

Drought Task Force Meeting
Monday, July 30, 2012
2-3 pm CDT
State Emergency Operations Center Amphitheater

In attendance:

Kevin Fridley, SDDA	Jon Farris, SDDA	Kristi Turman, SDDPS-OEM
Mark Rath, SDDENR	Lynn Beck, SDDENR	Bob Wilcox, SDACC
Terry Woster, SDDPS	Katie Konda, SDDA	Aaron Jordan, SDNG
Paul Merriman, SDDPS-FMO	Tina Titze, SDDPS-OEM	Jeff Zimprich, USDA-NRCS
Morris Elcock, SDARWS	Laura Edwards, USDA-FSA	Craig Schaunaman, USDA-FSA
Paul Hanson, USDA-FSA	Dennis Todey, SDSU	Jodi Anderson, SDCA
Jason Bauder, SDDPS-OEM	Nathan Sanderson, SDGOV	Jay Esperance, WFS
Lowell Messman, SDFB	Steve Harding, SDDM	Steve Hasenohrl, WFS
Chet Broker, AP	Brenda Forman, SD Assn. Coops.	
Eluner Jones, SDSU		

Climatology update:

Dr. Dennis Todey provided an overview of the current drought situation and a drought outlook for the next several months. An increase in D3 status occurred this week over portions of the State. The entire state is within D0 to D3 drought status. There were some isolated storms this week, but these generally did not provide much improvement in areas. Soybeans are showing stress, fires continue, cattle are continuing to be sold off, water quantity and quality issues persist, and corn crops have mostly been damaged by now with no recovery possible. The temperatures have been running eight degrees warmer than average this summer. The 8 to 14 day outlook continues to show above average temperatures with increased chances of rain in the northern tier of the state and no change in rain precipitation in the lower portion of the state. The extended outlook through October shows no change from last week.

FSA report:

Craig Schaunaman reported 25 counties that are in the D3 category and are on the fast track for a Secretarial agricultural designation. The State Emergency Board will meet on Wednesday to look at the yield loss data for 14 counties to see if they will qualify for an agricultural declaration. Craig also reported a lot of silage cutting in the southeast part of the state. Craig is hoping to get some counties opened up for emergency haying and grazing. FSA will put on their website the counties that have an ag declaration as they are declared by the Secretary. Environmental sensitive practices not opened up for grazing are CP23, 23A, 27, 28, 37, and 41. CP25 will be allowed to be opened up for grazing.

DENR report:

Lynn Beck updated the task force on current water conditions, outlooks, and actions. Bureau of Reclamation dams are still holding strong with 50-95% full. Battle Creek and Keyapaha both are under

shut-off orders; however, some rains have allowed for some temporary use. Whitewood Creek also has shut-off orders. Four shut-off orders have been issued on the Big Sioux River consisting of two in Watertown and two in Sioux Falls. Cheyenne River is on notice for shut-off orders.

Rural Water System report:

Morris Elcock reported all systems are running 90-120% of capacity. Systems are reporting a fair number of calls from cattle producers to add water for their livestock. Rural water systems are working with the requests for additional pasture taps and addressing the cost and capacity concerns on a case by case basis. These costs are an issue for the cattle owners, since the construction project is passed on to the livestock owners if the rural water system doesn't have an ongoing fund expansion project in the area where the request for service is being made.

Wildfire report:

Jay Esperance stated fire conditions are extreme in the Black Hills. There have been some localized rains; however, they are quick rains which do not allow for the water to soak into the fuels and this does little to change the fire conditions. A good drizzle rain would help the conditions more than the heavy rainfalls. There is now a Type II Incident Management Team located in Custer for quick mobilization to any fires in the Black Hills. This team comes with many resources on hand for the response to include ground and air assets which are paid by the federal government. In addition, WFS is utilizing resources from OEM to help on the administrative side to track fires and help with the logistics and planning. WFS is also gearing up for the rally for any human caused fires due to the number of additional tourists that will be in the area. WFS is also working on a progressive advertising campaign to promote tourism; even though there may be some fires it is still a great place to come and visit.

Agencies roundtable reported no significant issues this week.

The drought task force information sharing website is up and running and the address is www.drought.sd.gov

The next Drought Task Force meeting will be held Monday, August 6, 2012, from 2-3 pm in the State EOC amphitheater.