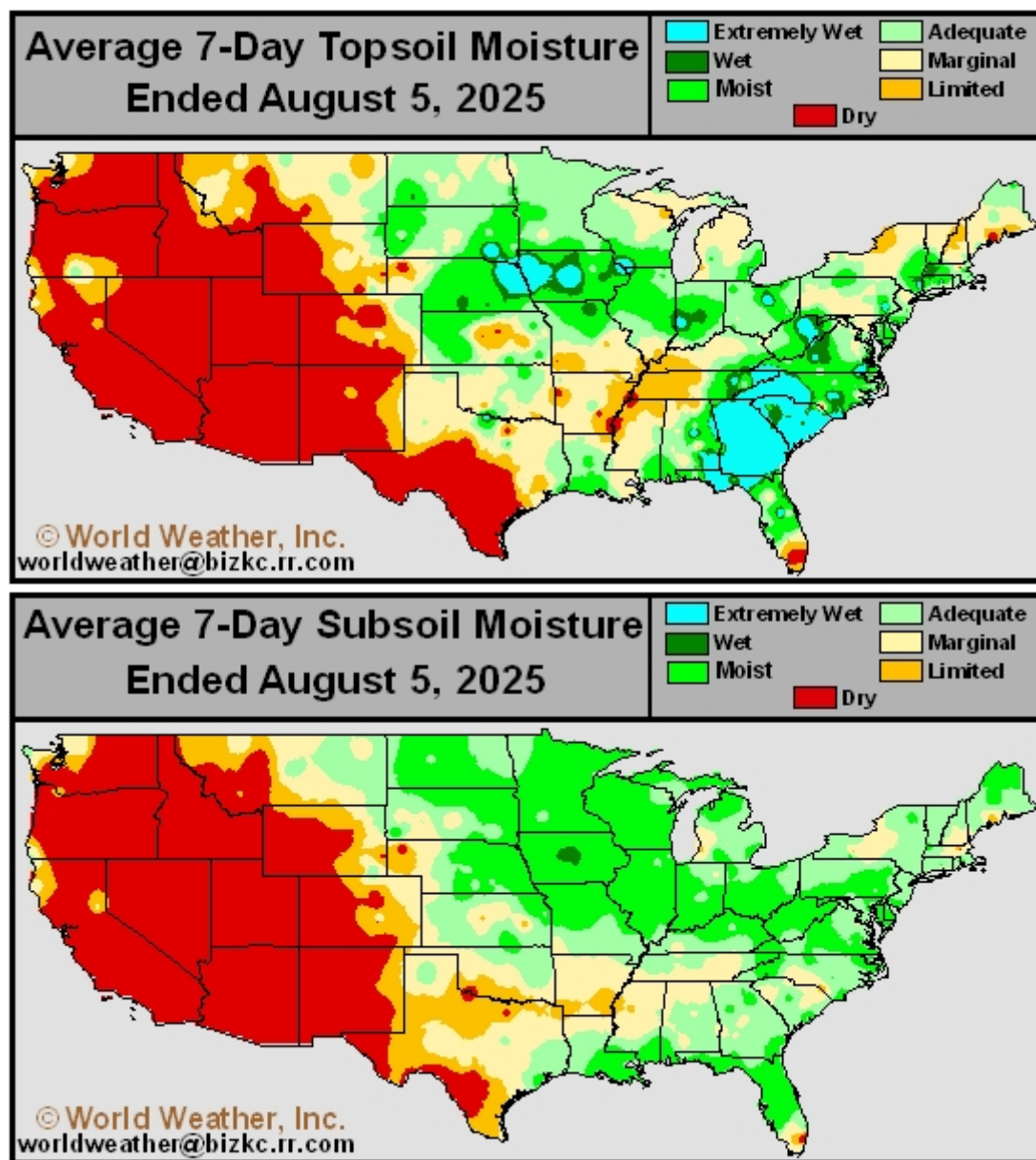


Lower, Eastern U.S. Midwest, Delta Drying Into Mid-Month

By Drew Lerner

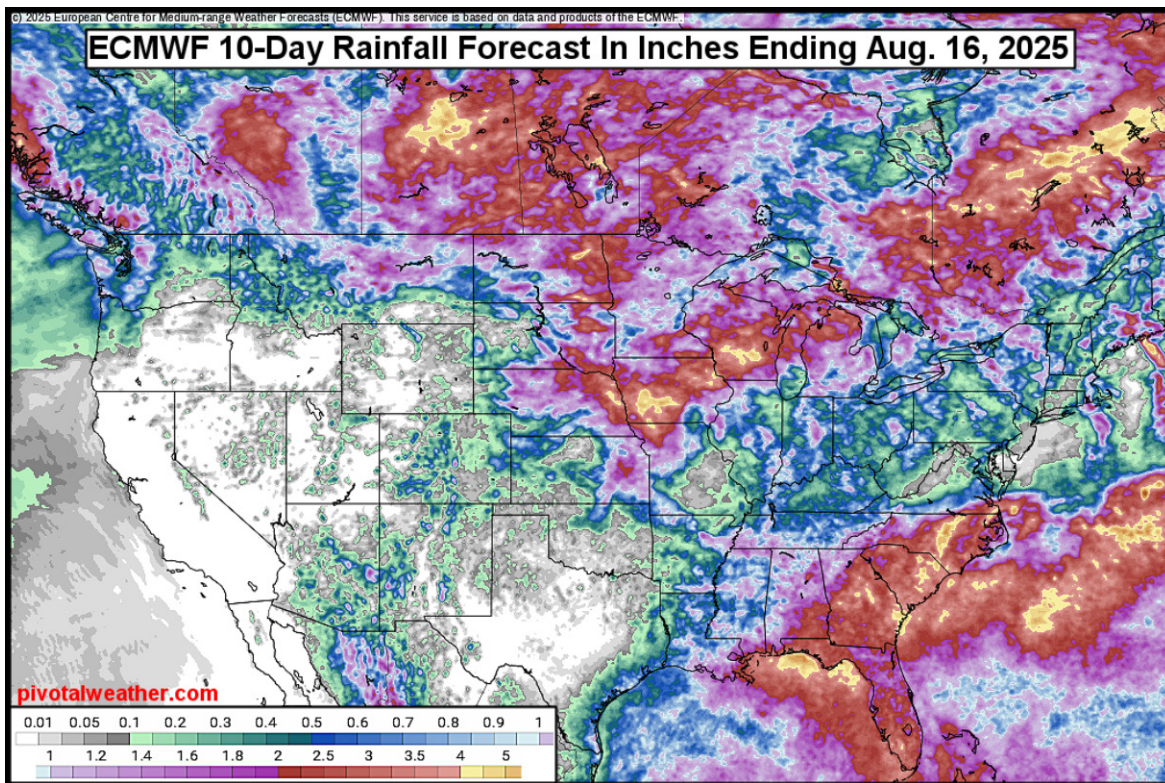
Kansas City, August 5 (World Weather Inc.) – Drying continues to evolve across the U.S. Delta and some immediate neighboring areas in the lower Ohio River Basin and Tennessee River Basin. After an unusually wet spring, most of the Delta and Tennessee River Basin have been drying out just like that of previous post solar maximum and lunar cycle years and like that of the neutral ENSO year 1968. The drying trend is expected to prevail through the middle of August because of changes in weather across North America and in the tropics. The lower and eastern Midwest may also experience some drying during this period of time, although subsoil moisture will support crops favorably. That makes the second half of August weather extremely important for timely rain in soybean, sorghum, cotton and other late season crop production areas.



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Soil moisture in the heart of the U.S. is still rated quite favorably for early August. Topsoil conditions vary from marginally adequate to slightly surplus from Ohio and far southern Michigan through Indiana and much of Illinois to Minnesota, the eastern Dakotas and Nebraska including Iowa and northern Missouri. Subsoil moisture in all of these areas is rated adequately as well which ensures normal summer crop development through the next two weeks, regardless of the rain distribution. There are some areas in Michigan and immediate neighboring areas as well as few from southeastern Missouri and southern Illinois into far southern Indiana and Kentucky that have marginally adequate to slightly short soil moisture. **These latter areas will be first to become too dry if timely rain fails to evolve.**

The Delta and Tennessee River Basin areas are more notably dry with topsoil moisture becoming very short in many areas while the subsoil is rated marginally adequate to short. Crop moisture stress is suspected today in unirrigated fields of Arkansas, Mississippi and portions of northern Alabama, Tennessee and western Kentucky as well as far southeastern Missouri. Crop stress is likely to continue until significant rain falls and that may be a while for portions of the described drier region.



A nearly stationary trough of low pressure in the southeastern United States is expected to stay in place through the weekend and that will allow daily showers and thunderstorms to occur from northern Florida through southeastern Alabama and Georgia to North Carolina. Some of these areas will become a little too wet, but more importantly the persistent rainfall in the southeastern states will block Gulf of America moisture from flowing northward into the lower Midwest and Tennessee River Basin leading to more net drying.

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A weak low pressure center is expected to form near the North Carolina coast this weekend and it, too, will contribute the greater rainfall in the southeastern states and a drier bias in the lower eastern Midwest. The low pressure system may eventually become a tropical depression or tropical storm and move off to the northeast from the North Carolina coast next week.

Immediately following the departure of the weak low pressure center from North Carolina will be the development of an upper level high pressure system over Florida and Georgia. This high pressure system will then drift to the west along the central Gulf of Mexico coast and expand so that it further inhibits rain in the Delta, Tennessee River Basin and parts of the lower Midwest.

The high pressure system aloft then drifts to the northwest into the northern Delta and central Great Plains during the second week of the two week forecast. This will create a northwesterly flow of air aloft across the lower eastern Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin inhibiting deep convection. As a result, showers and thunderstorms in the August 12-19 period will be lighter and more sporadic than usual perpetuating the below normal precipitation bias.

All of these weather events will lead to poor rainfall in the Delta and Tennessee River Basin and possibly the lower eastern Midwest and greater drying will resume because of daily high temperatures in the 80s and lower to a few middle 90s Fahrenheit.

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