North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

October 2013

Precipitation:

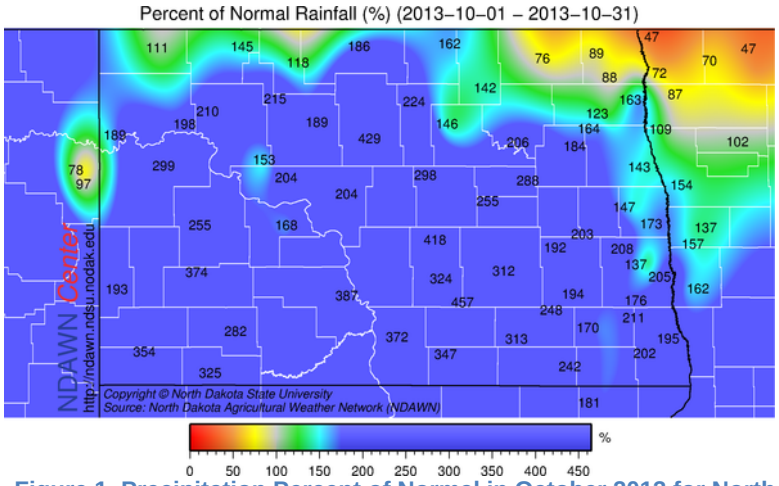

Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in October 2013 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)

October 2013 was wet with Bismarck ranking the wettest, Williston the 6th, Jamestown the 4th, Dickinson the 4th, Williston the 6th, Minot the 5th, and Fargo the 8th wettest. The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network recorded precipitation totals of above normal for all but the far northeast corner which had below normal precipitation (Figure 1). A major storm system happened on the 4th and 5th dropping heavy snowfall in the southwest and rainfall in the south central region. Official snowfall totals for the 24 hour snowfall ending on the 5th in the southwest ranged from 6 inches to 18 inches which fell at Hettinger. The heavy snow drifts laid sunflowers to the ground. The sunflower fields hit the worst suffered losses of 20 to 80%. Some areas around Hettinger lost cattle in the heavy snow storm. A second storm on the 11th produced record rainfall in the western part of the state and a third storm on the 14th produced record rainfall across the state. The U.S. Drought Monitor October 29th report listed the northeast corner as abnormally dry with no drought conditions for the remainder of the state.

Temperature:

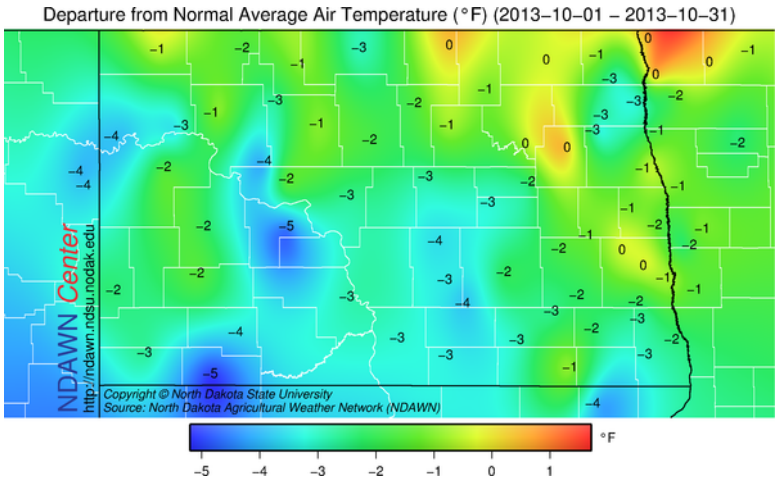

Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in October 2013 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)

NDAWN October average air temperatures ranged from ~39 °F in the north to ~45 °F in the southeast. Departure from normal average air temperatures were from 0 °F to 5 °F below normal (Figure 2). Daily average air temperatures for October started slightly above normal but dropped quickly from the 3rd through the 6th. Average daily air temperatures rebounded to above normal for most areas from the 7th through the 11th. The remainder of October was cool with many days having below normal average air temperatures with the 28th and 29th being at least 10 °F below normal for most areas.