WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS
September 12, 2008

USDA/OCE – World Agricultural Outlook Board
Joint Agricultural Weather Facility
(More details are available in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin at http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/index.htm)

1 - UNITED STATES
An August dry spell adversely affected Midwestern soybeans and late-developing corn, despite a lack of heat stress. August rainfall totals were less than 25 percent of normal at several Midwestern locations. In contrast, abundant August rainfall soaked the South. The rain, while initially beneficial for drought-stressed pastures and immature summer crops, became excessive as the month progressed. Soybeans, rice, and open-boll cotton were among the crops vulnerable to yield reductions due to August downpours. Atlantic tropical storms making landfall during August were Edouard and Fay. The latter storm made four landfalls in Florida between August 18-23 before soaking the Southeast. At month's end, Hurricane Gustav bore down on the central Gulf Coast. Farther west, frequent showers on the Plains aided late-developing summer crops and improved soil moisture in preparation for winter wheat planting. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather persisted in much of California and the Great Basin, while showers dotted the remainder of the West.

2 - CANADA
During August, above-normal temperatures aided development of spring grains and oilseeds across the Prairies. Periods of heavy rain hampered fieldwork in southern growing areas but moisture levels increased for pastures and winter grain planting.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA
In August and early September, drought maintained unfavorable winter wheat prospects in key growing areas of central Argentina. In contrast, drier weather benefited reproductive to maturing wheat in southern Brazil after a period of unusual wetness in early August. Conditions remained overall favorable for harvest of Brazil's coffee, sugarcane, and citrus.

4 - EUROPE
Across central and northern Europe, wet August weather disrupted winter and spring grain harvesting and reduced grain quality. However, the abundant rainfall favored filling summer crops and provided topsoil moisture for planting the 2009 winter grain and oilseed crop. In contrast, expanding drought in southeastern Europe reduced yield prospects for filling corn and sunflowers. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather promoted summer crop maturation on the Iberian Peninsula, while showers provided beneficial moisture for summer crops in southwestern France.

5 - FSU-WESTERN
In August, hot, dry weather prevailed across Ukraine and southern Russia, stressing corn and sunflowers in latter stages of crop development but favoring small grain harvesting. In northern Russia, fieldwork for small grain harvesting and planting the 2009 winter grain crop advanced in between showers. Since early September, mild weather and scattered showers favored winter grain emergence in northern Russia, while hot, dry weather persisted in Ukraine and southern Russia, aiding summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting.

6 - FSU-NEW LANDS
In August, periodic showers favored filling spring grains in Russia. Hot, dry weather returned to spring grain areas in Kazakhstan, hastening crop maturity but helping harvest activities that were well underway by month's end. Since early September, increasing showers slowed spring grain harvesting in Russia, while scattered showers caused only brief interruptions in harvest activities in Kazakhstan.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY
Below-normal August rainfall further depleted soil moisture reserves for upcoming winter grain planting but favored cotton development.

8 - SOUTH ASIA
In August, near- to above-normal rainfall across much of the region maintained favorable prospects for vegetative to reproductive soybeans and cotton. Record-setting wetness in northern India caused flooding and necessitated some replanting of summer crops. However, drier-than-normal conditions prevailed in central India's soybean areas, although soil moisture remained mostly favorable for crop development.

9 - EASTERN ASIA
In August, localized dryness in western Heilongjiang reduced soil moisture for filling corn and soybeans, while elsewhere in Manchuria, rainfall provided sufficient moisture for developing crops. Heavy rainfall in Hubei, Anhui, and Jiangsu produced unfavorably wet conditions for open cotton bolls, although drier weather by the end of the month eased some of the wetness. Wet weather prevailed throughout the month from the Yellow River to south of the Yangtze River, favoring some late developing summer crops but mostly slowing crop maturation and harvest activities.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA
The monsoon was active throughout the month of August, producing prodigious amounts of rain in Thailand and Vietnam. The rain aided crops in Indochina, especially rice nearing reproduction in Thailand. In Vietnam, however, the heavy rainfall produced some seasonal flooding and slowed fieldwork. The Philippines was affected by three tropical cyclones; the strongest of which was Typhoon Nuri that clipped the northern coast of Luzon. Torrential showers from the tropical cyclones caused excessive wetness for rice and corn in the north. Above-normal rainfall during the later half of the month in Indonesia and Malaysia slowed oil palm harvest activities and was likely excessive for crop development.

11 - AUSTRALIA
In August, below-normal rainfall in Western Australia reduced topsoil moisture for winter wheat and barley. In contrast, periodic showers in southeastern Australia maintained local moisture supplies for jointing winter grains. Queensland and northern New South Wales were dry during much of August, but widespread, soaking rains overspread these areas in early September, providing a timely boost in topsoil moisture as wheat entered reproduction.