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Forecast: Cooler weather ahead this week

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

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ANDERSON — This week's forecast reads like clear Indian summer weather through Wednesday, but later in the week the lows will drop to 37 degrees.

Tuesday and Wednesday will be sunny with highs into the mid-70s, typical for this time of year, said Doug Outlaw meteorologist at the National Weather Service. Lows will range from the mid-40s to mid- 50s.

On Friday, the high will drop 10 degrees below normal to 60 degrees.

There's a 20 percent chance of showers Thursday and a 30 percent chance Friday.

Rain is needed as all South Carolina counties are in a second-level moderate drought, and the Anderson area rainfall for October is low. Only 1.19 inches of rain had fallen by Monday, less than half of the month's normal average, Outlaw said.

September's rain and cooler weather have helped cattle farmers, said Nancy Walker who runs Walker Century Farms in Anderson with her husband.

Grass and the cattle that feed on it will soon be at the mercy of cold weather, said David Tompkins, director of the state's farmers markets. While many cows grazed dry patches this summer, cattle at Walker Century Farms in Anderson ate green grass, said co-owner Nancy Walker.

Cattle rotation and organic fertilization practices led to the green fields.

"I've noticed when you look at our fields compared to nearby fields it's greener and taller," Walker said.

She and her husband rotate cattle, allowing the animals to feed on one portioned section of pasture until grass is 3 inches high.

"That way the grass doesn't get overgrazed and when we do get these occasional rains it's ready to recover," she said.

Lake levels have wavered slightly in October. Hartwell Lake stood at 651.70 feet Monday, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, less than a foot lower than two weeks ago. Duke Energy reported Lake Jocassee at 23 feet below full pool, and Lake Keowee dropped to 5 feet below full pool level.

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