



3F Forecasts

Futures - Farming - Finance

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A monthly newsletter that features weather projections with insight and comment on subjects affecting the agricultural community and other allied industries.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

—Will Rogers

Will Rogers, who died in a 1935 plane crash in Alaska with bush pilot Wiley Post, was one of the greatest political country/cowboy sages this country has ever known. His common sense sayings are as appropriate today as they were when Will Rogers lived nearly a century ago. It's too bad that politicians today don't use common sense today to help relieve the ailments that afflict this country and the world. Common sense isn't common anymore. In looking at what is happening in Washington, D.C. and New York, it appears that these people in power haven't been reading history. No wonder we are all doomed to repeat it. Cycles do work.

Not too much is happening in nature the rest of this year. The Autumnal equinox was on September 22 at 9:21 AM CDT and a few minor cycles either peaked or bottomed. The winter equinox is on December 21 at 4:44 CST. That may affect finances and the stock market. If interest rates are raised, this could trigger a selloff in the stock market or make a selloff worse. Cycles say that interest rates should not be raised, but what do we know?

The eclipse that may really trigger problems is the total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. That eclipse crosses the United States and should be widely seen. I hope be just south of St. Louis where I can see the totality. It will pass directly over Charleston, South Carolina. I have never seen one live, and this will be the only time until about 2042 we'll see a total solar eclipse in the US. The eclipse will trigger a great number of cycle changes that will begin with the August 7 partial eclipse of the moon. The bad news is that the world's stock and financial markets are going to be in big trouble. We will see what material our bankers and politicians are made of for the rest of that year. The good news is that the Commodity Depression Cycle will be over, so farmers and natural resource companies will be coming out of their slump. Cycles indicate that it won't make any difference who is elected the US President in November as a major war is coming. They may only serve one term and he/she may become known as the modern day Herbert Hoover.

Later in this issue, we will have all the weather and storm forecasts for all 15 regions of the US. There are some interesting patterns of storms visible between now and March 29, 2017. The following issue (which is already partially done) will do the same for the foreign agricultural areas. The November/December issue is a research issue which may be on one of several topics currently in the hopper. All issues will

have the Commodity Comment section, but the On the Soapbox will only be in the next two issues, as we didn't have room in this issue. We have some really interesting times just ahead.

I have no public speeches scheduled just ahead, but do have several private speeches on tap. It is not too early to get your name on the list for early 2017. This coming year will be an historic year. Call (815) 946-3001 for a date.

This month's winner is Mark Ricker of Raymond, Kansas 67573. He renewed both commodity hotlines and is a long-time hotline subscriber. We continue to encourage all subscribers who are not yet on e-mail or fax service for the newsletter to do so—if they can. E-mail readers will need Acrobat Reader software to access the attachment, and at least 15 MB of computer storage is required to hold the letter as well as other e-mails. The hard-copy faxes and e-mails are already on the fast delivery. These are certainly faster than snail mail, and they work over the weekend, too. However, we will continue to use USPS for the foreseeable future—despite its sometimes snail's pace. We have been having some problems with deliveries of all forms. By the way, please clear your e-mail boxes. They come back to us if the box is full.

Also, if you change addresses—whether postal or e-mail—please let us know. We have no way of knowing you have changed until the letter is returned. In the same vein, if you change fax numbers or phone numbers, let us know. One other consideration: If you have a spam filter on your e-mail messages, go through them to make sure there are no important messages before you delete them. If you suddenly quit getting our e-mails, it probably got into the spam bin. We get quite a few calls about the subscriber not getting his letters. Just put our e-mails on your “white sheet,” so they will come through. Thank you for your help and consideration.

FALL-WINTER FORECASTS 2016-2017

As we begin, let me say that these general forecasts are designed to pick up the major, general and “garden variety” storms and weather changes with about 80 percent accuracy. Small or local variations and minor changes are not likely to be picked up, unless it is a striking difference, or the change begins to cover a large area of the US. A detailed analysis of the area in question will often pick up such a condition. Also, if the projected weather condition is a day sooner or later than the listed date, it is considered accurate for statistical purposes, because this is how the system is set up. The entire US is covered, with each region centered on the named cities or localities. At the end of each date is a number. This is the percentage of likelihood of this weather condition (rain)

actually occurring in any given locality in the region. Please refer to the blue-sheet code map for the boundary limits of each region. These regions "melt" from one to another, so if your area is on or very near a regional boundary, check the adjoining region's weather; it will be an influence on the local weather.

1. SEATTLE, WASHINGTON – VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

It has been warmer and drier than normal in this region. Even many areas along the normally wet coastline have been drier than normal—particularly the last half of summer. There have been forest fires in part of this region. The warmer than normal weather will continue for the next six months. The generally drier weather should continue—especially in the fall. Winter will have much more unstable weather than normal due to the Northeast Pacific Oscillation rapidly shrinking and the North Atlantic rapidly increasing—changing the balance in the atmosphere. Winds will be mostly below normal. Not good overwintering conditions for any crops—especially wheat.

September 23-October 1—A little wetter, warmer and near normal wind. Best chances for storms are 24-26 and 27-28. Weather unstable. 60%

October 1-23—Dry, less windy and a little cooler than normal. Best chances for storms (if any) are 2-3, 7-8, 12-13, 16-18 (severe) and 21-23 (severe). Unsettled weather—especially 16-22. 25%

October 23-November 7—Dry, warmer than normal and little wind. Best chances for storms are 24-26 (severe), 29-31 and 2-3(?). May be hot before storms. Fires may continue. 30%

November 7-December 7—A little drier, cooler with winds a little less than normal. Best chances for storms are 7-8, 9-10, 12-14, 18-20, 21-23 (severe), 25-26, 30-1, 2-4 (severe) and 6-7. Severe storm date in November should be a major storm. Unstable weather and foggy 12-2. Wet 7-14. 40%

December 7-21—A little wetter, cooler and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 8-10, 14-16 and 19-21. Decent winter weather. 60%

December 21-January 12—A little wetter, windier and cooler than normal. Best chances for storms are 23-24, 25-26, 30-31, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. May be somewhat warmer than last period—especially 5-12. Weather unstable until February 11. Scattered storms possible entire period to February 11. 60%

January 12-February 11—Normal to a little drier than normal. Winds about normal and cooler than normal. Best chances for storms are 13-14, 16-17, 18-19, 21-22, 23-24, 27-28, 29-31, 2-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-10. Many storm dates may be only light showers. Snow may occur at higher elevations. Moisture not very plentiful. 40%

February 11-March 5—Moisture erratic but less than normal. Little wind but getting windier starting about 25-26. Temperatures a little cooler than normal. Best chances for storms are 15-16, 17-19, 20-22, 23-26, 27-28 and 2-3. Temperatures warmer than normal 11-18. May be no rain at all 18-26. Unstable weather 18-26. 30%

March 5-28—A little wetter, windier and a little cooler than normal. Best chances for storms are 5-6, 12-13, 14-16, 17-18, 25-26 and 27-28. A little warmer than normal 12-20. Rainfall

not plentiful away from coastal region; drought should linger. Not good for agriculture or forests. Fires still possible. 60%

2. SAN FRANCISCO-SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

The story here is much the same as the last four years—hot and a long lasting drought—one of historical dimensions. Looking ahead, the heat continues and the drought continues into the "wet" season. Even late October-early November, normally a period of wetter weather, may not have much rain in many years. The best chance for significant rain is December 7-29. There will be rain, but not enough to try and break the drought. The heat will last into the spring. This is bad news for everyone in California. The weather appears to be similar to Region 1 above.

September 23-October 1—A little warmer, wetter and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 22-24, 26-28 and 29-30(?). Unstable weather 22-24. First decent rain in many areas. 60%

October 1-30—Dry, a little cooler and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms (if any) are 2-3, 6-8, 11-13, 15-17, 18-19, 20-21 and 23-24. Unstable weather 9-16 and 24-November 12. Should be warmer than normal 22-30. 25%

October 30-November 14—A little wetter and less windy than normal, but temperatures average about normal. Best chances for storms are 30-1, 2-4, 6-9 (severe) and 12-13. Weather unstable. May be warmer than normal 30-7. 60%

November 14-December 7—Dry, cooler and a little less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 17-19, 20-22 (severe), 23-24, 27-28, 2-3 and 5-7. May be little or no rain 29-7. Becoming more windy by 2-3. 30%

December 7-January 12—Wettest period of winter (we hope). A little cooler and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 8-9, 12-13, 14-15, 18-20 (severe?), 21-22, 25-27, 29-31, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. Unstable weather. May have some warmer days 5-12. 60%

January 12-28—A little drier, cooler and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 15-16, 18-19, 21-22, 24-26 and 27-28. Weather unstable 19-28 so anything may happen—including drier weather. May have several warmer than normal days 19-28. 40%

January 28-February 19—About normal temperatures, rainfall but little wind. Best chances for storms are 29-30, 2-4 (severe), 5-7 (severe?), 8-10, 12-13 and 17-19. Weather very unstable or very spotty showers. May have some warm days 11-19. May be rather weird weather. 50%

February 19-March 6—Dry, cooler and calm but turning windy by 25th. Best chances for storms are 20-21, 25-26, 1-3 and 4-6. Weather continues unstable to March 13. Locally severe storms possible. More rain possible by March 1. 30%

March 6-28—A little above normal rainfall, windier than normal and a little cooler than normal. Best chances for storms are 8-9, 13-15, 19-20, 22-23 and 25-26. Dry season already setting in—a month early. Drought not broken, because much rain needed to break drought. 60%

3. PHOENIX-TUCSON, ARIZONA

It has been hot and dry—which is nothing new for this region. However, it appears there will be a little more moisture than Region 2 as we head into the cooler, wet season. It may be that remnants of a couple of tropical storms from the Northeast Pacific may occur. This region can use all the water

it can get. The fall may be slightly cooler, a little less windy and close to normal rainfall. The winter should be a little warmer, less windy and about normal rainfall overall. Snowfall at higher elevations—such as Flagstaff—is definitely possible. Compared to the US Midwest, this is a good place for snowbirds in the winter of 2016-2017.

September 23-October 1—A little wetter, warmer than normal and winds about normal. Best chances for storms are 26-27 and 28-29. A little wetter than normal. Tropical storm probable. 60%

October 1-22—Dry, a little cooler and windier than normal. Best chances for storms (if any) are 1-2, 3-5, 7-9 (severe), 11-12, 15-17, 18-19 and 20-21. Many storm dates may have only clouds and very little rain. 25%

October 22-December 7—A long period. Cooler, less windy and irregular rainfall but average about normal. Best chances for storms are 22-23, 24-26, 27-28, 30-1, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12, 14-16, 18-19, 20-21, 25-26, 27-30, 1-2 and 4-5. Fog possible 22-30 and 7-14. May be quite dry October 30-November 7 and 14-21. May have several warm days October 30-November 7. Expect strange weather for fall. 50%

December 7-January 12—Wet, cooler and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 7-8, 9-11, 13-15, 19-21, 25-26, 27-28, 29-31(severe?), 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 and 10-12. Unstable weather possible December 7-31. May have fog in December. Some short, warmer periods possible. Winds dying down by January 4. 70%

January 12-February 11—A little drier, cooler than normal and little wind. Best chances for storms are 12-14 (severe?), 19-20, 21-23, 25-26, 27-29, 2-3, 6-7 (severe?) and 8-10. Weather on 12-19 should be warmer, foggy and unstable. Weather in general unstable to February 7. Snow possible at higher elevations—especially January 19-February 11. May be a little wetter and/or stormy 19-28. 40%

February 11-18—Wet, warmer than normal and nearly calm. Best chances for storms are 12-13 and 1-18 (may extend to 19th). May be quite stormy. Snowfall may be heavy at higher elevations. 70%

February 18-26—Dry, turning more windy and cooler than normal. Best chance for rain (if any) is 20-21. Jet stream switched directions for a week. 25%

February 26-March 28—Wetter and windier than normal. Temperatures average about normal but quite variable. Best chances for storms are 26-27, 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 13-14, 18-20, 21-23, 24-26 and 27-28. May see some very warm days 26-5 and 12-20. Unstable weather possible 13-28. Temperatures not bad, but this area should get some much needed rain. I'd rather be here than in Illinois. 70%

4. BILLINGS, MONTANA – YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

It has been dry in most of this region nearly all growing season except for very eastern Montana and Wyoming, where even most places there were drier than normal. Fall is going to be colder, drier and start off drier than normal, but become wetter than normal after mid-October. Winter is warmer and a little drier than normal with little wind until early March. The jet stream shifts and brings in warmer and drier air by January 12 at the latest. March should be warmer than normal, but storms can be severe. This would be a cattleman's nightmare as calving season approaches.

September 23-October 22—Below normal rainfall and temperatures but windy. Best chances for storms are 26-27, 1-3, 5-7, 9-10, 12-14 (severe) and 17-18(?). Foggy mornings possible. May have some warm days 23-30. Generally decent harvest conditions. Quite windy some days. 40%

October 22-December 7—Long period of near normal rainfall, cooler than normal and little wind. Best chances for storms are 22-23, 26-27, 31-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 12-13, 19-21, 22-23, 26-28, 29-30, December 2-4 (severe) and 6-7. Unstable weather and possible fog entire period. May have a few warm days and drier weather October 30-November 7. Becoming more windy in December. 50%

December 7-January 12—Wet, cold and windy. Best chances for storms are 11-13, 16-17, 20-21, 26-27, 28-30, 1-2, 4-6, 8-9 and 10-11. Some foggy mornings possible to December 30. A few scattered warm days possible to 4th. Jet stream shifting north and starting to bring warmer air to region. 70%

January 12-28—Variable weather due to jet stream shift. These are averages. About normal moisture, temperatures but little wind. Best chances for storms are 14-15, 18-20, 21-22 (severe), 23-24 and 25-26. Should be warmer and drier than normal 12-19. Should be colder, wetter and more foggy 19-28. A true transition period. 50%

January 28-February 18—Dry, a little warmer than normal. Very little wind. Best chances for storms are 28-29, 30-31, 4-6 (severe), 7-8, 11-13 and 14-16 (to 17?). Only cool period is 4-11. Isolated storms may be severe—especially during warm periods. 30%

February 18-March 28—A little wetter, warmer and winds now becoming stronger than normal by March 13-14. Best chances for storms are 18-19, 24-26, 1-2, 4-6 (severe), 10-12, 13-15, 16-18, 19-20, 22-24 (severe) and 26-28 (to 29? severe). March will be quite stormy and hard on breeding herds in calving season. Ice storms possible in severe storm periods. Winds picking up substantially this period. Only cold period is 5-12. 60%

5. MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

This region is an enigma. In 2015, it had the best crops in the United States. In 2016, not as good—at least in many areas. In 2017, this is still up for grabs, but we will have a handle on it by January. This region will have a cold fall and winter—much colder than Region 4 we just covered. October-December should be wetter but less windy than normal. Winter should be colder, less windy and a little wetter than normal after mid-February. Unstable weather will be the rule after January 4, so expect whatever does happen. Heating bills will be high. You'll be happy when wet, cold March arrives.

September 23-October 23—Cooler, windier than normal and dry. Best chances for storms are 27-29, 1-2, 4-5, 9-11 (severe), 12-13, 14-15 and 18-20 (severe). Definitely cooling down after 8th. Turning cold at end of period 22-23rd. A few warm days yet on 16-22. May be wetter than normal 1-9. Field work and harvest times will be usually okay. 30%

October 23-December 7—A long period of cold, wet weather but subdued winds. Best chances for storms are 23-24, 28-29, 31-November 2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9 (severe), 11-13, 14-15 (severe), 20-21, 24-26 (severe), 27-28, 30-2 and 3-4. Warmer days possible 14-21 (November). Unstable weather possible 23-12. Severe storms may be heavy snows or

blizzards. May be little or no moisture 7-14 in many places. 70%

December 7-21—A little wetter, colder than normal with little wind. Best chances for storms are 8-10, 12-14, 17-18 and 19-21. Weather may be unsettled. 60%

December 21-January 19—Temperatures about normal for average. Moisture less than normal and almost no wind. Best chances for storms are 23-25 (severe), 26-27(?), 29-30, 1-2, 3-5, 7-9 (severe), 10-12 (severe), 13-15 (severe), 16-18 (into 19th ?). Lots of severe storms present as jet stream is right over this region. Weather definitely unstable. Warm days possible 21-29 and 12-19. Holiday season quite stormy. 40%

January 19-28—Wet, cold but little wind. Best chances for storms are 20-22, 23-25 and 26-27. Stormy period. Weather very unsettled. Storms may be severe. 70%

January 28-February 26—A little cooler, drier and little wind, but wind picks up February 6-7, to quite windy. Best chances for storms are 29-31 (severe), 4-6, 10-12, 13-14, 19-21, 23-24 and 25-26. Foggy mornings possible. Weather quite unstable. Moisture starting to increase after February 11. Quite windy 7-26. 40%

February 26-March 27—Cooler, wetter than normal but almost no wind. Best chances for storms are 28-1, 3-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-15, 17-19, 21-22 (severe), 23-24 and 25-26(?). Gradually warming. Unsettled weather so anything can happen. Some severe weather possible during this period. Winter basically over by February 27. Rainfall about normal 5-12. With disease cycle on, producers should watch livestock and stored grain closely. 70%

6. LINCOLN – GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

This region had an interesting growing season, but at least some farmers may be disappointed with their crops—especially with the variability. But the biggest surprise may well be the seasons. Fall will be colder than the winter when one looks at the temperature averages. This would be much like Region 4. A relatively warm winter is in store for this region. Moisture should be a little above normal and winds a little below normal—especially during the winter. Warm winters mean disease, and the disease cycle is on this winter. Livestock farmers, be ready for problems.

September 23-October 22—A little colder, drier and windier than normal. Winds slowing down by October 7. Best chances for storms are 25-26, 30-1 (severe?), 3-5, 8-10 (severe), 12-14, 16-17 and 18-20 (severe). Weather quite unstable 7-22. Warmer and wet 1-9. Fair harvest period. 40%

October 22-December 8—Wet, colder and less windy than normal, but winds may be above normal to November 12 or 13. Best chances for storms are 26-28, 30-31, November 2-4, 7-8, 9-11, 12-14 (severe?), 20-21, 23-25, 26-27, 29-30 December 1-2 and 5-7 (severe). May not be much moisture 7-21. May have several warmer days 14-21. Unstable weather; anything can happen, especially 22-12. Heavy local snows possible in December 70%

December 8-29—Cold, near normal moisture but little wind. Best chances for storms are 10-11, 12-14, 15-17, 18-20, 23-25 (to 26th?) and 27-29. Foggy mornings possible and unstable weather 14-21. Ice storms possible 23-29. May be a little wetter than normal 8-14. 50%

December 29-January 28—A little wetter, cooler than normal but little wind. Best chances for storms are 30-1, 2-3, 4-5, 7-9 (severe?), 11-13 (severe), 19-20 and 21-23 (severe).

Warmer and drier days 12-19. Weather quite unstable to February 25 so anything may happen. 60%

January 28-February 26—A little drier with temperatures and winds averaging warmer. Best chances for storms are 28-30 (severe), 3-5, 6-8 (severe?), 11-12, 13-15, 16-17, 18-20, 21-23 and 25-26 (severe). Definitely warmer than normal 28-4. Little moisture except for severe weather days 28-11. Unstable weather slowly smooths out. 40%

February 26-March 28—Wet, warmer than normal, and not very windy. Best chances for storms are 27-28, 4-6, 7-9 (severe), 11-13, 16-17, 18-19, 20-22, 23-24 and 26-27. May have some rough weather this period. Good period for diseases such as flu and pneumonia. Wet period. 70%

7. LUBBOCK - AMARILLO, TEXAS

It has been a very interesting year with dry weather turning into wet weather by summer. Severe storms and heavy rains were just east of this area and interfered with crops because it was too dry at first, then too wet. As in Region 6, the fall should be colder than normal, but winter should be warmer than normal. September and October should be a little windier and drier than normal, but rest of the fall should be a little wetter than normal, with little wind. The wind remains below normal to April; the moisture is variable but averages a little below normal.

September 23-October 22—Normal moisture, windier and warmer than normal. Best chances for storms are 27-28, 1-2, 7-8, 9-10 (severe), 12-13, 17-18 and 20-22. Turns cooler, drier and less windy by 9th. Not bad harvest weather overall. 40%

October 22-November 29—A little wetter, colder and subdued winds. Best chances for storms are 26-27, 28-29, 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 11-12, 13-14, 20-21, 23-25 and 27-29. May be starting normal temperatures on 12th. Snow expected. May be little moisture 7-14. Not good for doing any fieldwork or harvesting crops. 60%

November 29-December 29—Colder, less windy than normal but about normal moisture. Best chances for storms are 30-2, 7-9 (severe), 13-14, 19-20, 21-23 (severe), 24-25 and 27-28. Major storm (snow or ice) 7-9. Unsettled weather after 20th. May be quite wet 14-21. 50%

December 29-January 12—Wet, cold and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 29-31, 2-4, 5-7 (severe?) and 9-11 (severe). Weather unsettled. Severe storms may be really bad blizzards. 70%

January 12-28—Mostly normal but little wind. Best chances for storms are 12-14, 15-17, 20-22 (severe) and 27-28. Unsettled weather from January 6-February 15. A few warm days possible 12-19, also may be quite dry. 50%

January 28-March 5—A little drier, warmer than normal with winds about normal—especially after February 6. Best chances for storms are 29-30 (severe), 5-7 (severe), 11-13 (to 14th?), 17-18, 20-21, 24-25, 27-28(?) and 4-5 (severe?). A warmer period with several cold waves. Fog possible 7-20. Weather still unstable. Tornadoes possible after 24. 40%

March 5-28—Wet, a little warmer and normal winds. Best chances for storms are 6-8, 11-12(?), 13-15, 20-21, 22-24 (severe) and 26-27. Very warm 20-28. Tornadoes are possible. Too wet to do much farm and field work. Be aware of illness in man or beast because disease cycle is on. 70%

8. LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

It has been a wet year in the Delta region. Louisiana almost washed into the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi floodplain was soaked from Louisiana to southern Illinois. It's going to be colder than normal for both fall and winter. Fall moisture should be normal to a little above normal while winter moisture a little below normal until March when it turns wet. Winds should be near normal in the fall, but be rather quiet after December 1. All harvesting of crops should be done by October 22. It turns wet from October 22 to December 29 and variable to January 28. Not a good period for farmers and anybody who works outside.

September 23-October 22—Dry, colder and windier than normal. Winds calm 7-24. Best chances for storms are 25-27 (severe?), 30-1, 3-4, 6-8 (severe?), 9-10, 12-14, 16-18 (severe) and 19-21 (to 22? severe). Warm days to 9th, then cold. May be wet 1-9. 30%

October 22-November 29—Wet, windier and colder than normal. Best chances for storms are 24-25, 27-28(?), 30-31, November 1-3 (severe) 6-8 (severe), 9-10, 12-14, 15-16, 18-19 (severe), 20-22 and 27-29. Unstable weather 23-December 2. Fog possible November 12-December 2. Warm days possible 14-21. May be little rain 7-14. 70%

November 29-December 29—A little wetter, colder and little wind. Best chances for storms are 29-1, 2-3, 6-8, 12-14 (severe), 15-17, 20-21 and 27-28. Moisture slowly reduced by December 29. Fog possible 14-21. 60%

December 29-January 28—Little wind but still cold. Moisture variable but average near normal. Best chances for storms are 29-31, 4-5, 8-9, 14-15, 16-17 (severe), 19-21 and 24-25. May be wet 19-26. May be warm and dry 12-19 due to unsettled weather. 50%

January 28-February 26—Drier than normal, a little colder but a little windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 28-29, 31-2, 3-5 (severe), 7-9, 12-14, 18-19, 21-23 and 24-26. Unstable weather 6-25. Starting to warm up a little. May be a little wetter 11-18. Some warm days possible 28-4. 40%

February 26-March 28—Wet, colder than normal and below normal winds. Best chances for storms are 27-1, 2-3, 5-6, 9-11 (severe), 12-13, 15-17, 19-20, 24-25 and 26-28. May be much warmer 20-28. May not be much rain 12-20. Spring will start off wet. Weather quite unstable 5-12 and may have local severe storms and possibly tornadoes. 80%

9. ROCKFORD-PEORIA, ILLINOIS

The spring-summer 2016 growing season had mostly its ups and downs—ups because the growing season was good, but the downer is that prices are at depression levels. As we go into the fall season, the big changes begin in October with cold weather starting a month early. The moisture amounts will be mostly lower than normal. Winter should be colder than normal. Snow and moisture in general below normal until February 26 when it will become wetter than normal. March should be colder and a little drier than normal. Big snows possible late January.

September 23-October 1—A little drier than normal, breezy and best chance of storm is September 23-24. 40%

October 1-9—Wet, a little warmer than normal, breezy. Best chances for storms are September 30-October 1, 3-5 (severe?) and 6-7. Unstable weather. 70%

October 9-22—Cooler, dry, little wind. Best chances for storms are 10-11, 14-15 and 18-20 (severe). May be sleet or freezing rain—even snow on severe storm date. Definitely turning colder. Weather unstable. Last good chance for harvest 16-22. 30%

October 22-November 14—Cold, wet and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 22-24, 1-3 (severe), 7-9 (severe?) and 10-11. Expect first snow before November 1. Fog 7-14? Possibly miserable weather. May be a little drier 7-14. 70%

November 14-December 7—Cold, breezy, a little wetter than normal. Best chances for storms are 16-18 (severe), 19-20, 21-22(?), 28-1 (severe), 3-4 and 5-6. Expect snowstorms on severe storm dates; may be warmer than normal 14-21. Fog possible to December 2. 60%

December 7-29—Cold, little wind, dry. May have normal moisture 14-21. Best chances for storms are 12-13, 14-15, 16-18 (severe), 20-22 and 24-26. Heavy snow possible 16-18. Warmer period 21-29. 30%

December 29-January 19—A little drier, cold and little wind. Weather quite unstable, so anything may happen. Best chances for storms are 28-29, 30-31(?), 3-4, 9-10 and 13-15 (severe). May be a little warmer than normal 12-19. Major storm possible on severe storm date. 40%

January 19-28—Cold, wet and little wind. Best chances for storms are 19-21 (severe) and 26-28 (severe). Weather unstable. Heavy snow possible. 70%

January 28-February 26—Cold, windy and dry after 7th. Best chances for storms are 29-30, 31-1, 2-4, 5-6 (?), 10-12, 16-17, 18-19 and 21-22. Weather unstable. Warmer than normal (January thaw) 28-4. Moisture increasing 18-26. 30%

February 26-March 12—Still cold, wet, breezy, quiet. Best chances for storms are 26-27, 1-2, 5-7 and 10-12 (to 13th if severe). Stormy weather period. Late season snowstorms possible. 70%

March 12-29—Colder and less windy than normal. Variable moisture. Weather a little unstable. Best chances for storms are 13-14, 15-16, 22-23 and 24-26 (severe). A rather tough winter here. Much milder 500 miles south. Winter is hard on livestock. 50%

10. DETROIT, MICHIGAN-TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

The year 2016 was not a bad year, but it took several weeks to warm up in the spring. Unlike Region 9, the fall is slightly cooler and drier. The winter is about normal temperatures and drier than normal—especially February and March. Winds average normal during the fall but are definitely below normal for winter. Only February will have significant winds. This will be a good year for flu and other diseases due to the disease cycle and moderate temperatures. Harvest season 2016 should be a decent one.

September 23-October 30—Cooler, a little less windy and drier than normal. Best chances for storms are 23-24, 25-27, 28-29, 1-2, 3-5, 6-7, 8-9, 15-16, 17-19, 20-21, 22-24, 25-27 and 28-30. May be quite wet 1-9. May have some warm, dry days 16-22. Foggy days possible October 22-November 12. 30%

October 30-December 7—Temperatures variable but average near normal. Drier and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 8-10, 12-13, 14-16, 20-21, 22-24 (severe), 26-27, 28-29, 2-3 and 5-7 (severe). Some warm days possible 14-21

and 29-7. Unstable weather 21-29. 40%

December 7-14—Dry, cold but little wind. Best chance for storms (if any) is 12-13. Very quiet weather. 25%

December 14-January 19—Normal moisture, colder with very little wind. Best chances for storms are 14-15, 17-19, 20-21, 24-25, 29-30, 2-4, 8-9 (severe?), 13-14 and 15-16. Warm days possible December 21-29. May be dry 5-12. May have freezing rain 8-9. 50%

January 19-February 4—Warmer than normal, moisture about normal and still very little wind. Best chances for storms are 20-22 (severe), 25-26, 28-29 and 3-4. Wetter than normal 19-28 due to severe storms on 20-22. Little moisture rest of period. Weather a little unstable. 50%

February 4-March 5—A little colder, drier and much windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 5-7 (severe), 7-9 (severe), 11-12, 13-15, 16-18 (to 19?), 19-21 (severe), 22-24, 26-27, 28-2 and 4-5. Unstable weather 4-25. Severe storms may be really severe. Short 2-3 day cold snaps should be expected. Big temperature swings expected 18-25. 40%

March 5-28—Colder, less winds and drier than normal. Best chances for storms are 10-12, 14-15, 18-20, 21-22, 24-25 and 26-27. A rather quiet period. Winter does have some stormy periods. Some rains will be needed for spring. 30%

11. BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The weather here has been erratic bordering on crazy this spring and summer. But the potentially stormy weather may continue due to the relatively late hurricane season. Both the fall and winter seasons should be a little colder than normal. The fall season will have unstable and often times stormy and foggy weather. We expect the winter to be much calmer and less stormy. Moisture should be less than normal for the next six months. Winds quite variable, with both windy and relatively calm periods. Areas that are dry will tend to stay dry—especially during the winter. The disease cycle is on, so man or beast may be affected.

September 23-October 30—A little drier and windier than normal. Cooler for part of the period, but warm 9-22. Best chances for storms are 27-28, 1-3 (severe), 4-6, 7-8, 9-11 (severe), 12-13, 16-17, 22-23, 26-27 and 28-30. Fog possible and unstable weather all fall season. Storms may occur at any time. Some tropical storms may be nearby. Windier than normal 7-30. 40%

October 30-November 29—A little wetter but gradually turning drier, windy and about normal temperatures overall. Best chances for storms are 30-31, 1-2, 8-10, 14-15, 18-19, 20-22 and 26-28. Warmer days possible 7-21. Wet 30-7. Rather dry 21-29. 50%

November 29-December 21—A little warmer, drier and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 1-3 (severe), 8-9, 10-12 (severe), 14-16 and 20-21. A little wetter and cooler than normal 7-14. Weather continues unstable and possibly foggy. 30%

December 21-January 12—A little drier, cooler and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 23-24, 28-30 (to 31?), 2-3, 4-5, 7-9 and 10-12 (to 13?). Weather unstable January 4- February 7. A little warmer 21-29. May be quite dry 5-12. 40%

January 12-28—Wet, a little colder and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 15-16, 21-23 (severe) and 26-28.

Rather intense storms, may be a Nor'easter. Some unstable strange weather possible. 80%

January 28-February 11—Dry, cold and windy. Best chances for storms are 30-31, 4-6, and 7-9 (severe). May be little or no moisture in many places. 30%

February 11-March 5—Dry, cold and windy. Best chances for storms (if any) are 11-12, 14-15, 16-17, 18-20, 25-27, 28-2 and 3-5. Unstable weather 11-18. Winds calm down after 25. May be normal rainfall (or snow) 11-18. 25%

March 5-28—A little drier, colder and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 6-7(?), 10-11, 12-14, 17-18, 20-22 (severe) and 27-28. Severe storm may be Nor'easter. Moisture amounts quite variable. February and March will see some very interesting weather. 40%

12. BALTIMORE, MARYLAND - WASHINGTON, D.C.

Weather last season was much the same as Region 11. September was quite wet in southeast part of region. Both fall and winter should be a little colder, a little windier and drier than normal. This region should expect more than the usual severe storms as Nor'easters will be nearby and the jet stream will maneuver the storm track over much of the region. With the disease cycle on, it could be a hard six months for many people.

September 23-October 30 —A little drier, cooler and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 24-26, 27-29 (severe), 1-3, 4-5, 6-8 (severe), 11-13, 15-16, 18-19 22-24 (severe) and 28-30. May be very wet 1-9. Warm days possible 16-22. Decent harvest weather most of period. 40%

October 30-November 14—Wet, windy and a little cooler than normal. Best chances for storms are 31-1, 3-4, 6-7, 8-10 and 11-13. Very wet 30-7. A few warm days and a little drier 7-14. Unsettled weather? 70%

November 14-December 7—A little drier, warmer and windy. Best chances for storms are 16-18, 20-21, 24-26, 27-29 (severe), 30-2 and 4-6. Any cooler days would be 21-29. Any unsettled weather possible also 21-29. Fog possible 29-7. May be little or no moisture 29-7. 40%

December 7-January 12—Normal moisture, colder and little wind. Best chances for storms are 7-9 (severe), 13-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 24-25, 26-27, 30-1 (severe), 2-3, 4-6, 8-9 (severe) and 11-12. Several warm days possible 21-29. May be quite dry 5-12. Foggy and unstable weather possible 4-12. Winds pick up by 4th. 50%

January 12-February 4—A little wetter, colder and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 16-17, 19-20, 21-22, 24-26, 28-29, 1-2 and 3-4 (severe). Several warm days possible 19-28. Not as wet 19-4. Inauguration Day (20th) will have stormy weather AM. 60%

February 4-18—Dry, cold and windy. Best chances for storms (if any) are 5-7 (severe), 10-11 and 17-18. Severe storm date may be only chance for moisture. 25%

February 18-March 28—A little less moisture, colder than normal and less windy than normal. Stormy period. Best chances for storms are 19-20, 23-25 (to 26? severe), 28-2 (severe), 5-6, 12-13 (?), 15-17 (to 18? severe), 19-20 and 25-27 (severe). May be very dry 12-20. May be some Nor'easters nearby. An unusual number of severe storms. A rather wild ending to winter. 30%

13. GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA – ATLANTA GEORGIA

It has been an interesting growing season here also. The summer was wet part of the time and this included Tropical Storm Julie along the Atlantic Coast in September. The fall season may be slightly cooler than normal, but the winter should be about normal. That is because the jet stream divide between cold and warmer air is over or just north of the region. Rainfall should be a little below normal and winds variable but about normal for fall. The winter rainfall should be about like fall, but winds should be below normal. Generally speaking, weather extremes should not be much of a problem.

September 23-October 22—Drier, cooler than normal but near normal winds. Best chances for storms are 23-24, 25-27, 29-30, 1-2 (severe?), 6-7, 8-10 (severe?), 12-14, 17-18 and 20-22 (severe). May be wet 1-9. Tropical weather may be nearby. 30%

October 22-November 7—Wet, cooler than normal with normal winds. Best chances for storms are 24-25, 26-27 (severe), 28-29, 30-1 and 2-3(?). May be foggy in mornings. Unstable weather so anything may happen. 80%

November 7-December 7—A little drier and windy. Temperatures about normal. Best chances for storms are 7-8, 12-13, 14-16, 18-19, 21-22, 23-25 (severe), 26-28, 29-30, 1-2 and 4-6. Warm days possible 14-21 and 29-7. May be foggy 7-12. Weather unsettled 14-21. May be a little wetter than expected 14-21. 40%

December 7-29—Dry, cold, but little wind. Best chances for storms are 7-8, 10-12 (severe), 14-16, 20-21, 23-25 and 27-28. May have some warm days 21-29. May have about average rainfall 14-21. 30%

December 29-January 28—A little wetter and colder than normal but little wind. Best chances for storms are 29-30, 1-2, 5-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16-17, 18-19, 20-22 and 26-28. May have some fog 5-12 but little rain. 60%

January 28-February 26—Colder, dry and windy. Best chances for storms are 28-29, 31-2, 3-4, 6-8, 9-11, 12-13, 14-15, 18-19, 20-21 and 23-25. Dry period. May be very little rain except for 18-26. May have fog or haze 11-18. 30%

February 26-March 28—Normal rainfall, colder than normal but little wind. Best chances for storms are 26-28, 3-5, 10-11, 13-15 (severe), 16-18, 19-21, 22-24 and 25-26. Very wet 26-5; may have local floods. Weather unsettled 12-28. Weather quite normal for most of the fall and winter. May be a little dry if rains don't arrive 26-5. 50%

14. ORLANDO-TAMPA, FLORIDA

The year 2016 has done more than a few tricks in this region. It ranges from dry weather in the spring to a tropical storm in September. The coming fall and winter look rather benign overall. The fall may be a little cooler than normal, but the winter should have normal temperatures. Rainfall will be generally a little below normal. Winds will average near normal in the fall but below normal in the winter. Irrigation will be needed for the winter vegetable crops. Weather will be relatively uneventful this fall and winter. By the way, I see a very small chance of a crop freeze this winter.

September 23-October 30—Mostly dry, cooler and a little less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 27-28, 1-3, 4-5, 6-8, 10-11 (severe?), 12-13, 16-17, 19-21, 22-23 and

27-29. Fog possible 22-7. May be quite wet 1-9. Turning much windier by October 24. Good period for harvest. 30%

October 30-November 7—Wet, cold and windy. Best chances for storms are 31-1 and 3-4. May be a wild 7-8 days (tropical storm?). 80%

November 7-29—A little drier, cooler and still windy. Best chance for storms are 7-9, 10-11, 13-14, 16-17 (to 18?), 21-23, 25-26 and 27-29 (severe). Near normal rain 21-29. 40%

November 29-December 29—Dry, a little cooler and less windy—especially after 6th. Best chances for storms are 2-3, 6-8 (severe), 9-10, 12-14, 19-21, 22-23, 25-27 and 28-29. May have some warm days 29-7 and 21-29. May have normal rainfall 14-21. Unsettled weather possible 20-29 and into January 4. 30%

December 29-January 28—A little wetter and cooler than normal. Little wind. Best chances for storms are 30-1, 2-4, 5-6, 9-10 (severe), 13-15, 17-19, 20-22 and 26-28 (severe). Fog possible 12-19. Unstable weather 19-28. May be little rain 5-12. 60%

January 28-February 26—Dry, a little cooler and windy—especially after 6. Best chances for storms are 2-3, 4-6 (severe), 7-8, 11-13, 14-15, 19-20 and 25-26. May have some warm days 28-4. Unstable weather 2-12. Foggy days possible 12-18. 30%

February 26-March 28—Near normal rainfall, a little cooler and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 27-29, 1-2, 4-5, 9-10, 12-14, 16-18, 19-20, 22-23 (severe) and 26-27. Foggy days possible 26-5. May be very wet 26-5 (may be fog). Frost doubtful south of Orlando. 50%

15. BROWNSVILLE – SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

It has been quite wet and stormy, over much of this region—especially during the summer. It has hurt many crops that did get planted and flooding was evident in some of the region. The fall season shows a little cooler with winds and moisture averaging about normal. The winter should be normal to above normal temperature with winds and rainfall variable but each averaging about normal overall. This should be a good place for the northern “snowbirds” to roost this winter as the Northern US is freezing. Crops should be good also, but may require some irrigation. Not a bad place to be in January.

September 23-October 22—Dry, breezy until October 7, then relatively quiet. Warmer than normal to 9, then cooler. Best chances for storms are 1-3 (severe ?), 4-5, 8-10 (severe), 11-13, 14-15 and 19-20. May be foggy 7-24. Severe storm periods may be tropical activity in Gulf of Mexico. May be wet 1-9. 30%

October 22-November 29—Wet, cool and windier than normal. Best chances for storms are 22-24, 28-30 (severe), 2-3, 5-7 (severe), 12-14 (severe), 17-19, 20-22 and 27-29. Foggy mornings possible 12-December 2. Severe storm periods may still be tropical activity. May only have average rainfall 30-14. 80%

November 29-December 14—A little wetter, cooler and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 30-2 (severe), 3-4, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12 and 13-14. Tropical storm season over. 60%

December 14-29—Cooler temperatures and rainfall about normal. Winds rather quiet. Best chances for storms are 16-17 19-21, 23-25, 26-27 and 28-29(?). May have some cool nights if La Niña starts. 50%

December 29-January 28—A little wetter, cooler and less windy than normal. Best chances for storms are 30-31, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 10-11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-21, 23-24 and 26-28. May have some warmer days and dry 12-19. Unsettled weather 5-12 and 22-28. 60%

January 28-February 26—Dry, a little cooler to normal temperatures and a little below normal winds. Best chances for storms are 29-31, 2-3, 4-5, 7-9, 11-12, 15-16, 17-19, 21-23 and 24-25. Foggy mornings possible 4-11; unstable weather 28-25. Warm days possible 28-4 and 18-26. 30%

February 26-March 28—A little drier, less windy and temperatures a little warmer than normal. Best chances for storms are 28-2, 5-6, 8-10, 13-15, 16-18, 22-24 and 26-27. Some rather warm days possible 26-5 and 20-28. Fall may be colder than the winter months. Frost in deep South not likely. Good crop growing weather for fruits and vegetables. 40%

COMMODITY COMMENTS

Please be advised that this section is always the last one written, so it is as current as possible—no matter when we go to press. If the issue is delayed for any length of time, this will be revised to conform being up to date. We continue to say a few words about basic trends of many commodities for the next one to two months. Here is what we see for the general trends (more specific advice is on the hotlines, e-mails and faxes). **This is current as of October 7, 2016.**

Grains: Ask any farmer: Can you make money in the grains at present prices? He would probably give you a look that if one could kill, you'd be dead. Or, you may get a laugh that would sound like a hyena on steroids. Prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, rice and barley are in the sewer. There is virtually no chance that anyone can make any money in early October with these prices. Additionally, the USDA Crop reports keep coming out with bearish numbers. The cycles are bearish as the 30-year Commodity Depression Cycle—which started in June, 2014—finally grinds to a halt in September, 2017. The last low for this cycle was June, 1986. So we are over two-thirds the way through the cycle. But this last year could be bad news for many producers due to damage to their equity base.

Is there hope in the future? Yes, but we have guarded optimism for the near-term. Corn has some disease problems such as **Diplodia zeae** that can bring devastation to some corn production areas. I have seen a lot of it myself from Wisconsin south to Springfield. But soybeans have some disease and quality issues of their own. We think the worst is over, but the road back to economic health will be a difficult road for many producers.

In looking at the corn and soybean markets, we see a possible short-term rebound because everyone is so pessimistic. The grains are oversold and are due for a technical rebound. How much and how far remains to be seen for corn and soybeans. We see a limited harvest rally—especially when the harvest is about half completed. That will be the time grains should be bought and hopefully the grains will rally. This will include wheat as the “most hated” grain which will ride the coattails of the corn and soybean rally. Being long will help. If the grains drop to \$3.35-\$3.40 December corn futures or \$9.60 in January bean futures, consider buying them for a rally.

One thing to be wary of is that the beans could try to go down one more time in the January-February 2017 period. We see South America having a decent crop in most places this summer (our winter). This may put the soybeans under price pressure at the beginning of 2017. One doesn't want to stay long too long as prices may erode after November. Long-term the grains have a bright future, but the outlook is clouded for the next year.

Meats: For all the livestock producers, it's the same song, second verse. They are losing as much money—if not more—than the grain farmers as noted above. With hog prices about \$45 (they need \$70), and cattle prices about \$100 per hundredweight (they need at least \$125/hundredweight as a minimum), nobody can make any money. In addition inventory (especially hogs) is up so prices will stay low for awhile longer.

For live cattle, prices are so cheap that the lows shouldn't go down much more. For the more aggressive speculator, buying on dips (December futures) appears to have promise. There will be some short covering, but demand uncertainties are a big unknown. This is not a good place for speculators at this time. We don't see cattle below \$97 and, if they do, they won't stay there long. We say buy on weakness below \$100 if possible.

Hogs are also a disaster zone. They are oversold, but USDA says the Hogs and Pigs report shows 15.1% increase in supplies coming to market into 2017. We don't see much upside at the moment. However, for the opportunistic speculators, buy December hogs below \$45/hundredweight if possible for much lower risk. If one can buy for \$43 or less, that should be a winner as cold weather arrives. But the producers still lose money. Good luck.

Sugar: The sweet stuff has finally gotten back to about breakeven. The charts show an uptrend since August, 2015 when prices were disastrously low at 10-11¢ per pound. Prices are now about 22-23¢/pound or about breakeven for the producers. If one looks at the long-range charts, prices could reach over 30¢ in 2017. With some countries such as India having production problems due to drought, sugar can rally more. Do not buy except on selloffs below 22.5¢ March 2017 futures. There should be some selloffs for one to get long, but it may be a slow process. If one is really looking for some fast action, he should look elsewhere to get his thrills.

Cotton: This market isn't much better than the grains and meats since many producers need about 75¢ a pound to break even. We did see 75¢ and better last July, but now with prices below 70¢ on the futures, the profits are gone. Even so, the white fiber is in a modest uptrend that began last March from about 50¢/pound (December futures). If one wants to play this one, we'd be a buyer below 65¢/pound. Do remember that China will need to buy a considerable amount of good quality cotton to blend with the poorer quality Chinese cotton. We do think cotton will again reach 75¢ or even higher, but maybe not until 2017. As with the other agricultural commodities, good luck with cotton.

Precious Metals: We think the real market moves with this group will be in 2017 and later. Gold fell below \$1300/ounce and silver is below \$18 as we go to press. Gold was in a long-

