

June 29, 2017

U.S. Drought Monitor

As of June 29, 2017, 56 percent of South Dakota is in drought, defined as D1/Moderate Drought or worse on the U.S. Drought Monitor map. The area of D3/Extreme Drought did not change this week. Moderate and Severe drought areas both expanded this week, as a reflection of continued dry conditions and reported drought impacts, primarily in the agricultural sector.

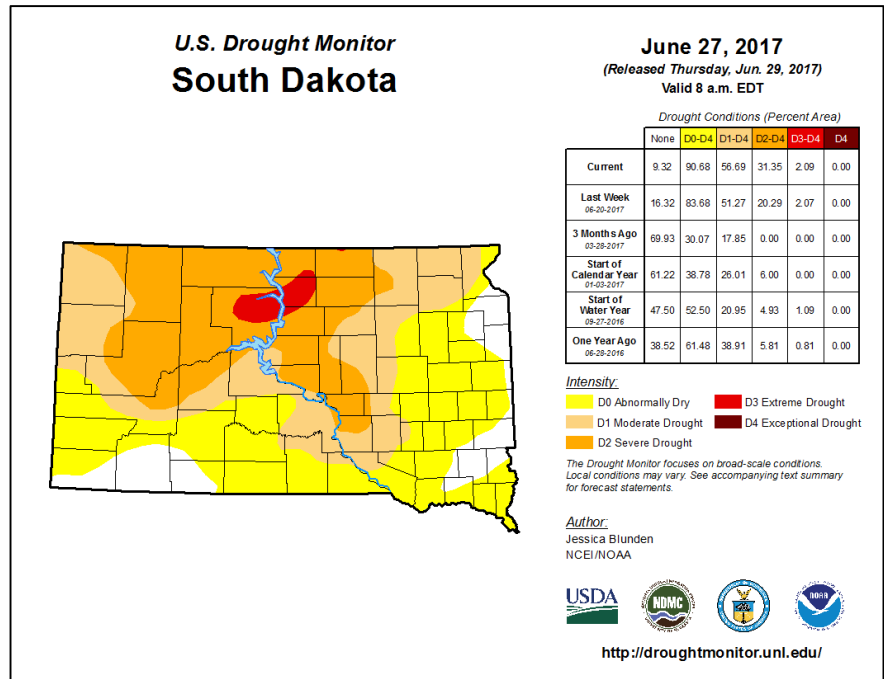
7-day Summary

Temperatures were cooler than average for the last week in South Dakota. Western areas ranged two to four degrees below average for this time of year. Eastern areas were as much as eight to ten degrees above average. Low temperatures on the mornings of June 24 and June 25 were near freezing in some areas of north central South Dakota.

Precipitation was below average nearly everywhere in the state. Some exceptions were the northeast around Watertown, southeast around Sioux Falls, and some locations south and east of Rapid City.

Impacts

The minimum temperatures on June 24 and 25 caused some freeze damage in corn in north central counties. Much corn was already beyond the V3 to V4 growth stage, which means there is high potential for substantial crop losses, especially in low lying areas. Much of the worst crop damage was reported in Campbell, Walworth, and Sully counties. This late freeze event has occurred in the midst of severe to extreme drought in the same region.



View more 2017 climate and drought summaries at:
<http://igrow.org/agronomy/corn/south-dakota-climate-drought-summary/>



Figure 2. Freeze damaged corn, Sully county, June 25, 2017.

The implications for future feed availability for cattle are unknown as damage assessments are still being completed.

Rainfall from two weeks ago, in combination with cool temperatures, has enabled some short-term green-up in grasses and pastures. Range management experts have said that the appearance of green vegetation is deceiving, as the optimal window for cool season grasses has already passed. Any rainfall now can potentially provide some later season growth in warm season grasses, but it is too early to determine possible value or amount for feed production.

Forecast

The current forecast shows trends towards warm and dry conditions across the Northern Plains region. Total rainfall for the next week is forecast to be less than an inch across South Dakota. The wettest area is likely to be along the Nebraska border in the southeastern part of the state.

Temperatures will be on the rise over the next week. There is some increase in risk for excessive heat late next week. The timing for this heat event could mean potential losses in the corn crop, as mid-July brings the critical pollination stage for this crop. Last year, excessive heat and dry conditions affected southeastern South Dakota this same time of year, and poor pollination led to substantial losses in corn yield.

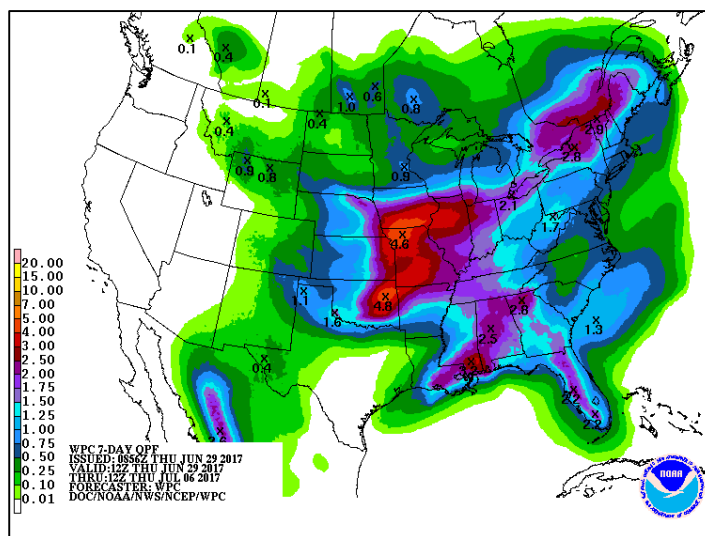


Figure 3. 7-day total rainfall forecast for June 29-July 6, 2017. Source: Weather Prediction Center,

Upcoming Events: SDSU Extension and USDA Farm Service Agency will be hosting a pair of drought management meetings on Thursday, July 6 in Herreid and Gettysburg. Topics include agricultural management in the current drought, economic considerations, weather and climate updates, and USDA drought disaster programs. See <http://igrow.org/news/dry-conditions-prompt-production-changes/> for details.

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