Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - August 5, 2022

- In the West, widespread showers are associated with a robust Southwestern monsoon circulation. Areas receiving rain, including the Great Basin, Intermountain West, and Southwest, are experiencing superficial drought relief, such as topsoil moistening and improved vegetation health. However, much of the West is still suffering from the consequences of a multi-year drought, with profound impacts on reservoir storage, groundwater reserves, and forest vitality.

- On the Plains, hot weather continues to adversely affect rangeland, pastures, and various summer crops, including cotton and sorghum. Nationally, rangeland and pastures were rated 49% very poor to poor on July 31, along with 32% of the sorghum and 28% of the cotton. Today’s high temperatures could reach 105°F as far north as South Dakota. Dry weather covers much of the region, though showers have developed in conjunction with a cold front crossing the northern Plains.

- In the Corn Belt, moderate temperatures favor reproductive to filling summer crops, except in the middle Missouri Valley. Later today, much of Nebraska and South Dakota—extending into western Iowa and southwestern Minnesota—should experience high temperatures ranging from 95 to 105°F. In addition, dry pockets remain a concern, especially in the western Corn Belt. In the 4-week period from July 8 – August 4, Des Moines, Iowa, received rainfall totaling 0.13 inch.

- In the South, showery conditions and the threat of rising rivers have returned to eastern Kentucky, where recovery efforts continue more than a week after a devastating flood occurred. Showers extend to other areas, including the mid-South and the Tennessee Valley. Very warm, humid weather prevails throughout the region, with the hottest conditions affecting the western Gulf Coast region and the southern Atlantic States.

Outlook: Despite scattered to widespread showers in many sections of the country, most areas will continue to experience near- or above-normal temperatures. By early next week, another heat wave will unfold across the western U.S., while heat will linger in the south-central U.S. In contrast, Midwestern temperatures will remain mostly favorable for summer crops, except in parts of the western Corn Belt. Meanwhile, 5-day rainfall totals could reach 1 to 3 inches from the Mississippi Valley to the East Coast, although somewhat drier weather may prevail in the Deep South and southern Atlantic States. In the West, showers will temporarily subside as heat intensifies. Elsewhere, little or no rain will fall during the next 5 days in the northern Rockies, along and near the Pacific Coast, and on the central and southern Plains. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 10 – 14 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in the Desert Southwest. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal rainfall in most areas from the Plains to the Atlantic Coast should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in southern Texas and much of the western U.S., including the Great Basin and Intermountain West.

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