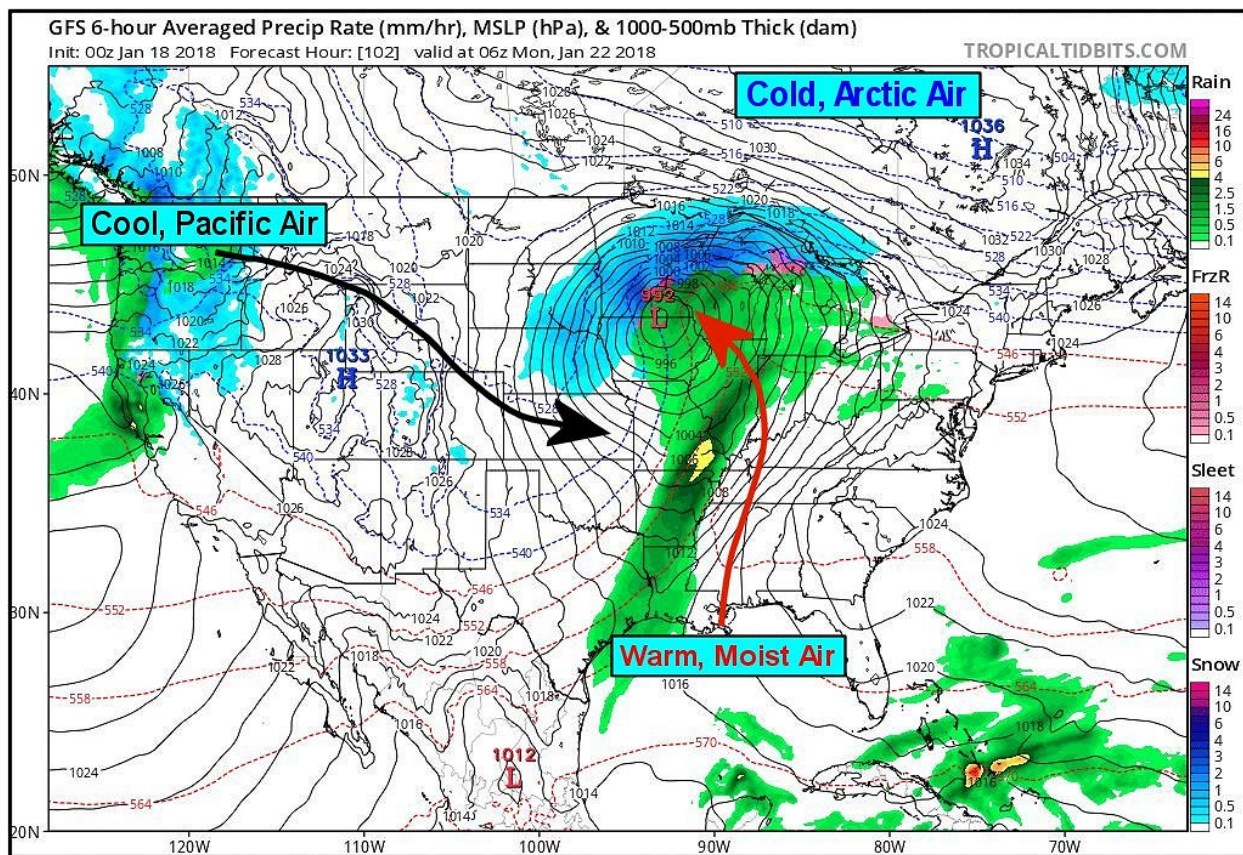


# Temperatures To Trend Above Avg. In Many U.S. Crop Areas

By Brad Luchen

Kansas City, January 18 (World Weather Inc.)

The arctic air mass that caused bitterly cold temperatures across much of the United States earlier this week will be gradually fading over the next couple of days and will be replaced with a warmer air mass. Many crop areas, including the Midwest, Hard Red Winter Wheat Region, and Northern Plains will receive above average temperatures Friday through Sunday. These warmer temperatures will be aided by a trough of low pressure that will move into the western United States later this week. This will promote a southerly wind in much of the Midwest, Delta, and southern Hard Red Winter Wheat Region which will help pull in more warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico area.



A strong surface area of low pressure will then develop and move into the central United States Sunday and then turn into northwestern portions of the Midwest Sunday night into Monday. Temperatures behind these systems are often quite cold this time of year; however, the main air mass behind this weekend's storm system is from the Pacific Northwest and won't send temperatures plummeting well below average again. Pacific air (or maritime polar air mass) is not nearly as cold as an arctic air mass. Arctic air will be trying to re-organize in northern Ontario and will slip into the eastern Dakotas and Minnesota early next week; however, temperatures across a majority of the Midwest and Hard Red Winter Wheat Region will remain near to slightly above average.

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Another trough of low pressure will then likely dip into the western United States Jan. 24 -25 causing temperatures to remain in a warm-bias in many crop areas east of the Rocky Mountains. Confidence then decreases for how cold the air mass behind this second system will be Jan. 26 – 29. The take away from this, though, is that temperatures will trend warmer in many areas of the United States that were recently dealing with well below average temperatures and this warmer bias is likely to last through at least January 25.

The warmer temperatures will mean no threatening cold for a while in the Hard Red Winter Wheat Region. Snow cover will also generally decrease in much of the Midwest; though, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin will likely receive a snowstorm from the first storm system this weekend into Monday and “possibly” some meaningful snow from the second system. Also, the warmer temperatures will mean less energy will be used for heating homes and businesses compared to the energy that was used earlier this week and in the last week of December into the first few days of January.

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