AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Dryer weather conditions this past week allowed for 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork in the past seven days. Farmers made substantial gains on the acres of soybeans planted. All crops are slowly inching closer to the averages for the season. Weed control is becoming an issue and farmers are beginning to spray as emergence increases. Farm activities included plantings, applying fertilizer and herbicides, moving cattle to pasture, haying, and helping with flood control efforts along the Missouri River.

This report was based on information from county extension educators, Farm Service Agency county directors, and other reporters across the state.

WEATHER INFORMATION

A very warm air mass crossed the state early in the week bringing the first 100° F temperatures to the state and pushing crop development in the rest of the state to the 50’s for highs, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. The warm couple of days kept temperatures from being too cool for the week as a whole.

Most of the state continued below average temperatures for the week. Only parts of the south and east were near to 1-2° F above average. Most of the rest of the state was 1-5° F below average. Overall average temperatures were mostly in the 60’s F again for the week. Yankton had the high temperature of the week at 100° F. Mileswells and Pierre shared the lowest temperature at 38° F (setting a record daily low in Pierre).

Isolated heavy rains fell during the week (> 2 inches in places). Most of those amounts fell between stations reported here. Four stations listed here reported over 1 inch for the week with Buffalo the highest at 1.25 inches. Britton and Kennebec had the lowest total with no reported precipitation for the week. Thirty day precipitation totals were below average over large areas of the state just east of the Missouri River. The wettest areas in the shorter term continue to be in the far northwest part of the state and the far southeast.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Dryer weather conditions aided farmers to make extensive progress on planting soybean acres, ending the week with 83 percent of the crop planted, just shy of the 5-year average of 90 percent. Ninety-eight percent of the corn is now planted, catching up with the 5-year average of 99 percent. Small grain development continues to lag behind averages. Oats are 27 percent in the boot stage, just behind last year’s average of 39 percent, with 6 percent headed compared to 12 percent a year ago. Spring wheat is 16 in boot stage, behind last year’s average of 59 percent, and only 2 percent headed compared to 16 percent last year. Winter wheat also lags with 37 percent headed, still considerably behind the previous year of 75 percent. Warmer, dry days will be needed to catch up to the normal mid-June progress.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

As we move later into the season, range and pasture grounds are shaping up, with 82 percent rated good to excellent, allowing farmers to finish up moving cattle to pasture. Ninety-five percent of cattle are currently moved to pasture, slightly behind the 100 percent last year. Feed supplies stay strong with 95 percent rated adequate to surplus, while 100 percent of the stock water supplies are rated adequate to surplus, both holding steady near last year’s averages of 97 and 99 respectively.

To access this and other South Dakota Internet reports, go to www.nass.usda.gov/sd