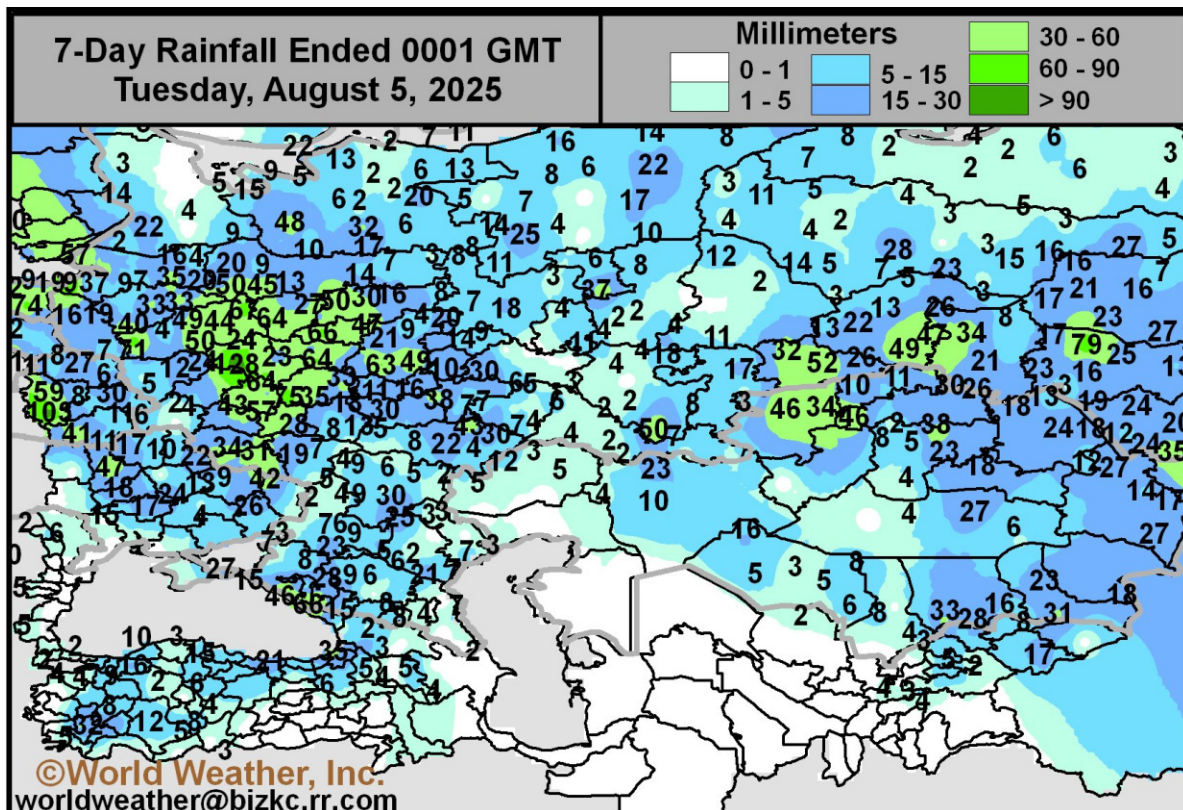


Ukraine, Russia's 'Southern Region' Will Dry Down Further

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, August 5 (World Weather Inc.) – Although spotty rain was noted in Ukraine, Russia's 'Southern Region' and Volga River Basin, and western Kazakhstan during the past week, soil moisture remains short to critically short for several locations. Ongoing dryness has likely promoted uneven or poor development for unirrigated summer grains and oilseeds, most notably in unirrigated areas. These areas will remain drier biased for at least another week and additional drying will occur. Conditions for new growth will likely deteriorate. Maturation and harvesting of the winter grains and oilseeds will otherwise advance swiftly. Other production areas in Russia and northern Kazakhstan will either receive enough rain or have enough moisture to support relatively good development conditions for the summer crops.

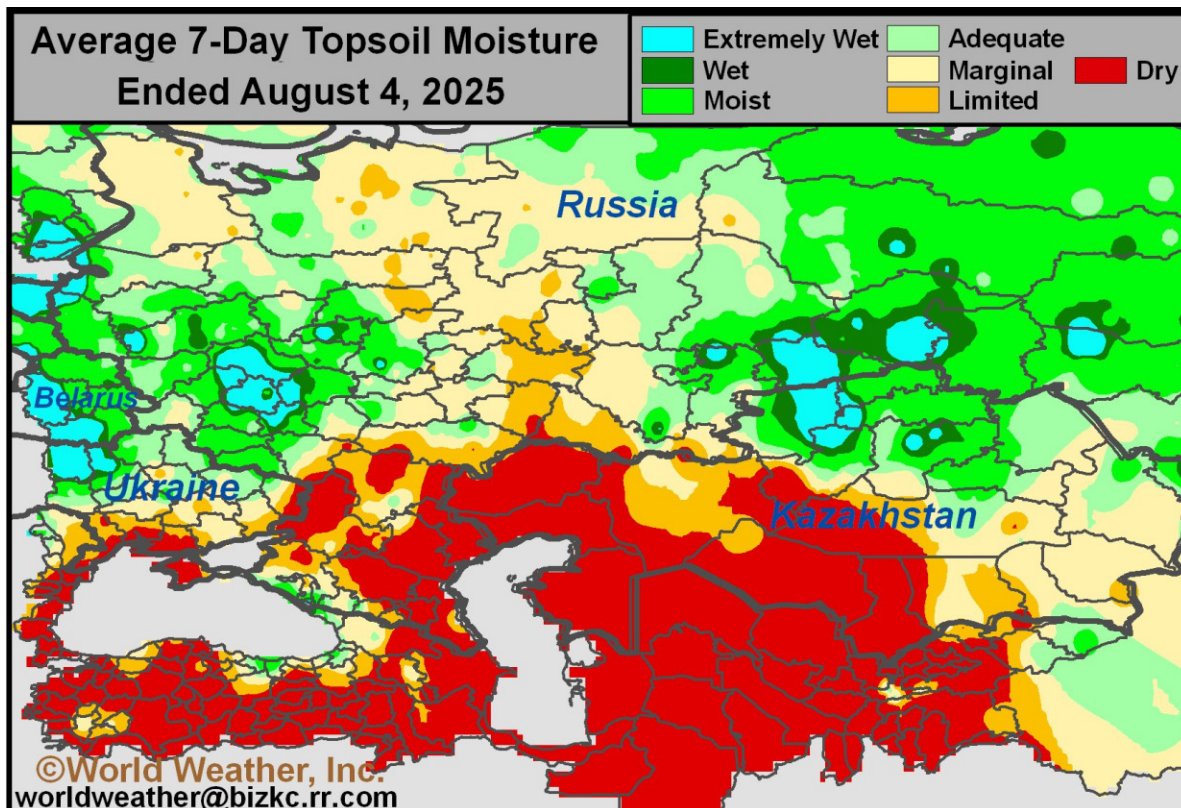
Western Russia received some of the most significant rainfall in the main production areas of the former Soviet Union during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending August 5 ranged from 0.50 to 3.00 inches with local amounts up to 5.00 inches. Russia's eastern New Lands and northern Kazakhstan received 0.39 to 2.00 inches of rain. Several areas in Ukraine, Russia's Volga River Basin, and the USDA defined 'Southern Region' received 0.24 to 1.18 inches of rain with local amounts up to 1.85 inches of Ukraine. However, several areas in Ukraine and the 'Southern Region' received little to no rain. One location in the Ural Mountains region reported nearly 2.00 inches of rain while other locations received trace amounts to 0.32 inch of moisture. Western Kazakhstan received little to no precipitation.



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Soil moisture remains short to very short for the Volga River Basin and 'Southern Region' into western Kazakhstan despite periods of spotty rain during the past week. Many areas in southern and eastern Ukraine and the Ural Mountains region also have a shortage of moisture. The remaining production areas in Russia, Ukraine, and northern Kazakhstan have adequate to excessive moisture.

Winter wheat, barley, rapeseed, rye, and other crop maturation and harvesting is ongoing in Ukraine, the main production areas of Russia's Volga River Basin and 'Southern Region', western Kazakhstan, and other production areas in Russia. The lack of abundant rain combined with periods of warm weather supported relatively good harvest conditions. The need for periodic dryness will be consistent in the coming weeks as producers continue to harvest the remaining crop.

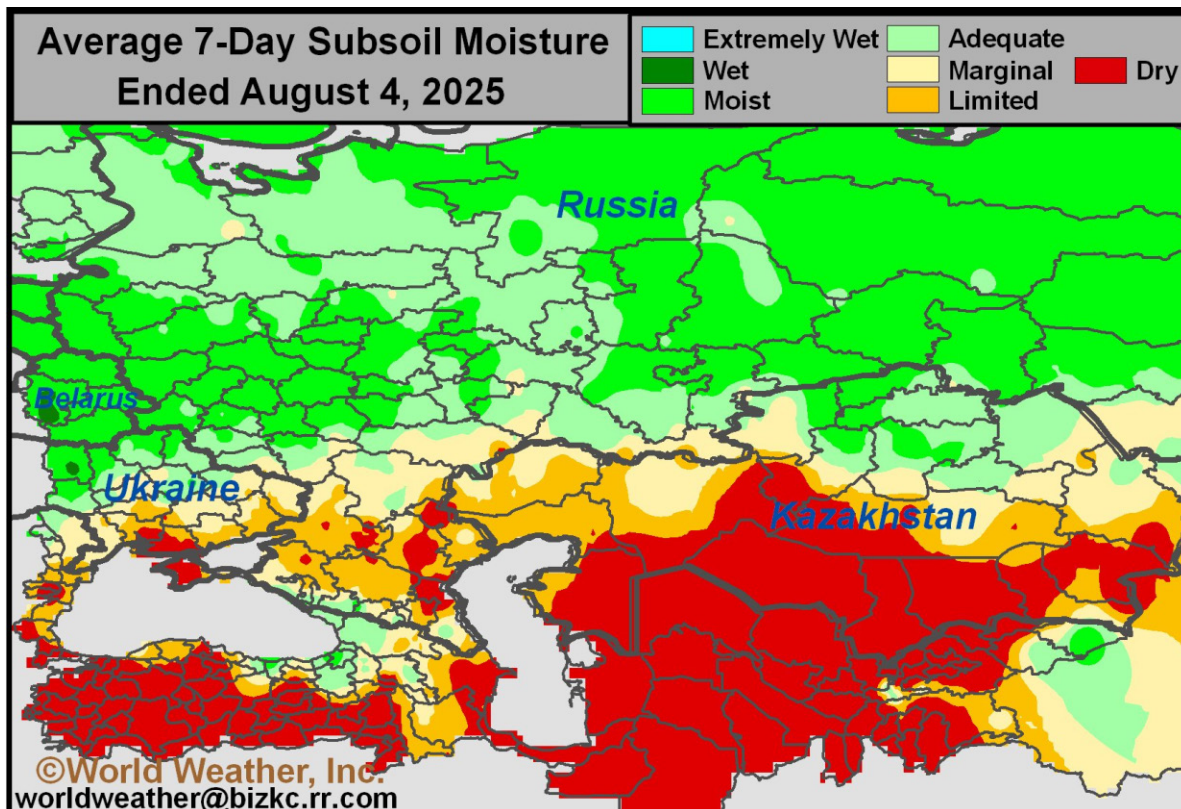


In the meantime, summer grain and oilseed conditions are variable across the main production areas in the former Soviet Union. Western Russia, Russia's eastern New Lands, and northern Kazakhstan received enough rain in recent weeks to maintain aggressive development. Several locations in Ukraine have enough moisture to promote relatively good crop conditions, though several areas in the south and east have struggled with moisture deficits over the summer and are in need of rain. Russia's Volga River Basin, Ural Mountains region, and 'Southern Region' are otherwise too dry to support ideal development. Continued dryness in the coming weeks will significantly increase concerns for production cuts.

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will be highly variable across the former Soviet Union through the middle of next week. A series of disturbances will often generate erratic rainfall from western Russia into the Ural Mountains region, eastern New Lands, and northern Kazakhstan. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.40 to 2.00 inches and local amounts of 3.00 inches or more in the Ural Mountains region. Other production areas in Russia and much of Ukraine will only have a few opportunities for spotty rain. A few locations in northern Ukraine, southwestern Russia, and the 'Southern Region' will receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain and locally greater amounts by next Wednesday morning. However, most locations will not receive enough rain to impact long-term soil conditions. The main production areas in the former Soviet Union will have a few opportunities for spotty rain August 14 – 20, though most locations will trend a littler drier than usual.



The temperature profile will trend near to above normal in much of the former Soviet Union through the middle of next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit in the 'Southern Region', western Kazakhstan, and portions of eastern and southern Ukraine. High temperatures elsewhere will generally be in the 70s and 80s. Temperatures will again trend near or slightly above normal August 14 – 20.

Winter grain and oilseed maturation and harvesting will advance swiftly in much of the former Soviet Union in the coming weeks. The rain that does occur will not impact quality or significantly delay the harvest. Areas near and east of the Ural Mountains, along with western Russia, will still have enough moisture to support a good environment for

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summer grain and oilseed development. *The Volga River Basin and 'Southern Region' into a large section of Ukraine will otherwise become or remain too dry for favorable summer crop conditions through at least mid-August. Unless timely rain occurs later this month, concerns for production cuts will increase.*

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