

Around Dakota Ag



HERE IT COMES: The Sheyenne River rises against Jerry Hieb's farmhouse south of Valley City, N.D. A wall of sandbags protects the home from the floodwaters.

Big water woes

By LON TONNESON

Key Points

- The flood was one of the worst in North Dakota's history.
- FSA estimates more than 90,000 cattle and calves died.
- Total urban and rural damage is estimated to be \$200 million.

THE floods of '09 will go down as some of the worst in recent history for Fargo, Valley City, Jamestown, Lisbon, LaMoure, Linton and many other communities in North Dakota.

Devils Lake is expected to see a near-record rise this summer, with the lake claiming another 40,000 acres.

The Farm Service Agency reports that 19,107 adult cattle, 71,823 calves, 180 horses and 2,948 other animals — mostly sheep and poultry — have died from flooding in North Dakota so far this year.

The biggest losses are in Morton County, with 6,800 animals lost; McHenry County, with 6,500 animals lost; and Dunn County, with 5,700 animals lost. Six other counties each reported losses of more than 4,000 animals.

Damage — both urban and rural — is currently estimated to be \$160 million to \$200 million. But the figure could go much higher as floodwaters recede and farmers, ranchers and homeowners find out what's under the water.



FLOATING? Water surrounds a red barn on a farmstead south of Valley City, N.D.



A DISMAL SIGHT: Tod Harrington, Grandin, N.D., watches as floodwaters rise on his farm.



RIVER ADVANCES: Only a few cattle remain in Jerry Hieb's farmyard south of Valley City as the swollen Sheyenne River flows through the feedlot and corrals.