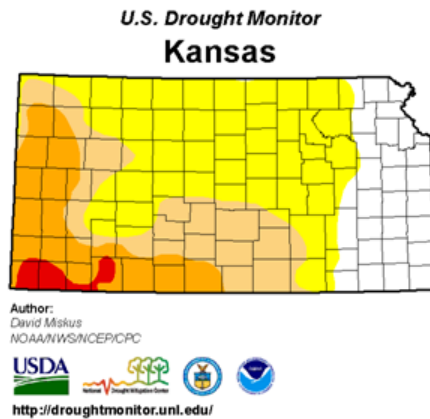


Drought Update December 19, 2014

Drought conditions persist across the state, particularly in the west. There was a slight improvement in Northwestern Kansas due to the storm at the end of the last weekly period. While the state saw much above normal rainfall for the period, this is not a particularly wet time of the year. The year-to-date deficit in the Southwestern region is still at over 6 inches. In addition, temperatures in the western third of the state averaged above normal by more than 4 degrees Fahrenheit. El Niño-like conditions are beginning to develop in the Pacific. It is still expected to switch to an El Niño event before winter, but it also remains to be seen what impact will be felt. Other global circulation patterns, including the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), can have significant impacts on the winter season. The January temperature outlook is for cooler than normal temperatures for the entire state. The precipitation outlook calls a chance of wetter than average conditions from South Central KS through East Central KS. For the remainder of the state the outlook is for equal chances, with precipitation equally likely to be above normal, normal or below normal. This does not indicate how that moisture might be distributed, and means snow events or extended dry periods are both possible.



December 16, 2014
(Released Thursday, Dec. 18, 2014)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	19.49	80.51	37.49	18.30	2.25	0.00
Last Week 12/09/14	18.56	81.44	38.58	19.34	2.25	0.00
3 Months Ago 09/05/14	20.20	79.80	46.13	15.40	2.01	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/01/13	4.71	95.29	46.92	33.89	5.98	0.00
Start of Water Year 09/01/14	18.51	81.49	46.13	19.50	2.37	0.00
One Year Ago 12/16/13	0.49	99.51	50.86	33.54	3.16	0.00

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry ■ D3 Extreme Drought
■ D1 Moderate Drought ■ D4 Exceptional Drought
■ D2 Severe Drought

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

