

## **Drought News—Water restrictions becoming more common in Northeast July 22, 2016**

Water restrictions became more widespread throughout the Northeast as drought remains and water supplies slowly become depleted.

### **Arizona's water in Lake Mead not to be released without consent of all three Lower Basin States**

Water that Arizona stored in Lake Mead to slow its decline will not be released without consent of all three Lower Basin States through the end of 2016. U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Arizona got the commitment from Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor in a letter, but had been trying to get such a commitment inserted into legislation. By the end of 2016, Arizona, California and Nevada will have left more than 400,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead since 2014.

### **Western New York**

Forages, pastures and hay fields were not regrowing in Yates County. Many farmers have moved livestock from pastures and were feeding hay. If soybeans survive, their yields will be lower than hoped. The first cutting of hay was less than normal, the second cutting was far less than normal, and a third cutting will not happen.

### **Southwestern New York**

A second cutting of hay was less than 10 percent of average in Great Valley and wasn't worth the cost of fuel, stated a farmer. While some fields in Allegany County look alright, other fields have spots where seeds did not germinate. Crop yield and quality will probably be down.

### **Northeastern Ohio**

Corn leaves were curling in Mahoning and western Columbiana counties. Soybeans were flowering and need rain to avoid yield reductions.

### **Crops stressed, underdeveloped in Ingham, Eaton counties in Michigan**

Corn and soybeans in Ingham and Eaton counties were stressed and underdeveloped and likely will not produce good yields even if adequate rainfall were to return, according to experts. Corn was uneven in height, and soybeans were particularly small.

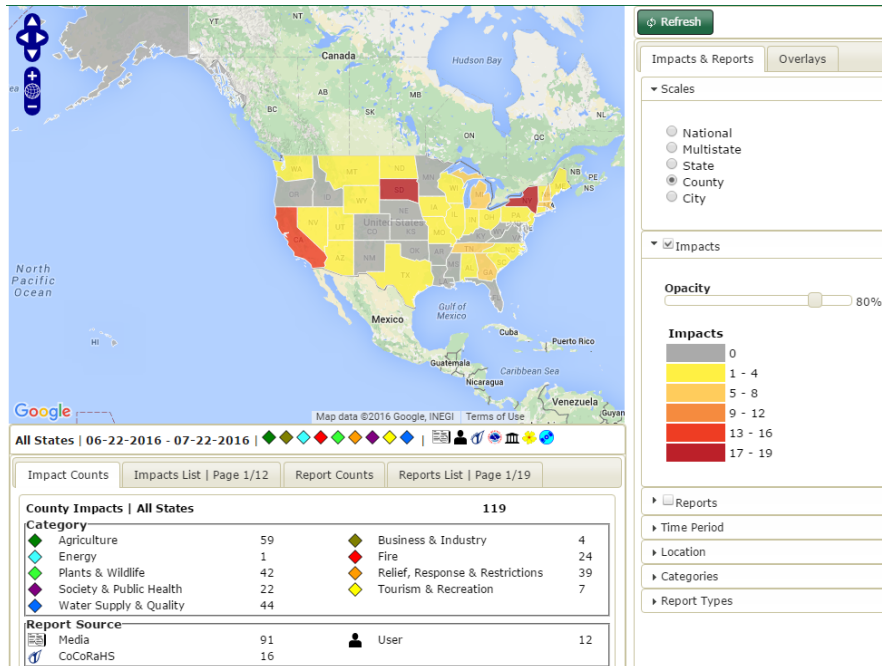
### **Dryland hay harvest down in Montana**

The dryland hay harvest was down 30 to 50 percent of normal in parts of Montana as dry conditions hurt the crop. With low wheat prices and rising hay prices, farmers were opting to bale their wheat for animal feed. Winter wheat conditions seemed good in south central Montana near Billings and Hardin, but the spring wheat, which will not be ready for another few weeks, may suffer without rainfall.

### **Birds had a challenging breeding season in the Northern Plains**

Birds from west central Minnesota to Montana have had a difficult breeding season with drought making it difficult for parent birds to find enough food for their offspring. Baby birds in the Dakotas were observed to be small for their size or starving in early July.

The [Drought Impact Reporter](#) has 147 total impacts for the last 30 days.



## Agriculture

### [Corn lacking potassium due to extremely dry soil](#)

Tri State Neighbor (Sioux Falls, S.D.)

July 20, **Northeastern South Dakota**. The extremely dry soil prevented corn from taking up potassium from the soil, which can cause plant leaves to show a yellowing and necrosis along leaf edges with worse symptoms at the tip.

### [Drought drags agricultural economy down](#)

The Chronicle-Express (Penn Yan, N.Y.)

July 21, **Penn Yan, New York**. Forages, pastures and hay fields were not regrowing in Yates County. Many farmers have moved livestock from pastures and were feeding hay. If soybeans survive, their yields will be lower than hoped. The first cutting of hay was less than normal, the second cutting was far less than normal, and a third cutting will not happen.

### [Drought dries up farms' CSA share diversity](#)

Ithaca Journal (N.Y.)

July 19, **Cortland County, New York**. Fruits and vegetables were not growing as abundantly or quickly as usual, due to the drought gripping the region. Summer squash were smaller than usual, while cucumbers took longer to grow. Growers offering shares of community-supported agriculture programs did not have the variety they intended, but there was still enough produce to fill out the weekly shares.

One farmer noted that her snow peas were not producing flowers and new peas, due to the drought and heat. Her carrot seedlings were not doing well, either.

### [Drought takes a toll on farmers](#)

Olean Times Herald (N.Y.)

July 19, **Southwestern New York**. A second cutting of hay was less than 10 percent of average in Great Valley and wasn't worth the cost of fuel, stated a farmer. While some fields in Allegany

County look alright, other fields have spots where seeds did not germinate. Crop yield and quality will probably be down.

#### [Farmers are feeling the drought](#)

WTNH (New Haven, Conn.)

July 19, **Southeastern Connecticut**. The corn near East Lyme needed irrigation and winter squash and pumpkins needed water to germinate.

#### [Parched fields, stressed crops leaves farmers concerned](#)

Lansing State Journal (Mich.)

July 20, **Michigan**. Corn and soybeans in Ingham and Eaton counties were stressed and underdeveloped, and likely will not produce good yields even if adequate rainfall were to return, according to experts. Corn was uneven in height, and soybeans were particularly small. Wheat, on the other hand, benefited from the dryness because diseases were kept at bay.

#### [Severe drought in WNY takes a toll on farmer's crops and wallets](#)

WIVB News 4 (Buffalo, N.Y.)

July 20, **Gasport in western New York**. A farmer in Niagara County irrigated heavily to keep crops alive and growing. The cost of irrigation and paying employees for extra hours of labor will add thousands of dollars to the cost of producing crops this year. Sweet corn growth was stunted, the strawberry harvest was affected considerably, and raspberries and blueberries were watered heavily to keep them alive.

#### [Valley farmers dealing with summer drought](#)

WFMJ 21 News (Youngstown, Ohio)

July 15, **Canfield in northeastern Ohio**. Corn leaves were curling in Mahoning and western Columbiana counties. Soybeans were flowering and need rain to avoid yield reductions.

### **Fire**

#### [Burn ban back on in Hays and Caldwell](#)

San Marcos Daily Record (Texas)

July 20, **Just south and west of Austin, Texas**. The increasingly dry conditions led county commissioners to reinstate 90-day burn bans in Hays and Caldwell counties as the Keetch-Byram Drought Index creeps up to around 560.

#### [Drought levels, fire danger increasing](#)

Herald-Banner (Greenville, Texas)

July 20, **Greenville, just northeast of Dallas, Texas**. More grass fires have occurred in Hunt County as the rain clouds stay away, but no burn bans were in effect just yet.

#### [Dry weather prompts fire restrictions through the county](#)

Cache Valley Daily (Utah)

July 15, **Northern Utah**. Hot, dry weather led the Utah State Forester to prohibit the use of fireworks, campfires, target shooting and smoking in many unincorporated areas of Cache County.

### **Plants & Wildlife**

#### [Mild Winter Plus Summer Dry Spell Equals More Maggots](#)

Valley Independent Sentinel (Ansonia, Conn.)

July 20, **Connecticut**. An unusually large fly population was pestering Connecticut, thanks to warm winter temperatures, which allowed flies to begin reproducing earlier.

\*My rascally son enjoys using the hose on the vacuum cleaner to catch flies. ☺

### **Relief, Response, & Restrictions**

#### [Butts County included in drought disaster designation](#)

Jackson Progress-Argus (Ga.)

July 20, **Georgia**. Twenty-one counties in Georgia were designated as primary natural disaster areas on July 20. The 21 counties include Butts, Douglas, Carroll, Fayette, Chattooga, Floyd, Clayton, Fulton, Cobb, Gordon, Coweta, Heard, DeKalb, Henry, Lamar, Meriwether, Newton, Paulding, Pike, Rockdale and Spalding.

### **Society & Public Health**

#### [13 Montana Counties Under Drought Alert](#)

Flathead Beacon (Mont.)

July 19, **Montana**. Nine counties in southern and northwestern Montana were added to the list of counties under drought alerts. The most recent additions were Carter, Carbon, Yellowstone, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Powell, Ravalli, Missoula and Sanders. Drought alerts took effect for Glacier, Pondera, Teton and northern Lewis and Clark counties in June.

### **Water Supply & Quality**

#### [Arizona earns federal assurances on Lake Mead water](#)

Tucson Arizona Daily Star (Ariz.)

July 21, **Arizona**. Water that Arizona stored in Lake Mead to slow its decline will not be released without consent of all three Lower Basin States through the end of 2016. U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Arizona got the commitment from Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor in a letter, but had been trying to get such a commitment inserted into legislation. By the end of 2016, Arizona, California and Nevada will have left more than 400,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead since 2014 to slow the lake's decline.

#### [Damaging drought causing concerns](#)

13WHAM (Rochester, N.Y.)

July 19, **Kendall in western New York**. Many families in Kendall rely on private wells and were having water delivered to keep wells flowing. One area farmer got just 0.2" of rain from the time he planted his crops to the present and has lost hope that crops will be decent this year.

#### [Galeton enforcing mandatory water restriction](#)

The Potter Leader Enterprise (Coudersport, Penn.)

July 20, **Galeton, Pennsylvania**. Drought pushed Galeton Borough to a mandatory water restriction, requiring residents to avoid water waste, forego lawn watering and vehicle and pavement washing.

#### [Low Stream Flows on Bitterroot and Other Rivers Could Lead to Extreme Drought](#)

1240 KLYQ (Hamilton, Mont.)

July 20, **Montana**. Missoula and Ravalli counties entered drought alert status this week, due to low flows on the Bitterroot and Blackfoot rivers. Early snowmelt in April sent the rivers high

earlier in the season, leaving the Bitterroot running at about 423 cubic feet per second, in comparison with a normal of 700 cfs.

#### [Rains Ease Drought Worries for Now, but Officials Warn of Potential Water Shortage](#)

NJSpotlight (Montclair, N.J.)

July 18, **New Jersey**. Continued drought could pose problems for the municipal water supply in northern New Jersey.

“Data from the Department of Environmental Protection show that precipitation in some parts of Sussex, Passaic, and Warren Counties was as much as 50 percent below normal in the 90 days to July 14, while that in Ocean and Monmouth Counties was between 11 percent and 25 percent less than the average for this time of year.”

#### [SCWA Issues Stage 1 Water Alert](#)

Long Island (Commack, N.Y.)

July 20, **Suffolk County, New York**. Suffolk County water customers were asked to conserve water as much as possible and limit lawn watering to the hours of 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. The Suffolk County Water Authority serves approximately 1.2 million residents.

#### [Selectmen enact stricter water ban](#)

Daily News Chronicle (Reading, Mass.)

July 20, **Burlington, Massachusetts**. The Burlington Board of Selectmen tightened water restrictions to permit outdoor water use just once weekly per town precinct.

#### [Waterwise: “Worst” drought condition on Tule Reservation](#)

Visalia Times-Delta (Calif.)

July 20, **California**. The 350 homes on the Tule River Reservation lost running water in June and rely on bottled water. There was talk about expanding storage at several dams to increase capacity.

#### [Weymouth mayor introduces voluntary water use restriction](#)

Patriot Ledger (Quincy, Mass.)

July 18, **Weymouth, Massachusetts**. Weymouth residents were asked to voluntarily conserve water as the water demand remained high. Nearby communities with mandatory water restrictions included Norwell, Hingham, Hull, North Cohasset and Scituate.

### **International**

#### [An Archaeological Mystery In Ghana: Why Didn't Past Droughts Spell Famine?](#)

IdeaStream (Cleveland, Ohio)

July 20, **Ghana**. Prior to the slave trade and British colonialization, Ghana’s people did not experience the hungry season, even when droughts occurred.

#### [Child Hunger and Death Rising in Zimbabwe Due to Drought, Charity Says](#)

The New York Times

July 20, **Zimbabwe**. Thousands of Zimbabweans will die of starvation by the end of the year if they do not receive additional aid, stated an international charity. Drought has led to food shortages for more than 60 million eastern and southern Africans, according to the U.N.

#### [Clashes over water in southern Iran kill 1, injure 30](#)

Las Vegas Sun

July 19, **Iran**. Fighting between supporters and opponents of a water project in Iran resulted in at least one death and 30 injured. Some oppose the project because they fear there would not be enough water left to meet the needs of locals. Drought has led to water shortages across Iran.

[El Nino driving child marriage and labor across southern Africa: agencies](#)

Reuters

July 20, **Southern Africa**. Southern African children were forced into early marriages or child labor, due to drought and hunger. High food prices leave families little choice but to allow children to trade sex or domestic labor to survive.

[UN agency starts food aid to 6.5 million people affected by severe drought in Malawi](#)

UN News Centre

July 20, **Malawi**. The United Nations food relief agency was setting up what will be the largest emergency food operation in Malawi to supply the nearly 40 percent of people needing emergency assistance.

[Vietnam Prime Minister Warns Economy May Miss Growth Target](#)

Bloomberg

July 20, **Vietnam**. The Vietnamese government will likely miss its 6.7 percent growth target for 2016, due to an intense drought, and would need to see growth at 7.6 percent in the second half of the year to meet the full year goal.