Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - August 1, 2017

- In the West, monsoon showers are limited to areas near the Mexican border. Meanwhile, record-setting heat continues to build across northern California and the Pacific Northwest. However, the Northwestern heat favors small grain harvesting and other fieldwork.

- On the Plains, showers in parts of Oklahoma and Texas are limiting fieldwork but benefiting summer crops. Prior to the rain, on July 30, topsoil moisture was rated 70% very short to short in Oklahoma and 64% very short to short in Texas. Meanwhile, isolated showers are developing across the drought-stricken northern Plains in advance of a cold front. Montana leads the U.S. with topsoil moisture rated 96% very short to short.

- In the Corn Belt, mild, dry weather prevails, except for clouds and a few showers across the region’s southern tier. On July 30, Iowa led the Mississippi Valley States with topsoil moisture rated 53% very short to short, reflecting the patchy dryness that has adversely affected some corn and soybeans.

- In the South, Emily has moved offshore and has been downgraded to a tropical depression. Lingering effects include a few showers and pockets of lowland flooding across Florida’s peninsula. Much of the remainder of the South is experiencing mild, dry weather, favoring fieldwork and summer crop development.

Outlook: A record-breaking heat wave will continue for the remainder of the week in the Northwest, where some all-time-record high temperatures may be threatened. In contrast, showers associated with the Southwestern monsoon circulation could total 1 to 3 inches in the southern Rockies and environs, including the southern High Plains. Showery weather will also return to the Gulf Coast region, starting around mid-week. Meanwhile, a strong cold front—preceded and accompanied by showers and thunderstorms—will bring another round of below-normal temperatures to the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 6 – 10 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures in most areas from the central and southern Rockies to the Atlantic Coast, while warmer-than-normal weather should be limited to Florida’s peninsula, Deep South Texas, and the Far West. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions from the Pacific Northwest to the upper Great Lakes region will contrast with near- to above-normal rainfall across the remainder of the U.S.