Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - July 7, 2023

- In the **West**, hot, dry weather prevails in the **Southwest** and from the **Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies**. Today’s high temperatures will approach 100°F as far north as **eastern Washington**. **Northwestern** heat and dryness are promoting winter wheat maturation but are adversely affecting some spring-sown small grains.

- On the **Plains**, hot weather is confined to parts of **Texas**, where diminishing moisture reserves are increasing stress on rangeland, pastures, and summer crops. Below-normal temperatures, accompanied by scattered thunderstorms, cover the remainder of the **Plains**. Some of the strongest storms continue to emerge from the **central High Plains**, where impacts include winter wheat harvest delays and localized wind and hail damage.

- In the **Corn Belt**, any rain is confined to **western corn and soybean production areas**, mainly across **Nebraska** and **South Dakota**. Near- or below-normal temperatures prevail throughout the **Midwest**, with the coolest weather affecting the **western Corn Belt**. Cool weather is favorable for **Midwestern** summer crops entering the reproductive stage of development, but pockets of drought remain. On July 2, **Missouri** led the U.S. with topsoil moisture rated 80% very short to short, followed by **Wisconsin** at 74%.

- In the **South**, warm, humid weather continues to promote pasture growth and a rapid pace of crop development. Although most areas have adequate soil moisture, emerging dryness is a concern in the **western Gulf Coast region**. Disorganized showers are occurring in several areas, mainly near the **Gulf Coast**.

**Outlook:** During the weekend and early next week, heat will intensify across **Texas** and environs. By Monday, triple-digit (100°F) temperatures will be common across **western, central, and southern Texas**. General warmth will cover much of the remainder of the country, with high temperatures by early next week briefly rising to 90°F or higher across large sections of the **Plains** and **western Corn Belt**. Meanwhile, a series of fast-moving cold fronts crossing the **Plains, Midwest, South, and East** will generate scattered showers and thunderstorms, with 5-day rainfall totals of 1 to 3 inches possible from the **central Plains into the Southeast** and along the **Atlantic Seaboard**. However, much of **Texas** will remain dry, while the **northern Corn Belt** may receive only light rain. Elsewhere, dry weather will also cover much of the **western U.S.**, as the **Southwest** continues to await the onset of monsoon-related rainfall. The **NWS 6- to 10-day outlook** for July 12 – 16 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures in **New England** and throughout the **southern and western U.S.**, while cooler-than-normal conditions will cover the **northern Plains** and the **Midwest**. Meanwhile, above-normal rainfall across the **Midwest, mid-South, northern and central Plains**, and **Northeast** should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in most areas from the **Pacific Coast to the western Gulf Coast region**.

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