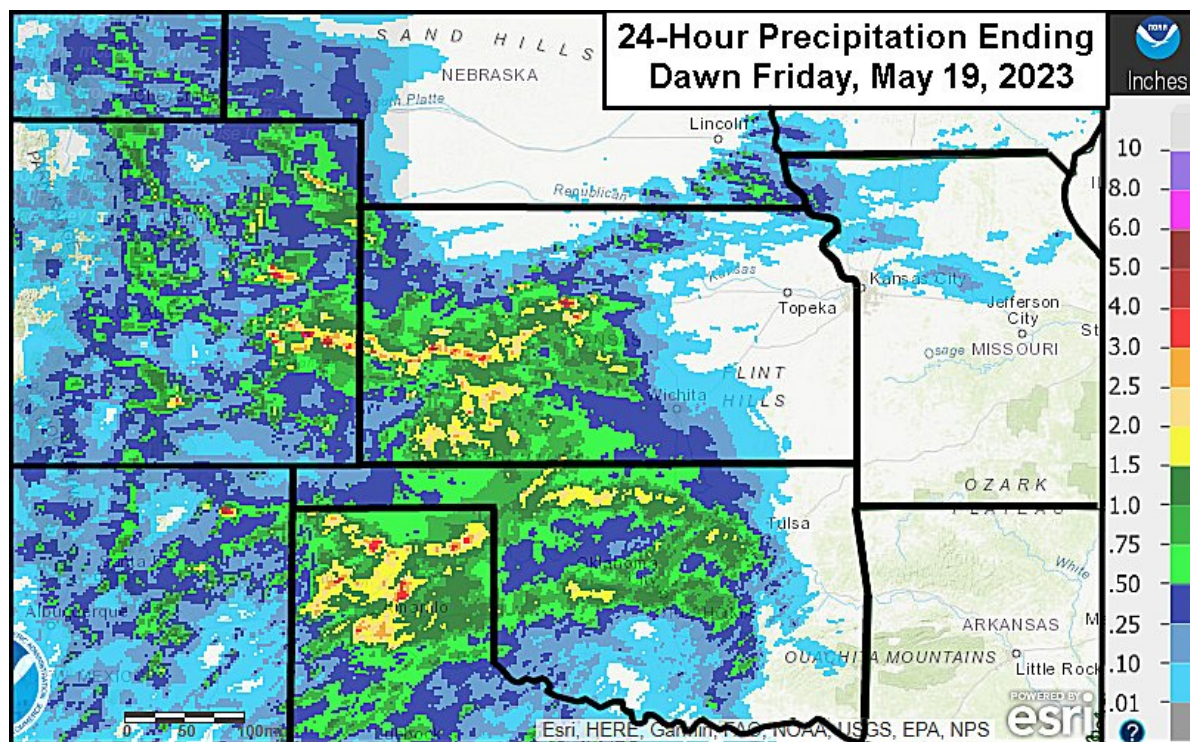


Rain Continues to Improve U.S. Hard Red Winter Wheat Soil

By Scarlett Waters

Kansas City, May 19 (World Weather Inc.) – *In the past 24 hours, over an inch of rain fell from west-central Kansas southward to the Texas Panhandle. This bout of heavy showers and thunderstorms and that which occurred earlier this week has greatly improved soil conditions in southwestern Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle. The improved moisture conditions will allow for beneficial development for corn, wheat, sorghum, and cotton, although more consistent precipitation will still be needed in the coming weeks to ensure the best crop development.*

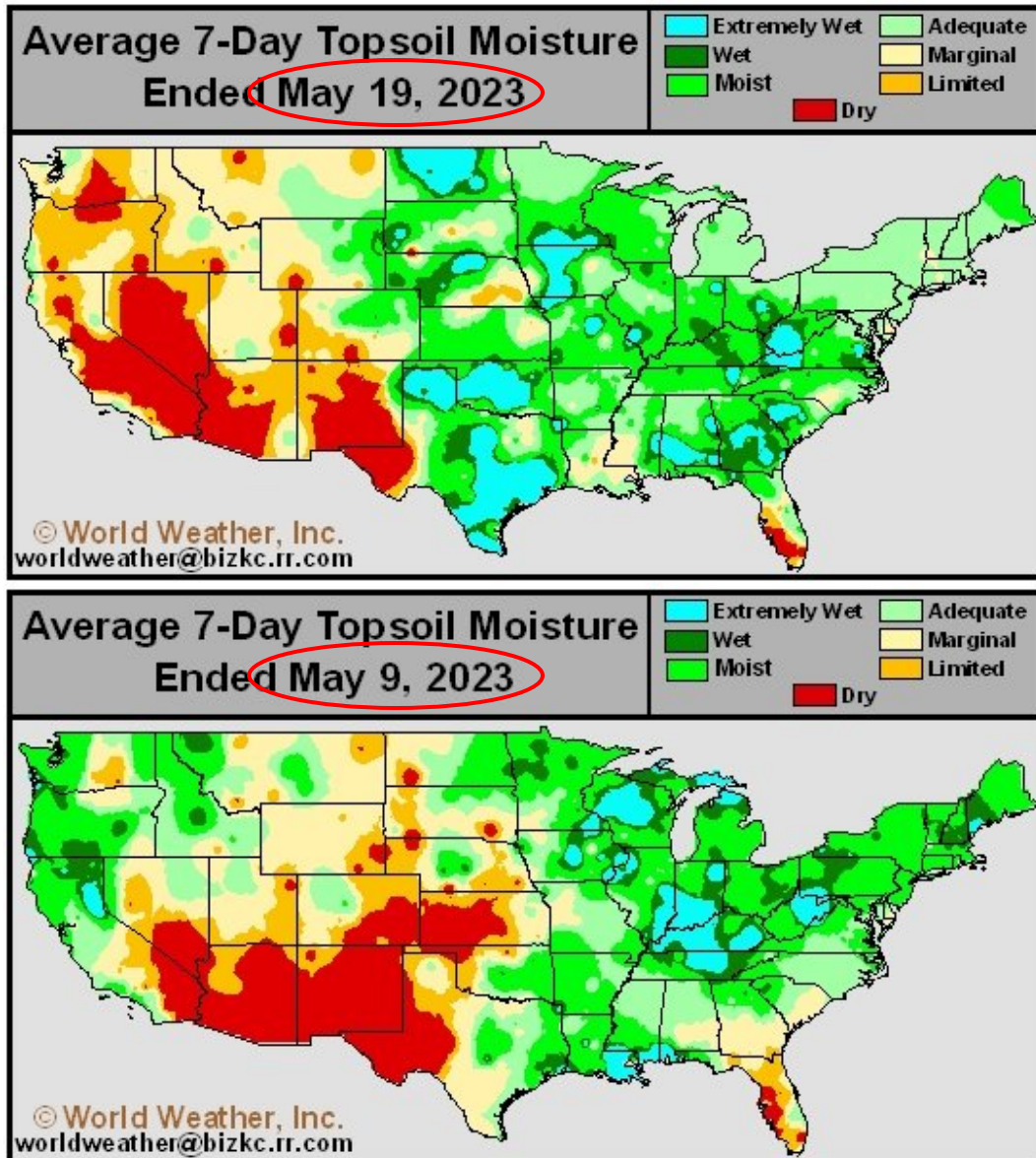
In the past 24 hours, significant rain occurred across the driest portions of the Hard-Red Winter Wheat region. *From west-central Kansas to the Texas Panhandle, an inch of rain or greater occurred, with some areas near Hays and Garden City, KS receiving over 1.50 inches.* This event follows recent rounds of showers and thunderstorms in the past few weeks that have steadily improved the moisture deficit for the region.



Doppler radar estimates of the rain that fell suggested the coverage of rainfall over 1.00 inch was widespread and many areas received more than 1.50 inches. Localized pockets of greater rain reaching over 3.00 inches were indicated by the radar imagery in a number of areas (shown in red on the above graphic); however, some of the suggested greatest rainfall could have been erroneously estimated due to the inclusion of some small hail.

Actual reported rain amounts were lighter than that suggested by the radar imagery above, although the density of reporting stations is a little low making the radar very important in filling in the gaps of data.

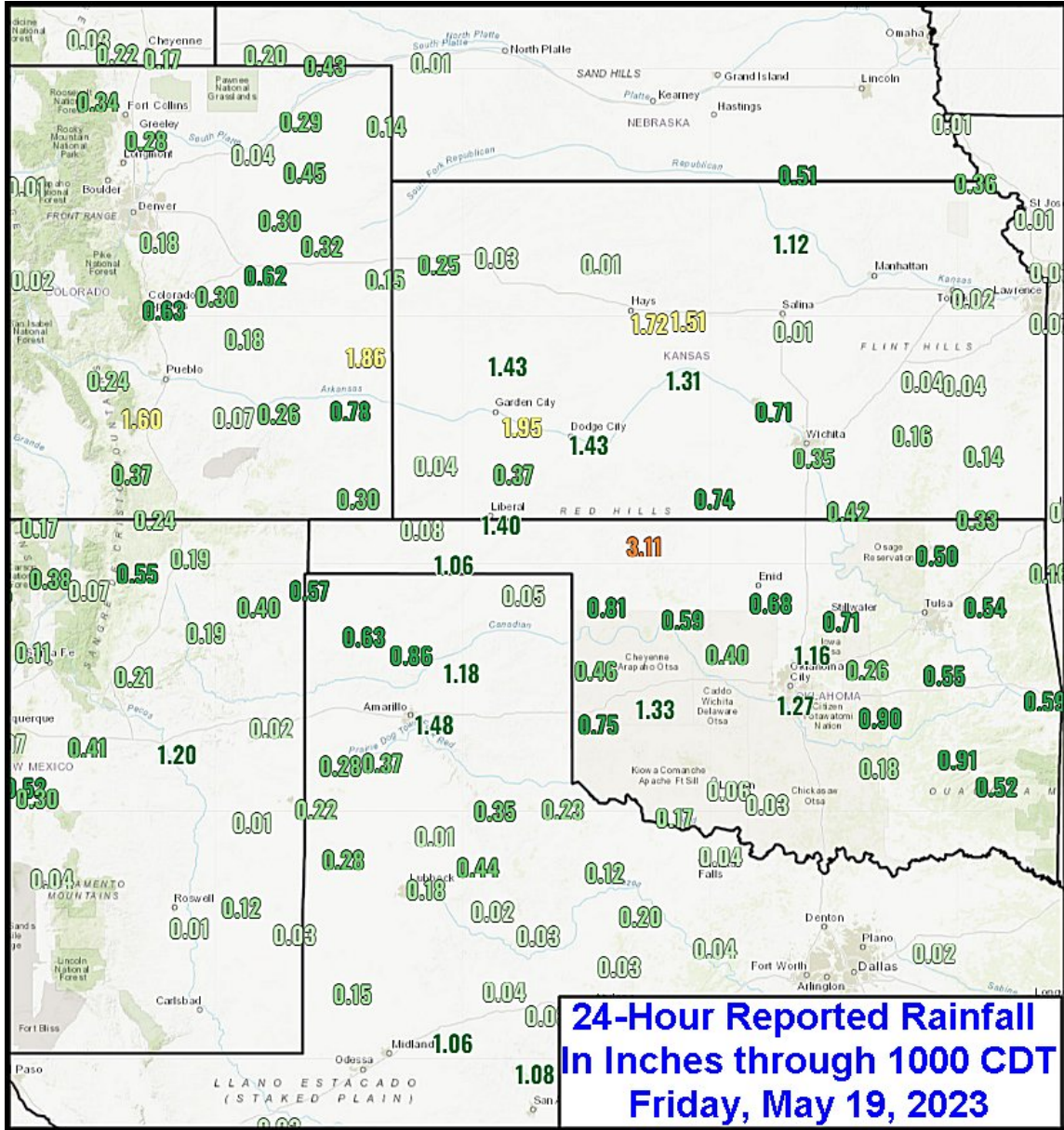
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A majority of the Texas Panhandle now has surplus soil moisture. *In the past ten days, recent rounds of rain have largely eliminated dry soil conditions in a majority of the Hard-Red Winter Wheat region, though some areas of West Texas will still need more rain. These improved soil conditions will be beneficial for the development of corn, sorghum, and cotton. Winter Wheat will also benefit from the moisture, although a full recovery of yield potential is not expected. Further rounds of rain will need to occur into June to maintain beneficial conditions for crop development in this region.*

Additional rain is expected to fall across the central and southwestern Plains during the next week to ten days. The precipitation will be much more sporadic and light relative to that of the most recent 24 hours, but it will help to slow drying rates. The region has also experienced some cool temperatures recently and that will break down in this coming week with warmer biased conditions expected as time moves along. No excessive heat is expected, but faster drying rates will likely evolve.

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