

## **FEATURE – SPRING WEATHER OFFERS A MIXED BAG**

INTRO: Spring weather could affect farmers in different ways in different parts of the country. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:26)

FLOODING, DROUGHT AND LA NINA WILL BE PARTS OF THE WEATHER AFFECTING THE U-S THIS SPRING. U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE METEOROLOGIST BRAD RIPPEY SAYS A STRONG LA NINA IN THE PACIFIC WILL AFFECT THE ENTIRE U-S.

Brad Rippey, USDA Meteorologist: The effect of La Nina is so profound on the Earth's atmosphere that we're continuing to see effects even though we have seen some warming of the water it's still cool enough to affect this Spring weather pattern pretty much around the globe and in the United States that continues to lead to warm, dry conditions across the southern tier of the country and cool, wet conditions across the north.

AND ALL OF THAT SNOW THIS WINTER IS GOING MELT AND COULD FLOOD PARTS OF THE MIDWEST.

Rippey: We're facing the possibility of extensive to even major flooding in parts of the upper Midwest this spring and that's also likely to delay planting activities there.

BUT WHILE MELTING SNOW IS BAD NEWS FOR THE MIDWEST IT COULD BE GOOD NEWS FOR THE WEST.

Rippey: And the promise is for a very good runoff season in pretty much the northern two thirds of the western United States.

AS FOR THE SUMMER OUTLOOK, THERE COULD BE A WILDCARD IN THE FORM OF A HIGH PRESSURE BLOCK IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC.

Rippey: And that could lead to favorable conditions in the Midwest as in fairly cool and relatively moist condition. In the south though that could lead to another hot, dry year.

IN WASHINGTON D-C FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE I'M BOB ELLISON.