

Area Crop Report 9/23 – 9/27

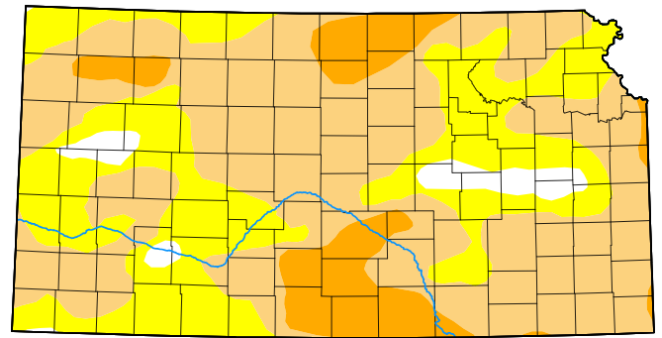
Soybean Seed Fill and Dry Down

The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service reported, for the week ending September 22nd, 44% of Kansas’ soybeans were in good condition with 7% deemed excellent. Pod set was fully completed and 55% of leaves had dropped, behind last year’s 64% at this time. As a state, soybean harvest was reported at 5%.

As we near full maturity (R8) in most areas, we look at moisture content as our determining factor. Seed water content at 75-80% is found at R6, around 50% at R7, and less than 30% at R8, also known as “black layer.” Moisture contents vary based on maturity groups, planting dates, and weather conditions during the later reproductive stages. With little rainfall amounts leading to droughty conditions through most of August and September, local soybeans are experiencing a quicker dry down period and therefore lost yield potential. A desired moisture level content of 13% is desirable to maximize final seed volume to be sold, so scouting fields and checking on your current moisture level is critical during this time period.

Current Conditions and Future Weather Outlook

Even with local rains over the previous weekend continuing into early days of this week, Crawford and surrounding counties are still considered to be in a D1 (moderate) drought with far Southeast Crawford and Northeast Cherokee County along the state line in D2 (severe). Moderate drought is considered to have some damage to crops, pastures, high fire risk; some water shortage developing or imminent, voluntary water use restrictions requested. On average, statewide, the average temperature for the month of September was 69 degrees Fahrenheit (one degree above average) with precipitation being at one inch (2.5 inches below average).



Statewide map from the U.S. Drought Monitor

The first day of astronomical fall for 2024 was Sunday, September 22nd. Looking further ahead into the fall and winter months, October is predicting to be a slightly wetter and warmer month, with precipitation forecasting to accumulate 3 inches according to Farmer’s Almanac. The National Weather Service is predicting October precipitation to be “Leaning Below” (40-50%) on average with temperatures “Leaning Above” (33-40%). Winter is forecasted to also be warmer than normal, with precipitation and snowfall looking to be below normal. The coldest periods, coinciding with highest amounts of snowfall, are to be in late January and early and late February. The first fall frost date is predicted to be on October 26th.

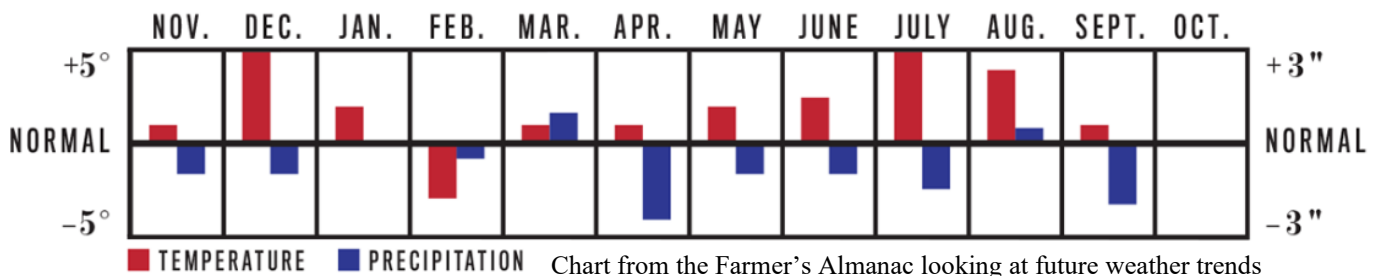


Chart from the Farmer’s Almanac looking at future weather trends and temperatures for the end of 2024 and 2025

“No race can prosper till it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.”

Booker T. Washington