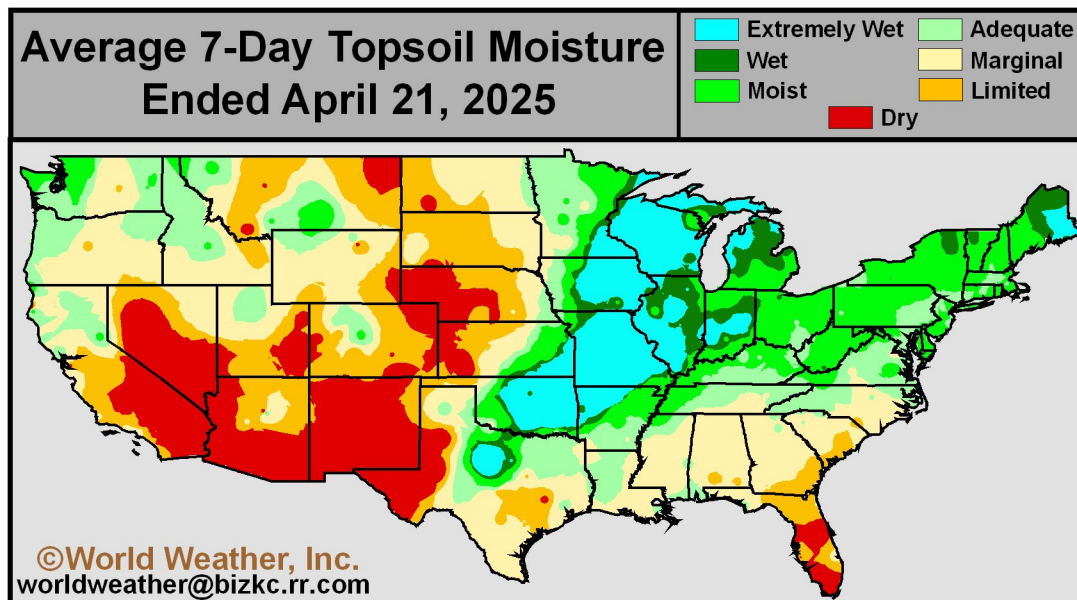


U.S. Crop Areas To Be Wetter Biased Into May

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, April 21 (World Weather Inc.) – [Recent weather trends bringing rain to the U.S. Great Plains and Midwest and continuing the wet bias in the Delta and Tennessee River Basin has not seriously changed the outlook for spring 2025. To a large degree, the year is still looking much like that of March through May of 1968.](#) Improved soil conditions have occurred in parts of the lower Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin since the big flooding rain event of earlier this month, although areas of standing water in low-lying areas remain in northern parts of the Delta, Kentucky and a few areas north of the Ohio River. River flooding is also still occurring on the lower Ohio and lower Mississippi Rivers while more recent rain saturated the soil from Oklahoma and parts of north-central Texas into Illinois, Indiana, eastern Iowa and Wisconsin. [More rain is likely in the next two weeks from the Great Plains through the Midwest and Delta to the interior southeastern states keeping spring fieldwork slow in some areas.](#)



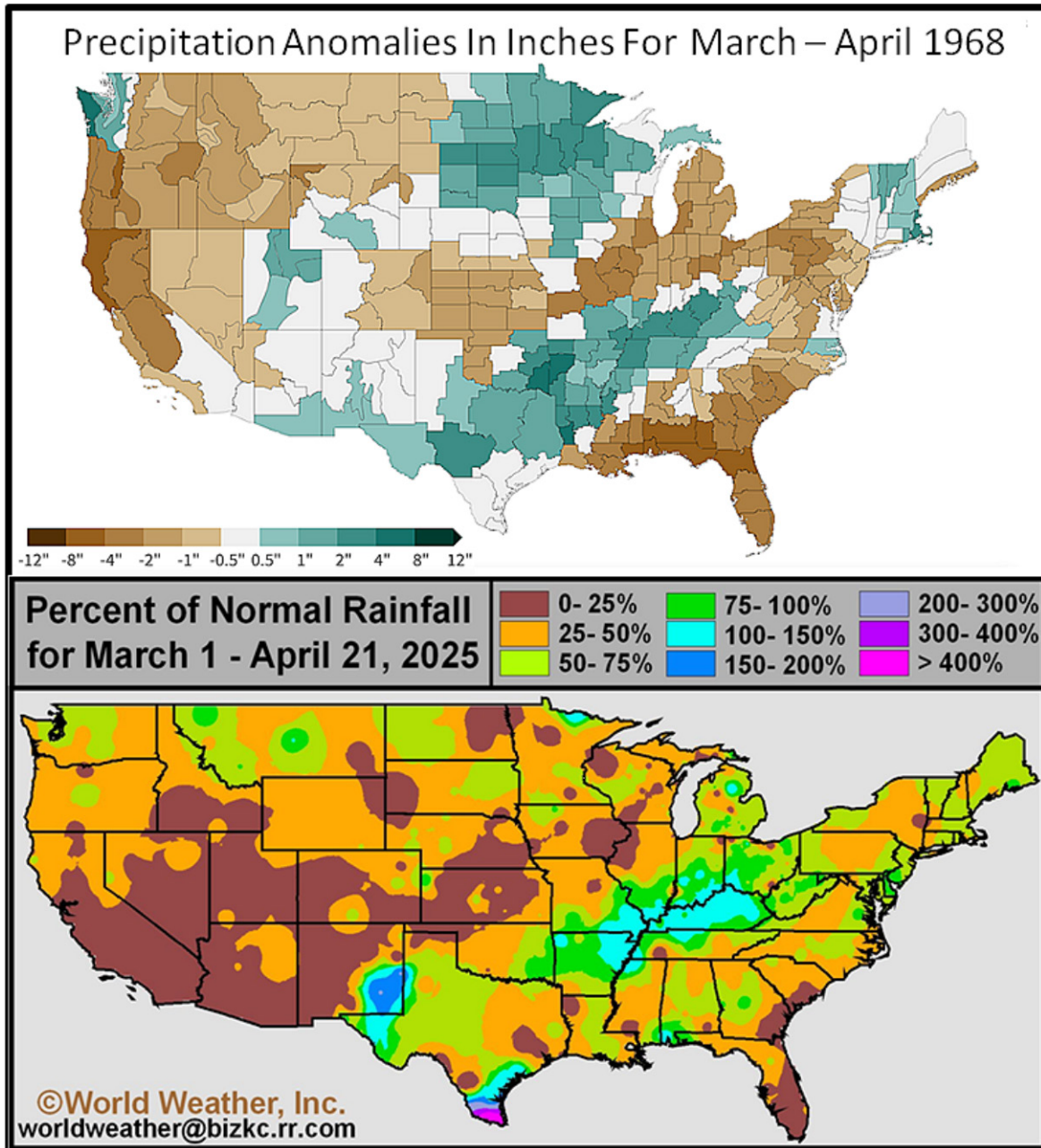
[A few days of warm weather in the Delta and southeastern states has led to some notable drying conditions, although the soil moisture equation has removed surplus soil moisture a little too aggressively and some areas in the northern Delta, Kentucky and near the Ohio River are still too wet and muddy for fieldwork.](#) Another few days of drying is likely, but just when a few areas are drying out enough for fieldwork to resume it will begin raining again. Fieldwork may advance in some areas, but it will not be aggressive since additional rain is coming very soon.

World Weather, Inc. pointed out a couple of weeks ago how this year's weather and that of 1968 were similar. The precipitation biases noted of late still fit that parallel to some degree. Rainfall anomalies in March and April of 1968 were notably above average from the lower Ohio River Valley through western Tennessee to portions of the Delta, central and eastern Texas and eastern and southern Oklahoma. Rainfall through this morning still shows

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a similar wet bias in those areas while the central Plains and a part of the central and Midwest has been drier biased.

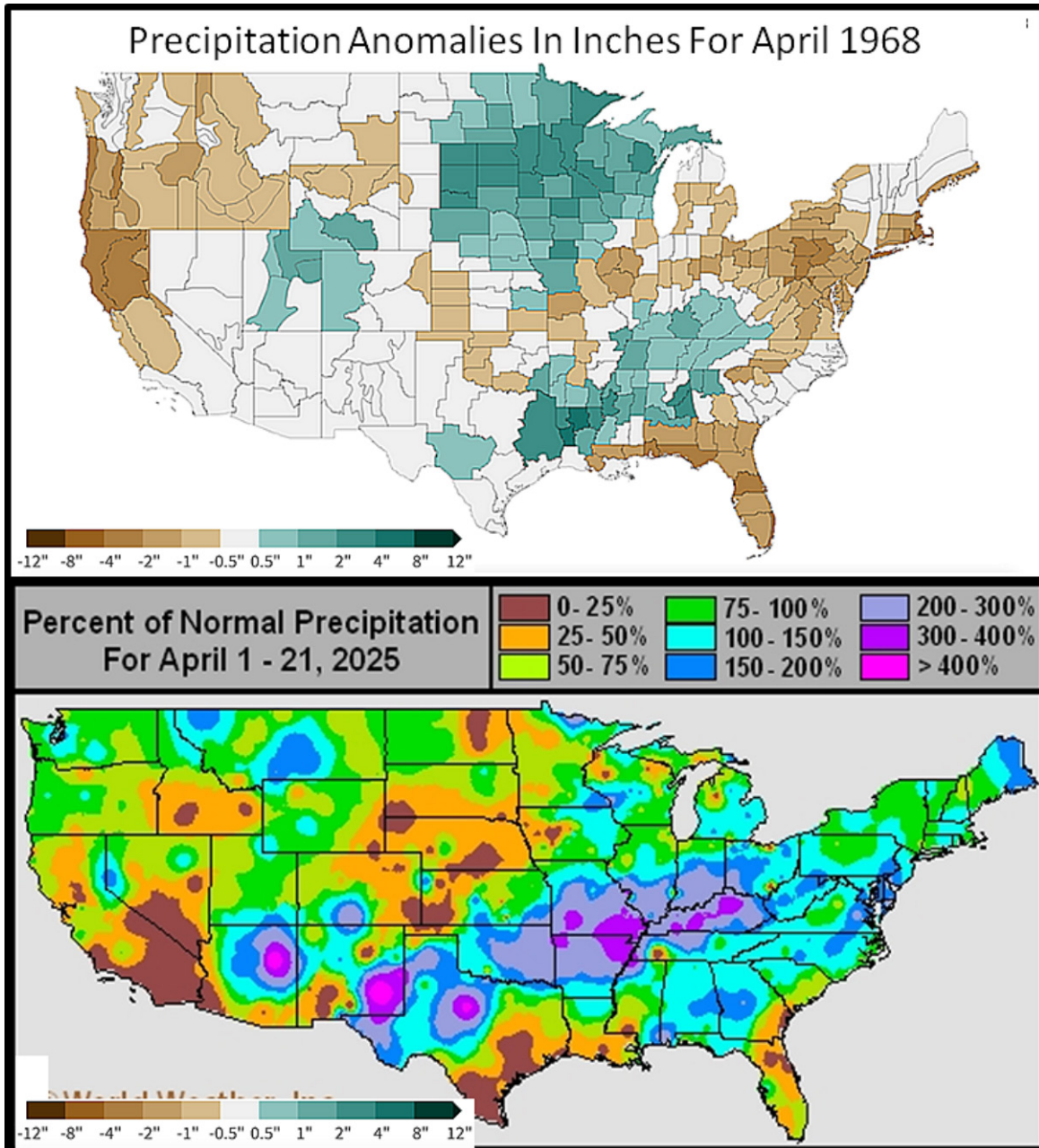
Weather patterns in April of 1968 trended wetter in the upper Midwest; including the eastern Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa. Rain this past weekend helped to moisten those areas, although rainfall has remained lighter than usual even though the topsoil was temporary saturated from the weekend precipitation.



Additional rain is predicted for the Great Plains, Midwest and Delta during the coming ten days to two weeks which may further alter the percentage of normal precipitation chart bringing it more in line with that of 1968. Rainfall so far this month is still looking somewhat like that of 1968 with a wetter bias from the southern Plains to the

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Ohio River Basin and a little pocket of above normal precipitation in northeastern Iowa, southwestern Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota. The drier than usual bias has been whittled down to a part of the central Plains and upper Midwest, although the far southeastern corner of the nation and a part of southern and eastern Texas are also dry biased.

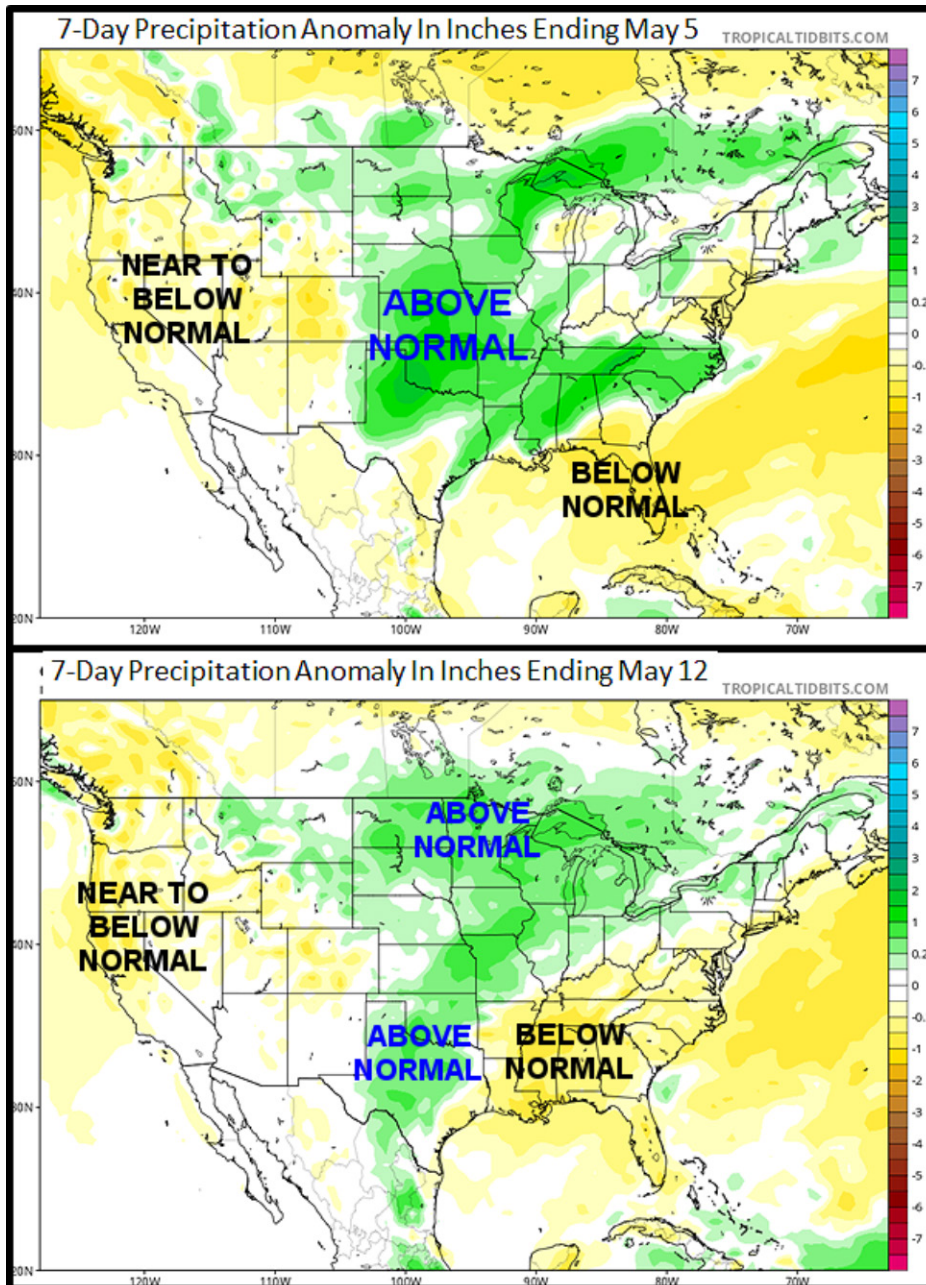


The rainy pattern is not over. The next two weeks are advertised to produce above normal precipitation in the Great Plains and upper Midwest. The Delta and Tennessee River Basin are also expected to be wetter than usual over the coming week with drier weather next week. The additional wet weather advertised for these two weeks coupled with that

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which has already occurred this spring leaves the door open wide for precipitation anomalies in the March through May period to be quite similar to those of 1968.

1968 was a year like this one, which was very near to the solar maximum. 1967-68 was also a period dominated by neutral ENSO conditions with the exception of a short interlude of La Nina or La Nina-like conditions that occurred during the winter of both 2025 and 1968.

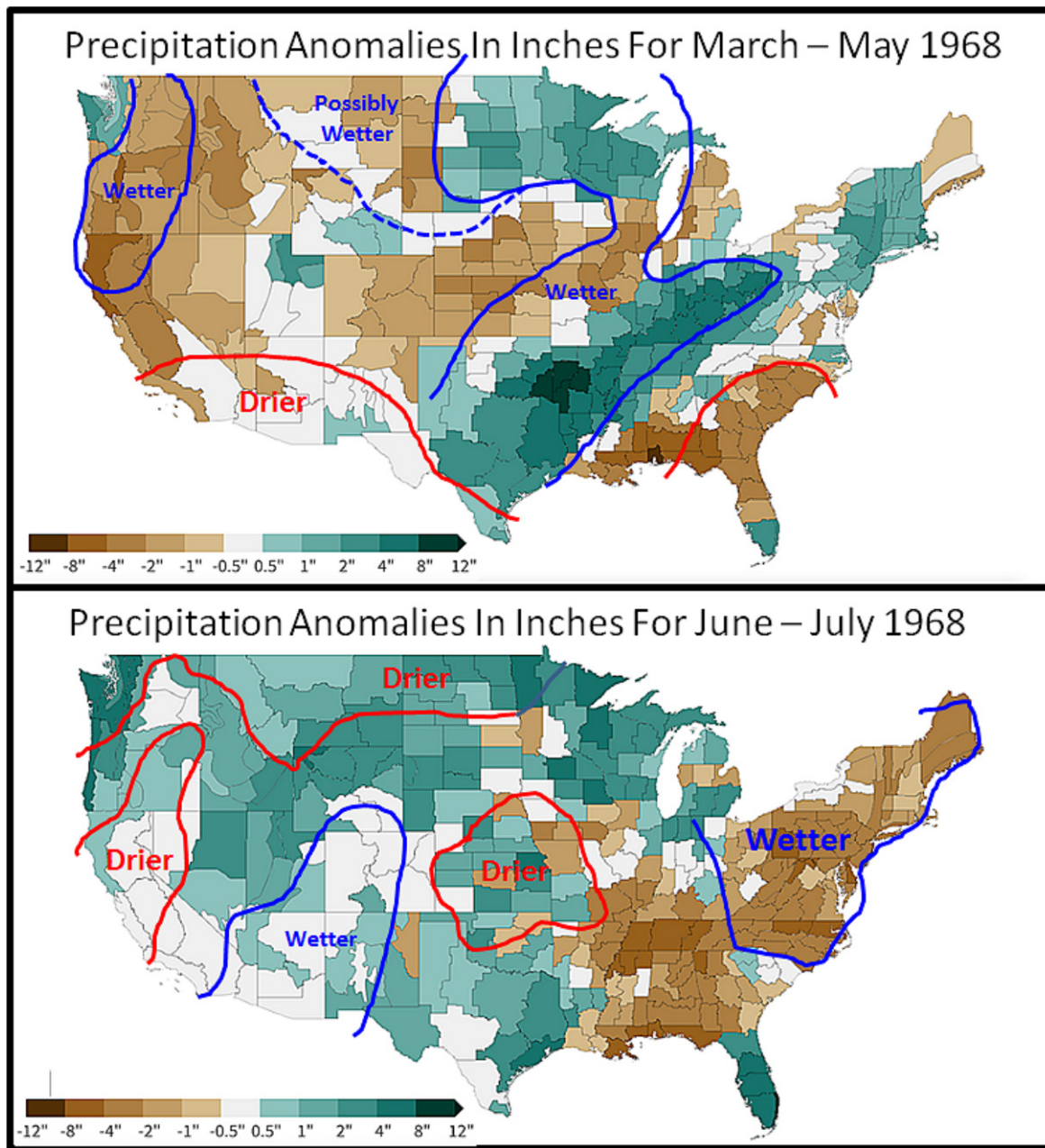


The additional precipitation expected in the next two weeks may lead to a larger part of the upper Midwest being wet biased as the end of April rolls around and the start of May begins. The return of drier weather to the Delta and southeastern states will be welcome after this first week of the outlook trends wetter for a little while once again. The additional

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rain in the southern Plains will maintain that wet bias which is similar to 1968 and the upper Midwest wet bias may expand the wetter bias that is present over the first three weeks in April to a larger anomaly that may be a little more like that of spring 1968. In the meantime, rain in the central and western Plains may be enough to improve topsoil moisture and crop conditions, but it may not be enough to bring totals for the season above normal.

There will be differences between spring this year and that of 1968. Iowa, Missouri and Illinois will be a little wetter this year as may be a part of the northwestern Plains, but dryness in the southwestern United States will be more significant. Dryness in the Pacific Northwest is unlikely to be nearly as extreme as that of 1968, but there will be some dryness in the Yakima and Colombia River Basins.



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Earlier in the year, it looked as though 1968 might be a proxy for summer 2025; however, there should be some changes. The central U.S. will be drier than that of 1968 and the northeastern and Middle Atlantic Coast States will be wetter biased along with the southwestern desert region and areas north into the central Rocky Mountains. The northern Plains will be a little drier than they were in 1968 as will portions of the far western states. The Central Gulf of Mexico Coast region may be a little wetter, although that will be determined by tropical activity.

Worry remains in the market place that a part of the lower Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin will continue too wet threatening spring plantings. That is a possibility, but some improved weather is expected in mid-May at which time the wetter bias may be focused on the northern Plains and Canada's Prairies and less on the lower Midwest or Delta. Fieldwork may advance best across the Midwest in mid- to late May, although some progress is expected around the rain coming in these next couple of weeks. The southeastern states and eastern Midwest may see the best weather in the last days of April and early May.

World Weather, Inc. suggested during the winter that timely rain might occur in the spring across the drier areas of the upper Midwest and western Corn Belt as the jet stream transitions northward. Worry over a terrible drought in 2025 has certainly been sidelined by the recent weather changes and confidence that summer 2025 will not likely produce more than a few regional droughts has risen. However, a more serious drought pattern can still evolve, although it will have to come fast after the wetter bias of the next few weeks to have a big impact on production. There is still reason for concern and debate, but staying away from a dry spring is quite often a good sign diminishing the potential for a widespread serious drought like that of 2012. With that said, it does not take much to remember the drought of 1983 when dryness showed up with a vengeance in July and August.

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