Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday - September 10, 2020

- In the **West**, an elevated threat of wildfires persists in several areas, including northern California and western Oregon, despite slowly diminishing winds. However, existing wildfires may continue to exhibit erratic and extreme behavior due to locally gusty winds, low humidity levels, and abundant dry fuels. In addition, poor air quality remains a concern in portions of the Pacific Coast States, especially downwind of large fires. Farther inland, freeze warnings are in effect early today in parts of the northern Great Basin, while snow showers linger across the central and southern Rockies.

- On the **Plains**, below-normal temperatures prevail. In fact, widespread frost and freezes occurred this morning in South Dakota, Wyoming, and western Nebraska. Meanwhile, rain lingers on the eastern Plains, extending southward from eastern Nebraska. Some rain is also falling on the southern High Plains. On September 6, prior to the recent precipitation, topsoil moisture on the Plains rated very short to short ranged from 42% in North Dakota to 80% in Colorado.

- In the **Corn Belt**, frost was reported early today across parts of the upper Midwest, generally stretching from South Dakota to the area surrounding Lake Superior. In vulnerable areas of the Red River Valley and environs, where summer crops were planted late and therefore are less mature, this morning’s temperatures were not nearly as low as those observed on September 9, when a widespread freeze occurred. Elsewhere, a chilly rain continues to provide drought relief in Iowa and portions of neighboring states, although the boost in soil moisture is mostly too late for corn.

- In the **South**, locally heavy showers continue along and near the middle and southern Atlantic Coast. Some rain is also occurring in the western Gulf Coast region. Elsewhere, dry weather favors harvesting and other early-autumn fieldwork.

**Outlook**: During the next few days, temperatures will gradually rebound to near-normal levels across the Plains, Midwest, and Intermountain West. In fact, hot weather will return across the Northwest, with late-season heat expanding to encompass the remainder of the western U.S., as well as the northern Plains, late in the weekend and early next week. During the next 5 days, mostly dry weather will prevail in the Far West, aside from the arrival of a few showers early next week in the Pacific Northwest. Meanwhile, dry weather will return across the Plains and Midwest, as precipitation shifts into the southern and eastern U.S. By early next week, shower activity will be mostly limited to the South. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 15 – 19 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in parts of western Texas and southeastern New Mexico. Meanwhile, wetter-than-normal weather in the Pacific Northwest and from the Gulf Coast northward into the Ohio Valley should contrast with near- or below-normal precipitation across the remainder of the country.

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