APRIL, MAY, JUNE - 2022 ISSUE 5

CD ACRES/DEWITZ FEEDLOT

The Quarterly Landowner/Employee Newsletter

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UPDATES

With much sadness we are writing this newsletter. Our friend, coworker and partner Cole Helmers, was killed in a pickup-train crash last week. Cole was a kind, patient, genuine person. It was a joy to know him and work with him. He will truly be missed. Our sympathy is with his family and friends as they mourn the loss of Cole.

In April the area experienced a major snowstorm which impacted the calving season and delayed the planting season. Usually, durum, barley and corn are planted in April followed by soybeans and sunflowers in May. This year planting began May 6th and with the shortened planting window all the crops were being planted at the same time. Erin Dewitz graduated from the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at NDSU on May 14th. At the beginning of June, the spraying process began while planting finished at the end of June.

CROP PROGRESS, PASTURE CONDITIONS, AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

The crops are progressing nicely, although to date, we are in need of some moisture. The barley recently received fungicide for leaf and head diseases. The durum will be sprayed soon. The corn recently received top dress of fertilizer and a second pass of herbicide. The corn crop looks excellent but will need moisture, as July is when the corn ear fills out and the kernels fatten. The soybeans are progressing in growth, although slowly. We typically want to see soybeans start flowering near the summer solstice each year. The beans are 2-3 weeks behind that. Pasture conditions are the best we have seen for a number of years. With the moisture in April and May the cool season grass sustained really good growth.

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WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Updates

Crop Progress, Pasture Condition, Livestock Development

Weather Update

Commodity Prices

Guest Author - Joel Ostendorf of CHS

Upcoming Area Events

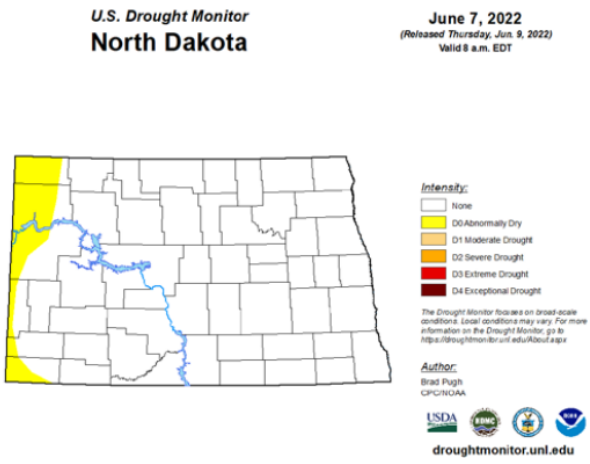
In Memory of - Cole Helmers

FARMERS AND RANCHERS HELP THE ECOMONY BY BUYING RETAIL, SELLING WHOLESALE, AND PAYING FOR FREIGHT BOTH WAYS

All of the cow and calves are out to pasture enjoying the green grass. Calving season was a challenge with the April storms and calf health has been an obstacle until the end of May. Some calves continue to be monitored for having long term effects from the weather. The replacement heifers in the feedlot were artificially inseminated on the 3rd and 4th week of June. Now that the bulls have been released in the same pasture, it will be up to the bulls to natural service the rest for breeding.

WEATHER UPDATE

Springtime in North Dakota sure has a way of reminding us that we're never really that far away from winter's grip. With some of the most memorable blizzards in our history, the March 1966 and April 1997 blizzards both conjure memories in the minds of long-time North Dakota residents, and for a good reason. These springtime blizzards usually come in the form of what meteorologist's call "Colorado Lows," so-named for the location of their birth over the state of Colorado. If conditions are just right and if enough cold air can be pulled into the system, these "Colorado Lows" can strengthen and move northeastward, impacting the northern Plains with strong winds and heavy precipitation that is often, but not always, in the form of heavy, wet snow.



This past spring brought the region a pair of "Colorado Lows" that generated significant winter weather. The first system brought widespread heavy snow totals from 1 to 3 feet and winds gusting to 60 mph over much of western, central, and northeastern North Dakota from April 12 through April 14. The epicenter of the heaviest snowfall, from 24 to 36 inches, extended from the Dickinson and Beulah/Hazen areas northeast to the Minot area. If that weren't enough, another "Colorado Low" impacted the area from April 22 through 24. This system had a dramatic temperature contrast with a wintry mix of rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow in western and central North Dakota and thunderstorms in eastern North Dakota. At one point on Saturday, April 23, blizzard warnings were ongoing in western North Dakota while a tornado watch was posted in the eastern part of the state.

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Many things had to come together to cause these intense "Colorado Lows," which is why we don't see them too often. Large contrasts in temperature are common in the spring, but it takes the right combination and strength of jet stream winds crossing frontal zones with enough "lift" in the atmosphere to generate these really strong low-pressure systems. However, when these ingredients all come together, they can bring us some of our highest-impact blizzards, just as they did this past April 2022.

COMMODITY PRICES

USDA's June Acreage report showed a surprising drop in soybean acres and showed the number of acres planted in corn is still below 90 million. Despite what was viewed as a bullish report, the grain markets were in major sell-off mode after this report was released. With this drop in the soybean market, it will be very weather sensitive. With 2.6 million less soybean acres than the March 30 Prospective planting report, this could create 134 million less soybean bushels than earlier estimates. All of this could change after the acres in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota will be resurveyed and updated in the August report due to late planting. The biggest headwind near-term for grains and livestock could be the economy. Wheat prices were at levels not seen since before Russia invaded Ukraine. Wall Street worries about global recession risks' weight on the market. Money is still the stimulus, but the consumer doesn't want to spend it right now since inflation is at high levels and consumers are pulling back on spending. As the Federal Reserve raises rates, a possible recession is a concern, in the near future demand will be the determining factor.

GUEST AUTHOR - JOEL OSTENDORF- CHS NUTRITIONIST

What a difference three months makes. Drought conditions gave way to winter storms in April and ample rains in May making both planting and calving conditions quite different from a year ago. With the recent rains pasture conditions have taken a 180 degree turn and abundant grass runs throughout a majority of North Dakota. This moisture though brought challenging feedlot conditions along with a difficult calving season in April and early May for nearly all operations. Thousands of man hours were spent bringing calves in during storms and monitoring calf health through calving. The muddy feedlot conditions challenged gains and performance but the Dewitz replacement heifers have developed nicely and breeding is currently in progress. As summer moves forward typical maintenance of the feedlot is underway and a top priority for all operations is to maintain calf health on pasture to set up for a successful weaning period. Roughage is currently abundant and the haying season is in full swing. Initial hay/haylage tests are showing better quality in small grain and in alfalfa grass hays than recent years. This higher quality hay/feed will be important in reducing supplemental feed costs next fall/winter. Putting up quality feed is the single best way to reduce feed expenses for the following fall/winter. Careful thought will be placed in particular on the starting program for calves this fall due to the immune system challenges most calves faced this past spring. This will again be accomplished by sampling all forages and feedstuffs utilized by the operation, thinking outside the box when it comes to nutrition programs, and carefully planning nutritionally balanced least cost rations for the Dewitz Feedlot. A recent strengthening cash cattle market is much welcomed for the industry to offset rising expenses.

TO MOST PEOPLE IT IS JUST DIRT, TO A FARMER IT IS POTENTIAL

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Kidder County Fair: Wednesday, July 6 - Sunday, July 10, 2022 - Steele, ND
Kidder County School Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 - Steele, ND
Hignway 10 Rummage Sale: Friday July 15 - Saturday July 16, 2022

IN MEMORY OF

COLE HELMERS

March 24, 1998 - June 28, 2022

THE LAST GOODBYE,
THE HARDEST TO SAY,
WHEN A COWBOY RIDES AWAY