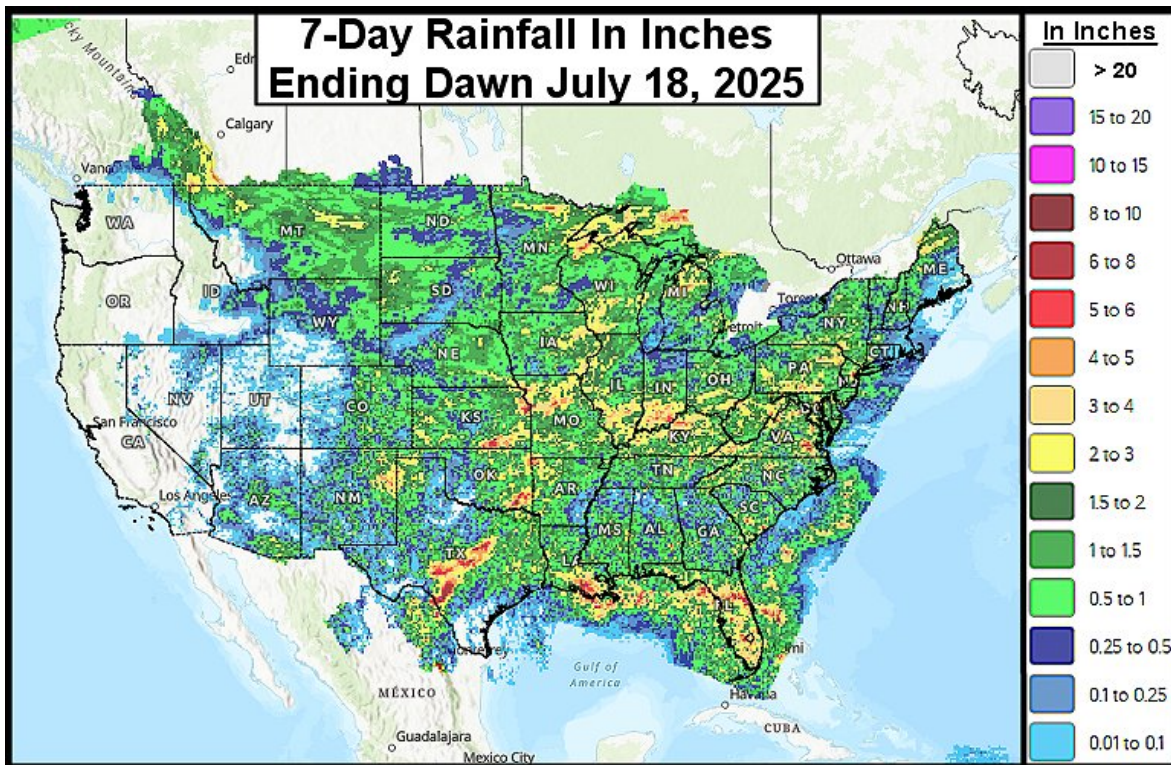


U.S. Central, Southern Plains And Delta To Dry Down

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, July 18 (World Weather Inc.) – Soil moisture and crop conditions through a large portion of the United States east of the high Plains region is rated favorably today. A high pressure ridge and associated “heat dome” is expected to evolve this weekend and next week that will suppress rainfall and notably raise temperatures across the region; however, subsoil moisture will remain favorably rated in many Midwestern locations. That will not be the case for portions of the central or southern Great Plains, Delta or immediate neighboring areas where oppressive heat and humidity will stress livestock and dry out the soil leading to increases in crop moisture stress. Weather conditions in early August will be extremely important and the European model run at mid-day today downplayed rainfall for July 29-August 2.

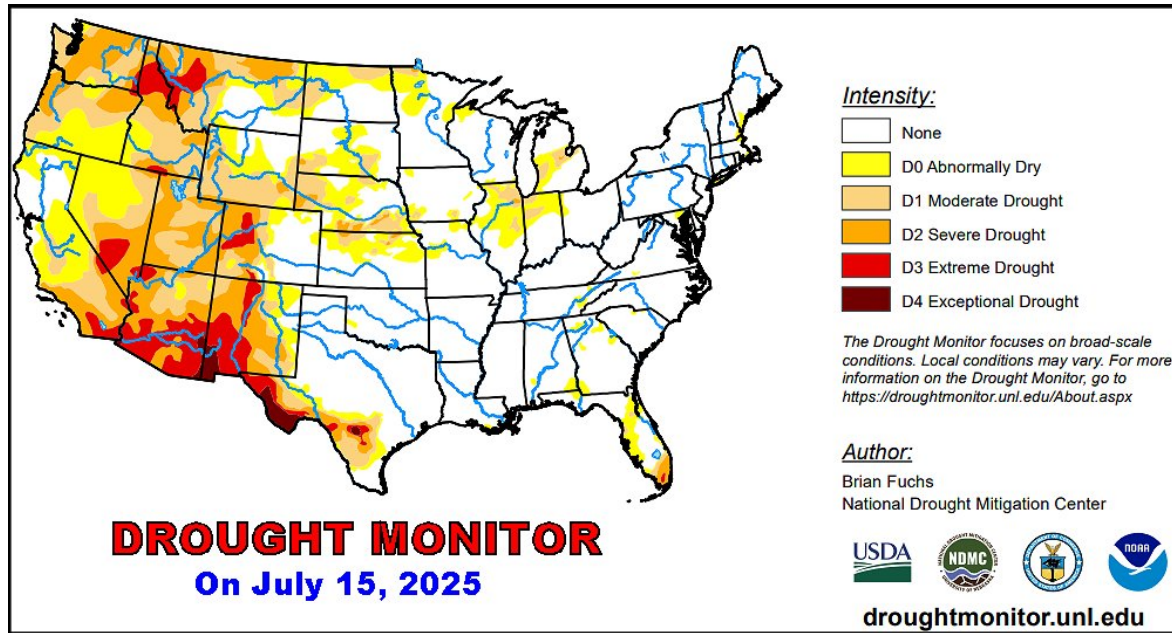
A large section of the U.S. production region near and east of the Rocky Mountains received rain during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 3.00 inches with a few exceptions. Several areas in the lower Ohio River Valley, Missouri, eastern Kansas, eastern Iowa, and southern Wisconsin received 4.00 to over 6.00 inches of moisture. Pockets in the southeastern states, northern Indiana, the northern Plains, western Oklahoma, and the eastern Texas Panhandle also only received trace amounts to 0.50 inch of moisture.



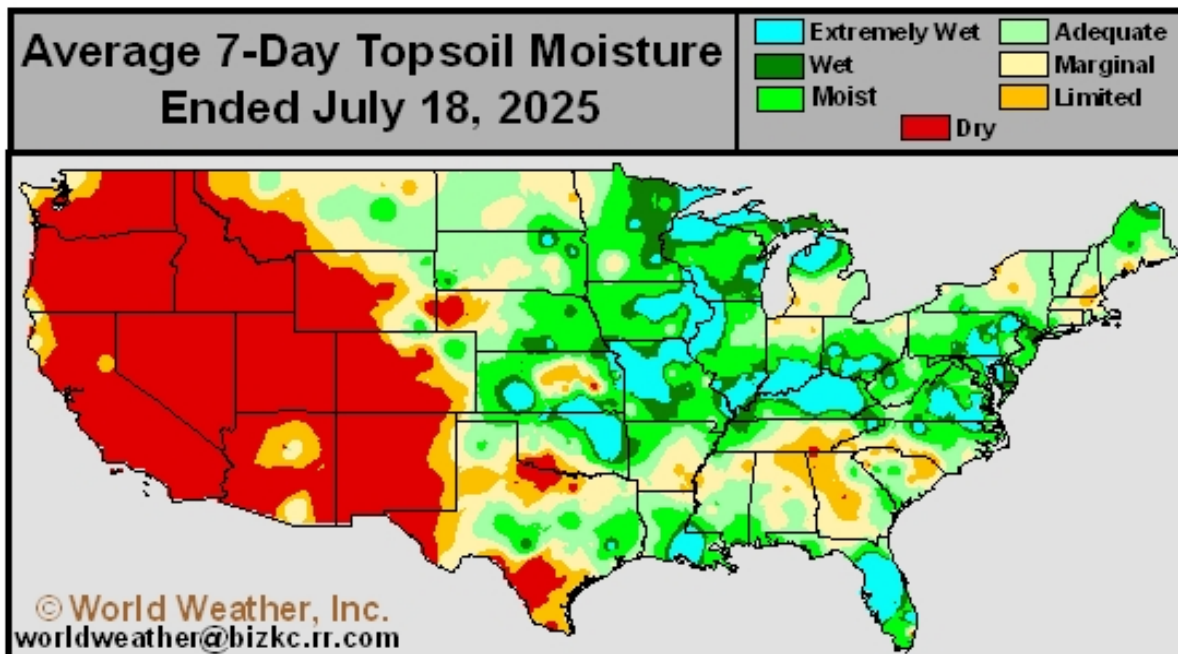
Several areas in northern Kansas, Nebraska, eastern South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Illinois, northern Indiana, and Michigan were abnormally dry or under a moderate

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drought as of July 15. The Pacific Northwest was also abnormally dry or under varying stages of drought. Other production areas in the U.S. were generally drought-free.



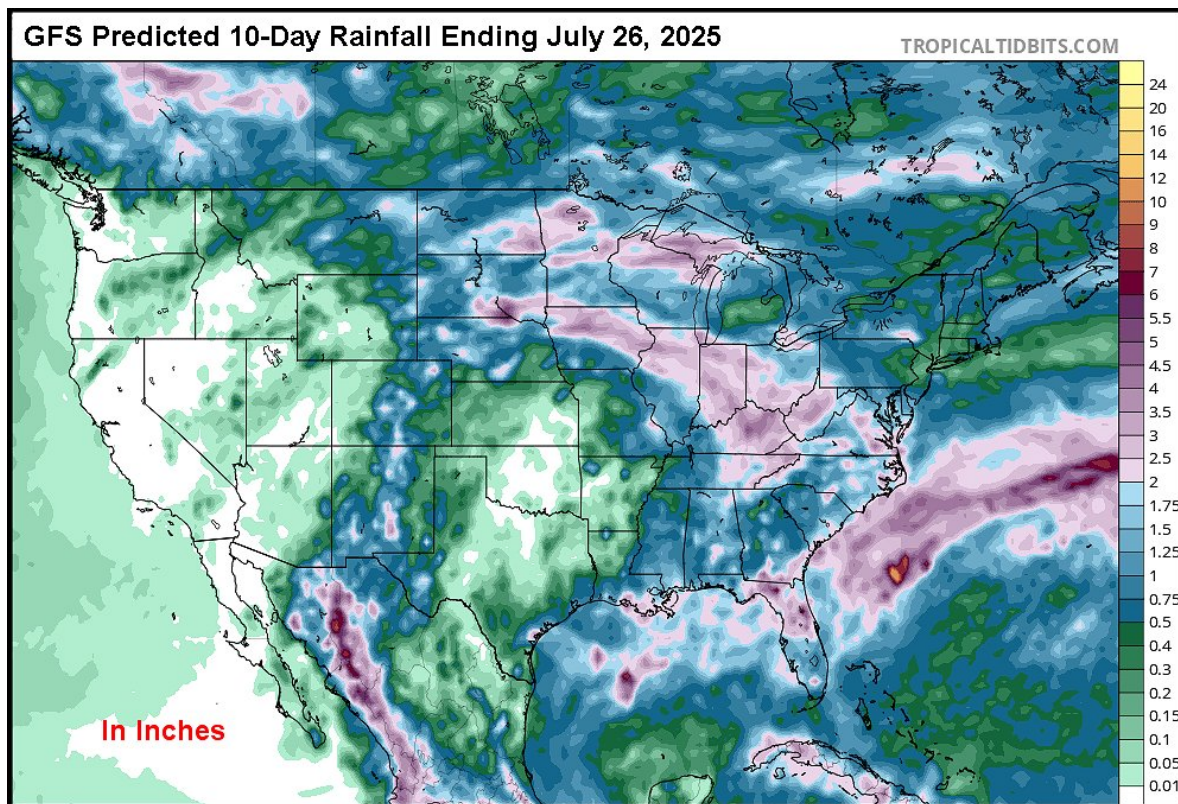
Coarse grain and oilseed conditions are relatively favorable for the U.S. as a whole due to the timely rain this spring and so far this summer. Production potentials are favorable and should remain favorable as long as periodic rain occurs in the coming weeks. Cotton conditions are a little more variable with some of Texas cotton rated poor or very poor. The overall outlook for the upcoming season is favorable.



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WEATHER OUTLOOK

The central and southern Plains will dry down significantly through the end of next week. A ridge of high pressure will build over the region in the coming days and will settle over the region next week. Precipitation will be restricted and a “heat dome” will evolve, causing daytime temperatures to surge to a range from 90 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit most days. Late-season harvesting of the winter wheat will advance swiftly and should wrap up in much of Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. Colorado and Nebraska will need additional time to finish the harvest, though significant progress will likely be made. Corn, sorghum, unirrigated cotton, and other crops grown this time of year may otherwise be stressed due to the hot daytime temperatures.



The Midwest and northern Plains will see a good mix of rain and sunshine through the end of next week. A disturbance and frontal boundary associated with a nearby trough will bring the first round of rain to these areas from west to east today and this weekend. Another disturbance and front will generate rain in the northern Plains and western Midwest at the beginning and middle of next week with some light showers occasionally reaching the eastern Midwest. Spotty rain will likely prevail Thursday. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches with locally greater amounts in the lower Ohio River valley, Iowa, southern Minnesota, and neighboring locations. Temperatures will be near normal, though portions of Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska will warm to the 90s at times next week. The overall environment for the corn, soybeans, and other crops produced this time of year will remain favorable across the northern and eastern Midwest and for much of the northern Plains.

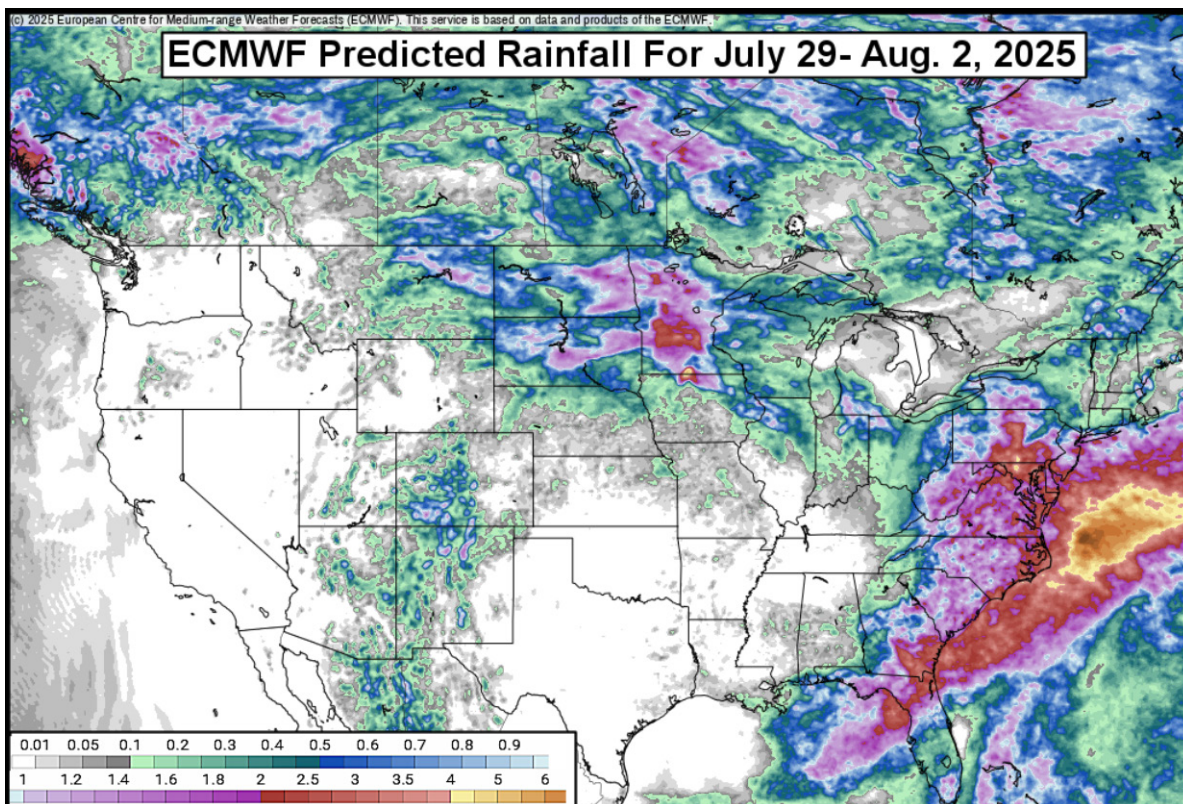
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The Delta and U.S. southeast *will also have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall through the end of next week; however, some areas (especially in the Delta) will experience net drying.*

Scattered showers will initially evolve today and Saturday. Other than a few isolated showers, drier weather will briefly evolve Sunday. A new disturbance will generate the next round of erratic rainfall at the beginning and middle of next week, most notably in the southeast. Light shower activity will then be possible for most locations later next week. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with drier pockets, most notably in the northern Delta.

Daytime highs will peak in the upper 80s and 90s most days across the Delta and southeast. The combination of erratic rainfall and very warm to hot temperatures in portions of the Delta and immediate neighboring areas will lead to net drying and a general firming of the soil.

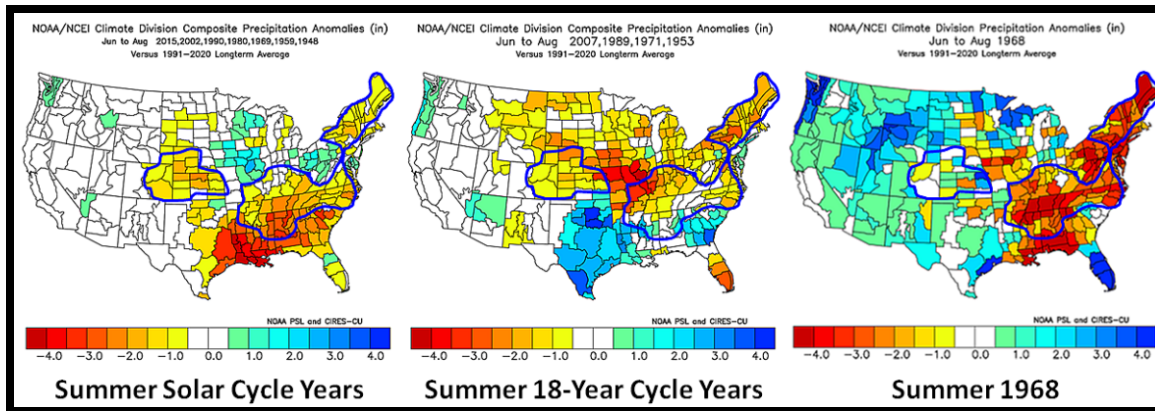
The periods of spotty rain and generally adequate moisture will maintain relatively good conditions for the coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops in the southeastern states; however, additional rain will be needed late this month into early August to maintain good long-term production potentials. The Delta will dry out more significantly raising the need for significant rain soon.



Today's ECMWF model does not provide much incentive for getting rain to return in the central or southern Plains, lower Midwest, Delta or Tennessee River Basin late this month or in the first days of August. ***If the model is correct many of these areas will finish July and enter August quite a bit drier than they are today there could be some concern over yield potential.*** World Weather, Inc. believes the European model is a little too dry

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and warm, but remember the solar cycle, lunar cycle and parallel with 1968 that was shared earlier this year about the summer all suggest a drier biased finish to the summer as shown below.



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