

### Heat Continues To Stress Neb. Livestock

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the ongoing heat and humidity continue to put stress on livestock, but farmers are making progress with the wheat and hay harvest because of dry weather.

The USDA in its weekly crop report on Monday says temperatures across Nebraska were about 3 degrees above normal last week, with highs mainly in the mid to upper 90s. Rainfall ranged from over 2 inches in south central Nebraska to just a trace in the Panhandle.

Seventy-seven percent of the corn crop is in good to excellent condition, with 75 percent of the soybeans in good to excellent shape. The wheat harvest is 87 percent complete, about six days behind the average. The second cutting of alfalfa was 88 percent. The average is 92 percent.

### Neb. Douglas County Unveils Storm Water Kiosk

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Douglas County has a new tool to provide the public with information on ways to reduce storm water runoff and other pollution to help improve creeks, lakes and rivers.

The county has installed a web-based kiosk at the Civic Center in Omaha. It provides information on storm water and other environmental issues.

The kiosk features touch-screen technology and is simple to use. It includes tips, such as turning the downspouts on a house toward the lawn or garden and away from the driveway leading to the street. There's also information about demonstration projects the county has done at several locations.

The county plans to install another kiosk at the Health Center campus later this year.

### Sioux Falls Cathedral Reopens For Sunday Mass

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Parishioners at a Sioux Falls Cathedral finally got to see their new home this past weekend.

KELO television reports that after more than two years of worship in a temporary sanctuary, members of St. Joseph's were able to celebrate Sunday mass in their newly renovated home.

The renovation included replacing the entire electrical and wiring systems, adding new pillars and adding colorful paint.

Sioux Falls resident Bernie Duffy said worshipping in the facility is an absolute inspiration, and it lifts the heart and spirit.

Father Thomas Fitzpatrick says the first service was like seeing the crowds on Christmas, with people visiting from as far away as Philadelphia.

### Storms, Strong Winds Hit Parts Of Dakotas

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Thunderstorms packing heavy rain and winds as strong as 85 mph caused damage throughout the Dakotas late Sunday and early Monday.

National Weather Service reports show that damage included a deck torn from a house in the south central North Dakota town of Selfridge. Bismarck-Mandan had uprooted trees, power outages and street flooding.

In the eastern North Dakota town of Hope, about two dozen trees were uprooted, damaging cars and homes. The weather service reports the town's grain elevator also was damaged.

Steele County Sheriff Wayne Beckman tells KVVY-TV that as much as 7 inches of rain swamped roads. A flood warning was in effect Monday for much of east central North Dakota.

Tree damage also was reported in western South Dakota, along with large hail and heavy rain.

### Thousands Without Electricity In Twin Cities

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Heavy rains and high winds have lefts roads flooded and thousands without power in the Twin Cities.

Xcel Energy reports nearly 17,000 Twin Cities customers remained without power as of 6:30 p.m. Monday. Most of the outages are in the west metro.

The Star Tribune reports 1.27 inches of rain fell in downtown Minneapolis between 1 and 2 p.m. Vehicles are struggling to get through high water on Interstate 94 north of downtown Minneapolis. High water also is slowing traffic on Highway 280 in Lauderdale.

The National Weather Service says about three-quarters of an inch of rain flooded streets in St. Paul. Winds gusted more than 40 mph.

In western Minnesota, KBRF-AM reports an estimated 4 inches of rain fell in two hours in Elbow Lake Monday morning.

# S.D. Has Plan For Funding If Budget Deal Fails

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press



Dilges

PIERRE — South Dakota officials have a plan to keep key programs operating without a hitch for at least several weeks should Congress fail to approve a budget deal leaders reached with President Barack Obama, state budget director Jason Dilges said Monday.

The plan was devised to keep Medicaid and other programs going should the federal portion of their funding dry up, Dilges said.

About \$1.8 billion of South Dakota's \$4 billion state budget is federal money, Dilges said. The biggest federal payments are for highways and Medicaid, a state-federal program that covers health care for low-income people.

The state government freed up money that had been invested, and that cash could have been used to support programs if federal payments had stopped, Dilges said. State agencies also made sure last week that they were current in getting reimbursements from federal agencies for various programs, he said.

"We could have maybe made it three

weeks or a month," Dilges said. "That would be about it."

As the House and Senate moved toward voting on the budget deal Monday, Dilges said it wasn't clear how that plan would affect South Dakota's state government in the long run. The state's economy could be affected if budget cuts eventually reduce farm programs and other federal programs. Or, if credit rating agencies still downgrade their ratings of U.S. debt, that could increase the interest rate state and local governments pay on bond issues, he said.

"We'll wait and see on the details, but at least it appears for now the crisis will be averted," Dilges said.

The agreement reached by the president and congressional leaders would allow an increase in the federal government's \$14.3 trillion borrowing limit so the federal government would not default on its obligations. It also would cut spending by \$900 billion in the next decade and establish a congressional committee to find ways to cut

the deficit by up to another \$1.5 trillion.

Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., said Monday he supported the budget deal.

"I support the bipartisan debt ceiling compromise for one reason — the alternative is pain and chaos. This compromise keeps the full faith and credit of the United States intact, which is vital," Johnson said in a written statement.

The Democratic senator said he would have preferred to raise taxes on big oil companies and wealthy people to help reduce the debt, but it was clear Republicans would not agree to that. A committee that will look for additional ways to reduce the deficit also should look for responsible ways to increase revenue, he said.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said Sunday on NBC's Meet the Press that Republicans do not support any tax increases, and any budget deal should cut spending at least by the amount the debt limit would be raised. A deal also should include a way to look for reforms in entitlement programs like Medicaid, he said.

"I think default isn't an option," Thune said. "We need to solve this."

# Minn. Delegation Splits On Key Congressional Vote

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A deficit-reduction deal headed for a critical vote in Congress lost support Monday from the left and right ends of Minnesota's congressional delegation, with both Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison and Republican Rep. Michele Bachmann opposed.

Republican Rep. Chip Cravaack hinted at a "no" vote without outright promising one, saying on WCCO-AM Radio that the deal "doesn't solve the problem."

The vote was coming after a months-long standoff over raising the nation's debt limit to keep the U.S. government able to pay all its bills.

Minnesota's two Democratic senators, Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar, both promised support for the deal. The state's other lawmakers — Republican Reps.

John Kline and Erik Paulsen and Democratic Reps. Tim Walz, Betty McCollum and Collin Peterson — didn't reveal their positions as Congressional leaders worked to line up support. The task was expected to be tougher in the House, where both sides had problems with the deal.

"Deficit reduction should not be enacted in a hostage situation," Ellison said at a news conference held by the Congressional Progressive Caucus. He accused tea party Republicans of forcing deep spending cuts that he said would hurt the economy.

On the other side of the aisle, Cravaack said in the radio interview that the cuts weren't deep enough.

The debate over raising the borrowing limit has divided the state's four Republican House

members, with Bachmann and Cravaack rejecting a plan Friday to increase the debt authority and Reps. John Kline and Erik Paulsen voting yes. Bachmann rejected the latest proposal while on the presidential campaign trail Sunday, saying the spending cuts weren't enough.

Klobuchar announced her support of the deal Monday, saying it would prevent a U.S. default that

would hurt consumers by raising interest rates, while also beginning to reduce the deficit. She predicted Senate approval of the deal and said she is making calls to several House members, too.

"The main focus here is to save our country from defaulting on our debt obligations, which would have caused real pain for Minnesota's families and businesses," Klobuchar said in an interview.

It's the first of the month...

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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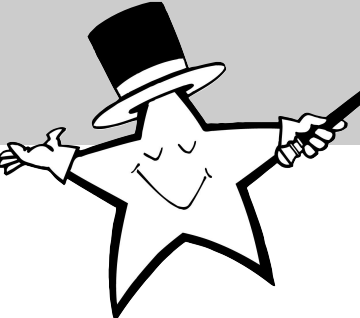
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