

# Farm Focus

*Thursday April 2, 2026*

*Call Dan Cowger at 320-583-1250*

*Or E-mail*

*[dancowger@heartlandfarmpartners.com](mailto:dancowger@heartlandfarmpartners.com)*





## Today's Prices

Grains:	Price
Corn - May 2026	4.52
Corn - December 2026	4.81
Soybeans - May 2026	11.64
Soybeans - November 2026	11.54
KC Wheat - May 2026	6.16
Mpls Wheat - May 2026	6.49

Outside Markets:	Price
Crude Oil - May 2026	112.04
Natural Gas - May 2026	2.79
Gold - May 2026	4,666
U.S. Dollar Index	99.85
Dow Jones Industrials	46,403
Live Cattle - April 2026	246.20
Feeder Cattle - April 2026	372.90
Lean Hogs - April 2026	90.35



## Weekly Price Summary:

- **May Corn futures for the week: -10 cents at \$4.52**
  - The weekly range was 17 cents from \$4.48 to \$4.65
- **May Soybean futures for the week: +4 cents at 11.**
  - The weekly range was 24 cents from \$11.53 to \$11.77
- **May KC Wheat futures for the week: -23 cents at \$**
  - The weekly range was 40 cents from \$6.08 to \$6.48
  - Mpls. May wheat was -3 cents for the week at \$6.45

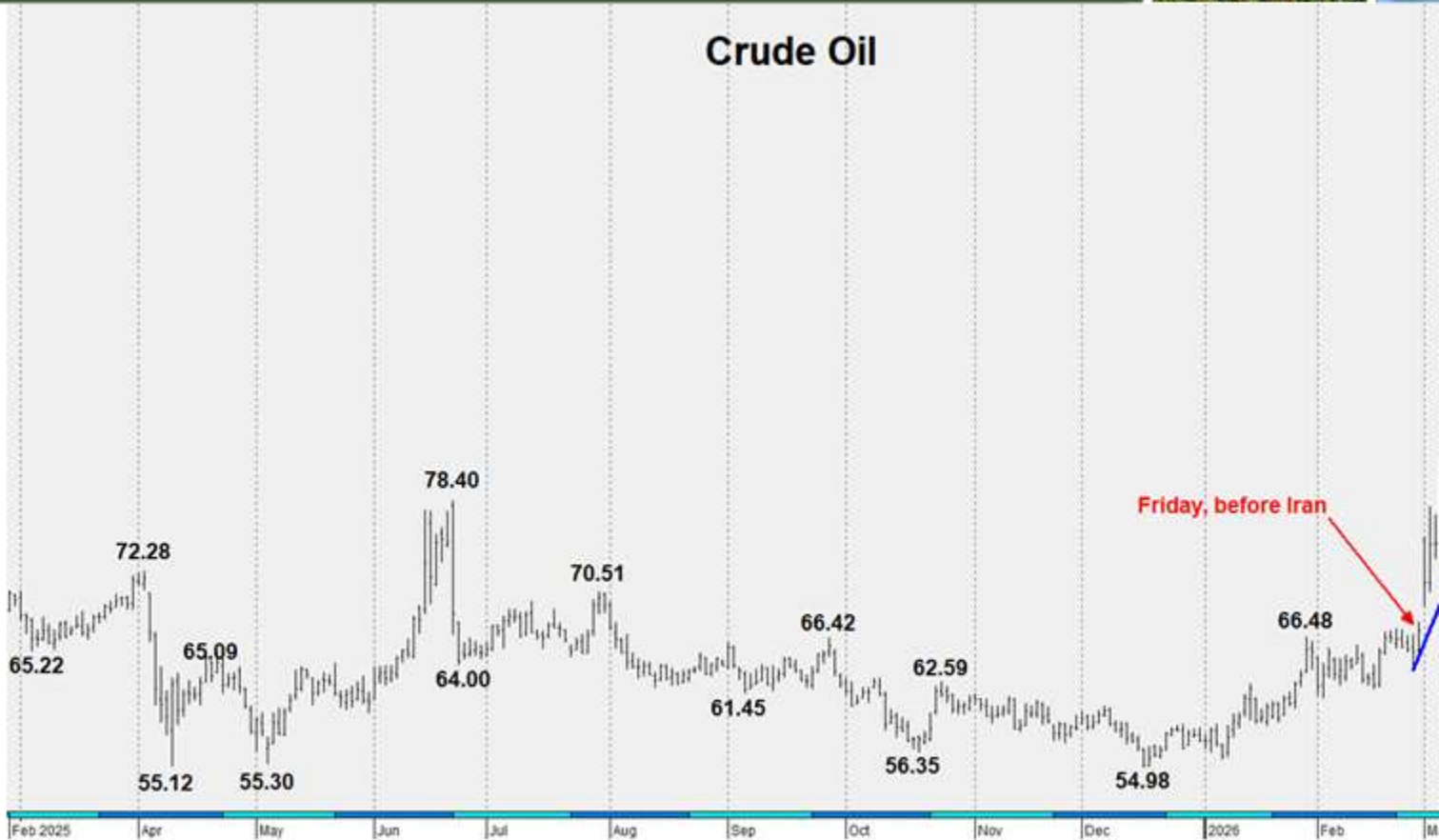


## Grain Market News

- Grain prices closed mixed as grains did not follow energies t
  - Crude oil was the story of the day...trading \$13.50 higher early
    - Comments from President Trump in his speech last night prompted
      - » Trump said that if Iran does not agree to a deal, that the U.S. would hit hard over the next 2-3 weeks.
      - » He also said that Iran's electrical & crude oil infrastructure could be targeted.
      - » The comments caused concern that the war could escalate or last longer.
    - The Iran war and its impact on energy prices is still a key factor for grain prices.
      - » This story will be very important next week and Possibly through much of the year.
      - » Traders will be looking for answers to the following questions:
        - » Will the U.S. attack Iran's energy infrastructure?
        - » Will Iran continue to attack its neighbors in the Middle East...expanding the war?
        - » When will the war end?
        - » When will the strait of Hormuz re-open?



## Crude Oil



Because the Iran War and its impact on crude oil prices and very volatile crude oil markets means that crude oil is a primary driver or factor for our grain markets right now. Since the war began, prices exploded to the upside, hitting a high of 119.48 nearly four weeks ago, then we fell dramatically down to 76.73 then rallied sharply, then fell dramatically again, and now we're in the process of rallying, in fact, getting close to those highs set at 119.48. This extreme volatility and sharply higher crude oil markets are still a very, very important factor for our grain markets.

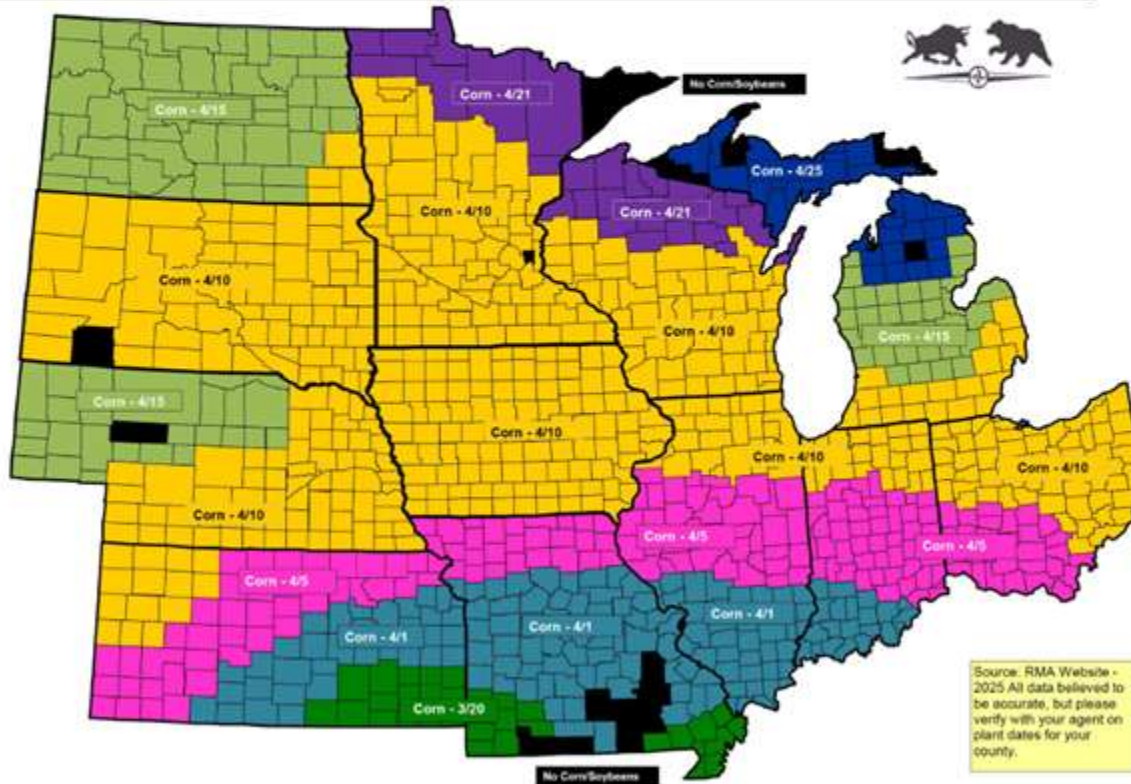


## Grain Market News

- Grain markets will be closed tomorrow to observe Good Friday.
  - The markets will re-open at 7:00 pm on Sunday evening.
  - Traders will be monitoring the situation in Iran very closely.
- The U.S. spring planting season is officially underway.
  - The early planting date for corn is March 20<sup>th</sup> in much of the De
  - Those early planting dates are April 1<sup>st</sup> in southern KS, MO, IL a
    - This mean that if conditions and forecasts allow...farmers will begi
  - By next Friday April 10th, the early planting dates for corn mov the way to SD, MN, WI and MI.
    - Within a week, virtually the entire corn belt (from an insurance per clear for planting corn and still have full insurance coverage.



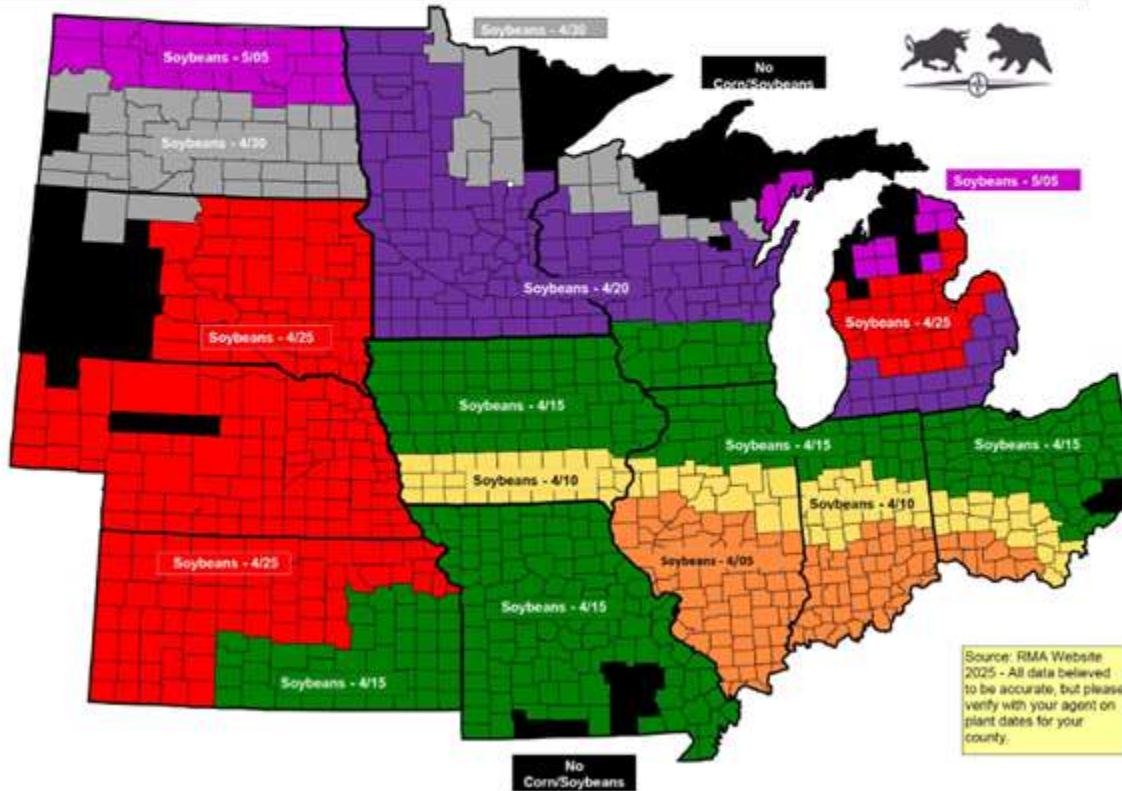
## 2025 Crop Insurance Corn Early Planting Dates



This map shows where the early insurance dates are, and what that means is that if the early insurance date has passed, you can plant crops and still have full insurance coverage, as we mentioned, down in the Delta and southern portions of Kansas and Missouri. The early planting date was March 20, yesterday, April 1. Those early planting dates had moved northward into Central Kansas, Central Missouri, Southern Illinois and southern Indiana. By Monday, April 5, those early planting dates move northward into northern Kansas, northern Missouri, Central Illinois and central Indiana, including southern Ohio as well. And by next Friday, April 10, that early insurance planting date has moved northward and covers virtually the rest of the US corn and bean belt all the way into Southeast North Dakota. By next Friday, just a few areas North Dakota, Central Michigan and Northwest Nebraska, otherwise the entire corn belt, will be open for planting, from insurance perspective. At that point, then it's just weather and forecast permitting. This means that the weather forecast will be gaining in importance to see if the US corn and soybean planting season progresses normally, if it's early, if it's late, etc. And as I mentioned a moment ago, the beginning of the US. Corn planting season is now upon us.



## 2025 Crop Insurance Soybean Early Planting Dates

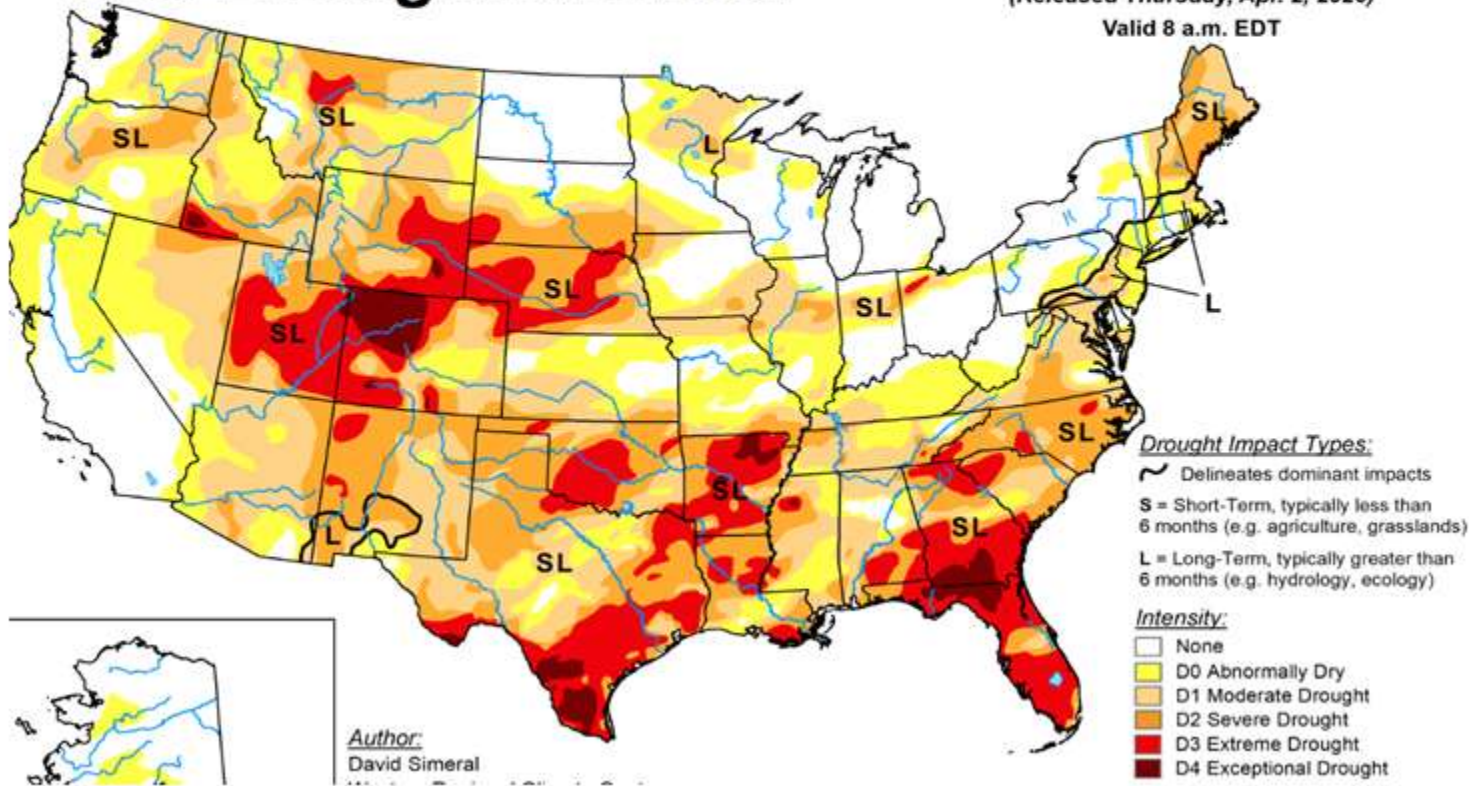


This map shows the early insurance planting dates for soybeans. That date is next Monday, April 5 in Southern Illinois, southern Indiana, southern Ohio. April 15 for most of Missouri and southeast Kansas, as well as Northern Iowa and the northern portions of the eastern belt, then much of Minnesota and Wisconsin by April 20, and the rest of the western belt by April 25 the only areas that have later insurance planting dates is in portions of North Dakota, where they need to wait till April 30 in southern North Dakota and may 1 in northern North Dakota. What this means is that almost the entire corn and bean belt will be open for planting beans in about two and a half weeks, again, from an insurance standpoint.



## U.S. Drought Monitor

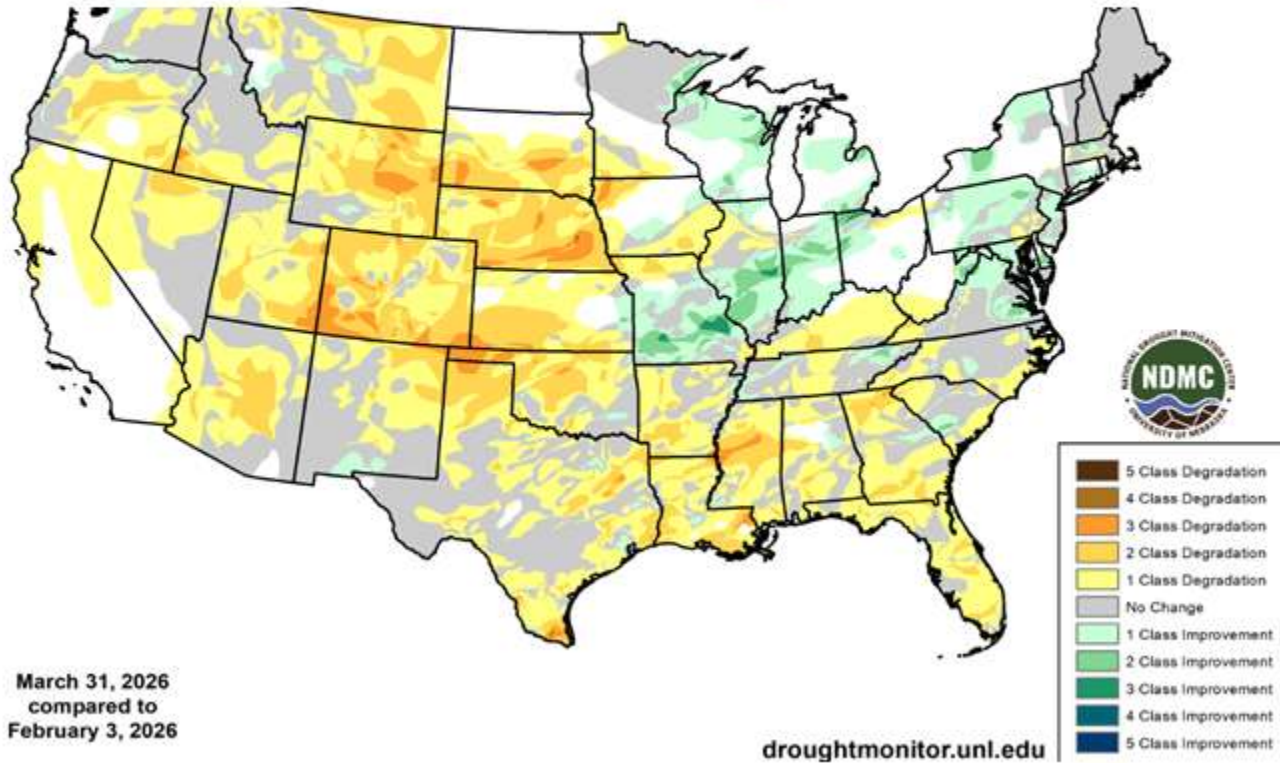
March 31, 2026  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2026)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The US Drought Monitor shows that we've removed drought through much of the central and eastern belt, while drought has expanded in the western belt and portions of the southeast. Over the last eight weeks, basically the months of February and March, we've seen drought improve by one, two, even three classes in much of the eastern belt, while much of the plains, the drought conditions have increased by 1, 2, 3 classes. What this tells us is that the areas in the central and eastern belt likely have adequate moisture at this time, and probably would like to see some drying conditions in order to get planting going while much of the central southern plains is hoping for much better rains.



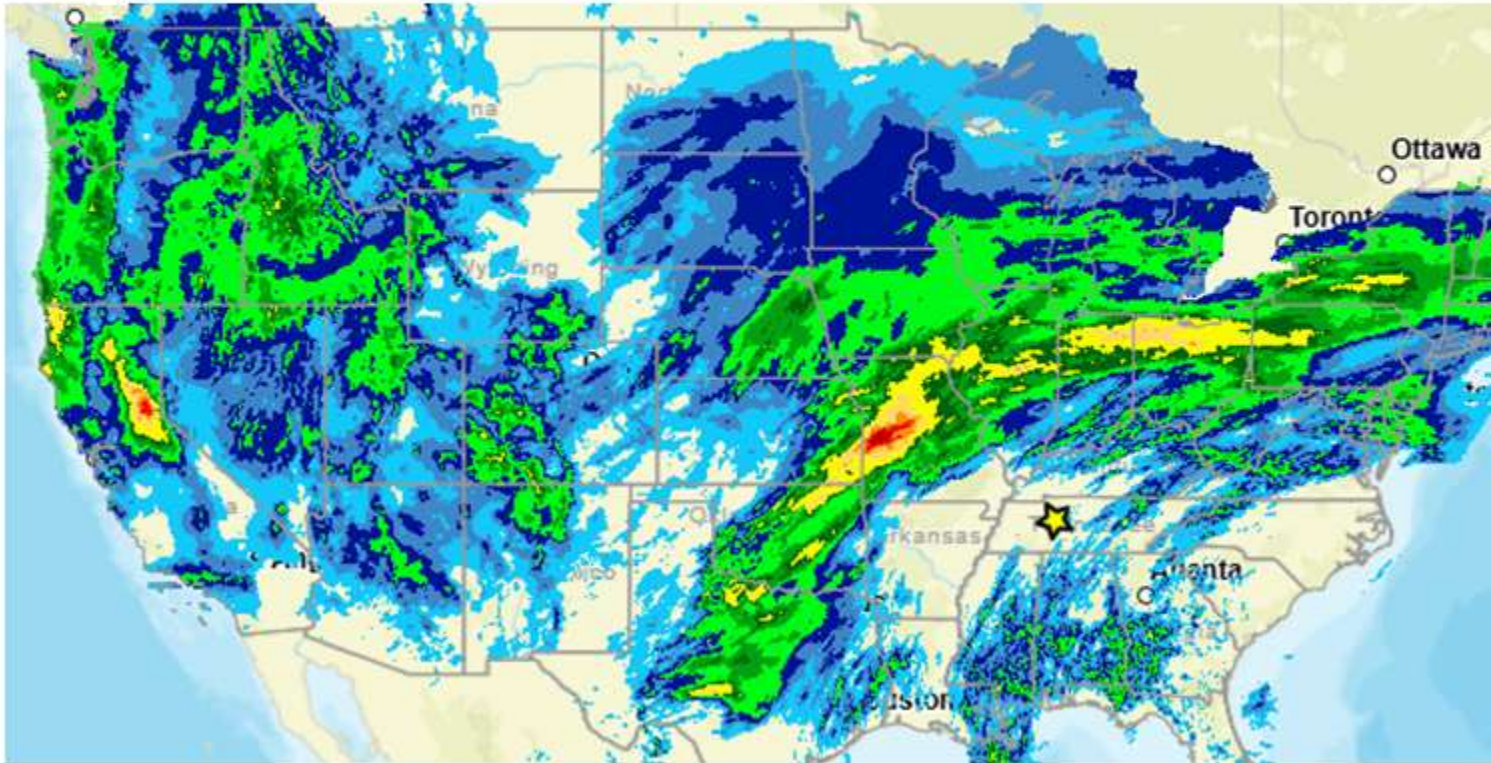
## Drought Monitor Change Last 8 Weeks



Over the last couple of days, we've been watching where the rains would fall. In the plains, central northern Texas, central Oklahoma and far eastern Kansas. Did get some nice rains this over the last two days, a half inch to an inch and a half was isolated heavier Unfortunately, much of Kansas, Western Nebraska, via Texas and Oklahoma, panhandles missed out on the better rain, and they're still hoping for better rains in the days to come. The calendar opens up for early planting in the central belt over the next week, and we'll be watching to see if these wetter areas that have received one to three inches of rain, if they can get some drying, to get some more aggressive planting taking place as we move into the second week of April.



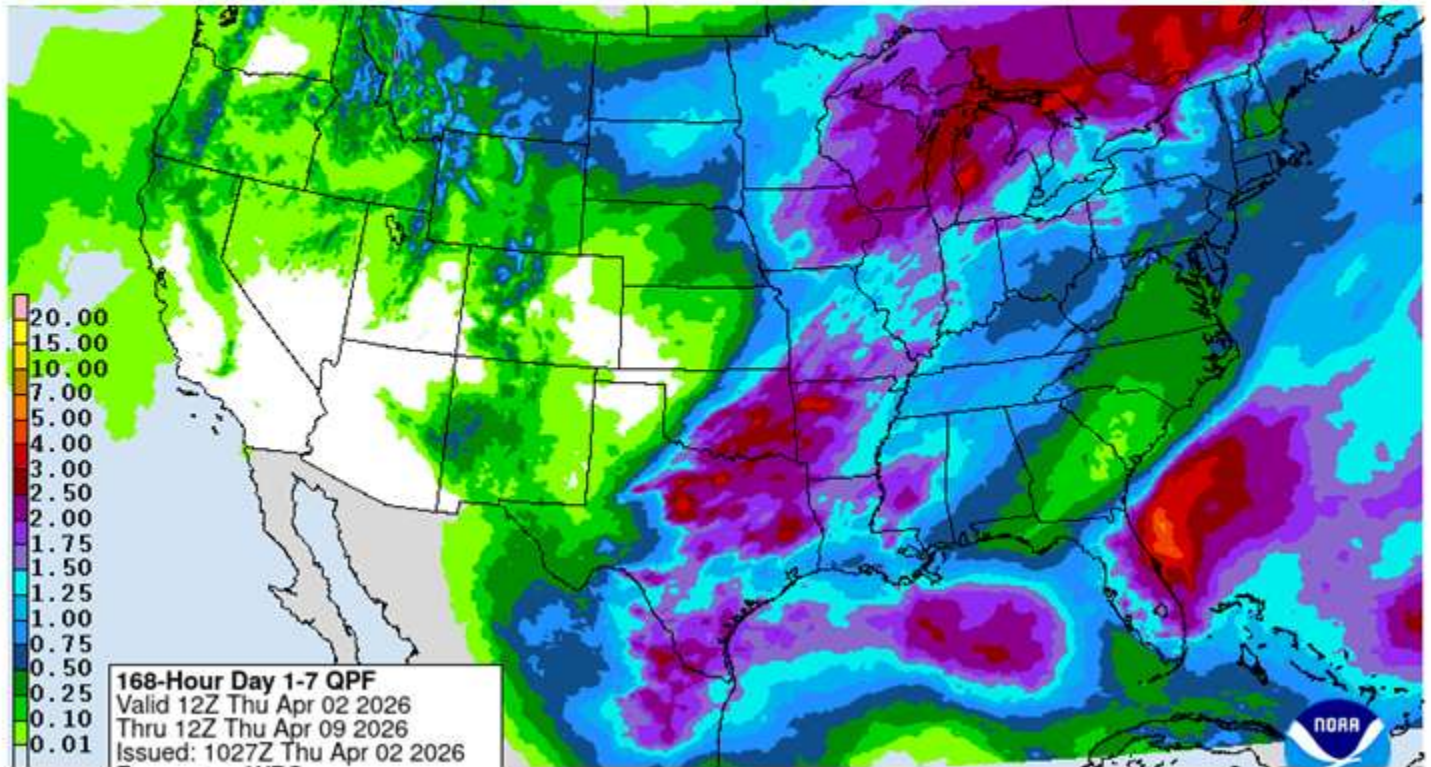
## 2-Day Observed Precipitation



The forecast is has mixed news. Additional rains in portions of the Eastern and Southeastern plains that would be welcome, some rains in the north or western belt would be welcome, while rains in portions of the central and eastern belt actually would be somewhat unwelcome. They've received good rains recently, and they'd like to see some drying to get planting advanced as we move into the middle of April.



## 7-Day Precipitation Forecast



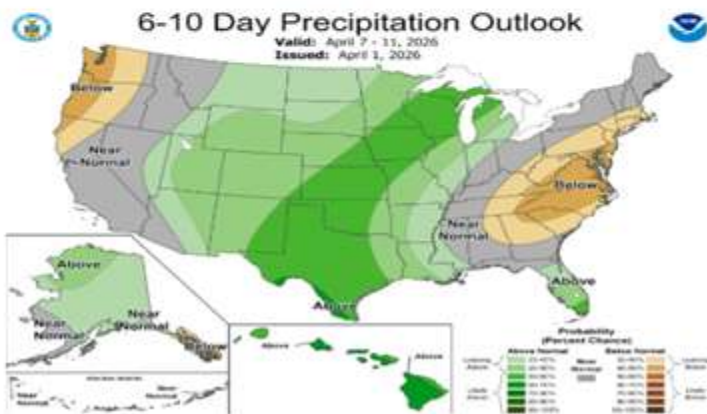
Our longer term map into the middle of April show generally warm conditions for most of the US, corn and bean belt, the exception would be in the far northern plains, where it could be averaged to below average temperatures as we move into the middle of April, as we look at precipitation, a Bermuda high with a clockwise rotation will create a flow coming up out of the Gulf and then into the southwestern plains and the central US. That moisture pump continues into the middle portion of April, and that's something that we're going to watch carefully to see if an extended wet period would last in the central US, corn and bean belt into mid April. Now this is a long ways out, but what we'll be watching for is to see, do soils become saturated, do rains become prolonged? Does it stay wet into the middle portion of April, which could delay planting. That's yet to be seen, but certainly, the forecast is indicating somewhat of an extended wet period, at least into the middle of April, which will need to be monitored.

# Heartland

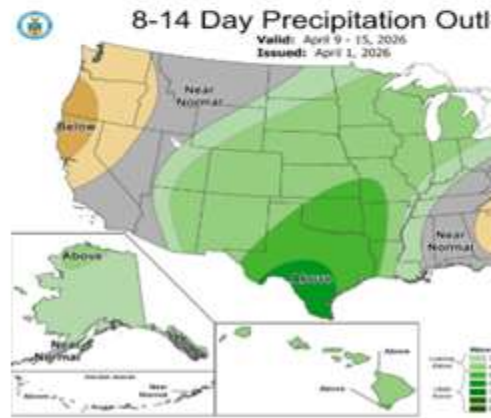
## FARM PARTNERS



Precipitation Probability



Precipitation Probability





Taking a look at today's may corn chart, a little bit of something for everyone. On the charts today, we still have a pennant formation. That is a formation with lower highs, the bears like that, but it also includes a formation with progressively higher lows and the bulls like that. This formation allows for overhead resistance around 470 chart support in the 445 to 450 range, and anything within this range is fair game from a chart perspective as we move into next week. The fact that we've been pushing lower here over the last couple of weeks does have the technical indicators pointed lower as well. And so there is room for this market to move lower and test chart support in the 445 to 450 range.



## Soybeans

May 2026



Turning to our May soybean chart. Here again, there's a little bit of something for everyone. The Bears will point out that we have been unable to move higher and challenge the highs from earlier in the month of March, and they'll say that a downtrend is developing. The Bulls will claim the limit down move earlier in the month of March was followed with three weeks of sideways trading, and that the market has resisted going lower, and that that's overall a supported feature. The fact of the matter is that both of those are true statements. The market has been unable to break out to the upside, and it's been unable to break out to the downside. The reality is that we've been stuck in a sideways range in beans for about three weeks. Weather has not been able to break us out of this range. The EPA biofuel policy announcement has been unable to break us out of this range. USDAs quarterly grain stocks and acreage report has been unable to break us out of this range. South American weather, unable to break us out. US weather, unable to break us out. The bottom line is that the trade is reluctant to break out of this range until we get fresh news, and today's close is dead center in the middle of that sideways, choppy range that's been in place for three weeks that leaves technical indicators stuck sideways for nearly three weeks, also chopping sideways with no clear direction. The bottom line is that the soybean market is paused, waiting for fresh news before making the next move.



## Chart and Technical Analysis

## KC Wheat May 2026



Turning to our Kansas City May wheat chart. Wheat prices benefited from the big rally in energies, pushing higher in early March. Then the market pulled back sharply, found support at an uptrend line, but then rallied again, primarily on lower winter wheat crop condition ratings that resulted from not only possible freeze damage early in March, but an ongoing drought in the central and western plains. But the increased rain in the forecast and some actual rain that fell in the eastern hard red winter wheat belt has allowed Kansas City wheat to pull back and it's now again testing chart support. This recent pullback, just over the last two and a half days, has allowed the technical indicators to turn lower as well, suggesting that the prices could test chart support and maybe test that important level around 590 on the May Kansas City wheat chart.



**HAPPY EASTER**  
From Heartland Farm Part

**Reminder there will be no video Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
resume our normal schedule Monday Apr**