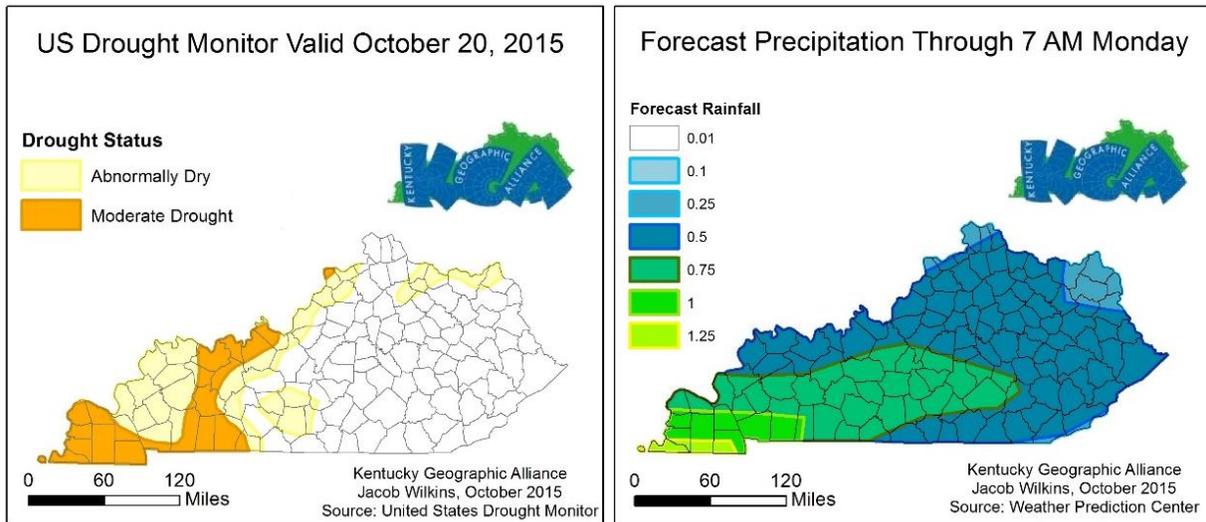

KENTUCKY IN THE NEWS

The Kentucky Geographic Alliance – October 2015



On Tuesday the [US Drought Monitor](#) issued a [report](#) that indicated that western Kentucky is experiencing a moderate drought (Left Map). 14% of Kentucky is described as “moderate drought”, which is up from 10% last week. 22% of Kentucky is described as “abnormally dry”. This term is used to describe areas showing dryness but not yet in drought, or for areas recovering from drought. Last week 20% of Kentucky was considered to be “abnormally dry”. One year ago, Kentucky was not categorized as either in “moderate drought” or “abnormally dry”, due in part to a very wet spring.

But, there is some good news! According to the [Weather Prediction Center](#), some rain may be on the way this weekend. Over the next three days, Kentucky is expected to receive rain at some point (Right Map). However, most of the rain may fall in the western part of the state, where drought is the most prevalent. Portions of southwest Kentucky could receive up to 1.25” of rain. More rain is expected for the middle of next week.

Parts of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas are categorized as in “exceptional drought”. These places have received very little rainfall over the past several months. 65.25% of Texas is categorized as “abnormally dry”. Fortunately, the same weather system that will bring Kentucky rain will also bring up to 9” of rain for central Texas. However, that much rain in a short period of time could lead to some flooding in Texas. No widespread flooding is expected in Kentucky.

The [Kentucky Mesonet](#) is a research grade world class network of near-time weather and climate monitoring stations. You can use the hyperlink above to track the weather event affecting Kentucky over the next five days. Many Kentuckians including farmers, utility companies, and emergency managers use the Mesonet data to get real-time information about the weather. This network is used by many state and federal agencies (Like the Kentucky Department of Transportation and the National Weather Service to help plan for weather extremes like drought and flood. An example of weather extremes was during the Kentucky ice storm of 2009. During that event, many government agencies worked together with the Kentucky Army National Guard to help provide support for Kentuckians in need.