

FEATURE – TROPICAL STORMS AFFECT NATIONS FARMLAND

INTRO: While hurricanes and tropical storms are usually unwelcome, parts of U-S farm country are benefitting from them. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:08)

FARMS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN U-S AND PARTS OF THE MIDWEST ARE BEING HELPED BY THE RAIN FROM RECENT HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE METEOROLOGIST.

Brad Rippey, USDA Agricultural Meteorologist: If we hadn't had all of these tropical storms kind of crisscrossing across the Midwest, the south and east, we'd be in a very dry situation going in. Instead we've got plenty of moisture now in much of the south and the east in some cases to excess.

RIPPEY SAYS PASTURELAND IN THE SOUTH IS BEING HELPED BY THE RAIN, BUT COTTON AND SUGARCANE COULD BE HURT BY TOO MUCH MORE RAIN.

Rippey: I think what's important is what happens from here on out if we have more hurricanes and more wet weather. That could have an impact there.

AS FOR THE MIDWEST, RIPPEY SAYS IT'S A MIXED BAG.

Rippey: We've had some good rains in the central Corn Belt. It remains dry in the east. If we don't get some rain in the eastern Corn Belt, we'll be going in very dry soil.

RIPPEY ALSO SAYS THE MIDWEST COULD BE HIT WITH EARLY COLD WEATHER THIS MONTH.

Rippey: So we will have to continue watching for cold fronts cross the Midwest. That could be a concern as we head into mid-September in the upper Midwest.

IN WASHINGTON FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.