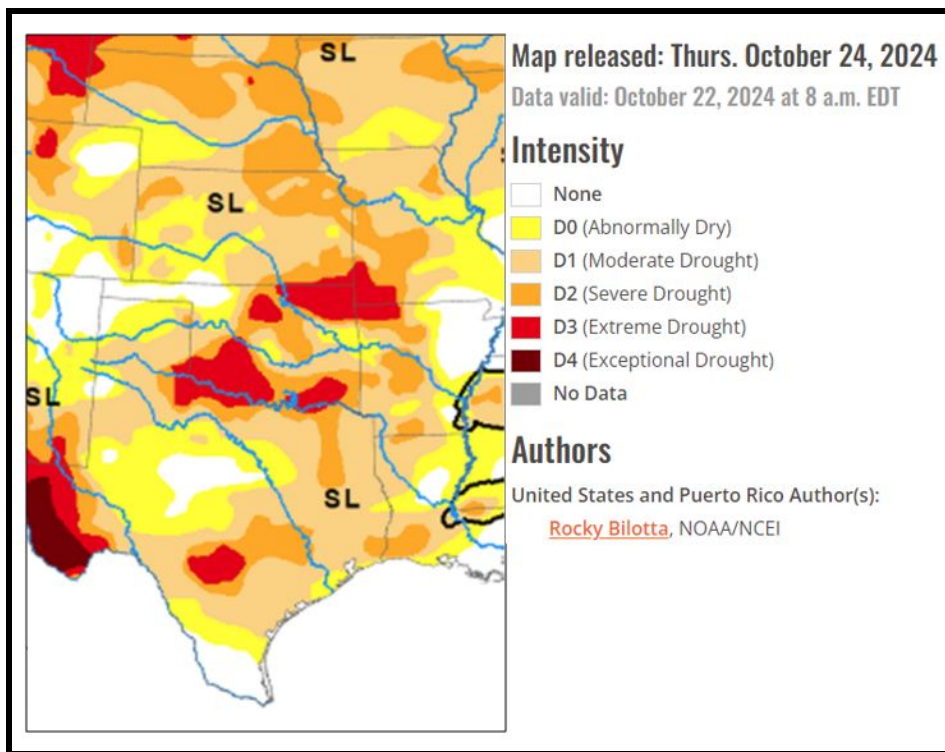


Beneficial Rainfall Incoming for Central U.S.

By Scarlett Waters

Kansas City, October 29 (World Weather Inc.) – *Moderate to severe drought has been developing across much of the central U.S., with some extreme drought occurring in Oklahoma. Through at least November 6, multiple rain events are expected to occur which will bring a general total of 2.00 to 4.00 inches of rain from Iowa southwestward into northern Texas. Heavier amounts in excess of 6.00 inches are possible in some areas. These amounts will be beneficial in improving drought conditions and allowing for improved crop development and establishment in wheat areas of the Plains and western Midwest.*

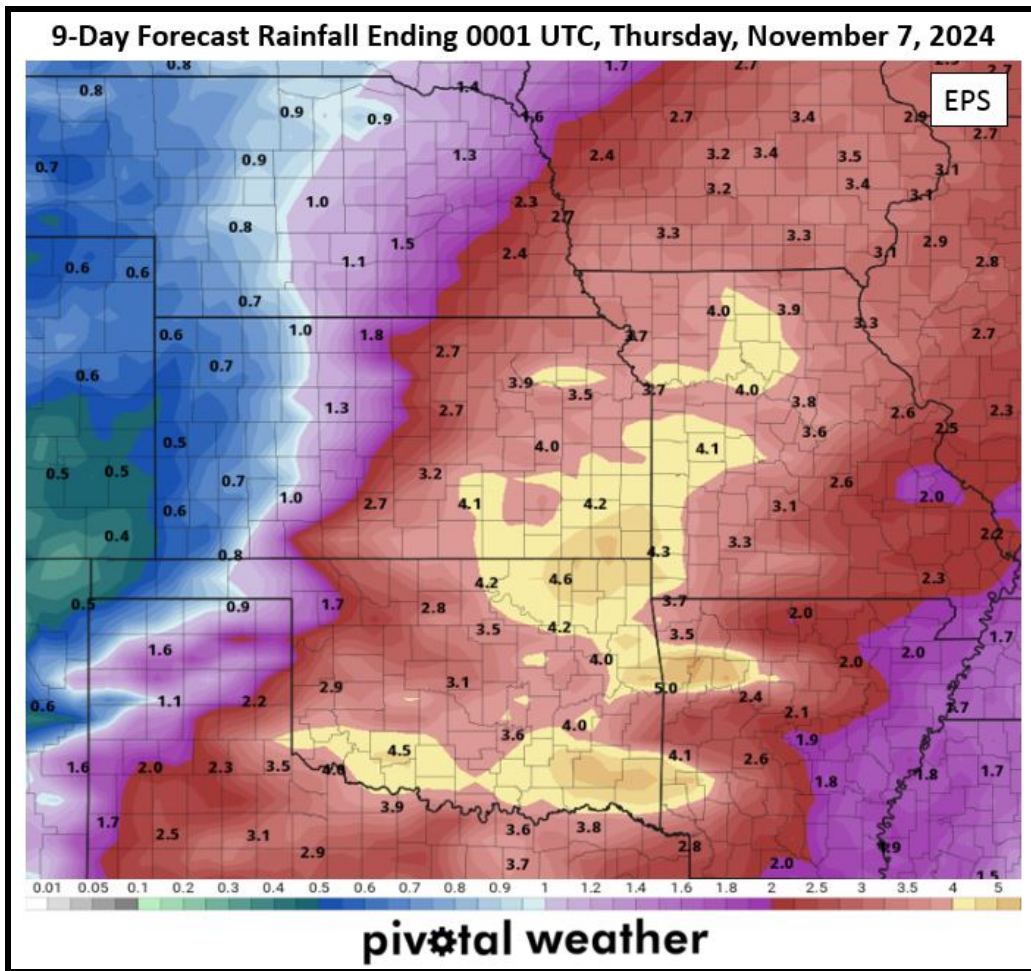
As of October 24, moderate to severe drought conditions are affecting much of the central U.S. Oklahoma is experiencing scattered areas of extreme drought. Much of the central U.S. has not seen significant rainfall near or above 1.00 inch since late September. *More rainfall will be needed in this region to improve drought conditions, and to support crop development and establishment in the hard-red winter wheat region.*



Two significant rain events are expected to occur across the central U.S. in the next 7-days. *The first event will occur Wednesday into Thursday, with at least 0.30 to 1.50 inches of rain occurring from Iowa to eastern Texas. Locally heavier amounts are likely in some areas.* A break in the precipitation will occur on Friday, with the second round of rain beginning Saturday and lasting through at least November 6. *In total, for the next 9-days, between 2.00 to 4.00 inches of rain is generally expected from Iowa, going southwestward into northern Texas. Heavier amounts in excess of 4.00 inches are*

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anticipated in southeastern Kansas, western Missouri, and portions of Oklahoma, with locally heavier amounts in excess of 6.00 inches likely in some isolated areas.



This amount of rainfall will be beneficial for improving soil moisture across the central U.S. and reducing drought conditions. With the heaviest rainfall expected in some of the driest portions of hard-red winter wheat country, this rainfall will be additionally beneficial in supporting better crop development and establishment. Due to the expected heavy amounts in isolated areas, some flash flooding may be possible, though prolonged flooding is not expected. Western portions of hard red-winter wheat region will see lesser amounts between 0.50 and 1.00 inch and will need more to improve overall conditions.

The same precipitation event expected this weekend into early next week will also bring rain to West Texas cotton country. The moisture will be great for wheat and other cover crops produced in the southwestern Plains, but cotton is quite vulnerable to persistent rain of significance because of its mature state. Most bolls are open and some harvesting is under way. Cotton fiber subjected to the rainy weather will experience some decline in quality and for those areas that receive the greatest rainfall there is potential for some of the cotton fiber to be strung out of bolls. This is most likely in the Rolling Plains and not in the high Plains region of West Texas. Some significant rain is also expected in

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the Blacklands of northern Texas where there may also be a decline in fiber quality for any remaining crop.

Livestock grazing conditions should improve in much of the central and southern Great Plains and southwestern Midwest where drought has been limiting new grass development. The coming moisture combined with warm soil temperatures should green up many pastures and rangeland and offer a late season burst in grass development.

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