

County Drought Declarations:

The Governor issued Executive Order 11-29 on September 2, 2011, adding three counties to watch, moving 18 up to the Warning and two into Emergency. A total of 80 counties are under state drought stages, with 17 counties in an emergency stage, 42 in Warning and 21 in Watch. State Emergency allows public water suppliers aid and opportunities to supplement their water supply, as well as provide opportunity for domestic and livestock water from emergency sources.

Kansas Drought Emergency: Barber, Clark, Comanche, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Kiowa, Meade, Morton, Pratt, Reno, Sedgwick, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner.

Kansas Drought Warning: Allen, Anderson, Barton, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Coffey, Cowley, Crawford, Edwards, Elk, Finney, Ford, Gove, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Greenwood, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Labette, Lane, Linn, Logan, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Montgomery, Neosho, Ness, Pawnee, Rice, Scott, Trego, Wallace, Wichita, Wilson, Woodson.

Kansas Drought Watch: Cheyenne, Decatur, Dickinson, Ellis, Ellsworth, Franklin, Graham, Lincoln, Miami, Norton, Osage, Ottawa, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas.

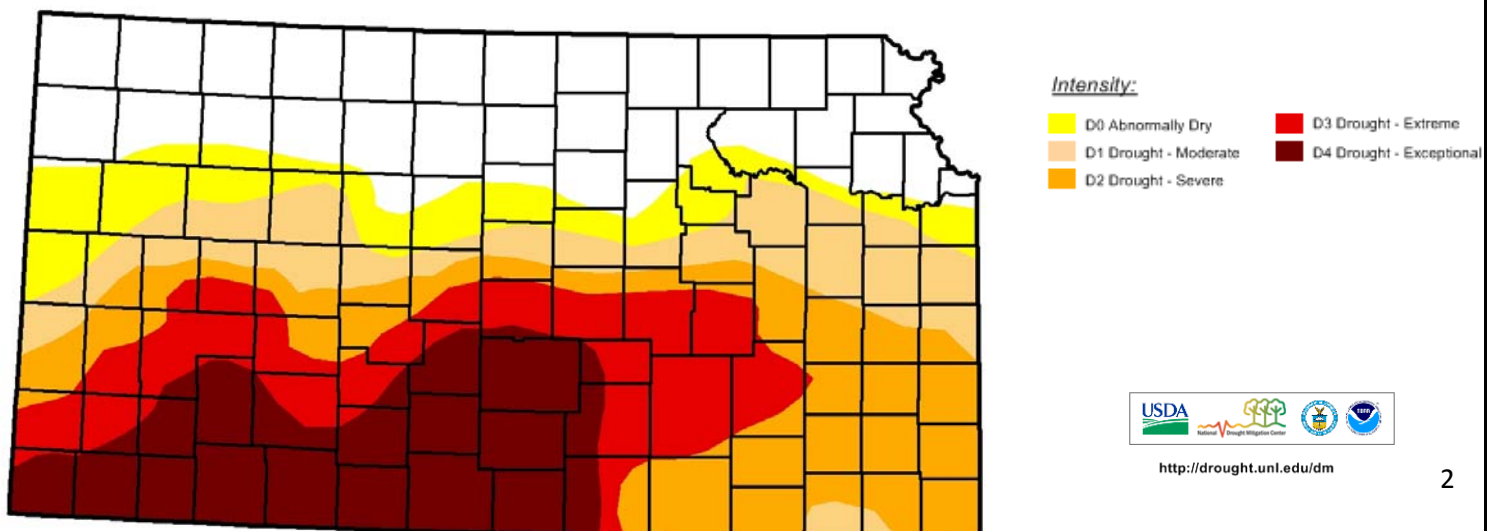
A total of 50 counties are designated federal agricultural disasters (S3117, S3061 & S3156) due to drought, high winds and excessive temperatures and are now eligible for federal programs, along with contiguous counties. A request for the addition of 20 counties was sent to USDA on August 24. If these requests are approved, 70 counties designated as primary and 15 contiguous counties will be eligible for programs and opportunities. USDA agricultural disaster declarations are based on anticipated crop losses, while Kansas drought stages are based primarily on water resource conditions. Federal agricultural disasters have also been declared by the Secretary of USDA for areas of Colorado (S3125 & S3133) and Oklahoma (S3080 & S3139) that include Kansas counties as contiguous. These are all included in the Kansas declaration or as a contiguous county.

General Conditions

The August 30, Drought Monitor showed an increase in the area of all drought categories. The exceptional drought increased to 17.46 percent of the state. Currently, just over 72% of the state is reported as abnormally dry to exceptional drought. The latest Drought Outlook continues to indicate drought conditions are expected to improve slightly in the southern portions of the state in the coming months. While ENSO (El Nino/La Nina – Southern Oscillation) is officially in neutral conditions, the outlook is for the La Niña climatic patterns to re-develop in the coming months.

A description of the Drought Monitor process can be found in a separate document under useful links on the KWO drought page.

US Drought Monitor – August 30, 2011

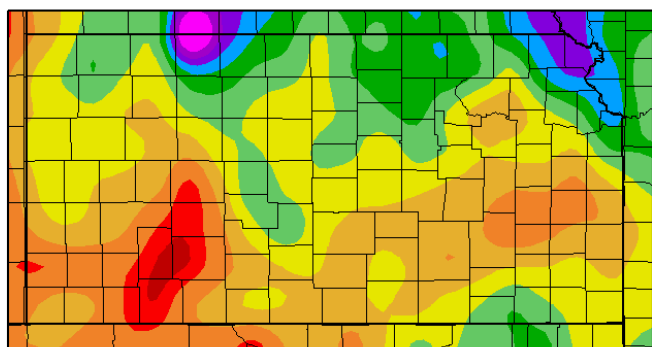


Climate (Precipitation and Temperature)

August ranks as the 38th driest on record (1895-2010) in Kansas with a statewide average total precipitation of 2.47 inches. The North Central division was the wettest at an average of 3.79 inches or 117 % of normal. The Northwest division averaged 2.70 inches, or 113% of normal. Percentage-wise, the Southwest and East Central divisions fared worst at 55 % of normal, with an average of 1.32 inches in the Southwest and 2.06 inches in the East Central. The South Central division fared little better, with an average of 1.95 inches or 62 % of normal. Only one day saw no location in the state report any precipitation, and on five days the state-wide average was zero, with only isolated reports of moisture. Heavy rains on August 13th in various locations in KS caused localized flooding. Most of the heavy rains were isolated, and did little to relieve the overall drought conditions in South Central and Southwestern KS, while drought severity increased in the East Central and Southeastern divisions.

This marked August as the 14th warmest on record for the state. The state-wide average temperature was warmer than normal, with the average 3.6 degrees warmer than normal. The South Central division had the second hottest August on record with an average 82.9 °F, 5.3 °F warmer than average. The previous record was 83.6 °F set in 1937. The Southwestern Division saw the 11th warmest August on record, with an average of 83.5 °F. The record August average temperature is 87.1 °F set in 1936. Temperatures broke 100 degrees in all divisions, with many stations approaching record number of days above 100 for the year. Hutchinson, in Reno County, had the warmest reading in the state at 113 °F on the 3rd. This set a new record for the date, the month and an all-time record high for Hutchinson. The previous all-time record for Hutchinson was set earlier this year on July 27th. It should be noted that records for this station do not include the 1930s. Daily record highs were set at 139 locations, and tied at 49 others. On the low temperature side, 46 locations had record high minimums, while 30 tied records. Elk City Lake set an new record high minimum temperature on the 1st of August, then promptly broke that record on the 2nd. The new record was 84 °F.

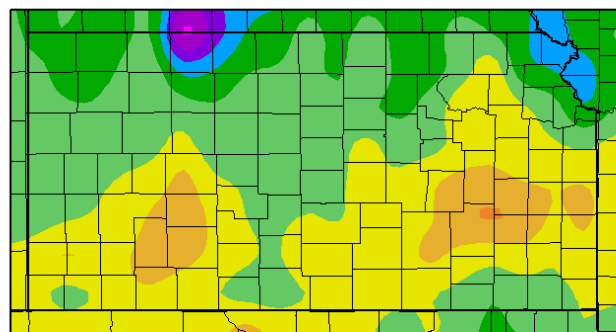
Precipitation (in)
8/1/2011 - 8/31/2011



Generated 9/1/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
8/1/2011 - 8/31/2011



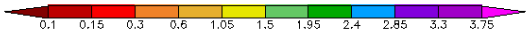
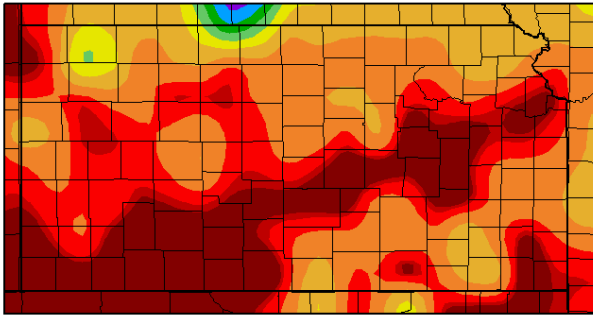
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Regional Climate Centers

The week of August 29- September 6 saw very little precipitation state wide.

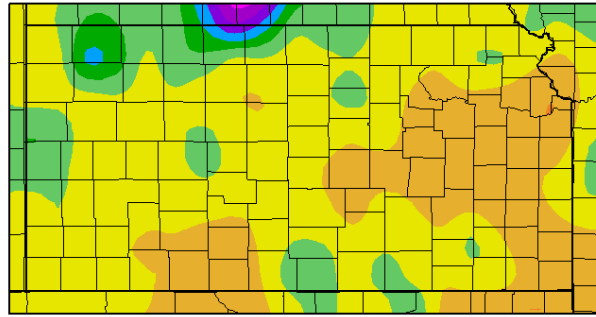
Precipitation (in)
8/30/2011 - 9/5/2011

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
8/30/2011 - 9/5/2011



Generated 9/6/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers



Generated 9/6/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Kansas Climate Division Summary August 2011

Climate Division	Precipitation (inches)						Temperature (°F)			
	August 2011			January 1 through Aug 30			Average	Departure Normal	Monthly Extremes	
	Total	Departure Normal ¹	% Normal	Total	Departure Normal ¹	% Normal			Maximum	Minimum
Northwest	2.70	0.41	113	13.05	-2.93	80	77.0	2.6	106	53
West Central	2.09	-0.32	88	10.39	-4.98	67	79.1	3.6	109	54
Southwest	1.32	-1.06	55	6.04	-8.99	40	82.8	5.8	111	58
North Central	3.79	0.57	117	19.24	-0.80	95	78.4	1.4	110	57
Central	2.74	-0.47	85	13.40	-7.59	64	81.1	3.4	112	55
South Central	1.95	-1.19	62	8.88	-11.51	42	84.3	5.3	113	57
Northeast	3.81	-0.21	95	20.10	-4.63	81	78.5	2.2	108	56
East Central	2.06	-1.74	55	15.71	-9.85	62	80.5	3.8	112	55
Southeast	2.61	-1.22	69	17.93	-8.23	68	82.8	4.6	112	56
STATE	2.47	-0.65	79	13.36	-6.99	64	80.5	3.6	113	53

1. Departure from 1971-2000 normal value
Source: KSU Weather Data Library



Public Water Supply Conditions

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for emergency use of state fishing lake water under conditions of drought emergency declared by the Governor is in place. This will allow small communities and individuals within the emergency counties category to pump water from named state fishing lakes if they are in dire need of water. Individuals and communities need to contact the KWO for a water supply request and they will in turn be referred to the appropriate Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism office to obtain the necessary permit to withdraw the water. The MOU limits the types of water use and a fee may be set for use of the state fishing lakes' water supply. The priority order established for this MOU is domestic, municipal and then livestock uses, while also protecting the lake's fish population.

The State Fishing Lakes available for withdrawals for Emergency Declared counties include Atchison, Barber, Brown, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Clark, Crawford, Goodman, Jewell, Kingman, Leavenworth, Lyon, Pott#1,

Pott#2, McPherson, Miami, Mined Lands (Pits), Neosho, Osage, Ottawa, Saline, Scott, Shawnee, Sheridan, Washington, Wilson and Woodson Lakes.

Additional water may also be available for Drought Emergency counties from federal lakes. Water from U.S. Army Corps of Engineer lakes is available for domestic, industrial and livestock use but is prohibited for irrigation use. Requests from applicants must go through the KWO. It may also be possible to obtain water under surplus contracts from State owned storage in certain Corps lakes with water available for purchase. Bureau of Reclamation lake water may also be made available by temporary contract under drought conditions

Local Public Water Supply Status

Butler County: Augusta has declared a water emergency due to drought. Water sources for Augusta Lake and Santa Fe Lake are at historic lows; the El Dorado Lake supply pipeline is running close to capacity. Mandatory restrictions are in place for the cities of Augusta and Mulvane. Augusta supplies Mulvane, Butler RWD 4 and has an emergency connection to Butler RWD 6 and Sedgwick RWD 3. On August 2 it was estimated Augusta had 6 weeks of water supply left in the city lake. Butler RWD 4 has also requested conservation including outside watering restrictions. In addition, KDHE has issued a public health warning (no contact) for Santa Fe and Augusta City lakes due to blue-green algae.

Dickinson County: Dickinson RWD 2 has mandatory water restrictions in effect through October 31, 2011.

Gray County: The City of Cimarron has mandatory watering restrictions in place.

Greenwood County: The City of Eureka has gone to water watch, for voluntary water conservation.

Harper County: Bluff City has water use restrictions in place.

Harvey County: The City of Hesston has issued mandatory restrictions on residential yard use (lawn and car washing). Hesston is experiencing declines in the city's water wells which has lowered the ability to keep up with demand.

Haskell County: The City of Sublette has implemented water rationing due to problems with two of their four wells.

Johnson County: City of Gardner has requested voluntary conservation measures.

Kearny County: City of Lakin has initiated voluntary water conservation measures.

Labette County: The City of Oswego is in a stage 1 water watch, voluntary water conservation measures, due to low water and increased daily usage.

Marion County: The City of Burns has issued a request that citizens do not fill swimming pools and use water sparingly when watering lawns, gardens and flowers as the city wells are getting low due to the excessive heat and lack of rain.

Montgomery County: The City of Independence has requested voluntary water conservation practices.

Neosho County: The City of St. Paul is under a conserve order as the city's intake is unable to access the low flow in the Neosho River. Emergency measures to pump water to the intake are underway.

Reno County: The City of Buhler has implemented voluntary water restrictions to reduce usage due to concerns with exceeding water rights.

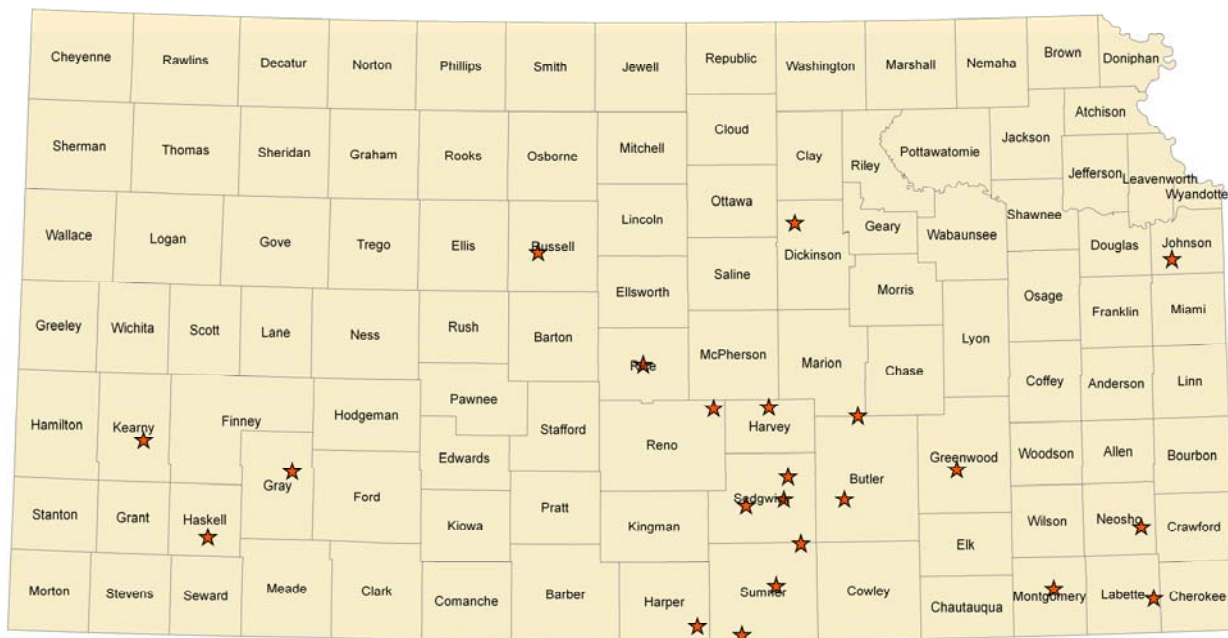
Rice County: City of Lyons implemented a stage 1 water watch which includes voluntary water conservation measures.

Russell County: The City of Russell has moved to the second stage of its water conservation plan due to lack of flow in Big Creek and the Smoky Hill River at Pfeiffer and the associated aquifer decline. Residents are asked not to perform any outside watering or washing of vehicles.

Sedgwick County: The City of Goddard has issued a water warning and asked residents to voluntarily conserve water. The Chisholm Creek Utility Authority which supplies water to Bel Aire and Park City also in Sedgwick County has issued a water watch. The City of Wichita has requested voluntary water conservation. A public health warning due to blue-green algae is in effect for Cheney Lake, which supplies drinking water to the City of Wichita.

Sumner County: The City of Caldwell has put their emergency water plan (mandatory water conservation measures) into effect for all customers including Rural Water District No. 7. The primary source of water supply is the Chikaskia River. City of Wellington has initiated a water watch for voluntary water conservation due to low flows in the Ninnescah and declines in lake level.

Public Water Suppliers with Drought Based Conservation in Place



Kansas Water Office
September 1, 2011

★ Conserving Public Water Suppliers (City or RWD) County

Other Water Supply Conditions

In eastern Kansas, the primary source of water is surface water including: rivers, federal reservoirs, multipurpose small lakes and municipal lakes. Many federal reservoirs store water for public water supply and other uses. The lakes which have water supply through the Water Marketing and/or Water Assurance programs include Big Hill, Clinton, Council Grove, Elk City, Hillsdale, John Redmond, Kanopolis, Marion, Melvern, Milford, Pomona, Perry and Tuttle Creek. Cedar Bluff, Glen Elder and Keith Sebelius reservoirs also contain supply water for a community.

In lakes where all state owned water is not under contract, it may be possible to negotiate for an emergency water supply.

As of September 6, 2011:

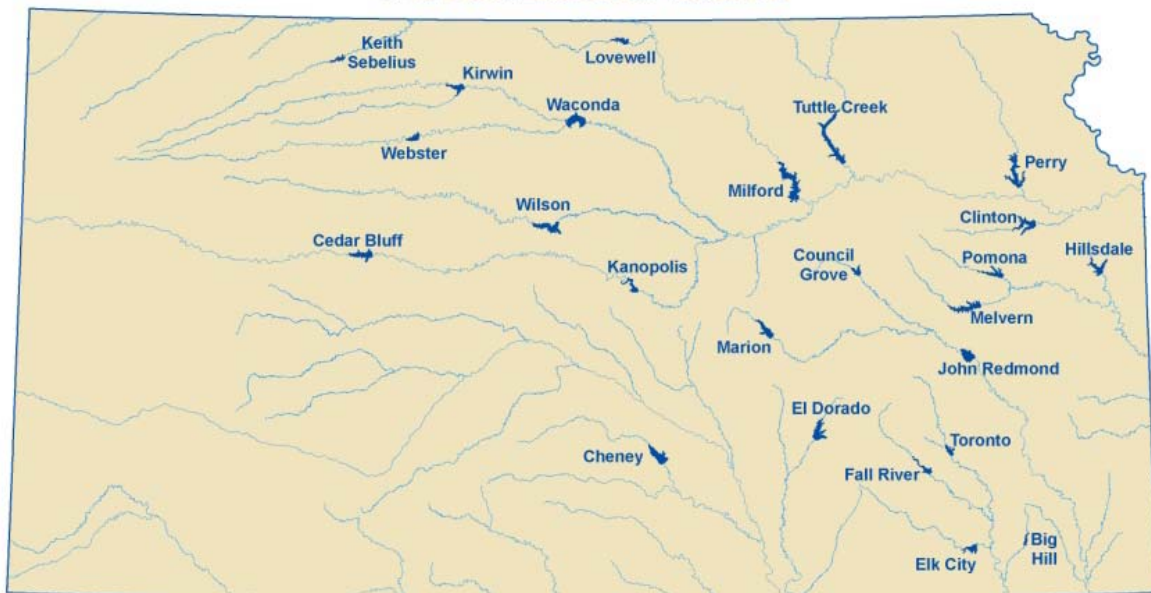
The reservoirs in the Marais de Cygnes basin (Hillsdale, Melvern and Pomona) are all below conservation pool but river flow is sufficient with minimum releases.

The Neosho basin (Marion, Council Grove and John Redmond reservoirs) has had no consistent natural flows in the upper Neosho. Releases are continuing from Marion and Council Grove reservoirs. The water supply release continues from Council Grove Reservoir for Emporia which began July 1. A release of about 120 cfs began August 9 from John Redmond to meet needs of the Wolf Creek Generating plant cooling reservoir. MDS orders remain in effect upstream of Parsons for the Neosho and Cottonwood rivers. Releases for water assurance began August 6 from John Redmond for water assurance district members with water rights junior to MDS.

The Smoky Hill basin conditions are varied. Kanopolis Reservoir was above conservation pool prior to releases to draw levels down to allow for periodic inspection of the embankment, control tower, outlet works and associated structures and maintenance of the stilling basin. There is no flow from Cedar Bluff to Pfeiffer. The City of Russell has water supply in Cedar Bluff, which is released when specific criteria and the need arises.

In the Verdigris basin there is little to no natural flow. Water supply and quality releases continue from Elk City Reservoir. Toronto and Fall River reservoirs are into conservation pool and DWR is protecting water quality releases.

Federal Lakes in Kansas



General Reservoir Conditions

Kansas Federal Reservoirs			
Reservoir	Top of Multipurpose/Conservation Pool (Feet MSL)	Multipurpose/Conservation Pool Elevation (Feet MSL) 9/06/2011	Change from Top of Pool (Feet)
Kansas River Basin			
Norton ¹	2304.3	2296.91	-7.39
Harlan County, NE	1946	1945.06	-0.94
Lovewell ¹	1582.6	1581.51	-1.09
Milford ¹	1144.4	1157.65	13.25
Cedar Bluff	2144	2127.21	-16.79
Kanopolis ¹	1463	1463.8	0.80
Wilson ¹	1516	1516.35	0.35
Webster ¹	1892.5	1886.44	-6.06
Kirwin ¹	1729.3	1728.51	-0.79
Waconda ¹	1455.6	1455.07	-0.53
Tuttle Creek ¹	1075	1092.38	17.38
Perry ¹	891.5	898	6.50
Clinton ¹	875.5	874.22	-1.28
Melvern ¹	1036	1034.75	-1.25
Pomona ¹	974	973.44	-0.56
Hillsdale ¹	917	916.05	-0.95
Arkansas River Basin			
Cheney	1421.6	1418.25	-3.35
El Dorado	1339	1336.19	-2.81
Toronto ¹	901.5	900.65	-0.85
Fall River ¹	948.5	947.61	-0.89
Elk City ¹	796	793.36	-2.64
Big Hill	858	856.46	-1.54
Council Grove ¹	1274	1272.07	-1.93
Marion ¹	1350.5	1347.54	-2.96
John Redmond ¹	1039	1036.32	-2.68
1. Lake level management plan in place Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers			

Lakes and Blue-green Algae

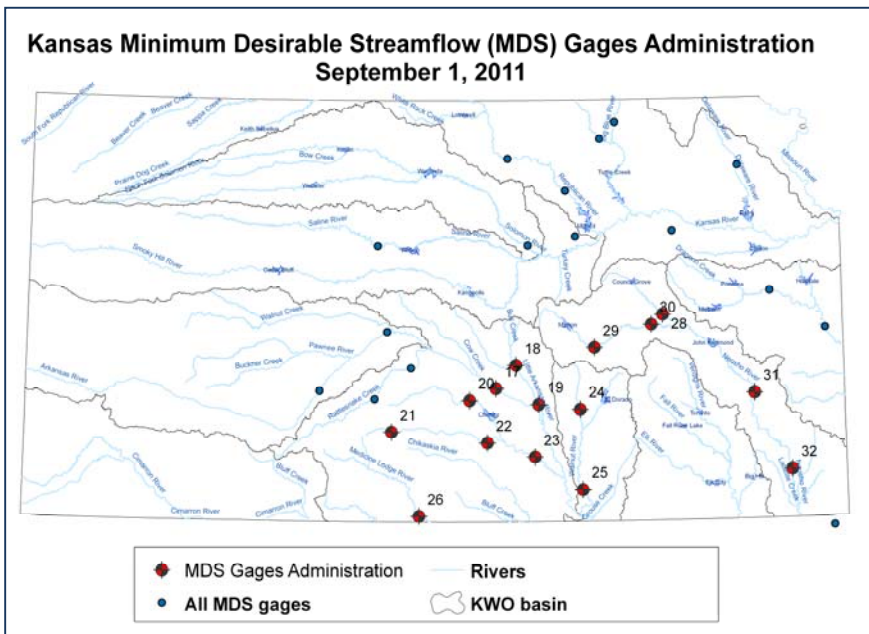
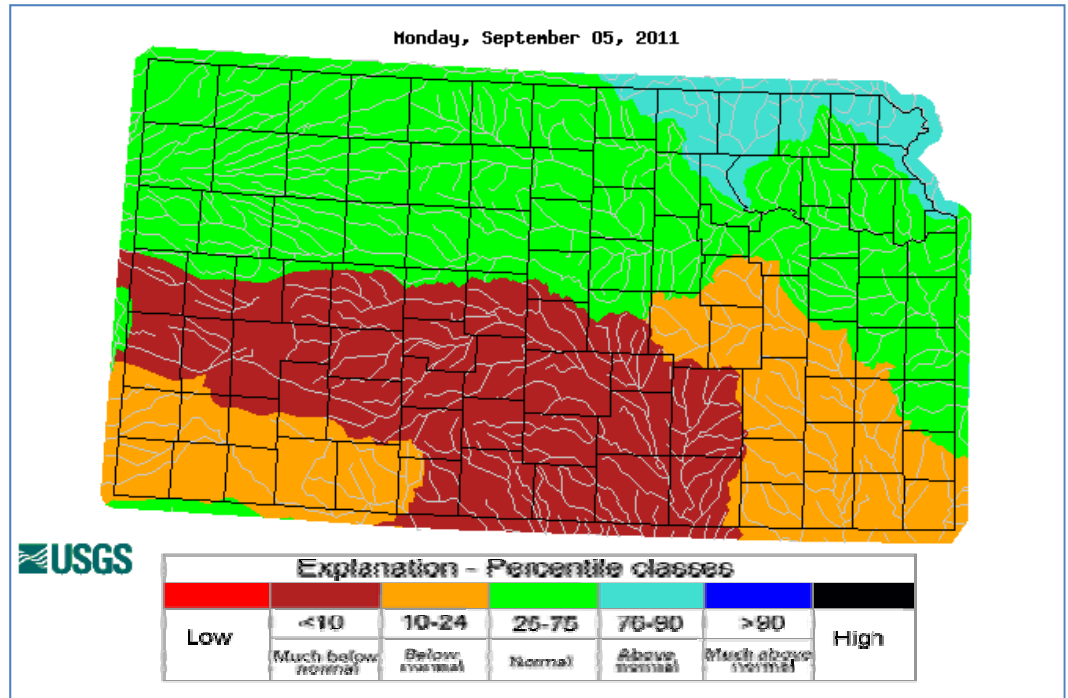
Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has issued [Public Health Advisory or Public Health Warning](#) for some lakes in Kansas. These notification levels are determined by the concentration of a harmful toxin(s) or the concentration of cyanobacteria (commonly referred to as blue green algae) cell counts. High nutrient and light levels and warm water temperature contribute to algae blooms. Lakes affected as of September 2 include warnings for Santa Fe Lake and Augusta City Lake (Butler County), Memorial Park Lake (Barton County), Rigg's Park Lake (Sedgwick County), East Lake (Harvey County), West Lake (Harvey County), Camp Hawk Lake (Harvey County), Milford Lake (Clay, Geary and Dickinson Counties), Dillon Park Lake (Reno County), and Warnock Lake (Atchison County). Advisories are in effect for Marion County Lake

(Marion County), Logan City Lake (Phillips County) and River Pond at Tuttle Creek (Pottawatomie and Riley Counties).

Since last week, Warnings issued at West Lake (Harvey County), Camp Hawk Lake (Harvey County). The Warnings for River Pond at Tuttle Creek (Pottawatomie and Riley Counties) and Logan City Lake (Phillips County) have been downgraded to advisories. The advisory has been lifted at Cheney Lake.

Streamflow Conditions

USGS seven day average stream flow compared to normal flow values recorded for the same day of the year during all years measurements have been collected. In general, a streamflow which is greater than the 75 percentile is considered *above normal*, a streamflow which is between 25 and 75 percentiles is considered *normal* and a streamflow which is less than the 25 percentile is considered *below normal*. Color codes are for basins with streamflow averages less than 25 percent of historic values.



Water Right Administration/Minimum Desirable Streamflow (MDS)

The map at the left shows the MDS gages related to Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources water right administration at this time. The table below shows the gage name for the location on the map where administration is occurring, as well as providing flows in cubic feet per second (cfs) at selected gaging stations as of September 1 for streams where MDS is of interest.

Streamflows as of September 1, 2011 in cfs

Gaging Station	Current Flow (CFS)	September MDS (CFS)	ADMIN	Map Location #
Republican River at Concordia	1050	80		
Republican River at Clay Center	454	100		
Smoky Hill River at Ellsworth	16	15	lifted 8/19/11	
Mill Creek near Paxico	6	5		
Little Arkansas River at Alta Mills	0	8	5/12/11	18
Little Arkansas River at Valley Center	5	20	7/13/11	19
North Fork Ninnescah River above Cheney	7	5	7/21/11	20
South Fork Ninnescah River near Pratt	2	5	NA	
South Fork Ninnescah River near Murdock	38	30	7/21/11	22
Ninnescah River near Peck	12	30	7/21/11	23
Whitewater River near Towanda	1	5	05/13/11	24
Walnut River at Winfield	6.2	20	05/13/11	25
Medicine Lodge River near Kiowa	0	1	06/23/11	26
Chikaskia River near Corbin	2	5	Lifted 08/25/11	
Neosho River near Americus	24	5	08/06/11	28
Cottonwood River near Florence	18	10	08/06/11	29
Cottonwood River near Plymouth	20	20	08/06/11	30
Neosho River near lola	32	40	08/06/11	31
Neosho River near Parsons	23	50	08/06/11	32

Arkansas River: The flow at Hutchinson has been below MDS since July 12. DWR has assessed water rights/permits for regulation. The Chief Engineer has determined administration of surface water rights in the basin would be futile.

Chikaskia River: Orders for seven water rights/permits were lifted August 25 since flows were above MDS at Corbin. However flows have been below MDS since August 29, without improvement administration may be initiated again.

Little Arkansas River: Orders were effective May 12 and July 13 requiring cessation of pumping on sections of the Little Arkansas River. These orders pertain to the basin which drains to the Little Arkansas River between Alta Mills and Valley Center respectively. These orders remain in affect for 25 water rights/permits under administration above the Alta Mills gage. A temporary stay was granted to the City of Wichita to allow for testing of a new intake structure.

Medicine Lodge River: The orders effective June 23 for two water rights/permits remain in effect.

Mill Creek (Wabaunsee County): Flow at the Paxico gage is approaching MDS levels.

Neosho/Cottonwood River: Orders effective August 6 are in place for the cessation of diversion under 160 water rights/permits in the Neosho and Cottonwood basins. Flows at Parsons have been above MDS since August 4. Flows at lola have been fluctuating about MDS. Flows at the upper three gages have not been below MDS.

Ninnescah: The orders effective July 21, for 12 water rights/permits to cease diversion above the Cheney, Peck and Murdock gages remain in effect. Flows have improved but are not sufficient to cease MDS administration yet.

Smoky Hill River: The August 19 orders lifted administration of four water rights/permits under administration since July 8, but flows are again approaching MDS. This effects water rights above the Ellsworth gage and below the confluence of Big Creek with the Smoky Hill River.

Walnut/Whitewater: Flows at the Towanda gage are around MDS, however because the flow has been below MDS downstream at the Winfield gage for most of July, orders for water rights/permits above the Towanda gage remain in effect. There are currently 61 water rights/permits affected. Flow was above MDS August 24 through August 28 but fell below on August 29.

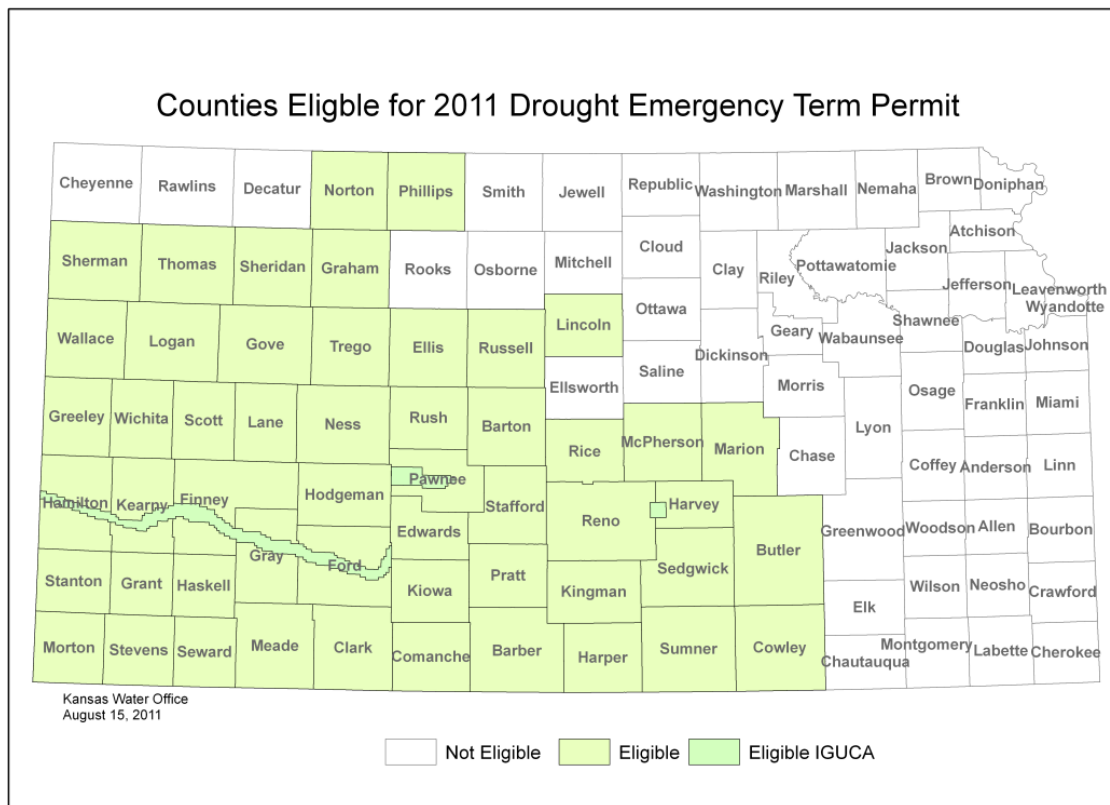
Other Water Right Administration

In addition to MDS needs, administration of water rights/permits occurs when there is not enough water to meet all appropriations. Senior water rights needs, water quality and the protection of releases may also trigger the need. Notices were issued by DWR July 20, 2011 on the Elk River below Elk City Reservoir (Verdigris basin). Orders are in place protecting releases from Council Grove Reservoir for Emporia.

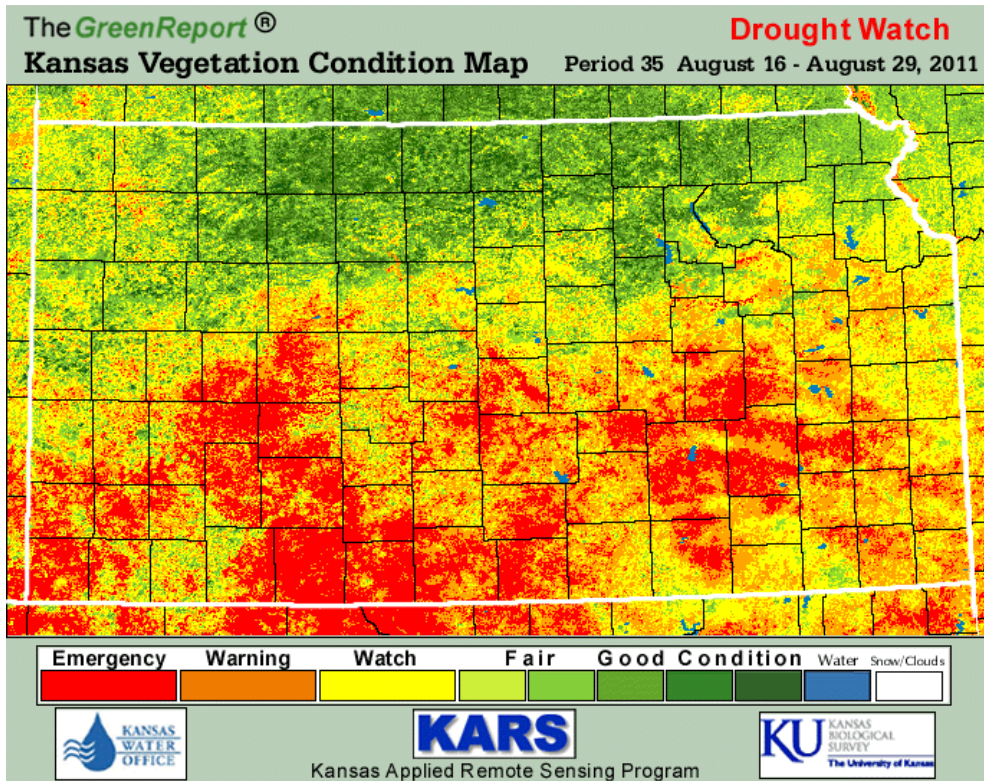
Effective August 11, 2011, the Chief Engineer also issued orders to 38 owners of 62 water rights on the Verdigris River and the Fall River to protect releases from conservation storage from three federal reservoirs. While the order is in effect, diversion of surface water from the Verdigris River and/or from the Fall River below Toronto Lake, Fall River Lake and Elk City Lake is prohibited without written permission of the Chief Engineer.

Water Right Term Permit Opportunity

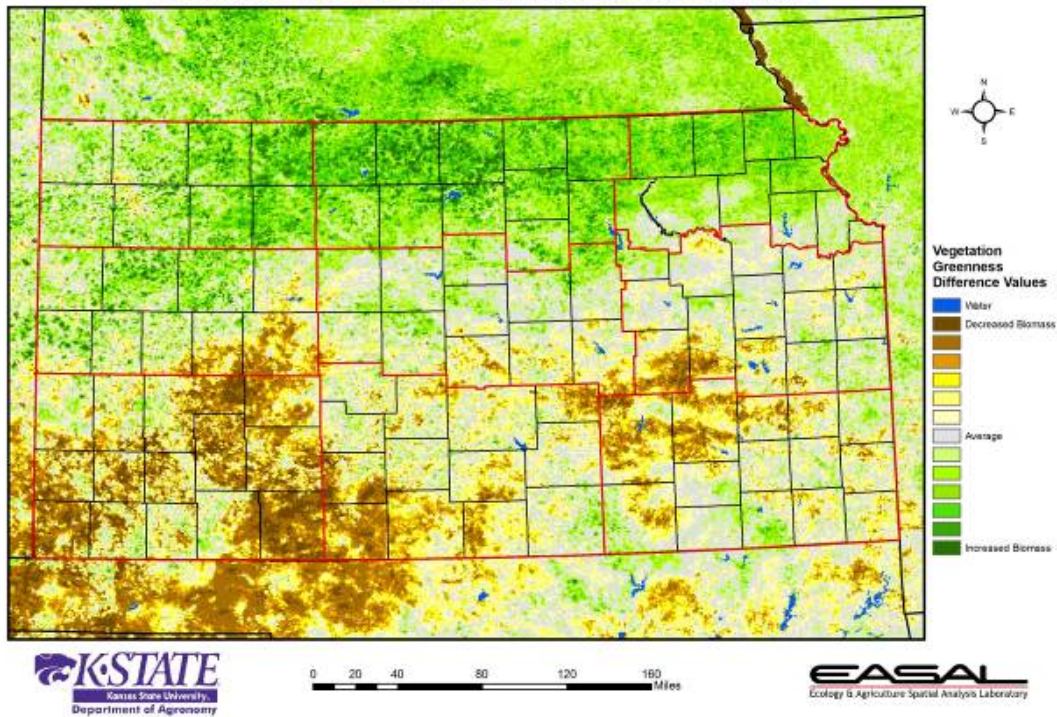
A 2011 Drought Emergency Term Permit is available from Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources for the below counties in Kansas. The one-time, drought-focused term permit allows holders of existing water rights the flexibility to borrow a portion of next year’s authorized quantity in order to complete the 2011 growing season. This is available outside Intensive groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCAs) in the counties shown below. The term permit allocation will be based on the sum of the quantity authorized for 2011 and 2012. Qualifying IGUCAs include Arkansas River IGUCA (Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, Gray and Ford Counties), Burrton IGUCA (Harvey County) and Pawnee Valley IGUCA (Pawnee County). Municipal water rights are also eligible.



Kansas Vegetative Conditions



Kansas Vegetation Condition Comparison
 Late-August 2011 compared to the 22-Year Average for Late-August



Compared to the 22-year average at this time for Kansas, this year's Vegetation Condition Report for August 16 – 29 from K-State's Ecology and Agriculture Spatial Analysis Laboratory shows that much below biomass production continues to dominate the southwestern portion of the state. It is also very noticeable in the Central Flint Hills region. Some increased photosynthetic activity can be seen along the Cowley/Sumner county line and in Montgomery County. Isolated locations in these areas saw almost 5 inches of rain in August.

Crops, Feed and Livestock

Emergency Haying and Grazing

Emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by a severe drought or similar natural disaster. Emergency authorization is provided by either national Farm Services Agency (FSA) office authorization or by a state FSA committee determination utilizing the U.S. Drought Monitor. The state FSA committee may approve emergency grazing on a county-by-county basis if the county is designated as level "D2 Drought-Severe" according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. It may approve emergency haying on a county-by-county basis if the county is designated as "D3 Drought- Extreme" or "D4-Exceptional" according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

As of September 1, the following counties are approved for emergency haying by FSA: Barber, Barton, Butler, Chase, Clark, Comanche, Cowley, Edwards, Elk, Ellsworth Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Meade, Morton, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Rush, Scott, Sedgwick, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner, Trego, Wichita, Wilson and Woodson Counties.

Counties approved for emergency grazing include: Allen, Anderson, Barber, Barton, Bourbon Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Clark, Coffey, Comanche, Cowley, Crawford, Edwards, Elk, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Greeley, Greenwood, Graham, Grant, Gray, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Labette, Lane, Logan, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Meade, Montgomery, Morris, Morton, Neosho, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Rush, Scott, Sedgwick, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner, Trego, Wallace, Wichita, Wilson and Woodson.

Emergency haying has been extended to September 30 from August 31. Emergency grazing in approved counties is normally allowed through September 30, was extended to October 31, 2011 previously. Emergency haying and grazing is not allowed on the same acreage. All livestock must be removed by the end of this grazing period. In addition FSA will allow producers nationwide to use harvested hay from expiring CRP acres rather than destroy the hay as normally required. There are nearly 230,000 expiring acres in Kansas.

CRP participants in approved counties shall contact the local FSA county office to request emergency haying or grazing on an individual contract basis prior to haying or grazing. Payments are reduced when these options are utilized. Producers should contact their local FSA office prior to haying or grazing. More information can be found on the USDA FSA web pages:

<http://www.apfo.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp-eg>).

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Kansas allows eligible ranchers and livestock producers to apply under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for losses incurred during the 2011 grazing season up to October 1, 2011. Forage sorghum, pasture and small grain programs are available under LFP, eligibility varies. As of September 1, 42 Kansas counties were eligible for the forage sorghum LFP; 50 Kansas counties were eligible for the pasture and hay LFP; and ten counties were eligible for the LFP Long Season Small Grains program. Current maps of program eligibility can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=lfp>

An executive order was signed by the Governor July 27 suspending certain motor carrier rules and regulations for people hauling hay to livestock. Those include rules on permits, load sizes and nighttime travel of oversized loads. The executive order will be in effect until it's rescinded or until drought emergency and disaster declarations are lifted.

USDA Risk Management Agency provides information on crop insurance and drought damaged crops can be found at http://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ks_rso/2011/droughtfaq.pdf.

Burn Bans and Fires

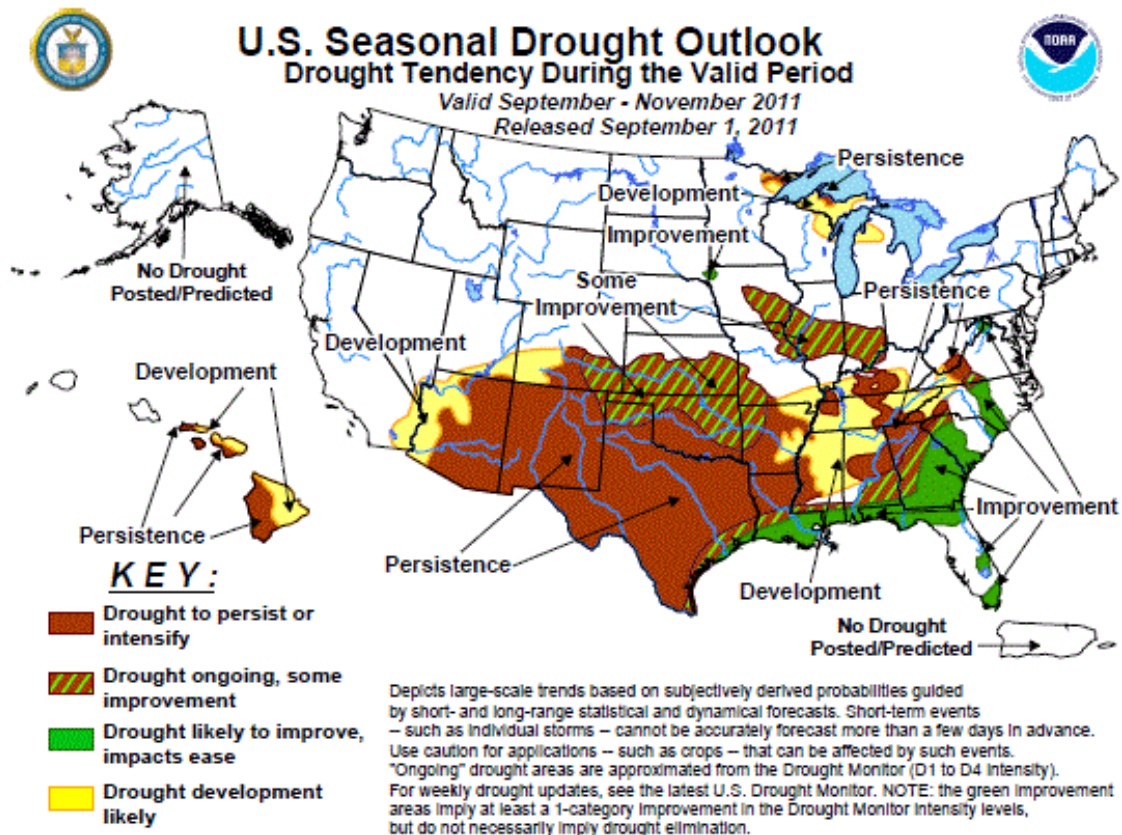
Most counties require permits prior to a burn and are controlling burns through that process. A county issues a ban as they deem necessary at any time, for a specific time period or until repealed. Dry conditions in much of Kansas allow fires to start or spread easily. Please contact your county officials before you burn.

The National Weather Service has issued Fire Weather /Red Flag Warnings for many Kansas areas each day due to critical fire weather conditions. On September 2 these included: Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ford, Gray, Hodgeman, Kiowa, Meade, Seward and part of Finney and Reno counties. Outlooks change daily. See <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/fire/> for current information.

Conditions continue that allow fires to start easily. Recent examples include; August 31, spontaneous combustion was blamed for a field fire northwest of Pratt (Pratt County); September 1, two grass fires were reported west of Macksville (Stafford County); and September 2, ten to 12 acres for grass were burned near Wichita (Butler/Sedgwick County line).

Future Outlook

The National Weather Service is predicting that southwest Kansas has an enhanced potential for warmer than normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for September. The remaining parts of the state has equal chances for above, below and normal temperatures and precipitation.



The Kansas Weekly Climate Summary and Drought Report is compiled each week when conditions warrant, by the Kansas Water Office (KWO). Information from various federal, state, local and academic sources is used. Some of the data is preliminary and subject to change once final data is available. The KWO web site, [KWO Drought](#), contains additional drought information including links to other agencies with drought information and past issues of the Kansas Climate Summary and Drought Report. Kansas State Climatologist, Mary Knapp, is the primary source of the narrative on weather. She works closely with meteorologists throughout the state and region. Details of current conditions at Evapotranspiration (ET) and Mesonet sites across Kansas are available at <http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/wdl/>.

RESOURCES and ACTIVITIES

The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), from the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, provides a “big picture” perspective of conditions across the nation. In the Kansas county drought stage scheme, a Drought Watch equates roughly to moderate drought in the U.S. Drought Monitor, while a Drought Warning is the equivalent of severe drought. A Drought Emergency is reserved for extreme or exceptional drought. Palmer Drought Severity Index - The Palmer Index (PDSI) is one indicator used in the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#) provides precipitation and temperature summary maps.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) [Drought Watch](#) provides information on 7-day average streamflow measured at long-term gaging stations and compares them to normal flows.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources monitors stream flow using the USGS gages for determination of administrative needs. Administration may be needed due to [Minimum Desirable Streamflow \(MDS\)](#) requirements, impairments, and reservoir release protection.

The water levels of the federal lakes fluctuate during a year according to the management plan. [Lake level management](#) plans are posted on the Kansas Water Office web site www.kwo.org.

The Kansas Applied Remote Sensing Program (KARS) at the University of Kansas produces a [Kansas Green Report](#) each week during the growing season. For a full set of national and regional **GreenReport®** maps, go to: <http://www.kars.ku.edu/products/greenreport/greenreport.shtml>. This Kansas Vegetation Drought Response Index map is developed weekly by the Kansas Biological Survey using state drought triggers as its key. In addition the Vegetation Drought Response Index, by the National Drought Mitigation Center provides another a national perspective on vegetation conditions. VegDRI maps may be found at <http://veg dri.unl.edu/>

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides fire weather products and services for Kansas that include the Rangeland Fire Danger Index, Fire Weather Forecasts, Red Flag Watches/Warnings, and Spot Forecasts. The five NWS offices that serve Kansas websites may be accessed from the [NWS Offices' page](#).

The [Seasonal Drought Outlook](#), developed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center (NOAA CPC), assesses the likelihood for improvement, persistence or deterioration in drought conditions for areas currently experiencing drought as identified by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

[Responding to Drought: A Guide for City, County and Water System Officials](#) provides an overview of Kansas county drought stage declarations, local planning and coordination, disaster declarations, and available state and federal assistance. [The 2007 Municipal Water Conservation Plan Guidelines](#) and the Drought Vulnerability Assessment Report, both by Kansas Water Office, provide guidance regarding drought preparedness and response.

[USDA has programs for agricultural](#) producers and businesses for drought affected areas. In some cases a eligibility is dependent on a federal disaster declaration but other programs are triggered by specific conditions.

Please contact Diane Coe at the Kansas Water Office (785) 296-3185 or diane.coe@kwo.ks.gov should you have any questions or suggestions.