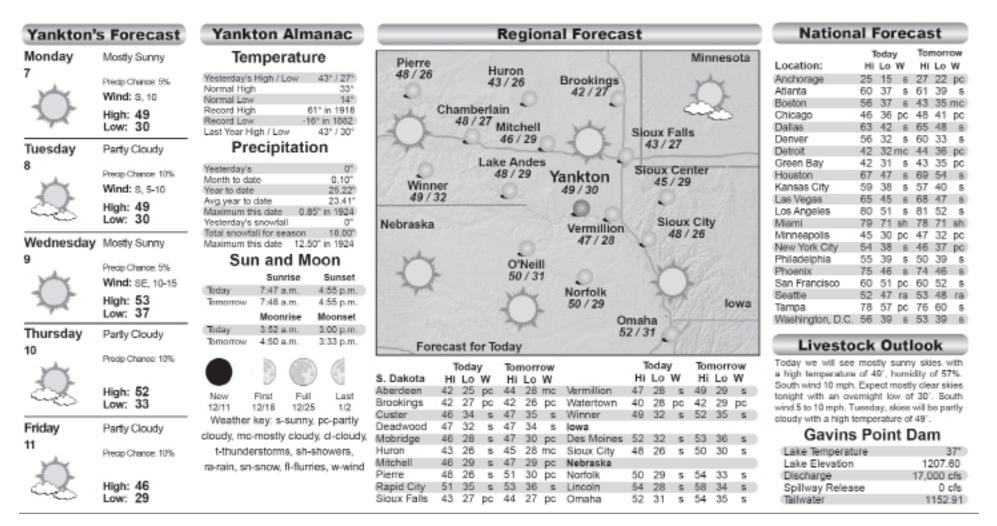
The Press & Dakotan Weather Center



Farming

From Page 1

loans into long term loans to free up working capital.

Roy the Renter also has liquidity issues so he needs to work on his relationship with his landlord and try to reduce his cash rent. Roy may have bought a lot of paint and he could also sell a tractor he can get along without and pay off related loans. Consolidating some machinery loans may help free up money for short term payments.

Peter Paydown needs liquid capital also. Johnson suggested refinancing a real estate loan also and using that real estate equity for 20-year loan at low interest rates to pay off a machinery loan freeing up working capital by reducing annual payments.

All three types of farmers suffer from a struggling farm economy but Johnson said a farmer could talk about problems all day. It is time to move out of crisis mode and finding solutions that work.

"Correctly structuring current debt is a big key to moving forward and now is the time to do it," Johnson said.

Farmers need a green light on their financial plan so working capital is expenses come due. He said farmers have proven they can produce bin busters and in fact, they have done such a good job, it is affecting their profitability.

"The U.S. is the number one corn producer, even better than China," said Johnson. "But farmers are holding on to corn, if it is trapped in commercial storage, there will be a loss in revenue."

South Dakota has record yields of 165, Nebraska and Minnesota are at 187 and Iowa holds a 189 bushel per acre crop production high for 2015. In 2006 ethanol plants were built at a fast rate but no one is building then anymore. Three years of record crop production with little or no demand has dropped commodity prices to an unprofitable low. The U.S. is also producing the same amount of oil as Saudi Arabia so demand is down there as well. If crude oil prices went up, it might help the price of corn, but a drought would help. too.

Soybean production is hampered in the same manner. There are too many bushels for the present market demand.

Johnson does not expect the commodity markets to change in 2016. He believes the only way to improve the economy is to a have a weather event occur – like a drought. It would be best if South America.

If corn is in on-farm storage, it is costing the farmer \$0.02/bushel and commercial storage adds up to \$0.05/ bushel. But there is no incentive to store bushels for the cost of storage will eat up profit margin.

Prices in 2016 will probably be about the same with corn to average at about \$3.65 and soybeans at \$8.90. Johnson also expects the futures to collapse in July and August, and he recommends shipping corn to the grain elevator in the month of December – maybe the week of Christmas.

The expense of fertilizer and fuel may be down in 2016 and cash rents may soften a little Johnson said but the weather forecasts lean toward a 50/50 chance of a decent year with high yields once again.

Every farmer should know their input costs and calculate their break even. Along with calculating input costs, farmers need to seriously consider their cost of living expenses which have risen dramatically since 2012. In 2014, the average living expense for a family of four in South Dakota was \$84,000. Johnson said that needs to be dialed back.

"Everyone likes to go on vacation but if you are not careful, you won't be vacationing in Florida or even Omaha," said Johnson. fixed expenses like land, machinery and equipment and family living as much as 5-10 percent in 2016.

Johnson was pleased with the response to his presentation last December in which he recommended farmers sign up for the ARC program in the new Farm Bill. Across the three states of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota 91 percent signed up for the ARC corn program and 96 percent signed up for the ARC soybean payment for the 2014 crops. He believes a payment will be made in 2016 for 2015 crops also. Crop insurance coverage was also in the 90 percentile for those three states.

Farmers need to reduce crop costs, improve record keeping, reduce high fixed costs and consider on-farm income. Solutions include: • reducing expenses,

refinance debt and sell nonearning assets; • working on renegotiat-

ing crop leases;

and soil test and seek
early pay cash discounts;
When using marketing

as a tool, pull the trigger on grain sales and don't store old crop beyond early July; • Take advantage of early

spring market highs. "Farmers need to get into to their loan officers and

to their loan officers and make sure they are getting a green light for working capital and not a flashing red," said Johnson.

Bon Homme County Plans Road Meeting

From P&D Staff Reports

TYNDALL — Bon Homme County will hold a Dec. 7 public meeting concerning its five-year road and bridge plan. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the commissioners' room

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the commissioners' room of the Bon Homme County courthouse in Tyndall.

The meeting was rescheduled from last week because of inclement weather, according to Bon Homme County Auditor Tammy Brunken.

Flags At Half-Staff For Pearl Harbor

PIERRE — President Obama has called for flags to be flown at half-staff on Monday, Dec. 7, in observance of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The president has issued a proclamation in recognition of the 74th anniversary of the Japanese attacks that killed American patriots at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941.

Flags are to remain at half-mast through Dec. 7 until midnight Dec. 8.

The Christmas Store Open On Dec. 12

The Christmas Store will be offered for kids in Yankton on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Riverview Reformed Church, 1700 Burleigh St.

The Christmas Store is a non-profit organization that provides the opportunity for children to experience the joy of giving during the holidays. Children in grades Jr-Kindergarten through grade 5 may choose free Christmas gifts for their immediate family.

The store runs from 1-5 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Kids Code For National CSEd Week

Yankton School District will participate in events celebrating Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 7-11) beginning today (Monday).

YSD elementary schools will be taking part in an "Hour of Code," a nationwide campaign that focuses on getting kids interested in computer science by breaking down the basics of computer coding into tutorials and virtual games.

available when springtime

the drought would happen in

He recommends cutting

Accident

From Page 1

by the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the Yankton County Sheriff's Office. The highway was reopened sometime Sunday morning once the accident site was cleared.

Responders had to be routed east of the James River Bridge on new Highway 50 and then north to old Highway 50 as the highway, blocked by power lines, prevented responders from reaching the scene, said Yankton Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Larry Nickles.

The accident damaged

power poles, which took out power in a large portion of

the Yankton area. According to Tom Glanzer, South Dakota/Nebraska media relations for NorthWestern Energy, the outage impacted more than 950 people on the east side of town. Power went out at 9:25 p.m. and workers took approximately two hours to restore power to those residential areas.

Yankton Fire, Yankton County Ambulance and Gayville fire responded to the scene. County Highway Department was also present setting up barricades around the accident area.

ON THIS DATE

75 YEARS AGO

Saturday, December 7, 1940 • Plans for the annual Charity Frolic next Friday and Saturday evenings and for the annual distribution of Christmas baskets to the needy were given further discussion at a meeting of Elks Club committees held last night.

• Yankton high school today entertained between 55 and 60 debate enthusiasts at an invitational debate tournament which started this morning at 9:30 a.m., progressing with two rounds in the morning and two this afternoon.

50 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, December 7, 1965 • Three burglaries at Irene and two break-ins at Wakonda were being investigated today by authorities of three counties. Business places hit at Irene during the

night were the Co-op Farm Store in Yankton County, and the J&L Market and the municipal liquor store in Turner County.

• Determination and the effort put forth to win are the main factors in gaining success whether on the football field or in business, according to Bob Devaney, head football coach at the University of Nebraska.

25 YEARS AGO

Friday, December 7, 1990 • Representatives from the corporation planning a housing development north of the Hillcrest Coun-

opment north of the Hillcrest Country Club addressed questions from the Yankton Planning Commission Thursday.

Thursday.
Yankton County taxpayers could be spending more than \$400,000 on four miles of County Road 102 in the next two years.

St. Lucia Scandinavian Event

VERMILLION — Dalesburg Scandinavian Association welcomes you to its 38th celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, 30595 University Road, north of Vermillion.

The celebration will feature a Lucia Court with one girl being crowned Lucia for the event. There will be a program with a Scandinavian theme and a buffet of Scandinavian food.

A freewill collection will be received for area food pantries. The celebration remembers the generosity and commitment of St. Lucia to those in need and to her faith.

For information or in case of inclement weather, call 605-253-2575.



LOTTERIES

SATURDAY'S RESULTS Dakota Cash: 08-10-17-18-25

Hot Lotto: 05-25-27-29-30, Hot Ball: 14 Powerball: 13-27-33-47-68,

werball: 13, Power Play: 2 Wild Card: 11-13-23-31-33, Wild Card: KH Mega Millions: 26-42-47-61-73, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 5

SUNDAY'S RESULTS 2 By 2: Red Balls: 11-12, White Balls: 3-7

P&D CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL (605) 665-7811



Students can learn coding skills while building their own video games through the code.org site.

Students will be able to dabble in a variety of coding activities related to popular themes – "Frozen," "Minecraft," "Star Wars" and "Flappy Code." In addition, they will have the opportunity to go into the Play Lab and create games through coding for other students and schools to complete.

Based on the continued success of the eight-week coding club program that began in September, the YSD administration believes students will draw knowledge from that experience to enhance their skills and encourage others to try as well. All teachers will be incorporating some coding throughout the week.

The lessons are available to anyone through the code. org website and teach the basics of computer coding. These online activities are interactive and do not require immediate knowledge of coding or programming techniques.

