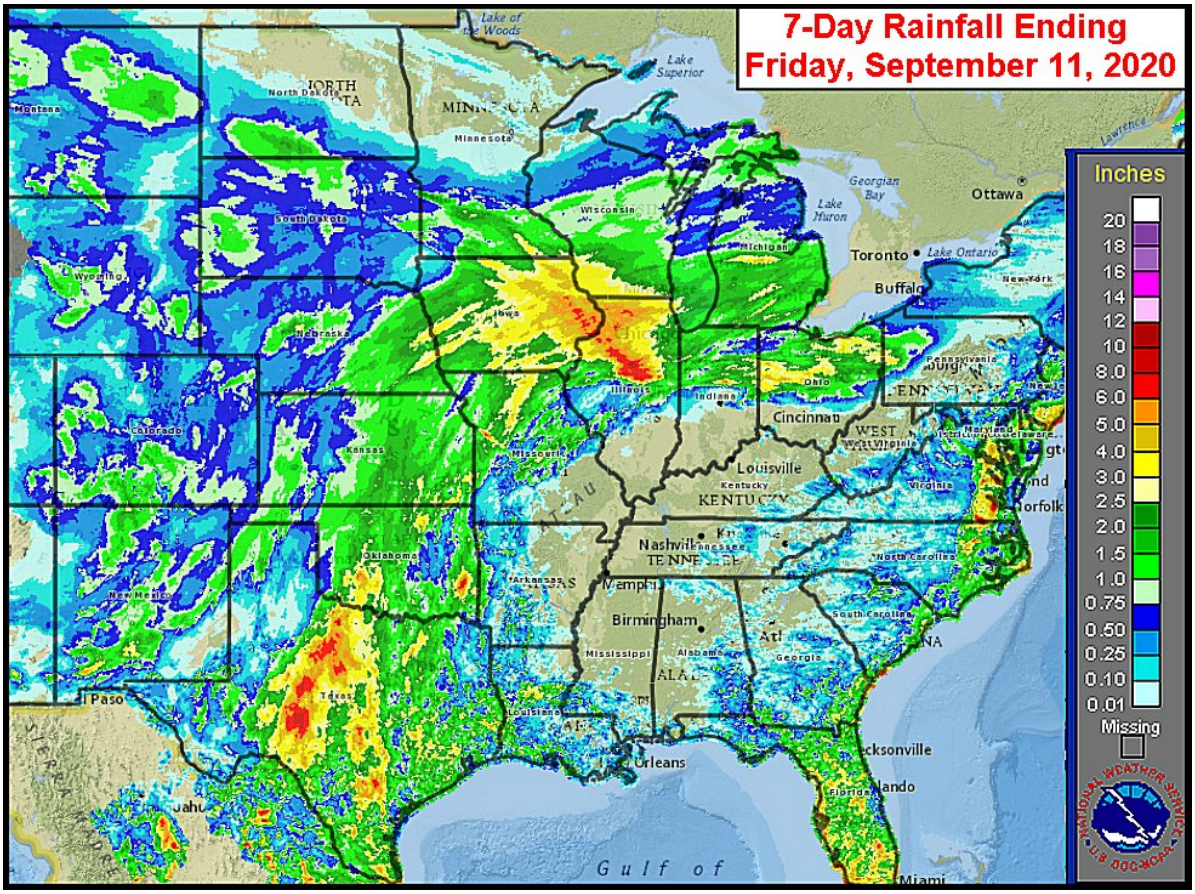
U.S. Weather To Become Less Dramatic Next Ten Days

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, September 11 (World Weather Inc.) – An interesting week of weather is drawing to a close. Rainfall was abundant to excessive in central Texas and from eastern Kansas through Iowa to southern Minnesota, southwestern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Another area of moderate to heavy rain occurred last weekend in northern Ohio and parts of Michigan. Rainfall was also significant in Florida and from eastern Virginia to eastern North Carolina. In contrast, weather conditions were quite dry in the lower Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin. And then, of course, there was the cold surge that impacted crops from Canada to Texas and the snow noted in the Rocky Mountains and west-central high Plains. ***Weather conditions are expected to straighten out a bit in the next couple of weeks and that should translate into good harvest conditions for a while with a few areas of exception.***



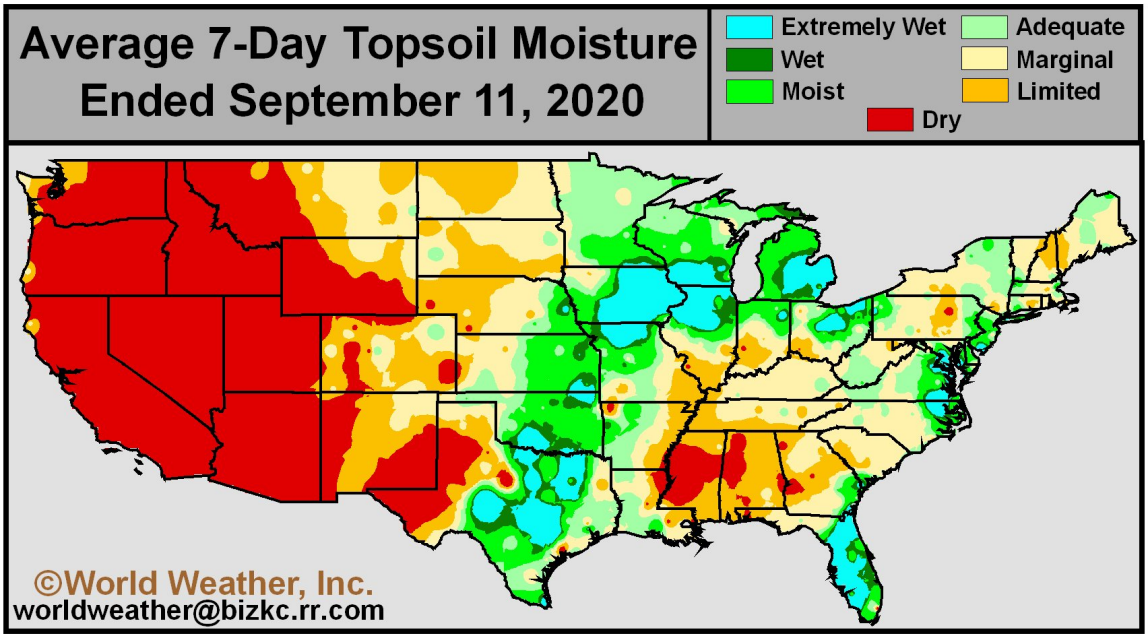
Rainfall varied across the U.S. Midwest during the past week. The greatest amount of rain was noted from Iowa, eastern Nebraska, northern Missouri, northern Illinois, and southern Wisconsin into Michigan and northern sections of Indiana and Ohio. These areas received 1.50 to 5.00 inches of rain with several areas in eastern Iowa and northern Illinois receiving 5.00 to 8.00 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota into central Wisconsin received 0.25 to 1.50 inches of

rain with local amounts up to 3.00 inches in southern Minnesota. The Ohio River Basin, eastern North Dakota, and central Minnesota received little to no rain.

Rain that fell in Iowa was a Godsend especially in central and western parts of the state where drought dominated most of the growing season. Rain that fell in eastern Nebraska, northern Illinois and neighboring states also had a significant impact on dry soil. Even though the rain fell too late to seriously change crop production in 2020 the moisture stopped the declining trend in crop conditions and has helped to put a little moisture in the ground that might be available for crop use in 2021.

Topsoil moisture was rated adequate to surplus today from the heart of Texas through eastern Kansas and parts of Missouri to eastern Nebraska, much of Iowa, southern Minnesota, southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Michigan was also plenty wet as were Florida and northeastern North Carolina into eastern Virginia. Most other areas in the lower Midwest, Delta and southeastern states had varying degrees of dryness present in the topsoil, but subsoil moisture was mostly favorably rated limiting the impact of dryness.

The same cannot be said in the northern Plains and far western United States where dryness was only partially eased in the past week leaving need for greater precipitation to support fall crops and to restore soil moisture and water supply for next year.



Record setting cold weather occurred during the week in the Great Plains. Most of the cold occurred with dense cloudiness sparing the southern Plains from damaging freezes, but crop damage did occur from Colorado and northwestern Kansas through Wyoming and western Nebraska to the heart of Canada's Prairies. In this described region damage to many crops occurred, although the extent of damage was possibly a little light relative to expectations because of the heat and dryness that preceded the cold and freezes. Crops were more advanced than usual except in irrigated fields and that more advanced state of development likely spared them of a more devastating freeze. Still, with that said corn, soybeans, flax and dry edible beans were damaged significantly in

Canada's Prairies, Montana and Wyoming with some minor impact on other crops in the region described.

Some of the cool temperatures in the Great Plains were rather impressive. Afternoon readings during mid-week across the Great Plains fell 5 to nearly 20 degrees below the previous record cold afternoon temperatures from western Texas into the west-central high Plains. The cold in West Texas and areas north into southwestern Kansas was feared to have induced permanent damage to cotton causing the plants to possibly shut down development raising the risk of boll lock. However, losses to the cotton crop will not be assessed for a few more days when temperatures rise sufficiently to resume growth – if it going to resume.

Many high temperatures during mid-week this week in the west-central high Plains were limited to the 40s and 50s Fahrenheit which was 40-60 degrees colder than those reported last weekend when highs reached into the 90s to 108 degrees Fahrenheit.

Snow fell significantly in parts of Colorado, far northwestern Kansas, western Nebraska and Wyoming. The cold rain and snowfall was accompanied by strong wind speeds and falling temperatures to stress livestock throughout the region.

WEATHER COMING UP WILL BE LESS DRAMATIC

Midwest

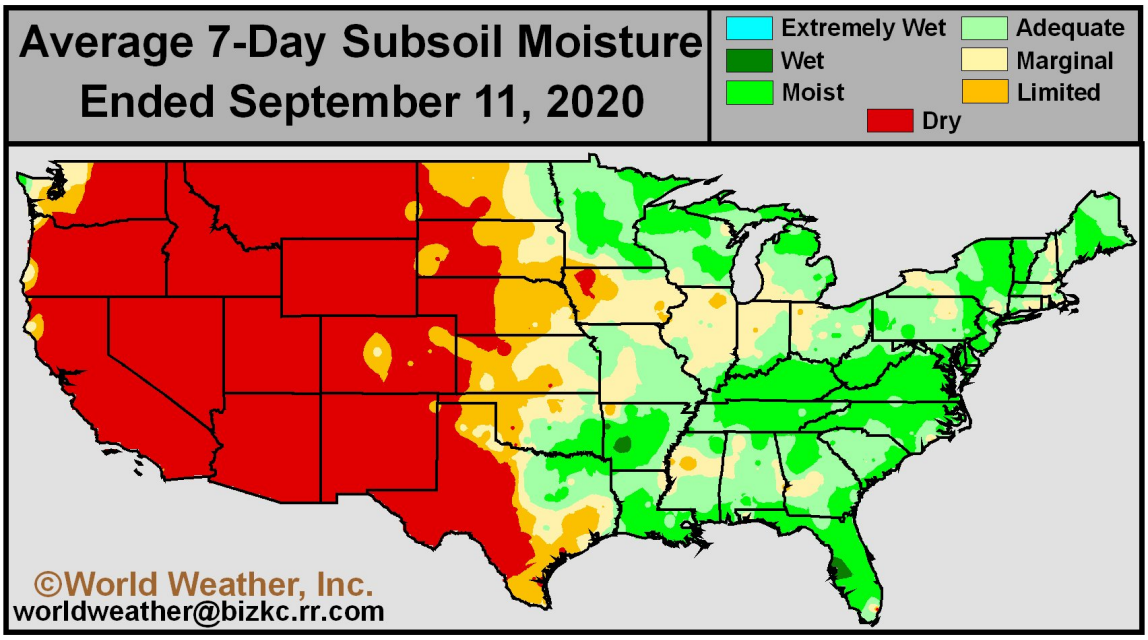
Precipitation will be variable across the Midwest through the end of next week. A weak cut-off low-pressure center will generate erratic rainfall for portions of the central and eastern Corn Belt today and Saturday. Drier biased weather will evolve later this weekend into the middle of next week for these areas before isolated showers evolve from southeastern Missouri into the Ohio River Basin toward the end of next week. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.35 to 1.50 inches most often from northern and southeastern Missouri into Kentucky, eastern Ohio, Iowa, Minnesota, northern Illinois, and Wisconsin. Many areas in eastern Iowa, northwestern Illinois, and northeastern Missouri will also receive 1.50 to 3.00 inches of rain. Other areas in the eastern Corn Belt will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain and locally greater amounts. Nebraska and the Dakotas will otherwise receive little to no rain through the end of next week. Any rain that does occur will be lost to evaporation. Temperatures will be mild today and Saturday with highs in the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit and pockets in the 50s. Warmer weather will evolve later this weekend and next week with highs in the 70s and 80s most often.

Rainfall during the next few days may slow maturation and fieldwork, most notably in the wettest areas of the central and eastern Corn Belt. However, the lack of rain and warm weather later this weekend into next week will help firm up the topsoil. Maturation and general fieldwork prospects will gradually improve for most locations. Crop maturation and early season harvest activity will advance most favorably as precipitation diminishes and temperatures remain warm.

Delta/Southeastern States

The Delta and southeastern states were generally drier biased during the past week. Little to no rain was noted in the Delta and any rain that did occur was lost to evaporation. The main production areas in the southeastern states received 0.10 to 1.00 inch of rain most often with local amounts of 2.00 inches or more in northern and eastern South Carolina,

eastern North Carolina, and southern Georgia. The topsoil firmed significantly, though there was still adequate subsoil moisture.



The lack of rain during the past week was beneficial for aggressive maturation and fieldwork in the southeastern states and Delta. There was plenty of moisture in the subsoil to maintain aggressive growth as well. Coarse grain, oilseed, rice, and cotton conditions are generally favorable.

Alternating periods of erratic rain and sunshine are slated for much of the Delta and southeastern states through the end of next week. Two tropical waves tracking across the northern Gulf of Mexico will help generate periods of more significant rain near and along the Gulf coast, though no significant crop impacts are expected. The Delta will receive 1.00 to 3.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts by next Friday morning. Alabama and Georgia will receive 0.50 to 1.50 inches most often while much of the Carolinas receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of moisture.

Rainfall in the Delta will often slow maturation, early season harvesting, and general fieldwork through the end of next week. Open boll cotton may see minor quality declines in some of the wettest areas as well, though no significant quality impacts are expected for the coarse grain, oilseeds, and rice. Minor maturation and fieldwork delays will also be possible in the southeastern states at times due to the rain.

Hard Red Winter Wheat Areas

Early season planting of hard red winter wheat is underway in the central and southern Plains. As of September 8, 4% of the crop was planted in Texas. Oklahoma had 1% of the crop planted, compared to 17% in Colorado and 2% in Nebraska. Kansas had not yet started planting. ***Timely rain was noted across the main wheat areas during the past week, which helped expedite early season planting. Rain totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 2.00 inches most often. The rain helped bolster soil moisture, though the high Plains region continues to have a shortage of moisture.***

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Dry or mostly dry weather is now slated for much of the central and southern Plains through the end of next week. Central Oklahoma into eastern Kansas will have a few opportunities for light rain today, though resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation later this weekend and next week. ***Planting and general fieldwork will advance swiftly in most locations. However, the ground will gradually dry down across the region. Early season establishment and development conditions will deteriorate.***
