Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - July 28, 2020

- In the West, a disturbance over the northern Intermountain region is generating scattered showers. Much of the remainder of the region is experiencing hot, dry weather. The Northwestern winter wheat harvest is progressing under mostly favorable conditions, led by Oregon, where the harvest was 37% complete on July 26.

- On the Plains, showers and thunderstorms in the vicinity of a cold front are heaviest across parts of Oklahoma and northern Texas. Rangeland, pastures, and summer crops across the southern Plains are benefiting from cooler weather and recent soil moisture improvements. In Texas, for example, 23% of the cotton crop was rated in very poor to poor condition on July 26, compared to 41% very poor to poor just 2 weeks ago.

- In the Corn Belt, dry weather and cooler-than-normal conditions prevail in the wake of a cold front’s passage, maintaining mostly favorable growing conditions. On July 26, nearly three-quarters (72%) of the U.S. corn and soybeans were rated in good to excellent condition, despite lingering pockets of Midwestern dryness and crop stress.

- In the South, disorganized tropical moisture along and near the Gulf Coast continues to generate locally heavy rain. Meanwhile, a cold front entering the northwestern fringe of the region (e.g. Kentucky) is generating a broken line of showers. Other areas of the South are experiencing warm, humid weather. Southern growing conditions remain mostly favorable, with 76% of the U.S. rice and 74% of the peanuts rated in good to excellent condition on July 26.

Outlook: During the next few days, a sharp frontal boundary will develop from the southern Plains to the southern Appalachians. North of the boundary, cool, dry weather will cover the Great Lakes region. Farther south, 5-day rainfall totals could reach 2 to 4 inches or more from central and eastern sections of Kansas and Oklahoma into the middle Atlantic States. Across the Deep South, humid weather will accompany scattered showers. Meanwhile, little or no rain will fall west of the Rockies, where temperatures will rise to significantly above-normal levels. Some of the most intense heat will affect the Southwest, during a lull in monsoon-related shower activity. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 2 – 6 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures along the Atlantic Seaboard and across much of the western half of the U.S., while cooler-than-normal conditions will be limited to the Pacific Northwest and an area stretching from the central Gulf Coast northward into the Corn Belt. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal rainfall across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the western Gulf Coast region and the middle Atlantic States.

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