

Autumn Storm

Ranchers Reeling From Losses

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Western South Dakota ranchers are reeling from the loss of tens of thousands of cattle in last weekend's blizzard, and many will dispose of carcasses in pits set to open Monday.

Rancher Heath Ferguson said the storm killed 96 percent of his herd of 100 black Angus and Limousin cattle, a hit worth about \$250,000. He said total losses topped more than 1,000 head, as six other herds were roaming the family's 16,000 acres east of Sturgis.

Up to 4 feet of snow fell in the Black Hills area last weekend. Reports of 20 or more inches of snow were common, and 21 1/2 inches in Rapid City were a record for both a 24-hour period in October and the entire month. At least two deaths were attributed to the storm, and it took a particularly heavy toll on livestock.

Ferguson said the vast majority of ranchers don't have insurance covering storm-related damage.

"It's cost-prohibitive for a producer," he said Sunday in an interview with The Associated Press. "Unless you're a really big operator, you can't afford to pay for the insurance."

Cattle ranchers dealing with

also

■ Blizzard Has Left West River Cattle Herds Ravaged.
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federal shutdown.

"We're an independent, pretty self-sufficient bunch, but we need help," Ferguson said.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard and U.S. Sen. John Thune did an aerial assessment Thursday of the blizzard damage and livestock losses. State officials said at least 10,000 to 20,000 head of livestock died, but the estimate will likely rise.

The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association estimates that western South Dakota lost at least 5 percent of its cattle, much of which are raised for slaughter. Nearly a third of the state's 3.7 million cattle and calves reside in the western part of the state.

Ranchers who lost cattle will be able to dispose of the carcasses for free at several pits being dug in Pennington County, according to the county's Emergency Operations Center. The

weather-related losses would typically turn to the federal Livestock Indemnity Program, but that farm bill provision has expired and its future is in flux due to congressional gridlock and the continuing

county is coordinating the effort because the U.S. Farm Service Agency is closed during the shutdown.

Livestock owners are encouraged to document all animal losses with pictures, vaccination and hauling receipts in case disaster payments are available in the future.

South Dakota Farmers Union president Doug Sombke said that even if the federal government was open and Congress could reach a compromise on a new farm bill, it would take months to implement the Livestock Indemnity Program.

Meanwhile, the Stockgrowers Association, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association are seeking donations to a relief fund that has been set up to help ranchers, and a couple of Montana groups are asking local farmers to donate cattle and sheep.

Ferguson, who also makes his living by working in the Wyoming coal fields, said he owns his herd, but many struggling ranchers have had to borrow money to stay in business.

"There's an awful lot of producers out here that sold our herds down because of the drought," he said. "A lot of people are into the financial institutions pretty hard."

Peterson Never Wavered On Playing

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Adrian Peterson would have been forgiven for sitting this one out.

Two days earlier, Peterson's 2-year-old son was killed in an alleged case of child abuse in Sioux Falls, S.D. The alleged assailant is in jail, and Peterson rushed to the hospital Thursday to see the child before vowing to play against the Carolina Panthers on Sunday.

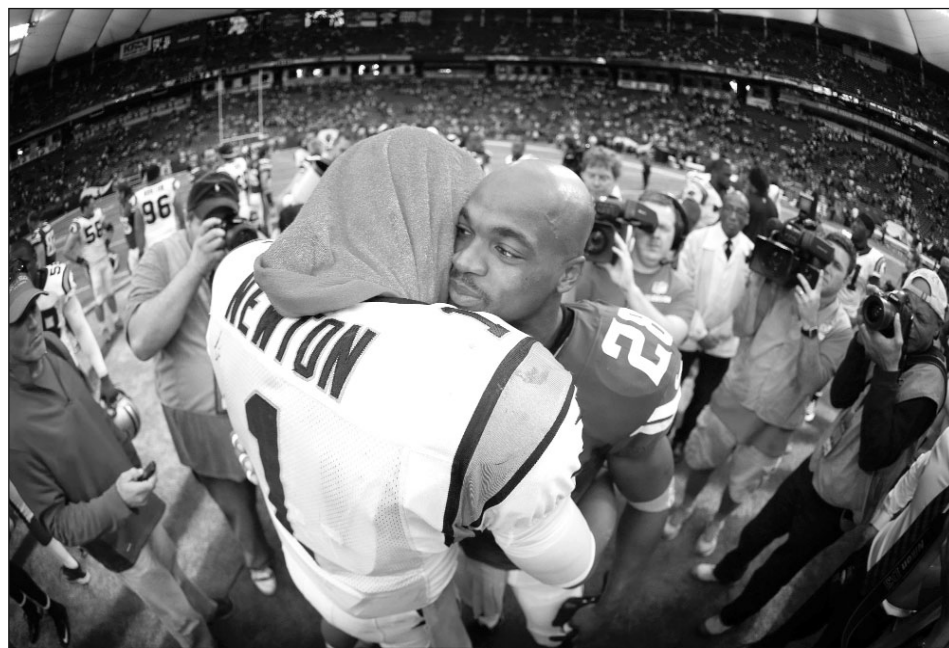
Even after his Minnesota Vikings were thumped 35-10 by the Panthers and booed off the field by their home crowd, Peterson said he never wavered in his decision to play.

"I was set on it," said Peterson, who was held to 62 yards on 10 carries. "I just look at things and I don't ask people to understand my mindset and how I think. Anything bad, I try to take good from it. That's the way I approach life in all situations. I never thought about not playing. It was all about just going out there and praying that I have the strength to get through and help my team. That was my focus."

Fans held signs that read "Stay Strong 28" and "Prayers for Adrian," and several teammates offered hugs and well wishes before the game for their MVP.

"I just prayed and asked God to give me the strength just to get through the game, just play and focus," Peterson said. "And for the most part, I did. It was a terrible way to lose, but we can learn from this, make some corrections and get back on track."

The Vikings (1-4) delivered as flat of a performance as they've had in recent memory to fall even further back in the muddled NFC playoff



JERRY HOLT/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT
Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton (1) hugs Minnesota Vikings Adrian Peterson (28) at the end of the game in Minneapolis Sunday. Late last week, Peterson's 2-year-old son died in Sioux Falls in a case of alleged child abuse. The accused assailant is in jail.

picture. Matt Cassel was intercepted twice, the defense was burned for big play after big play and the Vikings trailed 28-3 with 6 minutes left in the third quarter to send fans heading for the exits.

The stout Carolina defense made things tough for Peterson. He was able to rip off one run of 31 yards, but was bottled up for the rest of the afternoon and was held to his lowest yardage output since Week 2 last season.

Peterson declined to discuss the relationship he had with the boy, who lived with his mother in Sioux Falls. The mother's boyfriend, Joseph Patterson, is charged with aggravated assault and aggravated battery.

"Can we focus on football? I'm not really trying to get into details on that," Peterson said. "We just got blown out by (25) points. So

let's focus on football and what the Minnesota Vikings can do to get better."

Vikings coach Leslie Frazier said he thought his star running back handled himself well during the trying circumstances.

"It's a difficult, difficult situation and there are a lot of people trying to support him within in the organization, his teammates as well," Frazier said.

Panthers safety Mike Mitchell, who had two interceptions and a sack, sought out Peterson during the game to offer some words of encouragement. Mitchell said he mentioned to the deeply religious Peterson the Bible verse Jeremiah 29:11 about God providing hope for the future.

"I told him that to keep that in his heart as he continues to take this challenge

going forward," Mitchell said.

Peterson said he is leaning on his teammates and family to help him through, and he will continue to look to the football field as a shelter, as he has throughout his life during the toughest of times.

And the Vikings will have to lean on Peterson if they hope to get things turned around before it's too late.

"In life situations, and in football, you've got to continue to believe," Peterson said. "We've got to get everyone with that same mindset, to believe no matter what the circumstances. We're 1-4. We've got to believe and have faith that we're going to be able to turn it around and accomplish our goals. That's the way I think. We just have to get everyone thinking the same way."

Omaha Councilman To Run For Congress

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha City Councilman Pete Festeren says he's running after all for the U.S. House seat occupied by Republican Rep. Lee Terry.

Festeren, who indicated in August that he wouldn't run, says in a statement released Sunday that he is a candidate.

He cites widespread dissatisfaction with Congress and its inability to address the nation's challenges.

Festeren says change is needed so that people can work together and get things done.

Prior to serving on the City Council and starting his own small business, Festeren worked in senior management positions with the Mayor's Office, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and Alegent Health.

An eight-term Congressman, Terry also may face a primary tea party challenge from former State Sen. Chip Maxwell, of Omaha, who says he's exploring a run.

SD Joins Settlement With Company

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says the state will get at least \$250,000 as its share of a settlement reached by 47 states and the District of Columbia with a marketing company.

Jackley says Affinion and its subsidiaries, Trilegiant and Webloyalty, will pay more than \$30 million to settle allegations that they misled consumers into signing up and paying for discount clubs and membership programs.

Jackley says \$150,000 of South Dakota's proceeds from the settlement will go to a state program that will help crime victims get information about the status of those who hurt them.

South Dakota consumers who were hurt by Affinion's marketing practices also can get refunds. They can file a complaint with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

Neb. Fed Judge Fed Up With Congress

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A federal judge in Nebraska is fed up with Congress and its inability to fund government including the courts and says in his internet blog it's time to tell Congress to "go to hell."

KETV-TV reports Judge Richard George Kopf is commenting on the likelihood that the U.S. District Court in Nebraska may run out of money as early as Monday forcing judicial officials to decide which employees are essential.

Kopf writes in his blog dated last Monday that district judges and the chief judge should issue orders declaring all remaining employees essential. That would set up a fight between the judicial branch and Congress.

Kopf, an appointee of President George H.W. Bush in 1992 and now a senior judge, says that would be a fight worth having.

Rapid City Chase Results In Fatality

RAPID CITY (AP) — Authorities say a passenger in a car that was being pursued by deputies in Rapid City died at the scene after the car crashed into three other vehicles.

Rapid City police say the accident happened about 9:30 p.m. Friday, after a report that the driver of a 2005 Chevy Impala was trying to run other vehicles off the road.

Pennington County deputies were pursuing the Impala for less than two minutes when the collision occurred. A passenger in the Impala was declared dead at the scene.

Authorities say the driver of the Impala and one other passenger were transported to a local hospital with serious injuries. The drivers of the other three vehicles were treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Police say alcohol appears to be a factor in the crash.

Wildland Fire Div. Getting New Home

RAPID CITY (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture will break ground Tuesday on a Rapid City location that will soon house South Dakota Wildland Fire Division and Resource Conservation and Forestry.

A ceremony will be held at the former Game, Fish & Parks facility at 1 p.m. MDT. The site will be expanded and remodeled for its new use.

Wildland Fire deputy director Steve Hasenohrl says it will be nice to consolidate offices scattered across Rapid City onto one campus.

Deadwood Holds Storm-Delayed Festival

DEADWOOD (AP) — The Black Hills community of deadwood held its annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, a week after it was delayed by an early fall blizzard.

KOTA television reports that the Beer Barrel Games events held on Main Street included pie eating contests, wiener dog races and plenty of beer, brats and polka. Ten teams completed for the trophy.

The events were planned for last weekend, but the chamber postponed the celebration when the town was hit by heavy snow and winds.

Vilsack To Speak At Lincoln Event

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will speak about rural America and its new markets at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The lecture is part of the university's Heuermann Lecture season. Vilsack will speak at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 5 in the Grand Ballroom of the Cornhusker hotel in Lincoln.

Vilsack will discuss his vision for an innovative rural economy that provides long-term benefits for the nation. He will talk about the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Obama administration's efforts to expand markets for American agricultural products at home and abroad, while strengthening local and regional markets.

The speech will also focus on natural resources conservation and renewable energy in rural America.

Neb. County Seeks To House Inmates In Kansas Jail

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) — County supervisors in Gage County in southeast Nebraska hope to save money by sending some of their jail inmates across the state line to a jail in Washington County, Kan., but the county attorney delayed making a deal, Gage County Sheriff Millard "Gus" Gustafson said.

Holding prisoners in Kansas will save as much as \$30 a day for each inmate, Gustafson said Friday at a meeting of the county board's law enforcement committee, the *Beatrice Daily Sun* reported.

He said it would free up space in the Gage County Detention Center which houses an average of 25 inmates per day.


Holding prisoners in Kansas will cost \$35 per day under an agreement between the two counties which would have the prisoners sent to the 34-bed jail in Washington, Kan., built in 2007. It's a 40-minute drive away, Gustafson said.

Gustafson met with Washington County Sheriff Justin Cordry last week to discuss details of an agreement that would include securing work release for inmates and providing medical and dental treatments covered by Medicaid.

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Board Certified Surgeon, Specializing in Breast Surgery
Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C.



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Board Certified Genetic Counselor
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"Genetic Counseling and Cancer"

Monday, October 21
Doors open at 11:30am – Lunch will be served at noon – Forum begins at noon
Best Western Kelly Inn, Yankton, SD

Tickets \$20.00
(includes lunch and program)

Proceeds benefit:
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All tickets must be purchased in advance or by mail by October 16th

Make checks payable to:
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