

Crop seed is in the ground - timely rains will be key in 2021

It is the middle of May and row crop seeds are in the ground. That statement cannot be made every year, but it is true in 2021.

South Dakota State University Extension Agronomy Field Specialist, David Karki, Watertown, talked about the upcoming growing season.

Even though precipitation in Clark is 5.18" at this time compared to 4.40" a year ago, the state of South Dakota is very dry, with most areas considered in drought conditions.

With much of South Dakota falling into a drought category, Karki was asked about this and he answered, "Looking at the Clark County drought situation, I have been in Clark County fields and without rain and with wind, it can change."

"The Watertown and Clark areas are better off compared to many parts of South Dakota. We're okay."

Every cloud has a silver lining and Karki continued that the good part of a dry spring means that fields have been planted and producers can get out and get work done.

"Planting is done," said Karki. "That is the situation we are in. If you have a dry spring, at the same time that means the corn and beans get planted in a timely fashion."

The agronomist has been checking things out statewide and said that some soybeans are coming up already around Sioux Falls.

"Getting away from corn and beans, a planting update includes that small grains are coming up throughout the state. The winter wheat isn't as good as usual," stated Karki and he blamed the harsh two-week period in February.

"The February brutal freeze, bitterly cold, in an open winter, that's not good," he said of the winter wheat crop. "March wasn't that

advantageous as well. That doesn't mean very winter wheat crop is bad. It means that winter wheat and an open winter don't get along well."

SDSU Extension Specialists, including David Karki, will be hosting a Wheat Walk, Thursday, June

Crops
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WEATHER				
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
May 11.....	55	34	0	
May 12.....	61	34	0	
May 13.....	66	41	0	
May 14.....	67	47	.04	
May 15.....	74	48	0	
May 16.....	76	51	0	
May 17.....	75	48	0	
2021 precipitation to date	5.22			
2020 precipitation to date	4.82			

Jamie Tarbox is the new Clark pharmacist

After working in Sioux Falls and Watertown since 2010, Doctor of Pharmacy Jamie Tarbox stated that "Now I'm here for life" as she has accepted the position of the new pharmacist at Clark's Lewis Drug, located in the Sanford Health Clinic.

"I knew in high school I wanted to be a pharmacist. That was always my plan A, there was no plan B for me," stated the 2003 Willow Lake High School graduate.

She is the daughter of Rick and Lori Hovde of Willow Lake. Her husband Tyler is the son of Harry and Darlene Tarbox and is a 2002 Clark High School graduate.

Tyler works as an account manager for a company which sells HVAC equipment. They also have a few Angus cattle, ranching along with Tyler's father Harry.

The couple has three daughters, Karsyn, Gracy and Rowan who currently have been attending school in Watertown. "The girls are excited to be attending the Clark School next year," stated Tarbox.

"As I'm older and now a parent



Jamie Tarbox, a Willow Lake High School graduate, has come back to Clark County and is glad to be here working as Lewis Drug's new pharmacist in Clark. Moving to their home near Bradley (when it's finished), Jamie, her husband Tyler and three daughters are looking forward to next year's school year when the children will attend the Clark School. Tarbox has been working as a pharmacist since 2010.

myself, I appreciate how I grew up in a smaller rural community. Also going to a smaller school. My girls are happy to be going to the same school that their dad did. Clark has

a lot to offer."

Tarbox has been training at the pharmacy location since March of

Tarbox

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Twenty-three graduate at Willow Lake, Sunday

There was a full gym Sunday with much excitement in the air, as 23 Willow Lake High School seniors became 2021 graduates after commencement exercises.

The graduation speaker was Kyle Lamb, a WLHS graduate and former

US military personnel.

Above, the congratulatory reception line after graduation, on Garfield Street, has Curtis Lamb, a 1969 Willow Lake grad, shaking hands with 2021 graduate Caleb Bratland.

Frenzied housing market putting homeownership out of reach for some South Dakotans

Danielle Ferguson
South Dakota News Watch

Historically low interest rates, a rush of out-of-state homebuyers, limited inventory and higher construction prices for new homes have made for a frenzied housing market that has put homeownership further out of reach for some South Dakota residents.

The highly competitive housing market is leading to a range of outcomes often seen in coastal states but rarely in South Dakota.

First-time homebuyers or those looking for properties at an affordable price have found themselves in bidding wars with others willing to pay \$20,000 to \$60,000 above list price. Offer prices are being driven up by high demand from out-of-state residents moving to South Dakota for work, the lifestyle or because they approve of how the state operated during the pandemic. Everyone is competing for a smaller pool of homes on the market, and some South Dakota homes are selling in less than two days.

"I've been in real estate for 33 years and I've never seen it like this," said state Rep. Roger Chase, R-Huron, who is a real-estate agent.

"A lot of people want to move here."

The frenzied market is pushing up home prices and making it more difficult for low- to medium-income residents to achieve homeownership. The \$45,000 average yearly income in South Dakota cannot compete with the purchasing power of a six-figure, out-of-state salary. Those longtime residents who normally would be able to purchase a home are forced to remain in rental properties, further putting a limit to the available rental units for families in need of affordable housing.

"All of this demand doesn't seem to be able to be fed with home purchases, so it's going to the rental market," said Bryan Achbach, director of the Pennington County Housing and Redevelopment Commission.

Many of the major complexes the coalition uses in Rapid City are at 100% capacity with waiting lists, which is not normal, Achbach said. The commission's clientele has had trouble finding units to rent and existing renters are seeing rents rise rapidly, Achbach said.

Housing

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Clark FCCLA Quiz Bowl team dominates competition for second national title!

The senior Quiz Bowl team consisting of Hudson Fuller, Amy Splinter, Sarah Weisbrod, Macy Steen and Gunnar Kvistad are once again FCCLA National Champions. This team qualified for national competition last November by competing with an online test against 40 other teams. The top 16 scores then qualified to compete last week in the National Championship. The team competed Thursday against a team from Missouri and won 180 to 10. Then a team from Iowa which they beat 180 to 35. Final round on Thursday was against a team from Missouri which Clark won 150 to 30.

The top eight total scores went into Friday for the final three rounds. The first round on Friday was against a team from Kansas and they won to go into the semifinals. In semifinals they played a team from Ohio. This was the closest competition they had. They won and went into the championship round against a team from Texas. Clark won 150 to 30.

The National Leadership meeting is in Nashville, Tenn. The Clark team was able to gain in-person attendance so they will travel to Nashville at the end of June and be recognized during a General Session for their accomplishment.

Three seniors go out on top

This is the end of the adventure for Amy Splinter, Sarah Weisbrod and Hudson Fuller. Hudson Fuller has been a member of the senior Quiz Bowl team the past 4 years. Sarah and Amy were both on the Junior Quiz Bowl team their freshman year and the last three years they have been senior Quiz Bowl members. Besides the four State championship wins, this team has placed 1st in the Nation twice and placed 2nd last year during COVID. Hudson was also part of a 3rd place National finish.

In the words of FCCLA adviser Tammie Paulson, "Being a member of this team has come with many hours of studying and practice Tuesday mornings at 7:25. These members have to know a wide range of information. I had each of them share a favorite question from last week's competition. A Health and Safety question was "SSDS is an acronym that identifies a deadly condition caused by inhalant abuse. What does the acronym SSDS stand for?" A Technology, Housing and Fashion question was "What is the 2021 Pantone color of the year?" A Personal Finance question was "Why should you not borrow against your 401k?" An Environment question was "What is e-waste?" A Consumerism ques-

tion was "What is it called when a store advertises a sale on an item and when you get into the store it is pushing a more expensive item?" And all competitions end with FCCLA knowledge such as "What are the official colors?" "There are 4 units of Student Body, name one." "What is the official magazine?" "What is the FCCLA motto?"

This chapter is closed for these three seniors, the other two members, Macy Steen, two year member and Gunnar Kvistad, a four year member will continue to compete one last year with three new members that will be announced in the fall. The new team will attend National Fall Leadership meeting in Washington DC in hopes of qualifying for 2022 National Meeting in San Deigo, Calif.

These five Clark FCCLA Quiz Bowl team members won the 2021 National Championship this past week. It is the second Clark FCCLA National Championship title in three years. Last year, a COVID-19 year, the team finished second in the nation.

Team members include, left to right, Hudson Fuller, Amy Splinter, Macy Steen, Gunnar Kvistad and Sarah Weisbrod. Tammie Paulson is the adviser.

