Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - October 13, 2023

In the West, cool, dry weather prevails. Freeze warnings are in effect early today in several areas, mainly from the eastern Great Basin to the central Rockies. Widespread freezes were also noted as far south as northern Arizona. Despite the cool weather, autumn fieldwork is proceeding with few delays. On October 8, Northwestern winter wheat planting ranged from 41% complete in Oregon to 77 percent in Washington.

On the Plains, cool, showery weather in Nebraska and the Dakotas is slowing or halting fieldwork. In those areas still receiving rain, today’s high temperatures should generally range from 45 to 55°F. Meanwhile, high winds are developing across the central Plains, where today’s peak wind gusts could range from 60 to 70 mph. Across the southern Plains, the arrival of cooler air is ending a late-season warm spell.

In the Corn Belt, cool, rainy weather has largely halted fieldwork. Warm, dry conditions linger for a final day, however, in the Ohio Valley, where today’s high temperatures will range from 75 to 80°F. Until the rain arrived, producers had been harvesting at a rapid pace, with 43% of U.S. soybeans and 34% of the corn cut by October 8.

In the South, cloudy, damp weather lingers across the southern Atlantic region, while a few thunderstorms dot southern Florida. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather favors fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. Today’s high temperatures will top 90°F in southern sections of Texas and Florida.

Outlook: Scattered showers across southern Florida will end by Sunday. Meanwhile, a sprawling storm system across the northern U.S. will drift eastward, reaching the middle Atlantic Coast during the weekend. Additional rainfall could reach 1 to 2 inches from the upper Mississippi Valley eastward. Following the storm’s departure, tranquil weather will cover much of the country, although chilly weather across the eastern half of the U.S. will contrast with rising temperatures in the West. During the weekend and early next week, some precipitation will return across the Pacific Northwest, although only light showers will reach east of the Cascades. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 18 – 22 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures and near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country. Late-season warmth will be particularly impressive in the West, while cooler-than-normal conditions will be confined to the Southeast. Meanwhile, wetter-than-normal weather should be limited to southeastern Georgia, much of Florida, and the western Gulf Coast region.

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