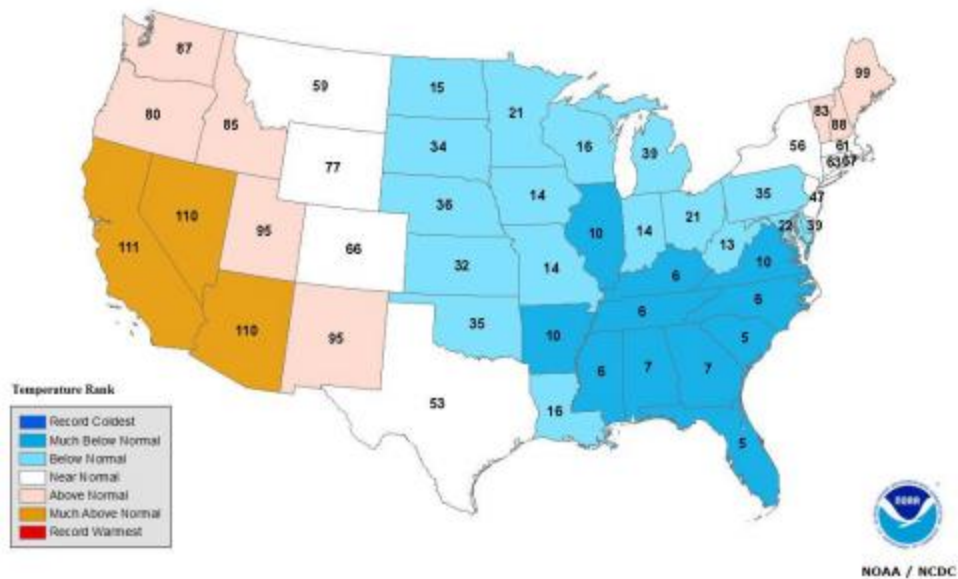


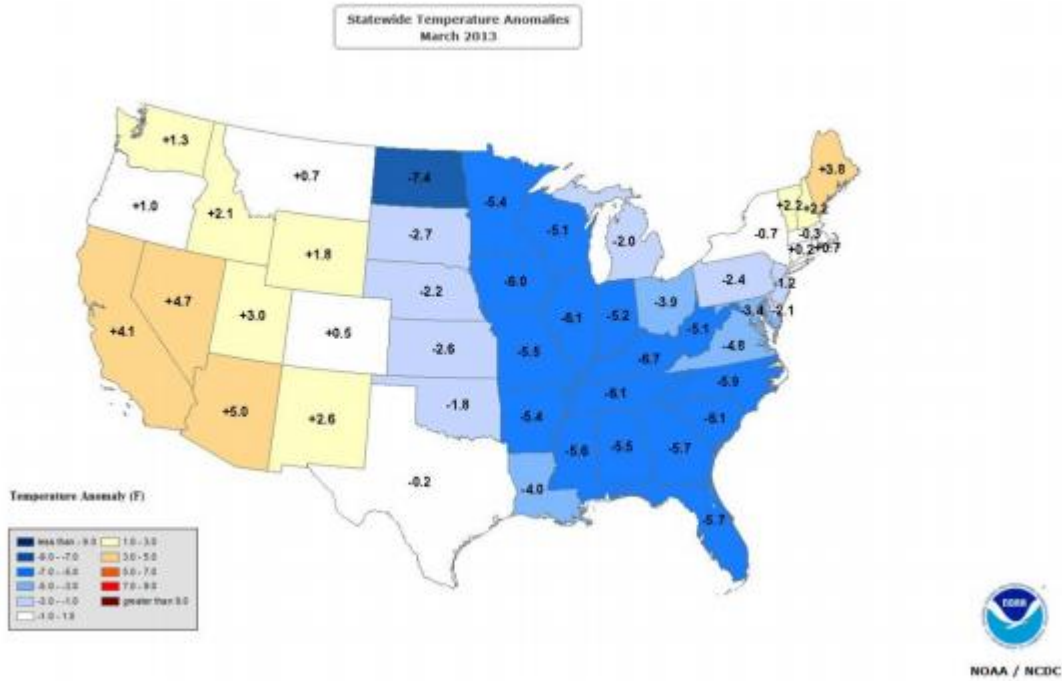
FEATURED CLIMATE HIGHLIGHT

By: Arthur Person

In our last newsletter, we looked at precipitation for the months of January-April, 2013 and noted that March was a particularly dry month ranking 15th driest on record for Pennsylvania. This time we will once again focus on March 2013, but will look instead at temperatures. March was 2.4 degrees Fahrenheit below normal which ranked 35th coldest out of 119 years of records.



Although it was a cool month in Pennsylvania, it was downright cold in states across the deep south with many states recording their 5th or 6th coldest March in 119 years of records. Remarkably, the northeastern United States was actually above normal during this time. Thus Pennsylvania was caught in the middle between these two anomalies. The predominant weather pattern was a large-scale storm circulation producing a persistent northerly flow of chilly Canadian air across the eastern United States which drove cool air deep into the south, but was unremarkable for areas across New England.



When a remarkably cool pattern such as this occurs, a natural question arises as to whether warmer or cooler weather lies ahead. For this particular case, similarly cold years were reviewed for March (ranks 25 through 45) and for each cold year, the subsequent July and August temperature departures from normal were obtained with the following results:

	Years Below Normal	Years Equal to Normal	Years Above Normal
July	10	0	10
August	10	2	8

As you can see, it's nearly a coin toss predicting July and August temperatures based on March temperature anomalies for years ranked 25 through 45. So we conclude there is little relationship between a cooler than normal March and subsequent July and August temperature anomalies.