Agricultural Weather Highlights – Tuesday - July 26, 2022

- In the **West**, the **Southwestern** monsoon circulation remains active, resulting in numerous showers in the **Four Corners States** and environs. Hot, dry weather covers the remainder of the **western U.S.** Notably, **Northwestern** heat is promoting winter wheat maturation and harvesting, as well as rapid summer crop development.

- On the **Plains**, crop-withering heat continues as far north as the **southern tier of Kansas**. On July 24, **Texas** led the U.S.—among major production states—in very poor to poor ratings for rangeland and pastures (89%), corn (42%), sorghum (36%), and peanuts (11%). Across the **northern half of the Plains**, pleasant temperatures accompany scattered showers. However, lack of soil moisture remains a concern in portions of all the region’s states except **North Dakota**.

- In the **Corn Belt**, thunderstorms from **northern Missouri into the lower Ohio Valley** are mostly benefiting summer crops but in extreme cases are triggering local flooding. Early today, some of the most significant flash flooding stretches from **northeastern Missouri into southern Illinois**, where overnight rainfall ranged from 2 to 6 inches or more. The remainder of the **Midwest** is experiencing below-normal temperatures and spotty showers.

- In the **South**, hot, humid conditions remain in place. In fact, extreme heat (high temperatures of 100°F or greater) persists in non-coastal locations from the **western Gulf Coast region into the mid-South**, with adverse impacts on pastures and a variety of summer crops. On July 24, **Arkansas** led the region with topsoil moisture rated 91% very short to short, and with pastures rated 75% in very poor to poor condition.

**Outlook:** A sprawling ridge of high pressure will retreat into the **South**, where hot, humid conditions will persist. Along the northern periphery of the ridge, a west-to-east band of locally heavy showers and thunderstorms will stretch from the **central Plains to the middle Atlantic Coast**. Within that band, 5-day rainfall totals could reach 2 to 6 inches, with higher amounts possible in the **Tennessee and lower Ohio Valleys**. Flash flooding will remain a significant threat in areas where the heaviest rain occurs. In contrast, little or no rain will fall for the remainder of the week across the **southern Plains** and the **Far West**, while only spotty showers will occur from the **northern Plains into the Northeast**. However, relatively cool weather will accompany the **Northern** dryness. Elsewhere, the **Southwestern** monsoon circulation will remain active across the **Four Corners States**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for July 31 – August 4 calls for the likelihood of near- or above temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in the **Desert Southwest**. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal rainfall across the **West** and much of the **eastern U.S.** should contrast with drier-than-normal weather across the **Plains** and northern and western **Corn Belt**, as well as the **Northeast** and portions of the **Gulf Coast region**.

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