Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - September 29, 2023

- In the West, cool, mostly dry air has settled across the Northwest, although a few showers linger in Oregon. In contrast, Southwestern warmth favors autumn fieldwork. In Arizona, the cotton harvest was 16% complete by September 24.

- On the Plains, unusual warmth across the southeastern half of the region is promoting summer crop maturation and harvesting—but reducing topsoil moisture for the establishment of recently planted winter wheat. Today’s temperatures will reach 95°F as far north as southeastern Nebraska. Meanwhile, showers and thunderstorms dot the northern Plains, trailed by cooler weather.

- In the Corn Belt, cloudy, foggy weather lingers in many areas east of the Mississippi River, although rain has ended. Meanwhile, warmth is surging across parts of the western Corn Belt, with today’s high temperatures expected to top 90°F as far north as western Iowa and eastern Nebraska. Elsewhere, upper Midwestern showers and thunderstorms are providing limited drought relief but causing temporary fieldwork delays.

- In the South, clouds and showers linger across Florida’s peninsula, as well as the middle Atlantic coastal plain. Elsewhere, dry weather and above-normal temperatures favor summer crop maturation and harvesting. Record-setting warmth prevails in the western Gulf Coast region, where today’s temperatures will broadly reach or exceed 95°F. Meanwhile, very low water levels persist in much of the middle and lower Mississippi River basin, with the current stage at Memphis, Tennessee (near -10.5 feet), running less than 4 inches higher than the modern record low set on October 21, 2022.

Outlook: For the remainder of today, another round of rain from the middle Atlantic Coast to southern New England could lead to pockets of flooding. Meanwhile, a disturbance approaching the Pacific Coast will move inland, delivering precipitation across Oregon and northern California. Wet snow may fall in the Sierra Nevada, mainly at elevations above 8,000 feet. During the weekend, precipitation will spread farther inland, reaching the Great Basin, Intermountain West, and northern Rockies. Early next week, significant rain (locally 1 to 2 inches or more) could fall across the nation’s mid-section, from the southern Plains into the upper Midwest. In contrast, dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days across much of the eastern one-third of the U.S., including the eastern Corn Belt and lower Mississippi Valley. In addition, summer-like warmth will continue into next week from the central and southern Plains into the middle and lower Mississippi Valley. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 4 – 8 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures across the Rockies, High Plains, and Intermountain West, while warmer-than-normal weather will cover the Pacific Coast States and the eastern half of the U.S. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across much of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in southern Florida and the northern two-thirds of the West.

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

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