Agricultural Weather Highlights – Monday - August 10, 2020

- In the West, extreme heat persists across the Desert Southwest. On Sunday, the high of 112°F in Phoenix, Arizona, marked the 34th day this year with a high of 110°F or greater; the previous annual record of 33 days was set in 2011. Meanwhile, the Southwestern monsoon circulation remains poorly established, leading to dry weather in nearly all areas of the western U.S. Following a period of cool weather, heat is returning across much of the Northwest, where the winter wheat harvest is advancing—and barley and spring wheat harvest activities are underway.

- On the Plains, cool air continues to overspread Montana and the Dakotas. This morning’s low temperatures fell below 45°F at several Montana locations, including Cut Bank, Glasgow, and Havre. Meanwhile, early-morning showers and thunderstorms are most numerous from South Dakota to Kansas. However, some drought-related impacts on rangeland, pastures, and summer crops persist across the central and southern High Plains.

- In the Corn Belt, a slow-moving cold front extends southwestward from the upper Great Lakes region. Showers and thunderstorms are most numerous in the vicinity of the front—but are also occurring in other areas. Warm, humid weather prevails across the central and eastern Corn Belt, but a surge of cooler air is overspreading the upper Midwest. Aside from a few dry pockets, overall growing conditions remain mostly favorable for Midwestern corn and soybeans.

- In the South, very warm, humid weather continues to promote a rapid pace of crop development. Dry weather prevails in the western Gulf Coast region, where harvest activities are underway for crops such as cotton and rice. Widely scattered showers dot other areas, including the interior Southeast and the southern Atlantic States.

Outlook: Hot, dry weather will cover much of the West for the remainder of the week, favoring fieldwork but further stressing rangeland, pastures, and immature summer crops. Extreme heat will remain a concern in the Desert Southwest, while slightly cooler air will arrive during the mid- to late-week period in the Northwest. Dry weather and intensifying heat will extend as far east as the High Plains, as well as much of the south-central U.S. Meanwhile, an active weather pattern will prevail for much of the week from the upper Midwest into the Southeast, with 1- to 3-inch totals common across a broad area. In contrast, only light rain will dampen the Northeast, accompanied by several days of hot weather. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 15 – 19 calls for near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide. The Southwest will have the greatest likelihood of experiencing hotter-than-normal weather. Meanwhile, above-normal rainfall in western Washington and from the mid-South eastward to the Atlantic Coast States from Georgia to New York should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in New England and from the Intermountain West to the Plains.

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