

S.D. Winter Wheat Crop Still Slow To Emerge

SIoux FALLS (AP) — South Dakota’s winter wheat crop is more than half way emerged, but well behind last year’s pace.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its weekly crop and weather report that winter wheat is 53 percent emerged, behind last year’s estimate of 100 percent and the five-year average of 99 percent.

Cattle conditions are rated at 74 percent good to excellent, 23 percent fair and 3 percent poor.

The state saw very little precipitation last week and moderate temperatures. Only five stations reported receiving precipitation. The most was at Roscoe and Clear Lake with 0.02 inches.

Woman’s Death At Detox Center Investigated

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Minnehaha County Sheriff’s Office and the Department of Social Services is investigating the death of a woman who was a patient at the county’s detoxification center.

Local media report that the 48-year-old woman was found unresponsive at the detox center Sunday shortly after being admitted.

The woman’s name is not being released.

The incident comes weeks after the facility was temporary closed to new patients because of a state investigation into safety issues.

Woman Accused Of Hoax Wants Trial Moved

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The former University of Nebraska women’s basketball player charged with faking a hate-crime attack wants her trial to be moved out of the Lincoln area.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that an attorney for 34-year-old Charlie Rogers has asked Lancaster County Judge Gale Pokorny to move her trial to a different venue.

Attorney Brett McArthur told the newspaper Monday that there’s “a substantial risk” jurors would be tainted by publicity that has saturated the community. Pokorny has not yet ruled on the request.

Rogers is charged with making a false report for telling police in July that three masked men broke into her home, assaulted her and carved derogatory words in her arms and abdomen.

She has pleaded not guilty and maintains her innocence, insisting the attack happened.

Two Women Arrested For Prostitution In S.F.

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls police say two women have been arrested on charges related to prostitution.

Local media report that the women were arrested after authorities received a tip about 6 p.m. on Sunday of an online ad offering sexual services in Sioux Falls. A detective answered the ad and arranged for a meeting at a motel in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls police spokesman says a 22-year-old woman arrived at the motel and was arrested on prostitution charges. A 33-year-old woman who drove the other woman was also arrested on a charge of pimping.

Neb. Troopers Seize 2,300 Pounds Of Pot

YORK, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska troopers say they have arrested an Arizona man after finding more than 2,300 pounds of marijuana in the back of a rental truck he was driving.

The Nebraska State Patrol said Monday that a trooper stopped the truck on Sunday morning for failing to signal near the Bradshaw Interchange on Interstate 80, and was given consent to search it.

The patrol says officers discovered 101 bundles of marijuana that weighed nearly 2,400 pounds. The patrol released a picture showing stacks and stacks of the bundles in the truck’s back storage area.

The driver, James C. Valimont of Glendale, Ariz., is being held in the York County Jail. He has been charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

Neb. Christmas Tree Supply Appears OK

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A forester at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln says the state’s supply of locally-grown Christmas trees should not be affected by this year’s drought.

Dennis Adams of the Nebraska Forest Service said in a statement Monday that an estimated 25,000 Nebraska-grown trees will be available this year.

He says more than 25 Christmas tree farms are located around the state, and most will open in the days around Thanksgiving. They allow customers to select and cut their own trees, which Adams says ensures better quality, minimizes the threat of fire and even adds a better aroma.

Adams says buying pre-cut trees from Nebraska is also a better option than purchasing those shipped from western and northern states because they will be fresher.

South Dakota

Proposed Uranium Mine Reviewed

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — Federal and state agencies are on the cusp of deciding the fate of a long-debated uranium mine in southwestern South Dakota that would produce about 1 million pounds of uranium oxide annually for the next two decades.

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recommended that a license be granted for Powertech Uranium Corp.’s proposed Dewey-Burdock project near Edgemont on the condition that a separate safety review doesn’t reverse such a conclusion. The NRC’s target for a final decision is June 2013.

The proposed mining area is about 13 miles northwest of Edgemont, close to the Black Hills National Forest, and would cover about 16.5 square miles. The mine would employ about 250 people during construction and about 150 once operational.

But the federal license isn’t the only hurdle Powertech must clear. It also has applied for three state permits — one mining and two water rights. Officials of the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources expect to hold public hearings on the applications next spring.

It’s been more than four years since the mining proposal was first introduced with the goal of becoming operational by 2011. Despite opposition from Native Americans and environmental groups, the state in 2008 agreed to let the uranium producer drill nearly 200 exploratory holes.

Powertech — a Canadian company whose U.S. arm is overseeing the Edgemont project — plans to use a method known as in-situ recovery, which would pump groundwater fortified with oxygen and carbon dioxide into the underground ore deposits to dissolve the uranium. The water would be pumped back to the surface, where the uranium would be extracted and sold to nuclear power plants.

Lilias Jarding of the Clean Water Alliance, a Black Hills group that opposes the mine, said similar operations have never been done safely because they leave behind too much of the mined mineral once the mining is complete. She expects residents in the area, along with other environmental organizations, to intervene in the permitting cases.

“The major consequences are water contamination and water use,” Jarding said, noting that Powertech would use 47 billion gallons of water over a 10-year period. “It’s a huge amount of water, and people really need to sit up and take

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But Mark Hollenbeck, Powertech’s project manager, said he’s confident the agencies reviewing the applications will find the proposed mine can be operated within regulations and without harm to the environment.

“There are volumes and volumes and volumes of technical data that back up this permit application,” said Hollenbeck, who added that the company hopes to receive all permits and licenses soon so work can begin about a year from now.

The state’s review is limited, due to a law passed by the Legislature in 2011 that prevents the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from duplicat-

ing federal regulation of underground injection wells and in-situ mining.

Mike Cepac, an engineering manager with the state minerals and mining program, said the Board of Minerals and Environment will mostly look at the surface effects of the operation. A hearing on the mining permit is unlikely before April, he said.

The state Water Rights Program staff has recommended that the Water Management Board approve Powertech’s applications for two permits to use underground water because it appears the water is available, can be used without illegally impairing existing water rights held by others and is beneficial and in the public interest.

A public hearing has been set for Dec. 5, the office said, but is expected to be delayed until spring.

The NRC said it expects a formal notice of its draft environmental report will be published Friday, and public comments will be accepted for 45 days.

Stephen Cohen, team leader for facility licensing with the NRC, said a final version of the study will likely be issued in early 2013, clearing the way for completing of the separate safety evaluation report.

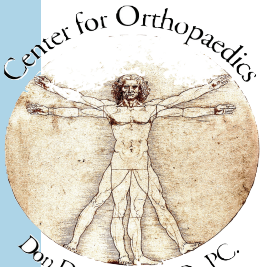
In addition, the federal Environmental Protection Agency is considering Powertech’s application for permits related to injecting water underground in the mining process.

The uranium market dropped after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan that severely damaged a nuclear power plant, Powertech’s Hollenbeck said, but the market is recovering.

“I think long-term, nuclear power is here to stay as the only truly large-scale carbon-free electrical power production we have,” Hollenbeck said.



Swift at the Center for Orthopaedics.



Dr. Doug Neilson wishes to announce his retirement from the practice of Orthopedic Surgery. Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me for the last 16 years, it has been a pleasure to serve you. Your medical records and ongoing orthopedic care will be available from Dr. Don

Dr. Doug Neilson, M.D.

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