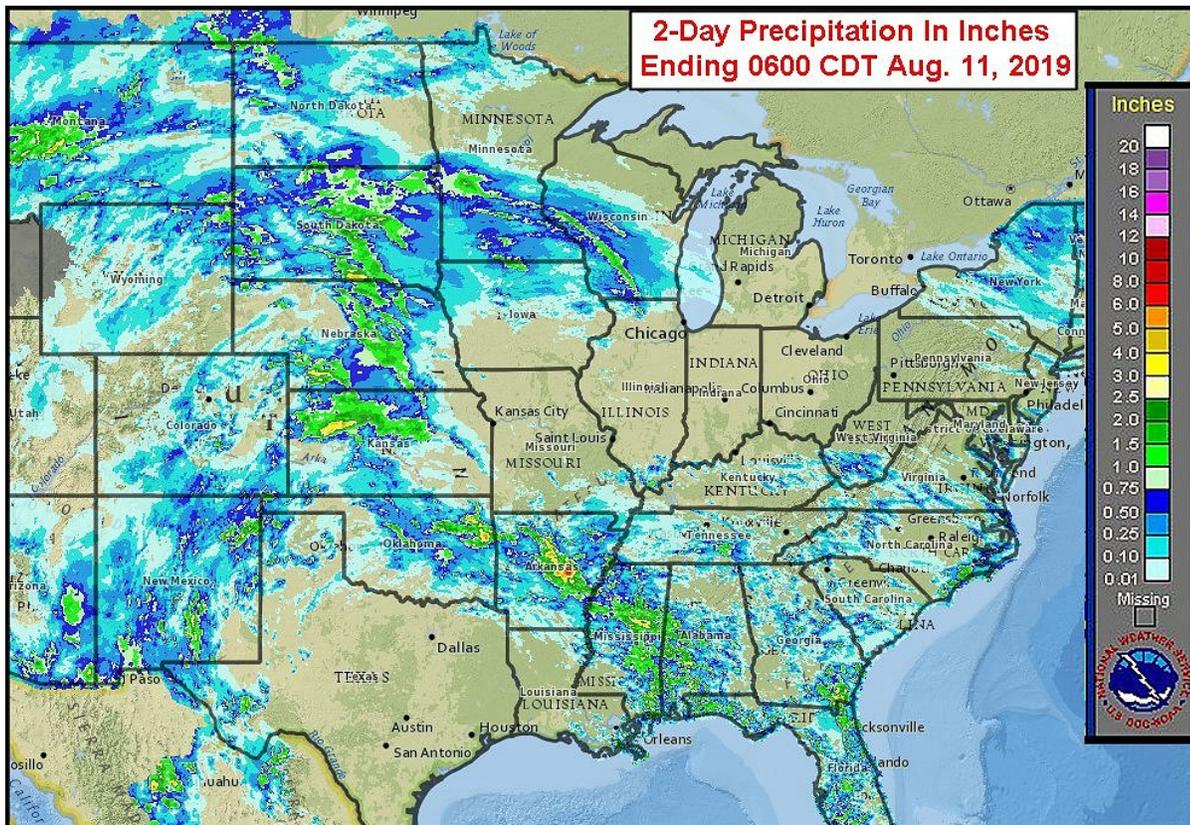


Central U.S. Midwest Faces Another Week Of Poor Rainfall

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, August 11 (World Weather Inc.) – *Net drying and seasonable temperatures occurred in the heart of the U.S. Midwest Friday into Sunday morning. The region has been struggling for moisture over several weeks and it looks as though the region will continue that struggle for at least another week. Next week's precipitation is advertised only slightly better leaving the region with ongoing moisture and summer crop developmental issues. Any rain would be welcome, but a general soaking seems to be a little doubtful – at least for a while.*

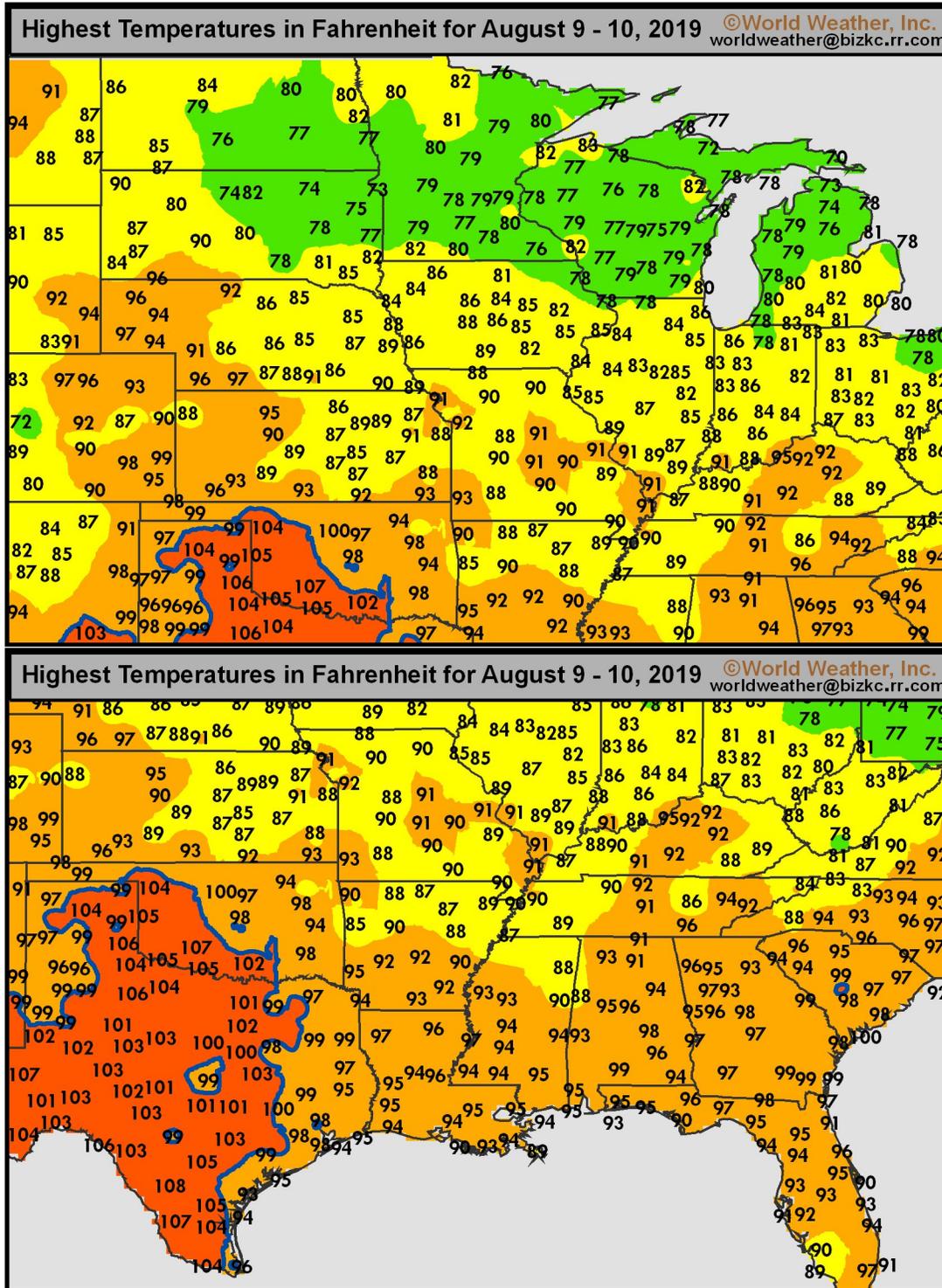


The greatest weekend precipitation – at least through dawn Sunday – was in areas from South Dakota to Wisconsin where 0.10 to 0.75 inch occurred with local totals over 1.00 inch. The precipitation helped to maintain good crop conditions in that part of the upper Midwest. Northern Iowa rainfall was not very great and most other areas from southern Iowa and Missouri to Ohio and much of Kentucky were dry. Rain developed early this morning from eastern Nebraska and northeastern Kansas into northwestern Missouri and some of that rain will also vary from 0.10 to 0.75 inch.

The only other areas of rain during the weekend occurred from central Oklahoma through a large part of Arkansas to central and southern Alabama, in the heart of Nebraska and Kansas and in parts of both the northwestern Plains and the southern Rocky Mountain region. Most of the key cotton, sorghum, corn, peanut, rice and other crop areas of Texas and southern Oklahoma were dry and hot. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms

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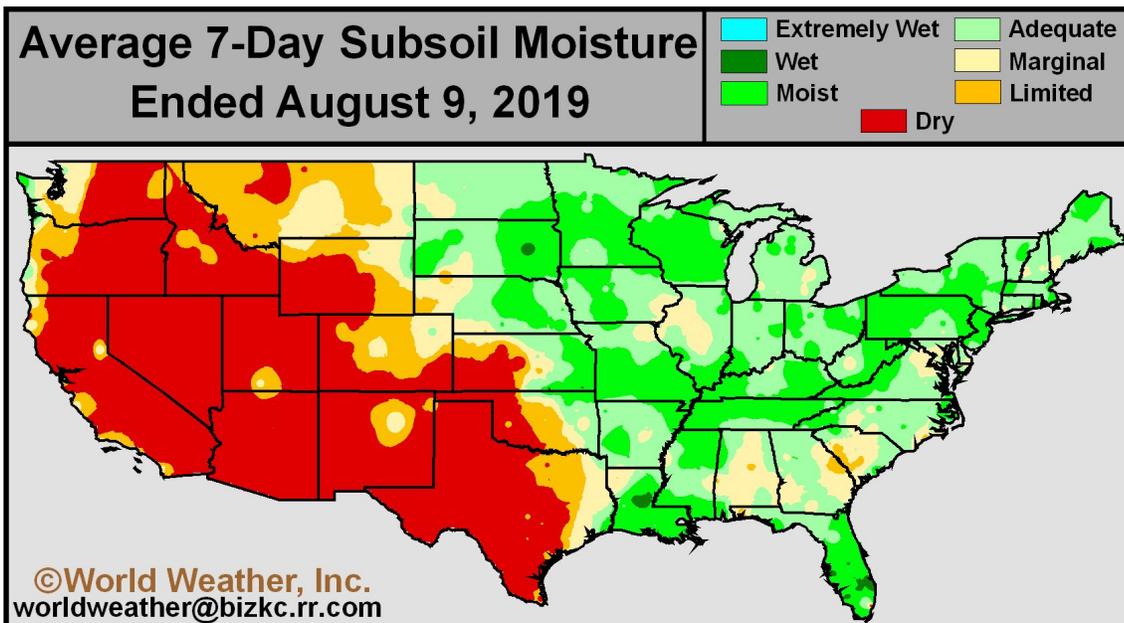
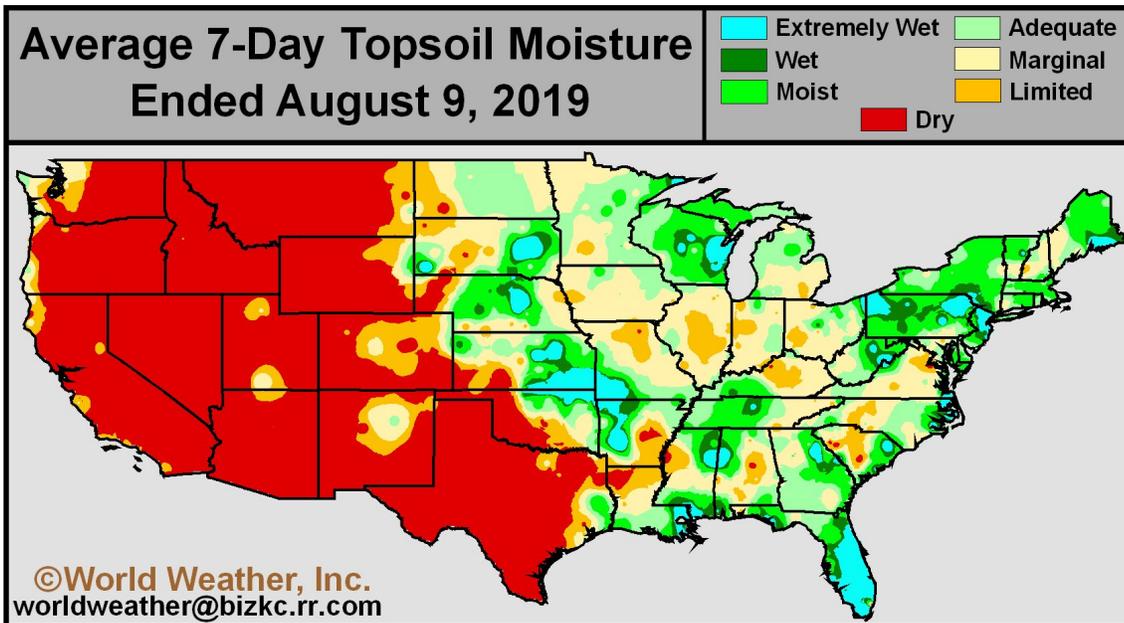
also occurred in the southeastern states where net drying was more than rule than the exception.



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Despite a seasonable range of temperatures in the heart of the Midwest, net drying still occurred, albeit slowly, keeping the need for rain rising because of an ongoing drying trend in the soil that is stressing many crops that got off to a poor start this summer.

Livestock and unirrigated crop stress continued significant in the southern Plains with many areas from western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle into South Texas and northeastern Mexico reporting highest temperatures in the range of 100 to 108 degrees Fahrenheit. Unirrigated crops in the southern Plains have been stressed for a while and yield potentials have been slipping lower as each dry day goes by.

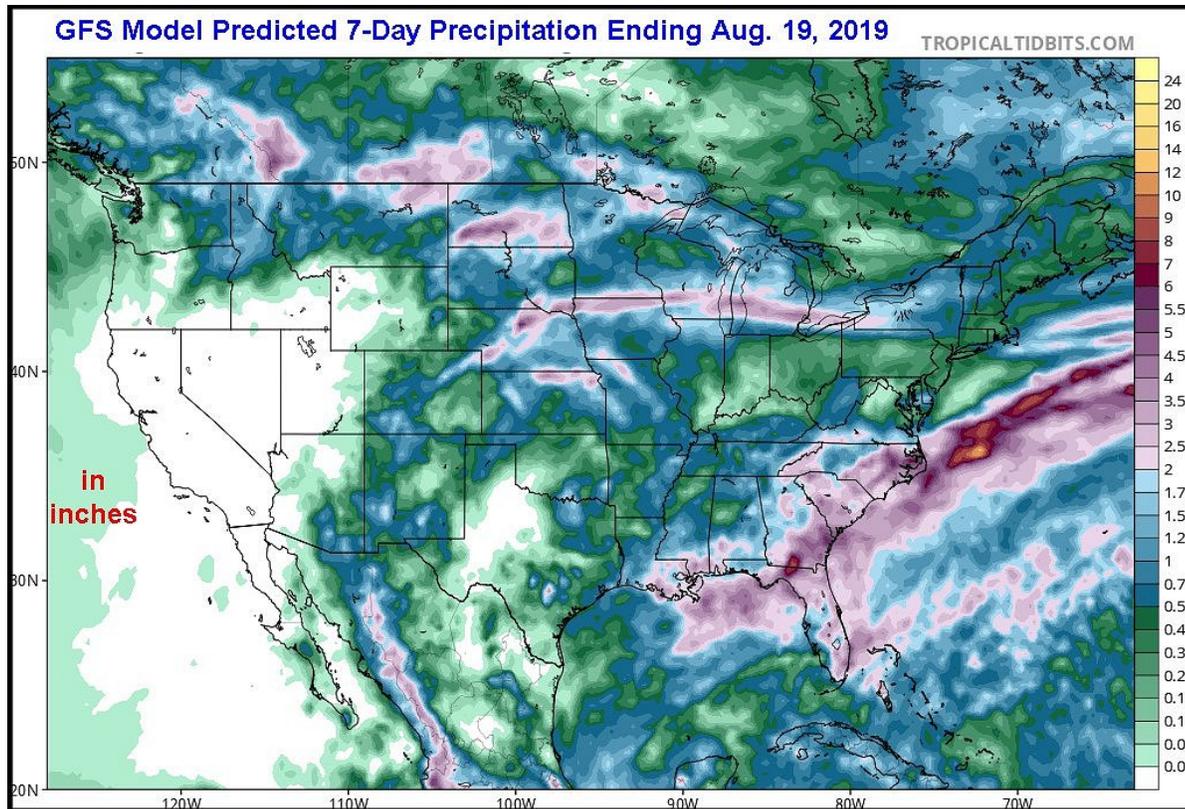


Weather across the United States is stuck in a rut and there is not much opportunity for change this week. Change potentials next week are not very great either. In the seven

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day period ending next Monday, August 19, rain totals will be greatest in the northern and central Plains and northwestern Corn Belt where 0.40 to 1.25 inches is expected with several pockets of 1.25 to 2.00-inch amounts expected. The Dakotas, parts of Minnesota and areas from Nebraska to the southern Great Lakes region will be most favored for the greatest rainfall.

Rain will also scatter across the southeastern states with areas near the Gulf of Mexico and southern Atlantic coasts wettest. A few of the coastal areas will receive their greatest rainfall Friday through next Monday and rain until that period of time will be sporadic and mostly light as it was during the weekend.



There will be potential for some needed rain in the southern Plains this week, but it, too, will be sporadic and incapable of producing significant relief to recent drying. A few pockets of improved topsoil moisture are expected, but the bulk of Texas and Oklahoma will still be looking for significant rainfall. The Texas Panhandle has the best chance for routine rainfall while West, Texas, the Texas Blacklands, southwestern Oklahoma and most of South Texas will experience net drying, despite a few showers and thunderstorms popping up periodically.

The heart of the Midwest will continue struggling for moisture into August 19. Totally dry weather is not expected, but the rain that does fall will be a little too light and sporadic for a serious increase in soil moisture leaving most crops in the region from southeastern Iowa and northeastern Missouri to Ohio and northern Kentucky in need of significant rain.

The northwestern U.S. Plains and southwestern Canada Prairies will receive some needed rain in this coming week, but it will come too late for many crops since recent dry

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and warm weather has been speeding crops toward full maturation. Most of the far western U.S. will be dry over the coming week.

Temperatures in this next seven-day period will be quite similar to those of the past seven days with highs in the 70s and 80s in the northern Plains and upper Midwest and in the 80s and some lower 90s in the lower Midwest. The southern Plains will reach into the 90s and up to 108 periodically and the Delta and southeastern states will see middle 80- and 90-degree highs during the period.

A couple of frontal systems will move through the Midwest next week raising a little more potential for short term relief to dryness that has been prevailing in the heart of the region. However, that relief is not expected to be substantial. Crops will benefit from any rain that falls and since there will not be any excessive heat there is some potential that crops will benefit from the moisture. Early indications suggest 0.25 to 0.75 inch with a few totals over 1.00 inch will be possible next week. Such amounts are not enough to counter evaporation for the week, but there should be enough for a very brief period of crop improvement in at least portions of the region.

Temperatures in the Midwest next week may cool briefly with a few 70- and lower 80-degree days. Most highs will be in the middle 70s and lower 80s north and in the 80s south. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s. Temperatures in most other areas will be similar to those of this week.

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