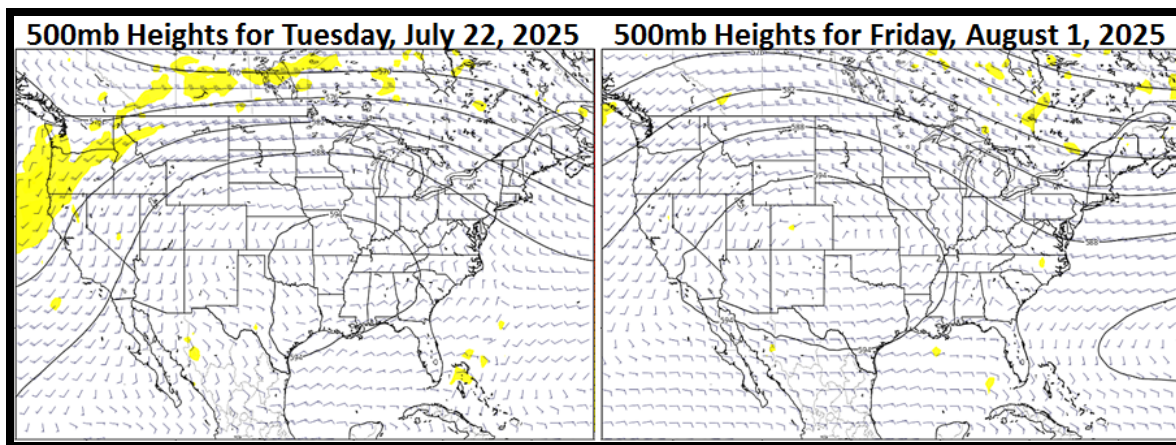


U.S. Oppressive Heat, Humidity To Raise Human, Livestock Risk

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, July 17 (World Weather Inc.) – Weather in the central and eastern United States this spring and summer was mostly very pleasant. Very few bouts of excessive heat, persistent dryness or other adversity occurred and crop development has been advancing quite favorably. Changes are forthcoming that will bring a period of hotter temperatures and high relative humidity that will probably stress animals and outdoor human activity more than it will threaten crops. **Nonetheless human and animal health concerns will be rising this weekend and continue through all of next week and into a part of the following weekend as a result of building high pressure aloft. A decrease in rain frequency will occur for a few days while temperatures are warmest, but as the ridge shifts to the east in late July and early August some relief is expected.**



Heat indices of 95 to 115 degrees will become common across the central and southern Plains, lower Midwest, Delta and southeastern states during the coming week to ten days beginning this weekend. Such conditions will prove to be very stressful for most living things, but especially livestock and humans.

Actual air temperatures will rise up into the 90s to 106 degrees Fahrenheit frequently in the central and southern Great Plains and to the range of 90s and near 100 in the Delta, lowermost Midwest and interior southeastern states while high pressure aloft moves across these areas beginning this weekend and lasting into the latter days of July.

The heat will induce rapid drying and topsoil moisture that is favorably rated today is likely to be short to very short by the end of this month in the Delta, portions of the southern Tennessee River Basin and especially in the central and southern Plains; including the far southwestern corner of the Midwest Corn and Soybean production region (eastern Kansas and parts of Missouri). Subsoil moisture will still be favorable for crops in the lower Midwest, northern Delta and Tennessee River Basin, but the need for rain and cooling will steadily rise as July finishes out.

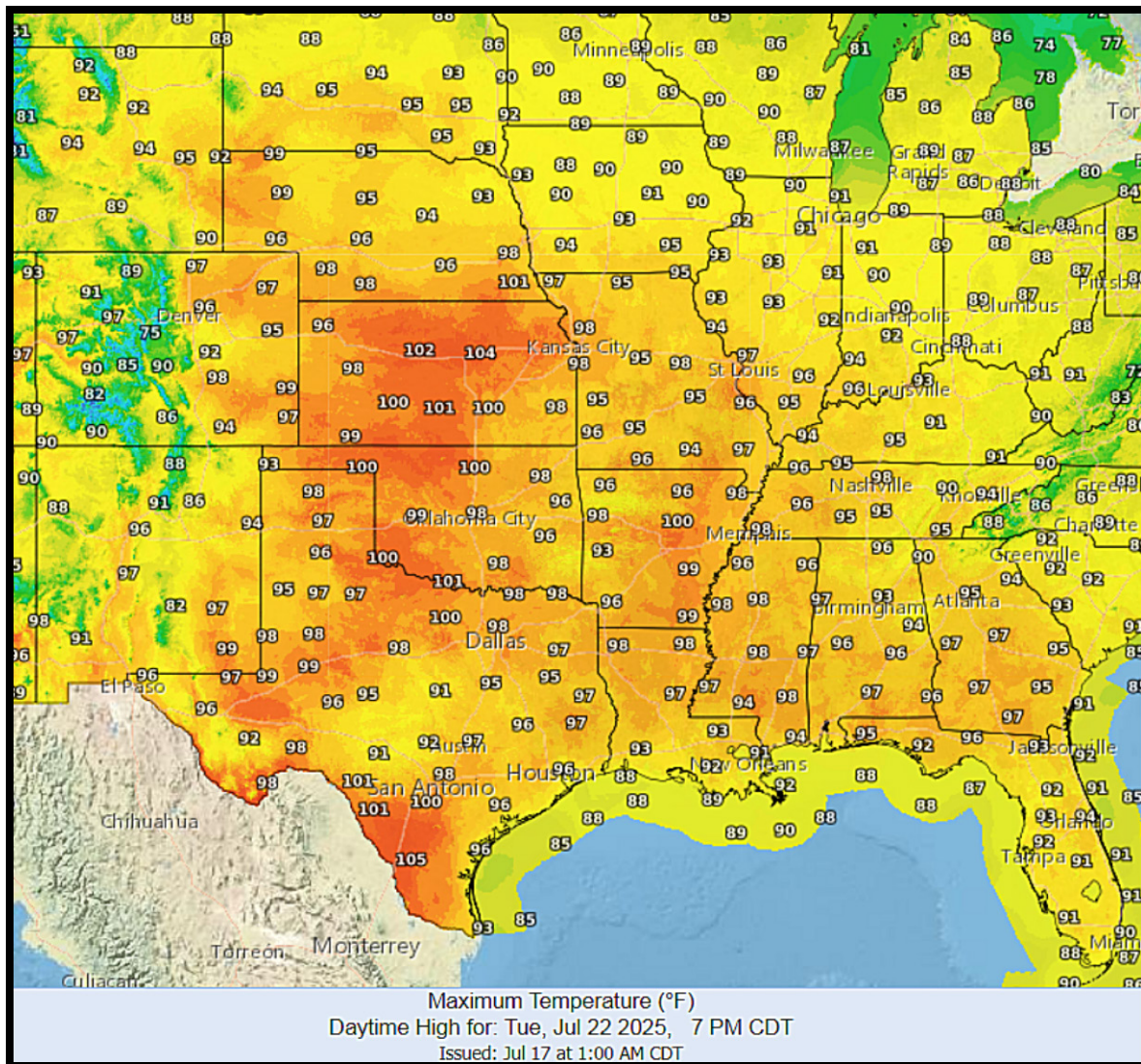
Crop moisture stress is expected to evolve in many of the driest and warmest areas in the middle and southeastern parts of the nation; including the lower Midwest, albeit briefly for some areas.

Once the ridge of high pressure establishes over the high Plains region and Rocky Mountains there will be a series of thunderstorm outbreaks that will develop near the

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peak of the ridge and move southeast through the Midwest during the latter part of July and early August. This will bring back timely rain to portions of the Midwest and offer some opportunities for some cooling.

The exact positioning of the ridge of high pressure over North America and its amplitude will control how much of the continent will be impacted by hot, dry, weather. The forecast imagery presented here (if it verifies) would eventually bring hot weather to much of the western United States, a part of western Canada and a portions of the central and southern Great Plains, but some of the amplitude is suspected of being too great. The Midwest, however, would not be nearly as hot and would benefit from some periodic rain. Precipitation farther to the west; however, may be limited enough to raise concern about Unirrigated crops especially those already struggling with dryness like so many in Canada's Prairies. Canada's Prairies will get some needed rain in the coming week before any ridge of high pressure begins to evolve and it is still questionable as to how significant the ridge will likely become.



THE BOTTOM LINE

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A period of drier and warmer biased conditions is quite probable in the central and southern Plains for the balance of July. Similar conditions will occur in the Delta and interior southeastern states for a more limited number of days, but long enough to allow drying to occur aggressively across many crop areas. The lower Midwest will experience some drying and warming, but the duration there will be shortest and the impact on crops should be low.

Animal and human health issues because of hot and humid weather will be greatest in the central and southern Great Plains and Delta from this weekend through most of next week and in the Plains for a little while longer.

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