North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

September 2013

Precipitation:

The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network recorded precipitation totals of below normal in the northeastern part of the state and above normal most elsewhere with the highest amounts to the west and southwest (Figure 1). The first six days of September were dry with much the remainder of the month having scattered showers. Wide spread rains fell from the 7th through the 9th. Rain totals of 1 to 2 inches fell in the southeast on the 14th. Roughly a half inch fell in the west on the 23rd. Rainfall with totals around a half to an inch fell in the east on the 28th which helped alleviate drought conditions in the area. However the late September rains hampered small grain harvest.

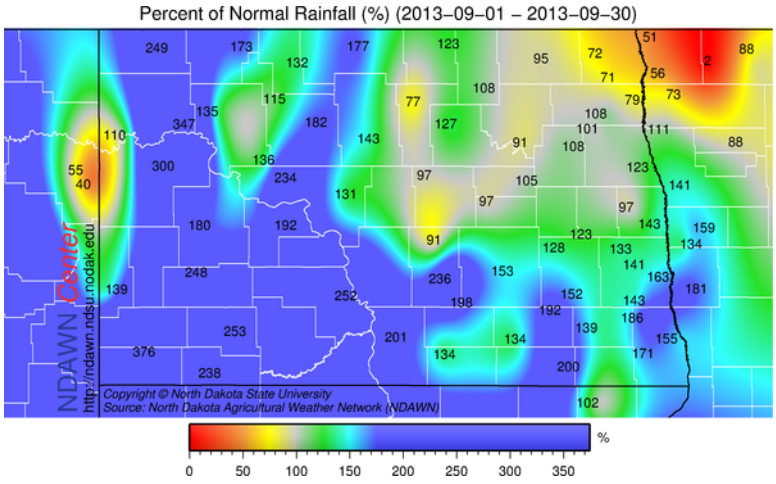

Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in September 2013 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)

Temperature:

NDAWN September average air temperatures ranged from ~59 °F in the north to ~65 °F in the south. Departure from normal average air temperatures were 2 °F to 7 °F above normal across the state (Figure 2). For many places the September average air temperatures ranked in the top 10 warmest. Grand Forks area average temperature ranked 9th warmest, Fargo area was 5th, Bismarck area was 6th, and Williston area was 8th warmest (http://rcc-acis.unl.edu/). The unusually warm September temperatures balanced the impact of a late spring planting for most crops by adding the necessary growing degree days for maturity.

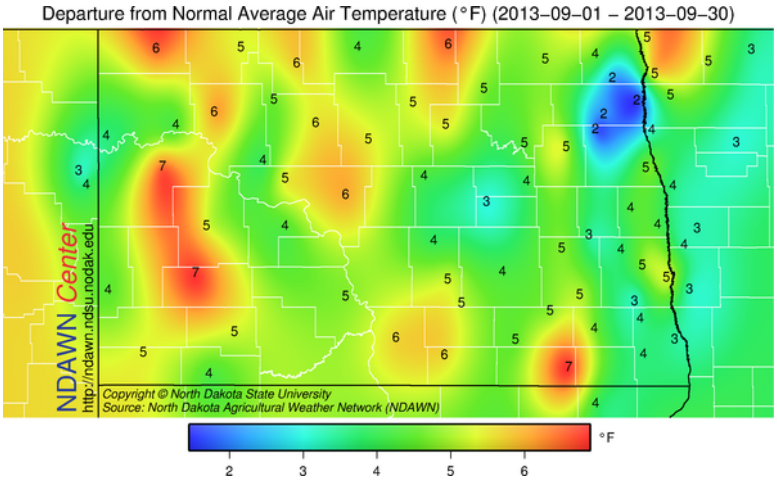

Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in September 2013 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)