

High Plains in moderate to severe drought

By Kevin Bottrell
kbottrell@nwkansas.com
 With more than three months of unseasonably dry weather and no end in sight, Sherman County and much of western Kansas is being listed under drought conditions. The U.S. Drought Monitor at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln lists most of northwest Kansas as

under moderate drought. Moderate drought means the area has seen two to three inches less moisture than usual, the monitor says. (See drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_highplains.htm) So far this year, Sherman County has recorded .19 inches of rain or snow compared to its normal .23 inches. The National Weather

service recorded .15 inches in December and Sherman County finished the year with 19.46 inches of moisture .3 below the annual average of 19.76. For most of the year Sherman County was ahead of the average until it got dry in October, November and December. The area received .06 of moisture and 1.5 inches of snow on Dec. 31.

Monday a series of rain storms drifted across the area bringing light rain and .09 of moisture by 9:30 a.m.

The National Weather Service is predicting below normal moisture through the month of January. The Drought Monitor indicates the drought should increase in western Kansas through February.

Thomas County Extension Agent Clint Milliman said the area has been getting close to drought conditions for several months.

This is a critical time for the wheat crop, he said, because it hasn't gone dormant yet. Wheat goes dormant when the soil temperature gets below freezing every night, he said. Until then, the plants continue to grow and any moisture from rain or snow will soak into the unfrozen ground, helping the wheat establish good roots. If those roots aren't well-established, Milliman said, farmers will see a lot of the plants simply blow away over the winter.

Worse still, the dry weather may delay some wheat from sprouting, which will reduce yields.

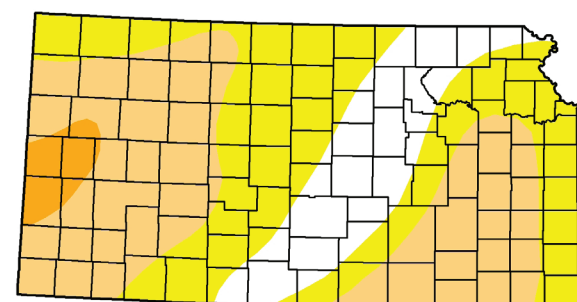
"Anything that sprouts in the spring instead of fall will bring 50 to 60 percent yield loss," Milliman said.

U.S. Drought Monitor

January 11, 2011
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

Kansas

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.63	82.37	43.85	3.48	0.00	0.00
Last Week (01/04/2011 map)	17.63	82.37	28.74	3.48	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (10/12/2010 map)	83.23	16.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	17.82	82.18	43.85	3.48	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	83.23	16.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (01/05/2010 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



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

Chase ends two miles north of City of Brewster

CHASE, from Page 1

sheriff vehicle following.

The state dispatcher told the troopers the use of deadly fire if needed had been authorized.

A minute later Trooper Frey said he had fired shots at the Toyota and the car had stopped about two miles north of Brewster.

Shortly the troopers reported having the female in custody and shortly after they had the male driver in custody.

The Goodland ambulance was brought to the scene to treat and transport the male driver who was shot in the upper left back.

When the dust cleared the Goodland ambulance took the male driver to Goodland Regional Medical Center and a Sheriff's deputy followed the ambulance to the hospital.

Sherman County Undersheriff Roger Studer had picked up the chase at the Goodland exit and

transported the female passenger to the Sherman County Bastille.

The chase lasted about 20 minutes and covered about 30 miles across Sherman County and into Thomas County.

Kansas Trooper Lt. Kevin Winston was called to the scene and directed the handling of the evidence and vehicles. He had the Kansas Bureau of Investigation called to investigate the shooting.

Trooper Frey's car with bullet holes was escorted back to Goodland, and secured at the Sheriff's office.

Sheriff Butts said the male and female remained unidentified as of Monday morning. He said fingerprints had been sent in on the female and fingerprints had been taken on the male driver. The male driver was flown to a Denver hospital.

Because of the Martin Luther King holiday the KBI was unavailable for further information.

The agent said the lower yields will hurt area farmers, especially after the good yields of the past several years. Last year saw a wetter fall and winter and an extra-wet spring, with enough rain in July to delay harvest.

"The moisture was there to get it started," Milliman said. "This year, the wheat has already been hit hard."

Milliman said some farmers may end up tilling their wheat fields and replanting them with corn in the spring.

Dave Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist with the weather service in Goodland, said one of the main contributing factors to the dry

winter is La Niña, colder-than-average sea temperatures in the Pacific. A moderate to strong La Niña means thunderstorms generate in the South Pacific near Indonesia rather than near Hawaii or South America, he said, affecting weather over the continental United States.

"It's sort of a trickle-down effect," he said.

In winter, the jet stream is over the High Plains, bringing in the drier air from the La Niña. Floyd said the sea temperatures swing one way or the other every three to five years.

There could be other contributing factors, he said, such as Arctic Oscillation, weather patterns that swing back and forth over eastern

Canada and the Arctic every week or so, but the sea temperatures are the most predictable.

"There are other things that can influence winter as a whole," he said, "but the most predictable is the La Niña-El Niño ocean water swings, and we're in a moderate to strong La Niña right now."

Floyd said current weather models predict the La Niña influence in western Kansas will continue until late spring or early summer, when the jet stream usually moves north to the Canadian border.

The Goodland Star News Service Directory

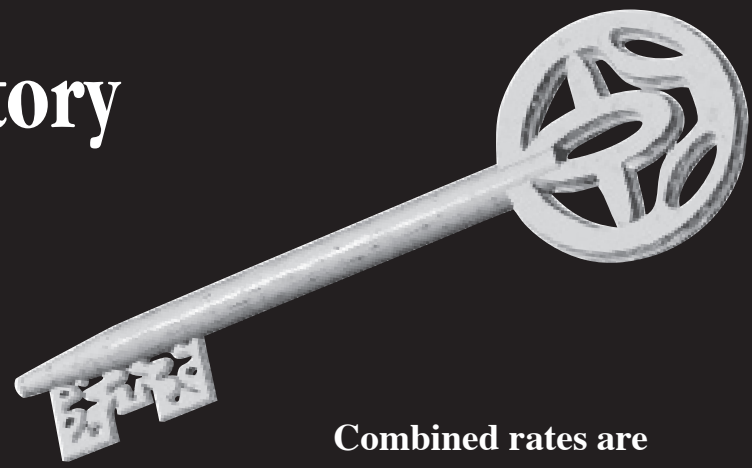
785-899-2338

Your KEY to business success.

Have your name up front when a customer needs you.

Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers

Combined rates are available to feature your services in the Star-News and The Country Advocate.



Committed to serving the Goodland area since 1972!
 The Genuine. The Original.

Weathercraft Roofing & Overhead Door
 716 W. Highway 24, Goodland • (785) 899-3064

Truck Lettering
 800-886-2423

AWARD WINNING SIGNS AND PINSTRIPING SINCE 1974
Hot Brush 204 W. 4th Box 309
 Bird City, Kan. 67731

NEW SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING

 Serving Northwest Kansas & Northeastern Colorado since 1992!
 (785) 462-6995 OR (800) 611-6735
 egriffith@st-tel.net
www.mywindowcleaner.net

 Eldean and Janet Griffith 155 E. 5th, Box 692, Colby, KS

Something New is Happening at:
Sugar Hills Golf Club
 Come join us! Stop by or give us a call! We have a lot of special functions planned for 2011. Also check out our new web page!

 • Golf Tournaments - Call now, dates go fast!
 • Private Parties
 • Receptions
 • Social Meetings
 • Class Reunions
 • Special Sunday Brunch
 • Country on the Green - summer fest music
 • Monthly Entertainment specials
 • Extra Club Golf reduced fees!
sugarhillsgolf.com
 6450 Rd. 16, Goodland • (785) 899-2785

"Seek Shelter Today!"
 LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS

Jim Alcorn, Agent
 1624 S. Main Street
 Goodland, KS 67735-0727
 Business: (785) 899-2553
www.shelterinsurance.com

Pro Floor Care
 Cleaning Northwest Kansas one house at a time!
 Free Estimates
 Proudly offering wide variety of cleaning products for Commercial and Residential
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Specialists Commercial & Residential
 * Advanced cleaning methods
 * Affordable Quality Service * Spot & Spill Service
 * Water Damage Restoration * VCT Tile & Ceramic Maintenance
 Colby, Kan. (785) 462-8313 Toll Free (800) 473-4138
www.profloorcareandsupply.com
 We don't cut corners We Clean Them

PLAINS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.
FREE ESTIMATES! Scott Sitzman **FREE ESTIMATES!**
 Residential & Commercial HVAC
 New Installations-Replacements-Service
 Phone: (719) 775-2914 Toll Free: (800) 678-2914
 E-mail: plahtg@co-isp.com
 976 Main Street, Limon, CO 80828
 "Serving Eastern Colorado for 35 years, and now serving Western Kansas!"
 Discover the comfort of a Mendota Fire!
www.plainsheating.com

2003 PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2005 PRESIDENT'S AWARD
 "Where Service is an Affair of the Heart"
DAN BRENNER
FORD-MERCURY, INC.
 222 W. Hwy. 24, I-70 BUSINESS LOOP
 GOODLAND, KS 67735
 (Toll Free) 800-636-8770
 (Business) 785-899-2316 (Fax) 785-899-2317

Culligan
 Better Water. Pure and Simple™ Quality Service since 1948
Scheopner's Water Conditioning, Inc.
 904 Main, Goodland
 (785) 899-2352
 * Drinking Systems
 * Water Softeners (Sales & Rentals)
 * Water Coolers
 * Salt Sales & Delivery

Let this space work for you!

PS Homeworks
Commercial or residential cleaning and painting
 Experienced, insured and professional!
 Weekly, Bi-weekly, Monthly or for a 1 time event
Help Us Help You! Call (785) 821-0055

Bowman's Heating & Air Conditioning
 785 899 5770

 577 W. 31st St., Goodland, KS
 It's Hard To Stop A Trane™

Call 785-899-2338 today!