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**TOP
of the Week**

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
July 9	78	57	0
July 10	74	56	0
July 11	80	62	0
July 12	86	68	0
July 13	83	71	0
July 14	73	68	.70
July 15	80	67	0
2013 precipitation to date	15.06"		
2012 precipitation to date	11.55"		

Gentle, soaking rain is very appreciated

July rains without raging storms are very appreciated and that is what the county experienced this past weekend.

Often times these moisture events this time of year are also quite sporadic, but this really wasn't the case as all reporting spots received significant moisture.

The city of Clark was toward the bottom of rain amount totals with Crocker being at the top, but almost everyone is smiling after checking the rain gauge.

Row crops are sitting very good heading into August.

Week of 7-9 to 7-15

Clark County Rainfall	*Bradley 1.40"
*Crocker 2.90"	*Garden City 1.70"
*Raymond 2.67"	Henry 1.91"
*Clark .70"	*Vienna 2.17"
*Carpenter 1.45"	*Willow Lake 1.60"

CWL plays Redfield in Region tourney

The Clark-Willow Lake American Legion baseball team plays Redfield in the first round of the regional tournament, Friday, at Groton.

Game five is set for 7:00 p.m. Warner-Ipswich-Northville plays Groton in the other opening round game.

SD West Nile virus numbers increasing

Culex tarsalis mosquito numbers are increasing across the state and more of the mosquitoes are positive for the West Nile virus (WNV), says a state health official. The *Culex tarsalis* is the primary carrier of WNV in South Dakota.

To date, South Dakota has reported four cases of human West Nile (Brookings, Buffalo, Jones and Spink counties) and 23 positive mosquito pools.

Mystery Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head Clue #2

The Clark Chamber of Commerce is again having the Mystery Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head contest in conjunction with Potato Day on Saturday, August 3, 2013.

Clue #2: This mystery couple is a mystery like no other. They have four children. All sisters and no brother.

Send answers to: Cassi Bloom, 604 S. Smith St., Clark, SD 57225.

This is a great summer to have a garden



Delores and Nelson Bloomquist are shown in front of a 'high tunnel' type of outdoor greenhouse used over their tomatoes and green peppers for earlier ripening. The Bloomquists have numerous gardens and are full-time gardeners taking care of it all to take to the local farmers market. Delores also runs a greenhouse in the spring/early summer months. Mixing flowers in with the produce, Delores holds a bouquet she put together of baby's breath, lilies, daises, lupine and snapdragon.



Along North Cloud Street in Clark one notices a finely kept garden full of healthy looking produce. Pete Lupinski is the owner and very much enjoys the art of gardening.

Shown above, Lupinski kneels down in the area of his garden where his squash and zucchini are doing well. In the background are green beans and tomatoes corralled into homemade tomato cages made out of cattle panels. Muskmelon and watermelon are also in the background and his entire garden is mulched with a thick layer of grass clippings.

Farmers markets sprout, take root and flourish

Farmers taking their goods to market in the James River Valley nowadays typically means a semi-truck loaded with corn, soybeans or cattle heading off to a sales point (an elevator or a sale barn), just the first stop in a chain of processing facilities before goods reach the consumer.

But communities across the nation, including dozens in the Dakotas, are joining in a growing nationwide trend of forming markets with much shorter farmer-to-consumer transportation systems: goods go straight from the farmer's hands to the consumer's.

In addition to supporting local farmers, many of these markets are becoming settings where the community can gather.

In Britton last Tuesday, for example, many young moms didn't take their kids home right away after swimming lessons. Instead, they gathered at the Greater Britton Country Market in City Park, where they put down blankets, fed their families at a meal served by a local community organization and let the kids play while they shopped at local vendors.

Farmers markets
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Local gardeners enjoy the satisfaction of 'homegrown'

Every year is different it seems when it comes to gardening say local gardeners. Like farming, it all depends on the season and the elements.

This year for instance at the Nelson and Delores Bloomquist garden, Nelson explained that the cool spring brought out less pollinators when they were needed. "Our apple trees and our plum trees and plumcot trees (like an apricot tree) had nice blossoms on them and a lot of them but the cool spring held back the pollinators - the bees and the insects. This year we don't have any plums to speak of like

we usually do and our apple trees have very few apples on them.

Delores added, "I talked to a fellow gardener whose apples all blew off with that terrible wind we had back in June."

The Bloomquists have many large gardens on their farm and sell their produce weekly at a local farmers market. The Bloomquists are both on the committee that organizes the farmers market currently and Delores has been a committee member since 2003.

Local gardeners
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Twelfth annual 4-H Rodeo is set for July 27 and 28 with many activities planned for 4-H contestants

The Clark County Fairgrounds will be the site of the twelfth annual Clark County 4-H Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday, July 27 and 28. The rodeo events will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Over 240 contestants have signed up to take part in the two day event. Events for junior and senior contestants are planned in both the small and large arenas at the rodeo grounds.

The rodeo event order for both days at the large arena includes: senior barrels, junior barrels, junior-junior barrels, senior steer wrestling, senior dally team roping, junior flag race, junior-junior flag race, senior pole bending, senior bareback riding, senior saddle bronc riding, junior cattle riding, senior bull riding.

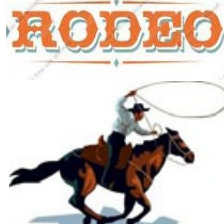
In the small arena, the event

order is: senior calf roping, junior boys breakaway, senior breakaway, junior boys goat tying, junior girls breakaway, senior ribbon roping, junior girls goat tying, senior girls goat tying, junior pole bending.

The 4-H Rodeo contestants will compete for an opportunity to qualify for the South Dakota 4-H Rodeo State Final to be held in August.

4-H'ers from across the state are coming to Clark over the weekend to compete in the 21 different events in three divisions, junior-junior, junior and senior.

Saturday and Sunday will be considered separate rodeos so actually contestants will have two chances to qualify for the state finals. Over 1,500 run-throughs will take place in the two days.



Twenty-second annual Potato Day is scheduled for August 3



In a half month's time on Saturday, August 3, 2013, Clark will hold their 22nd annual Potato Day. Some new and exciting activities and events are being added to this year's venue. Sponsored by the Clark Chamber of Commerce, Potato Day 2013 provides activities which are fun for the entire family. Potato Day headquarters will be

located under the Dacotah Bank tent at Dickinson Park. In keeping with tradition, anyone with a tasty potato and chip dip recipe is encouraged to enter the potato and chip dip recipe contest. Everyone always looks forward to the decorated potato contest held at the Clark Flower

Potato Day
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Larry the Llama now at Benson Farm

Larry the Llama is one of Clark County's residents. Larry keeps predators away at the Bob Benson farm, just north of Clark. Benson said the male llama is "kind of an enjoyable critter, though if he looks tame, he isn't".

He acquired Larry from a farm/ranch in Spink County. "The kids named him," he said.

This photo also shows the lush vegetation after two July rains.

The Clark County 4-H Achievement Days are right around the corner



Summer is screaming toward Fall, as July seems always to be a blur. Clark County 4-H Achievement Days are right around the

corner. The Achievement Days will be held Wednesday and Thursday, August 7 and 8 at the Clark County Fairgrounds, in Clark.

Kim McGraw is the 4-H advisor for Spink and Clark counties and she is in charge of all 4-H activities along with the Clark County 4-H leaders.

Things are coming together but much work still needs to be done, according to 4-H Youth Advisor McGraw.

This is the 85th annual Clark **4-H Achievement Days**
(continued on page 2)



WW Tire: Now open in Clark, north side of Cenex

Open: 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri. & 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Sat.

Phone: 605-532-5900
(Ask for Matt)