

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North

No. 125, August 10, 2012

Circumpolar Climate Events Map Click [here](#) to view this month's Google map. You can comment on our map [here](#), or visit our [archive](#).

Drought has major impact in North America and worldwide *August 9, 2012.* With the unusual weather in parts of Canada, and about 62 per cent of the contiguous U.S. experiencing drought or record heat, the impact on food and agriculture varies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that the corn crop continues to deteriorate, with just 23 per cent of corn still in good to excellent condition. A drought in Russia is also significant with wheat production expected to drop 30 per cent from last year. Drought is also having a serious impact on livestock in both the U.S. and Canada. In the U.S., just 16 per cent of pasture and ranch land are in good or excellent condition compared to 39 per cent at this time in 2011. [CBC](#)

Cold Alaska summer hurting farmers and fresh produce lovers *August 6, 2012* Cold weather is hurting vegetable crops in the Matanuska Susitna Valley, one of the state's major farming regions. Most crops are several weeks behind schedule, according to farmers, the result of a chilly spring and a summer that's nearly breaking cold-temperature records. With the Midwest drought expected to increase food prices. Alaska won't be immune to price hikes. And with less local food around, grocery bills could be painful. "This bad weather (may) be a bit of a wake-up call, that we need to pay attention to Alaska's food system," said, USDA's Danny Consenstein. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Fairbanks researchers tackle food woes of Alaska August 6, 2012. Two researchers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks talked about what can be done to build the food production of Alaska and other northern lands during a presentation at [15th Annual International Congress of Circumpolar Health](#). The researchers – Craig Gerlach and Philip Loring – presented an overview of Alaska food systems in both urban and rural areas. What they found is that Alaskans – and all Arctic people – need to diversify their “food portfolio,” particularly with climate change bearing down. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Video of the Week: U.S drought woes ripple across food chain. *August 1, 2012.* The first half of 2012 has been the hottest on record for the contiguous United States. The heat, coupled with lack of rain, has much of the country's farmland in a severe drought -- and the pain of US farmers is spreading to agriculture and consumers abroad. AFP 2 minutes. [YouTube](#)

Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change impacts and public health. For back issues click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

Regards – Mike

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Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities

