Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday - June 24, 2021

• In the **West**, cloudiness accompanies isolated showers across the **Intermountain region**. Meanwhile in the **Northwest**, where temperatures have begun to climb, producers who have been monitoring deteriorating rangeland and dryland crop conditions in recent weeks are bracing for a record-setting heat wave that is expected to peak early next week.

• On the **Plains**, slightly cooler air is overspreading **Montana** and the **Dakotas**, although today’s high temperatures could still reach or exceed 90°F. Meanwhile, hot weather (temperatures approaching 100°F) across the southern half of the **Plains** continues to promote winter wheat maturation and harvesting. Overnight thunderstorms, locally severe, dotted the **central Plains**, but ongoing drought across the **northern Plains** is maintaining substantial crop stress.

• In the **Corn Belt**, overnight thunderstorms west of the Mississippi River produced heavy rain, along with isolated wind and hail damage. In **Nebraska**, overnight wind gusts were clocked to 84 mph near **Albion** and 66 mph in **Omaha**. Meanwhile in the eastern **Corn Belt**, warm, dry weather is promoting a rapid pace of corn and soybean development.

• In the **South**, lingering showers are mostly limited to **Florida’s peninsula**. The remainder of the region is experiencing favorably dry weather and pleasant temperatures, although heat is starting to build across the western **Gulf Coast region**.

**Outlook**: A period of significant storminess is underway across the **Midwest**, with the first major round of rain occurring today. During the next 5 days, the axis of heaviest rain (locally 4 to 10 inches) will likely stretch from the east-central Plains into the lower **Great Lakes region**, cutting across northern **Missouri**, southeastern **Iowa**, northern and central **Illinois**, northern **Indiana**, and southern **Lower Michigan**. Some of the rain will be accompanied by strong winds, large hail, and isolated tornadoes. Lowland flooding is expected to develop in some of the hardest-hit **Midwestern** areas. In contrast, only light showers should occur in drought-affected areas of the northern **Plains** and far upper **Midwest**. Mostly dry weather will also prevail in the **Far West**, while meaningful rain across the Deep South will be mostly limited to **Florida** and areas along the **Gulf Coast**. The western U.S. dryness will be accompanied by blazing heat, particularly in the **Northwest**. Relatively cool weather will prevail, however, across the central and southern **Plains** and the **Midwest**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for June 29 – July 3 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures throughout the northern and western U.S., while cooler-than-normal conditions will cover an area stretching from the southern Rockies into the **Southeast**, including the middle and lower **Mississippi Valley**. Meanwhile, below-normal rainfall from the Pacific Northwest to the northern **Plains** and upper **Midwest** should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather across the **South**, **East**, and lower **Midwest**.

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*The outlook is an interpretation of National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts and products.*

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