JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER - 2021 ISSUE 2

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

This summer went by very quickly with multiple tasks on the farm and ranch needing to be accomplished. July was filled with spraying for weeds. In August we started chopping the corn fields to corn silage due to the drought conditions earlier in the year. We also planted cover crops. Then in September we started harvesting corn and soybeans and working calves.

CROP PROGRESS, PASTURE CONDITIONS, AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Harvest is progressing with the yields being widely variable. This Fall the seeded cover crops look excellent with moisture conditions improving significantly within the last 2 months. The fields are in a much better position than a year ago. Most of the harvested fields had an application of residual herbicide this fall. Looking ahead with the shortages in chemical available, we wanted to prepare and spray early eliminating potential issues of availability for certain herbicides next season.

We weaned the calves in late August to reduce stocking rates and preserve grazing for next season. We did start receiving some moisture making the pastures look greener, these last 2 months, than the rest of the year. The calves received both rounds of vaccinations to help maintain health. We weighed and sorted the calves to individual pens by size for even weight of cattle for future marketing. The replacement heifers also have been sorted for future cows in the herd. Currently the calves are being fed a growing high roughage ration as the majority of them weigh 450 lbs. to 650 lbs. at this time.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Updates

Crop Progress, pasture condition, livestock development

Management practices

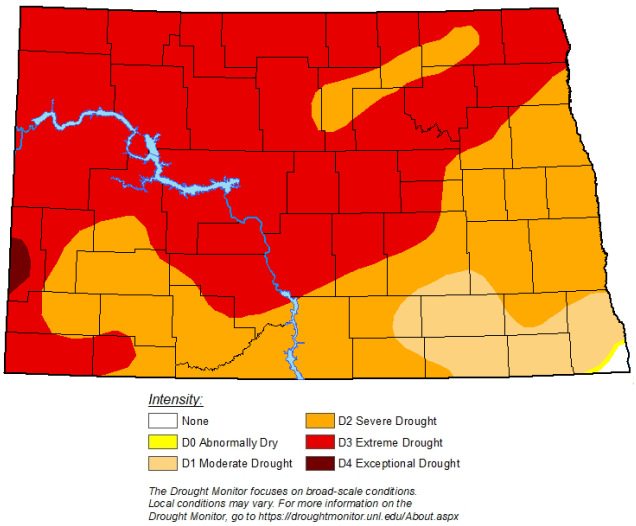
Weather Update

Commodity Prices

Technology

Upcoming Area Events

September 28, 2021



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

In August, rye was planted as a cover crop to reduce the impacts of soil erosion. Planting cover crops can enhance soil quality while improving yields. Other benefits of cover crops include weed suppression, improving soil nitrogen content, and supporting the control of disease and pests. Crop rotation is another practice we use that enriches the soil with a variety of nutrients.

Maintaining equipment seems like a never ending task on the farm. One practice we insist on doing prior to the upcoming season is preventative maintenance. With the preventative maintenance program we have seen an improvement in downtime and reliability of the machines.

WEATHER UPDATE

Summer 2021 is entering the record books as one of the top ten driest in North Dakota. For many counties, it was the warmest summer since the drought year of 1988. In most of the state it will rank as one of the top five warmest summers. While most of the state was categorized as being in severe drought, late August rains bumped most locations out from being the driest summer on record. The updated drought map for North Dakota is at the left of this page. Still, much of the state saw 50-75% of average summer rainfall. It appears the warm and dry conditions of the summer will extend into the autumn. Despite late August rains, the overall weather pattern in our area remains similar to what has been in place since this spring. The changing weather patterns in the Pacific Ocean should have an impact on the weather in North Dakota. The weak spring La Niña faded to neutral over the summer. La Niña conditions are expected to return this winter, which could mean cooler and wetter conditions. Historically, fall weather tends to be drier and warmer, heading into a developing winter La Niña. In addition, the warm water in the northern Pacific Ocean is showing signs of cooling, which should eventually lead to a pattern shift over North America. While fall 2021 should be slightly warmer and drier than average overall, it will not likely be at the levels of heat and drought experienced over the summer.

DAYS ARE MEASURED IN ACRES NOT HOURS

COMMODITY PRICES

The input price scenario for 2022 is growing more complicated and volatile by the week. Farmers are already preparing for added costs to grow a crop next year, but even today's prices may not be an accurate snapshot for 2022 potential budgets. That's because input prices continue to climb by the day.

In August, European natural gas prices reached levels that discouraged nitrogen production. Stockpiles needed to be refilled for the winter heating season, which diverted natural gas away from nitrogen plants. If you haven't noticed lately, natural gas prices hit a peak in September and now have steadily been increasing again in October. By late September, one-quarter of Gulf production was still offline, and U.S. natural gas prices were at new highs. What natural gas that is being produced now will be reserved for heating. It will take significant nitrogen bookings at higher prices or excess natural gas supplies to relight fires at fertilizer plants – and neither seems likely until summer 2022.

TECHNOLOGY

This summer we were cleaning grain bins and getting them ready for this years harvest. Farm at Hand is the program we use to coordinate harvest bushels from the field to the grain bin. UHarvest/Slingshot records the scale weight from the grain cart. The operator can then update the program for where the grain will be sent, whether to the grain bin on the farm or directly to the elevator. Once the program information is uploaded the truck loads can be tracked in Farm at Hand.

For the feedlot, we are looking into using electronic tags to track each animal from birth until the animal leaves the ranch. Currently we are in the feasibility stage and looking at multiple possibilities for implementation.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Kidder County Trunk or Treat Event - Steele, ND - Nov 1, 2021
Winterfest Carnival & Vender Show - KC School - Dec 3 - Dec 5, 2021

LOOKING FORWARD TO COMPLETING HARVEST