

SD Crop Development Catching Up

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Crop development in South Dakota is continuing to catch up thanks to warm, dry weather. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its weekly crop report that farmers and ranchers had on average 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Winter wheat is 98 percent headed but turning color at 25 percent, well behind the 74 percent average. Winter wheat conditions are 38 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 14 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Soybean blooming is at 8 percent, trailing the 21 percent average. Corn is 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Pasture and range conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 56 percent good and 19 percent excellent.

Neb. Crops Progress, Moisture A Worry

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Clear skies and sunshine have boosted corn and soybean development in Nebraska and allow wheat harvest to progress in southern counties. The USDA in Monday's crop progress report says the state saw little or no rainfall for the week ending Sunday with topsoil moisture supplies declining as seasonally hot temperatures return. Spring-planted, dry-land crops in much of the western two-thirds of the state are showing signs of stress. Irrigated corn is 83 percent good or excellent better than 77 percent average. Dry-land corn is 66 percent good or excellent. Average is 71 percent. Corn silking is 1 percent complete, behind 16 percent average. Soybeans are 5 percent very poor or poor, 19 fair, and 76 percent excellent.

SD Antelope Hunting Licenses Are Cut

PIERRE (AP) — A South Dakota commission has substantially cut the number of antelope hunting licenses that will be issued this year as part of an effort to help the population rebound. The Game, Fish and Parks Commission has decided to allow only 3,630 antelope to be shot in a season that will run from Sept. 28 through Oct. 13. That's down from 4,585 tags that were issued last fall. Wildlife biologists say the western South Dakota population of antelope was decimated by harsh winters, but they expect the population will reach about 37,000 this fall. That's far short of the goal of having 55,000 antelope in the state. This year's season will be open only to residents, but non-residents can eventually apply for leftover licenses if any are available.

South Dakota

West River Bobcat Season Extended

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — Faced with questions about how many bobcats live in South Dakota, a state panel Monday decided to shorten next winter's hunting and trapping season by two weeks in an effort to limit the number of cats that will be killed in the western part of the state. The Game, Fish and Parks Commission last month had proposed that no more than 600 bobcats could be shot or trapped in western South Dakota next winter. But on the advice of state wildlife biologists, the commission decided Monday to scrap the idea of a quota. The panel instead voted 5-2 to cut two weeks off the start of the season, a change biologists said would reduce both the overall number of cats killed and the number of females taken. The season will run from Dec. 26 through Feb. 15 next winter, starting two weeks later than last winter's season, which ran from Dec. 14 through Feb. 15. Commissioners have said they are worried that soaring prices for bobcat pelts could cause trappers to kill more of the elu-

sive creatures next winter. The price for a prime pelt reached about \$1,000 last winter. A limited season also will be held in five southeastern South Dakota counties, where each hunter or trapper would be limited to one bobcat in a season running from Dec. 26 through Jan. 18. The season in eastern South Dakota would be held only in Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Bon Homme and Yankton counties. South Dakota's main bobcat population is in the western part of the state, and biologists are in the first year of a three-year study aimed at getting a better idea of how many cats roam the state. State wildlife biologist Keith Fisk said bobcats are so elusive it will be difficult to estimate the population. But he said biologists are worried because hunters and trappers in western South Dakota took slightly more females than males in recent years, an indication that a lot of pressure is being put on the population. "It's time to do something before we end up in a real bad scenario," Fisk told the commission. A quota system would have ended the season early once 600 bobcats had been

taken, but Fisk said a quota might have increased the number of females taken by trappers trying to get cats before the limit was reached. Starting the season two weeks later than normal should reduce the number of females taken because many females seem to be trapped early in the season, he said. Hunters and trappers have taken 600-650 bobcats a year over the past decade, Fisk said. Some hunters and trappers urged the commission to make no change in the season. Anna Hermanson, of Newell, president of the South Dakota Trappers Association, said the group believes there is insufficient data to indicate the bobcat population is in trouble. But the association would have preferred a quota of 650 instead of a shortened season, she said. Hermanson, who said she runs more than 100 traps, said she used to see hundreds of bobcat tracks when she lived on a southwestern South Dakota ranch, but she actually saw only one. "They are a very elusive species," Hermanson said.

Heineman Names New NG Adjutant

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Gov. Dave Heineman named Brig. Gen. Daryl L. Bohac on Monday to serve as the new adjutant general of the Nebraska National Guard, a command that oversees more than 4,600 Army and Air Guard personnel throughout the state. Bohac, of Waverly, was one of three candidates who interviewed for the job, Heineman said at a news conference. The 52-year-old will officially assume his duties Sunday at a ceremony in Lincoln. "I'm very impressed with

his leadership skills, and one thing that's very, very important to the Guard — he cares about the men and women serving and their families," Heineman said. Bohac has served in the military for 35 years, including 31 with the Nebraska National Guard. He will replace outgoing Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, who is taking a new job as deputy director of the U.S. Army National Guard in Arlington, Va. The adjutant general serves as the senior uniformed officer responsible for

leading more than 4,600 Army and Air National Guard personnel in Nebraska. Bohac will also become the director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, working with the state civilian employees who are assigned to handle emergency preparedness and disaster responses. The position is part of the governor's cabinet. Bohac said he planned to focus on retention within the Guard to offset an expected loss in deployment experience.

"We have to find ways to keep the men and women who have enlisted to serve their state and nation engaged in ways that are meaningful, and have purpose for them, so they'll want to stay around," he said. Two others applied for the position: U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Scott Gronewold and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Rick Evans. Heineman said the decision was difficult because all three were well-qualified, but he felt Bohac was the best choice given his experience.

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Buffet dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. with a live auction to start at 7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Yankton Sack Pack Program and Yankton Area Special Olympics.
This event is sponsored by the Broadway Group of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.
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