

Agronomic Advisory

March 28, 2019

*“Providing Information and
Observations From the Field”*

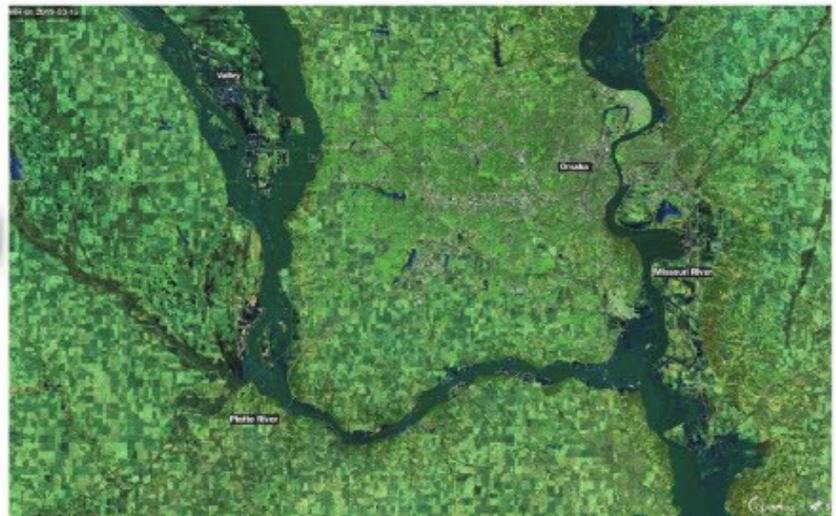


The states of Nebraska and Iowa suffered a serious blow with the heavy flooding that started on March 13th. The damages were the result of a string of unlikely events that fit together to cause great hardship and economic loss to the citizens of these states. The scenario started to piece together with the extremely cold February weather. Average temperature for the month of February in central Nebraska was only 17.8 degrees or 38% under our long-term average. Consequently, our soils and large portions of our streams and rivers were frozen solid when the state recorded a significant rainfall event on March 13th. One Omaha World Herald reporter put it well by writing that the whole state was like a concrete parking lot that did not allow any rain to enter the soil but instead ran to our streams and rivers. Once the runoff entered our major rivers the flow was greatly restricted by ice dams. The waters rose very quickly to well beyond flood stage.

Four lives were lost in the Nebraska and Iowa flooding, including a farmer from Columbus. He was assisting emergency responders in attempting to rescue a stranded motorist with his tractor when the bridge beneath him collapsed.

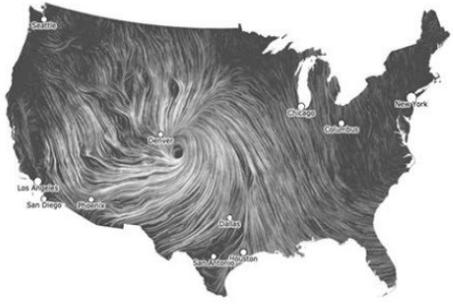
At the height of the flood 1,500 miles of Nebraska roads were closed. 258 miles are still closed as of March 24th. The Nebraska Department of Transportation indicates that 15 bridges are out or severely damaged on state highways with many more damaged on county roads. 75 Nebraska cities and 65 of our 93 counties and four tribal areas have issued emergency declarations. 41 of 99 Iowa counties have as well. Many residents have had severe damage to their homes.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau estimates crop losses to total \$400 million due to flood damaged fields and delayed planting. The estimate for livestock losses is currently at \$400-500 million. It is gut wrenching to hear the stories of livestock producers that had no time or place to move livestock to higher ground and lost most of their herd as the flood waters rose.



Satellite Images At & Prior to Flood Stage near Omaha

Only images can capture a small sense of the devastating floods. The pictures on the following page are mostly images and information found on social media. I have not verified the information presented nor do I doubt it.



*Wind Map of US on March 13th,
Bomb Cyclone Event Causing Widespread Moisture*



Block of Ice 5 Miles Upstream from Spencer



Spencer Dam Failure on Niobrara River



An Ice Field—Approximately 20 Feet Deep in Spots



County Road H Near Oakland, NE



Burst Grain Bins



BNSF Railroad near Cedar Creek along Platte River



Emergency Hay Arriving from Ohio