**WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS**  
October 9, 2020

1 - UNITED STATES  
The tropical Atlantic Basin remained active in September, with Hurricane Sally making landfall around mid-month in Alabama and Tropical Storm Beta arriving a few days later along the middle Texas coast. Sally battered crops and caused extensive flooding in southern Alabama and western Florida, with heavy rain extending as far north as southern Virginia. Beta’s main impact was heavy rain, which spread northeastward from coastal Texas across the Mississippi Delta. Farther north, mid-month rainfall generally arrived too late to benefit drought-stressed summer crops in Iowa and environs. Surrounding that wet area, short-term dryness developed or intensified in the Ohio Valley and upper Midwest. Meanwhile, drought worsened in New England. Mostly dry weather also covered the Plains, aside from a heavy-rain event in parts of Oklahoma and Texas. The precipitation that fell on the Plains was associated with an early-September cold snap, which resulted in freezes and potential harm to immature crops, mainly in North Dakota. Elsewhere, Western dryness and periods of extreme heat led to drought intensification and additional wildfire activity, as well as severe stress on rangeland and pastures.

2 - CANADA  
mostly dry, occasionally cool weather favored harvesting of Prairie spring grains and oilseeds, but a season-ending freeze may have impacted Manitoba’s immature corn.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA  
In late-September, showers brought some relief to drought-stressed winter grains in central Argentina, but more rain will be needed to recharge topsoil moisture for summer crop germination. Unseasonable dryness also reduced moisture for wheat and early-planted summer crops in southern Brazil; northern farming areas are in need of rain before soybean planting can begin.

4 - EUROPE  
In September, highly variable rainfall was observed across the continent. Early-month dryness in France maintained drought concerns for winter crops, though heavy rain during the latter half of September erased moisture deficits but caused fieldwork delays. Heavy showers across much of eastern Europe favored late-filling summer crops but slowed winter crop sowing, while persistent drought in the lower Danube River Valley maintained insufficient levels of soil moisture for winter wheat and rapeseed. In Greece, Medicane Ionas brought strong, gusty winds and torrential rains to mature cotton in central growing areas. The cool rainy season got off to a favorable start in Spain, providing early-season moisture for winter grain planting. Conditions varied across Italy from southern wetness to dry weather in the north, though historic rains afflicted the Piedmont region in early October.

5 - FSU-WESTERN  
During September, intensifying drought left soils devoid of moisture for winter wheat establishment from central Ukraine into western Russia. The dry weather also adversely impacted later-developing summer crops that have been plagued by record dryness since mid-July. However, heavy rain in central and western Ukraine at the end of the month eased drought and improved soil moisture for winter wheat establishment.

6 - FSU-EASTERN  
Late-season rain eased drought but slowed spring grain maturation and drydown in Kazakhstan and neighboring Russia. Farther south, seasonable dryness favored cotton maturation and early harvesting in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY  
In Turkey and Iran, dry weather reduced soil moisture for winter grain establishment but promoted summer crop drydown and harvesting. Producers are awaiting the onset of cool-season rains to provide soil moisture for wheat and barley establishment, though the bulk of winter grains are sown in October.

8 - SOUTH ASIA  
Drier weather slowly moved into northern India and Pakistan by the end of September as the monsoon began withdrawing, benefiting maturing rice and cotton. Meanwhile, showers were unseasonably light in eastern sections of India, limiting moisture supplies for rice. The remainder of India continued to receive near- to above-normal rainfall, bolstering late-season soil moisture for immature kharif crops. The southwest monsoon typically fully withdraws from India by mid-October.

9 - EASTERN ASIA  
A pair of September typhoons brought heavy downpours and flooding to the Korean Peninsula and northeastern China. In particular, the excessively wet weather likely caused localized damage to maturing corn and soybeans in northeastern China. Above-average rainfall was also reported in southern China, easing seasonal drought in southern-most provinces but exacerbating wetness for mature summer crops in the Yangtze Valley. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather aided crop maturation on the North China Plain.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA  
Rainfall improved in September across Thailand and environs, following inconsistent showers during the first half of the season. Near-normal rainfall stabilized rice yields, but more rain is needed to bolster reservoir levels for the upcoming dry season. In contrast, drier-than-normal weather continued in key rice and corn areas of the northern Philippines. Moisture has been adequate for summer rice, but more rain would be welcome to replenish reservoirs for the winter crop. Elsewhere, seasonably wet weather benefited oil palm in Malaysia and Indonesia.

11 - AUSTRALIA  
During September, near-normal rainfall in southeastern Australia benefited reproductive wheat, barley, and canola, helping to maintain good to locally excellent crop prospects. In contrast, increasing dryness in Western Australia slowly reduced the water available to reproductive winter grains and oilseeds, potentially threatening yield potential. Elsewhere in the wheat belt, drier-than-normal rainfall persisted in southern Queensland, hastening wheat toward maturation while keeping the topsoil unfavorably dry in advance of summer crop sowing.

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