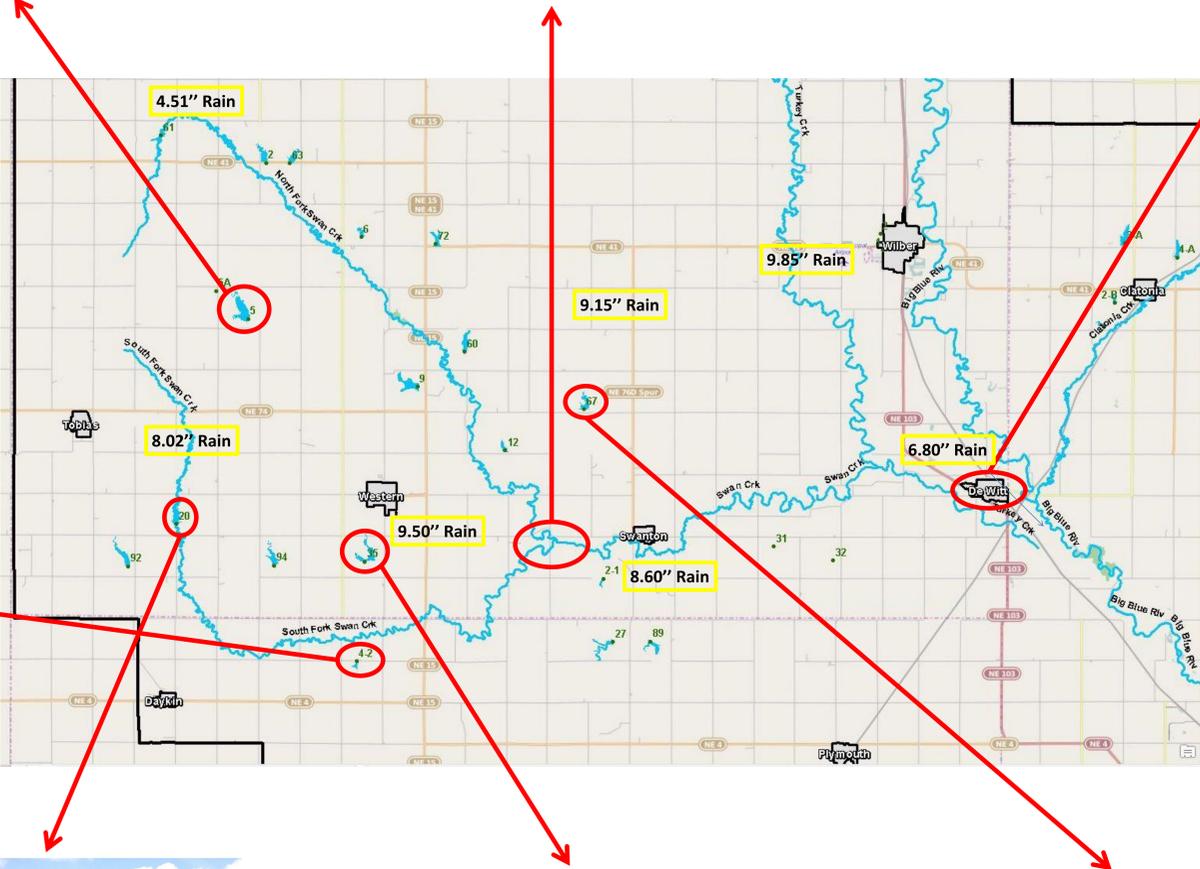


Flood Control Structures Stop Thousands of Acre Feet of Water to Protect Dewitt from More Severe Flooding – May 6, 2015

(Dewitt, NE) The Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District reports its 26 flood structures in the drainage area above Dewitt, Nebraska all worked as designed in Wednesday night and Thursday morning's historic rain event last week. "A network of flood control projects located above Dewitt protected the community from an estimated total of 25,000 acre feet of flood water," said Dave Clabaugh, Manager of the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District. These structures are called Swan Creek and Lower Turkey Creek flood control projects. The remaining flood water the town is currently experiencing is due to the combination of the large amount of rainfall, intensity of the rainfall, and wide-span of the storm. The 6 to 8 hour rain event is being called a "larger than a 100-year storm event" which typically measures 5.2 inches of rain dropped in a six hour period. For Wednesday's rain event, the entire Swan Creek basin measured 8 – 10 inches of rain in a 6 to 8 hour period. Some areas in the drainage area are reporting rainfall totals of between 10 to 13 inches in the 8 hour period. The Lower Turkey Creek basin measured 4 – 6 inches of rain in the 6 to 8 hour storm event. Water from the two creeks merge together just west of Dewitt. DeWitt reported 9.5 inches of rain fell just West of town. "The Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District's flood control structures assisted in helping to limit the flood event targeting Dewitt and the surrounding area," said Scott Sobotka, Assistant Manager of the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District. "Without these structures, Dewitt would have seen much more flood water throughout the town and higher flood water levels for a longer period of time. Without the flood control structures the situation would be even worse." After reviewing the Swan Creek project, LBBNRD has determined 14 of the 19 flood control structures had water running through their emergency spillways. The rest had water running up to the emergency spillways. No emergency spillways were used in the Lower Turkey Creek project. "The flood control structures are not designed to hold back runoff water from that large of a storm event. It was the intensity of the storm, the amount of rain and the location of where the rain fell that caused the flooding." said Sobotka.



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