

Drought Task Force Meeting

[www.drought.sd.gov](http://www.drought.sd.gov)

Monday, October 1, 2012

2-3 pm CDT

State Emergency Operations Center Amphitheater

In attendance:

Jon Farris, SDDA	Jay Esperance and Steve Hasenohrl, WFS
Lynn Beck SDDENR	Jamie Crew, SDDA
Terry Woster, SDDPS	Jamie White, FSA
Paul Merriman, FMO	Katie Konda, SDDA
Jason Bauder, OEM	Tina Titze, OEM
Emmett Keyser, GF&P	Dennis Today, State Climatologist
Aaron Jordan, NG	Steve Harding, Dept. of Military

Climatology update:

Dennis Today reported there were no significant rains that caused any change throughout the State. Conditions are worsening and the drought monitor is now showing D1 to D4 status throughout the entire state. There are six weather stations that reported record low precipitation. The dry air is causing big daily temperature swings. The 8 to 14 day weather outlook calls for cooler air and below average temperatures, but the pattern of below normal precipitation will also continue. The October through December outlook calls for a weak El Nino pattern which will bring above average temperatures and no change to the precipitation pattern. The drought effects will certainly exist going into next spring because there is little time left this fall for moisture recovery. Red flag fire conditions are also going to exist through Tuesday of this week.

FSA report:

Jamie White reported there still is no ECP funding for producers which is becoming frustrating for them because they continue to have producers fill out applications for the program. Additionally, there are no other disaster programs that have been made available either. Jamie also reported that due to all the crop losses, the insurance companies are behind on their adjustments and subsequently producers are not receiving their insurance proceeds as quickly as they need them. The FSA is working to expedite payments to producers on grazing losses.

SDDA report:

Jon Farris reported he will be attending the National Drought meeting in Omaha on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Jamie White is going to get more specifics on the meeting to see if others should also attend the meeting. Jamie Crew reported all the donated hay has been all distributed to 12 different producers. Over 600 hay bales were part of this distribution.

NRCS report:

No report this week.

DENR report:

Lynne Beck reported the James and Big Sioux River has low flow levels. The Lakes in the eastern part of the state have dropped one to two feet this summer. The Bureau of Reclamation dams in the western part of the state are 34% to 98% full. DENR is showing record lows on some of the monitored wells throughout the state. The irrigation season is nearly over, so this will help with the aquifer levels. DENR also reported many of the stock dams have dried up throughout the state or if they do have water in them they have water quality issues.

Wildfire report:

Jay with WFS reported there is an average of two significant fires a day statewide. He is anticipating fewer fires later this week when the temperatures cool down. The Governor has approved the request to designate Fall River County as a red zone which means they are eligible for state reimbursement for repair bills to their firefighting equipment due to the number of fires and repairs they had this year. This designation also allows them to order a SEAT plan for firefighting at no cost to the county. Other counties that were reviewed for a red zone designation were Clay, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Union and Yankton counties; however, at this time their number of acres burned is about the average burned in a typical year, so there will be no designation at this point. WFS will continue to monitor these counties in case the conditions worsen and a designation could be supported.

Other agency reports:

GF&P: Emmett Keyser reported that GF&P put a SEAT plane in Lemmon for the antelope season this last weekend and there were no fires as a result of the hunters. There were 4,300 antelope licenses issued this year and it turned out to be an uneventful weekend as far as fires. The Department continues to monitor deer for the EHD disease and may be removing leftover licenses in Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Brule, and Hutchinson due to the number of deer deaths from the disease in these counties.

National Guard: Nothing to report this week.

**The next Drought Task Force meeting will be held Monday, October 15, 2012, from 2-3 pm in the State EOC, classroom E.**