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Drought returns and extreme heat has a negative impact on crops

As temperatures have gotten hot and the dryness continues, it is not a big surprise that Clark County has been declared moderate drought status.

This week's extreme heat has had an overall negative impact on the state's crops, said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

"Crops, particularly in northeastern South Dakota are stressed due to the heat and lack of moisture," Edwards said. "In a way the heat has helped the corn crop which has been lacking growing degree days this summer, and needed the high-

er temperatures for plant development. However, when the plant is developing it requires more moisture which has not been available. The lack of moisture is also impacting soybean fields."

The new US Drought Monitor map for South Dakota reflects this condition. Moderate Drought (D1) has been introduced roughly from Brown and Spink County and east to the Minnesota border. Several stations in this area are honing in on their top 10 driest Augusts on record.

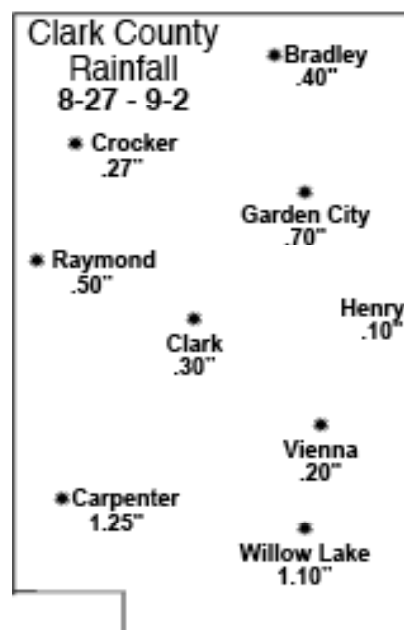
"Many parts of the corn, soybean and sunflower growing region are suffering from dryness in the northeast," she said. "The big change from last year was that temperatures had been below average until late August, reducing the amount of crop water use and stress. The recent heat has reintroduced the stressed conditions in these dry areas. Somewhat easing the stress has been the high dew points, which reduce some crop water use."

Edwards said the additional heat has helped push crop development along. Overall development is still behind compared to the five-year

average.

"Overall crop and rangeland conditions present a good picture for South Dakota with generally fair to good crop conditions and small areas poor to very poor in this week's USDA crop reports," she said. "In contrast to the dry areas several

Drought
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Warm August weather conducive to tarring Clark streets

Warm late August days sometimes mean public schools dismiss early, but it also means city/county street crews can use the dry, warm weather for street upkeep and repair. On Wednesday and Thursday several streets in Clark were chip sealed, including a gravel covering.

Pictured above is the Clark County transportation repair crew in combination with city employees chip sealing South Cloud Street in Clark. The county crew helps the city crew as they tarred and put gravel on several streets on Thursday.

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 27.....	88	68	0
Aug. 28.....	84	66	.30
Aug. 29.....	91	66	0
Aug. 30.....	82	64	0
Aug. 31.....	87	56	0
Sept. 1.....	70	50	0
Sept. 2.....	72	47	0
2013 precipitation to date	16.56"		
2012 precipitation to date	14.32"		

Pheasant brood count shows incredibly low numbers

▲ 0.77 pheasants per mile in our area

Where are the pheasants? A disappearing act in South Dakota of the Chinese Ringneck Pheasant occurred in the eastern and central parts this past year. Along with the mysterious disappearance act, there are not a lot of pheasant chicks to offset the losses.

What happened? It (pheasant loss) could be blamed on the drought. It could be less CRP and more crop acres causing a loss of nesting habitat. It could be an over abundance of predators.

Much speculation has not provided any clear cut answer.

SD Game, Fish and Parks conducts pheasant brood surveys each summer to evaluate the status of pheasant populations and predict pheasant population levels relative to previous years. This information, when combined with other factors such as status of the agricultur-

al harvest and historical hunting pressure, can be used to predict hunter success and satisfaction for geographical areas of the state. Densities of pheasants alone do not infer high or low hunter success and satisfaction. Access to hunting opportunities is equally, if not more important to densities of pheasants in evaluating potential hunter success and ultimately, hunter satisfaction.

In 2013, survey indices were derived from 108, 30-mile pheasant brood routes that are distributed across South Dakota where pheasants are found in sufficient number for surveying. Routes are surveyed from 25 July through 15 August each year using standardized methods on mornings when weather conditions are optimal for observing pheasants. Also, pheasant brood members are opportunistically counted throughout the survey period to estimate an average number of young per brood. Pheasants per mile (PPM) estimates are calculated by summing the product of mean brood sizes and broods observed with numbers of cocks and hens observed on each route. PPM estimates for 2012 and the average of the previous 10 years are compared with the 2013 survey results. Results are compared within local areas with Wilcoxon signed-rank tests which take into account the direction (up or down) and magnitude of change for each route. Since PPM estimates are relative density estimates, comparisons are valid only between years within each local area.

The statewide Pheasants Per Mile (PPM) index for the 2013 pheasant brood survey decreased 64% (4.19 to 1.52) compared to the

2012 index. In comparison to the 10-year average, this year's index is 76% lower (2013 = 1.51, 10-year average = 6.23). Compared to 2012, fewer roosters, hens, and broods were counted throughout the 108 survey routes, while the average brood size decreased by 12%. Statewide, 93 routes of the 108 surveyed showed a decrease in PPM from 2012. Only 1 route had a higher PPM value than its 10-year average.

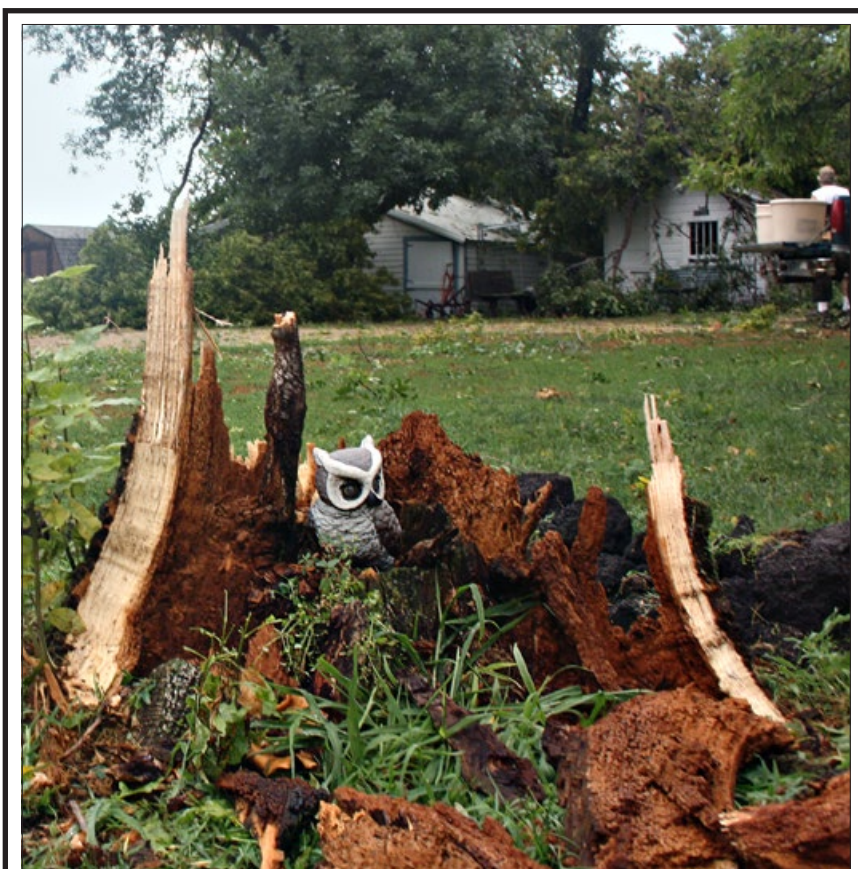
The total number of roosters counted during the 2013 survey was down 49% from the 2012 survey (733 vs. 1,434). The number of hens counted was down 57% from last year (867 vs. 2,027). Similarly, total broods counted decreased by 62% (611 vs. 1,612), while the statewide average brood size decreased by 12% (5.50 vs. 6.26). Average brood sizes decreased in all GF&P

administrative regions. The statewide average brood size for 2013 (5.50) is considerably lower than the 10-year average (6.42).

All local areas except Yankton declined from 2012, although the de-

Pheasant count
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Local Area	Routes	2013	2012	10 yr. avg.
Aberdeen.....	13	1.70	3.74	6.76
Brookings.....	11	0.77	1.93	4.33
Chamberlain.....	10	2.66	10.81	15.93
Huron.....	17	2.04	4.10	8.03
Mitchell.....	16	1.77	3.91	6.23
Mobridge.....	8	2.12	6.71	7.11
Pierre.....	12	2.15	9.53	9.51
Sioux Falls.....	13	0.88	1.12	2.34
Sisseton.....	4	0.47	0.82	2.04
Watertown.....	11	0.77	2.55	5.02
Western SD.....	5	1.01	2.24	2.80
Winner.....	8	2.00	7.35	7.84
Yankton.....	10	0.68	0.62	1.51
STATEWIDE.....	108	1.52	4.19	6.23



70 mph winds wreak havoc in Willow Lake

This owl surveys the damage done early last Wednesday morning at this residence on the southern edge of Willow Lake. Winds in excess of 70 miles per hour wreaked havoc in Willow Lake. To see what the fallen tree looks like, turn to the back page.

Senior Features of 2013

Paula Carlson loves to crochet

▲ Proud to call Raymond "home"

"We always did the best we could with what we had," stated Paula Carlson of Raymond. "I think I enjoyed my job managing the Raymond Grocery Store the most. I didn't make a lot of money but money isn't everything."

Now retired, Paula enjoys her favorite hobby - crocheting and keeps busy with her garden and all of the canning she continues to do.

Paula made her arrival at Mrs. Fanny Shirk's in Clark, one of about 1,000 babies born at the midwife's house. She was delivered by Dr. M. E. Adams on September 14, 1939. Her parents were Howard and Gladys (Ortberg) LaBay.

She was welcomed by siblings Warren and Judy. Six children followed after her, those being: Barb, Richard, Sally, Ann, Nancy and Steve.

The family of 11 lived about nine miles north of Raymond, moving only once about a mile to the south when Paula was four years old.

Grandparents

"I knew my grandparents Edgar and Edith (Carroll) Ortberg the best. All of us would take turns staying at their farm which was about 10 miles away. They were very nice, kind people. Gramma was a beautiful piano player. She played a portable organ at our wedding. She was also a really good cook and had a huge garden.

"I remember once when my grandpa was in the chicken house gathering eggs, he got sprayed by a skunk. He said he thought it was a cat in the dark coop and was going to toss it outside. He had to bury all of his clothes

Carlson
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If one is related to Paula (LaBay) Carlson of Raymond, chances are good they have an item that is her handiwork. "I love to crochet, I could do it all day long," says Paula of her favorite hobby. She crocheted the Winnie the Pooh she is holding.

Self taught from a book given to her by her former school bus driver, Alma Huber who drove for Ash Consolidated School, Paula learned to crochet while managing Raymond Grocery for 18 years.



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