Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday - November 9, 2023

- In the **West**, cool, dry weather prevails in advance of an approaching **Pacific** storm system. The dry conditions favor fieldwork, including cotton harvesting in **Arizona** (44% complete by November 5) and **California** (35% complete). Meanwhile, an elevated wildfire threat exists in parts of **southern California**, amid a spell of gusty, offshore winds.

- On the **Plains**, cooler weather prevails in the wake of a cold front’s passage. Today’s high temperatures will range from near 35°F in **northern North Dakota** to 60°F or higher across portions of the **central Plains**. Cloudy weather has arrived across the **southern Plains**, with rain showers developing in some areas. The rain is slowing fieldwork but benefiting rangeland, pastures, and winter wheat, especially in drier areas of **Texas**. In late October, nearly two-thirds (62%) of the rangeland and pastures in **Texas** were rated in very poor to poor condition.

- In the **Corn Belt**, dry weather favors late-season harvest efforts. By November 5, the **Midwestern** soybean harvest ranged from 70% complete in **Michigan** to 95% or greater in **Illinois**, **Iowa**, **Minnesota**, **Nebraska**, and the **Dakotas**. Despite recent precipitation, topsoil moisture was still rated at least one-half very short to short on November 5 in **Iowa** (55%) and **Nebraska** (50%).

- In the **South**, generally beneficial rain showers are spreading eastward from **Texas**. Early today, light rain is falling as far east as the **Mississippi Delta**. On November 7, prior to this rain event, the **U.S. Drought Monitor** indicated that 88 percent of **Louisiana** was experiencing extreme to exceptional drought (D3 to D4), along with 86 percent of **Mississippi**, 43 percent of **Tennessee**, and 38 percent of **Alabama**.

**Outlook:** Any lingering rain and snow showers across the **Great Lakes and Northeastern States** will largely end later today. Meanwhile, a cold front crossing the **southern and eastern U.S.** will become more active while entraining disorganized moisture from the tropics. Over the next several days, an axis of rain stretching from **Texas to the southern Appalachians** will reduce the wildfire threat and benefit emerging winter grains and cover crops. Most areas will receive no more than 1 to 2 inches of rain, but 5-day totals could top 4 inches in **coastal Texas**. Meanwhile, most of the remainder of the country—including large sections of the **Plains**, **Midwest**, and **West**—will experience dry weather. However, periods of rain and high-elevation snow will continue to spread inland along the **northern Pacific Coast**, with most of the precipitation advancing no further than the **Cascades**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for November 14 – 18 calls for near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, with the greatest likelihood of warmer-than-normal weather covering the **Plains** and **Midwest**. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation from the **northern Plains to the northern and middle Atlantic Coast** should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in **peninsular Florida**, the **southern High Plains**, and the **West**, excluding areas near the **Canadian border**.

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