



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights – Wednesday - October 8, 2008

- ***In the West***, cool air continues to spread across ***northern areas***, while warm, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork in ***California*** and the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, cool, breezy weather prevails across ***northern areas***, where the majority of the winter wheat crop has been planted. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather on the ***central and southern Plains*** is promoting wheat planting and harvesting of summer crops, including corn, cotton, peanuts, and sorghum.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, wet weather is spreading across ***eastern areas***, where showers are slowing fieldwork but boosting topsoil moisture for newly planted winter wheat. Meanwhile, dry conditions are returning to areas from the ***Mississippi Valley westward***, permitting a gradual return to corn and soybean harvesting.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers are spreading across areas ***east of the Mississippi River***, improving topsoil moisture but slowing summer crop harvesting and early-season winter wheat planting.

Outlook: For the remainder of today, showers and thunderstorms will continue to spread toward the ***East Coast***. Toward week's end, however, the focus for heavy rainfall will shift into the ***Southeast***, where as much as 2 to 3 inches may fall. Meanwhile, significantly cooler air will trail a cold front into the ***northern Plains*** and the ***West***, preceded and accompanied by scattered rain and snow showers. Precipitation may become heavy across the ***northern and central Plains*** and the ***northern Rockies***, especially if the front entrains moisture from ***eastern Pacific*** Hurricane Norbert. By week's end and early next week, freezes can be expected as far east as the ***northern Plains*** and the ***central High Plains***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 13-17 calls for the likelihood of warmer-than-normal conditions across the ***eastern half of the nation***, while near- to below-normal temperatures will prevail in the ***West***. Meanwhile, above-normal precipitation across the ***Plains*** and much of ***Florida*** and the ***Midwest*** will contrast with drier-than-normal weather in ***California***, the ***Southwest***, and the ***Delta***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.pdf>