

**South Dakota Drought Briefing**  
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**26 July 2012**

**Summary**

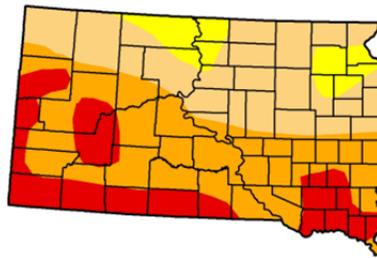
Cooler temperatures crossed the state over the latter part of the week bringing a little relief to the state by reducing the very warm conditions. Overall conditions in South Dakota continue to worsen as most of the state received little precipitation. The most recent conditions on the US Drought Monitor have shown worsening conditions in South Dakota again (current map – Figure 1.) Twenty percent of the state is now considered in Extreme Drought. Another 40% is at D2-Severe Drought. Most of the rest of the state is in Moderate Drought (D1) conditions.

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**South Dakota**

July 24, 2012  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

|   | None   | D0-D4  | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4   |
|---|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Current                                       | 0.00   | 100.00 | 91.99 | 59.15 | 20.38 | 0.00 |
| Last Week<br>(07/17/2012 map)                 | 0.00   | 100.00 | 90.37 | 44.93 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago<br>(04/24/2012 map)              | 39.81  | 60.19  | 34.10 | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Start of<br>Calendar Year<br>(12/27/2011 map) | 48.14  | 51.86  | 13.86 | 2.11  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Start of<br>Water Year<br>(09/27/2011 map)    | 71.37  | 28.63  | 7.36  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago<br>(07/19/2011 map)              | 100.00 | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |



*Intensity:*  
 Yellow: D0 Abnormally Dry  
 Orange: D1 Drought - Moderate  
 Red-Orange: D2 Drought - Severe  
 Red: D3 Drought - Extreme  
 Dark Red: D4 Drought - Exceptional

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



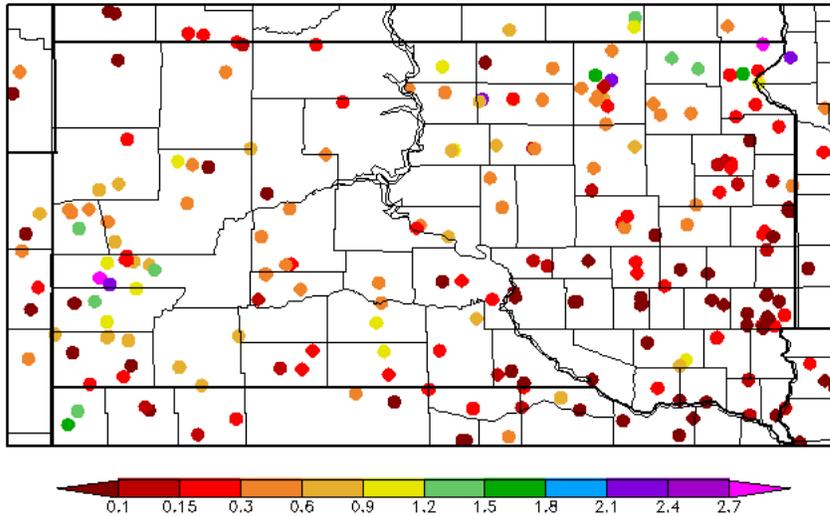
Released Thursday, July 26, 2012  
 Richard Heim, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

Fig. 1 US Drought Monitor for South Dakota

**Current status**

Precipitation again fell in several areas of the state during parts of the week. Isolated areas again received some 1-2"+ amounts. These were very isolated in the west and northeast. Most of the state has received little precipitation again over the last seven days. Storms moving through the area have not been producing much rainfall (and in many cases have started fires on dry ground).

Precipitation (in)  
7/19/2012 – 7/25/2012



Generated 7/26/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Fig 2. Total precipitation last 7 days.

The following stations have set record low precipitation values since 1 June.

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| ■ Centerville 6SE | 1.03'' |
| ■ Canton          | 1.07'' |
| ■ Sioux Falls     | 0.75'' |
| ■ Tyndall         | 1.42'' |
| ■ Vermillion      | 0.77'' |
| ■ Yankton         | 1.02'' |

Yankton has had the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of days above 100 F during July in its history with 11 days of 100F or above. The record was from July 1936.

### Impacts

Fires continued in the west with several still burning currently. Many of the fires were caused by lightning associated with little rainfall. Many counties have enacted burn bans.

Water for cattle and feed for cattle is becoming shorter in supply. Even those that have water are reporting poorer water quality from ponds/dugouts. Or ranchers are having to truck water. Auction

houses are reporting larger numbers of cattle heading to auction. Currently USDA-NASS reports over half the reports indicating short or very short feed and water conditions.

Damage to corn crop is being tallied. USDA-NASS reports 35% of corn as poor to very poor. This is location specific with the southeast being the worst hit with east central to northeast appearing much better (where more rain has fallen).

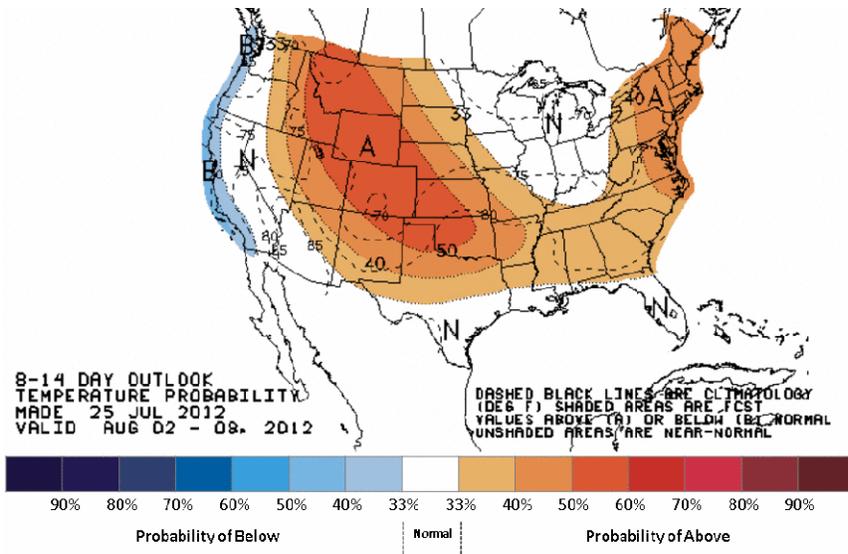
Alfalfa (63% poor to very poor) and range and pasture (54% poor to very poor ) show the longer term impacts of the dry and hot conditions.

Irrigation has been limited in a few streams west river and in the Cheyenne.

Some west river streams have started to run dry.

### Outlook

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center's 8-14 day outlooks continue the recent trend of likely warmer and drier conditions. Released daily these maps show the likelihood for temperature and rainfall conditions. The current maps show a strong likelihood for warmer than average conditions to continuing into early August. Precipitation chances do increase slightly over northeastern areas of South Dakota and North Dakota



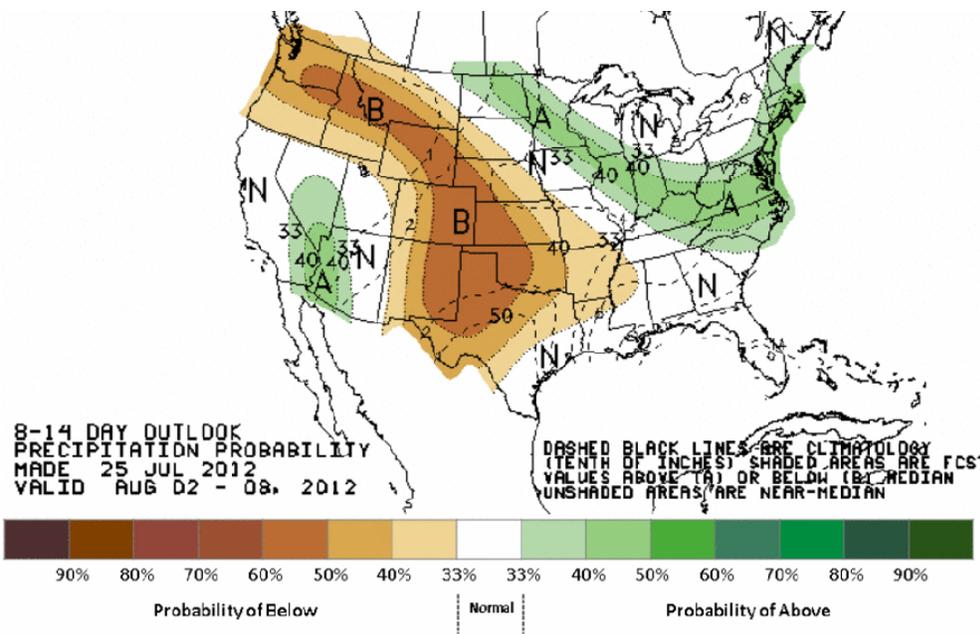


Fig. 4 a-b Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks (8-14 Day)

### Actions

The state drought task force will continue to meet weekly to monitor conditions. The state drought web site has been enacted.

<http://drought.sd.gov/>

In response to the continuing impacts SDSU Extension is hosting a drought webinar at each of the extension regional offices. More information is available at:

<http://igrow.org/news/sdsu-extension-drought-updates-jul-23/>

### Contact

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