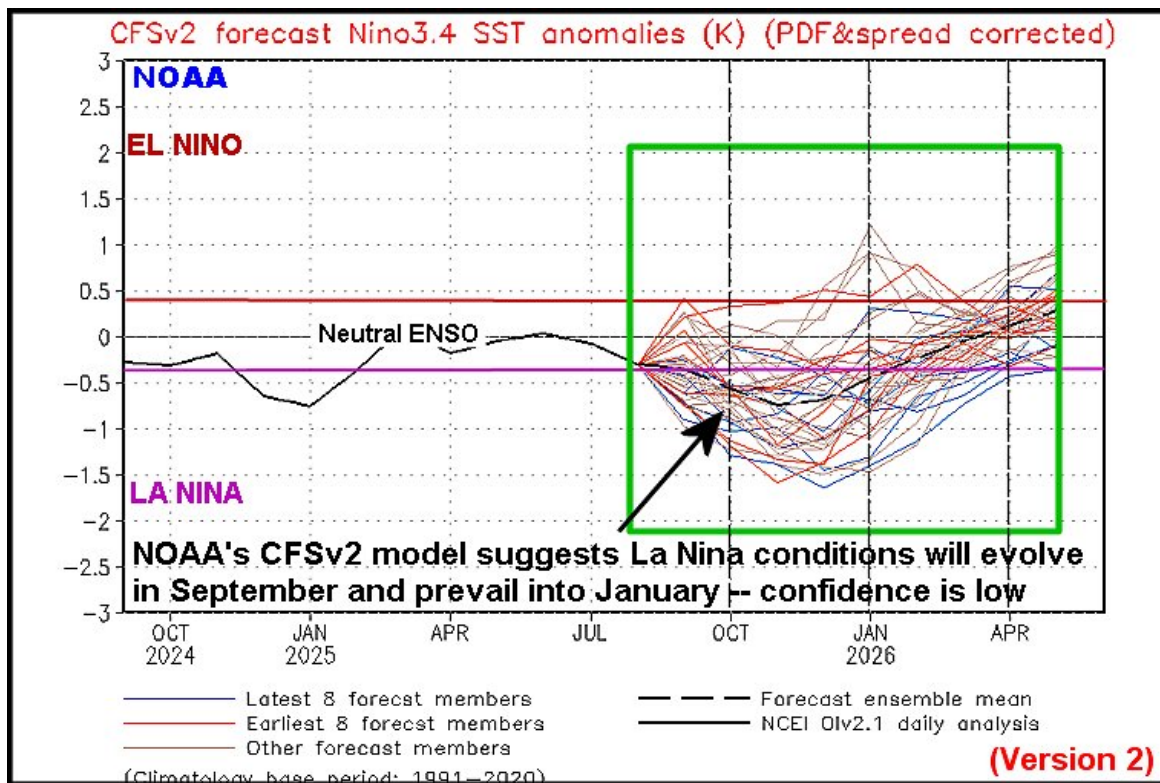


Confidence In La Nina Potential Remains Low

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, August 13 (World Weather Inc.) – [The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's CFSv2 ENSO model has been suggesting La Nina will develop this autumn and linger into a part of winter. World Weather Inc. remains skeptical of the proposed event and believes the odds are relatively good that neutral ENSO conditions will dominate the period with perhaps a slight La Nina bias. A full blown La Nina event seems doubtful and a close watch on ocean surface temperatures across the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean is warranted.](#)

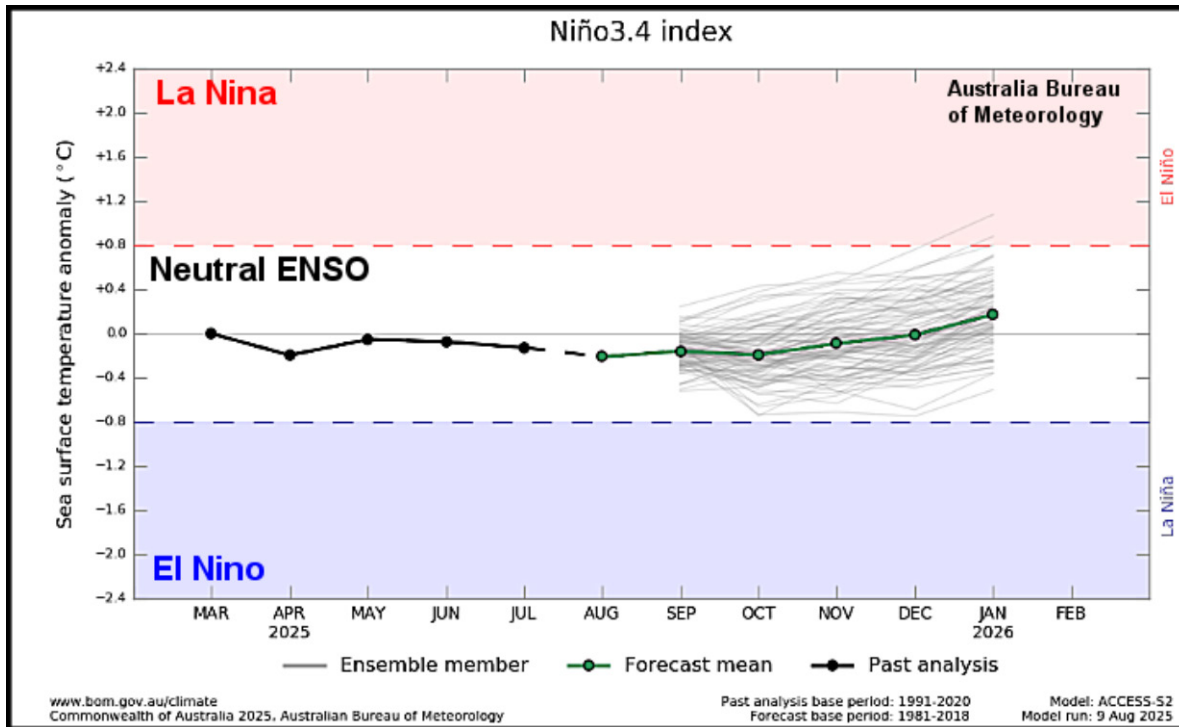
NOAA's forecast model had much difficulty in predicting ENSO conditions last year. The model began predicting La Nina conditions would occur by late spring 2024 as early as the middle of winter 2023-24. The model continuously overreached predicting La Nina was coming month after month through most of the calendar year last year. In the meantime, the Australia Bureau of Meteorology was just as consistent predicting neutral ENSO conditions for 2024 and during much of the Northern Hemisphere winter of 2024-25.



No La Nina ever officially evolved in 2024 or during the winter of 2024-25, based on the U.S. Climate Prediction Center's definition of what a La Nina event is. La Nina-like conditions occurred, but mostly from December through February of 2024-25. Many forecasters and analysts were convinced that La Nina evolved, but it never officially qualified and the same kind of thing is expected to occur again in this coming autumn and winter.

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Neutral ENSO conditions are prevailing today across the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean and around the world. These conditions are quite likely to prevail through the Northern Hemisphere autumn and winter, based on the Australia Bureau of Meteorology's ENSO forecast model. There is a fundamental difference between NOAA's model and the Australia Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) model. The BOM's threshold for La Nina and El Nino is slightly more stringent than that of the NOAA model which makes it a little harder to qualify for La Nina and El Nino events, but the tougher rules may be little better in ensuring that ENSO events are truly events and not borderline events. **The BOM forecast of ENSO over the next several months is mostly neutral.**



There is a cool pool of water at the surface and below the surface today in the central tropical eastern Pacific Ocean; however, there is not much evidence of additional cooling noted. It is still early, though. NOAA's model suggests La Nina will evolve in the late September and October period through January which leaves a few weeks for possible change in ocean water temperature anomalies.

By definition, cooler than usual ocean surface temperatures are required over five consecutive three-month periods to qualify for La Nina conditions and those temperature anomalies must average at least 0.5 degree Celsius below normal within 10 degrees of latitude north and south of the equator between the International Dateline and the coast of South America. Today's cooler-biased ocean temperatures are a very small part of that defined region and cannot qualify for one of those five 3-month periods of below normal temperatures. Additional cooling is necessary to start the La Nina evolution.

There are no indications that cooling will be sustained over the next few weeks or months. In fact, there is a little more support for some warming in the next few weeks than there is support for new cooling. Perhaps later in the autumn there will be a better chance for cooling to evolve, but World Weather, Inc. remains a skeptic over the potential.

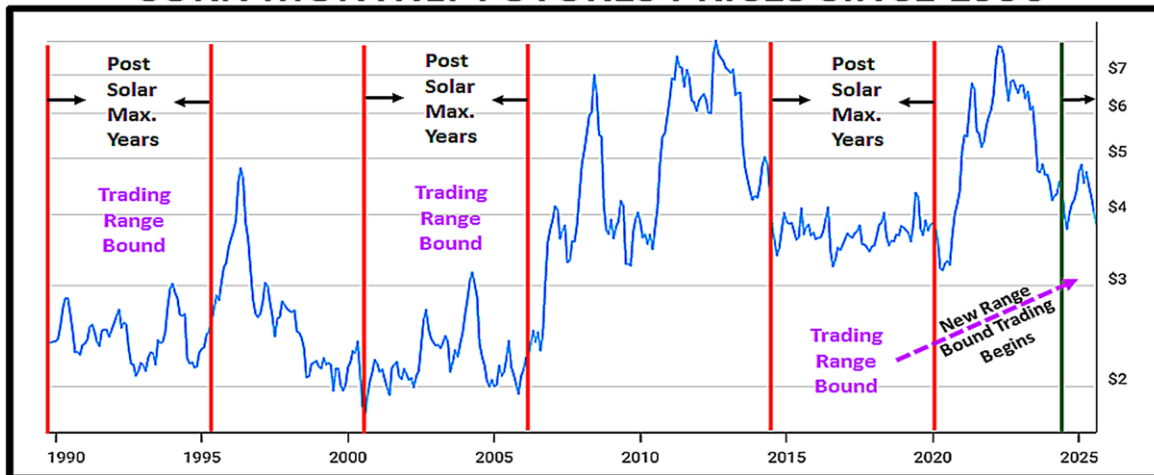
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It is very important to note that neutral ENSO years with a slight La Nina bias do have a tendency to have cooler than usual late autumn and winter seasons in eastern North America and there is a tendency for South America precipitation to be lighter than usual in eastern Argentina, Uruguay, southern Paraguay and southern Brazil. The biggest difference between a full blown La Nina event and La Nina like conditions may be in the significance of anomalous rainfall and temperatures in South America and North America respectively.

The bottom line is that even though a full blown La Nina event may not evolve this year there may be enough influence by the cooler ocean temperatures to reduce rain in southern Brazil, southern Paraguay, Uruguay and eastern Argentina during the spring planting season for corn, soybeans, rice and other crops.

Farmers, commodity traders and some analysts are hoping for La Nina so that there is a little more potential for commodity futures price appreciation. Without La Nina or La Nina like conditions there is potential that weather from October through February may be close enough to normal to maintain the market trade doldrums that have already been prevailing in recent months. No one is making money in the commodity market because of good weather around the world and a favorable supply of grain, oilseeds, rice cotton and other soft commodities. The combination of good weather, great food and other agricultural stocks and low demand for the goods will likely keep commodity trade subdued with trading staying in a narrow range.

CORN MONTHLY FUTURES PRICES SINCE 1990



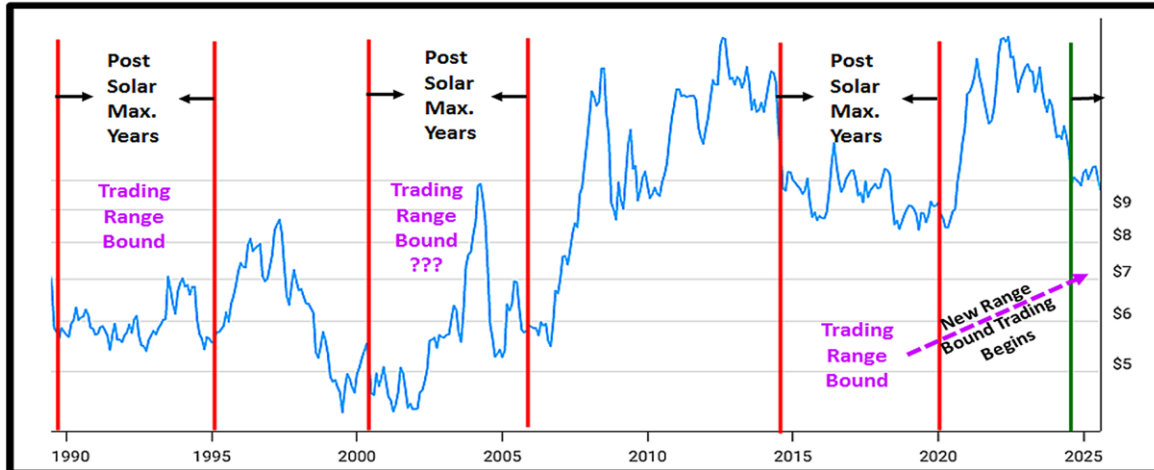
Much of the trading range in the commodity futures markets can be traced back to this year's good weather and the cause of that good weather includes the passing of the 22-year solar cycle. The sunspot maximum for this cycle was reached in August of 2024 and declining sunspot numbers since then is correlated with improving weather around the world whereas the period from the solar minimum to the solar maximum tends to be a period of more crop stress and threats to production around the world. The end of the traditional solar cycle weather adversity period came with the sunspot maximum in August 2024. Weather conditions have been improving since then in many (not all areas).

La Nina provides the only hope for greater weather adversity for the fourth quarter of this calendar year and during the first quarter of 2026. However, World Weather, Inc. does not believe that a full blown La Nina event will come to pass.

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Furthermore, the neutral ENSO bias with a slight La Nina influence expected this year may reduce rainfall in South America, but the odds are very low that there will be a delay in the start of seasonal rain in South America this year like that of last year. The impact of La Nina like conditions may not be enough to drive the futures markets higher without some other adversity occurring at the same time.

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