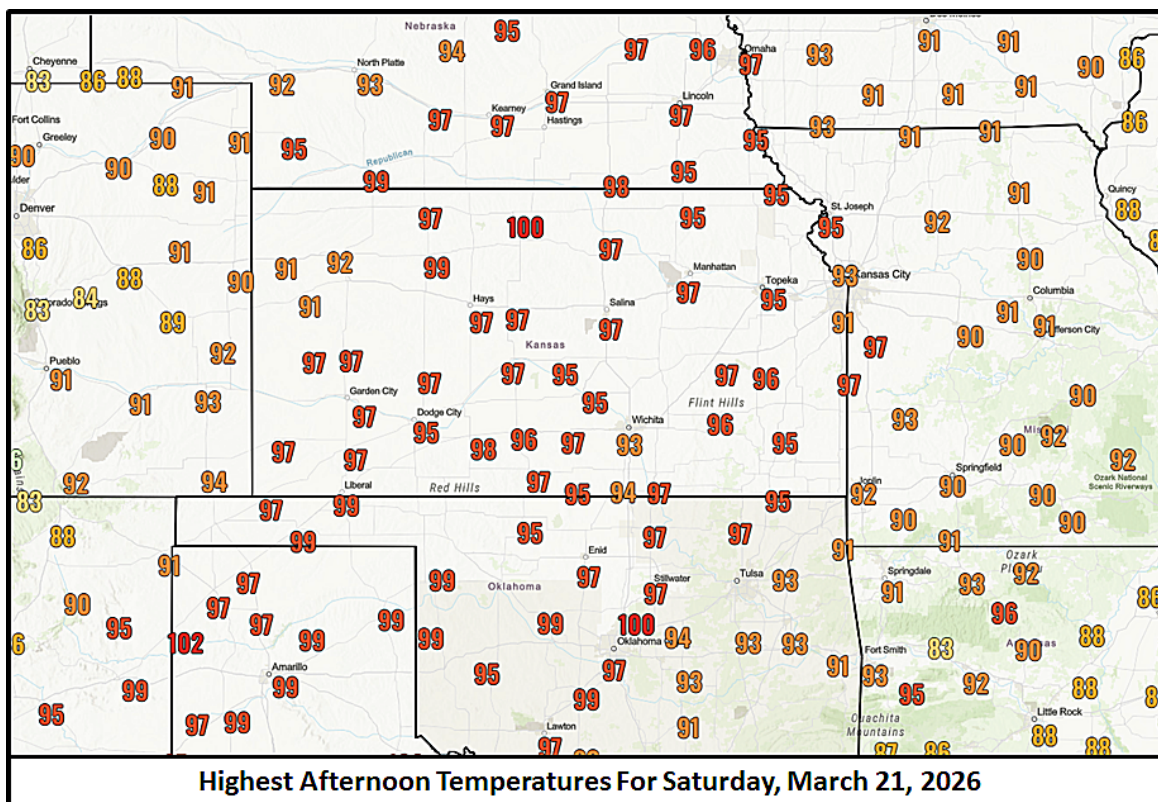


Central U.S. Faces One More Round Of Heat This Week

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, March 22 (World Weather Inc.) – A heatwave in the western United States late last week through Saturday was nothing short of amazing. Hundreds of record temperatures were noted Friday and Saturday. Some of the records were for the date and others were set for the warmest temperatures ever recorded in the month of March. The heat was most significant in the central Plains and areas southwest into the desert areas of North America; however, hard red winter wheat and livestock in the Plains were most impacted. Temperatures cooled down Sunday and additional cooling is expected Monday; however, a new round of hot weather is expected Tuesday through Thursday before a more extended period of less oppressive heat begins later in the week.

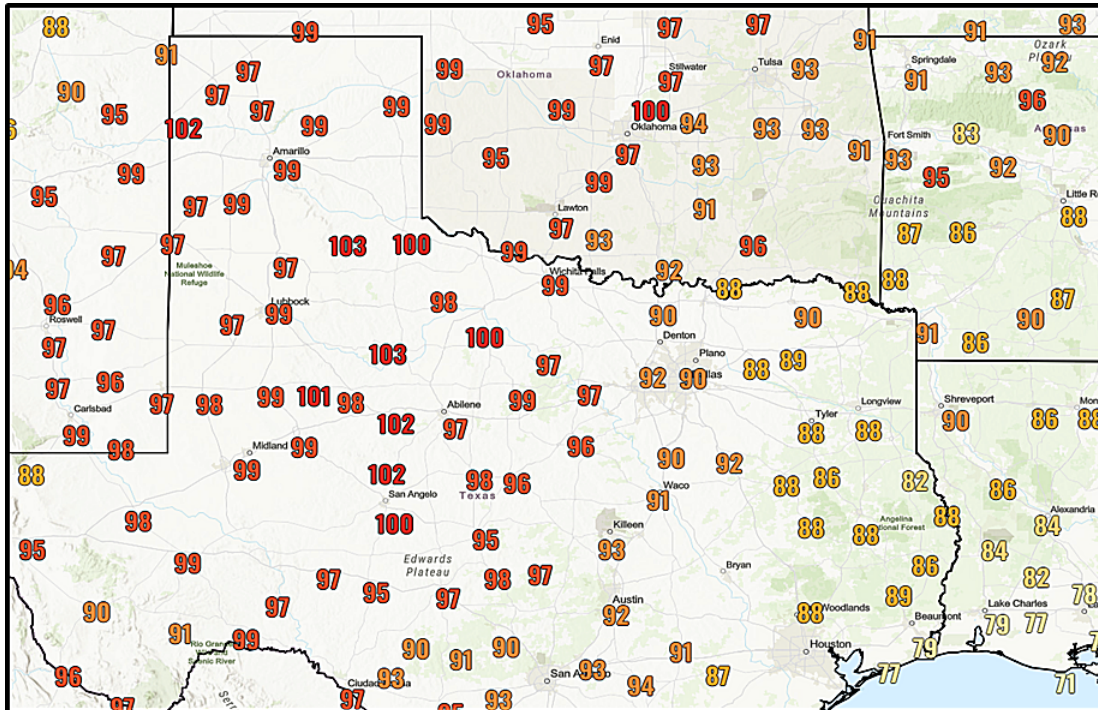


Saturday was, by far, the hottest day in this past week with highs in the 90s to 103 degrees Fahrenheit occurring from the central through the southwestern Plains. The areas impacted were the very same that experienced low temperatures in the single digits, teens and 20s March 14-16. Very few times in recorded history has there been such a wild swing in temperatures over such a short period of time. The stress was greatest on livestock, although some of the wheat crop likely suffered as well because of damage already resulting from previous bouts of extreme cold and snow free conditions earlier in the winter and due to drought and dryness more recently.

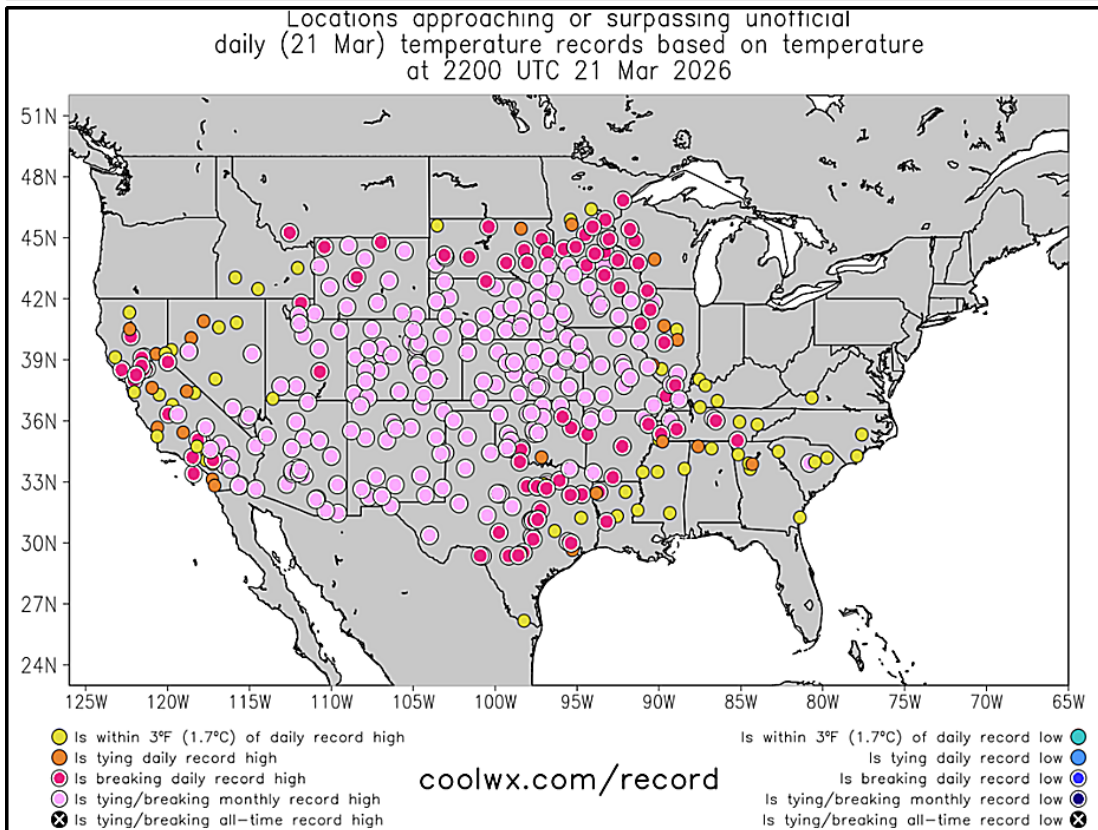
Farmers in the central and southern Plains have been looking for widespread rain and mild to cool temperatures so that their wheat crop can set new tillers and possibly gain back some of the potential production loss that may have occurred earlier this winter.

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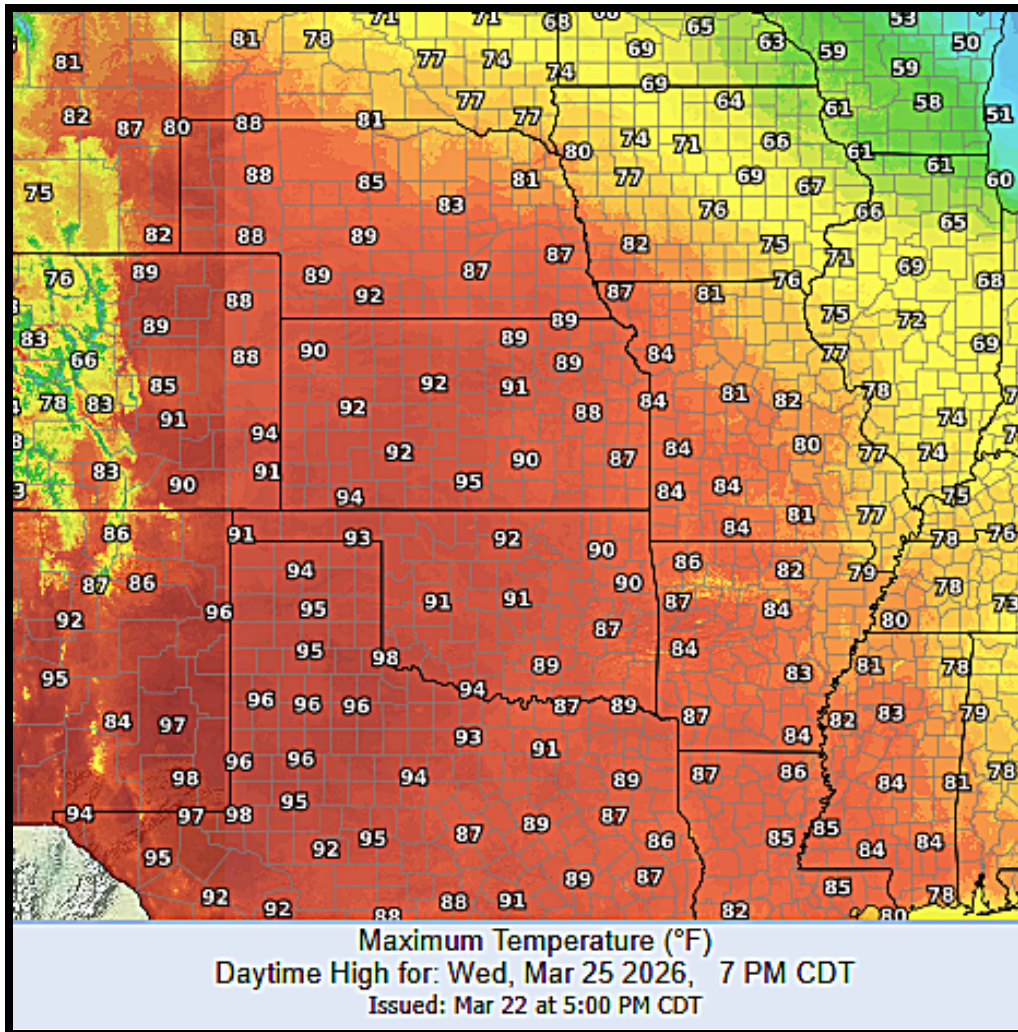
Instead, all that they got was excessive heat and more dry weather. More of the same is expected this week with Tuesday through Thursday hottest. The earliest that rain may return to the forecast will be in the first week of April.



Highest Afternoon Temperatures For Saturday, March 21, 2026



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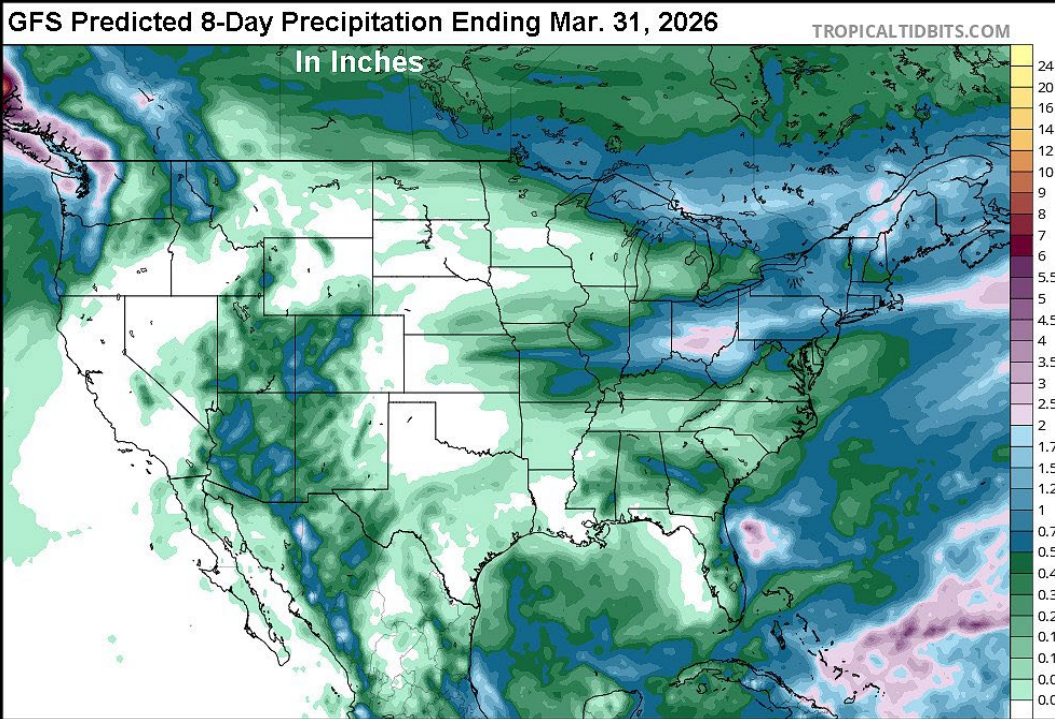
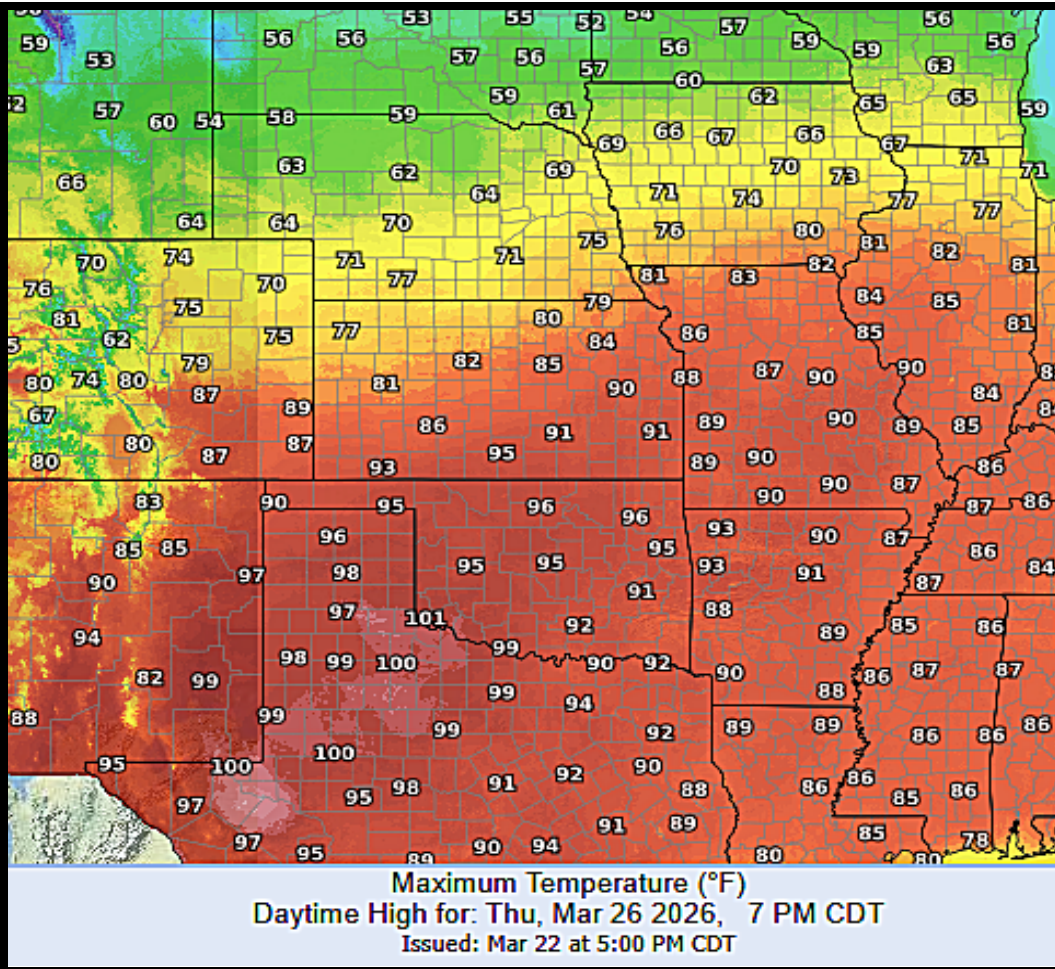


Temperatures Wednesday afternoon will be back into the upper 80s and 90s Fahrenheit; although readings in the upper 90s may be a little less frequent than during the weekend and no readings over 100 are expected outside of a few West Texas locations. Thursday will be a little cooler in the central Plains, but the southern Plains will be hotter and that is when numerous 100-degree highs are predicted for the southwestern Plains once again. Some of the heat will begin building up in the high Plains region Tuesday afternoon while temperatures Monday are expected to be a little more seasonable for a brief day.

The additional heat this week comes without any rain. A few showers may pop up late this week through the weekend and into next week; though, most of them will be too sporadic and light to have any serious impact on crop or field conditions. A better chance for rain is expected to evolve in the first week of April. That rain may be greatest in the southeastern one-third of wheat country leaving the remainder of the region still in need for greater relief.

The lack of moisture and limited mild to cool conditions will not provide much success for new tillering in some of the driest areas or in some of the most adversely weather impacted areas delaying the potential for crop improvement until next month.

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