Agricultural Weather Highlights – Monday - September 21, 2020

- **In the West**, more than six dozen wildfires are in various stages of containment. The greatest concentration of fires is affecting the **Pacific Coast States**. During the weekend, parts of **southern California** experienced triple-digit heat (temperatures of 100°F or higher), gusty winds, and low humidity levels, leading to expansion of several wildfires. The Bobcat Fire in the **San Gabriel Mountains** northeast of **Los Angeles** has scorched more than 100,000 acres of vegetation. During the last few days, beneficial rain has fallen in parts of the **Pacific Northwest**, with more showers approaching.

- **On the Plains**, summer-like warmth continues to replace previously cool conditions. Today’s high temperatures could reach 90°F as far north as **western and central Nebraska**. The Plains’ extended spell of dry weather favors summer crop maturation and harvesting, as well as winter wheat planting and emergence.

- **In the Corn Belt**, weekend frost occurred in the **Great Lakes States**. However, growing season-ending freezes were largely confined to areas north of **primary corn and soybean production areas**. On Saturday, September 19, record lows for the date in **Michigan** included 30°F in **Flint** and 33°F in **Traverse City**. Cool, Midwestern weather persists today, but temperatures have begun to moderate. Dry weather throughout the **Midwest** favors summer crop maturation.

- **In the South**, locally heavy showers associated with Tropical Storm Beta rim the **Gulf Coast region**, slowing harvest activities and other fieldwork. At 8 am CDT, Beta was centered about 70 miles southeast of **Port O’Connor, Texas**, moving toward the west at 6 mph. Winds are near 50 mph in a small area north of the center of Beta. Meanwhile, cool, dry weather prevails from the **northern Mississippi Delta eastward to the middle Atlantic Coast**.

**Outlook**: Tropical Storm Beta should move inland later today or tonight along the **middle Texas coast**. For the next several tide cycles, Beta will continue to result in elevated water levels in the **western Gulf Coast region**. However, Beta’s primary threat will be the potential for heavy rainfall, which could total 5 to 10 inches or more from the **middle Texas coast into southern Louisiana**. Later in the week, showers associated with the decaying remnants of Beta should move farther inland across the **Southeast**. Meanwhile, many other areas of the country will experience dry weather during the next 5 days. Starting on Tuesday, Hurricane Teddy may pass close enough to **eastern Maine** to generate some wind and rain. And in the **Northwest**, a mid- to late-week pattern change should deliver locally heavy precipitation, especially **west of the Cascades**. Elsewhere, warmth will slowly expand across the **South, East, and Midwest**, while cooler weather will arrive in the **Northwest**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 26 – 30 calls for near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide. Warmth will be most likely in the **Northeast** and **Far West**. Meanwhile, wetter-than-normal weather across much of the **eastern half of the U.S.** should contrast with near- or below-normal precipitation from the **Pacific Coast to the Plains**.

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