Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - May 18, 2021

- In the **West**, a mix of rain and snow lingers across the **central Rockies**. Elsewhere, hot weather in the **Desert Southwest** contrasts with the return of below-normal temperatures in the **Pacific Northwest**. A few showers, primarily from the **Cascades westward**, accompany the cooler weather in the **Northwest**. Short-term dryness persists, however, across the **interior Northwest**, where 55% of **Oregon**’s winter wheat was rated in very poor to poor condition on May 16.

- On the **Plains**, showers and thunderstorms across the **southern half of the region** are limiting fieldwork but benefiting rangeland, pastures, winter wheat, and spring-sown crops. Conversely, worsening drought remains a concern across the **northern Plains**; on May 16, topsoil moisture was rated 81% very short to short in **North Dakota**, along with 63% in **South Dakota** and 58% in **Montana**.

- In the **Corn Belt**, a few rain showers are occurring in the **middle Mississippi and lower Ohio Valleys**. Meanwhile in the **northern Corn Belt**, mild, dry weather continues to promote a rapid planting pace. During the week ending May 16, at least one-fifth of the corn and more than one-quarter of the soybeans were planted in **Wisconsin** and the **Dakotas**.

- In the **South**, a multi-day rain event is underway across the **western half of the Gulf Coast region**. Some rivers in the region are already running high from earlier precipitation; rain has the potential to worsen existing flooding and spark new water rises. Meanwhile, dry weather in the **Southeast** favors fieldwork but is reducing soil moisture. On May 16, topsoil moisture was rated at least one-third very short to short in **Virginia** (42%), **North Carolina** (38%), and **Florida** (34%).

**Outlook:** Heavy rain will remain a threat for much of the week across the **south-central U.S.** During the next 5 days, additional rainfall in **eastern Texas** and environs could reach 4 to 8 inches or more, leading to widespread flooding. Locally heavy showers will extend eastward into the **middle and lower Mississippi Valley**, but little or no rain will fall during the next 5 days across the **eastern U.S.** During the second half of the week, increasingly showery weather across the **North** could result in 1- to 2-inch precipitation totals from the **northern Rockies into the upper Great Lakes region**, potentially resulting in limited drought relief. Markedly cooler weather will accompany the **Northern** precipitation, while hot weather will shift into the **eastern one-third of the country**. Starting on Wednesday, late-season snow may blanket the **northern Rockies** and adjacent **High Plains**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 23 – 27 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures across most of the **central and eastern U.S.**, while cooler-than-normal conditions will prevail in **southern Texas** and throughout the **West**. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation in much of the **South, East**, and **West** should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather across the **northern Plains, upper Midwest**, and portions of the **central and southern Plains**.

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