APRIL, MAY, JUNE - 2021 ISSUE 1

CD ACRES/DEWITZ FEEDLOT

The Quarterly Landowner/Employee Newsletter

CONTACT US AT -

CD Acres/Dewitz Feedlot
Chase Dewitz
3721 30th Ave SE
Steele, ND 58482
Cell Phone: 701-527-3386
Email: Dewitz_7@hotmail.com
Website: www.cdewitz.com
Facebook: CD Acres & Dewitz Feedlot

UPDATES - INAUGRAL NEWSLETTER

CD Acres/Dewitz Feedlot is pleased to announce the arrival of the Spring 2021 edition newsletter. We plan to send you a quarterly newsletter informing you of the happenings on our farm and ranch. We hope you find this helpful if not insightful of the challenges and enjoyment we face everyday. Let us know if you would like present or future issue sent to your email or continue to receive through mail. You can either call, txt, or email us your preference.

CROP PROGRESS, PASTURE CONDITIONS,AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT -

Early in the year we had unseasonably warm planting conditions. This led to a rapid planting progress, then the conditions turned dry causing uneven emergence leading to a replant of around 1/3 of the acres. We received a major frost event the end of May causing more replanting due to damaged crops.

One week later we were in a heat wave with record high temps, followed by six days later a 5 inch rainfall event covering some of the farmland. With all of this, roughly 1/3 of the farm has received adequate rainfall and the corn is looking to be an average crop. The other 1/3 of the farm received little rain and is in a drought condition. We are optimistic that this summer we will receive more rain and get back on track for this growing season. The planters definitely were put to good use this spring.

With the abnormal weather we are continually watching the pasture closely and monitoring the cattle to make sure they have enough to eat. Currently the cattle are grazing on the zeroed out barley crop.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Updates -

Crop Progress, pasture condition, livestock development -

Management practices-

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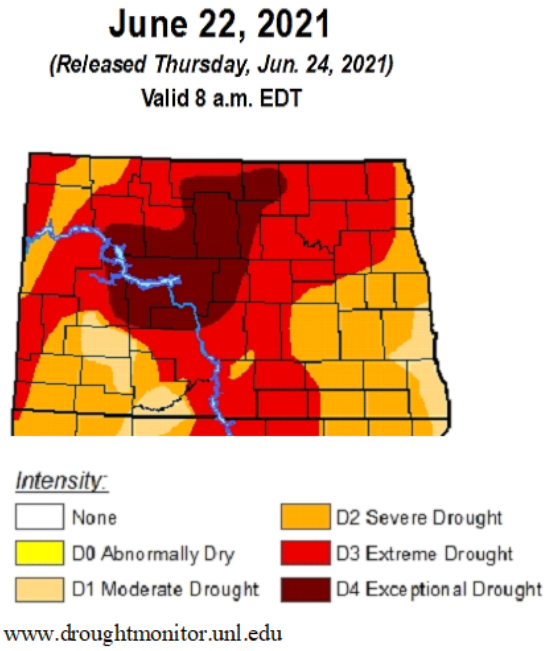

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES-

The cattle are still eating and producing the valuable manure which will be useful come this fall for placing back on the land. This last fall/past winter, we could spread fertilizer, repair fences, and have more time working on other projects due to the minimal snow amounts.
After planting finished in late June, we were continuing to top dress the corn with fertilizer this summer. Spraying for weeds is still on going.

WEATHER UPDATE -

What can we say about the weather? What is normal anymore? To the left on this page is the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) map of North Dakota. It is updated each Thursday to show the location and intensity of drought across the state. The map shows drought conditions across North Dakota using a five-category system, from Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions to Exceptional Drought (D4). The USDM is a joint effort of the National Drought Mitigation Center, USDA, and NOAA.
If you want to learn more about drought check out the drought monitor at the website provided below the map.
We continually have been on a roller coaster these last couple of years for weather patterns in our area. As previously mentioned some areas of your land have received up to five inches of rain in a short amount of time. Other land has not received enough rainfall to sustain the crop. We did receive high winds causing one of our buildings on the home place to collapse. Thankfully no one was injured and only one tractor sustained a little damage. We are looking at plans to rebuild this building in the future.
The next fourteen day forecast looks to be hot. With this warmer air it tends to contain more water vapor and hopefully bring rain. It looks like we could receive rain chances as early as next week. Let's hope for a slow steady rain with no hail nor wind.

DAYS ARE MEASURED IN ACRES NOT HOURS

COMMODITY PRICES -

The current strength in grain in late 2020, may have started with weather-related crop issues affecting corn, soybeans, barley and cattle prices. With the new USDA report this last week in June, the United States corn acres are up 2% from 2020 and soybean acres are also up 5% from 2020. This is almost an equivalent to a record high set back in 2017.

The United States and other export countries have low inventories of multiple commodities further elevating prices and making this market very volatile. Corn and Soybean prices had a rally this spring and continue to be up and down. The volatility will continue. Its now up to the weather to help us through this summer and get a better idea of what our crops will look like come harvest,

TECHNOLOGY -

In this section we will focus on a different aspect of how we use technology on our farm to increase productivity. Currently we are utilizing a program called John Deere Operation Center (JD-OC) on our farm. JD-OC is an online farm management system that enables access to farm information anywhere and anytime. With this tool we can set up fields, monitor equipment and fields, and analyze the results of all the hard work our employees put into our fields. We are also looking at other tools to link into JD-OC to help maximize the efficiency of the connections being more transparent and have more capability managing these connections.
For our feedlot business we have implemented a feed tracking program to show the true cost per pound gained and break even levels for each lot of cattle.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS -

Kidder County Fair - Steele, ND July 8-10, 2021
Ducks Unlimited - Kidder Cty Clays for Kids - Sat July 31, 2021
Summer Gun Blast NWTF, Bismarck - Thurs August 19, 2021

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER