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Drought May Persist Into Fall

Climatologist Sees No Major Relief In The Next 90 Days

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Even with the change of seasons, the current historic drought conditions are not going away during the next three months, South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today said Thursday.

Today shared his outlook during a conference call with reporters and other officials across the nation.

"The drought conditions are likely going to stay with us as we head into

fall," he said. "There will be some improvements in some areas but likely not enough to resolve the situation."

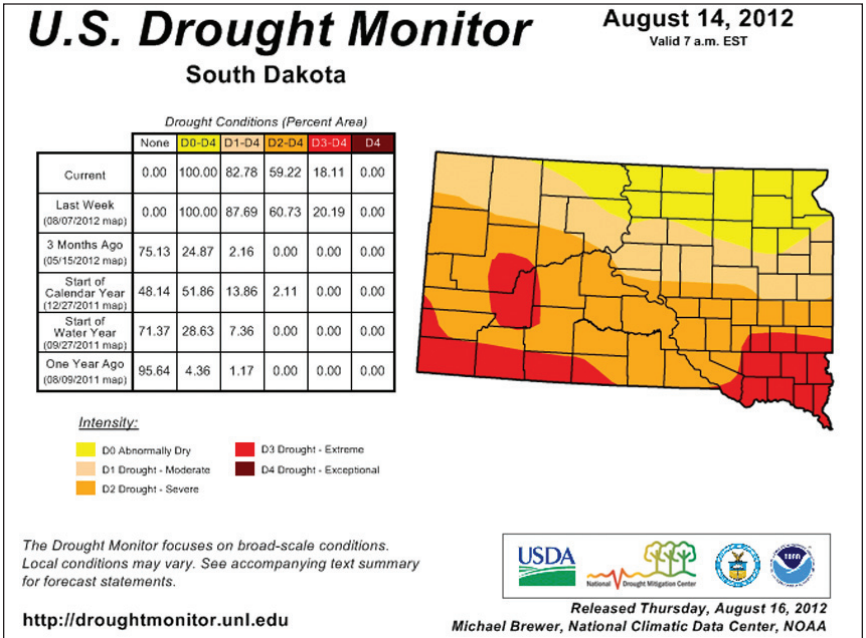
A new weather pattern over the Great Plains has brought some cooler weather, Today said. However, the long-term outlook calls for a return to warmer temperatures over the next 30 to 90 days, according to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC).

The precipitation forecast remains less certain for the long term, Today said.

"Overall, we are going toward an equal chance for above- or below-average precipitation for September through November," he said.

The CPC is monitoring the emergence of an El Nino weather pattern fueled by warmer-than-average water in the South Pacific, Today said.

"We are looking at warmer-than-average weather for the next three months," the climatologist said. "It becomes related to the El Nino strength during the fall and winter. Typically, it (brings)



warmer-than-average temperatures, especially farther north."

El Nino provides some clues to the long-range forecast, Today said.

"It's not the complete driver of everything, but it does help give us long-range forecast capabilities," he said. "The resurgence of El Nino is likely to happen

this fall. It's projected to be a weak to moderate one, not a major event, but it will help to give some piece of information as we go along."

At this point, the El Nino pattern isn't showing any strong characteristics,

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INSIDE TODAY



USA Weekend

Scout To Promote The Importance Of Organ Donation

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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At 17 years old, John Iverson is working towards something much bigger than himself.

To gain his Eagle Scout ranking, Iverson will be completing a project this weekend, bringing the attention of Yankton and the surrounding areas to the importance of organ donation.

Iverson will be with the Boy Scouts at their tent for Riverboat Days soliciting people to sign up as organ donors.

Iverson said the idea for the project came from home.

"My namesake was my cousin, John Hanson. He himself was an organ donor," Iverson said. "He passed away the day after he found out my mother was pregnant with me, and I'm named after him. It was really close to the family."

To get started on the project, Iverson said he sat down with his troop leader, Todd Sage, pitched the idea to his troop committee and eventually took it to the Eagle Scout board, where they gave him the OK.

Sage helped Iverson on some of the details of the project, but said Iverson did most of the work on his own.

"I thought it was an awesome idea," Sage said. "It's not something you see a lot of youth do. Getting



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SCOUT | PAGE 3A

LET THE GAMES BEGIN



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Kelly Kleinwolterink, right, of A-OX Welding Supplies instructs Jaci Benjamin on how to use the Lincoln VRTEX 360 Welding Simulator at Yankton's Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) Thursday as part of the 2012 Virtual Welding Games. The event allowed RTEC to spotlight the machine, which gives hands-on welding experience using a computer simulator. Medals were presented to the top three scores during the competition, which attracted 71 virtual welders.

'Walk A Mile In Her Shoes' Event Changes Course This Year

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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In its fifth year, the Yankton Women's and Children's Shelter's "Walk A Mile In Her Shoes" event will look a little different at the 2012 Rockin' Ribfest Sept. 1.

Besides moving with Ribfest to the first weekend in September, the organization has decided to move away from allowing men to dress in drag along with the high heels they are asked to wear as a way to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence.

"We're taking a completely different approach this year and encouraging the walkers to walk with their children, grandchildren or nieces and nephews," said Desiree Warren-Johnson, executive director of the shelter. "Our goal with that is to teach the new generation the importance of respect for one another and to build a safe community. The best way for a child to learn about respect is by example. Men walking with a female child is exhibiting that she deserves to be treated with respect. A male walking with a male child is exhibiting that everyone — males and females — should be treated with dignity and respect."

Warren-Johnson admitted it was a lot of fun when the participants dressed up in female clothing.

"But this year, we wanted to focus on the seriousness of it and really involve the children," she stated. "Children are impacted by domestic violence every single day."



Feedback on the new focus has been positive, Warren-Johnson said. If the event goes well, she believes the Women's and Children's Center will continue with the format.

In 2010, about 70 participants managed to raise approximately \$14,000. Last year, approximately 75 partic-

SHOES | PAGE 3A

Drought Could Be A Factor In Nation's Anthrax Cases

BY DAVID PITT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Anthrax has killed more than 100 animals on ranches in Colorado and Texas within the past two weeks, and experts say the risk of infection may be greater with drought covering much of the United States.

Anthrax outbreaks happen occasionally in livestock herds and wild animals in the U.S., usually west of the Mississippi River. Animals typically contract the disease by ingesting or inhaling spores that can survive in soil for decades. Once infected, livestock can die within hours.

Anthrax bacteria react to drought and other harsh conditions by producing more spores, and scientists said conditions are ripe for disease this year. A drought stretches from Ohio west to California and from Texas north to the Dakotas. Many places also have been burned by unusually long stretches of triple-digit temperatures.

"My concern is that if we have more and more drought, if drought frequencies go up, we will see greater frequencies of these outbreaks," said Mary Stromberger, associate professor of soil microbiology at Colorado State University.

More than 60 cows on three Colorado ranches and nearly 50 sheep from a Texas herd have died so far. Anthrax experts and veterinarians warned ranchers to watch their herds for sudden deaths, the usual sign of an anthrax infection. Entire herds can be decimated by an outbreak if animals are not quickly vaccinated.

Anthrax cases have frequently been documented along the route of cattle drives common in the 1800s during the westward migration of pioneers and their livestock. The bacteria's spores seem to survive better in alkaline soil with high levels of calcium, a type abundant in the West. In general, however, the spores are extremely durable and can lie dormant for years. Once in-

ANTHRAX | PAGE 11A

Roman Catholic Radio Network Set To Launch

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Roman Catholic radio network plans to start broadcasting in eastern South Dakota this fall.

The network has licenses in Aberdeen and Pierre, and it is building new studios in Sioux Falls.

Kevin Culhane is a spokesman for a nonprofit corporation that's putting the network together for the Sioux Falls Roman Catholic diocese.

He says the network will broadcast interactive and call-in shows, a daily devotional Mass and rosary. He's hoping to broadcast a weekly show with Sioux Falls Bishop Paul Swain.