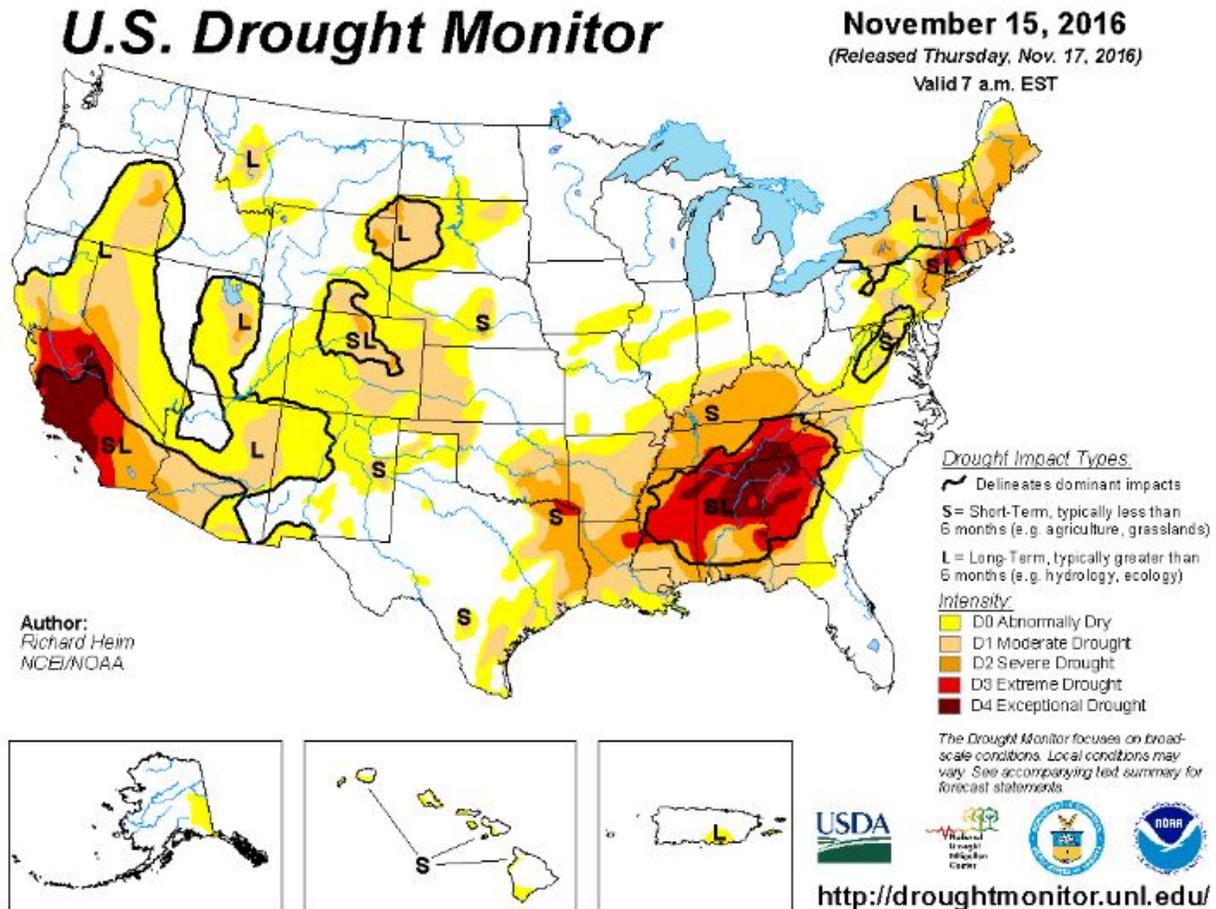


Nebraska Department of Agriculture Ag Update – November 17, 2016



National Summary

(Drought Monitor) A large upper-level ridge of high pressure dominated the Lower 48 States (CONUS) this USDM week, keeping much of the country warmer and drier than normal. Low pressure troughs moving in the jet stream flow brought precipitation to the Pacific Northwest, northwest California, and the Northern Rockies; parts of Texas and the Gulf of Mexico coast; and the coastal Southeast to Mid-Atlantic States and eastern Great Lakes. But, except for Texas and a few areas in the coastal Carolinas, even with the precipitation the week was drier than normal. The continued and prolonged dryness in many areas resulted in expanding and intensifying drought, especially in the Central to Southern Plains, Lower Mississippi Valley to Ohio Valley, and Southeast to Northeast.

For more on this story, please visit: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

China Seeks to Soothe Concerns over Illegal GM Crops

(KRVN) China's tough supervision of unapproved genetically modified (GM) crops will allow for commercialization of such foods in the future, according to an agriculture ministry official, defending a recent crackdown on illegally grown GM corn.

China has spent billions on research of biotech crops, but it has not yet approved the planting of any GM varieties of staple food crops amid deep-seated consumer opposition. It plans to introduce GM corn and soybeans within the next five years, however, a step that would lead to a huge increase in global production of genetically modified crops, according to Reuters.

Some farmers have recently been found growing GM corn illegally, triggering a strong response from the government to shore up already low consumer trust in its ability to handle food safety issues. In August, almost 600 acres of GM corn were uprooted by authorities in Shaanxi, while in Xinjiang and Gansu provinces more than 1,000 mu (163 acres) of corn was destroyed last year, a ministry official has said.

For more on this story, please visit: <http://krvn.com/agricultural/china-seeks-to-soothe-concerns-over-illegal-gm-crops/>

K.C. Fed Survey Shows Rise in Farm Financial Stress

(Brownfield Ag News) The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City says a slow but steady rise in financial stress in the farm sector continued in the third quarter of this year.

The latest survey of bankers in the Fed's Tenth District indicates producers are expending more working capital to meet short-term financial obligations. Nearly 30 percent of bankers reported a significant deterioration in working capital from a year ago, about twice the number at the same time in 2015.

Bankers also report a significant decline in farmland values. The value of each type of farmland—non-irrigated cropland, irrigated cropland and rangeland—fell more than six percent from a year ago. The decrease in the third quarter was the sharpest year-over-year reduction in the value of each type of farmland throughout the Tenth District since the mid-1980s.

The Tenth District consists of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, the northern part of New Mexico and the western part of Missouri.

For more on this story, please visit: <http://brownfieldagnews.com/news/k-c-fed-survey-shows-rise-farm-financial-stress/>

Nebraska producers prepare for the veterinary feed directive

(Nebraska Farmer) At the start of 2017, livestock producers have some new regulations to follow. The veterinary feed directive requires that producers have a written order from a veterinarian when using feed-grade antibiotics that are medically important to humans. It's something producers have known about for several years, ever since the Food and Drug Administration made the decision to change how these antibiotics are used in feed and water for livestock consumption.

Rob Eirich, Nebraska Beef Quality Assurance program director and Nebraska Extension beef educator, notes it will be important to work closely with your veterinarian to look at different health risks that may arise throughout the year and look at options for prevention, which might include vaccinations, or making changes to your mineral program or nutrition program to help reduce the risk. In addition, if those animals are diagnosed with a certain disease, how do you treat it?

For more on this story, please visit: <http://farmprogress.com/story-nebraska-producers-prepare-veterinary-feed-directive-9-149426>

Roadshow to address management, farm outlook decisions

(Grand Island Independent) The 2016 Market Journal Roadshow will focus on ag outlook and management decisions for Nebraska farmers and ranchers at four locations across the state from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2. The roadshow is taking place in collaboration with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of Agricultural Economics' Cornhusker Outlook Series. There is no cost to attend. The roadshow will provide an opportunity to gather information on the current agricultural outlook and apply it to management decisions for 2017 and beyond, according to Brad Lubben, Nebraska Extension policy specialist and series organizer.

"With lower commodity price prospects and profit potential right now, producers are looking closely at production, marketing and financial decisions to manage successfully in this challenging environment," Lubben said.

For more on this story, please visit: http://www.theindependent.com/news/ag_news/roadshow-to-address-management-farm-outlook-decisions/article_8ce85f54-ab93-11e6-82b9-a73b2bf68b80.html

Farm Service Agency Reminds Producers of Grain Loan Requirements, Urges Timely Office Visit for 2016 Assistance

(Nebraska FSA) Farmers who may be considering a Marketing Assistance Loan to assist with farm financing for 2016 should stop into their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office as soon as possible to begin the process.

Nebraska FSA State Executive Director Dan Steinkruger said Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) provide producers with interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows.

“With Nebraska’s large corn and soybean harvests this year, we know a great deal of grain went into storage,” Steinkruger said. “Marketing Assistance Loans offer short-term financing at a reasonable interest rate. It can be a useful tool to meet immediate financing needs and income balancing goals.”

For more on this story, please visit: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Nebraska/news-releases/2016/stnr_ne_20161116_rel_403

Something to be thankful for this year: A cheaper Turkey feast

(Omaha World Herald) Thanksgiving dinner will be a little cheaper this year — like getting an extra sliver of pie for free. The price of a classic Thanksgiving meal for 10 people fell by 24 cents to \$49.87, the American Farm Bureau Federation says in a report being released today.

That means the meal for those 10 people will cost less than \$5 a head, said John Newton, the group’s director of market intelligence. A dip was expected. The cost of groceries has slid this year as the U.S. agriculture industry sees a huge supply of commodities, lower demand from abroad and falling fuel prices. On average, food prices normally rise about 2 percent a year.

For more on this story, please visit: http://www.omaha.com/money/something-to-be-thankful-for-this-year-a-cheaper-turkey/article_89e373f2-ff42-56fc-912c-d0a1e80d8a53.html

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