Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - April 2, 2021

- In the **West**, warm, dry weather continues. Except in the **central Rockies**, snowpack deficiencies are widespread across the **southern two-thirds of the western U.S.**, extending as far north as **southern sections of Idaho and Oregon**. In those areas with meager mountain snowpack, particularly from **California to the southern Rockies**, poor spring runoff could lead to inadequate reservoir recharge and potential water-supply shortages.

- On the **Plains**, warm, breezy conditions are promoting spring fieldwork and winter wheat development. However, the warmth and wind, combined with low humidity levels and abundant cured grasses, are leading to an elevated threat of wildfires. In addition, significant soil moisture shortages exist across the **northern Plains** and parts of **Texas**.

- In the **Corn Belt**, chilly conditions linger **east of the Mississippi River**, where this morning’s low temperatures generally ranged from 20 to 30°F. In contrast, warm, breezy conditions are developing across the **western Corn Belt**. Later today, high temperatures in the **middle Missouri Valley** will range from 70 to 80°F.

- In the **South**, freezes occurred this morning as far south as **central Georgia** and **northern sections of Alabama and Mississippi**, threatening some blooming fruits, nursery stock, and emerging summer crops. Hard freezes (temperatures of 28°F or below) were observed in parts of the **interior Southeast**, including **eastern sections of Kentucky and Tennessee**. **Crossville, Tennessee**, noted a daily-record low temperature of 24°F this morning. Dry weather throughout the region favors fieldwork, except in areas still recovering from lowland flooding.

**Outlook**: Across the country, little precipitation will occur during the next several days, although record-setting warmth in the **nation’s mid-section** will contrast with lingering cool conditions in the **East** and a slow transition to cooler weather in the **West**. Heat will persist into early next week, however, in the **Desert Southwest**, where some low-elevation sites may experience temperatures of 100°F or greater. On the **Plains**, weekend temperatures could approach 90°F as far north as **South Dakota**. Early next week, a storm system will cross the **northern Pacific Coast**, delivering cooler weather and widespread showers in the **Northwest**. By Tuesday, drought-easing showers may develop across portions of the **northern Plains**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for April 7 – 11 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions along and near the **Pacific Coast**. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather across portions of the **northern Plains** and from the **Ohio and Tennessee Valleys into the middle Atlantic States**.

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