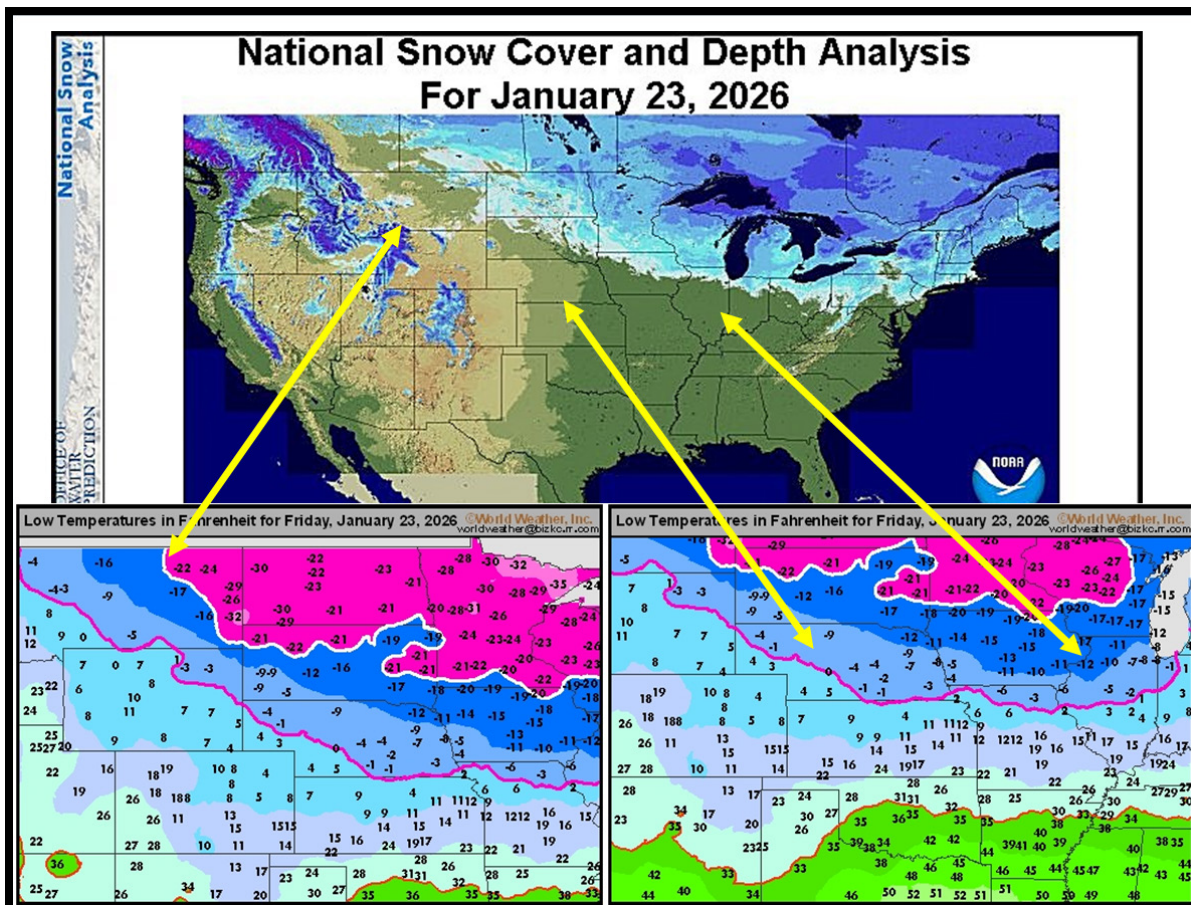


U.S. Wheat May Have Been Damaged By Weekend Cold

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, January 26 (World Weather Inc.) – *Bitter cold conditions over multiple days without significant snow on the ground may have left U.S. wheat vulnerable to damage from Montana to Nebraska and across the lower Midwest. Damage assessments will not be possible prior to spring and even then it will be difficult to know the impact because of the potential for some crops to recover. This week's weather will slowly improve in the Plains while the Midwest (now snow covered) remains cold.*

Snow free conditions occurred in Montana, western South Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska and from Missouri through parts of Ohio for a while during the period from Friday through Sunday. At the same time bitter cold temperatures were prevalent with nighttime lows slipping to the negative teens and negative single digits Fahrenheit. Afternoon temperatures rarely rose out of the positive single digits. Such conditions raise the potential for hard freezes to occur at the crown of wheat plants which can lead to winterkill (plant death).

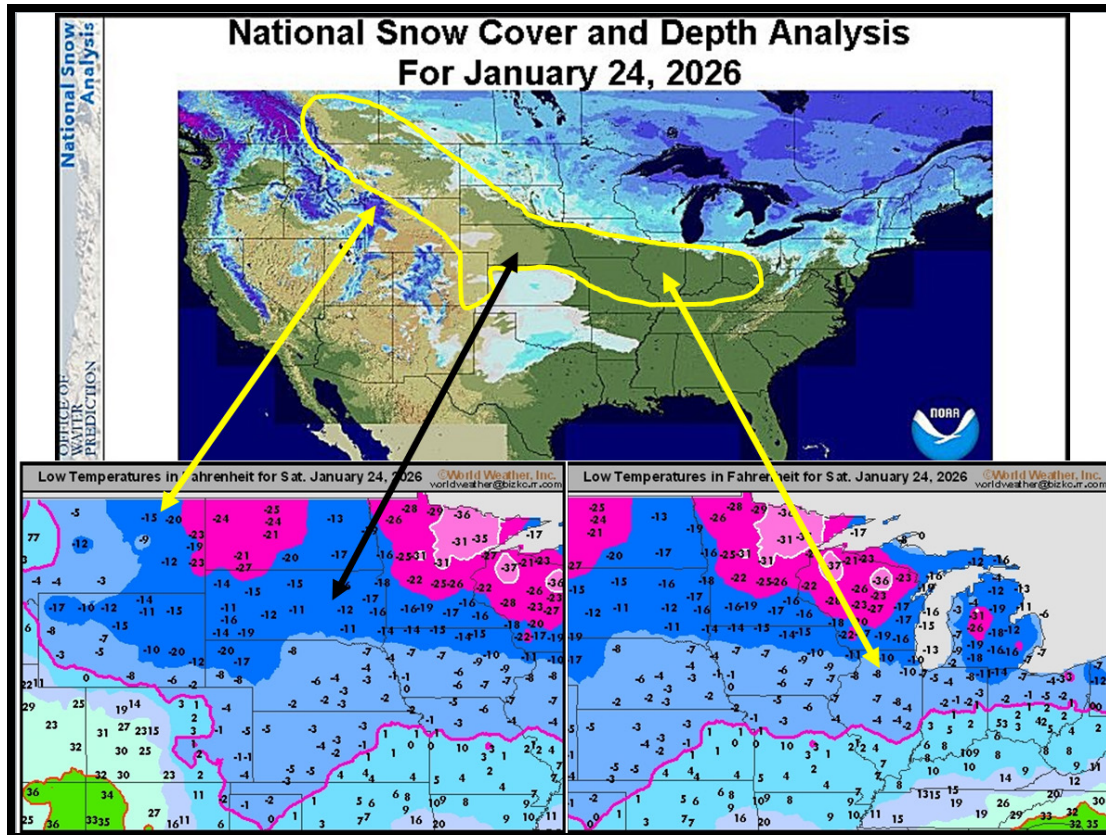


Snow finally developed across the lower Midwest and in Kansas during the weekend providing some crop protection against the cold; however, some damage may have already occurred. Crops from Montana to Nebraska, South Dakota and Colorado experience

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temperatures near the damage threshold for 72 hours without snow cover and the cold will continue early this week (Jan. 26-28).

Crop damage is not a sure thing, but the odds are relatively high for at least some impact. Wheat is quite durable and if the plant did not die, but was injured it could set new tillers in the spring and those tillers might product normal heads and be capable of reproducing normally. In other cases in which the plant survives it may go into reproduction in the spring, but turn out sterile leaving the head of the plant empty of grain.



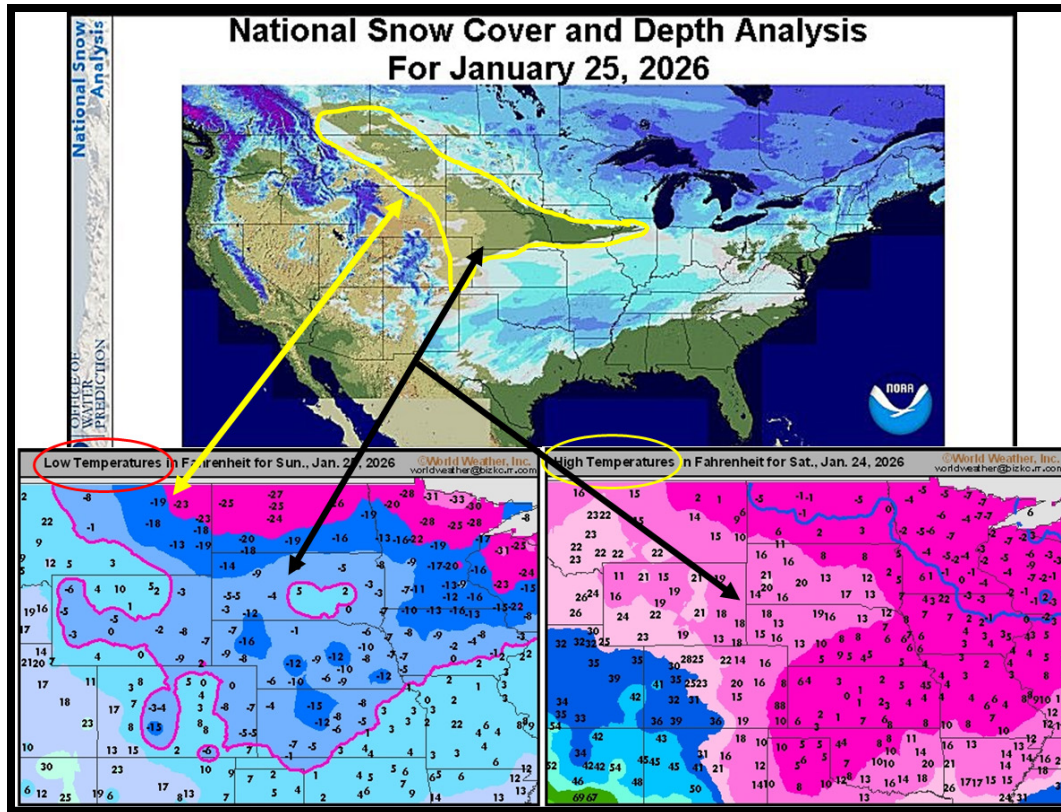
The situation should be closely monitored to see how much, if any, damage resulted. The environment was certainly not ideal for the crop. World Weather, Inc. anticipates some damage, but is not convinced the crop will not at least partially recover.

In the meantime, ice covered wheat in the mid-south region of the United States might be vulnerable to smothering, although the ice will not last long enough to induce such conditions. Warming this week will bring along good melting conditions and should put any concern about smothering to rest. Wheat in the southern United States should not have been seriously harmed by the bitter cold or ice.

No additional damage is expected this week as temperatures in the Plains trend warmer. Snow free conditions will prevail, though, through the first half of this week before a brief bout of snow occurs from Montana to Nebraska during mid- to late-week. That snow should melt very quickly, though.

See our video for more detail of the temperatures. <https://youtu.be/TQ-fIDCix7o>

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