• Full ET expected by mid-June
Global Sea Surface Temperature Deviations

NOAA/NESDIS 50 KM GLOBAL ANALYSIS: SST Anomaly (degrees C), 5/31/2018

(white regions indicate sea ice)
June Temperature Outlook
June Precipitation Outlook

[Map of June Precipitation Outlook showing areas with different precipitation probabilities and labels for above, normal, and below normal conditions.]
Summer Temperature Outlook
Growing Season Crop Concerns

• Soil Moisture

• Temperatures and precipitation events

• Rocky Mountain Snow pack

• Forage crops

• Monsoon season

• Enhanced risk for El Nino conditions to develop second half of 2018