Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - October 7, 2022

• In the West, scattered showers persist over the southern Rockies. Otherwise, warm, dry weather across the remainder of the region is promoting a rapid pace of fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting. Today’s high temperatures will again approach or top 95°F from the San Joaquin Valley into the Desert Southwest.

• On the Plains, sharply colder weather has settled over the northern two-thirds of the region, with temperatures this morning dipping into the teens in the Dakotas where freeze warnings are in effect. Although showers are providing localized drought relief on the southern Plains, most of the region’s primary growing areas need moisture for winter wheat establishment. Furthermore, pastures and ranges are rated more than 70 percent poor to very poor in Oklahoma (72 percent), Kansas (78 percent), and Nebraska (80 percent).

• In the Corn Belt, a strong cold front is ushering much colder air into the region; frost advisories as well as freeze watches and warnings are in effect across much of the region. Nevertheless, mostly dry weather is promoting harvesting efforts.

• In the South, dry conditions prevail, promoting summer crop harvesting and other seasonal fieldwork. Sunny skies are facilitating rescue and recovery efforts in Florida, although moderate to major flooding continues in parts of the Peace and Saint Johns River basins, where river levels are receding (west) or holding steady (east). Despite the overall dry weather pattern, locally heavy showers have overspread southern Texas.

Outlook: A strong but mostly dry cold front currently bringing hard freezes to the Midwest and northern Plains will sweep across Atlantic Coast states today. Behind the front, a broad area of high pressure will bring sunny but sharply colder weather to the eastern half of the nation. However, temperatures will quickly rebound to above-normal levels west of the Appalachians by Monday as the high shifts east but will be slower to recover across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. A developing easterly wind in Florida will likely net increasing shower chances, but no organized areas of rain are in the offing. Dry but warmer-than-normal weather will prevail from the Rockies to the Pacific Coast, although scattered showers will linger over the southern Rockies. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 12 – 16 calls for the likelihood of cooler-than-normal weather across the northeastern quarter of the nation while above-normal temperatures are expected elsewhere save for the upper Rio Grande Valley. Near-normal rainfall is expected across the eastern half of the country; farther west, drier-than-normal conditions from the northern Pacific Coast into the upper Midwest will contrast with above-normal rainfall from southern California eastward into Texas and western Oklahoma.

Web Site: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TODAYSWX.pdf

Product issued by USDA’s World Agricultural Outlook Board, Office of the Chief Economist.
The outlook is an interpretation of National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts and products.
The next scheduled noon release of the “Agricultural Weather Highlights” will be Friday, April 8. On other weekdays, this product will be posted by 9 am EDT.