

## **NDAWN**

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**5.9.2009**

As we get into the growing season I was hoping for this newsletter to transform a bit into what is actually being observed in the fields in this area by our field scouts. Along with that, I was hoping to be reporting on those field observations at this point. However, spring seems to be holding out for just a bit longer. I am happy to report that there have been a few guys doing a bit of scratching here and there. That gives me hope that field conditions are starting to shape up, even if it is taking little longer than we would like. Spring and planting season will happen (or at least, I'm still optimistic).

I received my first issue of the Traill County Ag Alert today and one of the topics that Ken Nichols covered in this newsletter was the NDAWN website. I wanted to take an opportunity to highlight this website as well. It is a handy tool for weather information such as hourly air temperature, wind direction and speed, and soil temperature to name a few. This time of the year, I really like the soil temperature feature. Use the turf soil temperature to make comparisons with ground that has a lot of residue on it, and the use the bare soil temperature to make comparisons with black ground.

This is what Ken Nichols said in the Traill County Ag Alert (Issue #1, May 8, 2009) about NDAWN:

"North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) provides up to date weather information at 70 locations across the state of North Dakota. Each site covers approximately 20 mile radius and is assumed to give accurate information on all weather except rainfall. Stations are identified by the nearest town location. Traill County has sites near Mayville and Hillsboro. The following is a list of some of the measured and calculated variables that NDAWN provides: Air Temperatures, degree days, dew point temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, wind speed and direction, potential evapotranspiration, crop water use estimates/projections, soil temperature, solar radiation, and air pressure.

Daily temperatures are taken at a depth of 4 inches on bare soil and turf. NDAWN also contains growing degree day calculators for many of the corps grown across the state. Disease forecasting models are also available for some crops.

These services are offered free of charge to the public. NDAWN is housed in the Department of Soil Sciences at North Dakota State University. The web address is: <http://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/index.html>."

If you would like to receive the Traill County Ag Alert, email [NDSU.Traill.Extension@ndsu.edu](mailto:NDSU.Traill.Extension@ndsu.edu) and you can get more subscription information there.

Now let's go plant something!