

**MIDWEST DIGEST****Crops Progressing Well Thanks To Weather**

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Pests like grasshoppers continue to create problems for South Dakota farmers, especially in the western end of the state, but the crops are making progress.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Monday that scattered showers across the state helped crops develop, but some areas received severe storms and damaging hail.

Topsoil moisture was rated 84 percent adequate to surplus for last week. That's 39 percent better than the five-year average.

About 61 percent of the state's winter wheat crop has been harvested, which is slightly behind the average. Spring wheat harvest is also beginning.

Corn is about 75 percent tasseled in South Dakota, and about 66 percent of the soybean crop is blooming.

**Kids Count Report: S.D. Ranks 26th**

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A new report on the health and well-being of American children ranks South Dakota 26th best overall in the nation.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation released its 2010 Kids Count Data Book late Monday on how the 50 states fared in 10 categories of children's health from 2000 to 2008.

The report says the state improved in only two of the measures of child well-being: child death rate and percentage of teens neither in school nor high school graduates.

South Dakota got its worst mark in the percentage of children in single-parent homes. The report says the percentage jumped from 23 percent in 2000 to 30 percent in 2008.

The state's overall rank last year was 21st. In 2008, it was 25th.

**Agency Adds 90 Days To Keystone Process**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Federal officials have delayed a decision on a permit for a \$7 billion oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

The State Department said Monday it's adding 90 days to the comment period for other federal agencies on whether TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline is in the national interest.

Keystone XL would move oil from Canada through Montana, along the border of North Dakota and South Dakota to Nebraska. The pipeline would then hook up with another pipeline in Kansas and move oil through Oklahoma and Texas.

The comment period had been scheduled to end Sept. 15. It will now extend until 90 days after the State Department has issued an environmental impact statement on the pipeline.

The department didn't say when the environmental statement would be finished.

**Dozens Gather In Lincoln To Celebrate ADA**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — About 50 disabled and able-bodied Nebraskans gathered on the steps of the Capitol to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The celebration was held Monday and attended by Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy and Joe Jeanette of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Nebraska, among others.

Jeanette, who helps coordinate law enforcement efforts, says the office was the first U.S. attorney's office in the country to sign a proclamation reaffirming its commitment to enforcing ADA on the anniversary of the law's passage.

It was signed into law by President H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990.

Another proclamation signed by Gov. Dave Heineman and read aloud by Sheehy praises the law and says its promise has not yet been fully realized.

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**Tribal Officers Short On Places To Train**

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press Writer

SIoux FALLS — With more law enforcement officers needed on American Indian reservations, federal lawmakers and tribal leaders hope to create more opportunities close to home for people to train as tribal police.

About 150 Bureau of Indian Affairs recruits are trained each year at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, N.M., during three 16-week Indian Police Academy sessions, said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.

But only half of the students complete the course work, Dorgan said, and some of the graduates take jobs in other areas of the federal government or in private security. As a result, many reservations have officer shortages.

About 3,000 police officers now patrol 56 million acres of Indian Country, according to the U.S. Senate Committee of Indian Affairs. Some estimates say 1,900 more officers would be needed just to provide basic, adequate staffing.

Dorgan, chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, said he'd like United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, N.D., to help train BIA officers. The college began adding classes in criminal justice and law enforcement in 2008 and signed a memorandum of understanding with the BIA.

Overall, the violent crime rate on reservations is 2.5 times the national average, but on some reservations, it's as much as 20 times the national average, according to the committee.

On the 1,442-square-mile Rosebud Sioux Tribe reservation, for example, 19 patrol officers and five criminal investigators are doing a job that should be performed by a force of 80, Tribal Police Chief Grace Her Many Horses said.

Her Many Horses is an Indian Police Academy graduate, and she'd prefer her recruits go through the same training. But she understands the difficulty of being so far away from home and family for 16 weeks.

Another option, she said, is to send potential officers to the South Dakota Training Academy in Pierre, which trains state, local

and tribal police, and supplement that training with a BIA criminal jurisdiction class. Local training slots, however, also fill up quickly.

"Either way we look, we're backlogged," she said.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said there's a waiting list to get into Artesia and there should be another, closer option.

"There are, I'm sure, unique things with regard to preparing to do tribal police work in reservation communities," he said, "but that's also clearly something that we think could be done elsewhere."

Her Many Horses said delays in completing background checks have contributed to the problem. She has four certified officers waiting to join the Rosebud force as soon as their background checks are done.

"It could take anywhere from between four to six months to get someone through a background, and I need people now," she said. Congress recently passed the Tribal Law and Order Act, which gives American Indian tribes more authority to combat crime on reservations. It's headed to the desk of President Barack Obama, who has said he will sign it.

**Report: Neb. Improves To Ninth For Child Well-Being**

BY TIMBERLY ROSS  
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Nebraska has moved up two spots to rank ninth overall in a national report on children's health and well-being, according to an annual report to be released Tuesday.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2010 Kids Count Data Book compared 2007-08 data gathered by county, state and federal agencies with similar 2000 data.

The report says Nebraska has improved on five of 10 measures affecting child well-being, with the most progress in the percent of teens neither attending school nor working. The 2010 report shows a 33 percent decrease since 2000, from 6 percent to 4 percent, that put Nebraska fourth in the nation.

But the state also saw a 30 percent spike in children living in poverty, from 10 percent to 13 percent, according to the report. Still, Nebraska ranked 10th in that category. The national average increased slightly during that time period, from 17 to 18 percent.

Nebraska also had lower marks for children in single-parent families and low-birthweight

babies. The report says 26 percent of children were in single-parent families, up from 24 percent in 2000, ranking Nebraska sixth. And the state came in 13th for the percent of low-birthweight babies, which rose from 6.8 percent to 7 percent.

The state was tied for first on two newer measures: percent of teens not in school and not working (4 percent); and percent of children living in families where no parent has a full-time job (19 percent). There was no 2000 data for comparison, according to the report.

Nebraska showed small improvements in the infant mortality rate, child and teen death rates, and teen birth rate.

Ranking first overall in the 2010 report was New Hampshire. Minnesota, Vermont, Utah, Massachusetts, Iowa, New Jersey and Connecticut also ranked higher than Nebraska. Mississippi was last.

Nebraska ranked 11th in last year's report, and ninth in 2008.

The Casey foundation is a Baltimore, Md.-based charity that advocates for disadvantaged children.

**Storm Damage Hampers Regional Water System**

TEA (AP) — Post-storm cleanup and reconstruction on two South Dakota reservoirs that are part of a water system that will serve three states will take at least a couple of months, the water system's executive director said.

A late-Friday storm with high winds heavily damaged two 7-million-gallon reservoirs under construction.

"The contractor had hoped to be done by November 2010 to beat some of the winter weather here in South Dakota,"

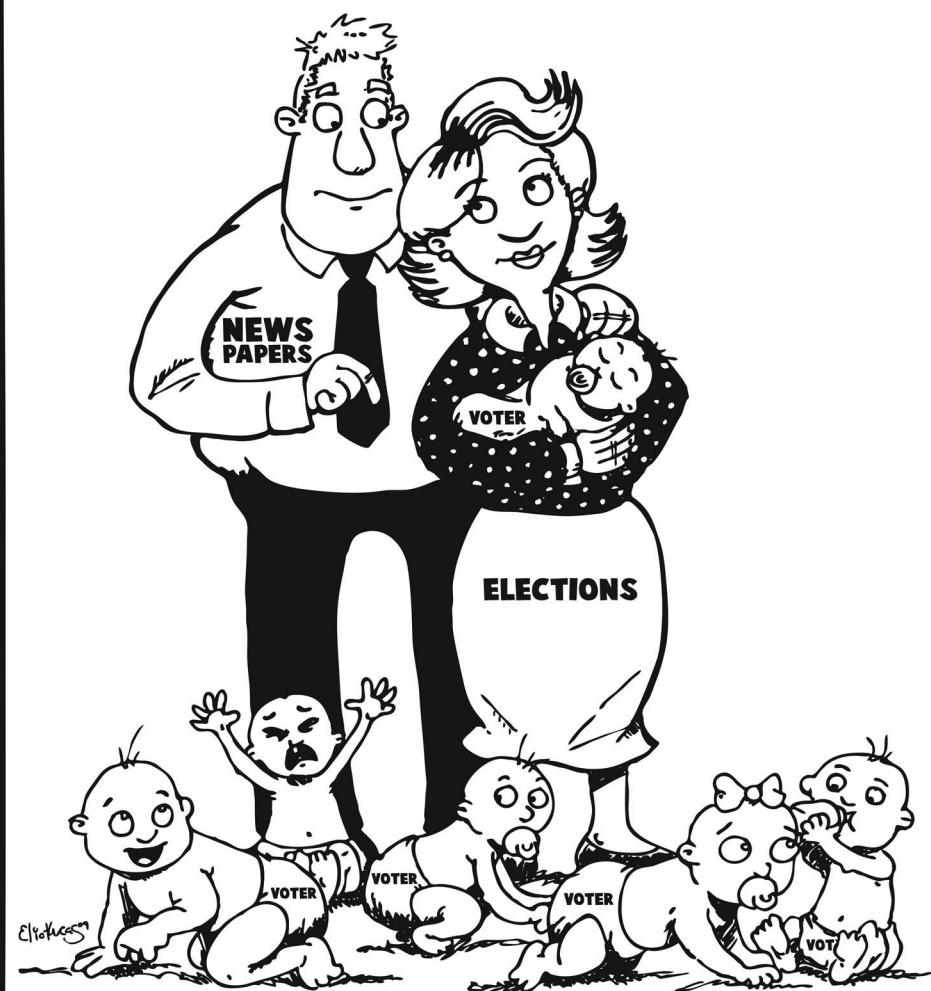
Lewis and Clark Regional Water System executive director Troy Larson said. "So, what this could very well mean is they'll have to come back in the spring of 2011 and complete their work."

The contractor has insurance for the storm damage, he said.

The \$550 million water system will provide treated Missouri River water to about 300,000 people in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.



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