JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER - 2022 ISSUE 6

CD ACRES/DEWITZ FEEDLOT

The Quarterly Landowner/Employee Newsletter

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UPDATES

Fall harvest began with rye in late July. In early August the barley harvest started and lasted until August 17th. That same day, durum harvest began and lasted until the first day of September. The small grain crop yields were fair and quality appeared to be good.
We did have a few days to go through the equipment prior to the soybean harvest which started on September 20th and lasted until the first week of October.

CROP PROGRESS, PASTURE CONDITIONS, AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Our focus was to harvest each crop in a way as to not loose yield to mother nature's wind, hail or other unforeseen catastrophic events. This fall we had our fair share of close calls. A field just north of the Sterling ranch caught on fire. This fire burned into the neighbor's field all the way to Hwy 14. Luckily everyone was close by for the call to bring tractors, tillage equipment, and spray trailers with water. The very high winds that day made it difficult to control the fire. Just as one area was put out, other areas would start on fire. With everyone's help the blaze was eventually extinguished.
The small grain harvest went well ending with fair yields. As for the soybeans, the yields were based on which fields received the rain. As always, mother nature determines a lot of the yield we receive.

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WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Updates

Crop Progress, Pasture Condition, Livestock Development

Weather Update

Technology

Commodity Prices

Upcoming Area Events

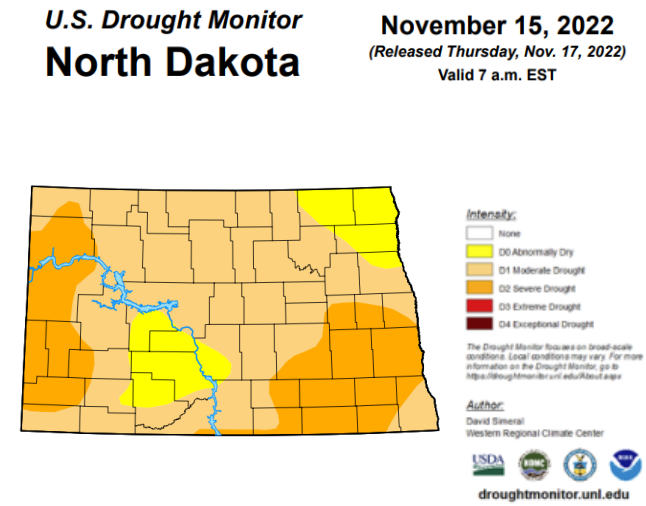
WHILE WE TRY TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN ALL ABOUT LIFE, THE FARM TEACHES US WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT

Pasture conditions were excellent early in the season with significant April rains. Later in the season, the lack of rainfall had an effect on the re-growth of the established stand of grass for the rest of the growing season.

The 2022 calf crop as a whole was quite variable due to the April weather stress endured from the blizzard and rain events. The long-term effects of the weather has taken a toll on the health affecting the calves throughout the summer creating inconsistent growth of the calf crop.

Cattle on feed, both at the farm feedlot location and custom feeding in Nebraska, had good consistent feeding conditions with good gains.

WEATHER UPDATE



After the past couple of years with drought being a persistent presence, we saw all drought designations removed from North Dakota by the middle of June, 2022. Not long afterwards, we started to see the drier pattern reappear with the update to the US Drought Monitor on July 19, 2022. Fast forward to the most recent map of the U.S. Drought Monitor in November and we now see a slow but steady introduction and expansion of drought across the state. As we are now entering the December-February heart of our meteorologic winter, the question is, “What should we expect for the coming winter?”. For the upcoming winter months, they are expecting a 60% chance for a third winter in a row impacted by La Nina weather in the United States. Under that scenario, La Nina has a known effect of slightly enhancing our risk for a cooler and wetter-than normal winter and early spring. Hopefully this will help keep the currently expanding drought at bay before onset of the 2023 growing season.

TECHNOLOGY

In September, 701x stopped by for a tour of the feedlot. We showed them around the feeding pens, cattle chute and hydraulic sorting gates. They wanted to see what we had envisioned and wanted to let us know how the product could work in our feedlot. 701x has the GPS ear tags currently in production. This is one of the tags we are currently looking at for use in the feedlot.

John Deere Operation Center still continues to play an important role in the operation. All of the spray work orders were sent to the sprayers for spraying the fields. Also, the work orders for all of the combines were sent to the combines. This allows the operator to pull into the field and know what the hybrid/variety of crop being harvested is and see the boundary of the field on the screen.

COMMODITY PRICES

The sharp rise in commodity prices for much of this summer was impossible to miss. A barrel of crude that sold for $20 in April 2020 during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic reached $122 in March 2022, just after Russia invaded Ukraine.

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"IT'S HARVEST SEASON"

Oil was not the only commodity to experience a price surge. The price of copper doubled; wheat more than doubled; and global indices of commodity prices almost tripled from April 2020 to March 2022. When the price of oil rises it affects everything, the cost of goods and services increase. Although this rise has helped to support grain prices, costs have increased because harvesting equipment runs on diesel and fertilizer is made from natural gas putting pressure on grain production. Currently the big swing in interest rates directly affect profitability of the agricultural sector by influencing borrowing, spending and investing since agriculture is a capital-intensive industry. Changing interest rates indirectly impact agriculture through affecting the level of general economic activity, such as output and employment, exchange rates and international trade. On the global market growth is currently slowing. China's economy has faltered dramatically. Growth in that nation actually turned negative in the second quarter, as Shanghai and some other large cities endured zero-COVID policy lockdowns. Europe's economy will be hit hard by side effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine as well price of energy in Europe that has effects on crop inputs of fertilizer and chemical production. For example, the market price of natural gas in Europe is bound to rise further, as the continent learns to manage winter without Russian supplies.

Economic growth has slowed along with U.S. population growth. In 2022, U.S. population growth was slowed to just over 1% per year. But the world is still growing. The United Nations did determine, and commemorate, the "Day of 5 billion" on 11 July 1987, and the "Day of 6 billion" on 12 October 1999. The Population Division of the United Nations declared the "Day of 7 billion" to be 31 October 2011. The United Nations marked the birth of the eight billionth person on 15 November 2022. Let's hope for more rain and higher yields next year to help feed this growing population.

World population milestones in billions

Population	1 Billion	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Billion
Year	1804	1930	1960	1974	1987	1999	2011	2022	*2037*	*2057*
Years elapsed	200,000+	126	30	14	13	12	12	11	*15*	*20*

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Winterfest: Friday, December 2 - Saturday, December 3, 2022 - Steele, ND