



North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

September 2010

Precipitation:

The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) September precipitation ranged from 0.72 to 9.33 inches. NDAWN's percent of normal precipitation ranged from about 50% to 400% (Figure 1. North Dakota State Climate Office). The lower rainfall totals fell in Williams and Mckenzie Counties which had 50% to 100% of normal rainfall. Bottineau, Renville, and northern McHenry and Pierce Counties along with parts of Foster County had approximately 100% to 140% of normal rainfall. The greatest majority of the remaining parts of the state had greater than 200% of normal. The eastern part of the state, especially the Red River Valley (RRV) had the greatest amounts of rainfall resulting in 200% to 300% of normal. The late September rains saturated soils in the RRV which could contribute to spring flooding. The NDAWN Oakes station recorded a total of 9.33 inches of rain which is 413% of normal. Most of the first 10 days of September had showers for many parts of the state followed by a relatively dry stretch with scattered light showers from the 12th through the 21st. Rain fell state wide on the 23rd with the greatest amounts falling in the eastern half of the state. The September 23rd storm system hit parts of southern Minnesota with greater than 10 inches of rain in 24 hours. The heavy rain flooded the towns of Truman, Pine Island and Owatonna causing flooded roads and many home evacuations.

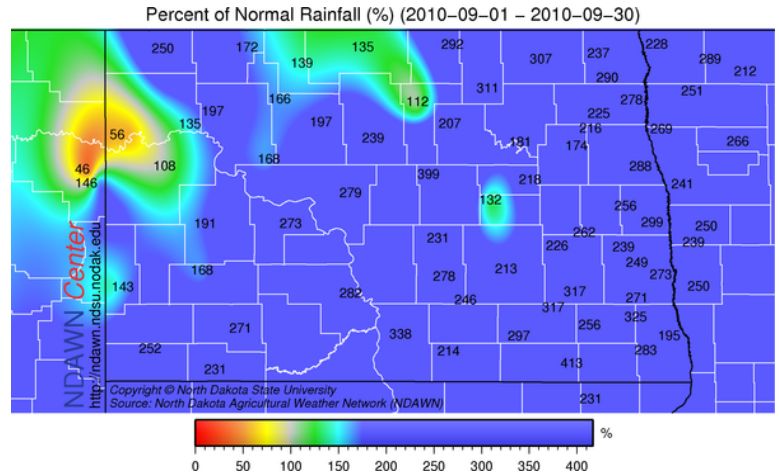


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in September 2010 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

Temperature:

NDAWN's September average air temperatures ranged from 51 °F to 57 °F. NDAWN departure from normal temperatures ranged from 1 °F to -3 °F (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). The eastern central and eastern part of the state had departures from normal of -2 °F to -3 °F with 1 to -1 °F elsewhere. The first half of the month, the daily average air temperatures held steady at below normal with a few slightly above normal days with a rough range of 10 °F to -10 °F, depending on location. Morning temperatures dipped below the killing freeze of 28 °F on the 18th in the northwestern parts of the state. From the 21st through the 24th temperatures continued to be below normal but then rebounded state wide to above normal for the rest of the month.

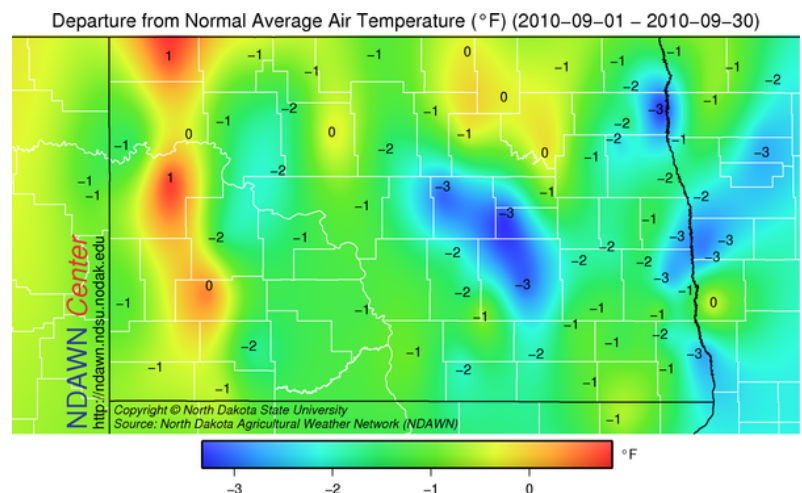


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in September 2010 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)