Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - January 14, 2022

- In the **West**, mild, dry weather prevails. However, some air stagnation is occurring across the *interior Northwest*, leading to the formation of locally dense fog. Some fog has also developed in *California’s San Joaquin Valley*. With 11 weeks left until the *Western* winter wheat season unofficially ends (on April 1), additional precipitation will soon be needed to sustain the improvements in snowpack and soil moisture that occurred during December. Currently, the *Sierra Nevada* snowpack contains an average of 16 inches of liquid, about 130% of the mid-January average but less than 60% of the normal value for April 1, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

- On the **Plains**, most areas are experiencing mild, windy weather. In fact, an elevated wildfire threat exists today across the parched *southern High Plains*, including much of *western Texas*. Farther north, however, snowy, breezy weather has developed in parts of the *Dakotas*, leading to difficult travel conditions and increased stress on livestock.

- In the **Corn Belt**, snow is engulfing the *upper Midwest*, accompanied by breezy conditions and falling temperatures. The harshest conditions, extending southeastward from *eastern North Dakota*, are resulting in travel disruptions and increased livestock stress. In the *upper Great Lakes region*, today’s high temperatures will remain below 20°F.

- In the **South**, dry weather accompanies near- or above-normal temperatures. Later today, temperatures should reach 75 to 80°F or higher in the *western Gulf Coast region*. Outdoor activities include farm maintenance and preparations for the upcoming winter storm.

**Outlook:** A potent but fast-moving storm system will deliver wind-driven snow while diving southeastward from the *upper Midwest*, reaching the *mid-South* by early Saturday. During the weekend, the intensifying low-pressure system will traverse the *Mississippi Delta*, the *southern Appalachians*, and the *Atlantic Coast States*. In the *East*, significant snow will fall just northwest of the storm’s path, while mixed precipitation will occur closer to the *Atlantic Coast*. Heavy precipitation will linger into Monday across the *Northeast*. Early next week, relatively tranquil weather will prevail nationwide, aside from patchy snow in the *Great Lakes region* and the *Northwest*. A new surge of bitterly cold air could reach the *northern Plains* and *upper Midwest* by the middle of next week. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for January 19 – 23 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures in most areas *east of the Rockies*, while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail in the *Pacific Coast States* and *Desert Southwest*. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across the *West*, *Midwest*, *mid-South*, and *southern half of the Plains* should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions on the *northern half of the Plains*, along and near the *Gulf Coast*, and in the *Atlantic Coast States*.

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