

Wet, Warm Weather Boosts SD Crops

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Scattered rain and above-normal temperatures continued to boost crop development in South Dakota over the past week.

The Agriculture Department says in its latest crop and weather report that there were 5.8 days suitable for field-work on average. Topsoil moisture supplies are rated 4 percent very short, 21 percent short, 70 percent and 5 percent surplus.

Spring wheat turning color was at 69 percent, behind 100 percent at this time last year.

Pasture and range conditions are 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 59 percent good and 15 percent excellent.

Neb. Soil Moisture Declines In Dry Spell

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — It's turned hot and dry in Nebraska and the crops that don't receive irrigation are quickly becoming stressed.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says pockets of rain early and late in the week did little to help the overall condition as crops near their peak demand for moisture.

Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies declined last week. Irrigated corn rates 82 percent good or excellent, compared to the 75 percent average while dry-land corn rates 45 percent good or excellent, compared to the 68 percent average. The poorest dry-land conditions are in South Central counties.

Corn silking is 50 percent complete. Average is 64 percent.

Sixty-five percent of the soybean crop is blooming, near the 61 percent average.

4-Year-Old Struck, Killed On Neb. Road

COZAD, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a 4-year-old has died after being struck by a vehicle in the central Nebraska town of Cozad.

Cozad Police Chief Randy Adams says the crash happened around 6:15 p.m. Sunday, as Camdyn Trew of Eustis ran onto Highway 30. A driver on the highway was unable to stop before the vehicle struck the child.

Trew was pronounced dead at Cozad Community Hospital. Authorities released no other details about the accident.

Neb. Boy Digging In Soil Banks Killed

DUNNING, Neb. (AP) — A 12-year-old boy has died in a weekend accident near the central Nebraska town of Dunning. Authorities say Cole Roseberry of Kearney was playing in a soil bank with his brother on Saturday around 8:20 p.m., when the soil collapsed on top of him. He was taken to a local hospital, but died of suffocation.

Authorities say the boys had been staying with their grandparents near Broken Bow. Cole's father, Dave Roseberry, is the fair manager in Kearney.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Kearney. The burial will be at the Kearney Cemetery.

Rural Nebraska Crash Kills 1, Injures 3

STANTON, Neb. (AP) — A two-vehicle crash at a highway intersection in northeast Nebraska has killed one woman and injured three other people.

The Nebraska State Patrol helped Stanton County officials respond to the wreck eight miles south of Stanton around 7 p.m. Sunday.

Authorities say 53-year-old James Pfeifer's car pulled out in front of a southbound pickup truck driven by 19-year-old Cole Beyke of Stanton. The vehicles collided in the intersection of Highways 57 and 32.

In Pfeifer's car, his wife, 51-year-old Peggy Pfeifer, was killed. James Pfeifer and his 21-year-old daughter Hannah Pfeifer were both critically injured and flown to Sioux City.

The Pfeifers, who are from Clarkson, had to be removed from their car with the Jaws of Life.

Beyke was taken to Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk for treatment.

Documents Shed Light On SF Shooting

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Court documents say that a Sioux Falls man shot a 19-year-old woman on Friday after she tried to leave his apartment building.

Twenty-five-year-old Eugene Willis Garcia Jr., faces several charges relating to the shooting. The *Argus Leader* reports that the documents say Garcia shot the woman in her upper chest area, which punctured her lung. Her injuries are not life-threatening.

A second man, 20-year-old Kelvin Jonathan Santos, has also been charged in connection with the shooting. He faced three counts of aggravated assault.

The court affidavit says two men came to the apartment to pick up the woman. When the three people attempted to leave, the affidavit says Garcia pulled a gun and shot the woman.

South Dakota

Guard Units Prep For Furloughs

By The Associated Press

RAPID CITY — More than half of South Dakota National Guard employees will be affected by furloughs beginning next month, the military said.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports the furlough will require certain National Guard employees to take 11 unpaid days off from Aug. 2 to Sept. 30.

Terry Ommen, a Guard spokesman, said employees impacted by the furlough would lose nearly \$4,200 in earnings, or 20 percent of their annual paycheck.

The Guard said 540 full-time employees out of 958 in the South Dakota National Guard are affected by the budget cuts.

"They work in our maintenance facilities," Ommen said. "They're also

budget analysts. They hold key staff positions. They could be an administrator."

The furlough is a part of the government sequestration that was invoked to reduce the federal budget deficit, Ommen said. The federal government plans to cut the budget by \$1.1 trillion over the next 10 years.

The 370 soldiers and airmen in the South Dakota National Guard force will not be impacted by the furlough, Ommen said. Traditional Guard service members who drill one weekend a month and two weeks a year also won't be affected, he said.

Tim Reisch, the Guard's adjutant general, said employees affected by the furlough play an important role, organizing and training soldiers and airmen and maintaining equipment across the state.

"I am very concerned about the impact to our troops and to the readiness of our units," Reisch said.

Ommen said that in the event of an emergency, the Guard is able to call employees back to work. He said the Guard would do everything it can during the furlough to make sure everything runs smoothly.

"We'll work with the supervisors and employees so we can try and maintain a level of readiness," Ommen said.

Most employees will take their furlough days on Fridays during the furlough, Ommen said.

"It will allow employees to pick up a part-time job and work Friday, Saturday, Sunday and maybe even a Monday," Ommen said.

Environmental Cleanup In Neb. City Could Cost \$10M

By The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Neb. — The state and federal governments could have to spend \$10 million to clean up properties in an eastern Nebraska city that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency believes contributed to groundwater contamination decades ago.

The Columbus City Council approved an amendment to its Superfund contract last week that allows for the additional federal and state funding. The EPA says the cleanup is necessary to control a plume of tainted groundwater created by three former drycleaners, according to the *Columbus Telegram*.

The EPA is expected to pick up 90 percent of the cost, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality will cover the rest. The plan includes the demolition of four buildings. The plan includes the demolition of buildings on the three source properties and a fourth located nearby.

Nancy Swyers, remedial project manager for the EPA, said funding for this work is expected to be available in a few months, when the property acquisition process can begin.

Swyers said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will lead this process because the agency has experience with property acquisitions.

Targeted for acquisition are buildings that housed Liberty Cleaners, the former One-Hour Martinizing property and the former Jackson Cleaners property. The EPA identified the properties as the sources of two carcinogenic chemicals commonly used in dry cleaning that leached into the soil and groundwater prior to the current owners' use.

A fourth property, the former Ron's Furniture warehouse, will also be purchased.

The acquisition process begins with the relocation of any current tenants and negotiation of purchase prices with the owners.

Prestige Dry Cleaners now operates out of the former One-Hour Martinizing building and Top Score Games rents part of the former Jackson Cleaners building.

Swyers said there isn't an exact timeline for the acquisitions to be finalized, but a "rule of thumb" is to expect the process to last about a year. Then, demolition of the buildings and excavation of the contaminated soil beneath can begin — if funding is available.

Swyers said funding for this portion of the approximately \$10 million project hasn't been released. Ideally, she said, it will be provided as soon as the acquisition process is complete so the properties can be treated and restored.

The cleanup will affect some roadways and portions of neighboring properties, including fences and yards, but no houses are included in the demolition plans, Swyers said.

The state will take over ownership of the properties once the remedial action is complete.

Swyers said the properties could be transferred to the city or sold, with 90 percent of the proceeds going to the EPA and 10 percent to the state.

Each of the dry cleaners blamed for the groundwater contamination previously paid a settlement to the EPA.

The contamination plume was first identified by state health officials in 1983 before clean-up was handed over to the EPA.

An extraction system located on 10th Street that protects the city's drinking water supply will continue to operate.

Federal Judge Delays ND Abortion Law

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)

— A federal judge on Monday temporarily blocked a new North Dakota law that bans abortion when a fetal heartbeat is detected — as early as six weeks into pregnancy, calling the law "clearly invalid and unconstitutional."

U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland in Bismarck granted a temporary injunction Monday that blocks the law from taking effect on Aug. 1.

"There is no question that (the North Dakota law) is in direct contradiction to a litany of United States Supreme Court cases addressing restraints on abortion," Hovland wrote. " (It) is clearly an invalid and unconstitutional law based on the United States Supreme Court precedent in *Roe v. Wade* from 1973 ... and the progeny of cases that have followed."

New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights, which is representing Fargo's Red River Women's Clinic, filed the lawsuit after the law was passed this year by the North Dakota Legislature. It would outlaw the procedure as early as six weeks into pregnancy and before some women even know they are pregnant.

The law was one of four that the Republican-controlled Legislature and GOP Gov. Jack Dalrymple passed this year that combined make North Dakota the most restrictive state in the nation in which to get an abortion.

Bebe Anderson, director of the U.S. Legal Program at the Center for Reproductive Rights, praised Hovland's ruling in a statement Monday.

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