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Anderson-area temperatures inching toward the norm for fall

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

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ANDERSON COUNTY — Almost a month after the first day of fall, temperatures continue to feel more typical of early- to mid-September than mid-October.

This week that will start to change, and a little rain might even fall.

Today's high is forecast to reach 82 in the Anderson area, according to the National Weather Service forecast, but starting Wednesday, temperatures are projected to drop to 74 with a 20 percent chance of rain.

"We're expecting a cold front to move across the Upstate on Wednesday," said Larry Gabric of the National Weather Service office in Greer.

Highs are expected to reach 76 on Thursday and drop to 74 for Friday. The low is forecast to be 47 on Wednesday, the lowest forecast temperature of the week.

Clouds are expected to arrive Saturday night, but the forecast calls for sun during the day. A partly cloudy sky is forecast for Sunday. Highs both days are projected to remain steady at 75.

Temperatures in the lower 70s are typical for fall, Gabric said, compared to numbers close or higher than 80.

"The warmer temperatures of late can be attributed to mild high pressure that's maintained control over the southeast United States," he said.

Though the chance of rain is low for Wednesday, it's needed — only .03 inches of rain have fallen this month at the Anderson Regional Airport. In the same period of October 2009, 4.42 inches fell.

"That (.03 inches) is 1.78 inches below normal," Gabric said.

The change traces back to the dry weather pattern that's cloaked much of the Southeast this season, Gabric said. The dry spell actually helps some fall crops.

"At least for the fall harvest it helps some farmers in order to get their corn and soybeans off," Gabric said.

Grass farmers are not as lucky, as the crop needs constant water.

Upstate lake levels remain close to levels recorded last week. Hartwell Lake dropped .24 inches to 655.38 feet as of midnight Sunday, and Lake Keowee fell only .02 inches to 95.4 feet. Lake Jocassee actually gained about .6 inches, rising to 85.6 feet.