Agricultural Weather Highlights – Monday - June 8, 2020

- In the **West**, freeze warnings are in effect early today across much of the *northern Great Basin*. Meanwhile a mix of rain and snow is falling across the *northern Rockies* and environs. Farther south, several wildfires are burning in the *Four Corners States*, where dry, breezy conditions are conducive to fire ignition, as well as further expansion of existing fires. The largest active wildfire—the Sawtooth Fire in *Arizona*—has charred nearly 25,000 acres of brush and grass.

- On the **Plains**, markedly cooler air is overspreading *Montana*, accompanied by periods of rain. Across the remainder of the *nation’s mid-section*, above-normal temperatures linger for a final day. Severe thunderstorms, which plagued the *northern Plains* over the weekend, remain a threat today across portions of *Nebraska* and the *Dakotas*. Elsewhere, grassfires are a concern on the *southern High Plains*, where hot, dry, breezy weather is promoting winter wheat maturation and harvesting but maintaining stress on rangeland, pastures, and rain-fed summer crops.

- In the **Corn Belt**, warm, dry weather is nearly ideal for soft red winter wheat maturation and corn and soybean development. However, *Midwestern* producers are monitoring the approach of Tropical Depression Cristobal.

- In the **South**, Cristobal continues to produce heavy rain in the *central Gulf Coast region* while weakening and moving farther inland. At 8 am EDT, the former tropical storm—now a depression with sustained winds near 35 mph—was centered about 50 miles south-southeast of *Monroe, Louisiana*, moving north-northwestward at 10 mph. Severe weather concerns have diminished across *Florida*, where several weekend tornadoes were spotted, but continues in the *lower Mississippi Valley*.

**Outlook**: The remnants of Cristobal will move generally northward and interact with an approaching cold front. As a result, storm-total rainfall should reach 5 to 10 inches or more in parts of the *lower Mississippi Valley*. Rainfall totals of at least 2 to 4 inches can be expected across portions of the *middle and upper Mississippi Valley* and *eastern sections of the northern Plains*. Meanwhile, rain and snow showers will gradually subside across the *northern Rockies*, although chilly conditions will linger across much of the *West* through mid-week. Later, cool air will shift eastward, settling across the *Midwest* toward week’s end. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather will persist during the next 5 days from *California* to the *southern Plains*. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for June 13 – 17 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures in much of the *West* and from the *Mississippi Valley to the East Coast*, while warmer-than-normal weather will be confined to coastal southern *California* and the *Rockies* and *Plains*. Meanwhile, below-normal rainfall across the *central and southern Plains*, *Midwest*, and much of the *South* should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in *southern Florida*, *New England*, and much of the *West*.

**Contact**: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)