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Going Down

Northeast Neb. Land Values Decline 5%

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

Land values in northeast Nebraska are on the decline, although the regions's price-per-acre remains the second-highest average in the state.

Statewide, the average land value is now $3,250 per acre, down 2 percent since 2014, according to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Farm Real Estate Market Survey. Northeast Nebraska's average land value is at $6,140 per acre, a decrease of 5 percent since a year ago.

Northeast Nebraska's average land value is second only to eastern Nebraska's $7,100 per acre.

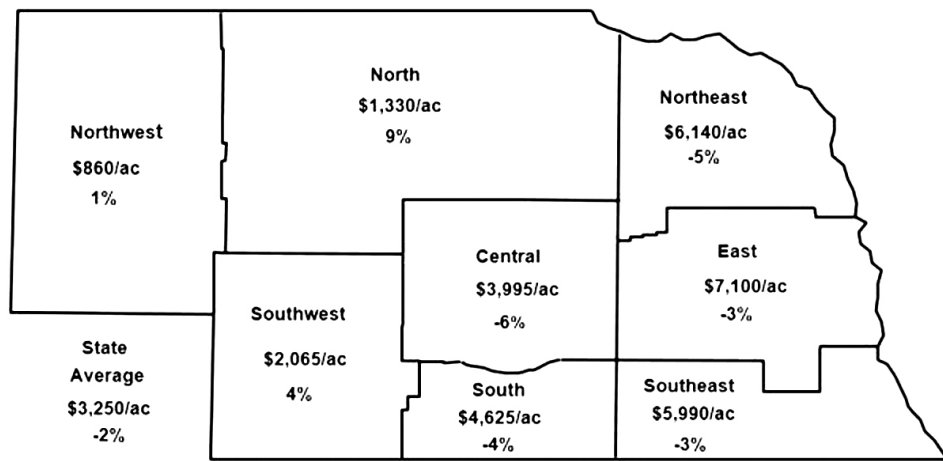Other state regions' average land values include: Southeast, $5,990; South, $4,625; Central, $3,995; Southwest, $2,065; North, $1,330; and Panhandle, $860.

The North, Southwest and Panhandle's land value averages increased by 9 percent, 4 percent and 1 percent, respectively. All other regions' land value averages decreased, ranging from 6 percent down in the Central to 3 percent down in the East and Southeast.

The overall rate of change in land values depended on the percentage of the region's cropland versus hayland or pasture. The higher rates of decline occurred in regions largely composed of dryland or irrigated cropland.

Irrigated and dryland crop ground saw the greatest decline in land values, reflective of decreased crop prices as well as high farm input costs. Not surprisingly, the rate of decline in land values was greater for marginal parcels of ground than higher-quality tracts.

"Over the last three to five years, dryland and crop-land values lead Nebraska in the increases of land values," according to the survey's report, written by Hartington, Neb.-based UNL Extension educator Jim Jansen, and UNL budget analyst and farm management specialist Roger Wilson at Lincoln, Neb. "This strong growth was hard to maintain into 2015 as returns for crops declined while input costs remained fairly constant."

Hayland and pasture ground values are significantly improved since 2014, likely due to record cattle prices. Hayland used for forage production saw the largest increase in value, by 20 percent. Non-tillable grazing land saw the second-largest increase in value, by 16 percent.

"These two land classes [hayland and non-tillable grazing land] are the primary resources that cow-calf producers utilize," according to Jansen and Wilson. "As the expected prices for calves remain strong for 2015, the industry participants are more willing to bid up the price of these land resources."

The changes in land values also affected cash rental rates. Cropland rental rates declined in all regions, while pasture rates increased across the state.

Value of dryland with no irrigation potential dropped 12 percent since 2014 in Northeast Nebraska, the second-largest change in values. Statewide, values of this land type decreased in all regions, ranging from 14 percent in the Panhandle to 4 percent in the South.

Value of dryland with irrigation potential also dropped in northeast Nebraska, by 2 percent. Statewide, land values for this land type followed the same downward trend, ranging from 17 percent in Central to 2 percent in Northeast Nebraska and the Southeast.

Value of tillable grazing land decreased 9 percent in northeast Nebraska. Other regions with a decrease in values of this land type were the Southeast with an 8 percent decline and the Panhandle and the South, both down 3 percent. All other regions saw an increase in land values, ranging from 28 percent in the Southwest to 14 percent in the East.

Value of non-tillable grazing land increased 4 percent in northeast Nebraska. Statewide, values of this land type climbed in all regions, ranging from 22 percent in Central to 2 percent in the South.

Value of hayland increased 25 percent in northeast Nebraska. Values of this land type increased in all regions, ranging from 27 percent in the Southwest to 9 percent in the Panhandle.

Value of gravity-irrigated cropland increased 1 percent in northeast Nebraska. The only other region with an increase in values of this land type was the Panhandle, up 6 percent. All other regions saw a decline in values of this land type, ranging from 14 percent in Central to 2 percent in both the North and the Southwest.

Value of center pivot-irrigated cropland dropped 8 percent in northeast Nebraska. All other regions except the Southeast, which saw an 1 percent increase in values for this land type, also experienced a reduction in land values, ranging from 12 percent in Central to 2 percent in the South.

Northwest $860/ac 1%

North $1,330/ac 9%

Northeast $6,140/ac -5%

Central $3,995/ac -6%

East $7,100/ac -3%

Southwest $2,065/ac 4%

State Average $3,250/ac -2%

South $4,625/ac -4%

Southeast $5,990/ac -3%

COURTESY GRAPHIC

EARL...

"YA KNOW, THESE SOFT SUMMER RAINS ARE SURE WONDERFUL FOR GROWIN THE GRASS..."

Big Dry Syndicate

Pesticide Container Recycling Set

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) encourages all ag producers and businesses to take advantage of the free pesticide container recycling collection from Monday, July 13, through Wednesday, Sept. 9, in 37 locations around the state. The SDDA has been recycling containers since 1993 and recently exceeded 2 million containers being recycled.

There are two accepted methods of pesticide container disposal. Pesticides may be disposed of at a solid waste landfill or turned over for recycling. With either of these methods, containers must be triple or pressure rinsed to remove contaminants.

Recycling is the preferred way of disposing pesticide containers because containers are removed from the solid waste stream and the discarded materials can be reused. Many solid waste facilities do not take pesticide containers because they do not have enough staff to ensure containers are properly prepared for disposal. Recycling is a NO COST option. Only 2 1/2 gallon containers or less that previously contained crop protection chemicals are accepted during these collection times. Larger containers will be collected at later arranged times.

South Dakota state law prohibits open burning practices that create a nuisance or a hazard to public health. Open burning of plastics releases chemicals to the atmosphere that are considered to be hazardous air pollutants.

"When you consider the health risks associated with open burning plastic containers and the fact that state law prohibits the practice, choosing to take advantage of the Pesticide Container Recycling Program should be an easy decision," said Tom Gere, SDDA agronomy services manager.

If you are a large quantity generator of containers, or have no collections in your area, it may be possible to have SDDA staff come directly to your location and collect containers.

For a full schedule of container pick up times and locations, visit http://sdda.sd.gov/ag- services/pesticide-program/pesticide-collection-program/ and click on "2015 Pesticide Container Recycling Collection Schedule." For more information on these collections, contact SDDA at 605-773-4432.

Warriner Cited By Angus Group

Jacob Warriner, Yankton, is a new junior member of the American Angus Association, reports Richard Wilson, interim CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with nearly 25,000 active adult and junior members.

SD Beef Ambassador Contest Offered

PIERRE — The Beef Checkoff Program is seeking passionate youth beef enthusiasts to promote the cattle industry in South Dakota.

The 2015 South Dakota Beef Ambassador Contest is scheduled for July 24 from 10 a.m. until noon. The event will be held in conjunction with the South Dakota Summer Spotlight Show in Huron.

"The contest will include a media interview, consumer education, issues response and personal interview," said Ruth Farnsworth. "Following the contest, our senior winner will be required to complete the Masters of Beef Advocacy Program and become a member of College Aggies Online before competing at the national competition."

Youth ages 7-20 (by Sept. 1, 2015) who are interested in promoting beef are encouraged to participate in this exciting program that trains advocates to educate consumers about where their food comes from.

"The Beef Ambassador Program offers opportunities for travel, leadership, networking and scholarships," said Farnsworth, a member of the South Dakota CattleWomen. "Many past ambassadors attribute their careers with their experience participating in the Beef Ambassador program. It has opened up many doors for these young people."

Cash prizes will be awarded to all winners, and the senior ambassador will also receive an all-expense paid trip to the National Beef Ambassador Contest in Denver in 2016. Age groups include beginners (7-11), juniors (12-16), and seniors (17-20).

The deadline to enter is July 15. To enter, go to: http://form.jotformpro.com/form/51614799820968

For complete contest rules, check out: http://www.sdcattlewomen.org/beef-ambassador.html

For more information on the National Beef Ambassador Program, check out: www.nationalbeefambassador.org

For more information on projects of the beef checkoff, check out www.sdbeef.org.

SDSU Volga Farm Summer Tour July 22

BROOKINGS — The annual Volga Farm Tour will be held on July 22 at 4:30 p.m. and run till dusk. The tour is located 1.5 miles south of Volga on Brookings county road 5 on the east side of road.

There will be three tours to take this year. Farm tours will run the entire time, each lasting about an hour. The event includes a meal provided by our sponsors which include: South Dakota Crop Improvement Association, South Dakota Wheat Commission and South Dakota Soybeans Research and Promotion council.

• Tour 1: It will be the Weed Management tour, featuring Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Management Coordinator. Johnson will discuss how growers' pre-emergent herbicides worked this year and share weed management strategies as it relates to glyphosate resistance.

• Tour 2: It will feature Anthony Bly, SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist. Bly will provide a fertility update. Howard Woodward, SDSU Professor will also speak on phosphorus removal in crop residue and the effects on soil phosphorus.

• Tour 3: It will be the pest management tour featuring Kelly Tilmon, SDSU Extension Soybean Entomology Specialist. She will discuss aphid resistant soybean varieties. Febina Mathew, SDSU Assistant Professor will speak on Efficacy of commercial seed treatment fungicides on soybeans. Emmanuel Byamukama SDSU Extension Plant Pathologist, will discuss corn and soybean diseases.

Between tours, stop by and visit with Connie Tande, SDSU Extension Diagnostician about plant sample issues, or ask her to help identify pests or field problems.

During the meal Dennis Todey, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist will share a 2015 weather update.

For more information on the tour Contact Paul O. Johnson at paulo.johnson@sdstate.edu or 605-688-4591.

Jake Geis
Assessing Heat Stress In Cattle

BY JAKE GEIS, DVM
Tyndall

Although a hot summer is perfect for kids going swimming, it's tough weather for cattle. Cattle handle cold weather great, but once the mercury rises in the summer it gets rough on them. By understanding why cattle have a difficult time with hot weather, we can take appropriate steps to get them through the heat waves.

Jake GEIS

Unlike other animals, cattle are inefficient at utilizing sweating to cool themselves. Instead, they use their respiratory system to breathe out the heat with the water vapor that is carried out by their breath. With an increase in humidity, this system is less effective, therefore on humid days they can suffer heat stress at a lower temperature.

To determine how much humidity is affecting the cattle, one can use the Temperature-Humidity Index (THI). This is similar to the "heat index" or "real feel" values that are used on the local weather stations to explain how hot it feels to humans. The THI value is determined looking at the current temperature and humidity, and then cross referencing that to the THI chart. A THI value of 84 or greater constitutes a heat emergency and will require additional measures to keep the cattle healthy.

If cattle are in a heat emergency, the primary means for keeping them cool is good old fashioned water. Nothing else that we do can replace having a constant supply of fresh, cool water to drink. Since water consumption increases greatly in the heat, your watering system needs to be able to keep up with the high demand that will be placed on it by a pen of cattle. According to Iowa State Veterinary Extension, a 1,000 pound feedlot steer or heifer will need 1.5 gallons of water per hour in the heat. Based on this number, you can plan your water flow rate or pen stocking density accordingly.

While water is the cornerstone of our heat stress response, there are other ways we can help cattle on hot days to mitigate the effects of heat. Shade keeps the sun from warming up the cattle and the ground that they stand on. According to a 2001 study done by Texas Tech in the Journal of Animal Science, having 22 square feet of shade per animal results in a 30 percent decrease in respiratory rate & a 7.5 percent increase in ADG.

If building shade is not in the current budget, another less effective, but less costly option is to run sprinklers over the cattle. Start the sprinklers at least a few days before an expected heat wave so the cattle have time to get used to the sprinklers running across their backs. Otherwise, they will avoid the sprinklers in the hot weather because the cool water spooks them.

In addition to infrastructure, management techniques will help cattle during hot weather. Controlling flies will keep cattle cooler because cattle with high fly pressure bunch up to swish the flies off each other. This can be accomplished by cleaning up old hay bales and manure, spraying the premise and the cattle, or using parasitic wasps that attack flies.

Another management technique is to feed all or at least 70 percent of the feed in the afternoon or evening. This is because the process of digestion creates heat. By feeding in the evening, the hot effects of digestion happen in the night when it is coolest.

However, the opposite is true for working cattle. It is better to work cattle in the early morning when the air is coolest, rather than wait for the late evening. Even though the evening air is cool, the cattle will still be warm from being in the heat all day and need the night to cool off before being worked. In particular this is important for re-implanting feedlot cattle, as these animals have a layer of fat that makes it more difficult for them to cool off.

Management practices for beating the summer heat can start in the winter by buying cattle that are better prepared for the hot sun. A study done at the US Meat Animal Research Center found that cattle that are predominantly black were 4.1 degrees Celsius warmer than predominantly white haired cattle when standing in the sun. The temperature for the black cattle was reduced by giving them adequate shade. If it fits your marketing goals and shade is not an option, consider finishing lighter colored cattle in the summer.

Unless you plan on taking your herd swimming with you at the river, we need to take some measures in the pasture or feedyard to help keep cattle comfortable. Using a combination of these aforementioned heat mitigation techniques will keep cattle productive through the summer highs.

Jake Geis, DVM, works out of the Tyndall Veterinary Clinic.

THI	Temp																		
RH	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
90	81	82	83	84	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
85	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
80	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	94	95
75	79	80	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	93	94
70	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89	90	91	91	92	93
65	77	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	89	89	90	91	92
60	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	88	89	90	91
55	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	84	85	86	87	87	88	89	90
50	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	80	81	82	83	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	88
45	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	80	81	82	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	87
40	74	75	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	81	81	82	83	83	84	85	85	86
35	73	74	75	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	80	81	82	82	83	84	84	85
30	73	73	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	79	79	80	81	81	82	83	83	84
25	72	73	73	74	74	75	76	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	80	81	82	82	83

THI > 84 = Emergency

HI	Temp																		
RH	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
90	91	95	98	102	105	109	113	117	122	126	131	136	141	147	152	158	164	170	176
85	90	93	96	99	102	106	110	113	117	122	126	130	135	140	145	150	155	161	167
80	89	91	94	97	100	103	106	110	113	117	121	125	129	134	138	143	148	153	158
75	88	90	92	95	97	100	103	106	109	113	116	120	124	128	132	136	141	145	150
70	86	88	90	93	95	98	100	103	106	109	112	116	119	123	126	130	134	138	143
65	85	87	89	91	93	95	98	100	103	105	108	111	114	118	121	125	128	132	136
60	84	86	88	89	91	93	95	97	100	102	105	107	110	113	116	119	123	126	129
55	84	85	86	88	89	91	93	95	97	99	101	104	106	109	112	114	117	120	124
50	83	84	85	86	88	89	91	93	95	97	99	101	103	105	108	110	113	115	118
45	82	83	84	85	87	88	89	91	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	109	111	114
40	81	82	83	84	85	87	88	89	91	92	94	95	97	99	101	103	105	107	109
35	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	92	93	95	96	98	100	102	104	106
30	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	92	93	94	96	97	99	101	102
25	80	81	82	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	94	95	97	98	100

HI > 100 = Emergency

COURTESY GRAPHIC