Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - November 4, 2022

- In the West, chilly weather prevails between storms. Frost advisories or freeze warnings are in effect early today in several areas, including California’s Sacramento Valley. A new Pacific storm system is already producing unsettled weather—including rain, snow, and high winds—from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. Improved Northwestern soil moisture is benefitting recently planted winter wheat.

- On the Plains, lingering warmth is confined to eastern Oklahoma and much of Texas. Meanwhile, today’s high temperatures will remain below 40°F as far south as the central High Plains, including western Kansas. The return of cold weather, accompanied by unfavorable dryness, continues to limit emergence and establishment of the 2023 winter wheat crop. On October 30, only 62% of the U.S. winter wheat had emerged, trailing the 5-year average of 66%. Early today, showers and a few thunderstorms have erupted across the east-central Plains, providing a local boost in topsoil moisture.

- In the Corn Belt, showers in the vicinity of a cold front extend southwestward from the upper Great Lakes region. The rain is slowing fieldwork in the western Corn Belt, although harvesting of corn and soybeans remains well ahead of the average pace. Amid ongoing warmth, harvest activities continue in the eastern Corn Belt. Today’s high temperatures will range from near 40°F in parts of the upper Midwest to 80°F or higher in the middle Mississippi and lower Ohio Valleys.

- In the South, warm, dry weather ideal for autumn fieldwork, including winter wheat planting and cotton, peanut, and soybean harvesting. Today’s high temperatures could approach or reach 90°F in southern sections of Florida and Texas.

Outlook: An active storm track will maintain showery weather across much of the country, although little, if any, precipitation will fall during the next 5 days across the East and the High Plains. However, late in the weekend and early next week, shower activity may begin to increase along the southern Atlantic Coast. Five-day precipitation totals could reach 1 to 3 inches in several regions, including parts of the upper Midwest, mid-South, and lower Mississippi Valley. Similar or higher amounts may occur in the Sierra Nevada, northern Intermountain West, and from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. Cold weather will accompany the Western storminess, with sub-zero temperatures expected early next week in western Montana and environs. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for November 9 – 13 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures across the eastern half of the U.S., while colder-than-normal conditions will cover the northern Plains and the West. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in a few areas, including the lower Mississippi Valley, western Gulf Coast region, and portions of the Southwest.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)
Web Site: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TODAYSWX.pdf