Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - October 10, 2017

- In the **West**, parts of *California* continue to experience an elevated risk of wildfires. In addition, more than a dozen large wildfires that flared during the holiday weekend remain active across *[northern California]*, where some 1,500 homes and commercial structures have been destroyed. Some of the hardest-hit *California* communities include *Santa Rosa, Napa, Potter Valley, Loma Rica,* and *Clearlake*. Dry weather prevails throughout the **West**, with chilly conditions limited to the central and southern Rockies.

- On the **Plains**, freeze warnings are in effect early today across a large area stretching from the *Dakotas to eastern Colorado and western Kansas*. For areas experiencing their first freeze of the season, an occurrence on this date is not unusual. Dry weather covers the region, except for lingering showers on the east-central **Plains**.

- In the **Corn Belt**, hard freezes occurred early today across the far upper **Midwest**. More than a week ago, on October 1, corn was less than one-half fully mature in *Wisconsin* (41%) and *North Dakota* (47%). However, the fact that most of the corn—88% in Wisconsin and 93% in North Dakota—was dented by October 1 should help to limit any yield loss. Currently, rain showers stretch from eastern Nebraska to Indiana.

- In the **South**, humid weather accompanies late-season heat. Despite scattered showers, portions of the mid-South and the southern Mid-Atlantic States—which received little or no rain from the remnants of Hurricane Nate—remain very dry.

**Outlook:** Cool conditions across the nation’s mid-section will be quickly replaced by warmer weather. Meanwhile, sharply cooler air will arrive in *California* and the **Northwest**, starting around mid-week. During the weekend, cool weather will return to the central U.S., while late-season warmth should continue in the **East** and return to the Far West. Elsewhere, a pair of disturbances traversing the northern U.S. will provide the focus for significant rain. Five-day totals could reach 1 to 3 inches or more in the Midwest and 1 to 2 inches in the Mid-Atlantic States and the **Northwest**. Dry weather can be expected from California to the southern Plains. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 15 – 19 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in the Northwest. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation across the Rockies and Plains should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the Pacific Northwest, the southern Atlantic region, and parts of the Midwest.

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