Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - December 1, 2023

- In the West, stormy weather has returned along the northern Pacific Coast, with rain and snow showers extending inland as far east as the northern Rockies and northern Intermountain West. Northwestern precipitation continues to boost soil moisture for winter wheat and other fall-sown crops.

- On the Plains, dry weather prevails. Today’s high temperatures will remain below 40°F throughout the northern and central Plains, although such readings are not unusual for this time of year. Meanwhile, drought impacts linger in Texas, despite recent precipitation. For example, 58% of the rangeland and pastures in Texas were rated in very poor to poor condition on November 26.

- In the Corn Belt, rain is halting late-season fieldwork, mainly east of the Mississippi River. In Michigan, 79% of the corn and 96% of the soybeans had been harvested by November 26. On that date, more than one-tenth of the corn was also still standing in Wisconsin (85% harvested) and Ohio (86%). Farther west, some wet snow is falling early today in southern Iowa and environs.

- In the South, rain has mostly moved east of the Mississippi River, although thunderstorms linger near the central Gulf Coast. Meanwhile, dry weather accompanies lingering warmth in the western Gulf Coast region. With the Southern drought beginning to ease, positive impacts include a reduced wildfire threat and improved moisture levels for pastures, winter grains, and cover crops.

Outlook: Mild weather will cover much of the country during the next several days, with sub-freezing maximum temperatures largely limited to higher elevations of the West and across the nation’s northern tier from the Red River Valley of the North to northern New England. Meanwhile, multiple disturbances arriving along the northern Pacific Coast will maintain stormy Northwestern conditions, with 5-day precipitation totals expected to locally total 5 to 10 inches or more. Somewhat lighter precipitation will extend inland to the northern and central Rockies. In contrast, dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days in central and southern California and the Desert Southwest, as well as large sections of the nation’s mid-section. Elsewhere, Eastern showers will linger through the weekend, with some wet snow expected in the Midwest. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for December 6 – 10 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures from the Pacific Coast to the western slopes of the Appalachians, while cooler-than-normal conditions will be confined to portions of the Atlantic Coast States, including Florida’s peninsula and coastal New England. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across much of the country, including the Midwest, Southwest, East, and central and southern Plains, should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in northern California, southern Texas, the northern Plains, and the Northwest.

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Web Site: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TODAYSWWX.pdf

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