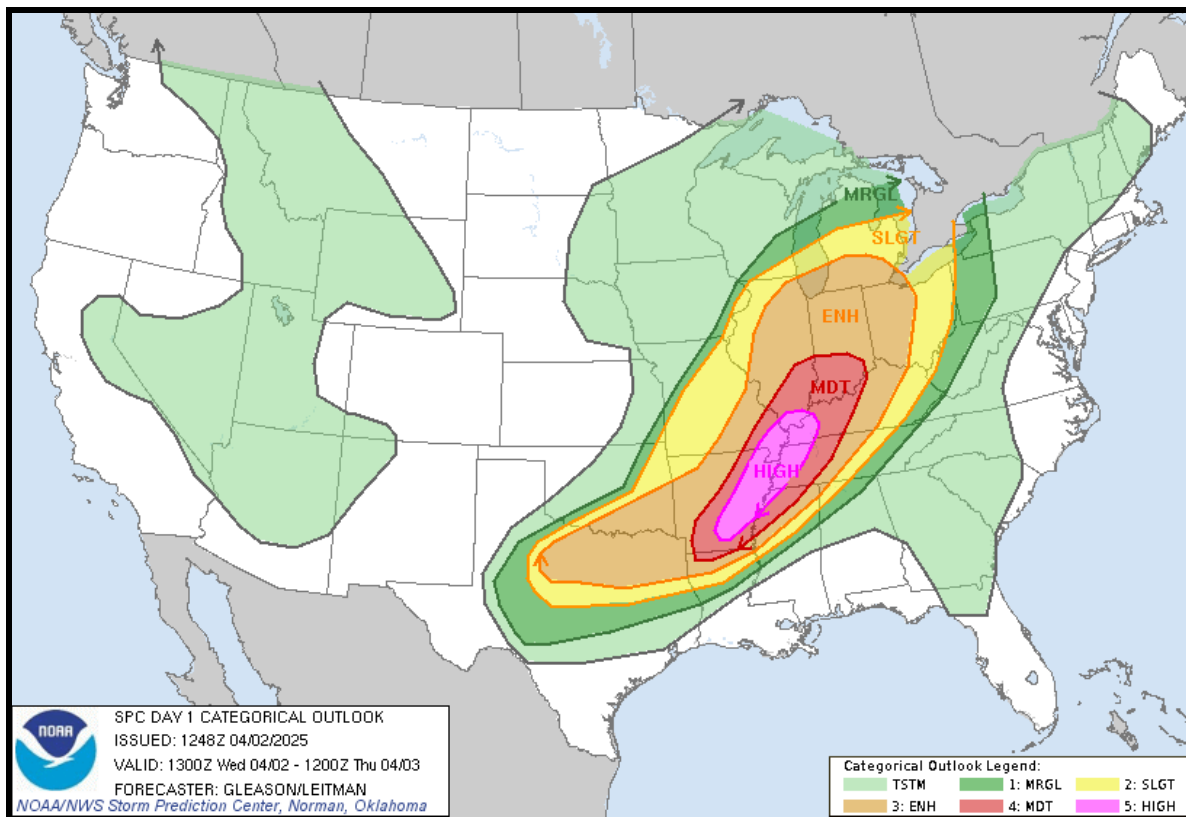


Severe Weather, Flooding To Impact U.S. Crops, Property

By Scarlett Waters

Kansas City, April 2 (World Weather Inc.) – Significantly contrasting air masses meeting up over the U.S. lower and eastern Midwest and Mid-South regions over the next few days will bring on a bout of severe thunderstorms and flooding. **Areas of the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys are being monitored for the potential for severe weather tonight into Thursday morning. Risks from these storms include; possible tornadoes, large hail, damaging wind, and heavy rain.** The conflicting air masses will also set the stage for frequent bouts of heavy rain and the potential for additional strong to severe thunderstorms into Saturday. **Rainfall totals going into Sunday will vary between 6.00 and 12.00 inches from Arkansas into portions of the Ohio River Valley and northern Delta with up to 14.00 inches possible from southern Kentucky into eastern Arkansas. If this forecast verifies, flooding will be a risk and may cause damage to winter wheat in this region. Cooler-biased weather will then enter the Plains and eastern Midwest this weekend and early next week resulting in frost and freezes and a possible impact on the more advanced winter crops.**

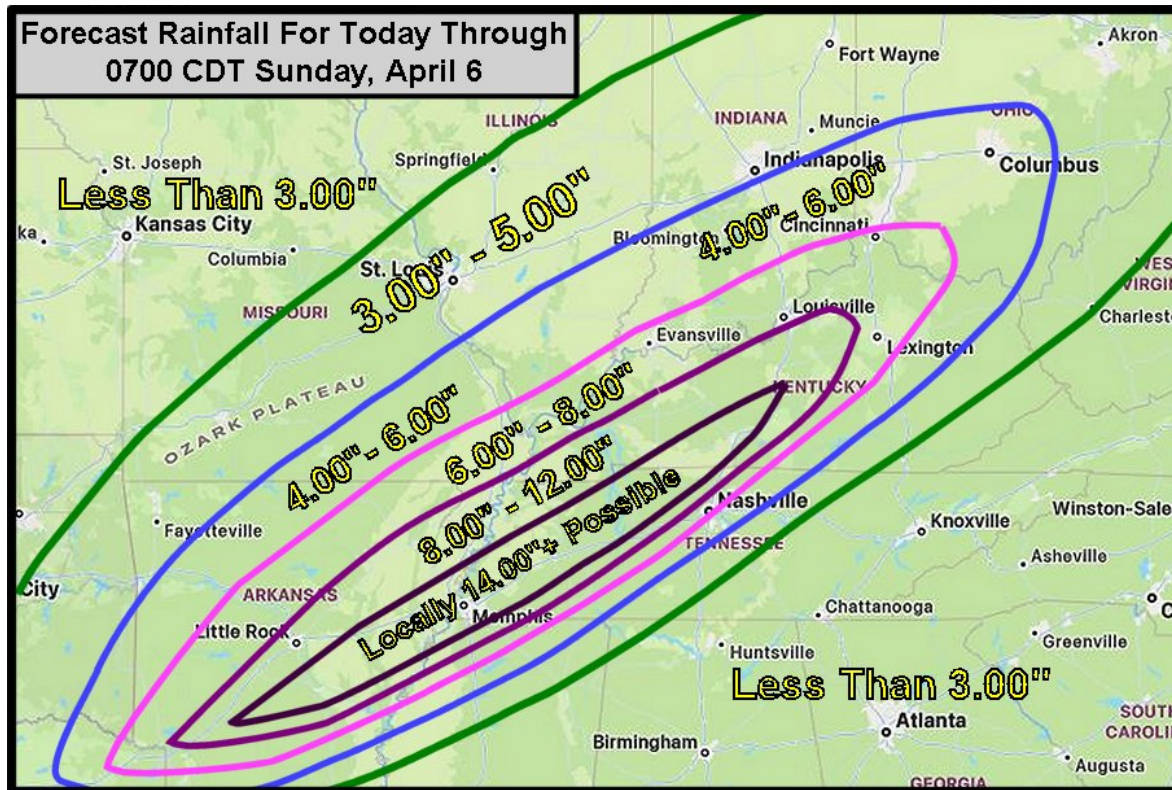


The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is indicating a high risk of severe weather this evening into Thursday morning for portions of the Mississippi River Valley; notably in the Bootheel of Missouri, far western Kentucky and Tennessee, and eastern Arkansas. An enhanced to moderate risk for severe weather extends northward into the southern Great Lakes region and southward into northeastern Texas.

Hazards going into tonight and Thursday morning include the risk for isolated tornadoes, large hail, and damaging wind. The SPC currently indicates at least a 10%

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chance of EF2 or greater strength tornadoes from the Ohio River Valley southwestward into northern Louisiana. Similar chances for large hail in excess of 2 inches and wind gusts in excess of 70 mph are also a risk over the same area. Rainfall amounts within the next 24 hours are expected to be between 1.00 and 3.50 inches across the impacted areas, with locally greater totals nearing 5.00 inches possible in the highest risk area in the Mississippi River Valley.



Rounds of thunderstorms are expected to persist in the lower Mississippi River Valley, lower Ohio River Valley and southeastern states in the coming days going into this weekend. A similar line of strong to severe thunderstorms is currently forecast to impact the lower Mississippi River Valley again Saturday morning. While this forecast severe weather event is too far out to accurately predict its impacts, the U.S. Storm prediction Center has tentatively indicated a 15% - 30% risk for severe thunderstorms from the southern Ohio River Valley to Mississippi Delta and will need to be monitored closely for updates.

Repetitive thunderstorms training over the same region from Arkansas into Kentucky, western Tennessee, far southern Illinois, southern Indiana and southwestern Ohio will result in copious amounts of rain. Five-day estimated rain amounts are projected to be between 6.00 and 12.00 inches by 0700 CDT Sunday in the impacted areas of the lower Ohio River Valley and northern Delta with locally greater totals in excess of 14.00 inches possible in portions of eastern Arkansas to southern Kentucky.

Flooding is likely in the lower Midwest and northern Delta resulting in property and crop damage. If flooding from excessive rain verifies, winter wheat in low-lying areas may be drowned out. There is a slight risk that early planted corn may be impacted as well, though planting has not been very aggressive so far this season. Replanting of early season

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corn will be a byproduct of this flood event and some producers in the worst flooded areas may not be able to access their land for an extended period of time because of serious flooding and areas of standing water.

Much colder temperatures will follow the next few days of severe thunderstorms and flooding this weekend and early next week. Lowest temperatures in the middle and upper 20s and lower to middle 30s are predicted for the northern and central Plains and Midwest possibly causing some burning of new vegetative growth in wheat and other winter crops. That damage may not be permanent in the Midwest, but there is some risk of more notable damage in the southwestern Plains where crops are more advanced. The impact of frost and freeze damage will likely be low, but when added to the impacts from flooding and this week's severe thunderstorm damage the impact could be a little greater.

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