Agricultural Weather Highlights – Monday - July 25, 2022

- In the **West**, several dangerous wildfires are actively burning. Among the most prominent blazes is the Oak Fire, which has charred more than 15,000 acres of vegetation near Yosemite National Park in California. In Idaho, the Moose Fire has scorched more than 32,000 acres of timber, brush, and grass. Hot, dry weather continues across much of the region, but cooler conditions and scattered showers have returned in parts of the **Southwest**.

- On the **Plains**, an impressive, mid-summer heat wave has broken as far south as northern Kansas. However, ongoing hot, dry conditions across Oklahoma and Texas are maintaining significant stress on rangeland, pastures, and summer crops. Elsewhere, scattered showers and pleasant temperatures across the northern Plains are aiding spring-sown crops.

- In the **Corn Belt**, below-normal temperatures are benefiting reproductive to filling summer crops. Today’s Midwestern high temperatures should generally range from 75 to 85°F. In addition, showers and thunderstorms have developed across the southwestern Corn Belt, following the recent heat wave that resulted in some of the hottest weather in a decade. For example, Columbia, Missouri, attained 105°F on July 23, representing the highest reading in that location since July 2012, when there were 8 days with temperatures reaching 105°F or greater.

- In the **South**, hot, humid weather prevails. The most significant heat, relative to normal, stretches from the western Gulf Coast region to the Mississippi Delta, where afternoon temperatures above 100°F will occur at some inland locations. Early today, showers and thunderstorms developing across portions of the Tennessee Valley are aiding pastures and summer crops that have been stressed by heat and short-term dryness.

**Outlook:** A well-established atmospheric connection between the Southwestern monsoon circulation and a series of Northern cold fronts will contribute to widespread showers and thunderstorms during the next few days. In fact, 5-day rainfall totals could reach 1 to 3 inches or more—leading to possible flash flooding—in portions of the Four Corners States and from the central Plains to the central and southern Appalachians. Some of the heaviest rain may fall around the middle of the week from the Ohio Valley into the central Appalachians. However, not all areas will receive precipitation, as hot, mostly dry weather will prevail in the south-central U.S. and the Far West. Only light showers will occur in the northern Corn Belt, although below-normal temperatures should benefit summer crops. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for July 30 – August 3 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in parts of the Desert Southwest. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal rainfall across much of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in a few areas, including parts of Florida and Texas, as well as the northern Plains and from the lower Great Lakes region to New England.

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