



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Extension Agronomy

eUpdate

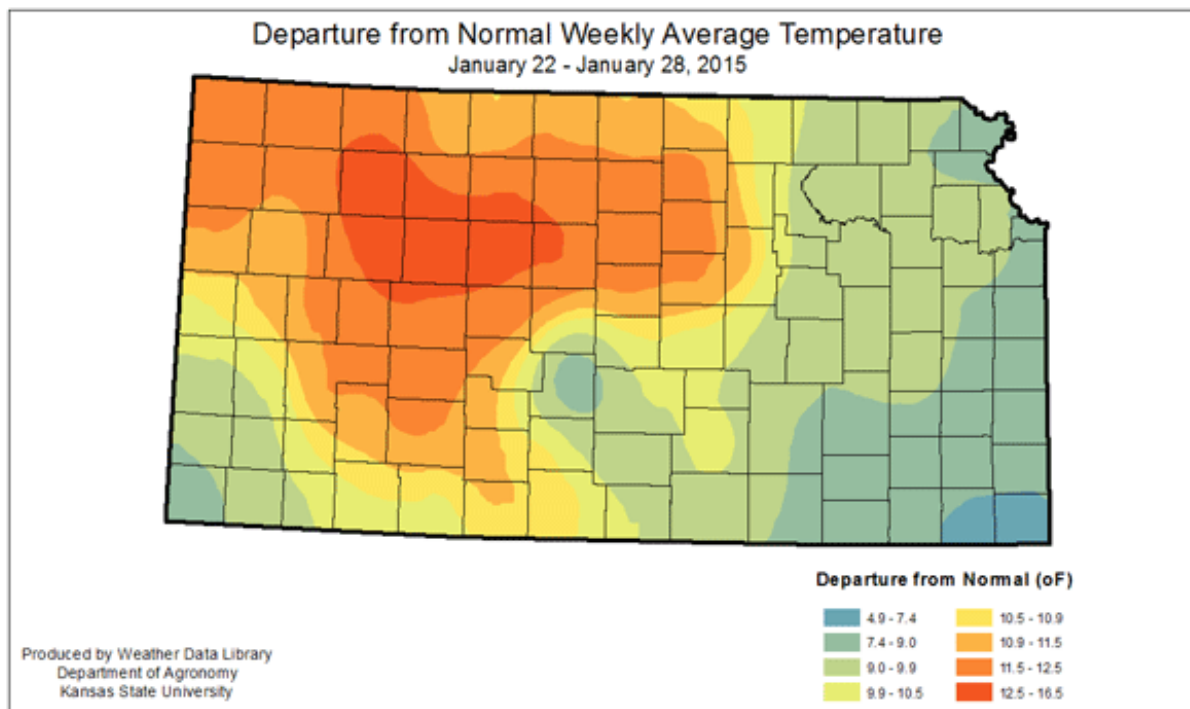
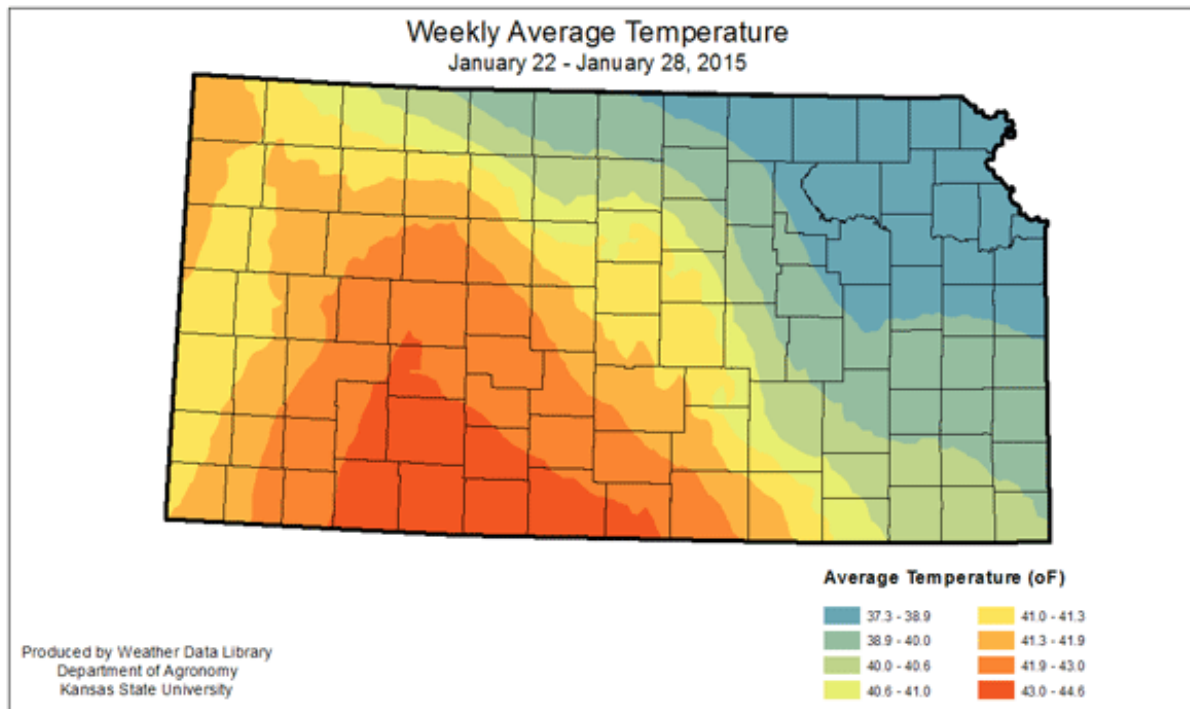
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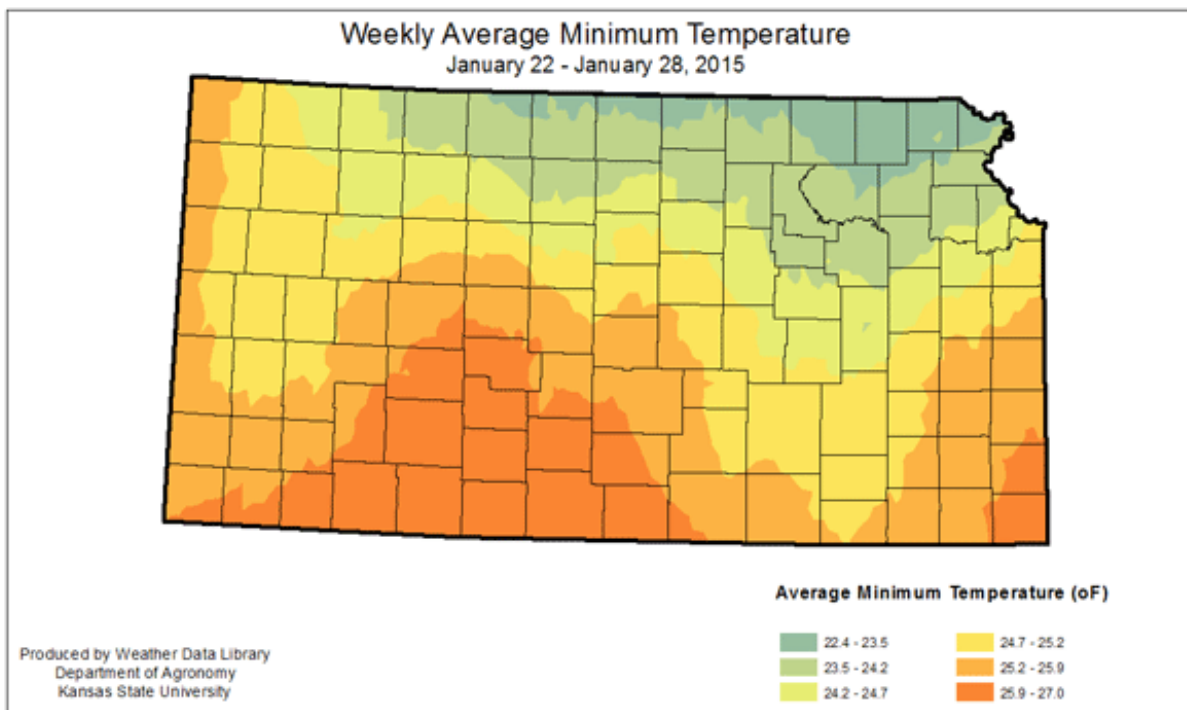
These e-Updates are a regular weekly item from K-State Extension Agronomy and Steve Watson, Agronomy e-Update Editor. All of the Research and Extension faculty in Agronomy will be involved as sources from time to time. If you have any questions or suggestions for topics you'd like to have us address in this weekly update, contact Steve Watson, 785-532-7105 swatson@ksu.edu, Jim Shroyer, Crop Production Specialist 785-532-0397 jshroyer@ksu.edu, or Curtis Thompson, Extension Agronomy State Leader and Weed Management Specialist 785-532-3444 cthompso@ksu.edu.

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1. Can wheat lose winterhardiness during winter warm spells?

Temperatures have been unusually warm throughout Kansas in late January. This raises some questions about how wheat could be affected.





Can warm temperatures at this time of year cause wheat to break dormancy and become more susceptible to cold temperatures that may come over the following days? At what temperatures do we start worrying about wheat breaking dormancy and being at risk of cold injury later?

To the first question, the answer is yes. Very warm temperatures can cause wheat to break dormancy at this time of year. As to the second question, there are no hard and fast numbers to go by. When daytime highs get into the 50's or warmer and lows are above freezing, most wheat varieties will green up and lose some of their winterhardiness. When this occurs, wheat can regain some level of winterhardiness if temperatures gradually get colder again.

The best case scenario is if there are just one or two days of unusually warm temperatures, then a gradual drop of 10-20 degrees over the following week. Most wheat varieties grown in Kansas can easily survive these conditions.

The worst case scenario is if daytime temperatures are very warm and nighttime temperatures remain above freezing for several days during the winter, then temperatures plunge into the low teens or below in just one day, as they did in late January of 1989. Some varieties may break dormancy under these conditions, and then be unable to withstand a sudden return to bitterly cold temperatures.

Each time the wheat breaks dormancy in the winter, it loses a little of its winterhardiness once temperatures get cold again and the wheat re-hardens. The more often these warm spells occur, the longer they last, and the more often wheat breaks dormancy, the less winterhardiness the wheat will have. Winterhardiness levels also start to decline later in the winter.

There may be some winterkill already this winter in areas that have been dry, with little or no snow cover. Having the wheat green up and lose some of its winterhardiness will not help that situation. Still, the biggest risk will be where temperatures go suddenly from extremely warm to extremely

cold, the soils are dry and with little or no protective cover, soils are fluffy, and the wheat is weakened by drought, insect damage, or diseases.

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2. Managing problem weeds in Roundup Ready corn

A postemergence application of glyphosate alone in Roundup Ready corn often can do a good job of controlling many broadleaf and grassy weeds. But producers should not rely strictly on glyphosate alone for several reasons:

- Relying just on glyphosate for weed control increases the risk of yield loss from early-season weed competition due to intentional or weather-delayed late applications.
- Control of certain broadleaf weeds, such as kochia, Palmer amaranth, waterhemp, velvetleaf, morningglory, or marehail, often is not adequate with glyphosate alone.
- Glyphosate-resistant weeds will not be controlled with glyphosate alone and are occurring more frequently in fields across the entire state.
- Using glyphosate alone will speed up the selection process for glyphosate-resistant weeds, creating control problems for the near future.

The following is a list of some of the most common broadleaf weed problems in corn, both in eastern and western Kansas, and some of the most effective herbicides that can be applied preplant or preemergence, or tank-mixed with glyphosate in Roundup Ready corn, to help control each of these problem weeds.

Waterhemp, Palmer amaranth, and other pigweeds

These are vigorous weeds, with multiple growing points on a plant. With contact herbicides, early application and thorough spray coverage are required for adequate control. These small-seeded pigweeds emerge throughout the summer, making them difficult to control without the use of preemergence herbicides or postemergence herbicides with residual activity. Populations of waterhemp and Palmer amaranth are frequently resistant to glyphosate. Palmer amaranth is now found on dryland and irrigated fields throughout the state.

There are several products that can help control waterhemp and Palmer amaranth in corn.

Lumax EZ or Lexar EZ (premixes of Callisto plus S-metolachlor and atrazine), Zemax (a premix of Callisto and S-metolachlor), and Corvus or Balance Flexx (which contain isoxaflutole) are products that contain HPPD-inhibiting herbicides. These products effectively control pigweed species when applied preemergence. Corvus contains Balance Flexx and thienencarbazone-methyl (a grass herbicide), so Corvus will also provide good grass control. Corvus or Balance Flexx performance is always improved if tank-mixed with atrazine. If Corvus or Balance Flexx are applied postemergence to corn from emergence through the 2-leaf stage, only atrazine (no other herbicides or adjuvants) can be tank-mixed. These herbicides will provide varying degrees of residual control for later-emerging waterhemp and Palmer amaranth.

All chloroacetamide herbicides (active ingredients may include acetochlor, metolachlor, S-metolachlor, or dimethenamid) -- including the new products Zidua, Anthem, Anthem ATZ, and Fierce (all of which include the active ingredient pyroxasulfone) -- have excellent activity on pigweeds. As rates of these products increase, the length of residual control of pigweeds will increase. Sharpen or Verdict (a premix of Outlook and Sharpen) have excellent activity on pigweeds. However, their use rates are too low to provide extended preemergence control of pigweeds and should be tank-mixed with an additional chloroacetamide herbicide and atrazine. There are several other herbicides containing some of the active ingredients listed above which can provide excellent

control of pigweeds.

Postemergence products Callisto, Realm Q, Solstice, Impact, Armezon, Laudis, and Capreno contain HPPD-inhibiting herbicides that can be tank-mixed with glyphosate to help control waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. Status, which is Distinct with an added crop safener tank-mixed with glyphosate, will also help control glyphosate-resistant waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. Status will provide a little residual activity compared to glyphosate alone. However, the residual activity is generally very short when applied during days with warm temperatures. Bayer has a new product called DiFlexx which is a premix of Clarity and a safener (which is active soil or POST applied, and is different from the safener used in Status). Tank-mixing any of these products with glyphosate will enhance pigweed control. Halex GT is a premix that includes a high rate of glyphosate along with Callisto and S-metolachlor. This product provides good postemergence pigweed control with residual activity from the S-metolachlor. Adding products such as Warrant, Outlook, Zidua, Anthem, or Dual II Magnum (and generics – see labels) to a POST program can extend residual pigweed control, much like Halex GT will provide.

Velvetleaf

Velvetleaf is sometimes not controlled with glyphosate alone. This may be due to the time of day glyphosate is applied, poor choice of the AMS replacement product with the glyphosate, or the stress condition of the plants. Frequently, velvetleaf plants in the sprayer wheel tracks will not be effectively controlled. Velvetleaf control often is less with early morning or late evening applications. Velvetleaf tends to have a high concentration of calcium cations on the leaf surface; thus, adequate AMS must be in the spray solution to give good control.

As with the pigweeds, adding Callisto, Solstice, Realm Q, Impact, Armezon, Laudis, Lumax EZ, Lexar EZ, or Capreno to the glyphosate, or using Halex GT, can help with velvetleaf control. Corvus or Balance Flexx applied preemergence up through 2-leaf corn can provide good velvetleaf control. Another option is to tank-mix glyphosate with Cadet, Aim EW, or Priority (a premix of Aim EW and Permit, an ALS herbicide). These herbicides are excellent on velvetleaf. One of the concerns about a tankmix of Aim or Cadet and glyphosate, however, is that these herbicides may rapidly burn leaf tissue and reduce the ability of glyphosate to translocate to the growing points. Adding Sharpen or Verdict to a chloroacetamide/atrazine tankmix, or using either the new Zidua, Anthem, or Anthem ATZ products as a preemergence -- or Fierce as an early preplant -- will greatly enhance a velvetleaf control program, provided the preemergence herbicides are rainfall activated.

Morningglory

Morningglory is another broadleaf weed that is not always controlled with glyphosate. Adding Status (Distinct plus a crop safener) to glyphosate is one of the best ways to improve morningglory control in Roundup Ready corn. Callisto, Realm Q, Solstice, Armezon, Impact, and Laudis may not be the best choice if morningglory is a severe problem, although if a pound of atrazine is added to the tankmix, these herbicides can be very effective. Actually, 2,4-D is very good on morningglory as well. Having a preemergence program in place with the herbicides discussed for velvetleaf in conjunction with a postmerge program, morningglory can be controlled.

Kochia

Kochia, like the pigweeds, is a small-seeded broadleaf weed. However, it starts emerging in early

spring and often has reached 90% emergence by late April. Successful kochia management in corn is dependent on a February or early March application of effective residual products. Kochia continues to emerge at a low frequency all through the summer. This weed often will escape control if glyphosate alone is used in corn since glyphosate-resistant populations of kochia have spread through western Kansas. Always use full rates of glyphosate (0.75 lb ae/a) and use a good source of ammonium sulfate. To reiterate, we do not recommend that glyphosate be applied alone.

Producers can tank-mix glyphosate with Status, DiFlexx, or other dicamba products to enhance kochia control. Another option to enhance kochia control would be to tank-mix glyphosate with Callisto, Solstice, Realm Q, Armezon, Impact, Capreno, or Laudis; or use Halex GT. If Corvus or Balance Flexx plus atrazine, Lumax EZ, Lexar EZ, or the new pyroxasulfone products with atrazine are applied preemergence, they effectively control germinating kochia and greatly benefit a kochia management program in corn. When controlling kochia with postemergence herbicides, it is important to spray when kochia is small -- 2 to 4 inches in height. Larger kochia likely will not be controlled.

Marestail or horseweed

Marestail can often be a significant problem when corn follows soybeans, especially when marestail was left uncontrolled during the soybean production year. When that happens, it usually means the marestail population is glyphosate-resistant. Fortunately, several herbicides that can be used ahead of corn planting have excellent activity. The best option is a fall application of 2,4-D or dicamba with atrazine and/or glyphosate, which all can provide excellent marestail control. Some sulfonylurea herbicides can be effective; however, if marestail populations are ALS-resistant, marestail will not be controlled with sulfonylurea herbicides unless they are tank-mixed with a growth regulator herbicide.

If no fall applications are made, it is very important that early spring applications (March) be made. The addition of a dicamba-based product to a tankmix is important for early spring marestail control. Dicamba is weak on winter annual mustards, thus having other effective herbicides, such as 2,4-D or glyphosate, in the tank is important. Atrazine continues to have good activity on small rosette-stage marestail. However, as the plant gets larger and bolts, the level of control is reduced. An application of 2,4-D at the rate of 1 quart per acre of 4 lb/gal product can be effective in the spring on small marestail; however, a pint of dicamba has been more consistent. Distinct contains dicamba and can control marestail effectively.

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3. 2015 Cover Crops Policy FAQs from USDA-Risk Management Agency

(Editor's note: The following is a December 23, 2014 fact sheet from the USDA-Risk Management Agency.)

To ensure that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policies are coordinated and up to date with evolving cover crop practices, the Administrators of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) organized an interagency workgroup to develop a consistent, simple and flexible cover crop policy across the three agencies. Specifically, the interagency group was tasked to develop cover crop management guidelines so that producers can achieve conservation benefits of cover crops while minimizing risk of reducing yield to the following crop due to soil water use.

The interagency group developed the "NRCS Cover Crops Termination Guidelines (NRCS Guidelines)", which serve as the cover crop management guide for all USDA agencies. Since June 2013, three versions of the NRCS Guidelines have been released. In the 2014 crop year, the first version was released June 2013 and a second version in December 2013. An updated version was released in September 2014, which will be applied to all crops for the 2015 crop year.

In response to the release of the NRCS Guidelines, RMA developed a special provisions statement to incorporate the new cover crop management and termination guidance. The statement has been applied to all crops and practices in the "Insurance Availability" section of the special provisions. The statement is:

Insurance shall attach to a crop following a cover crop when the cover crop meets the definition provided in the basic provisions, was planted within the last 12 months, and is managed and terminated according to NRCS guidelines. If growing conditions warrant a deviation from the guidelines, producers should contact either Extension or the local NRCS office for management guidance. For information on cover crop management and termination guidelines, refer to the Cover Crop Termination Guidelines at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/.

In addition to the cover crop statement there is an additional special provisions statement to ensure the haying and grazing of a cover crop within or prior to the late planting period (or on or prior to the final planting date if no late planting period is applicable) will not impact prevented planting coverage for the crop prevented from being planted following the cover crop. The statement is:

In lieu of Section 17(f)(5)(ii) of the Common Crop Insurance Basic Provisions, haying or grazing a cover crop will not impact eligibility for a prevented planting payment provided such action did not contribute to the acreage being prevented from planting.

Q: What are cover crops?

A: A crop generally recognized by agricultural experts as agronomically sound for the area for erosion control or other purposes related to conservation or soil improvement. Cover crops include grasses, legumes and forbs for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes. A cover crop, if managed and terminated according to the NRCS Guidelines, is not considered a "crop".

According to the NRCS Guidelines, cover crops must achieve conservation purposes while minimizing the risks of reducing yields to the following crop due to soil water use. Conservation purpose includes reducing soil erosion, improving soil's physical and biological properties, supplying

of nutrients and suppressing weeds. Please see your local NRCS office for a listing of appropriate cover crop species, seeding rates, expected growth rates and biomass and other pertinent information necessary for your locale.

Q: Three different versions of the Cover Crop Termination Guidelines have been released – the first version in June 2013, the second version in December 2013 and more recently, another version in September 2014. Which version should I use?

A: For the 2015 crop year, starting with all crops with a June 30, 2014 and later contract change date, the September 2014 version of the NRCS Guidelines is applicable. That version can be found at

[NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines, September 2014, Version 3.](#)

Note: contract change date is the calendar date by which changes to the policy, if any, will be made available to the public. To find the contract change date for the insured crop in your county, visit our Actuarial Information Browser at webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser/. Select the appropriate reinsurance year, complete the crop information and then click on the “Dates” tab. A contract change date of “June 30, 2014” is referred to as a June 30 contract change date (for the 2015 crop year).

Q: Compared to the December 2013 version, what were the big changes to September 2014 version of the NRCS Guidelines?

A: Guidance pertaining to the cover crops and the summerfallow (SF) practice has been revised for the September 2014 version. Specifically, the termination time-frame for cover crops for this practice in these areas was removed from the table and information on SF and cover crops placed in “Additional Consideration #13.” The NRCS Guidelines now specifically state that if a cover crop is planted on summerfallow acreage in a fallow year, the following planted crop will not meet the summerfallow practice definition until the acreage lies fallow for a full crop year./p>

RMA developed its non-irrigated summerfallow practice for producers that use a crop-fallow rotation in the semi-arid western United States, where effective soil water conservation and management is critical to the success of the cash crop. Historically, the planting of a crop, including cover crops, during the fallow year would render the subsequently planted crop ineligible for the SF practice until the acreage lies fallow for a full crop year. RMA, along with NRCS, recently re-examined this policy by reviewing available peer-reviewed scientific research and concluded that in semi-arid regions, planting a cover crop during the fallow year significantly increases the risk of reducing yield to the following crop due to soil water use.

However, it should be noted that crop insurance is still available for those producers that use a crop-fallow rotation in the semi-arid west and who choose to plant a cover crop during the fallow year. For crops insured in the 2015 crop year, the crop following the cover crop can be insured under the continuous cropping (CC) practice, if it is available. In those counties where CC is not available, producers may insure the following crop by written agreement, provided the land meets crop productivity requirements and the cover crop was not hayed, grazed or otherwise harvested. There will be a slight change for crops insured in the 2016 and succeeding crop years. If a cover crop is planted during the fallow year, the acreage may be insured under the “continuous cropping practice” (if available in your county), or by written agreement (if continuous cropping is not available in your county) **provided the cover crop is terminated at least 90 days prior to planting the insured crop.** Producers interested in exploring how cover crops can fit into their farming operations are encouraged to look over the actuarial documents in their county and discuss all

available options with their crop insurance agent.

Q: What does “Termination” mean?

A: Termination means growth has ended. If the cover crop is not terminated according to the NRCS Guidelines, it will not be considered a cover crop, which may adversely affect the insurability of the following crop. It is the producer’s responsibility to ensure it is terminated according to the NRCS Guidelines.

Q: Can grazing be used as a form of terminating the crop?

A: A cover crop can be terminated by any means. However, termination means growth has ended. If the cover crop is not terminated according to the NRCS Guidelines, it will not be considered a cover crop, which may adversely affect the insurability of the following crop. While grazing in some cases can terminate a cover crop, there is no definitive way to assure growth has ended, which will vary based on weather, soil and the type of cover crop used. Moreover, grazing could use soil water needed by the insured crop. Regardless of termination method, it is the producer’s responsibility to ensure that the cover crop is terminated according to the NRCS Guidelines. If you have any questions regarding which method is best for ensuring your cover crop is terminated, please consult your local NRCS office for guidance.

Q: In the special provisions statement that addresses the insurability of a crop following a cover crop, it states, among other things, that a cover crop must “meet the definition provided in the Basic Provisions”. What is the definition of a cover crop in the basic provisions?

A: **Cover crop** - A crop generally recognized by agricultural experts as agronomically sound for the area for erosion control or other purposes related to conservation or soil improvement.

Q: In the special provisions statement that addresses the insurability of a crop following a cover crop, it states, “If growing conditions warrant a deviation from the guidelines, producers should contact either Extension or the local NRCS office for management guidance”. What do I need to do to get an acceptable deviation from the NRCS Guidelines?

A: To receive a deviation from the NRCS Guidelines, you will need signed, written support from at least two agricultural experts indicating that the requested cover crop management used will not adversely affect the yields or quality of the insured crop and allow it to make normal progress toward maturity and produce at least the expected yield. See the [2015 Good Farming Practice Determination Standards Handbook](#) for guidelines regarding agricultural experts.

Q: For my crop that follows a cover crop, what will happen if I do not follow the NRCS Guidelines in the management and termination of my cover crop?

A: Insurance will not attach to the crop following a cover crop not timely or properly terminated in accordance with the NRCS Guidelines. The special provisions statement specifies that insurability is dependent on three criteria: the cover crop 1.) Meets the definition provided in the basic provisions; 2.) Was planted in the last 12 months; and 3.) Was managed and terminated according to the NRCS Guidelines. In the absence of receiving a deviation from following the NRCS Guidelines, failure to meet any one of the three criteria means insurance will not attach to the crop that follows the cover crop.

Q: I disagree with the zone to which my farm is assigned. Can I have my farm assigned to a different cover crop termination/management zone?

A: It is possible to have a different termination management practice approved for your farm, but you would remain in the same zone. If the county has unique topographical or geographic features that

result in multiple climate zones within the county, a farm may be authorized different termination management practices compatible with the local climate and/or topographic location. To be authorized a different termination management practice, contact your local County Extension office or local NRCS office for specific cover crop management guidance for your farm. If this guidance results in a different cover crop termination time than your assigned zone, provide copies of the recommendation to your crop insurance agent. However, it should be noted that even under the different termination management practice, cover crops must be terminated no later than emergence of the insured crop.

Q: My insured crop will be irrigated. When do I need to terminate my cover crop?

A: According to the NRCS Guidelines, cover crops in an irrigated cropping system should be terminated based on the crop system and conservation purpose, but before the insured crop emerges.

Q: I live in Kansas in a county that is in Zone 2, and plan to plant non-irrigated corn. According to the guidelines, corn is an early spring seeded crop. Does this mean I can terminate my cover crop at planting instead of 15 days prior to planting?

A: Yes. For early spring seeded crops, such as corn, cover crops will have limited growth in the spring prior to seeding the 'early' spring crop, and therefore the cover crop may be terminated at or just prior to planting.

Q: I'm in Zone 2, and will plant non-irrigated soybeans. The guidelines state I should terminate my cover crop at least 15 days before planting any insured crop. However, I started a new cover crop strategy on my farm over 3 years ago, which does not impact soybean yields. Can I still insure my soybeans if I terminate the cover crop at planting time?

A: Yes. You can obtain authorization for a different termination management practice if you have adequate records. Generally you will need at least 3 years of production records from the cash crop that demonstrates the yield is not impacted by a later cover crop termination and you have written support of the later termination from two approved agricultural experts (see the [2015 Good Farming Practice Determination Standards Handbook](#) for guidelines regarding agricultural experts). However, it should be noted that even under an approved different termination management practice, cover crops must be terminated no later than crop emergence, unless planted as a protective cover for a wind erosion susceptible crop (See Additional Cover Crop Termination Considerations #9, and a question and answer below).

Q: My farm is in a Zone 4 county, and I will plant non-irrigated soybeans. There are two non-irrigated crop insurance practices available in this county – FAC (i.e. Following Another Crop) and NFAC (i.e. Not Following Another Crop). If I do not follow the NRCS Guidelines in the management and termination of my cover crop, will my soybeans be considered FAC?

A: No. If you did not follow the NRCS Guidelines, your soybeans will not be insurable. The special provisions statement specifies that insurability is dependent on three criteria: the cover crop 1.) Meets the definition provided in the basic provisions; 2.) Was planted in the last 12 months; and 3.) Was managed and terminated according to the NRCS Guidelines. In the absence of receiving a deviation from following the NRCS Guidelines, failure to meet any one of the three criteria means insurance will not attach to the crop that follows the cover crop. Also, for RMA purposes a cover crop is not considered a "crop".

Q: I was prevented from planting my insured crop, and I would like to establish a cover crop on the prevented planted acreage. My crop insurance agent explained that the NRCS Guidelines

will not apply to this cover crop, and I need to be cognizant of the haying and grazing restrictions. Why is that?

A: The NRCS Guidelines are applicable in determining the insurability of a crop that follows a cover crop. According to the special provisions statement in the actuarial documents, insurance shall attach to the crop following a cover crop if the cover crop 1.) Meets the definition provided in the basic provisions; 2.) Was planted in the last 12 months; and 3.) Was managed and terminated according to the NRCS Guidelines.

Once the insurability criteria in the special provisions statement has been established, the crop is insurable. For cover crops that follow a prevented planting determination on an insurable crop, rules and regulations in the Prevented Planting Loss Adjustment Standards Handbook will apply. Generally, once you receive a prevented planting payment you can later plant a cover crop on the prevented planting acreage but you cannot hay or graze that cover crop before November 1, (and cannot otherwise harvest anytime), or you will impact your prevented planting payment.

Q: I was prevented from planting my insured crop, and the prevented planting was not caused by the cover crop. I would like to establish a new cover crop to replace the terminated cover crop after the later of the final planting date or the late planting period (when applicable). Do I still qualify for full prevented planting coverage for my insured crop?

A: It depends. If the new cover crop (the one planted on prevented planting acreage) is not hayed or grazed prior to November 1, or is not otherwise harvested at any time, the full prevented planting payment may be available. The rules and regulations associated with haying, grazing and harvesting of cover crops planted on prevented planting acreage are specified in the Prevented Planting Loss Adjustment Standards Handbook.

Q: Can I graze or harvest hay or silage from my cover crop prior to termination?

A: For the 2015 crop year, cover crops may be grazed or harvested as hay or silage, unless prohibited by RMA crop insurance policy provisions. Cover crops cannot be otherwise harvested, such as for grain or seed, etc.

Q: My farm is in Zone 2 and I will be planting non-irrigated soybeans. I plan to terminate my cover crop 15 days prior to planting. However, the weather and planting conditions this spring allows earlier than normal planting. I terminated the cover crop 5 days ago, but seedbed conditions and temperatures are right to plant now. Can I plant after 5 days, or must I wait 15 days?

A: In this case, with favorable weather and soil conditions, the good farming practice would be to plant under the ideal planting conditions. It is not necessary to wait 15 days. However, for crop insurance purposes, you must document the weather and soil conditions that support the earlier than normal planting conditions.

Q: My fields and the crops I planted are susceptible to wind erosion abrasion. My typical practice is to plant a cover crop of spring oats prior to or during planting of my insured susceptible crop. I then terminate the oat cover crop once the insured susceptible crop is established and the soil is protected from wind erosion. This does not fit any of the cover crop management zones. Can I insure my crop?

A: Yes. Seasonal covers that were installed under the NRCS Practice Code 603 – Herbaceous Wind Barriers are a special consideration within the cover crop termination guidelines to allow growing a protective cover crop during the establishment of a wind erosion susceptible crop, which would be considered a good farming practice. For crop insurance purposes, you must have documentation

that the season covers were installed to protect the planted crop from wind erosion.

Q: Will over-seeding/interseeding a conservation cover crop into an insured grain crop affect insurability?

A: No. As long as the cover crop is seeded near physiological maturity of the insured crop and the practice does not interfere with harvest of the insured crop. If there was any damage caused by over-seeding the cover crop (although unlikely), uninsured cause of loss appraisals would be applied to the insured crop.

Q: Will interplanting a conservation cover crop into an insured grain crop affect insurability?

A: No. Unless prohibited by your crop insurance policy or crop provision. If the cover crop and a cash crop are planted in a way that permits separate agronomic maintenance or management, then RMA may insure the cash crop. However, RMA will not insure the cash crop if the cover crop that is interplanted into a cash crop interferes with the agronomic management and the harvest of the cash crop.

Q: I grow non-irrigated winter wheat in a wheat-fallow rotation in eastern Colorado. In the past, I have insured my wheat under the summerfallow practice. The fallow year of my rotation was the 2014 crop year. My next wheat crop will be in the 2015 crop year. According to the actuarial documents in my county, if I planted a cover crop in the 2014 crop year, my 2015 wheat will not qualify for the SF practice. Can I still obtain insurance for my 2015 wheat crop?

A: If you farm in a county that also has a non-irrigated continuous cropping (CC) practice, your 2015 wheat crop can be insured as CC, provided all other provisions of that practice are satisfied.

If you farm in a county where the only non-irrigated practice is the summerfallow practice, you may obtain insurance on your 2015 wheat via written agreement (WA) provided the cover crop meets the criteria outlined in the special provisions of your county, and the cover crop is not hayed, grazed or otherwise harvested.

Producers interested in exploring how cover crops can fit into their farming operations are encouraged to look over the actuarial documents in their county and discuss all available options with their crop insurance agent.

Q: I understand that RMA insures over 100 crops throughout the United States. In the 2015 crop year, what percentage of the producers who grow these crops and choose to incorporate cover crops into their operations may still obtain crop insurance?

A: 100 percent, provided all other provisions of the particular crop and practice are followed.

Producers interested in exploring how cover crops can fit into their farming operations are encouraged to look over the actuarial documents in their county and discuss all available options with their crop insurance agent.

-- USDA-Risk Management Agency

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/help/faq/covercrops2015.html>

4. K-State Soybean Production Schools scheduled for early February

A series of four K-State Soybean Production Schools will be offered in early February to provide in-depth training targeted for soybean producers and key-stakeholders. The schools will be held at four locations around the state. The schools will be sponsored by Kansas Soybean Commission.

The one-day schools will cover a number of issues facing soybean growers: irrigation management; weed control strategies; crop production practices, nutrient and soil fertility, insect, and disease management.

The final dates and specific locations have been set. The focus of the Soybean Schools will be in east central, southeast, north central, and south central Kansas.

- Feb. 3: Salina – Ambassador Hotel, 1616 W. Crawford St.
Contact information:
Tom Maxwell, Central Kansas District, tmaxwell@ksu.edu 785-309-5850
- Feb. 4: Derby – Derby Welcome/Senior Center, 11 N Mulberry Rd.
Contact information:
Zach Simon, Sedgwick County Extension, zsimon@ksu.edu 316-660-0153
- Feb. 5: Independence – Civic Center, 410 North Penn Ave.
Contact information:
Jeri Sigle, Wildcat Extension District, jlsigle@ksu.edu 620-331-2690
- Feb. 6: Sabetha – North Ridge Church, 316 Lincoln St.
Contact information:
David Hallauer, Meadowlark Extension District, dhallaue@ksu.edu 785-863-2212
Matt Young, Brown County Extension, mayoung@ksu.edu 785-863-2212

Registration for each school is at 8:30 a.m. The program begins at 9 a.m. and adjourns at 3:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided, courtesy of the Kansas Soybean Commission. There is no cost to attend, but participants are asked to pre-register by Feb 3. Online registration is available at K-State Soybean Schools (<http://bit.ly/KSUSoybean>) or by emailing or calling the nearest local K-State Research and Extension office for the location participants plan to attend.

To see the presentations from the 2014 K-State Soybean Schools, go to:

<http://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/extension/crop-production/soybeans/soybean-schools/2014-soybean-school/index.html>



Ignacio Ciampitti, Crop Production and Cropping Systems Specialist
ciampitti@ksu.edu

Doug Shoup, Southeast Area Crops and Soils Specialist
dshoup@ksu.edu

Stu Duncan, Northeast Area Crops and Soils Specialist
sduncan@ksu.edu

5. K-State Sorghum Production Schools scheduled for mid-February

A series of four K-State Sorghum Production Schools will be offered in mid-February 2015 to provide in-depth training for sorghum producers. The schools will be sponsored by Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission and supported by the Sorghum Checkoff, Sorghum Partners, KFRM 550 AM radio station, and Bayer CropScience (Huskie).

The one-day schools will cover issues facing sorghum producers: weed control strategies, crop practices, soil fertility and nutrient management, insect control, irrigation, and risk management.

The dates and locations are:

- Feb. 10: Garden City, Clarion Inn, 1911 E Kansas Ave.
Contact information:
Andrea Burns, Ford County Extension, aburns@ksu.edu 620-227-4542
Barbara Addison, Finney County Extension, baddison@ksu.edu 620-272-3670
- Feb. 11: Oakley, Buffalo Bill Center, 3083 U.S. 83
Contact information:
Julie Niehage, Golden Prairie Extension District, Oakley, julienie@ksu.edu 785-671-3245
- Feb. 12: Hutchinson, Hutchinson Community College, 1300 N Plum St
Contact information:
Darren Busick, Reno County Extension, darrenbusick@ksu.edu 620-662-2371
- Feb. 13: Ottawa, Neosho County Community College, 900 E Logan St
Contact information:
Darren Hibdon, Frontier Extension District, dhibdon@ksu.edu 785-229-3520

Registration for each school is at 8:30 a.m. The program begins at 9 a.m. and adjourns at 3:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided, courtesy of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission. There is no cost to attend, but participants are asked to pre-register by Feb. 4. Online registration is available at K-State Sorghum Schools (<http://bit.ly/KSUSorghum>) or by emailing or calling the nearest local K-State Research and Extension office for the location participants plan to attend.

Presentations from the 2014 K-State Sorghum Schools can be seen at:
<http://bit.ly/KSUSorghumSchool>

For more information, contact: Ignacio Ciampitti, K-State Crop Production and Cropping Systems Specialist, ciampitti@ksu.edu 785-532-6940.

2015 SORGHUM SCHOOLS

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Agronomy



Kansas State University Department of Agronomy

2004 Throckmorton Plant Sciences Center | Manhattan, KS 66506

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6. Prescribed burning workshops scheduled for February

K-State is conducting several Prescribed Burning Workshops during February. Dates and locations are:

Date	Location	Address	Time	Contact
Feb. 9	Alta Vista	Baptist Church, 402 Main	10 a.m.	Kara Mayer Wabaunsee Co. Ext. 785-765-3821
Feb.11	Westmoreland	Sunflower Room Extension Office, 612 Campbell	10:30 a.m.	Austin Sexten Pottawatomie Co. Ext. 785-457-3319
Feb.11	Russell	4-H Building, 702 Fairway Drive	10 a.m.	Dusti Lynn Betts Midway District Ext. 785-483-3157
Feb.18	Scott City	WM Carpenter 4-H Building, 608 N Fairground Road	Noon	John Beckman Scott Co. Ext. 620-872-2930
Feb.23	Howard	Ext. Meeting Room, 130 S. Pennsylvania	10 a.m.	Richard Fechter Rolling Prairie Dist. Ext. 620-515-0149
Feb.24	Larned	J.A. Haas Exhibit Building, 400 E. 18 th Street	9 a.m.	Jess Crockford Kansas Prescribed Fire Council 620-664-4882
Feb.25	Pratt	4-H Building, 61 Lake Road	10 a.m.	Zac Eddy Pheasants Forever 620-549-3480 x110
Feb.25	Osage City	Old Depot, 504 Market Street	10 a.m.	Rod Schaub Osage Co. Ext. 785-828-4438
Feb. 26	Jewell	Community Center, Delaware Street, Hwy 28	10 a.m.	John Forshee River Valley Dist. Ext. 785-632-5335
March 5	Viola	WSU Field Station, 28900 West 87 Street South	9 a.m.	Jess Crockford Kansas Prescribed

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			Fire Council 620-664-4882
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Each meeting normally lasts about 5 hours. There may be a charge for materials and lunch. People will need to contact those listed in the chart above to ask about charges.

Walt Fick, Rangeland Management Specialist
whfick@ksu.edu

7. Comparative Vegetation Condition Report: January 13 - 26

K-State's Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory (EASAL) produces weekly Vegetation Condition Report maps. These maps can be a valuable tool for making crop selection and marketing decisions.

Two short videos of Dr. Kevin Price explaining the development of these maps can be viewed on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRP3Y5Nlggw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUdOK94efxc>

The objective of these reports is to provide users with a means of assessing the relative condition of crops and grassland. The maps can be used to assess current plant growth rates, as well as comparisons to the previous year and relative to the 26-year average. The report is used by individual farmers and ranchers, the commodities market, and political leaders for assessing factors such as production potential and drought impact across their state.

NOTE TO READERS: The maps below represent a subset of the maps available from the EASAL group. If you'd like digital copies of the entire map series please contact Nan An at nanan@ksu.edu and we can place you on our email list to receive the entire dataset each week as they are produced. The maps are normally first available on Wednesday of each week, unless there is a delay in the posting of the data by EROS Data Center where we obtain the raw data used to make the maps. These maps are provided for free as a service of the Department of Agronomy and K-State Research and Extension.

The maps in this issue of the newsletter show the current state of photosynthetic activity in Kansas, the Corn Belt, and the continental U.S., with comments from Mary Knapp, service climatologist:

Kansas Vegetation Condition

Period 04: 01/13/2015 - 01/26/2015

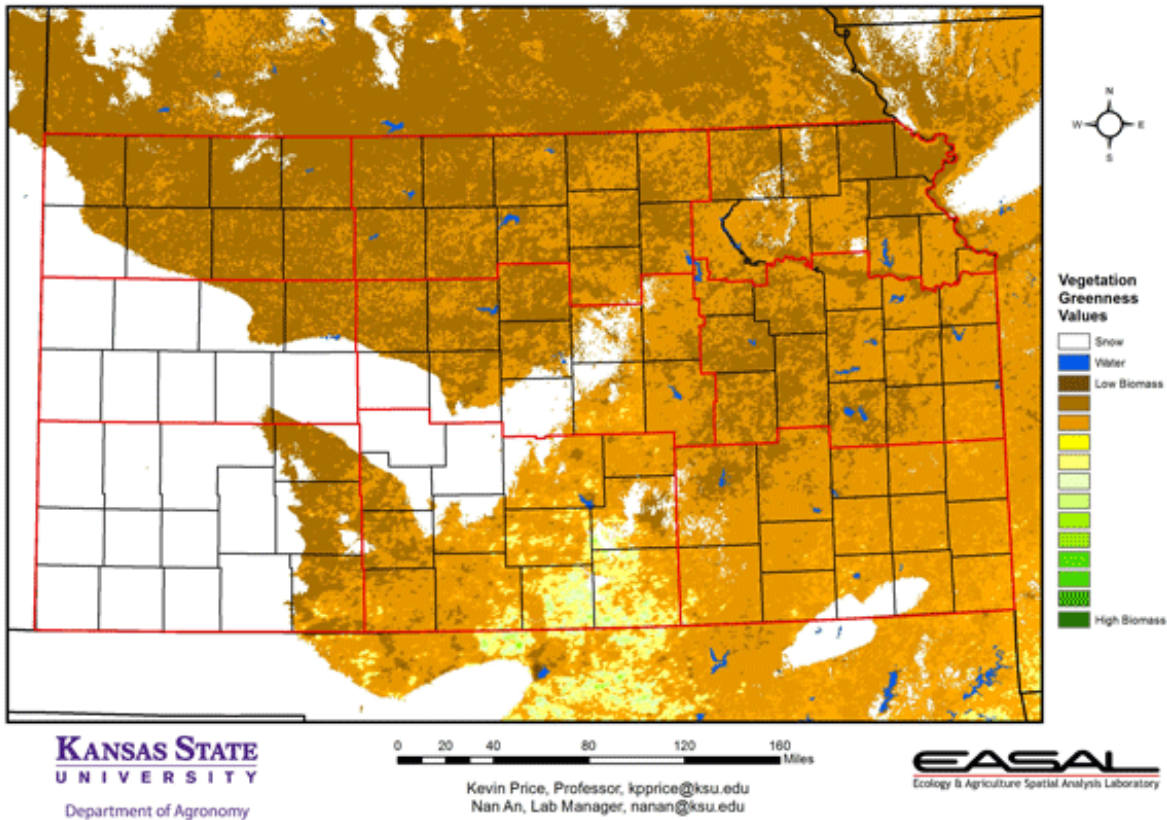


Figure 1. The Vegetation Condition Report for Kansas for January 13 – 26 from K-State’s Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that snow was mostly confined to the western portions of the state. This coverage was also light in nature with very little water content.

Kansas Vegetation Condition Comparison
Late-January 2015 compared to the Late-January 2014

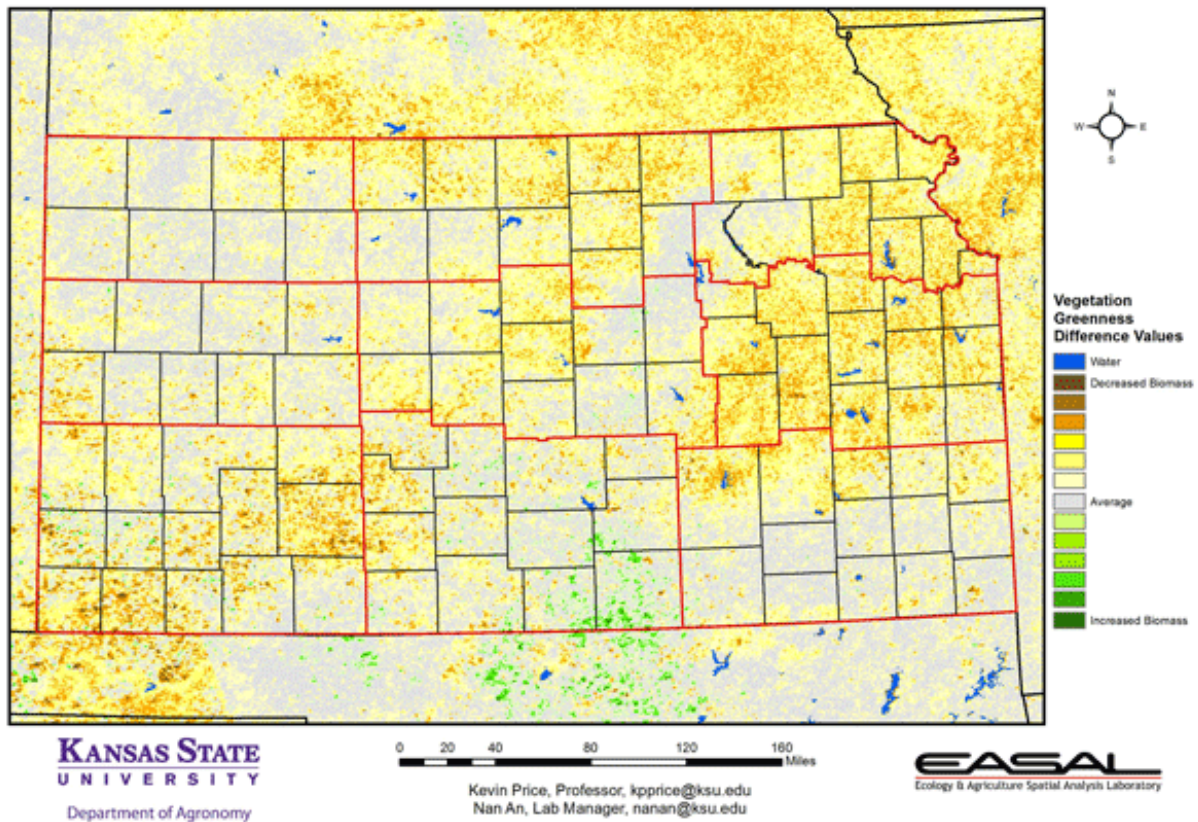


Figure 2. Compared to the previous year at this time for Kansas, the current Vegetation Condition Report for January 13 – 26 from K-State’s Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that there are slightly higher NDVI values in south central Kansas, particularly in Harper and Sumner counties. East central and northeast Kansas show lower NDVI readings this year.

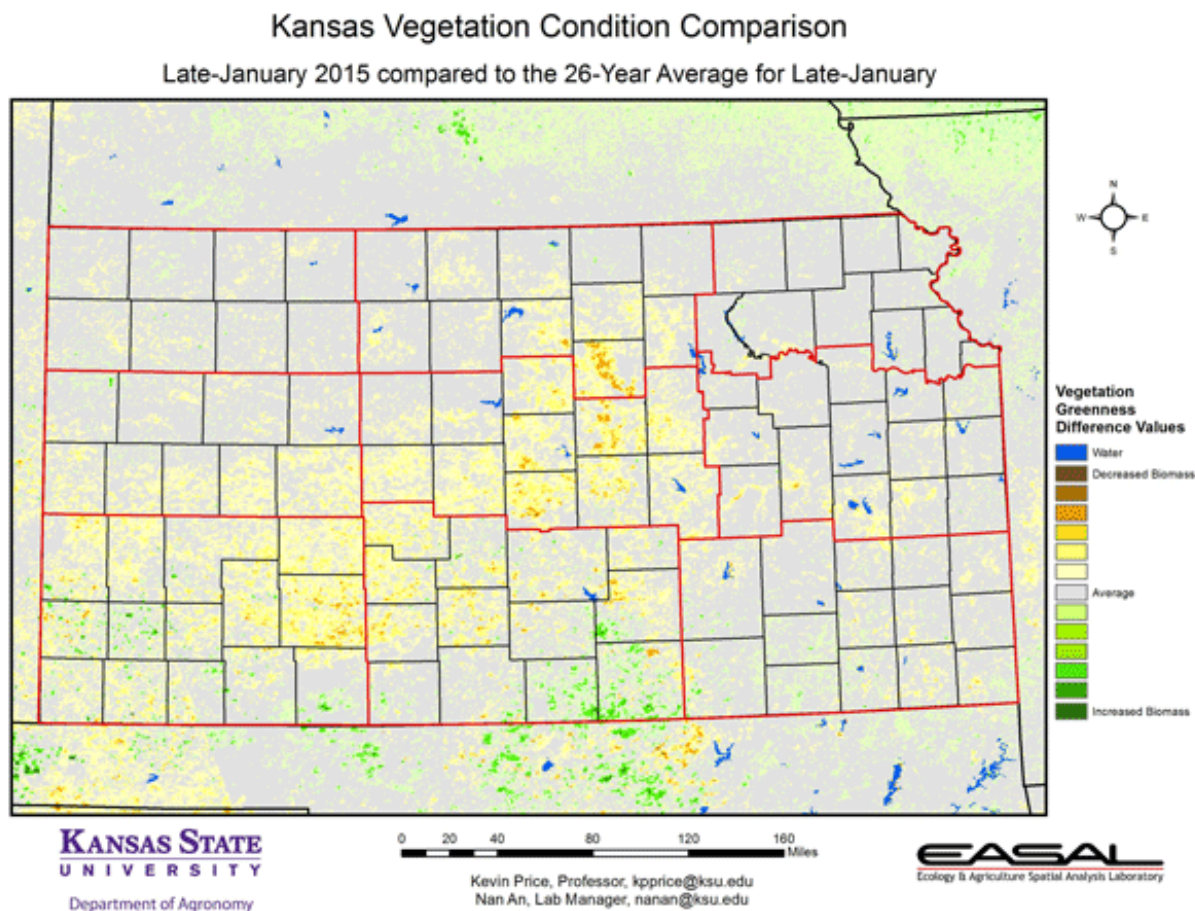


Figure 3. Compared to the 26-year average at this time for Kansas, this year's Vegetation Condition Report for January 13 – 26 from K-State's Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that most of the state is very close to average in NDVI readings. Harper and Sumner counties show the greatest increase in NDVI readings over the long-term average.

U.S. Corn Belt Vegetation Condition

Period 04: 01/13/2015 - 01/26/2015

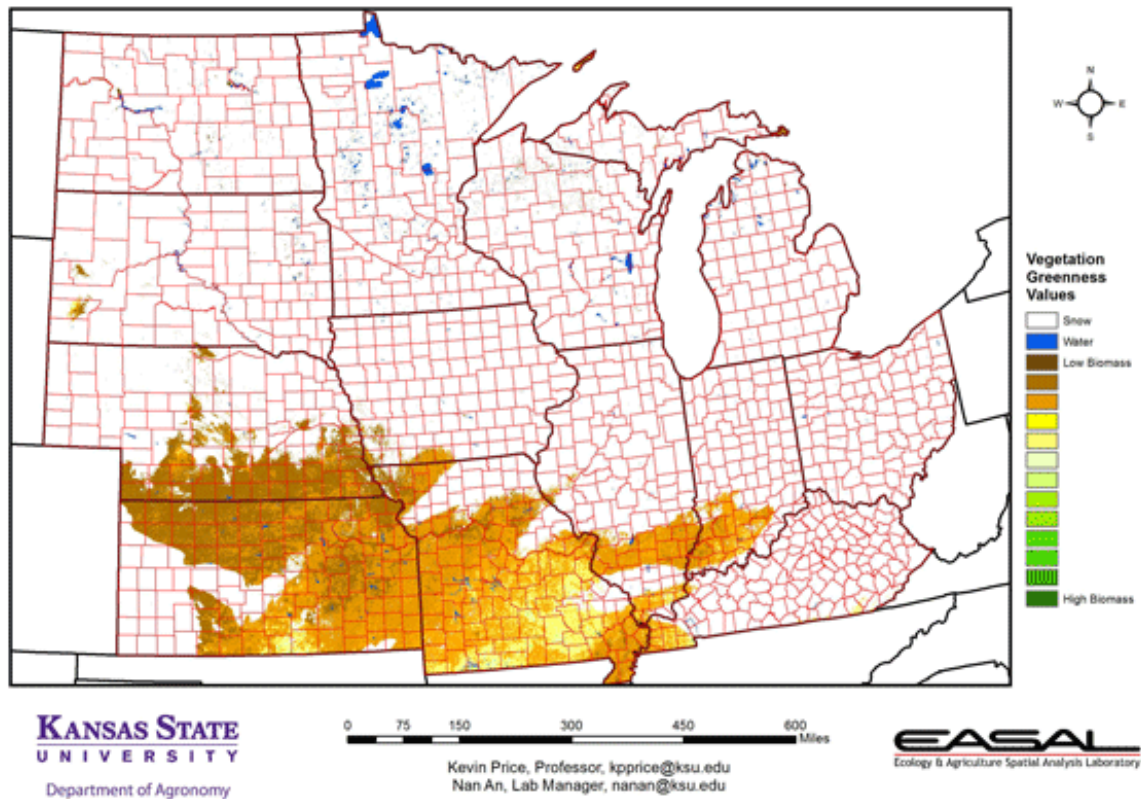


Figure 4. The Vegetation Condition Report for the Corn Belt for January 13 – 26 from K-State’s Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that eastern Kansas and western Missouri missed out on the snow. Coverage in this period was relatively light. Parts of North Dakota have yet to have a 1-inch storm, and seasonal totals are well below average.

U.S. Corn Belt Vegetation Condition Comparison
Late-January 2015 Compared to Late-January 2014

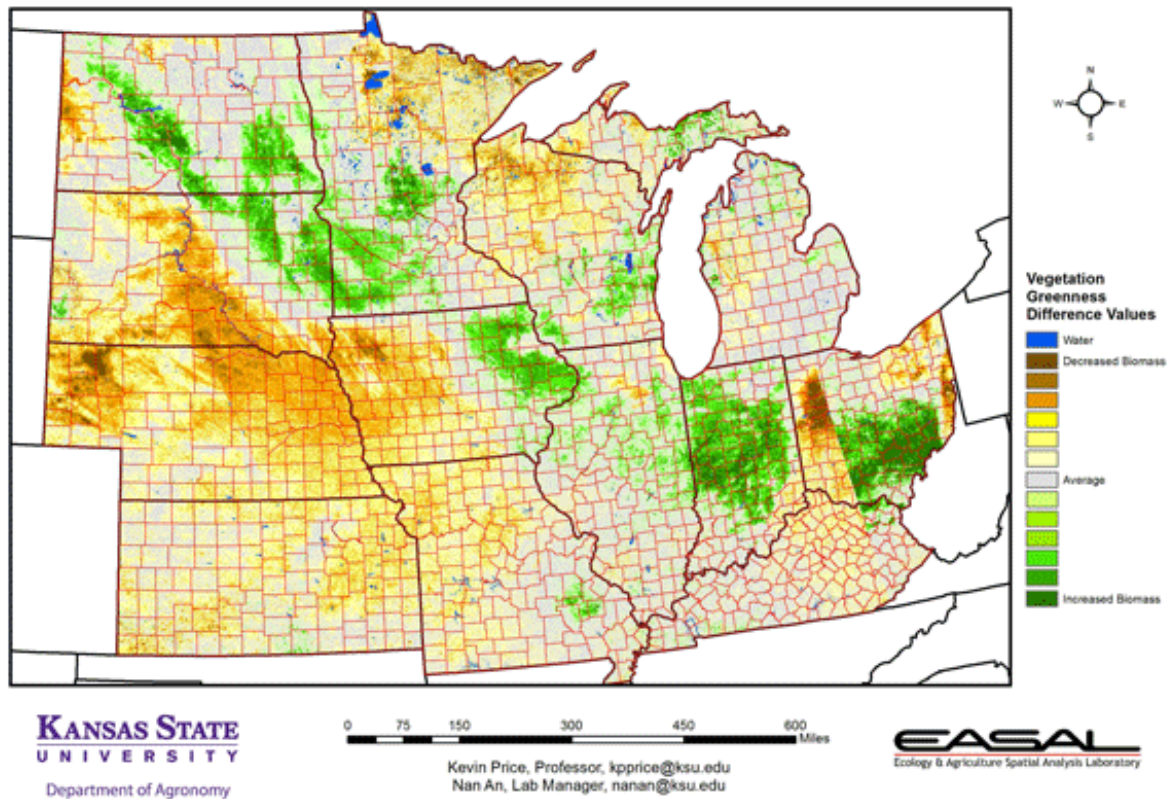


Figure 5. The comparison to last year in the Corn Belt for the period January 13 – 26 from K-State’s Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows a distinct splice line in Ohio. This is due to persistent clouds during the period. Aside from that there is a band of generally higher NDVI readings from North Dakota through eastern Iowa and into Indiana. Lower-than-average snow cover contributes to that pattern.

U.S. Corn Belt Vegetation Condition Comparison
Late-January 2015 Compared to the 26-Year Average for Late-January

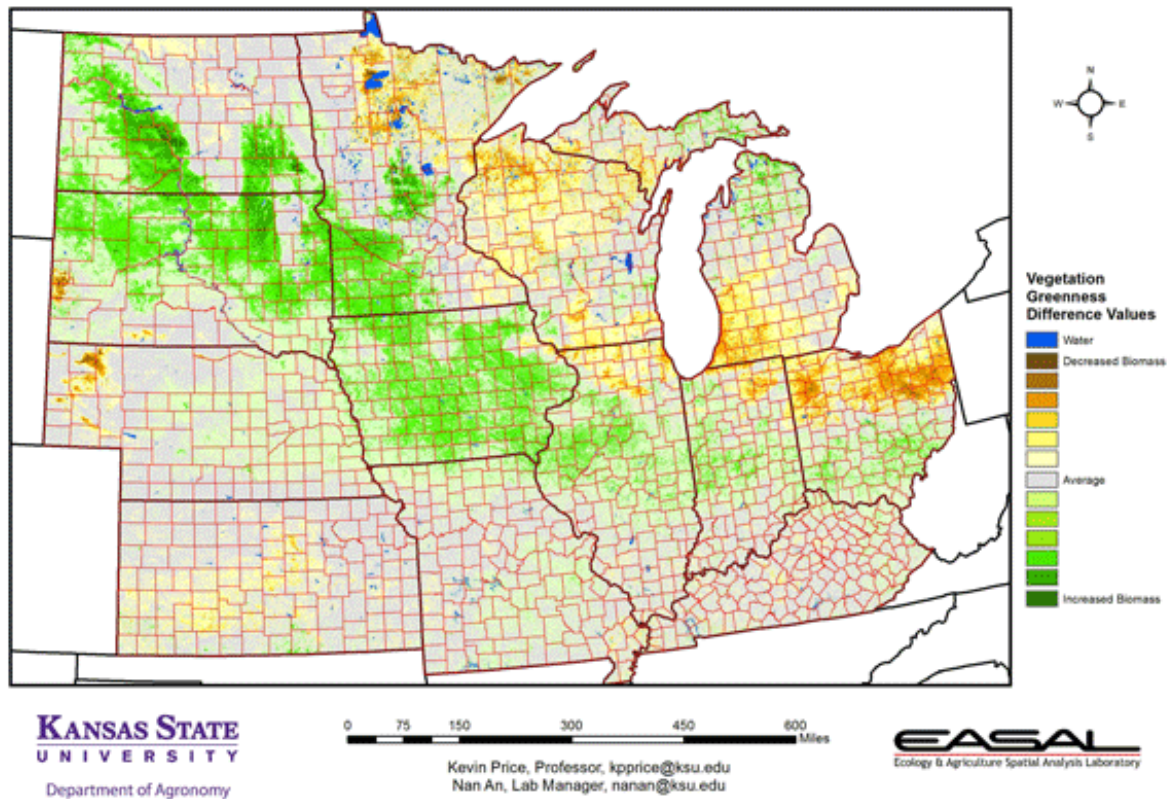


Figure 6. Compared to the 26-year average at this time for the Corn Belt, this year's Vegetation Condition Report for January 13 – 26 from K-State's Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that there is a large area of greater-than-average NDVI readings through the central portion of the region. This is most notable from the Dakotas to Iowa. Increased photosynthetic activity at this time increases the drought stress and risk of freeze damage in these areas.

Continental U.S. Vegetation Condition

Period 04: 01/13/2015 - 01/26/2015

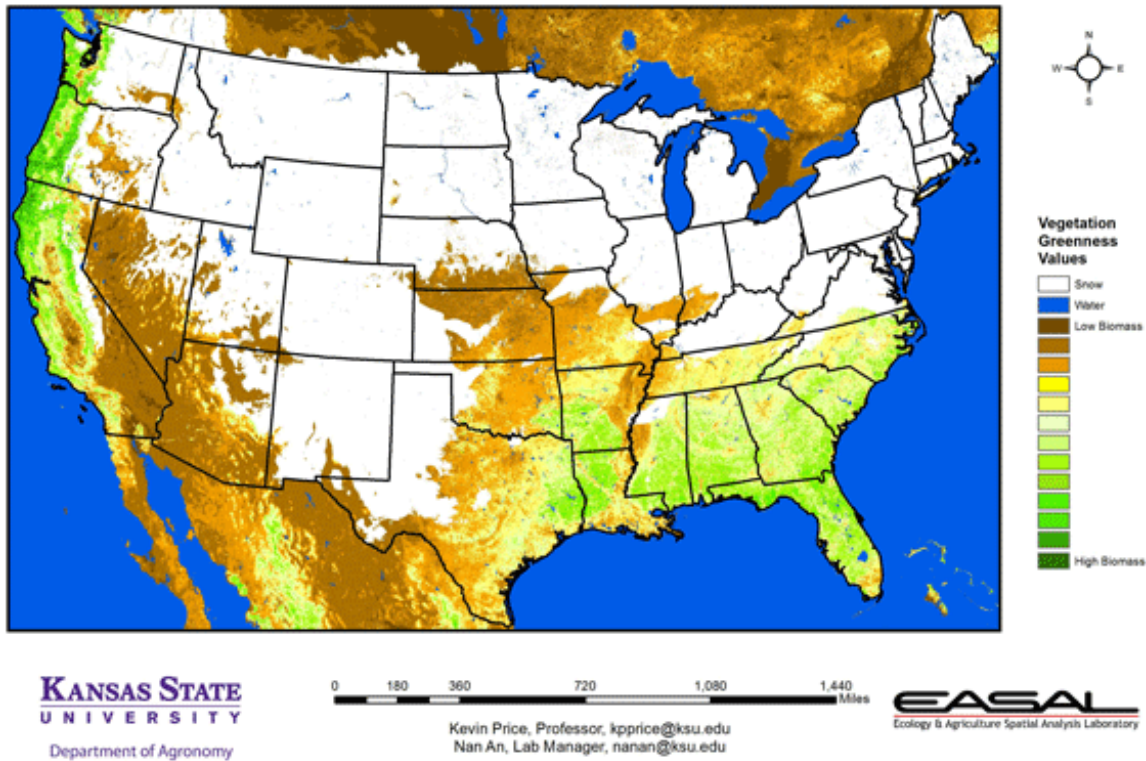


Figure 7. The Vegetation Condition Report for the U.S. for January 13 – 26 from K-State’s Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that snow was again a feature into the Panhandle of Texas. However, snow has been confined to the east side of the Sierras. This has increased drought concerns in the West from Washington state to southern California.

Continental U.S. Vegetation Condition Comparison
Late-January 2015 Compared to Late-January 2014

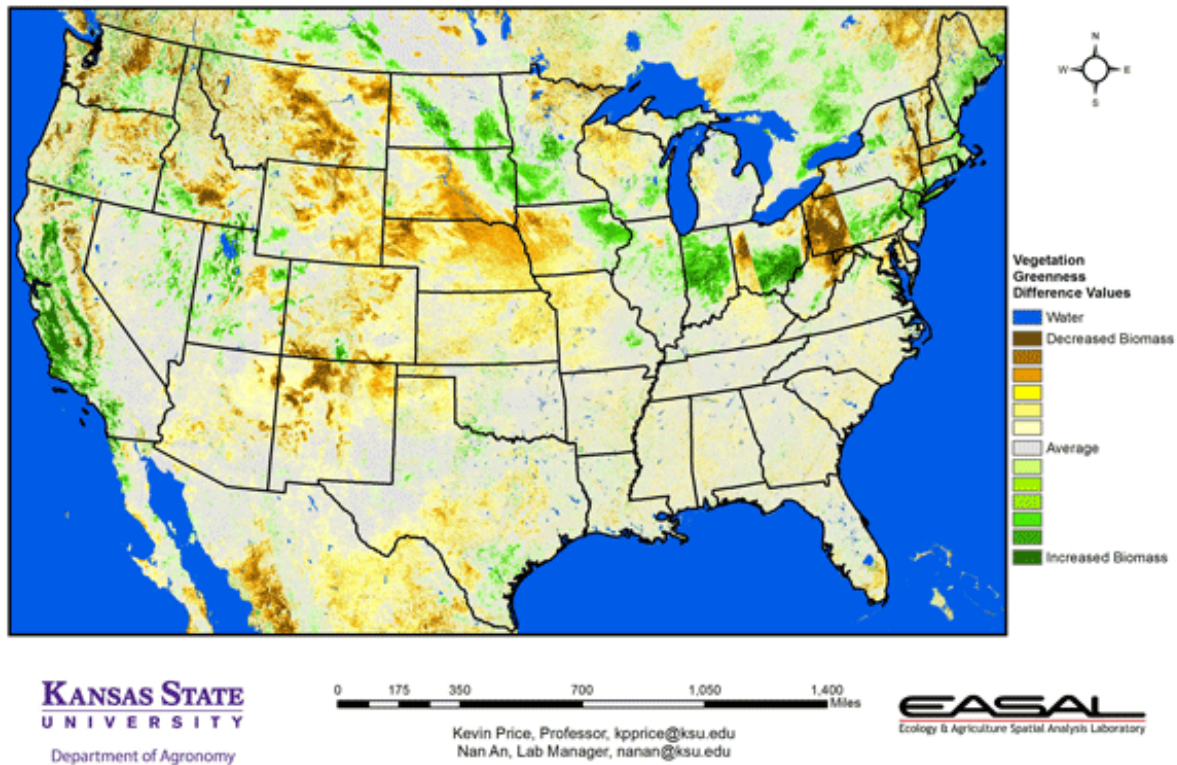


Figure 8. The U.S. comparison to last year at this time for the period January 13 – 26 from K-State’s Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that there is a distinct border between the higher NDVI readings in North Dakota and the lower values in South Dakota and Nebraska. Much of this difference is due to the difference in snow cover between the two regions. Areas with lower snow cover this year have higher NDVI values. The sharp boundaries in Ohio and Pennsylvania are an artifact of the splice procedures and are due to persistent cloud cover.

Continental U.S. Vegetation Condition Comparison
Late-January 2015 Compared to 26-year Average for Late-January

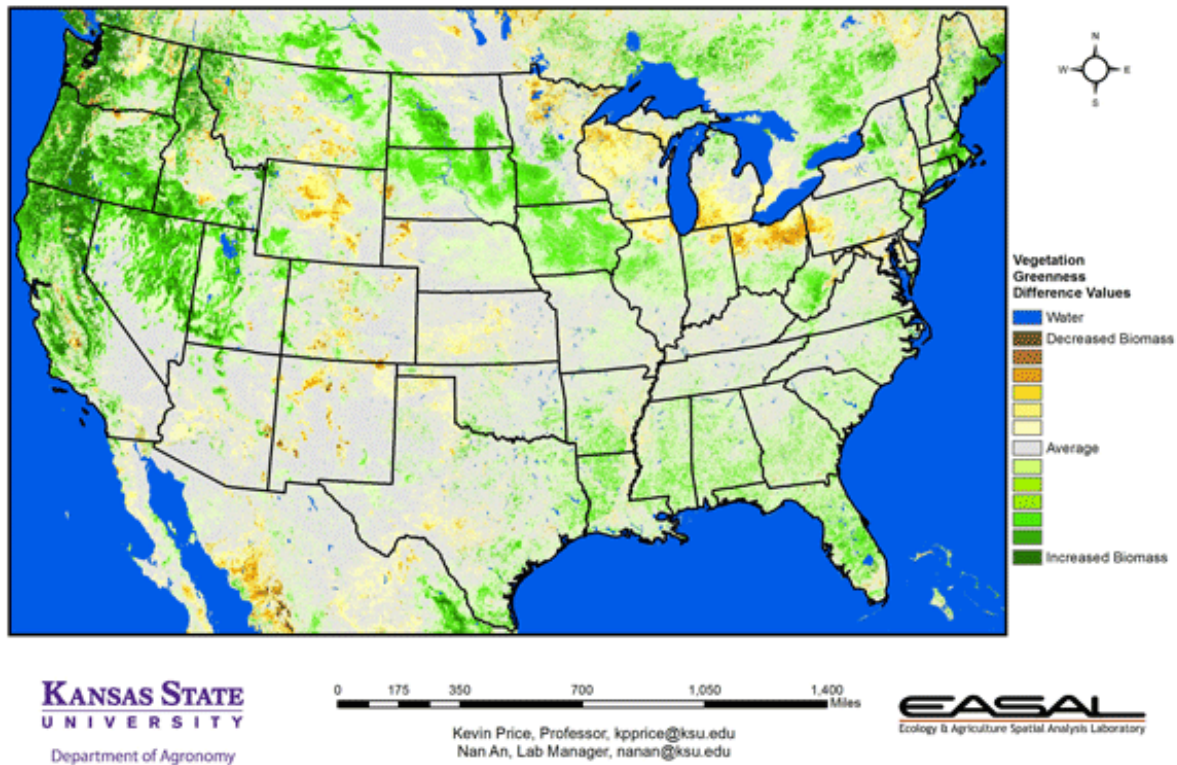


Figure 9. The U.S. comparison to the 26-year average for the period January 13 – 26 from K-State’s Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that the Pacific Northwest continues to have much higher-than-average photosynthetic activity. Low snow pack totals continue to create problems in the region. In the Pacific Northwest snow cover is just 24 percent of the area, with an average snow depth of just 8 inches. For contrast in 2006, which was a fairly good year, the coverage was 50 percent of the area with an average depth of 22 inches.

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