North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

August 2010

Precipitation:

The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) August precipitation totals ranged from approximately 0.5 to 6.5 inches with the higher amounts of greater than 3 inches falling in the northwestern, north central, and southeast regions. NDAWN's percent of normal precipitation ranged from about 30% to 250%. Areas in the northwest, north central, southeast, and southwest edge had greater than 100% of normal with less than 100% falling elsewhere (Figure 1. North Dakota State Climate Office). Most of the daily rainfall events happened on the 1st and 2nd, 7th through the 13th, and the 30th. The National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Prediction Center reported 14 tornadoes in August. According to the NWS, on the 7th an EF3 (Enhanced Fujita Scale) tornado touched down about 10 miles south of Wahpeton, ND and tracked northwestward for approximately 5 miles, increasing in intensity to a low end EF4, and ended 7 miles south southeast of Breckenridge, MN. On the 12th the NWS reported an EF3 tornado near Bowbells that destroyed one home and damaged a second. The tornado also threw a car 200 yards resulting in one injury and one fatality.

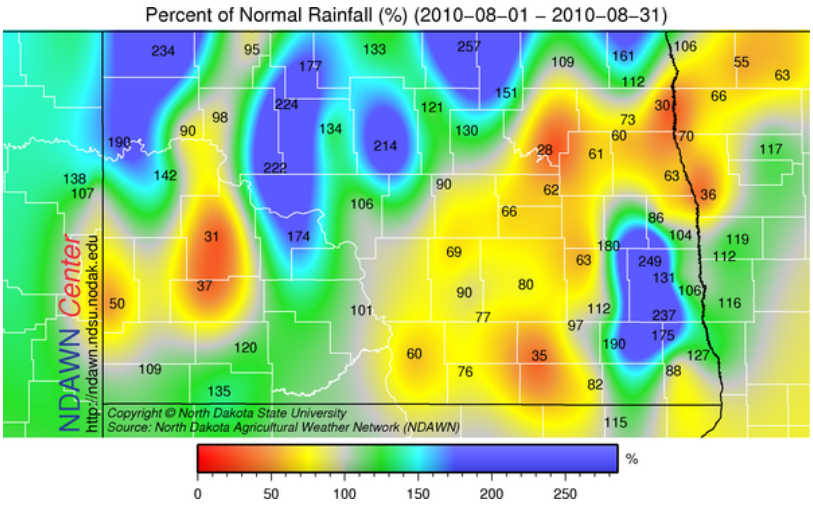

Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in August 2010 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

Temperature:

NDAWN's August average air temperatures ranged from 65 °F to 73 °F. The eastern part of the state had above normal temperatures and the western part had near normal to below normal average air temperatures. NDAWN departure from normal air temperatures ranged from -1 °F to 4 °F (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). According to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office much of August had warm, dry weather which allowed good progress for small grain harvest. High winds, especially around the middle of the month, caused damage to some crops. NDAWN on the 12th recorded a maximum wind speed of 68 mph at Hettinger, 66 mph at Mott, 64 mph at Linton and 50 mph at Bowbells. NDAWN wind speeds are measured at a height of 10 feet (3 m).

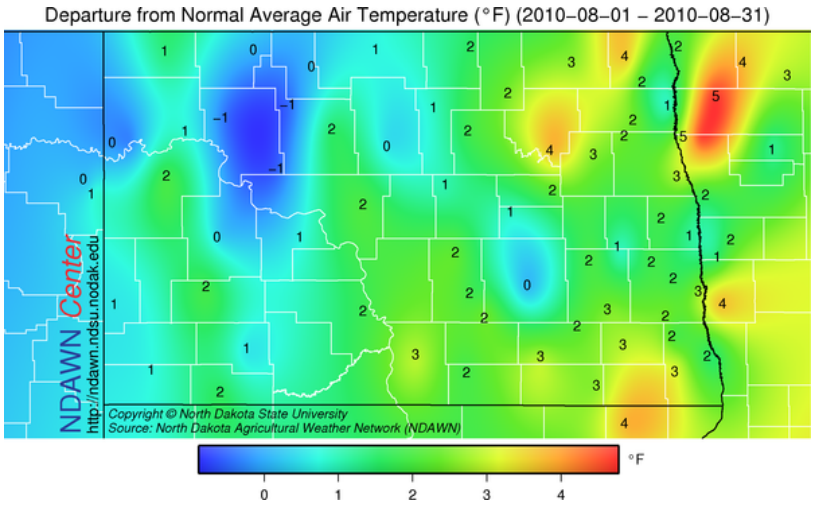

Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in August 2010 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)