



# THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

*Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management*

## REVISITING THE 2018 GROWING SEASON

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Atmospheric Resource Board Cooperative Observer Network (ARBCON) members diligently reported growing season rainfall from April through September. As you can see from the April and May percent of normal precipitation maps, much of North Dakota began the growing season with very dry conditions. This April was the 14th driest on record for our state (out of 124 years of record) and in northeastern North Dakota widespread rainfall totals of only one and a half inches for April through May were a common observance. At the end of May, drought conditions had been established over half of our state. Thankfully, June brought above normal rains to a large portion of the state, saving many crops. In fact, drought affected areas received approximately five inches of rain in June!

July and August are climatologically drier than June and this year was no different. Most of our state saw a combined three inches of rainfall for July and August with the exception of southeastern North Dakota where six to eight inch totals were common. In September, the north central and east central parts of the state were drier than normal, leading to reestablished drought conditions in those areas.

At the beginning of November when this article was written, North Dakota's drought conditions had improved. Northcentral and east central North Dakota including the cities of Minot, Bottineau, New Rockford, and Carrington were areas where drought impacts were lessened by recent precipitation events. With El Nino forecasted for this winter, portions of North Dakota could end up drier than normal to start the 2019 growing season. Time will tell.

