Agricultural Weather Highlights – Wednesday - November 22, 2023

- In the **West**, rain and snow showers are confined to the **Pacific Northwest**. Elsewhere, dry weather and above-normal temperatures are promoting late-autumn fieldwork, including cotton harvesting in **Arizona** and **California**. **Arizona’s** cotton harvest was 62% complete by November 19, one percentage point behind the 5-year average.

- On the **Plains**, dry weather and near- or above-normal temperatures favor late-season fieldwork, including sunflower harvesting. By November 19, more than three-quarters (78%) of the U.S. sunflowers had been harvested, equal to the 5-year average. Later today, high temperatures will reach 60°F or higher as far north as **South Dakota**.

- In the **Corn Belt**, mild, dry weather has returned, following recent rainfall. However, fieldwork is on hold for a few days in areas where the heaviest rain fell, especially from the **Ohio Valley into the lower Great Lakes region**. In **Michigan**, 67% of the corn and 92% of the soybeans had been harvested by November 19.

- In the **South**, lingering showers are confined to the **southern Atlantic States**. The November 20-22 **Southern** rain event postponed fieldwork but provided desperately needed moisture for pastures, winter grains, and cover crops. On November 19, prior to rain, pastures were rated 41 to 69% very poor to poor in ten **Southern States**. Additionally, the rain has greatly reduced the threat of wildfires; **Southern** fires have charred thousands of acres of vegetation in recent weeks. One of the largest blazes, the Matts Creek Fire, has burned more than 11,000 acres near **Big Island, Virginia**.

**Outlook:** Lingering precipitation in the **East**, including some snow in **northern sections of New York and New England**, will largely end later today. The remainder of the country should experience tranquil weather during the next several days, with a few exceptions. Notably, a disturbance diving southward from **western Canada** will generate snow for **Thanksgiving Day** in the **northern and central Rockies**, as well as neighboring areas. The weekend after Thanksgiving should feature no major storms, although some light precipitation may fall from the **central and southern Plains into the lower Midwest and Northeast**. Meanwhile, temperatures will trend lower across much of the country during the next several days, although no frigid weather will occur. However, by Saturday, November 25, high temperatures may remain below 32°F as far south as the **central High Plains**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for November 27 – December 1 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures and precipitation across most of the country. Warmer-than-normal weather will be confined to **southern Florida** and areas along the **Pacific Coast**, as well as the nation’s **northern tier from Washington to Montana**. Meanwhile, wetter-than-normal conditions should be limited to the **Deep South**, from the southern half of Texas to the southern Atlantic Coast.

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