

Focus On Pheasants

MONTHLY UPDATE



AUGUST 2012

In this Update:

Drought update **1-2**

As you can see in the diagram below most of Nebraska is still in a severe drought. Some might be asking how does drought effect wildlife habitat? One very visible effect is the haying of Conservation Reserve Program acres. In severe drought conditions USDA can declare emergency haying and grazing on the CRP lands effected by the drought. In July the whole state was declared to be in a

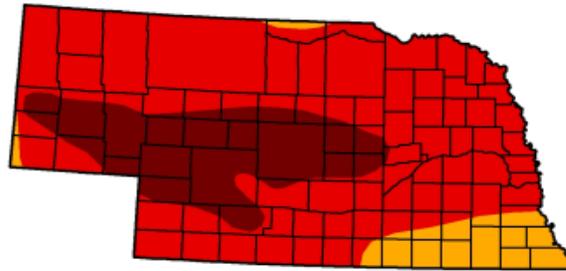


U.S. Drought Monitor Nebraska

August 14, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	91.40	22.53
Last Week (08/07/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	91.17	3.46
3 Months Ago (05/15/2012 map)	70.47	29.53	5.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	71.68	28.32	13.81	0.65	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	75.70	24.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (08/09/2011 map)	90.09	9.91	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, August 16, 2012

Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

severe drought which resulted in the state to be eligible for emergency haying and grazing. This will help aid some local farmers and ranchers provide feed to their livestock. The emergency haying and grazing will allow landowners the option of haying up to 50% or grazing at a rate of 75% the normal stocking of their CRP acres resulting in a 10% CRP payment reduction. The normal option used by



landowners is managed haying and grazing that result in a 25% CRP payment reduction that could effect more than 50% of the CRP acres. With this option there are limits on how many times this practice can occur during the CRP contract.

SPOTLIGHT

NEWS FROM THE
NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE
FISH & WILDLIFE
RESEARCH UNIT

Update about the on going research project in the Southwest Focus Pheasants area. Click on the below link.

http://snr.unl.edu/necoopunit/downloads/Newsletters/Newsletter%202012_Spring-final.pdf

FOCUS ON PHEASANTS



The effects of the haying and grazing will reduce the amount of cover available for roosting and escape cover until next spring unless we get much needed rainfall soon. It may also impact your favorite Open Fields and Water (OWF) public hunting site this fall.

The good thing about hayed or grazed CRP acres is they already have the prep work done for improving their CRP habitat for the future.

CRP lands can be upgraded though activities referred to as Mid-Contract Management. This will allow landowner to get the most out of the other treatments such as disking and interseeding, chemical application and interseeding, or interseeding to improve plant diversity for wildlife.

Other factors that may help wildlife in drought condition is that farmers may have to plant more small grains in areas that lack the moisture to grow water dependent crops such as corn and soybeans. This may result in more winter wheat and milo planted across the state next year.



Please visit the Focus on Pheasants website to learn more:
www.FocusonPheasants.org

FOCUS ON PHEASANTS

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