Agricultural Weather Highlights – Wednesday - September 21, 2022

- In the West, spotty showers in the Four Corners States are maintaining the threat of flash flooding. Showery weather also continues across parts of northern California, southern Oregon, and western Nevada. Among approximately eight dozen active Western wildfires, fewer than a dozen are burning outside of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

- On the Plains, lingering, record-setting heat is confined to portions of Texas, Oklahoma, and southeastern Kansas. Later today, some locations on the southern Plains may again reach or exceed 100°F. In contrast, cool weather prevails across the northwestern half of the Plains, where Wednesday’s high temperatures will remain below 70°F. Freezes were noted this morning in several communities in northern Montana, including Havre and Cut Bank. Elsewhere, beneficial showers have developed early today on the central Plains, including parts of Nebraska and eastern Colorado.

- In the Corn Belt, a strong but moisture-starved cold front stretches from the Great Lakes region into the lower Missouri Valley. In the front’s wake, cool, breezy weather covers the upper Midwest. Meanwhile, lingering heat is confined to the southern Corn Belt, including the Ohio Valley, where today’s high temperatures will generally range from 90 to 100°F. Midwestern corn and soybeans continue to mature, albeit at a slightly slower-than-normal pace.

- In the South, hot, dry weather is nearly ideal for summer crop maturation and harvesting. The U.S. rice harvest was 45% complete by September 18, while harvest activities were generally just getting underway for Southern crops such as cotton (11% harvested) and peanuts (4%). In Louisiana, 71% of the intended sugarcane acreage had been planted by September 18, slightly behind the 5-year average of 82%.

Outlook: Northbound Hurricane Fiona will pass well east of the U.S. East Coast but will make landfall this weekend in Atlantic Canada, with significant wind, surge, and rainfall impacts expected. Meanwhile, a late-season monsoon surge could lead to Southwestern flash flooding, primarily in the Four Corners States, although dry weather will return late in the week. Farther north, a pair of cold fronts will generate scattered showers and thunderstorms, with 5-day rainfall totals locally topping an inch from the northern and central Plains into the Northeast. Cool air will trail both cold fronts, leading to scattered frost and freezes across the nation’s northern tier. In contrast, late-season heat will linger across the Deep South, especially from the southern Plains to the Mississippi Delta. Mostly dry weather will accompany the Southern heat, except in southern Florida. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 26 – 30 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures across Florida’s peninsula and from the Pacific Coast to the Plains, while cooler-than-normal conditions will cover much of the eastern one-third of the U.S. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal rainfall across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in Maine, the lower Southeast, and parts of the Four Corners region.

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