

Cooler Temps Slow Planting Of SD Row Crops

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Unseasonably cool temperatures across South Dakota slowed planting of row crops and pasture growth. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its weekly crop report that despite the cooler temperatures, producers had 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Winter wheat conditions were rated 31 percent very poor, 31 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 6 percent good and 0 percent excellent. Calving was 85 percent complete and lambing was 90 percent complete. Cattle and calf conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Omaha Homicide Victim’s Name Released

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a 25-year-old Omaha homicide victim. Omaha police identified him as Nicolas Garrido-Antunez. Police say officers responded shortly before 6 a.m. Sunday to a report of an injured man. Officers say the man wasn’t responsive and had a gunshot wound. He was taken to Nebraska Medical Center in extremely critical condition. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. No arrests have been reported.

SD Has High Rate Of Births Outside Wedlock

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Declines in abortion and marriage rates in South Dakota may have contributed to high rate of babies being born to unwed women in the state, officials say. New figures from the U.S. Census Bureau show that 37.4 percent of South Dakota births in 2011 were outside wedlock — the 19th-highest rate in the nation. The rate of U.S. births to unmarried women has been climbing since the 1940s and accelerating in recent years, reflecting changing norms regarding sexual behavior and the formation of families, said the report’s authors, Rachel Shattuck and Rose Kreider. “The increase in non-marital fertility may be due to both an increase in pregnancies conceived outside of marriage and to a decrease in marriage rates overall,” they wrote. South Dakota’s marriage rate dropped from 9.1 per 1,000 residents to 7.5 per 1,000 between 2000 and 2011, according to the state Department of Health. “I can’t say I feel good about it,” said Anne Hajek, a state legislator from Sioux Falls and a former Minnehaha County commissioner. During her work with the county, Hajek became well acquainted with the process of single parents seeking public assistance, the *Argus Leader* newspaper reported. “Who pays the bill?” she said. “We will care for those who can’t care for themselves. They need it and have to have it.” Another factor contributing to South Dakota’s high rate of births outside of marriage could be the state’s abortion rate, which is less than half what it was in the 1980s, said Linda Schauer, state director for the group Concerned Women of America.

New Satellite Appears To Be Working Well

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Scientists and engineers at the U.S. Geological Survey’s EROS Center say a new satellite with a mission to document the Earth’s surface appears to be working flawlessly. NASA launched Landsat 8 into space aboard an Atlas 5 rocket in February. Teams have been running the orbiter through a barrage of tests, and the satellite is now set in its orbit 438 miles above the planet’s surface. Landsat 8 will send more than 400 data-filled images per day back to the center north of Sioux Falls, where they will be archived and made available for free download. The new orbiter has several advantages over its predecessor, boasting bands to see deeper into oceans, lakes and rivers and a band to detect cirrus clouds and correct for atmospheric effects.

R.C. To Limit Lawn-Watering This Summer

RAPID CITY (AP) — Rapid City officials say lawn and garden watering restrictions will start in the city next month, despite record snowfall in April. The U.S. Drought Monitor map shows that southwestern South Dakota remains mired in drought. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that the water-conservation measures will be in place in the city from June through August. The measures limit the number of days residents can do outdoor watering.

South Dakota

Disaster Declaration Sought

By The Associated Press

‘PIERRE — Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Monday requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration to help South Dakota recover from an ice and snow storm that hit the state last month. Daugaard is requesting public assistance in seven counties: Douglas, Hutchinson, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Turner and Shannon. Damage to public and private nonprofit property is estimated at more than \$11 mil-

lion from the storm that dropped more than 26 inches of snow on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and left more than 115,000 without power in the southeastern position of the state. “The tree debris covered public roads and sidewalks, which caused public health and safety issues because emergency traffic was unable to drive down the roadways and citizens were unable to evacuate their homes until the tree debris was cleared from roads,” Daugaard wrote. The governor said South Dakota is still re-

covering from Missouri River flooding in 2011, as well as seven Presidential disaster declarations in 2010. “The costs associated with this disaster, combined with the last eight declarations, increases the state’s financial stress if federal assistance is not provided,” he wrote. Daugaard’s request is necessary for federal disaster funds to be made available to South Dakota. If President Obama grants the declaration, up to 75 percent of eligible costs could be reimbursed by the federal government.

Nebraska

Buffett Says Stocks Are Still Reasonable

BY JOSH FUNK
AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Investor Warren Buffett said even though the stock market is soaring, prices appear reasonable, and stocks would be a better investment than bonds for most people. Buffett conducted interviews Monday on CNBC and the Fox Business Network cable channels after a weekend full of events in Omaha for Berkshire Hathaway Inc. shareholders. “Bonds are a terrible investment right now,” Buffett said. Buffett said bond prices are artificially inflated because the Federal Reserve continues to buy \$85 billion of bonds a month, and owners of long-term bonds may see big losses when interest rates eventually rise. He said the average investor should keep enough cash to be comfortable and invest the rest in equities. “Stocks are reasonably priced now. They were very cheap a few years ago,” Buffett said on CNBC. But Buffett said most investors pay too much attention when the stock market reaches record highs. He said average investors should pay more attention when stocks hit records in falling prices because that’s a sign they are getting cheaper. The Federal Reserve’s efforts to keep interest rates low have helped the stock market soar, Buffett said, but the improving economy has also played a role. Buffett said he remains a fan of Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke. He also reiterated his support of JP-Morgan Chase Chairman and CEO Jamie Dimon. He said that bank, which he has invested in for his personal portfolio, has the right CEO. Buffett, who heads the Berkshire Hathaway Inc. conglomerate, was also asked about aspects of that company, which owns more



Buffett

than 80 companies and holds major investments in Wells Fargo, IBM, Coca-Cola and other iconic companies. He defended the way the pending \$23.3 billion takeover of ketchup-maker H.J. Heinz Co. was structured. He said he expects Berkshire to own a stake in Heinz forever, and he doesn’t see a problem in taking a partner — the Brazilian investment firm 3G Capital — in the deal. Buffett said on CNBC he doesn’t consider 3G a traditional private equity firm because it is investing a significant amount of its own money and it runs businesses. Some people had questioned whether the deal that will give Berkshire a 50 percent stake in Heinz represented a change in investment style for Buffett’s conglomerate. Generally Berkshire buys entire companies outright and allows them to continue operating largely unchanged. Buffett said he hopes Berkshire’s stake in Heinz will grow over time. On another topic, he said traffic is picking up at Berkshire’s BNSF railroad as the economy improves. He said the railroad will likely deliver record earnings this year, but will probably still haul fewer carloads than it did before the recession. “It’s been a terrific acquisition for Berkshire,” Buffett said. BNSF contributed \$798 million to Berkshire’s \$4.89 billion first quarter profit the company reported on Friday. The Omaha-based company’s overall profit soared 51 percent over the previous year’s \$3.25 billion net income.

8 Norfolk Students Treated At Hospitals After Bus Collision

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska State Patrol says eight students were taken to hospitals after a school bus collided with a semitrailer at a foggy intersection in northeast Nebraska. The collision occurred around 7:15 a.m. Monday on U.S. Highway 275, four miles west of Norfolk. Officials say the northbound bus was crossing the highway when it and the westbound truck collided. Nebraska State Patrol trooper Justin Koch says neither driver saw the other vehicle because of the dense fog. Ray Spencenbaugh of Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk says two students suffered serious head injuries and were transferred to Omaha hospitals. He says the other injured students were expected to be treated and released on Monday. The bus was carrying 14 students. The patrol says the bus and truck drivers weren’t injured.

Daugaard Recruiting Minn. Workers

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is heading to Minnesota next week to try to recruit workers to the Mount Rushmore State. Daugaard will be at the Mall of America on May 13 to visit with shoppers and answer questions about relocating to South Dakota. The trip is part of an ongoing effort to entice people from out of state to move to South Dakota to fill open jobs. State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts said officials are targeting the Twin Cities because more Minnesotans have shown an interest in moving to South Dakota than workers from any other state.

“We want to share information about our great job opportunities. There are more than 10,000 to choose from, including many high-demand, high-wage jobs in the information technology, engineering, nursing and financial services fields,” Roberts said. She added that Daugaard will tell people about the quality of life in South Dakota, the low cost of living and the state’s friendly tax climate. More than 3,000 Minnesotans have relocated to South Dakota since October 2006, when the state launched a website to connect out-of-state workers with in-state careers.

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