June 2012

Precipitation:

The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) June percent of normal precipitation ranged from ~40% in the northeast to ~180% of normal in the northwest and mostly below normal conditions in between (Figure 1, NDAWN Center). In the beginning of the month, the National Drought Monitor (DM) was depicting northeastern parts as moderate drought (D1, based on the DM categorization). Dry conditions in the northeast and southwest portions of the state exacerbated the drought conditions even further. By the end of the month,

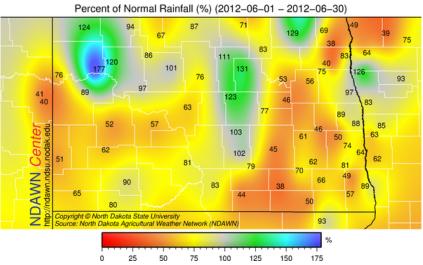


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in June 2012 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network)

more than 10% of the state was under moderate drought including a newly added southwestern D1. A very localized storm on June 7 bringing 1.75", 1.1" and 0.92" of rainfall in Hofflund, Ross and Crosby respectively in the northwestern ND skewed the monthly total in favor of above normal precipitation in the region. Despite the magnitude of precipitation deficit in dry regions through the end of June, drought impact was minimal because of the charged soil moisture conditions from the previous seasons. However, dry dug outs, and some reports of drought stress on crops were seen in some isolated areas.

Temperature:

June daily average air temperatures ranged from the low 60s in the northern ND, to the low 70s in the southeastern ND. On the average, the daily temperatures were between 1 to 4°F greater than the normal daily temperatures in June. One exception is northwestern Ward County where the daily average temperatures were 1°F below normal. (Figure 2, NDAWN Center). A strong cold front swept through the state on June 11 dropping the temperatures as severe as 18°F below their seasonal averages at certain locations especially in Wells County.

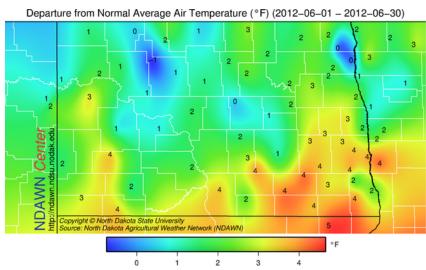


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in June 2012 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network)