



Hay Bales Left Too Close To Roadways?

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Transportation reminds landowners that baled hay shall not be left within the right of way closer than 30 feet from the painted shoulder stripe.

Officials say when bales are left too close to the roadway it creates a safety hazard for motorists by limiting site distance and creating an obstruction should a vehicle leave the driving surface.

All hay harvested under a permit must be removed from the right of way within 30 days after being processed.

Administrative Rule 70:04:06:06 states: No mowing of the right of way may begin in the west river counties of Gregory, Lyman or Tripp before June 15 and east of the Missouri River before July 10. All mowing by permit must be completed by Sept. 1 each year.

For questions, contact the appropriate region or area engineer. Contact information can be found at this website: <http://sddot.com/contact/>.

Why You Should Replant Flooded Land

BROOKINGS — Don't wait to develop a restoration plan for land devastated by recent floods. Quick action can prevent erosion and maintain soil health, said Matt Fenske, vice president of Business Development for Millborn Seeds, a quarter century old grass seed company located in Brookings and North Sioux City.

"I know it's an overwhelming mess today, but if nothing is done to repair and replant this summer, soil biology will disappear and there will be nothing to stop further erosion," said Fenske, who vividly recalls working with his team of specialists to restore land following 2011 flood events.

He goes on to explain that living plants are essential to soil health. "They maintain soil biology, prevent compaction, enhance water infiltration and keep weeds at bay."

Waiting until next spring to replant and repair flood damaged ground is not a good option as it puts top soil at risk.

Fenske is among a team of grass seed specialists who work to provide restoration tools and intelligent grass seed solutions for all projects. He outlines a few options below: Parks, Lawns and Roadways: Once the soil dries out, if the land is replanted in August or early September there is still time for turf to establish before winter.

This is also an opportunity to replant a grass seed mixture that is better suited for the land's growing conditions or to meet a new landscaping goal, such as introducing a variety that requires less water or mowing.

Farmland: Quick growing forages or cover crops are a good solution. Along with the benefits of maintaining soil health, weed and erosion control; varieties can be selected to fix nitrogen, increase water infiltration and alleviate compaction.

To learn more and develop a restoration plan, contact Fenske and the Millborn Seeds team at 605-697-6306 or www.millbornseeds.com.

Research Farm Research Day Is July 8

BROOKINGS — Southeast Research Farm will host Summer Research Day July 8 at the farm (29974 University Road, Beresford, located 6 miles west of Beresford on Highway 46 and 2.75 miles south on University Road).

This Research Day will feature field tours, a producer panel as well as presentations by SDSU Extension staff, SDSU faculty and NRCS personnel. This Research Day is open to the public. Field tours will start at 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 6 p.m. Indoor presentations will start at 3:30 p.m. and repeat at 6 p.m.

Speakers and topics include:

- **"Multi-Hybrid Planter"** presented by Peter Sexton, Southeast Farm Supervisor, SDSU Plant Science;
- **"Tiling"** presented by Chris Hay, Assistant Professor SDSU Extension Water Management Engineer;
- **"Soil Health"** presented by Sara Berg, Research Assistant within SDSU Plant Science Dept.;
- **"Corn Nitrogen Response"** presented by Eric Barsness, NRCS;
- **"Cover Crops Interseeded into Soybeans and Soybean On-Farm Research"** presented by Greig Reicks, Research Associate, SDSU Plant Science;
- **"Nitrogen Timing in Corn"** presented by Anthony Bly, SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist;
- **"Weed Control Options"** presented by Paul Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Science Coordinator and Darrell Deneke, SDSU Extension IPM Coordinator;
- **"Selecting Winter Wheat Lines for Ability to Compete with Weeds"** presented by David Karki, SDSU Plant Science;
- **"Climate Weather Update"** presented by Dennis Today, SDSU Extension Climate Specialist, SDSU Ag Biosystems Engineering;
- **"Soybean Pest Update"** presented by Kelley Tilmon, SDSU Extension Soybean Entomology Specialist;
- **"BT Resistance and Corn Rootworms"** presented by Ada Szczepanec, SDSU Extension Entomology Specialist;
- **"Phosphorus Cycling"** presented by Howard Woodard, SDSU Plant Science;
- **"Soybean Disease Updates"** presented by Emmanuel Byamukama, SDSU Extension Plant Pathologist;
- **"Soil Microbial Activity and Cover Crops"** presented by Mike Lehman, USDA-ARS;
- and **"Twin Row Soybeans and Lupines"** presented by Brad Rops, Operations Manager, Southeast Farm, SDSU.

A producer panel will discuss and take audience questions on "No-Till Crop Management" during supper hour.

STIP Public Meetings

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2015-2018 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 22, 2014	Ramada Convention Center	Aberdeen	7:00 PM
July 23, 2014	Ramkota Hotel	Sioux Falls	7:00 PM
July 24, 2014	Ramkota Hotel	Pierre	7:00 PM
July 29, 2014	Ramkota Hotel	Rapid City	7:00 PM
July 30, 2014	Webinar	Contact: Dave.Voeltz@State.SD.US to register	1:30 PM

Individuals with disabilities or special needs call 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 (TDD).
For more information please go to www.SDDOT.com

Independence Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Friday, July 4th, for the Independence Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

- Saturday, July 5 newspaper – 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 1
- Monday, July 7 newspaper – 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 1
- Tuesday, July 8 newspaper – 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 2
- Out On The Town, July 8 & 10 – 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 2
- Wednesday, July 9 newspaper – 5 p.m., Thursday, July 3

There will be no newspaper on Friday, July 4, 2014.

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Changing Times?

Climate Change And The Future Of Farming

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

Each year, after some devastating and often unusual weather event, there is much speculation about whether what was just experienced is part of the effect of climate change, as has long been predicted, or if the worse is yet to come.

It was no different after twin tornadoes struck Pilger, Neb., earlier this month, making international news of this incredibly rare weather phenomenon, with many bloggers and online news media posing such questions as, "How many twin tornadoes will it take to wake up America to climate change?"

Climatologists, as a whole, are reluctant to link any specific weather event, no matter how extreme, to climate change — and rightly so, as the very definition of climate change is a pattern of weather events. One extreme weather event does not make a pattern, but a series of such weather events over time does.

So what do climatologists predict as the impact of climate change? It depends on the world region.

Here, in the Great Plains region, which stretches from North Dakota south to Texas and also includes Montana and Wyoming, the National Climate Assessment (NCA) — a project of the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Global Change Research Program, resulting in a 2014 report put together by a 360-member team — forecasts rising temperatures and more frequent and intense droughts and heat waves, which will have the secondary impact of water limitations. What rain does fall is more likely to be intense downpours, which will result in runoff and flash flooding rather than replenishing soil moisture.

This is, no doubt, bad news for production agriculture, with crop irrigation being among the biggest users of water, as well as the rural communities and cities and natural ecosystems that will have to share short water resources during the traditional growing season. Overall, less irrigation abilities will lower crop yields, and areas without access to field-wide irrigation will be at significant disadvantage. Interestingly, it's predicted that the Northern Plains, which includes South Dakota and Nebraska, will see more precipitation events occur during the winter months before the region dries out in the summers.

As winters become warmer and timing of rainfall events shift, the NCA reports that plant growth cycles are also shifting. Even seemingly benign shifts can disrupt vital ecosystem functions like predator-prey relationships or food availability during key reproductive periods. Due to habitats fragmented by roads, fields, buildings and other man-made structures, species stressed by shifts in plant growth cycles cannot simply migrate to better growing conditions as they were able to historically.

Not surprisingly, the NCA reports that water conservation will be paramount, especially during the traditional growing season months. In addition, while some overwintering crops like winter wheat are likely to become more popular, it's not that easy. Warmer winters means that some pests and weeds will be able to survive the winter months that have historically not

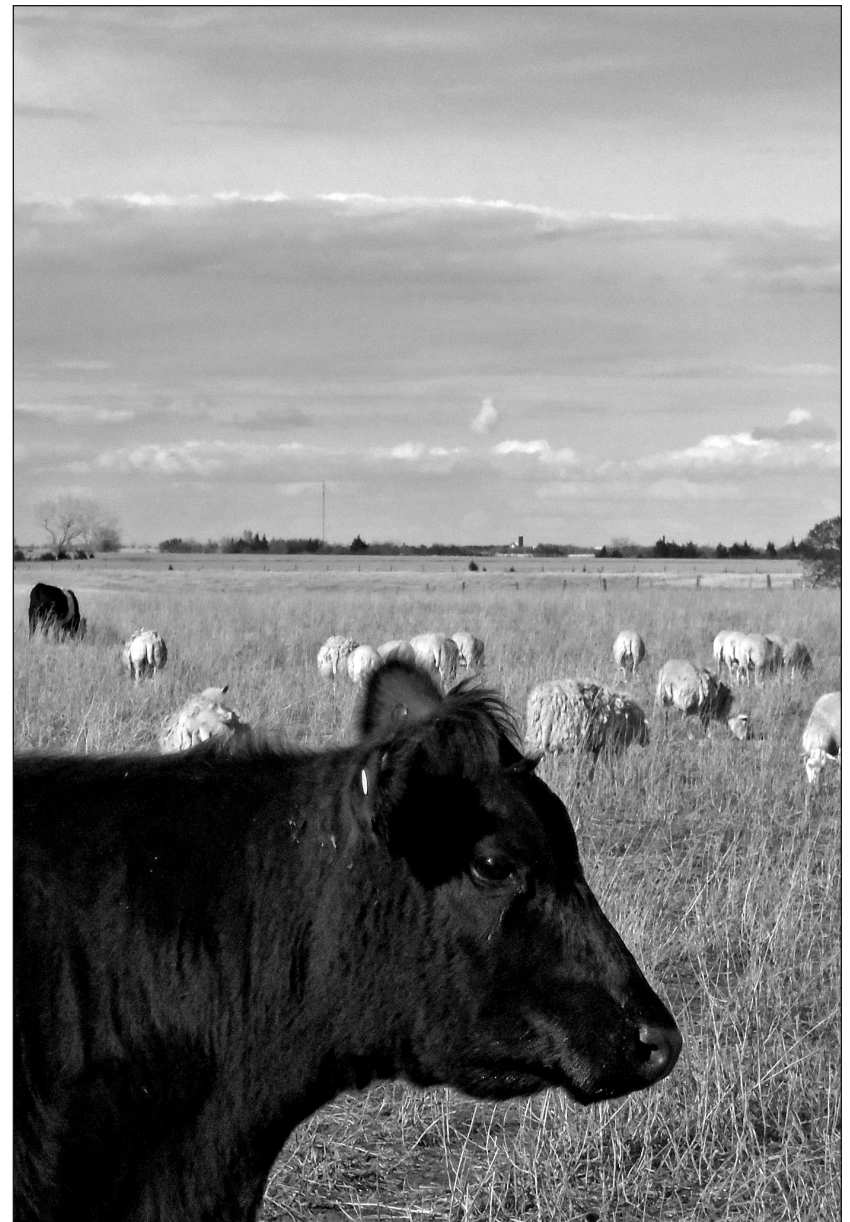


PHOTO: RITA BRHEL
Multispecies grazing, such as combining cattle and sheep or following one species after another in a rotational grazing system, may be able to help mitigate the effects of climate change on pasture growth cycles.

been able to, and overwintering crops may not be in dormancy as long as usual and would therefore be susceptible to spring freezes.

While some farmers and ranchers are likely to continue viewing climate change as a mere theory, South Dakota State University Extension climate field specialist Laura Edwards of Aberdeen says that the area's climate has already begun to change.

"We have already seen trends in rising temperature in South Dakota, particularly in the winter season," she said. "The (NCA) report also confirms the increases in precipitation that we have seen across the Dakotas in recent decades. In agriculture, for example, the frost-free season is now about 10 days longer than it was 50 to 100 years ago and is projected to be 10 to 30 days longer by the end of the century."

But SDSU Extension and State climatologist Dennis Today of Brookings says that climate change doesn't have to be seen as a bad thing, as a warning to heed or else,

but rather as an alteration in weather patterns that has both positives, such as longer growing seasons and a better spring moisture set-up, as well as negatives, including more bouts of summer heat stress and drought and increased pest and weed pressures.

A less doomday-ish perspective may help producers and rural communities get into the mindset of proactively planning for what lies ahead, rather than waiting to see what indeed does materialize out of climate change predictions. Either way, experts say, climate change isn't just coming; it's here.

"Climate change can't be ignored any longer," said Steve Andrews, chair of the Missouri Valley Sierra Club of Omaha, Neb. "We need to understand the effects of climate change so that we can make necessary changes, both to attempt to mitigate its effects but also to adapt to the changes we will endure."



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