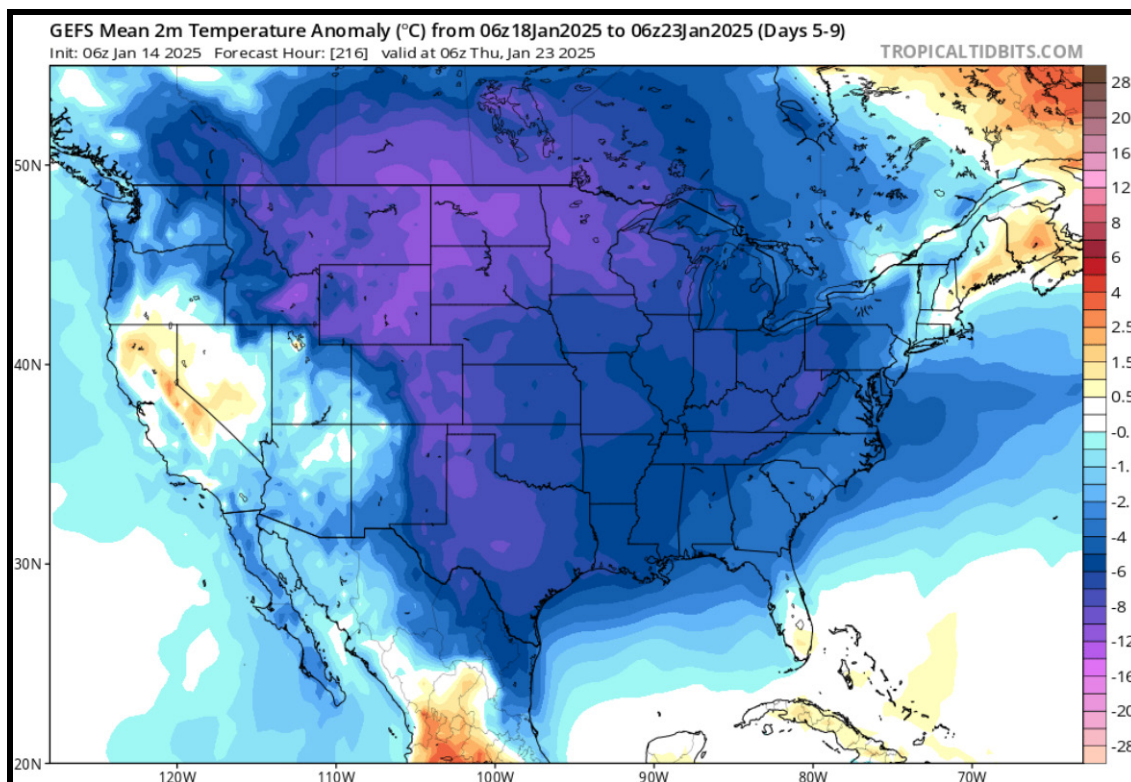


North America Arctic Air Outbreak To Have Many Impacts

By Andrew Owen

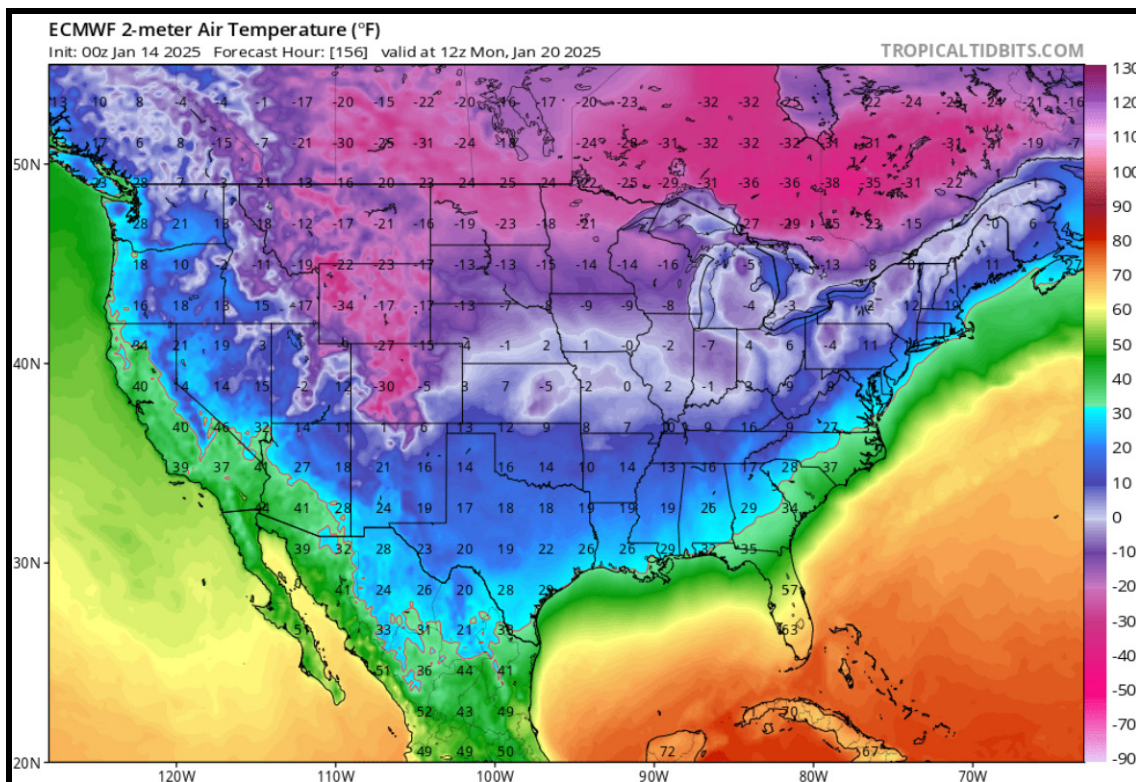
Kansas City, January 14 (World Weather Inc.) – Although an upper-level trough will make its way across eastern North America during the next few days, temperatures will only trend a few degrees cooler than usual for portions of the U.S. and Canada. Warmer air associated with a nearby high-pressure ridge will otherwise spread across a large section of North America later this week, prompting above or well above normal temperatures for several locations. This period of warmer weather will be short-lived as [a pool of arctic air is slated to expand across North America this weekend and next week. Areas near and east of the Rockies will gradually see temperatures drop below to well below normal during this time with exceptions for southern Florida, Maine, and eastern fringes of Canada. The cold weather will increase energy demands and may stress livestock. Winterkill will also be a concern in pockets of the northern Plains and Nebraska due to little snowpack and a lack of new snow before the coldest weather.](#)

Weather across North America will be relatively mild through the end of the workweek. A weak upper-level trough will advance across eastern North America today and Wednesday that will promote seasonably cold weather for several locations, though no excessive cooling will occur. Warmer air will otherwise spread across much of the region later this week, promoting periods of warmer than normal weather for much of North America. Periods of light precipitation will occur from Canada into portions of the northern Plains, Midwest, and northeastern states of the U.S. as disturbances pass over the region. Snow accumulations will be light where it occurs.



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Arctic air will then gradually spread from northern Canada into much of North America near and east of the Rocky Mountains this weekend and the first part of next week as a strong low-pressure trough builds over the region. The arctic air will help bring temperatures below or well below normal for this time of year with many locations in the Plains and southern Canadian Prairies experiencing temperatures that are ten degrees Fahrenheit below normal. Sub-zero degree readings will be possible as far south as Kansas, northern Missouri, northern and central Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and portions of Ohio Monday morning. Several areas in the northern Plains and Canadian Prairies will also see nighttime lows drop to the negative 20s or even negative 30s as well. The coldest air is expected to shift easterly to eastern North America later next week, though confidence is a little low for the exact timing.

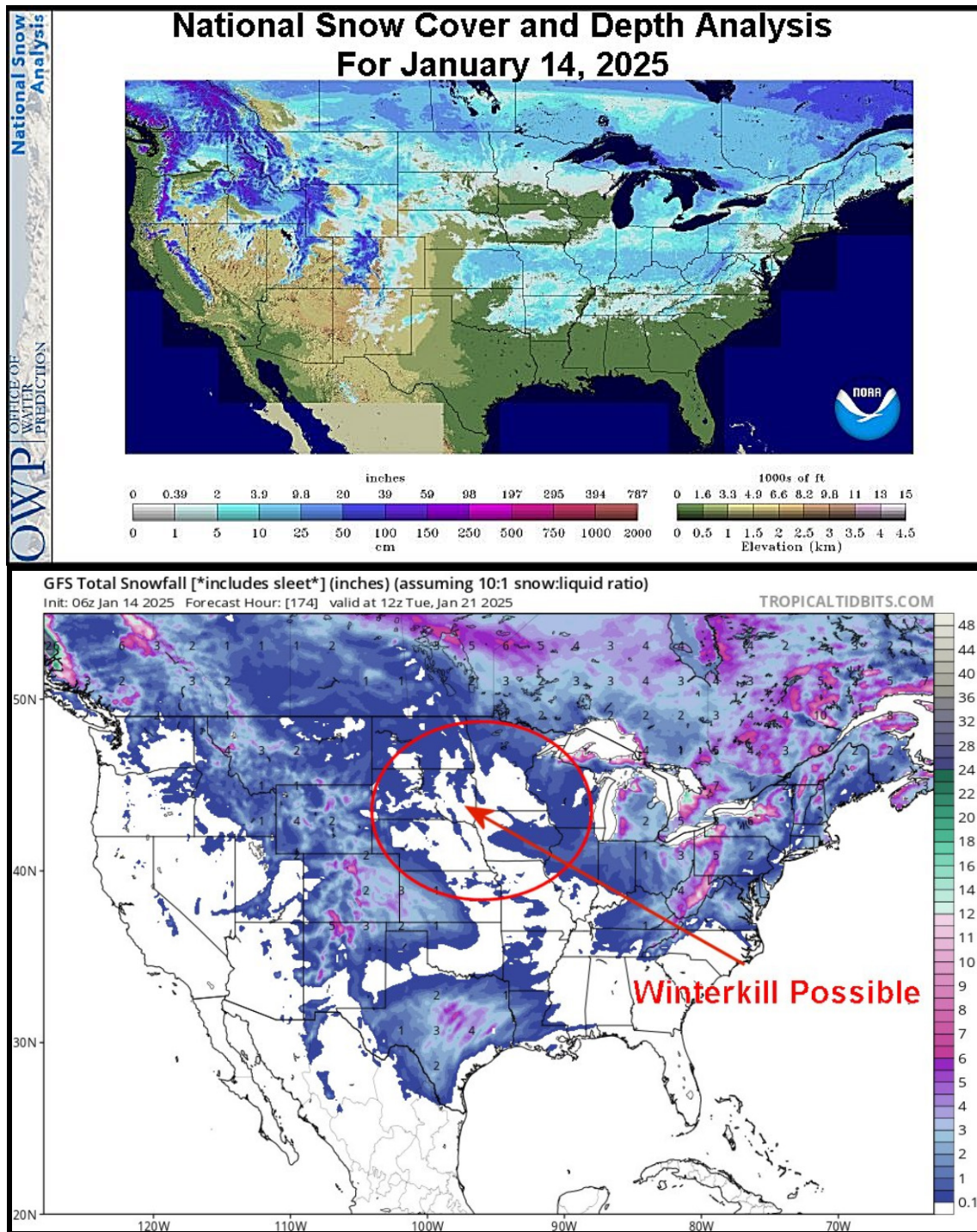


One of the main concerns for the upcoming arctic air outbreak will be increased energy demands for a large section of North America east of the Rocky Mountains January 18-23. Several areas in the Pacific Northwest, western Canada, and even portions of the U.S. southwest may see increased energy demands despite not being directly in the path of the arctic air. Dangerously low wind chills will also be a concern and may stress grazing livestock.

Another concern will be the threat for winterkill in portions of the northern Plains, Nebraska, Iowa, and neighboring locations. As of this morning, several locations in Nebraska, eastern North Dakota, southern Minnesota, Iowa, southern Wisconsin, and northwestern Illinois were snow-free, although a minimal amount of wheat is produced in the upper Midwest. Very little precipitation will precede the outbreak of arctic air and several locations will likely be snow-free while experiencing sub-zero degree temperatures. Damage should be minimal in Nebraska and northern Missouri. The snow-free areas that

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experience sub-zero degree temperatures are also not major winter grain producers. Overall crop impacts should be minimal, though some losses cannot be completely ruled out.



This pool of arctic air could also eventually impact parts of Florida next Tuesday and Wednesday, January 14-15. Depending on the intensity of the trough, frost could evolve in portions of citrus and sugarcane country. Some models suggest a disturbance could advance across the southeastern states during this time, which would help keep the

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coldest air from reaching crop country and limit damage. However, the threat for adverse conditions is over a week out and confidence is low. A close monitoring of the situation is warranted.

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