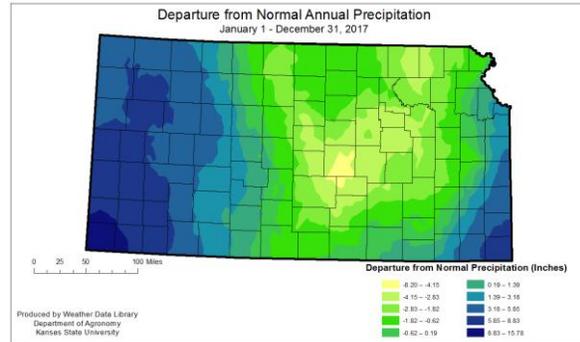


# KANSAS CLIMATE SUMMARY

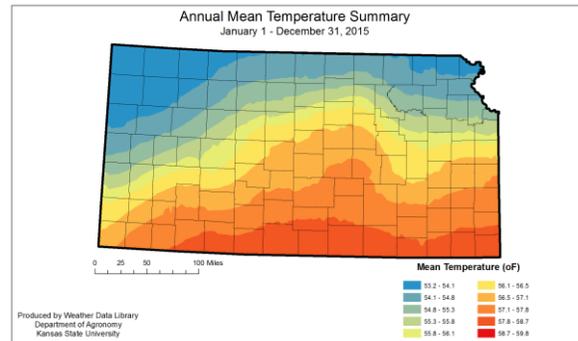
## Annual Summary 2017

### Dry to Wet to Dry again

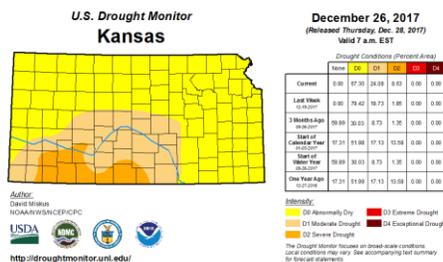
Despite a very wet January, drought of various stages covered over 80 percent of the state at the start of 2017. By the first of May, the state was drought free. However, a dry pattern developed. Abnormally dry conditions started to emerge by the first of July, particularly in the North Central and South Central Divisions. A pattern of much below normal precipitation that began in October resulted in a rapid expansion of drought conditions. By the end of December almost ten percent of the state, mainly in the Southwestern Division, had degraded to severe drought conditions. Conditions from abnormally dry to moderate drought expanded across the rest of the state. With the bookend dryness, this year ranked towards the dry end of the middle, as the 74<sup>th</sup> driest since 1895. State-wide average precipitation was below normal for the first three months, but switched to a wetter pattern in April. By May, only the East Central were below average for the year-to-date. The Southwestern Division averaged 4.70 inches in April or almost 3 times the normal for the month. However, the year ended on a dry note, which started in September in the Southwest, and progressed to the rest of the state from October through December. December state-wide average precipitation was 0.08 inches, just 5 percent of the normal December total. The greatest annual total for the year at a National Weather Service Cooperative station was 54.40 inches at Erie 1N in Neosho County. The greatest annual total for a CoCoRaHS station 57.24 inches at Farlington 0.8 NNE, Crawford County. The driest reporting station was the Russell Airport, in Russell County, with 17.28 inches. The greatest 24hr precipitation total reported at a CoCoRaHS station was 8.30 inches at Wellsville 3.6 NNW, Douglas County, on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The greatest 24hr precipitation total reported at a NWS station was 8.85 inches at Hillsdale Lake, Miami County, also on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Temperatures averaged above normal for the year, but not to the degree of 2016. State-wide average temperature in 2017 was 56.6 oF, which places it as the 21<sup>st</sup> warmest on record where 2016 was the 9<sup>th</sup> warmest. Only May and August averaged below normal. February had the greatest departure from normal, with an average of 41.9 oF, or 7.9 degrees warmer than normal. Temperatures fluctuated considerably during the year, ranging from 111 oF at Salina Airport, Saline County on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to -15 oF at Clinton Lake, Douglas County, on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Despite being warmer than average, all divisions also saw temperatures plunge below zero. Even the Southeast Division recorded sub-zero temperatures, the coldest of which was a -4 oF at Winfield 3NE, Cowley County, on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The average date for the last spring freeze was April 14<sup>th</sup>. The earliest start to the growing season was a last freeze on March 15<sup>th</sup> at various locations in the South Central Division. Russell Springs 3N, Logan County, had the latest freezing temperature in the spring with 31 oF reported on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The first fall freeze was mostly seasonal state-wide. The average date was October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The earliest first frost was reported on October 10<sup>th</sup> at Goodland, in Sherman County. The latest first frost was reported at Fredonia, Wilson County, on October 29<sup>th</sup> when temperatures dropped to 27 oF. The average length of the growing season was 190 days. The shortest growing season was at multiple locations in Northwest and West Central Kansas with 158 days. The station with the longest growing season was the Coffeyville Municipal Airport, Montgomery County, with a growing season of 226 days.



Drought conditions have shifted over the year, with just a short period that was drought free. The year started with much of the western third of the state in moderate to severe drought. Heavy spring moisture resulted in the state being drought free by the end of April. This lasted for 6 weeks, with abnormal dry conditions developing first in the North Central Division. Despite the overall wetter than average year in the Southwest Division, lack of moisture in the late fall resulted in deterioration. Conditions declined most quickly in the South Central Division, with severe drought conditions in that part of the state. At the end of December almost 9 percent of the state is in severe drought. The rapid switch from extremely wet conditions to extremely dry conditions created problems with establishment of fall seed crops, such as winter wheat and canola. The continued dry weather, coupled with warmer than normal temperatures in November meant abnormally dry conditions spread across the state. Currently, approximately 63 percent of the state in



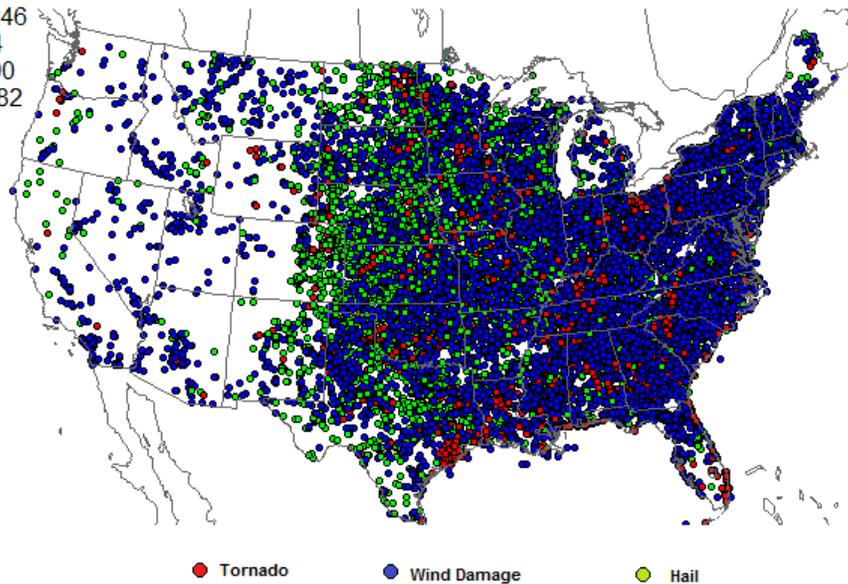
abnormally dry conditions, and an additional 24 percent of the state is in moderate drought. Just over 8 percent of the state is in severe drought. Little improvement is expected during the winter, and the severe drought might continue to push north and eastward. Normal spring rains are critical for any improvement in drought conditions. The El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to be in the La Niña phase as we move into the spring. This gives little confidence in increased moisture across the region, and the pattern is expected to continue into the spring.

The severe weather season wasn't as active as last year, nor as active as the 5-year average. Preliminary numbers from the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) show a total of 74 tornadoes in 2017, compared to a total of 99 tornadoes in 2016, and the five-year average (2008-2012) of 116 tornadoes. In contrast, hail and damaging wind reports were higher in 2017, with 590 hail reports versus 569 hail reports in 2016 and 580 damaging wind reports versus 539 damaging wind reports in 2016. Data on other severe weather events are available from the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) storm database, but only through September. For the period from January to September, there were 129 flood or flash flood events affecting over 49 counties. There was one fatality from the flood events, in Miami County on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. Preliminary damage reports total to property and crops from the floods was approximately 27 thousand dollars. Generally, these property and crop damage reports are underestimated. In many cases, crop damage isn't immediately available and fails to be included in the storm total. Likewise, property damage that is from uninsured losses often is also missing in the overall total. There were no excessive heat events reported in 2017. There were 107 winter weather reports, including cold temperatures, snow, ice storms, through September, with the most intense occurring at the end of April. This total does not include the winter weather with extremely cold temperatures in December.

### Preliminary Severe Weather Reports for 2017

**Kansas**

Total Reports = 1246  
 Tornadoes = 74  
 Hail Reports = 590  
 Wind Reports = 582



PRELIMINARY SEVERE WEATHER  
 REPORT DATABASE (ROUGH LOG)  
 NOAA/Storm Prediction Center Norman, Oklahoma

Severe Weather Reports  
 January 01, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Updated: Friday January 05, 2018 13:55 CT

Appendix:

<b>Table 1</b> <b>Annual Summary</b> <b>Kansas Climate Division Summary</b>							
	Precipitation (inches)			Temperature (°F)			
	2017 through December			Ave	Dep. <sup>1</sup>	Monthly Extremes	
Division	Total	Dep. <sup>1</sup>	% Normal			Max	Min
Northwest	20.37	-0.99	94	52.8	1.3	109	-15
West Central	23.25	2.48	112	54.0	1.3	110	-8
Southwest	24.32	4.42	123	56.3	1.4	106	-10
North Central	26.29	-1.75	93	55.1	1.8	109	-10
Central	25.99	-3.30	89	56.7	1.9	111	-7
South Central	31.18	-0.14	99	57.6	1.9	107	-2
Northeast	29.28	-5.72	83	55.0	1.8	104	-6
East Central	33.15	-4.77	86	56.5	1.9	107	-8
Southeast	41.37	-0.12	99	58.3	1.9	106	-2
<b>STATE</b>	28.64	-0.75	98	55.8	1.6	111	-15

1. Departure from 1981-2010 normal value

2. State Highest temperature: 111 °F at Salina Airport, Saline County, on July 22nd.

3. State Lowest temperature: -15 °F at Clinton Lake, Douglas County, on January 6th.

4. Greatest Annual Precipitation: 54.40 inches at Erie 1N, Neosho County (NWS); 57.24 inches at Farlington 0.8 NNE, Crawford County (CoCoRaHS).

**Source: KSU Weather Data Library**

Maps:

