

Data shows current drought worse than Dust Bowl in some SD counties

Drawing to the end of the climatological summer we are starting to get some perspective on the overall summer conditions and impacts. While yield losses and other agricultural conditions are being assessed, we do have some total perspective on the climatological conditions across the state, says Dennis Todey, South Dakota State climatologist.

"Although statewide data compilation and final rankings for the month will have to wait for the data from more stations across the state to be determined information for individual stations is complete enough to provide some indications on rankings and for the whole summer, totals are very sobering," Todey said.

He adds that most stations in the far southeast corner of the state will set all-time records for precipitation. These stations have data for more than 100 years, including the Dust

Bowl. The more complete rankings will be released the first week in September.

"Any time you are comparing records with the Dust Bowl, you have some serious issues," Todey said. "While temperatures were generally just short of Dust Bowl records, precipitation records did beat many from the 1930s."

The following stations will likely set all-time records for lack of summer precipitation (or other ranking as noted). Included are data through Aug. 29 for the current year beside the previous record setting year. The final totals/rankings would obviously change with additional precipitation, though this looks unlikely to change much before the end of the month. The following stations' data rank 2012 in the top five driest summers on record.

Vermillion: 1.62, 3.68 (1931)

Yankton: 1.76, 2.79 (1970)

Centerville: 2.30, 3.56 (1931)

Ft. Meade (Sturgis): 2.69, 3.00 (2006)

Sioux Falls: 2.73, 3.55 (1894)

Marion: 2.98, 4.15 (1976)

Winner: 3.09, 3.35 (1970)

Menno: 3.54, 4.14 (1910)

White Lake: 3.54, 2.99 (1988) 3rd

Academy: 3.56, 3.51 (1976) 2nd

Mitchell: 3.75, 3.48 (1991) 2nd

Clear Lake: 5.74, 4.56 (1973) 3rd

These stations have 100-plus years of observations. Thus, the Dust Bowl dominates summer temperature

records.

Temperature records

Menno: 77.1, 79.4 (1936) 3rd

Belle Fourche: 76.3, 74.4 (2006)

Milesville: 75.6, 76.3 (2006) 4th

Sioux Falls: 75.2, 77.1 (1936) 3rd

Martin: 74.9, 73.9 (2006)

Oelrichs: 74.4, 77.6 (1936) 5th

Ft. Meade (Sturgis): 74.1, 75.3 (1988) 5th

Lemmon: 72.8, 75.7 (1936) 5th

Newell: 72.5, 74.9 (1936) 5th

"The agricultural impacts for the summer are huge," Todey said. "From corn yield losses and pasture and

range areas. Given the numbers listed above it is obvious as to why yields were impacted so severely this year."

When reviewing the data, Todey says it is interesting to see that many precipitation records are not from some of the typical drought years.

"When we think of more recent drought years, we typically think of 1976, 1988 and 2006. These years appear in some records. But several others such as 1931 and 1970 hold previous precipitation records," he said. "The temperature record standard is still 1936, holding most of the summer records in South Dakota."

SDSU Extension will provide weekly drought briefings throughout the 2012 growing season. To keep up to date on how the drought is impacting South Dakota's agriculture industry, visit iGrow.org.

Sharing the Dream plans trip to Guatemala

The Vermillion-based fair trade organization Sharing the Dream in Guatemala (STDG) will sponsor a "fair trade and indigenous cultures" trip to Guatemala Jan. 8-17, 2013. The trip will be led by Vermillion's Jerry Wilson, long-time Latin-American traveler and author of the travel book, "American Artery: A Pan-American Journey."

An information session for interested persons will be held Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Sharing the Dream store, located at 10 W. Main St. in Vermillion.

Participants in the January trip will experience Guatemala City, the ancient Guatemalan capital of Antigua and several villages in the picturesque Lake Atitlan region. The group will visit cooperatives where wood carvings, weavings and other crafts sold at the Sharing the Dream store are made by hand.

They will meet students who are sponsored by STDG scholarships and serve meals to elders who have access to nutritious food and health care thanks to STDG sponsors. They will cross Lake Atitlan in traditional cayuca canoes, tour the ruins of the ancient capital, enjoy traditional Guatemalan foods and much more.

The cost of the 10-day trip, \$1,100 plus airfare, includes food and lodging as well as transportation, guide and interpreter services. Participants will need to be in good health, since the experience will require substantial walking, and because many Guatemalan facilities are not handicap accessible.

For more information, call Jerry Wilson at (605) 624-9279 or the Sharing the Dream office at ((605) 624-6895.

4-H program provides record number of scholarships

Forty-nine South Dakota young people are benefitting from \$19,000 in 4-H scholarships to help pay for their tuition this fall. Forty of those scholarships were "earned" through the 4-H Teens as Teachers Scholarship program.

The only 4-H scholarship of its kind in the county, the program provides opportunities for older youth to be teachers and mentors to younger students in classroom and after school settings.

These teen teachers put in twenty to forty hours of teaching time in various subject matter areas, i.e., science, engineering and technology, healthy living and character education, the amount of scholarship is based on the number of hours taught by each teen. For a number of them, it opened the door for a career choice.

As one 4-H Teen as Teacher in Science exclaimed, "I didn't know I would enjoy teaching science so much!"

Sarah Tow, 4-H scholarship recipient, comments, "The 4-H Teens as Teachers Scholarship Program gave me the first stepping stone towards becoming a better public speaker. Each group (that I worked

with) operated under very different dynamics, which taught me to think quickly on the spot and gave me the experience needed to speak in front of a wide variety of people, both kids and adults."

Tyler Hejek, Beadle County scholarship winner in character education, said, "I truly loved being in Teens as Teachers. It was the highlight of my senior year! I felt I helped make a difference with future athletes and students at Huron schools."

The majority of these scholarships are being used at in-state colleges, universities and technical schools: South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, Dakota State University, Northern State University, Black Hills State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Augustana College, Dakota Wesleyan University, University of Sioux Falls, Sinte Gleska College, Lake Area Technical Institute and Mitchell Technical Institute.

For more information on the 4-H Teens as Teachers program, contact Audrey Rider, 4-H youth specialist in leadership development at (605) 882-5140.

USD AWOL announces winter break service-learning destinations

Students from the University of South Dakota will assist families in need in Texas; work with conservationists and environmentalists at the Florida Everglades and help New Orleans neighborhoods affected by Hurricane Isaac and other natural disasters during winter break service-learning trips. A fourth winter break trip will also take students to serve in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, working with children in poverty.

The student-led service-learning group, Alternative Week of Off-campus Learning (AWOL), recently announced these winter break destinations. Applications are now available for students at <http://orgs.usd.edu/awol/>. Faculty, staff and graduate assistants interested in participating as learning partners should email karl.reasoner@usd.edu.

AWOL Honduras will construct homes and schools, mentor and tutor children, and perform basic health screenings. The AWOL Dallas group will assist Bryan's House, a non-profit organization founded in Dallas that provides medically-managed child care, respite care, and community-based support services. Participants will also mentor and teach children, collect and sort donations, complete facility maintenance, and prepare

Bryan's House for its holiday fundraiser.

AWOL New Orleans will work with the Beacon of Hope Resource Center to revitalize neighborhoods and support disaster relief efforts, including urban landscaping, painting, neighborhood clean-ups and small scale construction projects. AWOL Florida Everglades will assist with environmental conservation and protection service work in parks and wildlife sanctuaries such as Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, Florida Keys Wild Bird Center, Homestead Soup Kitchen, and John Pennekamp State Park.

Prior to traveling, AWOL volunteers receive six weeks of training and learning. AWOL provides students with educational service-learning experiences through exposure to diverse social issues. Faculty, staff and graduate assistant learning partners provide mentoring and cooperation with students to connect AWOL service to their academic goals. AWOL students and learning partners come from all USD departments and the programs are open to all volunteers. For more information, please visit www.usd.edu/engage or email engage@usd.edu.

Hay to be removed from state highway right of way

The South Dakota Department of Transportation requests the cooperation of all farmers and ranchers in removing processed hay from the highway right of way.

State regulations require that hay be removed from the

right of way within 30 days of being processed, but no later than October 1.

Removing hay bales from the highway right of way is an important safety consideration for motorists. The bales or stacks can be a safety hazard for vehicles

forced to leave the road and, in some cases, can restrict a driver's sight distance. Hay left in the road ditches late in the year can also cause snowdrifts across the highway.

For more information, contact Jason Humphrey at (605) 773-3571.

Grants available to 4-H clubs and FFA/FCCLA

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture announces that grant funding is now available through the Building Our South Dakota Rural Communities (BOSDRC) grant program.

Grants are open to 4-H clubs, FFA chapters and Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapters. The grants were developed to demonstrate the importance of rural communities and the value of organizations that work together to improve rural life.

Two types of grants are available. The basic grant is used for community improvement projects and is limited to \$750

per project. The safety grant is used for projects that enhance public safety and is limited to \$200 per project.

Any 4-H club, FFA or FCCLA chapter in South Dakota can apply for the BOSDRC grant. Applications are due by Wednesday, Oct. 31. Grant awardees will be announced at the end of November.

All applications must be submitted on the approved forms for Fiscal Year 2013. Grant application forms are available at <http://sdda.sd.gov> under the Agricultural Development tab and click on Finance Programs or call Terri LaBrie at (605) 773-5436.

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Grandma has turned 70

Can you guess who she is?

- She goes to church every day.
- She reads with little kids at St. Agnes.
- She plays dominoes and puts puzzles together with us.
- She takes care of her mommy.
- She gives us a "Dum Dum" lollipop when we visit.
- She grows pretty flowers.
- She loves Grandpa.

With Hugs and Kisses!

Neil, Thad, Luke, Gerrit, Seth, Allison, Andrew, Regan, Logan, Noah, Anna, Maia, Molly, Lauren, Kate, Sara, Brennen, Erin, Hope, Emma, Jaxon, Cole, Bennett, and Maddie

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