

the Outlook

As we begin summer production Mother Nature delivers a double shot of weather affecting crops across the country. To the East Tropical Storm Cindy, currently making landfall along the Texas, Louisiana border will bring significant rainfall and flash flooding to parts of the region as it moves northeast and dissipates into the weekend. The heaviest rain and associated thunderstorms extend far to the east of this system producing heavy rains across the southeastern region. These regions have seen substantial rains over the past few weeks impacting production and quality of these crops. Crop assessments will begin in earnest following the storm early next week.

Out west we are dealing with an extended heat wave across the entire region from Oregon to Mexico and into Nevada and Arizona. The heat index is expected to peak today with record highs likely in many areas. Gradual cooling begins over the weekend with seasonal temperatures expected by late next week. The coastal regions have been moderated by the continuing marine layer while inland regions have been hit hard. Heat-related defects will surely be on the rise due to the extended nature of this heat wave. Seeders, tip burn, internal burn, sunscald and especially lesser texture and shelf life will be the norm for the near term at a minimum. Another major concern for growers will be the anticipated pest problem. Rodents, reptiles, amphibians and especially insect populations are at record levels throughout the regions. The tremendous winter rains out west have created the perfect environment (plenty of weeds, grasses, bushes, and water) for these pests to thrive. We are already seeing insect populations at levels not seen in recent memory. Growers and Pest Control Advisors (PCA's) only have so many options or remedies to combat these infestations that look to be ongoing as we move into summer harvests. We will likely see a drastic increase in insect activity in these upcoming harvests due to life cycles and the surrounding hills providing plenty of harborage for these pests. The current heat will only increase insect activity in the stands. Growers look to have quite a fight with pathogens, pests, and insects as we move into summer production. Crop assessments will be ongoing across the country but it is safe to say yields and quality will be subject moving forward as fields recover.