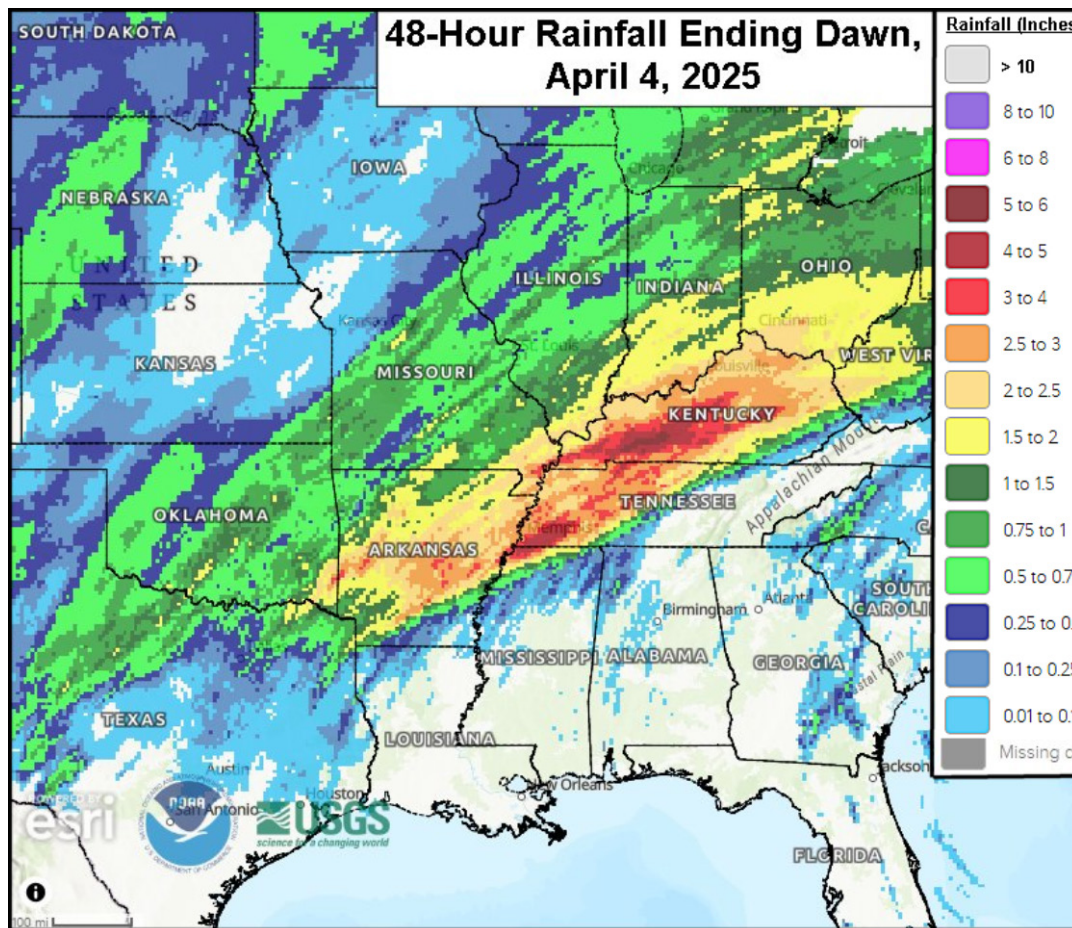


Lower U.S. Midwest, Upper Delta Flooding Worsening

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 4 (World Weather Inc.) – Excessive rain has already fallen across the lower U.S. Midwest and northern Delta in the past two days and the precipitation event will continue into Sunday resulting in serious property and some crop damage. The worst impacted areas will be from the heart of Arkansas through southeastern Missouri and western Tennessee to Kentucky where there has already been 2.50 to 8.34 inches of rain between dawn Wednesday and noon today (Friday). Another 2.00 to 6.00 inches of rain is expected with a few amounts to 8.00 inches by Sunday bring some of the rain totals to the range of 5.00 to 12.00 inches and a few amounts near or above 14.00 inches. Any crops that were planted early will likely have to be replanted and delays in future fieldwork are expected to last at least two weeks and perhaps notably longer if new rain falls. Flooding will eventually reach the Ohio, lower Tennessee and lower Mississippi Rivers causing barge traffic to be disrupted and creating some additional farmland to be impacted near the rivers.

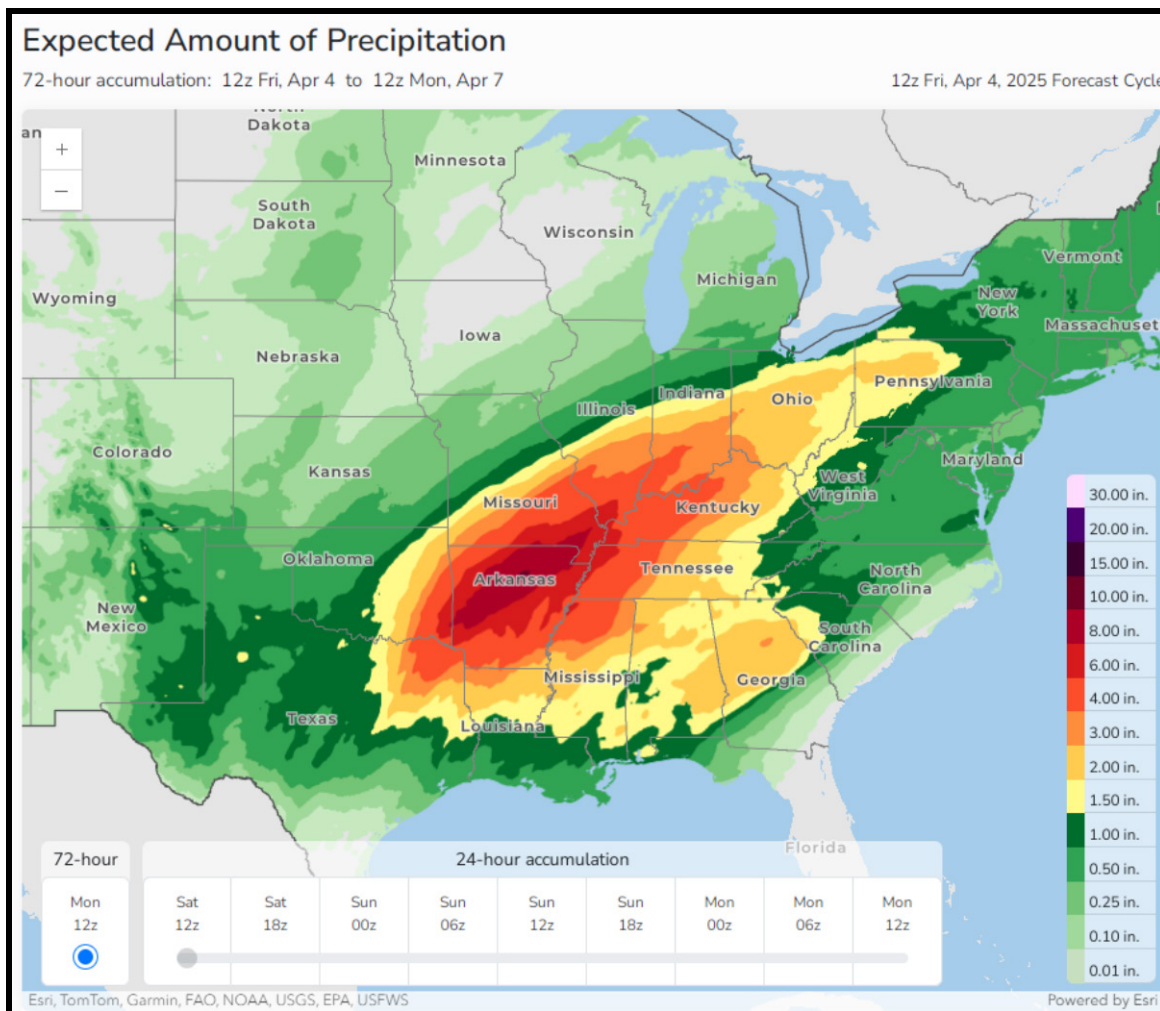


A sequence of disturbances promoted rain from much of Arkansas (outside the southeast corner of the state), southeastern Missouri, western Tennessee, and extreme northwestern Mississippi into Kentucky and southern sections of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio during the past two days. In addition to the total rainfall noted above, a few locations in

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south-central Kentucky and north-central Tennessee have already recorded 9.00 to 12.96 inches resulting some very serious flooding.

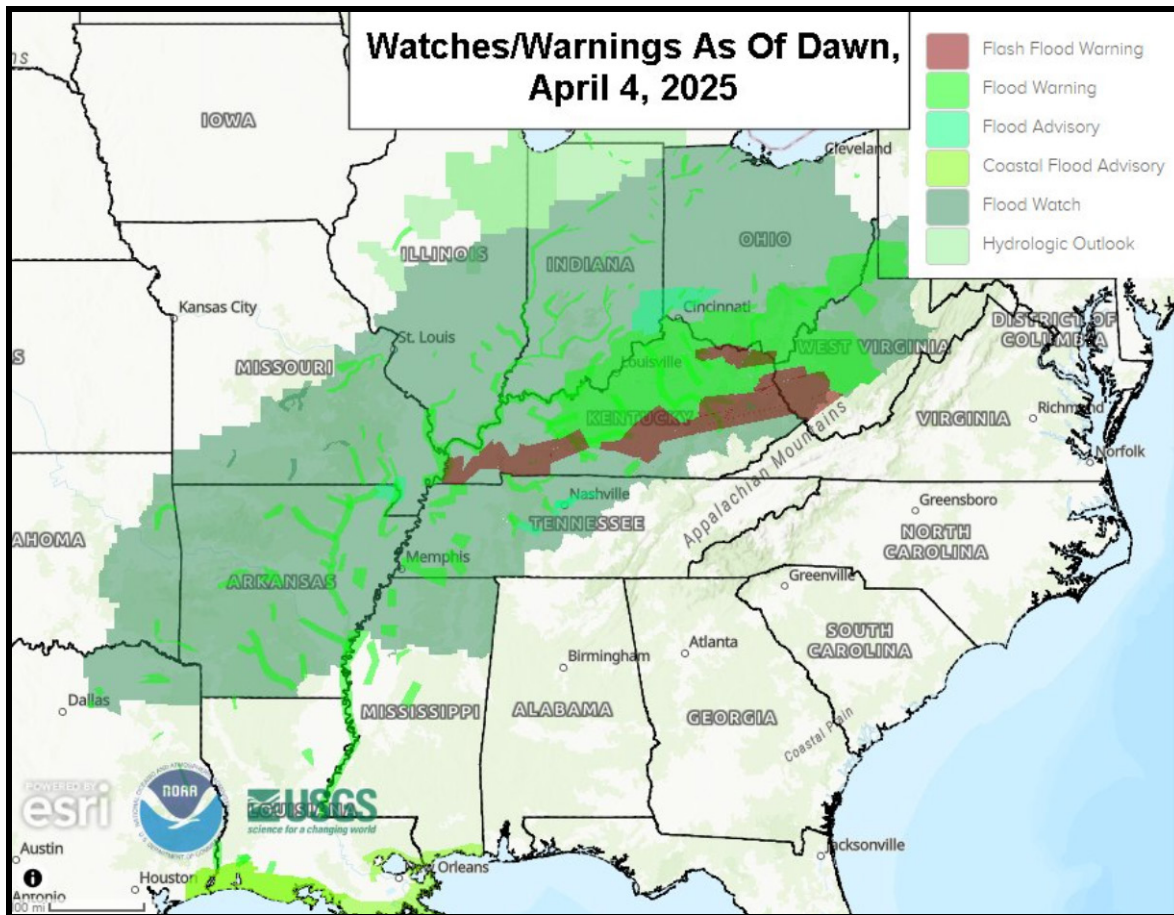
Early season planting has occurred in much of the Delta and was beginning to expand from the Tennessee River Basin to the southern Ohio River Valley when this week's rain began. **Many areas had not started planting yet which will prove to be beneficial to those farmers since replanting will be necessary for most of the early planted crops in the greatest rainfall area. Flooding in some areas from Arkansas to western Tennessee and Kentucky may be severe enough to limit fieldwork for a few weeks, depending on how much rain falls during mid-to-late month.** An extended period of warmer and drier than normal weather will be needed later this month to support a better environment for early-season planting and general fieldwork.



In the meantime, winter wheat prospects in Illinois, Indiana, and neighboring locations in the Midwest are relatively favorable. Timely precipitation last autumn helped support good establishment before crops went dormant. **The main concern going forward will be the need for drier and warmer weather to firm the ground in the wettest locations. Wheat produced in low-lying areas from Arkansas to Kentucky may be lost due to drowning from flood water.**

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An elongated upper-level trough of low pressure will stretch from the U.S. southwest into central Canada today before slowly making its way into eastern North America over the weekend. This upper-air pattern will allow for abundant moisture to spread across the U.S. Delta, lower Midwest and portions of the U.S. southeast through Monday morning. Disturbances riding along the trough combined with the ample atmospheric moisture will promote periods of heavy rainfall for portions of the lower Midwest and northern Delta later today into Sunday morning. The main band of rain will shift into the southeastern states later Sunday into early Monday.



Northern Arkansas and southern Missouri will receive some of the most significant rainfall through the end of the weekend. Additional moisture totals by Monday morning will range from 4.00 to 8.00 inches with local amounts of 12.00 inches or more. Other areas in the northern half of the Delta into western and northern Kentucky, southern and central Illinois, southern Indiana, and southwestern Ohio Will receive 2.50 to 6.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 8.00 inches or more. Other locations in Ohio and Indiana, along with a large section of the Carolinas and northern sections of Alabama and Georgia, will receive 0.75 to 4.00 inches of rain through midday Monday.

The threat for severe flooding is high from northern Arkansas and southern Missouri into the lower Midwest and other areas in the northern half of the Delta in the coming days due to the periods of torrential rain. In addition to the flooding, damaging wind, hail, and even a few tornadoes will be possible for these locations later today into

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Saturday. Significant structural damage is likely, including port damage along the Mississippi River. Damage to ports and high river levels may impact barge traffic for days or even weeks. Flooding will also impact farms and ports near the Mississippi River in the lower Delta as water drains through that region in the next couple of weeks. That could lead to some replanting in areas that were planted normally and never encountered any of the excessive rain occurring farther to the north.

While widespread planting has not yet begun in the lower Midwest and upper Delta, early-season fieldwork will likely be delayed for days or weeks due to the rain and flooding. Producers will likely need several weeks of drier and warmer weather before widespread planting can begin. These areas will have a few opportunities for spotty rain next week, though overall precipitation totals will not be enough to promote additional flooding or significantly increase soil moisture.

Winter wheat in portions of Illinois, Indiana, southeastern Missouri, western Kentucky, and neighboring areas may be damaged or destroyed due to the adverse conditions in the coming days. Damage assessments will likely take days or weeks depending on the severity of the flooding.

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