

Bob Rose on the Weather

LCRA chief meteorologist Bob Rose writes regularly on weather topics. Do you have a weather question for Bob? Send an email to [Bob Rose](#).

Bob's Video Blog: Early freezes, a sign of what's to come?



Most of Central Texas has already seen temperatures drop to the freezing mark. The low temps are about two weeks early based on historical averages but it doesn't mean we're going to get a really cold winter. Bob Rose explains in this week's video weather blog.

Bob's Blog on Central Texas weather

Rain this Weekend. Turning Colder Sunday; Lasting through Most of Next Week

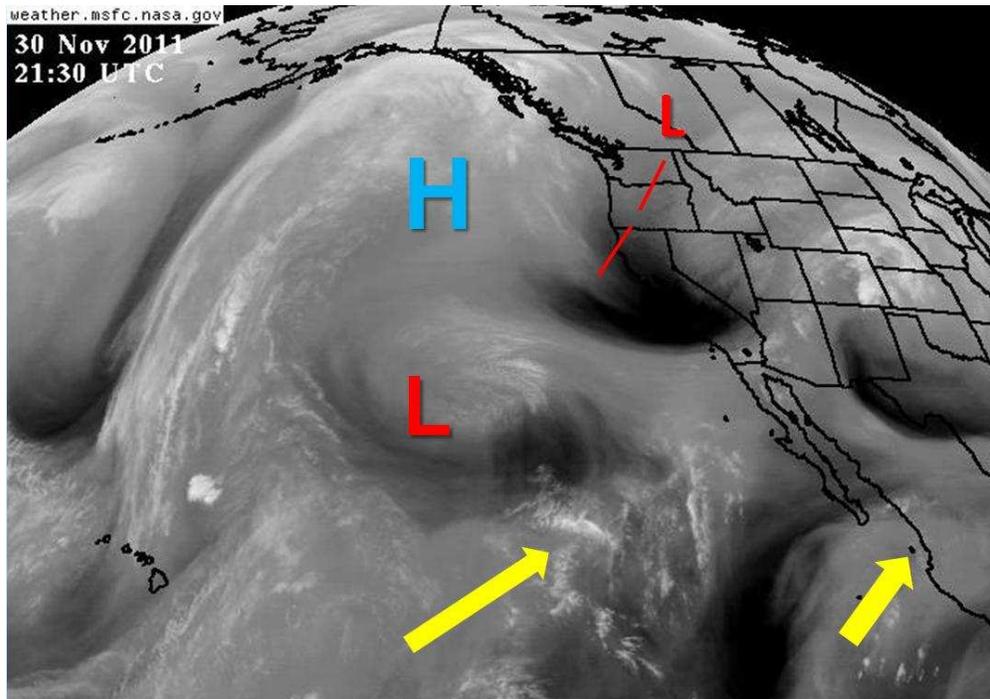
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011 06:21 PM

I've been out of the office at meetings and presentations the past couple of days and unable to do any updates. It looks like I'm getting back just in time as the weather looks to become very changeable beginning Friday, continuing through most of next week. It appears early December will be starting off with wet weather Friday through Monday with much colder temperatures arriving early next week. Today's forecast solutions indicate 2 or 3 strong cold fronts will push through the area next week, keeping temperatures below normal throughout the week and likely into the following week as well. With rain and cold in the forecast, this is turning out to be an unusual La Nina pattern.

This afternoon, our region remains under the influence of a dome of Canadian high pressure centered over the Lower Mississippi Valley. A clockwise wind flow around the high has caused the development of light southerly winds across most of Texas. However, the air mass remains dry with surface dewpoint temperatures in the 20s and 30s. Tonight, the sky will remain mostly clear with low temperatures Thursday morning generally near 40-42 degrees. South and southeasterly winds will increase Thursday as surface pressures begin to lower across the southern Rockies and western Texas. Thursday's weather will feature a mostly sunny sky and slightly warmer temperatures. Highs will generally range from the upper 60s to the low 70s.

Rapid changes in the weather are forecast to take place Thursday night as moisture begins a quick return off the Gulf of Mexico. This will result in the sky becoming cloudy across the entire region by midnight. With more clouds, the temperature won't be nearly as cool as recent nights with lows Friday morning ranging from the low 50s across the Hill Country to the upper 50s close to the coast.

An unsettled weather pattern will take shape across the south central US Friday through Monday as two large areas of low pressure in the upper atmosphere organize across the southwestern US. This afternoon's water vapor imagery over the eastern Pacific and western US shows a complex pattern:



A broad ridge of high pressure in the upper atmosphere is in place just off the West Coast, with an active storm track riding up and over the ridge. A trough of low pressure currently located over the Pacific Northwest noted by the red dashed lines is tracking south-southeast along the West Coast. At the same time, a broad area of low pressure located northeast of Hawaii is pulling clouds and moisture northeast toward Baja, California. Another area of moisture is being pulled northeast across central Mexico. The dark color noted across northern and central Texas indicates the dry air mass currently in place. This dry air will be replaced by increasing moisture Thursday night into Friday.

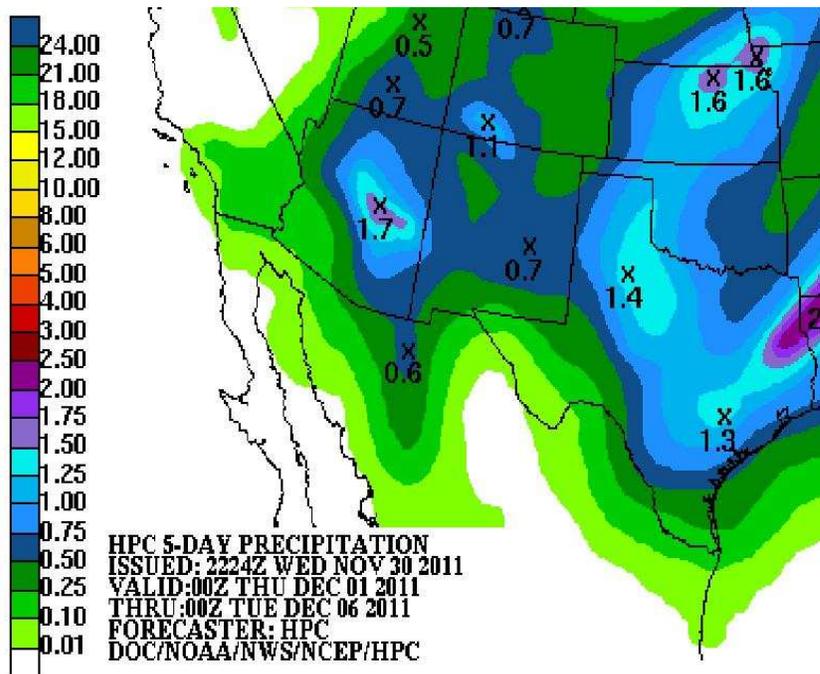
The trough along the west coast is forecast to sink south to a position over the southwestern US and northern Mexico by Friday. Circulation around the trough will pull moisture and warm air north over the cooler air at the surface, resulting in a cloudy sky. Spotty light rain showers are forecast to develop by Friday afternoon, continuing into Friday night. Rain totals will be low, generally around a tenth inch or less. High temperatures Friday will be mostly in the mid 60s while lows Saturday morning will be mostly in the upper 50s to low 60s.

A slightly better chance for rain and isolated thunderstorms looks to develop Saturday morning into Saturday afternoon as the trough of low pressure across the southwestern US tracks northeast across the Texas Panhandle toward the southern Plains states. The approaching trough will cause the overrunning pattern to increase, resulting in a fairly widespread area of rain on Saturday. I expect rain amounts to generally be around a quarter inch. The chance for rain will should decrease Saturday night as the upper trough exits to the northeast. Saturday's high temperature will be near 65-72 degrees.

As the trough exits the region, a strong cold front is forecast to move southeast out of the southern Rockies and across Texas. The front is forecast to track across the northern Hill Country late Saturday night toward daybreak on Sunday, tracking across the Interstate 35 corridor Sunday after daybreak Sunday morning and the coastal plains region around midday. Today's forecast data indicates there will be an increasing chance for rain and isolated thunderstorms just ahead of and along the cold front as it moves to the southeast. Occasional light rain will occur behind the cold front Sunday afternoon into Sunday night. Rain totals Sunday will range from around a quarter inch across the western Hill Country to near 1 inch across the coastal plains region.

Note; a second trough of low pressure in the upper atmosphere is forecast to reach the southwestern US on Sunday. This system will pull warm air north over the cold air at the surface, resulting in light overrunning rain Sunday night through Monday. The rain looks to taper off from west to east Monday night as the trough finally exits to the northeast. I expect very low totals between Sunday night and Monday night.

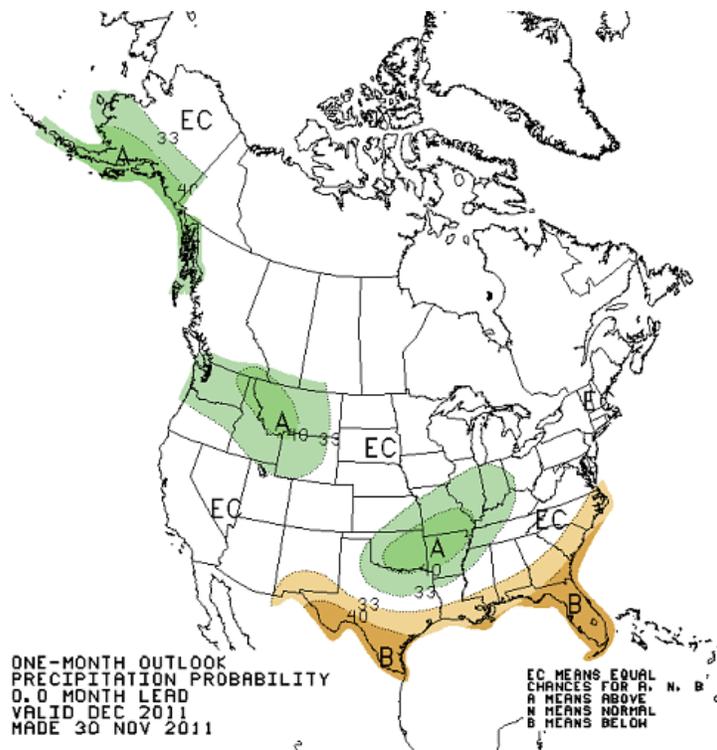
The National Weather Service's rainfall forecast for the period between this evening and Monday evening calls for most totals across the region to average near 1-1.5 inches:



Sunday's cold front will be bringing much colder air to the region for Sunday and early next week. Sunday's temperature looks to hold near 48 to 50 degrees across the Hill Country and Central Texas region and lower to the mid to upper 50s across the coastal plains region. Lows Monday morning will include the low to mid 30s across the Hill Country, the mid and upper 30s across Central Texas and near 40-42 degrees near the coast. Note; with temperatures expected to be near freezing Monday morning and with the threat for some light precipitation, it's not out of the question we could see a small threat for some frozen precipitation across the northern and western Hill Country. Right now, this threat appears very low.

Monday's temperature will be chilly with highs in the upper 40s. Lows Tuesday morning will range from the upper 20s across the Hill Country to the middle 30s near the coast. Tuesday's weather is shaping up sunny but cool with highs in the middle 50s. Sunny, dry and cool weather will continue Wednesday and Thursday with highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid to upper 30s. Medium range forecast solutions indicate a strong cold front will push south across the region sometime next Friday causing a slight chance for rain. Cold temperatures will follow next weekend. If the solutions are correct, this could be the some of the coldest air so far this autumn. Stay tuned for more details about this.

Updated Outlook for December: Earlier today, the National Weather Service issued an updated outlook for the month of December. Despite the cold temperatures expected next week, the outlook calls for the December temperature to average above normal. In regards to precipitation, the outlooks calls for below normal precipitation across the southern half of Texas with above normal rainfall across northern Texas and most of Oklahoma.



This is not exactly a typical La Nina signal for December. However, the forecaster stated the outlook for above normal rainfall across North Texas comes from the forecast for rain here over the next week and not an overall change in the pattern. La Nina is still alive and well and influencing the atmosphere. But other factors appear to be temporarily overwhelming the signal. Interesting.

And finally, today is the last "official" day of the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season. It's been an active season with 19 named storms—tied for the 3rd most active season on record. The US mainland was fortunately only impacted 1 hurricane and 2 tropical storms.

Bob

Previous Blog Entries

Dry Weather through Thanksgiving. Rain Developing Friday Night and Saturday. Turning Cooler.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2011 01:31 PM

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Dry and Cooler Weather through Thursday. Another Chance for Expected by Saturday.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2011 05:55 PM

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Rain Expected Tonight and Tuesday but Dry and Mild Weather for Turkey Day.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011 05:48 PM

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Widespread Clouds through Monday with a Chance for Rain and Storms Developing Tuesday.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011 06:12 PM

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