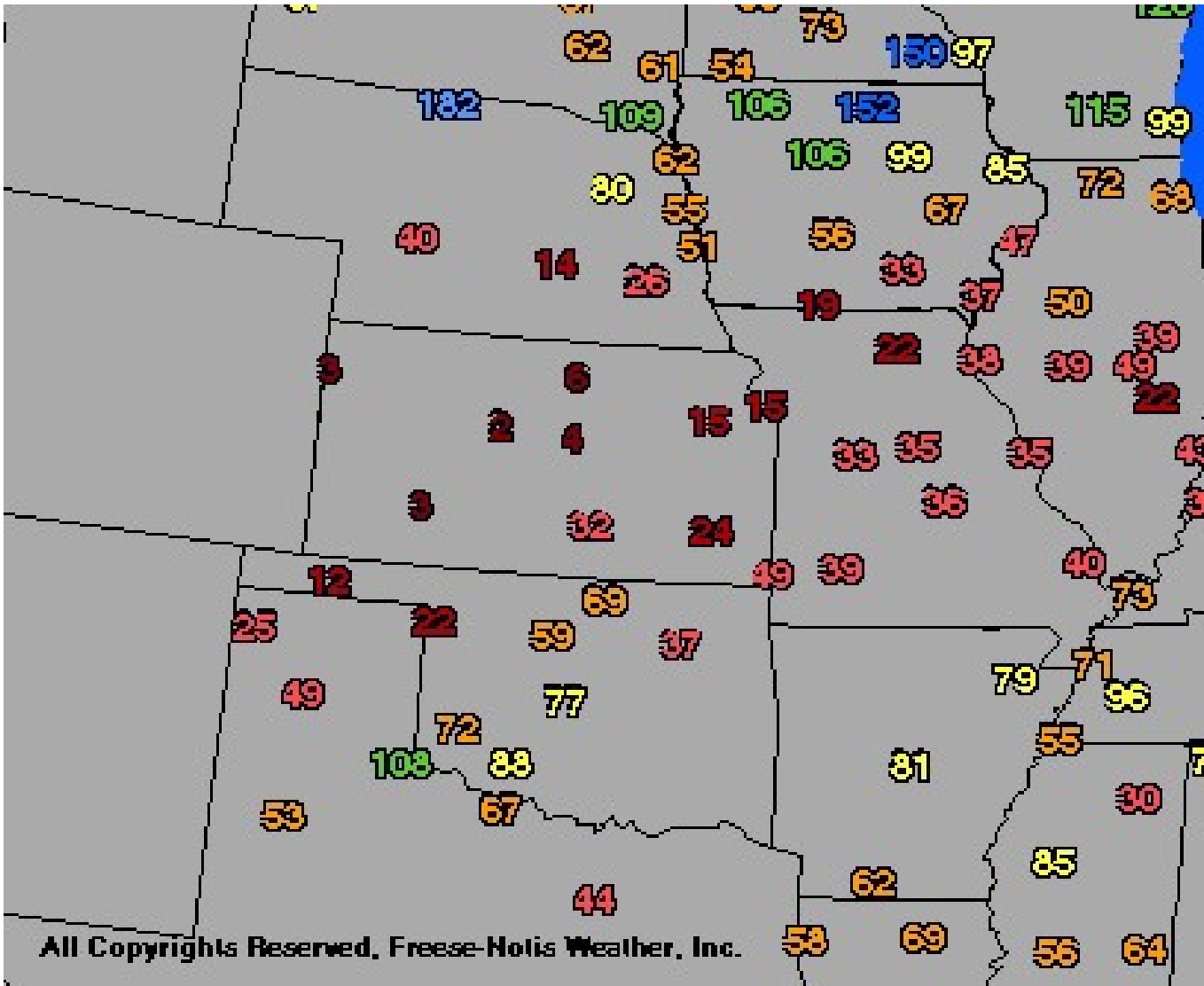
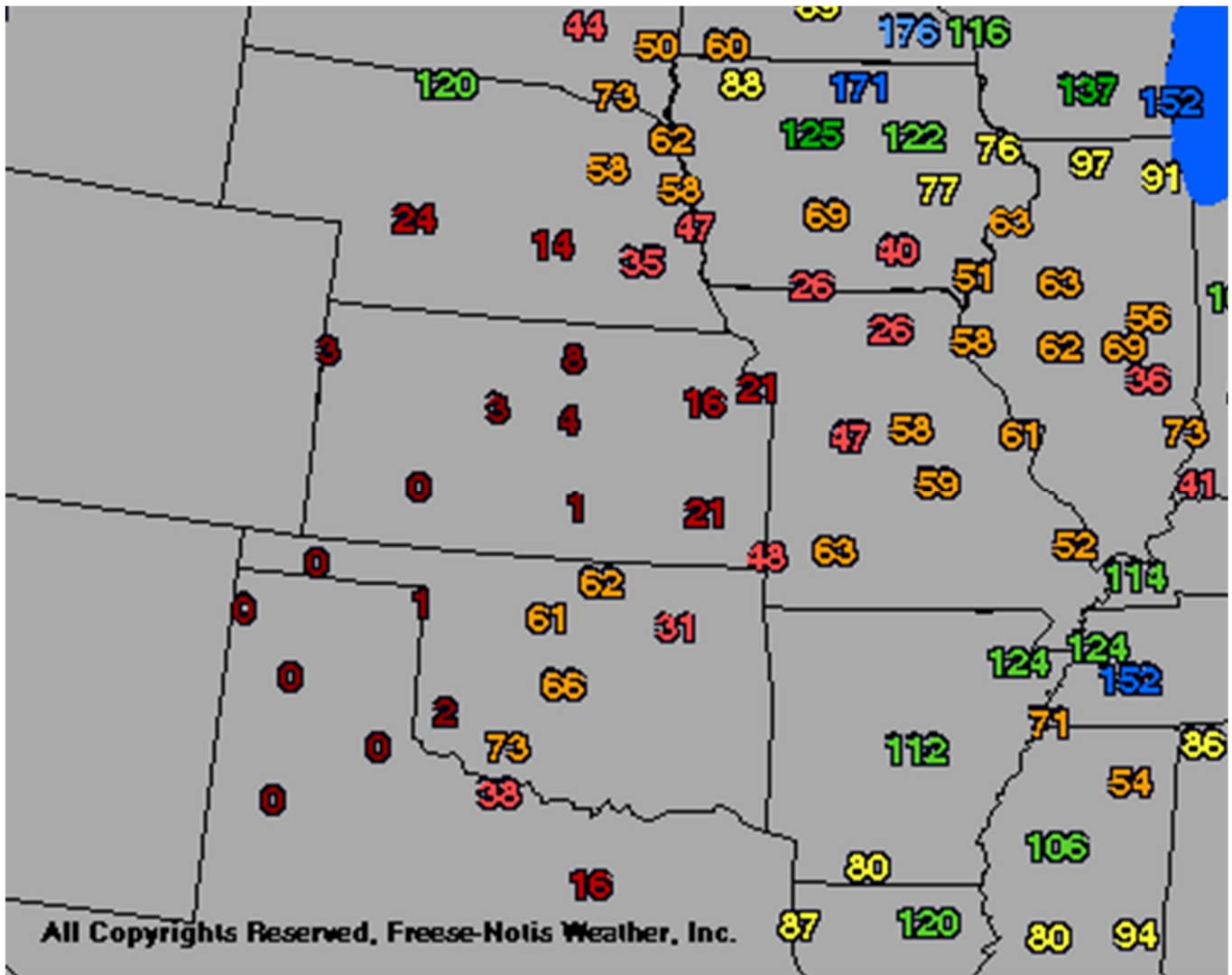




PLAINS WEATHER DATA



Percent of Normal Precipitation Past 60 Days Through 7:00 AM CDT 3-22-2017

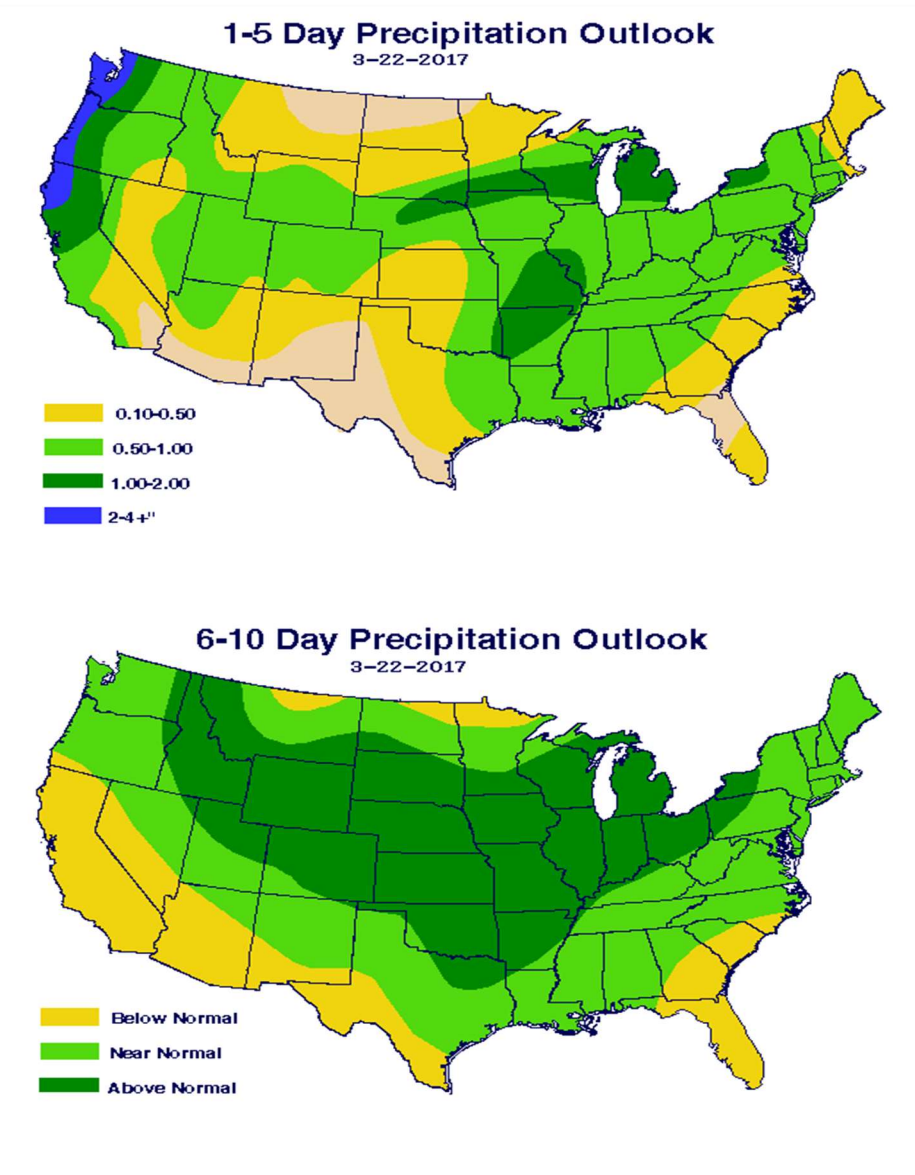


Percent of Normal Precipitation Past 30 Days Through 7:00 AM CDT 3-22-2017

Maps above show percent of normal precipitation for the past 60 and 30 day time periods. A fairly large part of the Plains Hard-Red Winter Wheat areas have not had major precipitation amounts since around the middle part of January. This lack of precipitation, along with numerous days with unseasonably warm temperatures and high evaporation rates for so early in the season has dried soils and led to increasing need for moisture in many areas for winter wheat crop, pastures and ahead of major spring crop planting

Topsoil moisture in KS is rated as 29% very short & 45% short, in OK 13% very short & 38% short, & in TX 10% very short & 33% short. In the TX Panhandle alone these numbers are higher. Latest numbers for NE & CO are from the end of February with these numbers 8% and 17% in NE, & 10% & 36% in CO. These numbers have likely increased into March.

Below are the latest 1-5 and 6-10 day precipitation forecasts, indicating increasing chances for some needed precipitation in these areas. At this time 11-15 day amounts are forecast to be at least near normal in most areas. Growing conditions for winter wheat and pastures should improve in most areas into early April based on these forecasts, however some subsoil moisture deficits will likely continue. Initially best chances for significant amounts will favor the northern and eastern part of this region. Some increased precip amounts are also forecast in some of the drier areas of the central, south-central & southwestern Midwest.



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