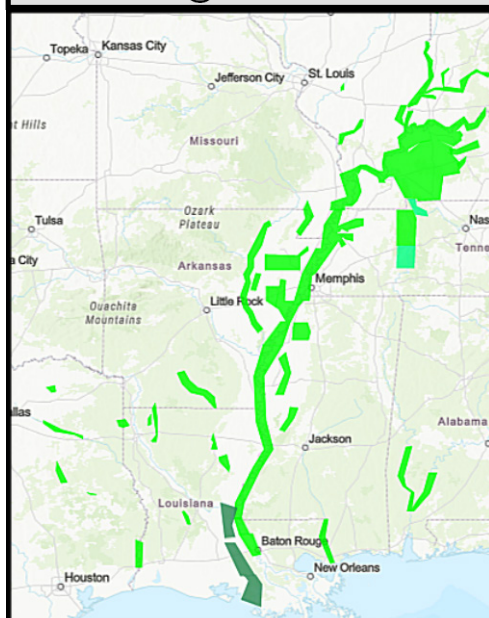
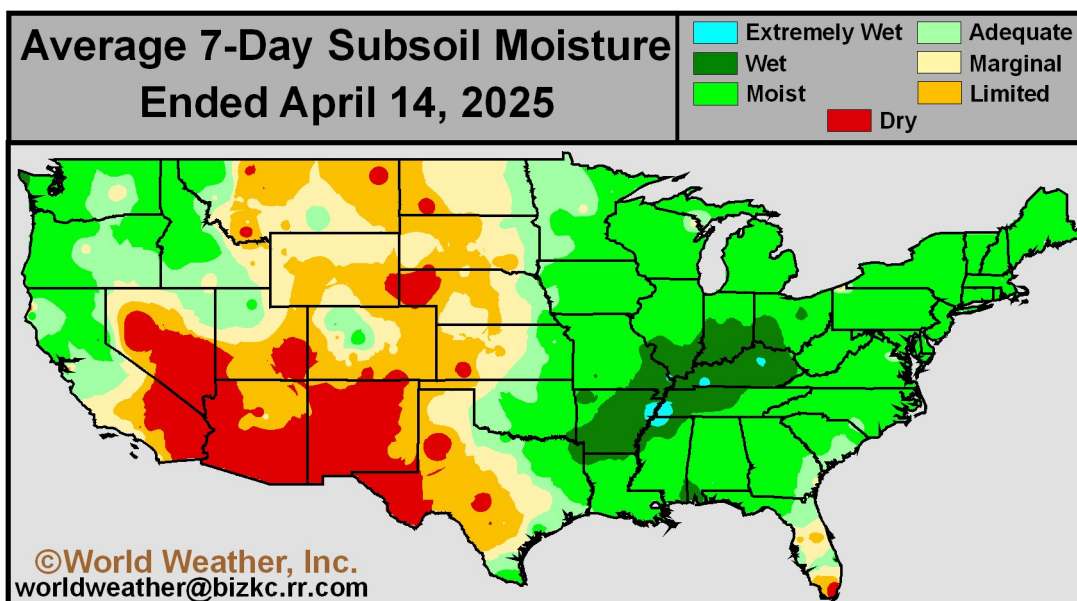


Returning Rain in Delta, Ohio Basin To Prolong Planting Delay

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, April 14 (World Weather Inc.) – River and stream flooding remains widespread in the lower Ohio River Basin and down through the lower Mississippi River Basin as the aftermath of an estimated 24.47 trillion gallons of water was poured over the lower Midwest into the Delta and parts of the Tennessee River Basin earlier this month. The impact on agriculture and personal property has been quite severe. Dry weather will continue in the region this week, but returning rain is expected next week and even if the precipitation is only light it will prevent fieldwork from resuming and induce new delays. The returning rain may occur periodically through the end of April prolonging spring planting delays and raising the potential for both some farmers to switch from intending on planting corn to planting soybeans and for some field abandonment.

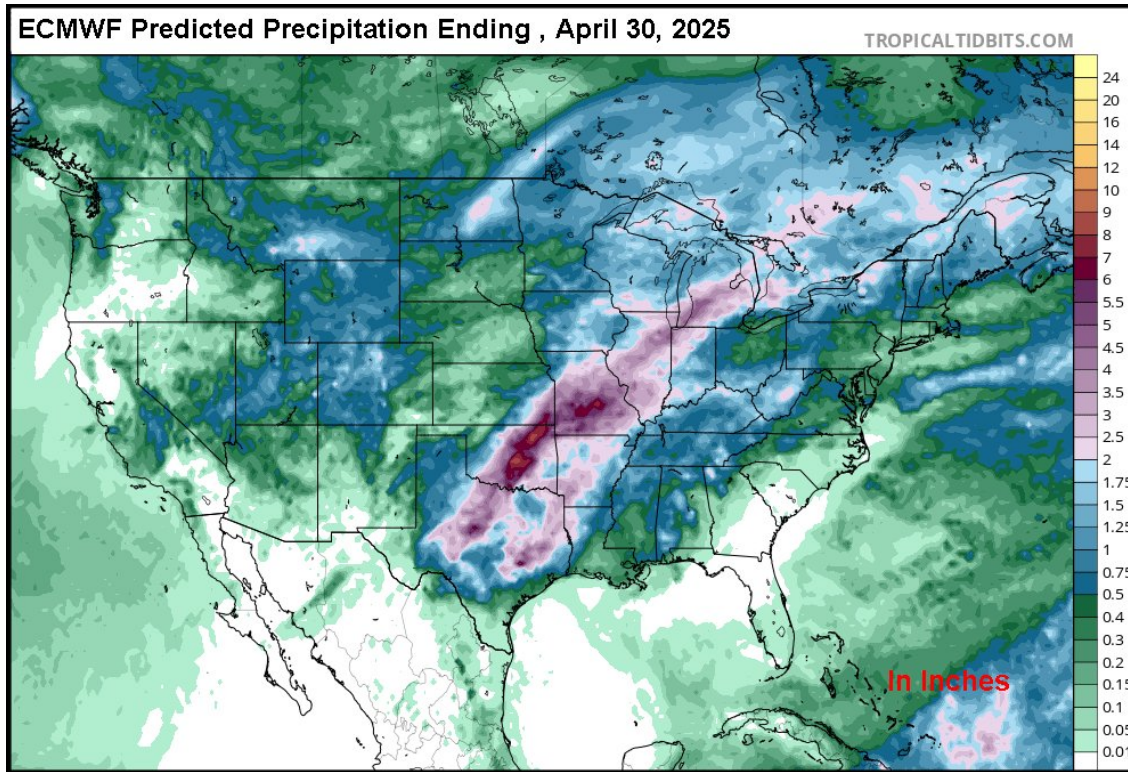


Flooding continues from the lower Ohio River down the lower Mississippi River. The crest of greatest flood water was moving into western Tennessee and northeastern Arkansas and will traverse down the Mississippi River this week. In the meantime, flooding will be slow to end on the lower Ohio River and farmland in low-lying areas will likely continue flooded or saturated with moisture for another week or two assuming no additional rain and warm temperatures.

The peak of the flood water moving downstream is a positive event, without a doubt, but there is concern that the drying trend under way will not last long enough for some farmers to regain access to all of their fields. Weather conditions will remain remain favorable this workweek with little

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to no additional precipitation expected through Saturday. That will be sufficient time to get the crest of flood water down farther into the lower Delta by the weekend. Flood levels upstream should be steadily declining during the period, but some of the farmland that is still submerged in water or is too wet to be worked will not have enough time to dry out before the next more active weather pattern begins to evolve.



The first wave of rain expected in the lower Midwest and Delta will arrive Sunday into Monday. That event will not be very significant, but any rain would hve a negative impact on the date in which farmers can get back into their fields. An extended period of warmer and drier than usual weather is needed, but that is unlikely.

Following the Sunday/Monday rain event next week will be additional rain April 22-30. It will not rain every day and the rain that does fall should not be nearly as great as that of earlier this month; however, its frequency will be much too great for sufficient drying to occur in the Delta, Tennessee River Basin or lower Midwest.

The rain frequency, even if of light intensity, will prevent the wetter fields from drying and the later it gets into May before sufficient drying occurs the higher the potential for either 1) farmers to switch from corn planting to soybean planting or 2) for producers to completely abandon their flooded fields for the season. There is still plenty of time for improved weather, but current weather patterns suggest that may be a difficult task to accomplish before early May.

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