Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - August 14, 2020

- In the **West**, mostly dry weather accompanies intensifying heat. In **southern California**, more than a half-dozen wildfires—including the 11,000-acre Lake Fire—are actively burning. More than three dozen wildfires, in various stages of containment, are burning in other areas of the **West**; among the largest is the 69,000-acre Pine Gulch Fire, north of **Grand Junction, Colorado**. Meanwhile in the **Northwest**, conditions remain favorable for small grain harvesting.

- On the **Plains**, thunderstorms in the **Dakotas** are causing temporary small grain harvest delays. Meanwhile, very hot weather persists across portions of the **southern Plains**. On Thursday, daily-record high temperatures soared to 107°F in **Lubbock, Texas**, and **Roswell, New Mexico**; **Roswell** achieved a high of 100°F or greater each day from August 6-13.

- In the **Corn Belt**, locally heavy rain is falling early today in the **upper Great Lakes region** and the **lower Ohio Valley**. Elsewhere, mild, dry weather prevails. Damage assessments and storm-recovery operations continue in the wake of Monday’s high-wind event, which swept through **Iowa** (and portions of neighboring states) with straight-line wind gusts locally exceeding 100 mph.

- In the **South**, a warm, humid, showery weather pattern remains in place from the **Mississippi Delta to the southern Atlantic Coast**. In addition, showers and thunderstorms are occurring early today in parts of **Arkansas**. Meanwhile, hot, dry weather in the **western Gulf Coast region** continues to promote rice harvesting and other late-summer fieldwork.

**Outlook**: Hot, mostly dry weather will dominate the **western half of the country** into next week. **Western** heat, coupled with low humidity levels, locally gusty winds, and possible lightning strikes, could lead to a further increase in wildfire activity. Meanwhile, cool, dry air will gradually become entrenched across much of the **eastern half of the U.S.**. Warm, humid, showery weather will linger, however, in the **middle and southern Atlantic States**, where additional rainfall could total 1 to 3 inches or more. By early next week, dry weather will prevail nearly nationwide, except for persistent showers in the **Southeast**. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 19 – 23 calls for near- or below-normal temperatures across much of the **eastern half of the U.S.**, while hotter-than-normal conditions will cover **southern Florida, New England**, and an area from the **Pacific Coast to the High Plains**. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal rainfall across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in **southern sections of California and Texas**, parts of the **Pacific Northwest**, and the **middle and southern Atlantic States**.

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