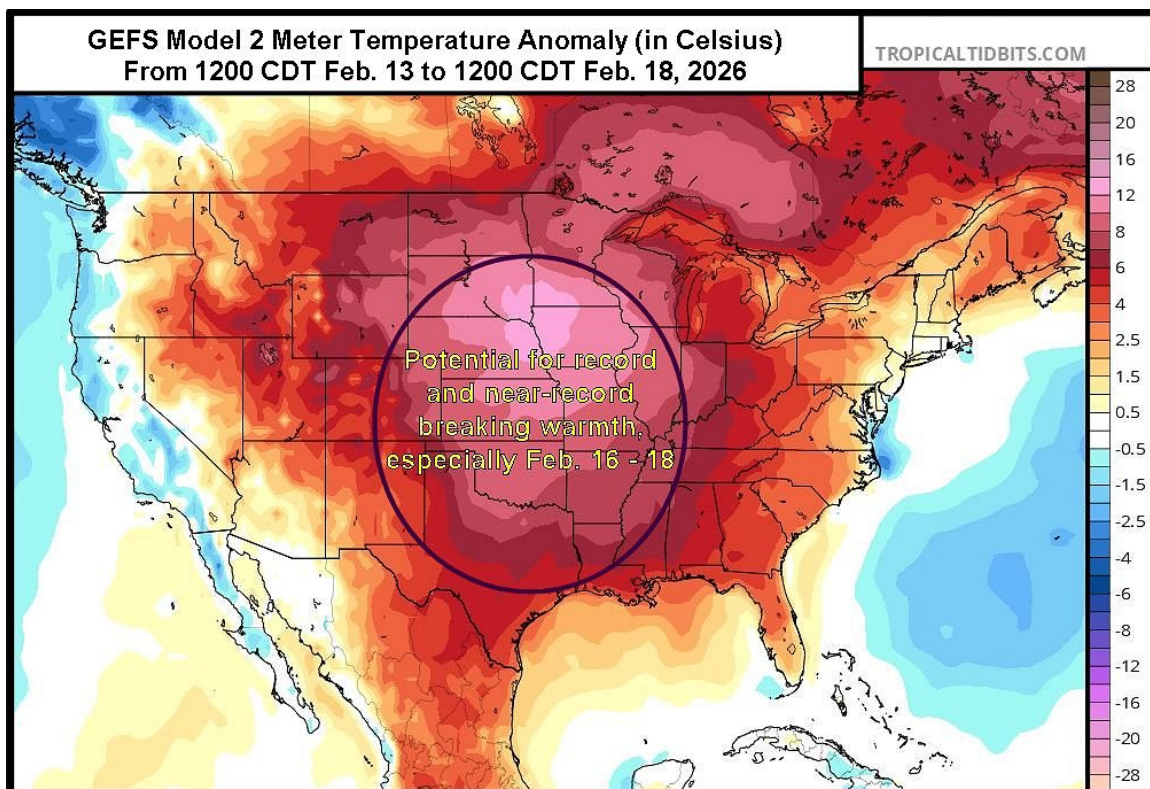


Central U.S. Heat To Stress Livestock, Reduce Wheat Hardiness

By Brad Luchen

Kansas City, Feb. 12 (World Weather Inc.) – Many daily record highs have been set so far this February in the central and western U.S. and **additional records are likely to break next week as the warm weather pattern continues.** A broad ridge of high pressure will be situated across the central U.S. in the next eight to ten days, helping to promote the unseasonably warm temperatures. A weather disturbance this weekend will provide a minor break from the warmth in some areas, but **next week's set-up will then favor more record or near-record highs. The warm temperatures will lead to more livestock stress and loss of winter dormancy in the Hard Red Winter Wheat Region, West Texas, and the southwestern Corn Belt. Some wheat greening may begin, especially after this weekend's rain. Any wheat development will need to be monitored in case of returning cold air.**

Unusual warmth is expected across almost the entire United States today through Wednesday and temperatures anomalies will be extreme for this time of year in the central U.S. This particular warm-up will peak Monday into Wednesday as a strong ridge of high pressure moves into the central U.S. after this weekend's storm system in the southern Plains and mid-south region along with strong wind speeds that will help mix any warmer air aloft down to the surface.



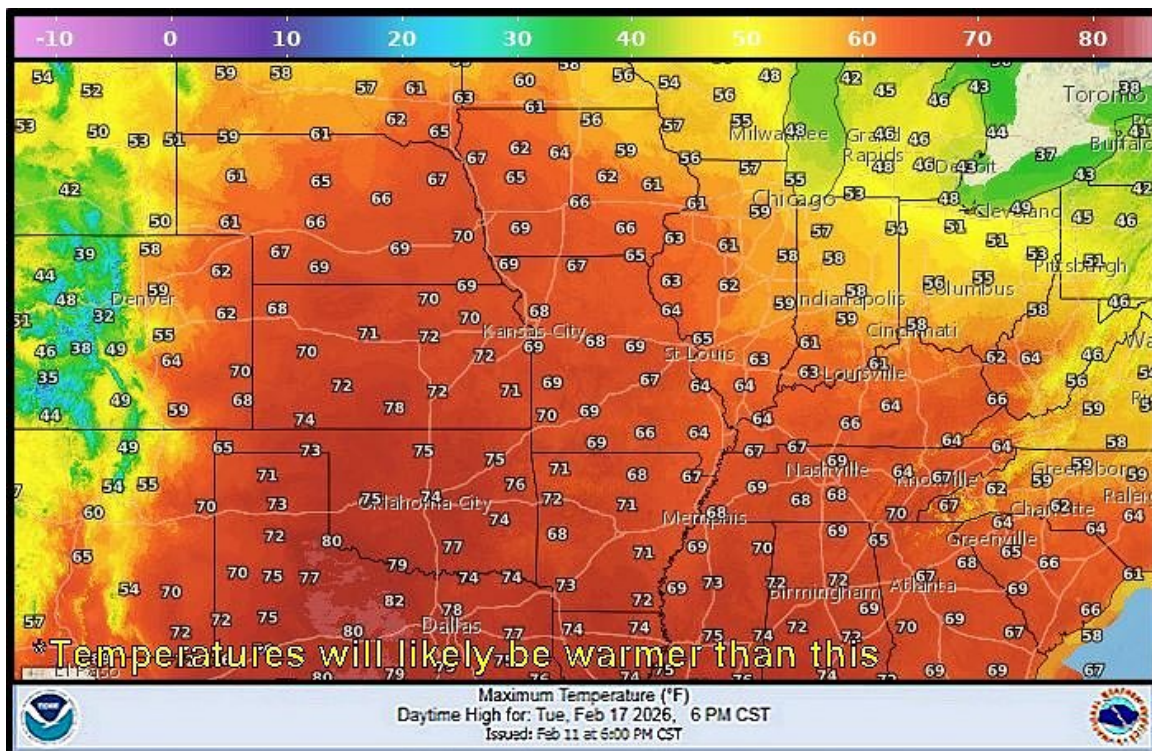
Temperatures from Texas and the Delta and northward into the Corn Belt and Northern Plains will be generally 12 to as much as 28 degrees Fahrenheit above normal today through Sunday and then 18 to 36 degrees Fahrenheit above normal Monday through

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Wednesday with a few spots possibly being as high as 40 to 42 degrees above normal (note that the image above show temperature anomalies in degrees Celsius).

Actual air temperatures will range from the 50s to the 70s from Texas and the Delta into the western Corn Belt, South Dakota, and parts of Montana today through Sunday, with some 80s in Texas today and Friday. Highs Monday and Tuesday will then be in the 70s and 80s from Texas and the Delta up into Nebraska and southwestern Iowa with the warmest conditions occurring from Texas into Kansas. Some 90-degree highs are expected in southern Texas. The substantially anomalous warm air will continue Wednesday too; though, some cooling will begin in the Northern Plains.

[It is important to note that computer weather forecast model data is likely underdoing the warming potential to some extent.](#) The models do have difficulty showing how much warming can occur with favorable warm air set-ups such as these. The image below is an early indication of how high temperatures may be for Tuesday; though, actual readings may be a little warmer than that shown. [With the strong wind speeds and drier air expected in hard red winter wheat areas, greater coverage of 80-degree high temperatures are expected than shown below.](#)



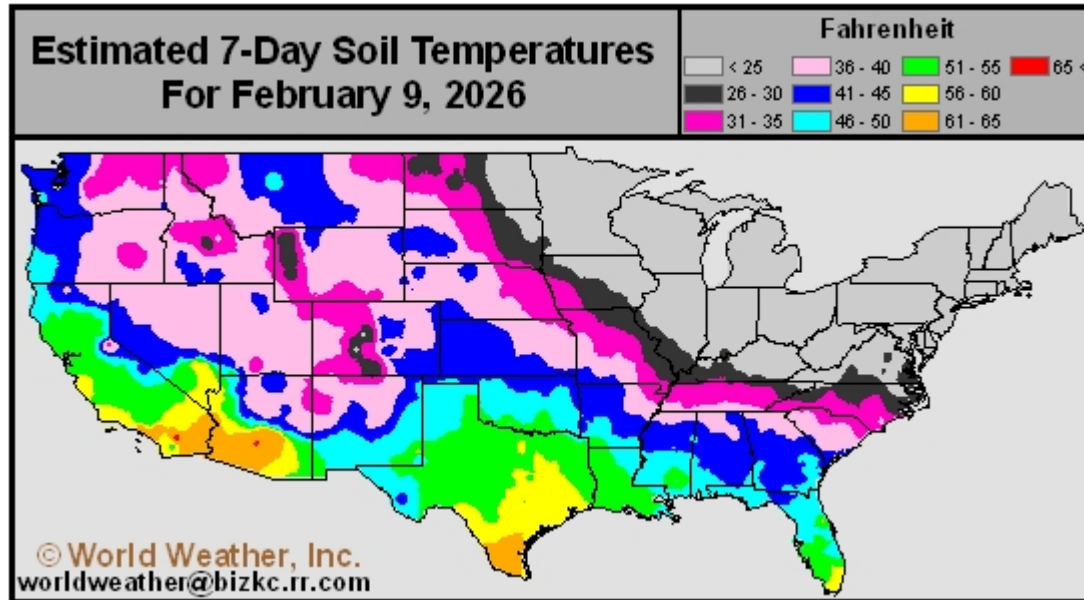
[The unusual warmth in the next seven days will notably raise soil temperatures.](#)

Soil temperatures are already starting to reach the threshold for greening in the southern Plains, Delta and southeastern states. Rain this weekend in those areas will promote that process and once the winter crops begin development they will eventually become more vulnerable to any extreme and sudden bouts of bitter cold that might evolve in the balance of winter or early spring.

There is still snow cover in the northeastern Corn Belt and northeastern part of the Northern Plains. [The extent of the remaining snow cover will be gradually lessening in the next several days as the unusual February warmth continues to chip away at it.](#) The Corn

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Belt should be mostly snow-free after Sunday. Some snow will likely stay in the northeastern Northern Plains, but it will become less-deep until the next snow event. As more of the snow melts in the Corn Belt, it will allow the well above average temperatures to reach farther northeast.



Livestock stress will rise along with the very warm temperatures, although the strong wind speeds anticipated will help limit some of the impact. Winter hardiness is also expected to be lost in the central and northern U.S. Plains and a part of the Midwest as temperatures rise significantly in wheat production areas.

The odds favor more cold weather eventually across the central and eastern United States especially with a full month of winter still yet to come. World Weather Inc. is monitoring a period of cooling that will likely occur Feb. 21-24. This cooling is unlikely to be very significant in hard red winter wheat areas, but it may be more threatening farther north in the Northern Plains. *The Northern Plains should receive some protective snow before the coldest temperatures arrive, but a close monitoring of the forecast and snow distribution will be warranted.*

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