Agricultural Weather Highlights – Monday - July 31, 2017

- In the West, the monsoon circulation remains active, with the most significant rainfall occurring in Arizona and New Mexico. In stark contrast, record-setting heat is gripping northern California and the Pacific Northwest. The hot, dry weather is promoting fieldwork, including the winter wheat harvest, but stressing rain-fed crops.

- On the Plains, mostly dry weather has returned to drought-affected northern areas, following last week’s scattered showers. Farther south, however, scattered showers and thunderstorms are generally benefiting rangeland, pastures, and summer crops across the central and southern High Plains.

- In the Corn Belt, a cool, dry weather pattern is in place. Lingering dry pockets exist, primarily west of the Mississippi River, while a few spots in the northern and eastern Corn Belt remain unfavorably wet.

- In the South, recently formed Tropical Storm Emily was centered about 45 west-southwest of Tampa, Florida, at 8 am EDT, moving eastward at 8 mph. Maximum sustained winds are near 45 mph. The primary impact from Emily is heavy rain, which is spreading across central and southern sections of Florida’s peninsula. Across the remainder of the South, mild, dry weather favors fieldwork and crop development.

Outlook: High pressure will build into the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic States, bringing cooler-than-normal weather. In contrast, hot, dry weather will persist in the West—especially in the Pacific Northwest, where record-breaking heat should continue. Meanwhile, heavy rain will persist at least through today across Florida’s peninsula as Tropical Storm Emily moves ashore near Tampa Bay, with 2 to 4 inches of rain expected and isolated totals near 8 inches possible. Elsewhere, monsoon-related showers will continue across the Great Basin, Southwest, and southern Plains, while mid- to late-week showers will affect the Midwest, particularly the Great Lakes region, where totals could reach 1 to 3 inches. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 5 – 9 calls for below-normal temperatures to persist in the Midwest and most other areas across the eastern two-thirds of the U.S., while warm-than-normal weather will continue across the Far West, as well as Florida’s peninsula. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather will extend from the Pacific Northwest through the northern Plains and also cover the mid-South, while monsoon showers will deliver wet weather to the Great Basin and the Southwest. Showery weather can also be expected across the southern High Plains and the Atlantic Coast States.

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