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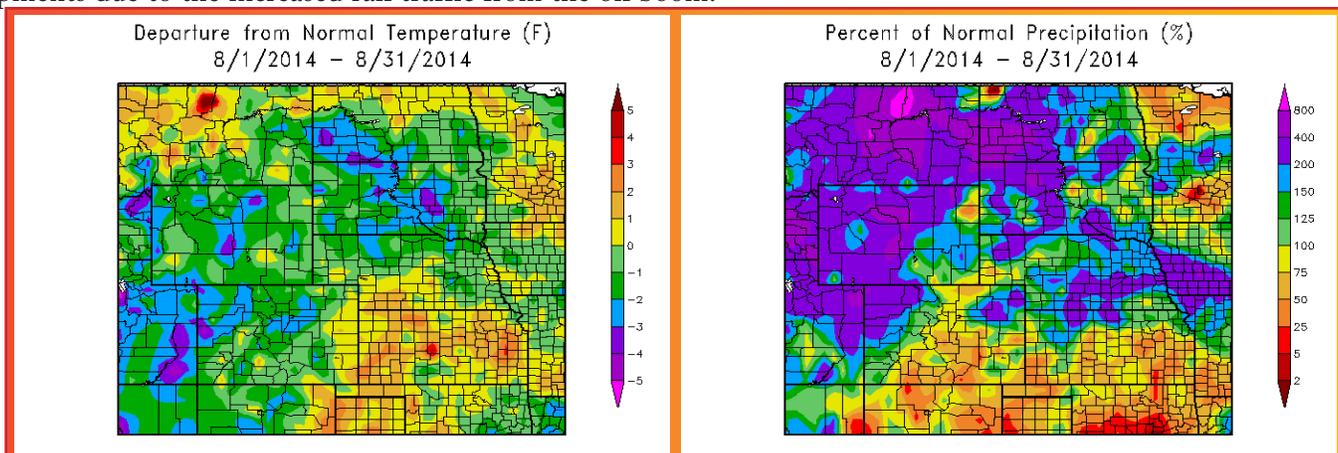
Umo'ho^o Nation Summer Youth Camp - Macy, NE - Photo by Natalie Umphlett
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August 2014 Climate Summary

Region Breakdown

August 2014 was a cool and wet month for most of the High Plains Region. A broad area of below normal temperatures encompassed Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, the southern half of North Dakota, and northern Nebraska. The largest departures of 2.0-4.0 degrees F (1.1-2.2 degrees C) occurred in northern Colorado, central Wyoming, central South Dakota, and southwestern North Dakota. On the warm side, areas of Kansas, southern Nebraska, and northern North Dakota had temperature departures which ranged from near normal to 3.0 degrees F (1.7 degrees C) above normal. Monthly temperature records were not broken this month.

While overall this has been a great growing season across the Midwest, the continuation of cool weather may prove to be an issue for producers in northern parts of the Region this fall. A late start to the growing season combined with cooler conditions has put crop progress behind and harvest season is likely to be delayed due to high moisture in the corn. There is also some concern about whether these late planted crops will reach maturity before the first killing freeze. Excess moisture in fields was also an issue in some areas where wheat could not be harvested due to muddy conditions. Although not weather/climate related, another issue facing grain producers was the delay of shipments due to the increased rail traffic from the oil boom.



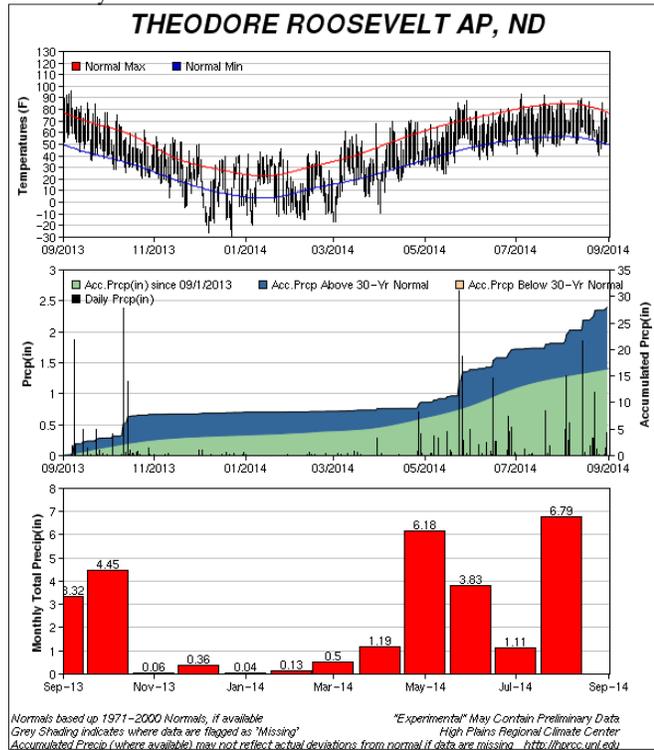
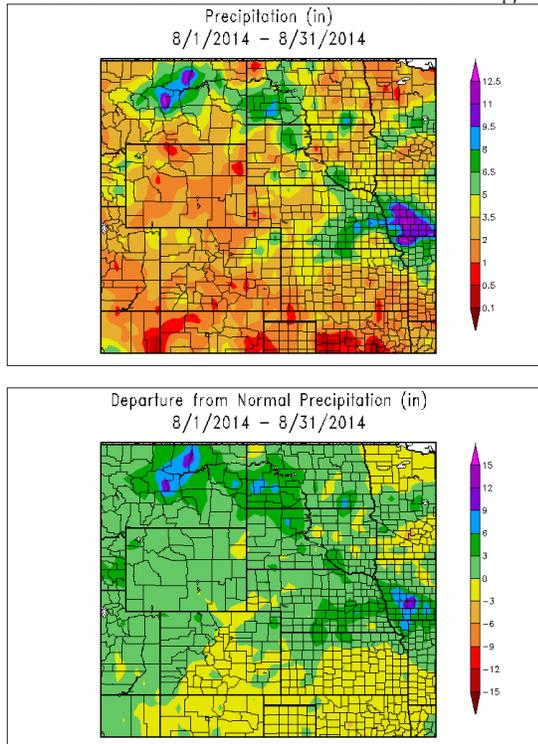
Departure from 1981-2010 Normal Average Temperature (left) and Percent of Normal Precipitation (right) for August 2014 in the High Plains Region. Maps produced by High Plains Regional Climate Center. Available at: <http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current>

Precipitation Summary

Following a very dry July, the High Plains Region was quite wet this August. Large areas of the Region and surrounding areas received over 200 percent of normal precipitation. One area extended from Montana, Wyoming, and northwestern Colorado into western North Dakota and northern and central South Dakota. Other areas receiving heavy precipitation included southeastern North Dakota, south-central South Dakota, east-central Nebraska and western Iowa, and the northern part of the Nebraska panhandle. The only widespread dry areas were located in central Kansas and central Colorado.

There were locations in each state which ranked in the top 10 wettest Augusts on record due to the widespread heavy precipitation. One of these locations was Kearney 4 NE, Nebraska which received 7.60 inches (193 mm) and ranked as the 2nd wettest August on record (period of record 1894-2014). 3.19 inches (81 mm) fell in just one day, August 9th, and the city of Kearney experienced flash flooding which not only impacted travel but also flooded the basement and cafeteria of the Good Samaritan Hospital. The August 9-10 total of 4.26 inches (108 mm) was the highest two-day precipitation total on record for the month of August. Another notable wet location was Dickinson, North Dakota which had its wettest August on record. Dickinson received 6.79 inches (17 mm) of precipitation which was 5.25 inches (13 mm) above normal, or 441 percent of normal! This crushed the old record of 5.55 inches (14 mm) set back in 1954 (period of record 1948-2014). For more August records, please see page 6.

Although just outside the Region, it is worth noting that a slow-moving storm system brought significant, record-breaking rainfall to central and eastern Montana at the end of August. Many locations had precipitation totals that matched or exceeded half their average annual totals. One example was Glasgow, which had its wettest August on record with 6.72 inches (171 mm) (period of record 1893-2014). For comparison, the normal precipitation for August is 1.24 inches (31 mm) and for the year is 11.66 inches (296 mm). The heavy rain not only led to flooding along the Milk River, but also negatively impacted barley and wheat crops. According to the United States Geological Survey's streamflow conditions map, high flows were present along the Missouri and its tributaries in areas of Montana and western North Dakota following these heavy rains.

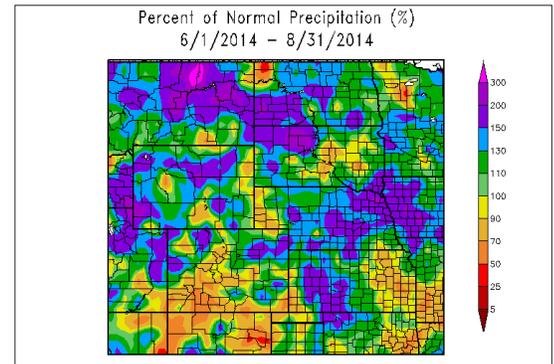
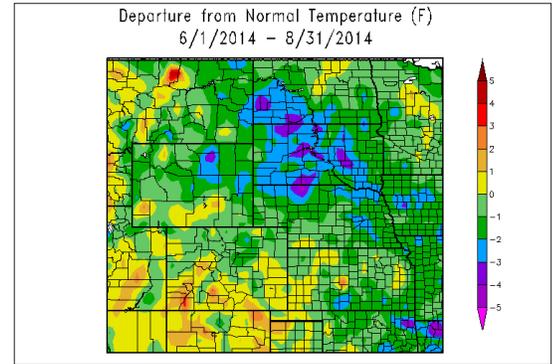


Above: Total precipitation (inches) (top left) and Departure from Normal Precipitation (inches) (bottom left) for August 2014 in the High Plains Region. Accumulated and monthly precipitation for Dickinson, ND (right) over the past year. These maps are produced by HPRCC and can be found on the Current Climate Summary Maps page at: <http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current>.

Summer 2014 Summary

This summer, the High Plains Region went from one precipitation extreme to the other. June was wet across the eastern side of the Region with areas of the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas receiving over 200 percent of normal precipitation. Localized areas experienced record-breaking precipitation which led to flooding issues. For instance, the Big Sioux River set a new streamflow record of 108,000 cfs on June 18th (period of record 1929-2014). Flooding along the Big Sioux closed I-29, washed out roads and bridges, and inundated farmland. Another notable record came from Canton, South Dakota which set a new record for most precipitation in any month for the whole state. The June total came to 19.65 inches (499 mm). July on the other hand was quite dry. This contrast was illustrated well with the state-wide precipitation rankings. Take South Dakota for instance, which went from 4th wettest June to 6th driest July. Luckily, July was also fairly cool and this unusual combination of cool, dry conditions helped stave off impacts from the dryness. After a reprieve, wet conditions returned in August and many locations ranked in the top 10 wettest Augusts on record. In Montana, nearly half the average annual precipitation of many locations fell in just a few short days. Other areas of western North Dakota, western South Dakota, western and central Wyoming, and portions of Nebraska dealt with heavy precipitation as well.

As a whole, this summer was generally wet and cool, with only a few areas of dryness, mainly in Colorado and eastern Kansas. Many locations ranked in the top 10 wettest summers on record (see below) and a few locations in the Dakotas ranked in the top 10 coolest. For example, Pierre, South Dakota had its 6th coolest summer on record with an average temperature of 69.0 degrees F (20.6 degrees C). Another way to illustrate the cool weather is to look at the number of days with a maximum temperature of 90 degrees F (32.2 degrees C) or higher. This summer, Pierre only had 10 days with temperatures of 90 degrees F (32.2 degrees C) or higher. This came in well under the average of 36 days (period of record 1933-2014).



Above: Departure from Normal Temperature (top) and Percent of Normal Precipitation (bottom) for Summer 2014 in the High Plains Region.

Summer 2014 Rankings - Highlights

Precipitation Rankings			
Precipitation in inches			
Location	Total Precipitation / Ranking	Record or Old Record / Year	Period of Record
Grand Junction, CO	4.31 / 4th wettest	5.66 / 1921	1893-2014
Garden City Exp Stn, KS	16.30 / WETTEST	16.04 / 1967	1948-2014
Grand Island, NE	17.71 / 7th wettest	21.79 / 1908	1895-2014
Omaha, NE	21.83 / 4th wettest	28.73 / 1875	1871-2014
Dickinson, ND	11.73 / 2nd wettest	12.40 / 1957	1948-2014
Minot, ND	10.83 / 8th wettest	14.85 / 1964	1948-2014
Rapid City, SD	11.21 / 2nd wettest	11.90 / 1968	1942-2014
Sioux Falls, SD	19.45 / 2nd wettest	22.64 / 2010	1893-2014
Gillette 4SE, WY	10.94 / 4th wettest	12.51 / 1915	1902-2014
Location	Temperature / Ranking	Record or Old Record / Year	Period of Record
Dickinson, ND	63.9 / 7th coolest	61.2 / 1993	1948-2014
Pierre, SD	69.0 / 6th coolest	66.1 / 1992	1933-2014

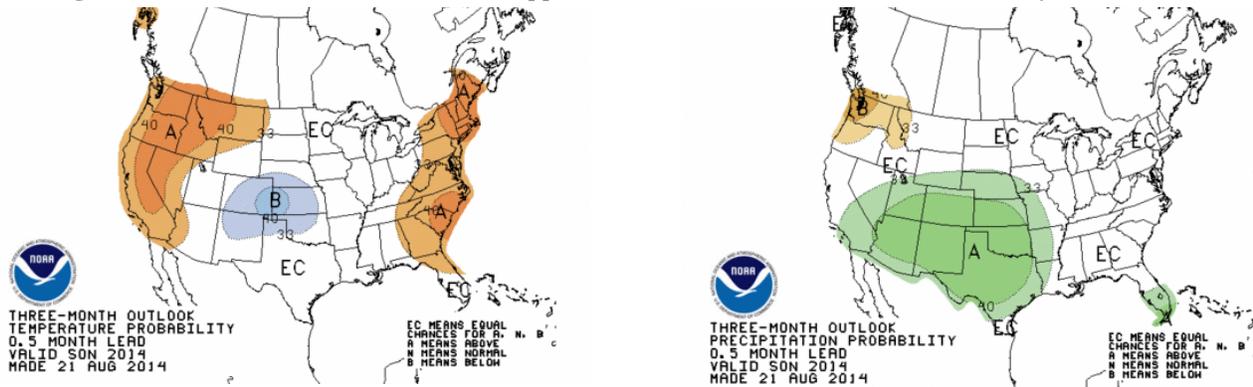
All Data are Preliminary and Subject to Change.

* indicates multiple records, latest year is listed

Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data

Climate Outlook

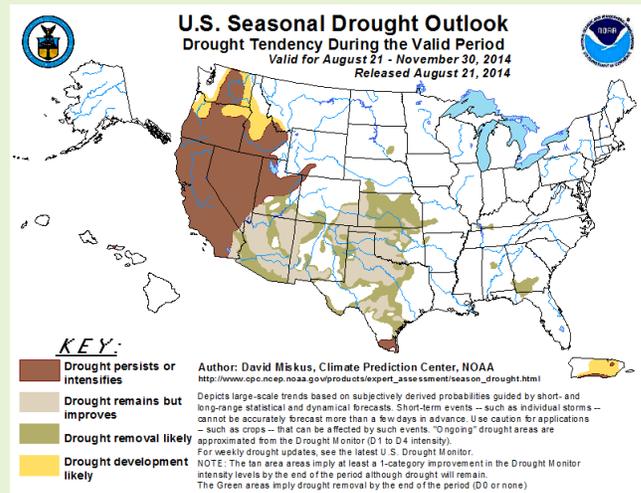
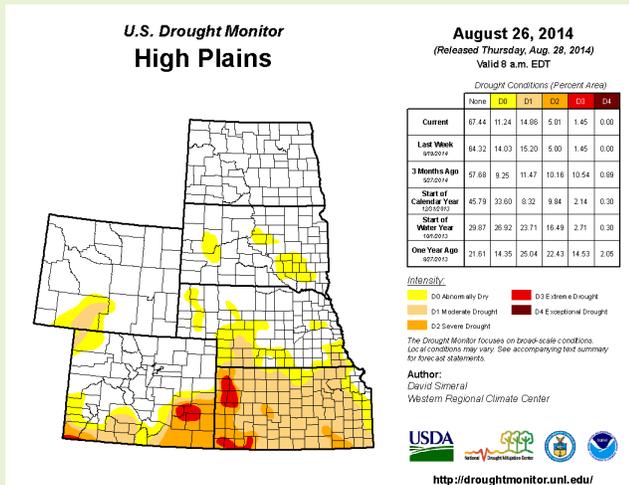
ENSO-neutral conditions continued this month, but there is still a 65 percent chance of El Niño development during the fall and winter. The temperature outlook for the autumn months indicates that a higher probability of below normal temperatures exists for southern portions of the Region including the majority of Colorado, Kansas, and southern Nebraska. There is an increased chance for above normal temperatures for most of the western U.S. and this extends into Montana, northwestern Wyoming and western North Dakota. Meanwhile, the precipitation outlook shows a higher probability of above normal precipitation for Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, southern Wyoming, and extreme southern South Dakota. All other areas in the Region have equal chances of above, near, or below normal temperatures and precipitation. The seasonal outlooks combine the effects of long-term trends, soil moisture, and when applicable, the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle (ENSO).



Above: 3-Month Outlook Maps Courtesy the NOAA Climate Prediction Center - <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>
(left) The Three-Month Temperature Probability Outlook, (right) The Three-Month Precipitation Probability Outlook

Drought Watch

Heavy rains led to improvements this month across the High Plains Region. Although the total area of the Region still in drought (D1-D4) remained about the same, there were some single category improvements in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The last remaining area of exceptional drought (D4) in eastern Colorado was downgraded to extreme drought (D3) and severe and extreme drought (D2 and D3, respectively) conditions improved in Kansas as well. The most significant decrease occurred in an approximate 10 percent reduction of D2 across Kansas. Additionally, a couple of areas of moderate drought (D1) improved in southeastern South Dakota and northeastern Nebraska. The only area to experience degradation was in extreme southeastern Nebraska and eastern Kansas where D1 emerged. According to the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook released August 21st much of the current drought conditions should improve or be removed. The only area where drought is expected to persist or intensify is the northwest corner of Colorado and south-central Wyoming.



The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced as a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Drought Mitigation Center, U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Real-time data provided through ACIS from the Regional Climate Centers are often used by the agencies involved in the U.S. Drought Monitor when determining the area and intensity of drought conditions, although the product itself is not produced by HPRCC. For current Drought Monitor information, please see: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>
 Portions of this Drought Watch are courtesy of the Drought Monitor Text Discussion found on the Drought Monitor webpage.

State Summaries

Colorado	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Akron Washington County Airport	85.2	58.0	71.6	-0.5	95	08/17	51	08/31	4.81	2.51	209
Alamosa San Luis Airport	78.8	44.5	61.6	-1.1	85	08/18+	35	08/29	0.53	-0.74	42
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	81.6	55.1	68.3	-0.4	89	08/17	48	08/30	2.34	-1.00	70
Denver International Airport	83.8	57.4	70.6	-1.9	91	08/19+	52	08/31+	2.73	1.04	162
Grand Junction Walker Field Airport	84.6	58.8	71.7	-3.8	94	08/18+	51	08/24	3.16	2.21	333
Pueblo Memorial Airport	89.3	57.4	73.3	-0.1	96	08/18+	48	08/29	1.26	-1.06	54

Kansas	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Concordia Municipal Airport	88.9	65.5	77.2	0.1	98	08/05	56	08/13+	6.99	3.85	223
Dodge City Regional Airport	92.5	65.6	79.1	1.0	101	08/22+	60	08/02	2.61	-0.14	95
Goodland Renner Field	89.8	59.4	74.6	0.9	98	08/18	53	08/29	2.76	0.06	102
Topeka Municipal Airport	91.7	69.3	80.5	3.1	100	08/24+	55	08/13	5.19	0.95	122
Wichita Mid-Continent Airport	93.3	68.7	81.0	1.0	103	08/24	59	08/12	2.38	-1.33	64

Nebraska	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Chadron Municipal Airport	87.9	56.8	72.4	0.2	99	08/19+	47	08/24	2.73	1.15	173
Grand Island Airport	84.5	63.8	74.1	0.1	90	08/20+	55	08/12	5.87	2.75	188
Lincoln Municipal Airport	86.6	65.5	76.1	0.8	96	08/20	51	08/12	7.54	4.05	216
Norfolk Karl Stefan Airfield	82.0	63.0	72.5	-0.3	91	08/18	52	08/13	7.21	3.96	222
North Platte Regional Airport	86.8	59.2	73.0	0.9	95	08/17	50	08/01	5.10	2.81	223
Omaha Eppley Airport	83.8	67.1	75.4	0.8	93	08/21	54	08/12	9.59	5.77	251
Valentine Miller Field	85.4	59.0	72.2	-0.6	94	08/01	49	08/25	2.62	0.44	120

North Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Bismark Municipal Airport	79.3	58.0	68.7	-0.8	92	08/01	43	08/26	4.75	2.47	208
Fargo International Airport	79.4	59.2	69.3	0.0	88	08/16	49	08/27+	2.11	-0.45	82
Grand Forks International Airport	79.1	57.2	68.1	1.0	87	08/15	45	08/26	3.20	0.32	111
Theodore Roosevelt Airport	76.8	55.4	66.1	-2.3	90	08/14	41	08/26	6.79	5.25	441
Williston International Airport	81.1	57.3	69.2	0.3	95	08/12	39	08/26	2.24	0.79	154

All Data are Preliminary and Subject to Change. + indicates multiple dates, latest date listed.

Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data

Data are retrieved through the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS).

These data are available for the entire period of record through the CLIMOD system. For more information please see <http://hprcc.unl.edu/services>.

August 2014 Climate Summary

South Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Aberdeen Regional Airport	78.0	56.5	67.2	-1.8	87	08/20+	42	08/26	6.19	3.76	255
Huron Regional Airport	80.9	59.4	70.2	-1.4	89	08/19	45	08/26	3.03	0.60	125
Pierre Regional Airport	82.1	59.7	70.9	-2.8	93	08/01	47	08/26	3.03	1.23	168
Rapid City Regional Airport	81.4	57.1	69.3	-2.2	89	08/30+	44	08/25	4.02	2.46	258
Sioux Falls Joe Foss Field Airport	79.5	61.9	70.7	0.1	90	08/21	51	08/26+	4.95	1.90	162

Wyoming	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Casper Natrona County International AP	84.2	51.0	67.6	-1.4	95	08/12	41	08/24	1.10	0.25	129
Cheyenne Municipal Airport	80.0	53.6	66.8	-0.8	89	08/17+	46	08/31+	1.48	-0.47	76
Lander Hunt Field Airport	81.6	53.1	67.3	-2.3	94	08/12	43	08/24	1.61	1.00	264
Laramie Regional Airport	75.5	46.2	60.8	-1.5	84	08/12	41	08/08	1.63	0.40	133
Rawlins Municipal Airport	78.2	48.6	63.4	-1.8	88	08/12	42	08/24+	1.21	0.45	159
Sheridan County Airport	83.1	51.9	67.5	-1.5	97	08/12	39	08/25	1.05	0.33	146

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Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data

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August 2014 Top 10 Precipitation Rankings - Highlights

Precipitation Rankings			
Precipitation in inches			
Location	Total Precipitation / Ranking	Record or Old Record / Year	Period of Record
Akron Washington County AP, CO	4.81 / 5th wettest	9.26 / 1999	1937-2014
Grand Junction, CO	3.16 / 3rd wettest	3.65 / 1921	1893-2014
Concordia, KS	6.99 / 9th wettest	10.72 / 1977	1885-2014
Grand Island, NE	5.87 / 9th wettest	8.73 / 1977	1895-2014
Lincoln, NE	7.54 / 6th wettest	13.98 / 1910	1887-2014
Norfolk, NE	7.21 / 3rd wettest	8.27 / 1923	1893-2014
North Platte, NE	5.10 / 8th wettest	6.30 / 1992	1874-2014
Omaha, NE	9.59 / 4th wettest	12.50 / 1903	1871-2014
Bismarck, ND	4.75 / 10th wettest	9.29 / 1998	1874-2014
Dickinson, ND	6.79 / WETTEST	5.55 / 1954	1948-2014
Aberdeen, SD	6.19 / 4th wettest	9.34 / 1899	1893-2014
Lemmon, SD	5.87 / 2nd wettest	6.90 / 1999	1908-2014
Rapid City, SD	4.02 / 3rd wettest	4.83 / 1982	1942-2014
Green River, WY	2.10 / 4th wettest	4.24 / 1930	1897-2014
Lander, WY	1.61 / 7th wettest	4.35 / 1930	1891-2014

All Data are Preliminary and Subject to Change.

* indicates multiple records, latest year is listed

Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data

State Spotlight - Kansas

Mary Knapp - Service Climatologist
 Kansas State Climate Office, Kansas State University

Uneven Pattern

In general August was warmer than average and drier than average. There were exceptions to the pattern. The Northwest division saw the coolest temperatures, with the most stations averaging below normal. It also was the area that saw the coldest reading of the month: 47F on the 18th at Brewster 4W. Despite these factors, the division average was 0.9 degrees above normal. All divisions saw temperatures above 100F during the month. The warmest reading was reported at the Great Bend River station on the 24th, and was recorded as 111F. Despite the warm temperatures, no new monthly record high temperatures were set for August, and only three daily records were matched or exceeded. The state-wide average temperature for the month was 78.7F and ranked as 37th of 120 years. Much of the warmth was noted in elevated night temperatures, where 35 daily records were met or surpassed. Only eight record low minimum temperatures were met or exceeded.

The state-wide average precipitation for August was 2.14 inches, which shows as a 1.18 deficit for the month. That is 64 percent of the normal precipitation for the month, and places it as the 30th driest of 120 years. Only the North Central division averaged normal, with 3.31 inches. It should be noted that this does not include the widespread rain that fell during the afternoon and evening of August 31st. Those totals were reported on the 1st of September, and will be included in next month's summary. Beloit in Mitchell County reported the greatest monthly total for a National Weather Service station with 6.47 inches; Lebanon 7.2NW, in Smith County, had the greatest monthly total for a CoCoRaHS station at 8.87 inches. Highest daily totals were 4.55 inches at Ft. Scott in Bourbon County for the National Weather Service and 5.87 inches at Stockton 10.4 WNW in Rooks County for the CoCoRaHS network.

Severe weather activity continued to be low. There were no tornadoes reported during the month. There were 26 reports of hail and 74 reports of wind damage. September started with more activity. Two tornadoes were reported on the 1st of September in Cowley and Chautauqua counties. The most severe damage was reported in Hewins, KS. Fortunately, there were no reports of deaths or injuries.

Drought conditions persist across the state, but there was continued improvement in western KS. Conditions deteriorated in the central part of the state. Only a tiny sliver of extreme Northeastern KS is in near normal conditions. However, the area of extreme drought has been reduced, particularly in Central and South Central KS. There was an increase in Central and East Central KS, where rainfall was more limited. Less than 10 percent of the state is in extreme drought, and an additional 24 percent is in severe drought. The cooler temperatures in July and the intermittent precipitation in August moderated the negative impact of the lack of moisture. The El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is still expected to switch to an El Niño event before winter, but it still remains to be seen what impact will be felt. The September temperature outlook is for cooler than normal temperatures across most of Kansas, with the southern counties likely to have near normal temperatures. The precipitation outlook is for above normal from the Northwest through the Southeast, and neutral for North Central and Northeastern KS. This does not indicate how that moisture might be distributed, and means heavy rains or extended dry periods are both possible.

For more information about the Kansas State Climate Office: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/>
 The KSU's AWDN is a part of the High Plains Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN). Data are available through KSU or HPRCC.

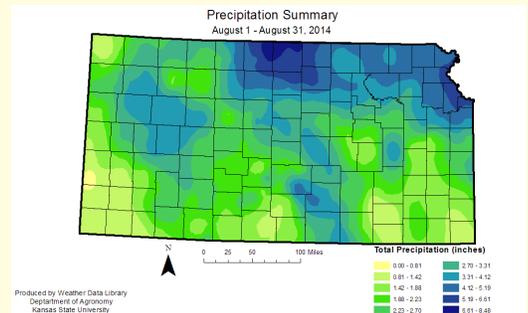


Figure 1. August 2014 total precipitation for Kansas (Kansas State Climate Office)

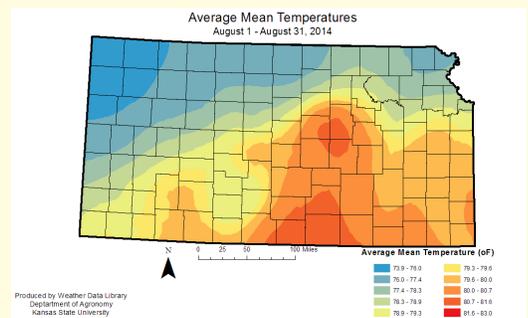


Figure 2. August 2014 average temperatures for Kansas (Kansas State Climate Office)

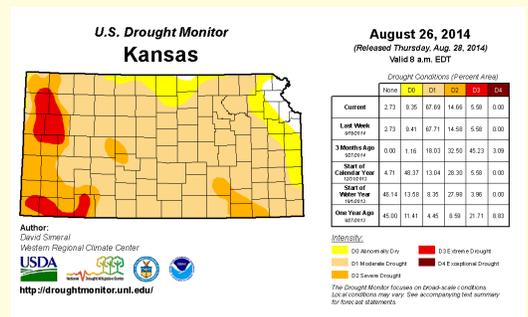


Figure 3. August 26, 2014 U.S. Drought Monitor map and statistics for Kansas (U.S. Drought Monitor)

State Spotlight - North Dakota

F. Adnan Akyüz - State Climatologist, Daryl Ritchison - Research Specialist
 North Dakota State Climate Office, North Dakota State University



Precipitation:

After a very dry July, August 2014 was the exact opposite and was exceptionally wet for a majority of North Dakota (Figure 1). The only exceptions were in some parts of the Red River Valley and the area around Devils Lake. Using data from the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN), the statewide average precipitation for August 2014 was 3.90 inches. That is well above the 30 year average of 2.09 inches. That will likely place the month in the top 10 wettest Augusts on record. With all that moisture it is no surprise that the U.S. Drought Monitor had 0% of North Dakota in drought conditions as of August 26, 2014.

Temperature:

August 2014 was the 11th straight month with below average temperatures in North Dakota. With the exception of a few areas near the Canadian border the colder than average temperatures were fairly uniform in the 1 to 2 degrees below normal range across the state (Figure 2). The NDAWN stations recorded an overall average temperature of 67.0 degrees which is 0.6 degrees below the 30 year average of 67.6 degrees. That would rank the month as tied for the 59th coldest August since such records began in 1895.

Notable Weather:

The abundant rain in August was particularly felt in the southwestern portion of North Dakota. The Theodore Roosevelt Airport located in Dickinson recorded 6.79 inches of rain during the month. That was the highest rain total for August on record (Figure 3). The records at that location go back to 1948. Even more impressive is preliminary data from the Dickinson Experiment Station (DES) where 8.45 inches of rain was recorded in August surpassing the previous record of 6.82 inches set in 1954. The DES has records dating back to 1893. Sometimes rainfall records can be very localized based on an individual thunderstorm, but record rainfall was also observed in Bowman (and probably other locations as well). Bowman recorded 6.40 inches of rain during the month which is 2.39 inches above the previous record set back in 1941. Records in Bowman date back to 1915.

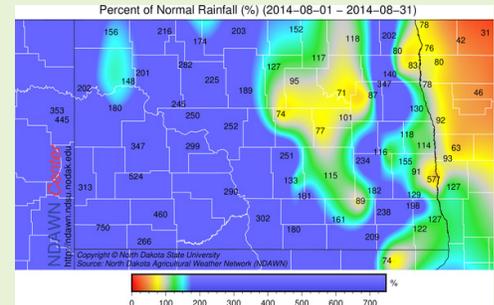


Figure 1. Percent of Normal Precipitation in August 2014 for North Dakota (NDSCO)

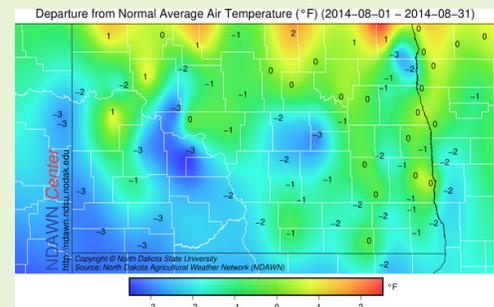


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in August 2014 for North Dakota (NDSCO)

Year	Aug
2014	6.79
1954	5.55
1982	4.22
1968	3.97
1999	3.87
1995	3.81
1998	3.75
1951	3.70
1981	3.51
1984	2.85
1964	2.80
1980	2.67
1952	2.50
1987	2.40
1979	2.23

Figure 3. Top 15 August Rainfall Totals for Theodore Roosevelt Airport Dickinson, North Dakota

About the High Plains Regional Climate Center

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) operates out of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL) in Lincoln, Nebraska. As one of 6 regional climate centers throughout the nation, HPRCC works closely with other organizations such as the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), Local and Regional National Weather Service (NWS) Offices, and other climate services organizations such as the National Drought Mitigation Center (also located at UNL) to provide climate data services and specialized climate products.

For More Information Online

High Plains Regional Climate Center: <http://hprcc.unl.edu>

High Plains Regional Climate Services: <http://hprcc.unl.edu/services>

CLIMOD: <http://climod.unl.edu>

Regional Climate Centers and ACIS: <http://www.rcc-acis.org>

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov>

National Climatic Data Center: <http://ncdc.noaa.gov>

University of Nebraska - Lincoln: <http://www.unl.edu>

National Drought Mitigation Center: <http://drought.unl.edu>

Climate Prediction Center: <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov>

NOAA Storm Prediction Center: <http://www.spc.noaa.gov>



Photo of the Nebraska Sandhills by Bill Sorensen - Senior Programmer - HPRCC

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