

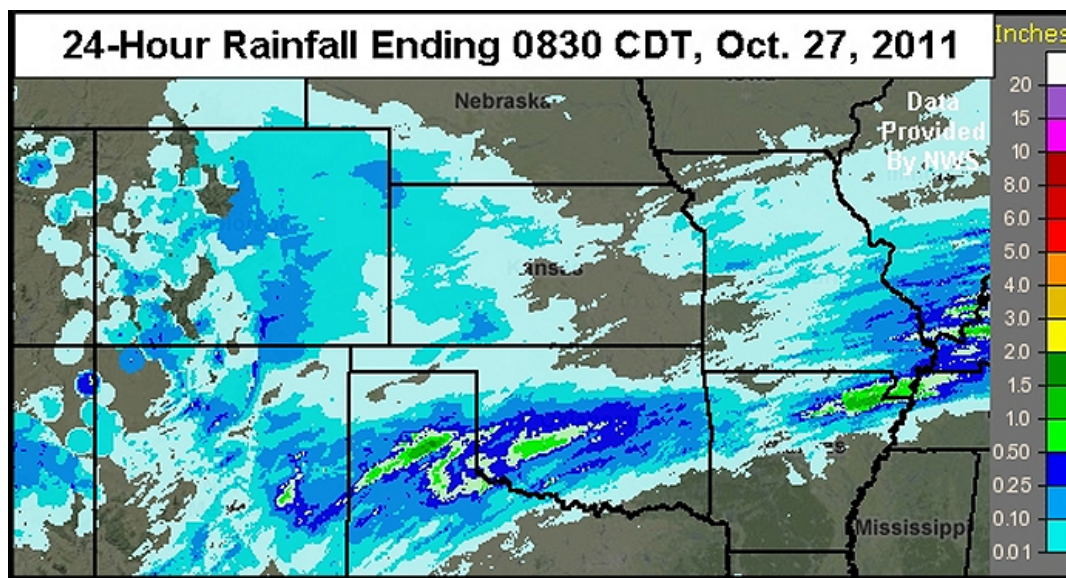
# U.S. Central Plains Moisture Welcome, but A little Disappointing

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, October 27 (World Weather Inc.) – Rain and snow fell across the U.S. hard red wheat country Wednesday and early this morning. The precipitation was welcome wherever it occurred, but many areas may not have received as much moisture as they would have liked. Many amounts were a little lighter than expected and that too may leave room for some ongoing concern about the long term outlook in wheat areas. Oklahoma and the southeastern half of the Texas Panhandle have done well with rainfall through dawn today and should see additional moisture into the early afternoon today.

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Heavy snow has fallen along the Front Range of the Colorado Rocky Mountain region overnight with reports of 8 to 14 inches in some communities. However, none of that snowfall was in wheat country. Most of the snow that fell to the east in wheat areas was much lighter reaching 4 inches in northeastern Colorado and varying from a dusting to an inch or two in other areas from western Kansas and eastern Colorado into the Texas Panhandle. Snow was falling significantly at the time of this report (0830 CDT) in the west-central Texas Panhandle where some of the greatest accumulations will occur this morning.



Moisture totals for the event may prove to be a little disappointing for quite a few areas. Doppler radar interpreted rain amounts were less than 0.10 inch along the southern half of the Kansas/Colorado border region, throughout the northern Texas Panhandle and in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Similar conditions occurred in central Kansas while eastern crop areas in Kansas were left dry or mostly dry.

Moisture totals in the remainder of eastern Colorado's crop country and interior southwestern through northwestern Kansas to far southwestern Nebraska varied up to 0.25 inch. All of the moisture noted in the west-central high Plains was welcome, but a day or two of sunshine and 70-degree high temperatures may remove the moisture. Crops are sure to benefit from the precipitation over the next few days, but more moisture is still needed.

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In contrast, the most significant precipitation reported through 0830 CDT today occurred from the southern and central Texas Panhandle through central and a part of interior southern Oklahoma. Moisture totals in the region have varied from 0.20 to 0.75 inch generally with a number of amounts getting over 1.00 inch. Additional rainfall in this same corridor for a while this morning will expand the number of counties seeing improved soil moisture. The most significant bolstering of soil moisture and improvement in wheat conditions will occur as a result of this rainfall.

Temperatures will be kept quite cool today, but should rebound Friday into the weekend with highs back into the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit after today's highs in the 30s and 40s in the high Plains region and 50s further east.

The next larger storm system for hard red wheat country is at least a full week away and probably ten days. The next precipitation event may miss the high Plains region, despite computer forecast model suggesting otherwise.

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