Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - November 26, 2021

- In the West, showery weather has returned across the Pacific Northwest and the northern Rockies. The remainder of the region is experiencing mild, dry weather. In parts of southern California, an elevated wildfire threat persists due to gusty, offshore winds, low humidity levels, and receptive fuels.

- On the Plains, mild, dry weather continues to promote late-autumn fieldwork but reduce soil moisture for winter wheat establishment. By November 21, harvesting of many crops—including sorghum (94% complete, nationally) and sunflowers (90% complete)—was entering its final stages. Meanwhile, soil moisture shortages for winter wheat are particularly acute in Montana and across the southern half of the High Plains, from eastern Colorado to western Texas.

- In the Corn Belt, chilly, breezy conditions—accompanied by snow showers—dominate the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes region. Today’s high temperatures will remain below 32°F in portions of the Great Lakes States, where some producers are still trying to complete corn and soybean harvesting. Meanwhile, mild weather prevails in the western Corn Belt; today’s temperatures will reach 60°F or higher in much of Nebraska.

- In the South, a cold front near the Atlantic Seaboard is producing a few rain showers. Chilly air trailing the front will hold today’s high temperatures below 45°F in much of Kentucky and Tennessee. Despite the cool conditions, producers are making good harvest progress on soybeans. However, the Louisiana sugarcane harvest—51% complete on November 21, versus the 5-year average of 58%—is proceeding at a slower-than-normal pace, in part due to lingering impacts, including lodged stalks, from Hurricane Ida, nearly 3 months ago.

Outlook: Much of the country will continue to experience tranquil weather through the post-Thanksgiving weekend, with a few exceptions. In the Pacific Northwest, for example, precipitation will intensify on Saturday, leading to the possibility of flooding in already soggy sections of western Washington. Farther east, a departing storm system will produce some late-week snow in the Northeast and downwind of the Great Lakes, with some of the most significant accumulations expected later today and tonight across northern sections of New York and New England. Meanwhile, freezes may occur on Saturday morning as far south as northern Florida and southern Alabama. Elsewhere, some weekend rain showers should fall in the western Gulf Coast region. By early week, dry weather will cover much of the country, although mild weather in most areas will contrast with chilly conditions in the Midwest and East. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for December 1 – 5 calls for near- or below-normal temperatures in the lower Great Lakes region and the Atlantic Coast States, while warmer-than-normal weather will cover the remainder of the U.S. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in a small area near the Canadian border from Washington to Montana.

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