

6-Month Climate Model Forecast Summary for Pennsylvania

September 15, 2017

Climate models continue to improve and may have some skill in forecasting patterns of temperature and precipitation anomalies several months in advance. However, climate modeling is still a very inexact science. Lacking highly precise observations from the earth's environment (air, land and sea) and a full understanding of the scientific processes that affect the motions in the atmosphere, it is impossible to make precise seasonal-scale weather predictions with any accuracy. Please keep this in mind as you review this forecast.

The following forecast is produced based on analysis of monthly forecast products from the Climate Forecast System Version 2 (CFS) and the North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME). Links to forecasts are provided at the end of this document.

Discussion:

Recent models have shown that the temperature forecast for the next six months will stay at or near normal temperature values. Although some outlier models show that temperatures could rise above normal in October and November, the consensus remains that the temperatures for the next six months will hover around average.

The most recent trends tend to keep with the proposal that the next 6 months will remain wetter than normal, especially during the months of January and February. It is much too early to determine how this would affect snowfall amounts across the state during this time.

Forecast:

Changes highlighted in yellow
Previous forecast in parentheses

Month	Temperature	Precipitation
October	N(B)	N(A)
November	N(A)	N(U)
December	A(A)	N(A)
January	N(U)	A(A)
February	N(U)	A(A)
March	U(U)	U(U)

BB = Much Below Normal

B = Below Normal

N = Near Normal

A = Above Normal

AA = Much Above Normal

U = Uncertain

The next forecast will be issued on October 1, 2017.

REFERENCES:

CFSv2 Forecasts:

<http://climate.met.psu.edu/CFS/20170910/htmls/usPrece3Mon.html>

CFS Monthly Forecasts:

http://climate.met.psu.edu/CFS/monthly_by_day.php

NMME Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/NMME/monanom.shtml>