**Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - July 8, 2022**

- **In the West,** mostly dry weather accompanies building heat. In addition, the Southwestern monsoon circulation has been disrupted by a strengthening ridge of high pressure, cutting off the flow of tropical moisture into the southern Rockies. Elsewhere, Northwestern warmth favors winter wheat maturation and summer crop development.

- **On the Plains,** mild, mostly dry weather across the northern half of the region favors crop development and fieldwork, including winter wheat harvesting. Scorching heat persists, however, across the southeastern half of Oklahoma and much of Texas, where today’s high temperatures should range from 100 to 105°F. According to the July 5 Drought Monitor, 46% of Texas is experiencing extreme to exceptional drought (D3 to D4), compared with 90% on the same date in 2011.

- **In the Corn Belt,** a final round of rain is spreading eastward from the middle and upper Mississippi Valley. Early today, some of the heaviest rain is falling across central Illinois. The recent and ongoing showers have benefited pastures, corn, and soybeans, although many areas of the Midwest are still reporting 30-day rainfall deficits.

- **In the South,** showers are becoming more numerous in the southern Atlantic States, although warm, humid conditions persist. A heat wave continues across the remainder of the South, with today’s high temperatures expected to reach 100°F or higher in many locations from the western Gulf Coast region to the Mississippi Delta. Oppressive humidity accompanies the Southern heat, resulting in stressful conditions for some poultry and livestock.

**Outlook:** Lingering Midwestern showers and thunderstorms should end later today, followed by a protracted period of cooler, drier weather. Although scattered Midwestern showers are forecast to return early next week, many areas may remain dry. In contrast, heavy showers will shift into the Southeast, where 5-day rainfall totals could reach 2 to 4 inches or more, especially from the Gulf Coast (southeastern Louisiana to western Florida) to the coastal Carolinas. Meanwhile, heat in the south-central U.S. should peak during the weekend and early next week, with frequent high temperatures above 100°F and spotty readings above 105°F. Little or no rain will accompany the southern Plains' heat. Hot, dry weather will also prevail during the next 5 days in much of the West. Elsewhere, Midwestern temperatures should remain below 90°F during the next 5 days, except for brief periods of higher readings in the southern and western Corn Belt. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for July 13 – 17 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures across much of the eastern one-third of the country, while hotter-than-normal weather will prevail in New England, southern Florida, and a broad area from the Pacific Coast to the Plains. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal rainfall in much of the southern and eastern U.S. should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions across the northern and central Plains and the Midwest.

**Contact:** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

**Web Site:** [https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TODAYSWX.pdf](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TODAYSWX.pdf)