

December 2016 Weather Summary
West Central Research and Outreach Center
Morris, MN

The mean temperature for December was 14.9°F, which is .8° F below the average of 15.7 °F (1886-2015). The last year two years we have had above average December temperatures, 22.3°F and 20.2°F for 2015 and 2014. The high temperature for the month was 37°F which occurred four times this month. The dates include December 6, 22, 23 and 26. The low temperature for the month was -29°F on the 19th. Precipitation for the month totaled 1.66 inches, which is .98 inches above average. 8.95 inches of snow fell in December. Average for December is 7.0 inches. Frost in the soil was recorded at 0” to 1” on December 5. Frost was recorded at 0” to 11” on December 27. 1552 Heating Degree Days were recorded this December which is about average (1581). 14.3 inches of snow has fallen during the 2016-2017 winter so far. However, only 1 inch of snow pack is recorded at the end of December. Rain occurring December 26 melted much of the snow pack and left many yards full of ice.

November 2016 Weather Summary
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Morris, MN

The mean temperature for November was 40.0 °F, which is 10.2° F above the average of 29.8 °F (1886-2015). This is the second highest mean temperature recorded for November (1886-2015). The record was 42.1 recorded in 2001. The high temperature for the month was 73°F which occurred on the 5th which tied the record set in 1975. The low temperature for the month was 11°F on the 20th. Precipitation for the month totaled 1.34 inches, which is 0.37 inches above average. 5 inches of snow fell in November. The above freezing weather and recent precipitation has caused most of the snow to melt leaving gravel roads, yards and farm sites muddy. Livestock producers especially dairy and beef farmers are struggling with feeding and animal health issues do to the cool wet weather.

October 2016 Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for October was 48.0 °F, which is 1.2° F above the average of 46.8 °F (1886-2015). The high temperature for the month was 77° F which occurred on the 3rd. The low temperature for the month was 27° F on the 24th. Precipitation for the month totaled 3.94 inches, which is 2.11 inches above average. The first killing frost occurred on October 9th with a temperature of 28° F. 529 heating degree days were recorded. Farmers are finishing up corn and fall tillage. Fields have been wet since October 26th when we recorded 1.51 inches of rain. However, combines have continued to run and most of the low and wet areas have been able to be combined, unlike many areas of Minnesota where some soybeans fields are still uncut. High corn and soybean yields have been recorded in the area and many fields are producing the highest yields ever.

September 2016 Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for September was 61.2 °F, which is 2.1° F above the average of 68.2 °F (1886-2015). The high temperature for the month was 81°F which occurred on the 10th. The low temperature for the month was 35°F on the 14th and 15th. Precipitation for the month totaled 1.68 inches, which is .65 inches below average. So far we have received 21.64 inches of precipitation for the year. Average for this time is 20.86 which makes 2016, .78 inches above average. Growing Degree Days totaled 374 which is 21 Growing Degree Days above average. Growing Degree Days for April, through September totaled 2553. Average is 2347 for this time which makes 206 Growing Degree Days above average for 2016. We have not had a killing frost yet. Average data for killing frost is Oct 4. Unlike many parts of Minnesota, soybean harvest around Morris for 2016 has been aided by favorable September weather. Currently, the Southern Research and Outreach Center located in Waseca has reported 49.11 inches of precipitation this year which is more than twice of what we have received in Morris.

August 2016 Weather Summary
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August 31 2016 marks the last day Jean Spohr processes the weather data at WCROC. Jean has performed this duty for 30 years. We would like to thank Jean for all of her years of service of recording weather data at WCROC.

Weather observations at WCROC for this August were close to average. The mean temperature for August was 69.0 °F, which is .8° F below the average of 68.2 °F (1886-2015). The high temperature for the month was 89°F on the 10th. The low temperature for the month was 47°F on the 26th and 27th. Precipitation for the month totaled 2.79 inches, which is .27 inches below average. Growing Degree Days totaled 590 which is 30 Growing Degree Days above average. Growing Degree Days for April, through August totaled 2178. Average is 2111 for this time. Even though we were slightly below the average precipitation, soil moistures are adequate in most soils to finish corn and soybean development because of the precipitation we received in July.

July 2016 Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for July was 69.6 °F, which is 1.3°F below the average of 70.9 °F (1886-2015). The high temperatures for the month was 90°F on the 21th and 23th. The low temperature for the month was 46°F on the 1th. Below normal precipitation which continued for the sixth straight month ended in July. Extremely dry conditions ended July 5th with 4.51 inches of Precipitation. This amount beat the previous record set in 1994 of 4.05 inches. Precipitation for the month totaled 9.88 inches, which is 6.27 inches above average. This is a record amount of precipitation for the month of July recorded at WCROC. The past record was observed in 1949 when 9.77 inches of precipitation was recorded. Average precipitation for the first seven months of the year is 15.47 inches. We have recorded 17.17 inches in 2016 which is 1.7 inches above normal. Growing Degree Days totaled 604 which is 24 Growing Degree Days below average. Growing Degree Days for April, May, June and July totaled 1589. Average is 1551 for this time. The rain that fell in July helped crops, pastures, lawns and gardens look good again.

June 2016 Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for June was 67.8 °F, which is 1.2°F above the average of 66.6 °F (1886-2015). The high temperature for the month was 93°F on the 20th. The low temperature for the month was 46°F on the 7th. Below normal precipitation continued for the sixth straight month. Precipitation for the month totaled 1.89 inches, which is 2.14 inches below average. Average precipitation for the first six months of the year is 11.86 inches. We have recorded 7.29 inches in 2016 which is 4.57 inches below normal. In April through June, we have received 5.73 inches which is 3.53 inches below normal for this time. Growing Degree Days totaled 523 which is 30 Growing Degree Days above average. Growing Degree Days for April, May, and June totaled 984. Average is 923 for this time. Crops and lawns have started to show drought stress in June. The dry conditions are not favorable for the filling of small grains or future forage production.

May 2016 Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for May was 57.7 °F, which is 1.4°F above the average of 56.3°F (1886-2015). The high temperature for the month was 91°F on the 7th.which breaks the previous high for the date, 89°F, recorded in 1934. The low temperature for the month was 29°F on the 14th and 15th. Frost was noted in the area on both days and damage to emerged corn was noted around the area. Precipitation for the month totaled 1.99 inches, which is 1.03 inches below average. Growing Degree Days totaled 340 which is 27 Growing Degree Days above average. Growing Degree Days for April and May totaled 461.5. Average is 430 for this time. Heating Degree Days totaled 250.5.

April 2016 Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for April was 43.4°F, which is .1°F below average (1886-2015). This ends the higher than average mean monthly temperatures which continued for seven straight months. The high temperature for the month was 83°F on the 15th. The low temperature for the month was 15°F set on April 9th. 648.5 Heating Degree Days were recorded this month. 121.5 corn growing degree days were recorded in April. Last year we recorded 157 with an average of 117. Precipitation for the month totaled 1.85 inches, which is .43 inches below average.

March 2016 Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for March was 36.6°F, which is 9.7°F above average (1886-2015). The higher than average mean monthly temperature continues for the 7th straight month. This March ranks as the 7th warmest March recorded at Morris since 1886. The high temperature for the month was 68°F on the 12th. This temperature beat the old record high set in 1934 at 66 °F. The high temperature for March 13 was 67 which was also a record high for that day beating the old record of 66 set in 1902. The low temperature for the month was 9°F set on March 1st & 2nd. 880 Heating Degree Days were recorded this month as compared to an average of 1189. Precipitation for the month totaled 0.61 inches, which is .55 inches below average. Of the 0.61 inches total, .32 inches of precipitation fell on the last two day of March. Very little snowfall occurred this March, only 1.4 inches where the average is 7.8 inches. Total snow fall for this winter (September through March) has been 23.4 inches; average is 36.1 for this time. Frost at the start of March was 17 inches. Frost was recorded at 13” to 15” on March 21. Frost was gone by March 28. The dry and warm March has allowed farmers to start planting small grains early and gardeners had the chance to plant potatoes on Good Friday.

February 2016 Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for February was 21.3°F, which is 8.2°F above average (1886-2015). Although February was warmer than average this February ranked 21 out of 131 years. The higher than average mean monthly temperature continues for the 6th straight month. The high temperature for the month was 57°F on the 28th. This temperature beat the old record high set in 1932 at 54 °F. The low temperature for the month was -9°F on the 13th. In February we had 3 days of a minimum temperature of 0°F or lower, and we also had 13 days of a maximum temperature greater than 32 °F. 1267 Heating Degree Days were recorded this month as compared to 1641 for last February. Precipitation for the month totaled 0.66 inches, which is 0.02 inches below average. We had 6.1 inches of snow in February. Average is 7.39 inches. Total snow fall for this winter has been 22 inches; average is 28.2 for this time. Frost was recorded at 14 inches on February 1. Frost depth at the end of the month was 17 inches.

January Weather Summary
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The mean temperature for January was 12.7°F, which is 4.1°F above average (1886-2015). The higher than average mean monthly temperature continues for the fifth straight month. The high temperature for the month was 40°F on the 31th. The low temperature for the month was -19°F on the 17th. In January we had 11 days of a minimum temperature 0°F or lower, and we also had 20 days of a maximum temperature greater than 20 °F. 1649 Heating Degree Days were recorded this month as compared to 1576 for last January. Precipitation for the month totaled 0.29 inches, which is 0.4 inches below average. We had 4.4 inches of snow in January. Average is 8.1 inches. Total snow fall for this winter has been 15.9 inches, average is 21. Frost was recorded at 4.5 inches on January 4. Frost depth at the end of the month was 14 inches.