



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

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - January 16, 2009

- In the *West*, mild, dry weather continues. However, such a sustained period of dry weather in the heart of the *Western* wet season is becoming a concern with respect to summer water supplies.
- On the *Plains*, light snow is falling in *east-central areas*. Elsewhere, mild, breezy weather on *Montana's high plains* contrasts with chilly weather on the *southern Plains*, where unfavorably dry conditions persist.
- In the *Corn Belt*, extremely cold weather prevails. In the *southern Corn Belt*, the soft red winter wheat is threatened by temperatures below 0 degrees F and the lack of a protective snow cover. Meanwhile, this morning's low temperatures fell below -30 degrees F in parts of the *upper Mississippi Valley*.
- In the *South*, cold weather covers the *interior Southeast*, but winter agricultural areas of *southern Texas* and *peninsular Florida* remain well above 32 degrees F.

Outlook: Bitterly cold air will remain in place for the next two days across the *Midwest* and *Northeast*. *Florida's citrus region* is expected to escape a freeze. Meanwhile, a warm front crossing the *Plains* will bring significant warming to that region. Late in the week, the latest in a series of “*Alberta* clippers” will cross the *Midwest* and *Northeast*, producing additional snow showers. The “clipper” may intensify near the *Mid-Atlantic* coast, where weekend rain and snow could develop. Elsewhere, mild, dry weather will continue in the *West*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for January 21-25 calls for near- to below-normal temperatures nationwide, except for warmer-than-normal weather from *Arizona to the southern Plains*. Meanwhile, near- to below-normal precipitation across the majority of the U.S. will contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in the *Intermountain West*. **Note:** This product will not be updated on January 19 or 20 due to federal office closures. An update on the ongoing cold outbreak will be provided on Wednesday, January 21.

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