



USDA, NASS, MINNESOTA FIELD OFFICE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
TWIN CITIES INT'L AIRPORT, UNIV. OF MINN. EXTENSION SERVICE, STATE CLIMATOLOGY, FSA, NRCS, AND DNR

The following comments are from Minnesota's County Extension Educators, FSA (USDA - Farm Service Agency), and NRCS (USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service) Offices

CHIPPEWA: Livestock doing well. Feed adequate. Current weather not preferred once calving starts. Tile lines continue to run and all ditches are open with running water. Tile companies still plowing in tile, ground is not frozen. Some concern about beet piles staying in good condition.

FARIBAULT: Very easy winter so far. Livestock are doing fine, no stress. Temperatures have been mild with very little snow. There is a small amount of corn to be harvested.

FILLMORE: Very little to no snow cover. This winter has been extremely mild except for cold temperatures at the end of November. No snow cover, too little frost. If we get freezing temperatures, winter kill may be a concern for alfalfa crops. Livestock condition is good. Feed availability is adequate at this time.

HUBBARD: There are approximately 2000-2500 acres of unharvested corn remaining in the county. Livestock conditions and feed availability are both good. We are presently maintaining an 8-12 inch snow cover through most of the county.

ISANTI: Weather has been warm for the month of January. There is a few inches of snow cover in open fields. The warm weather has melted most of the snow in wooded areas.

JACKSON: January weather has been unusually mild and warmer than normal. The existing snow cover has a covering of ice that can make it hard for the wildlife to feed. We have received only an inch or so of snow for the month. Livestock are doing well. Cattle feeders have been able to keep yards clean and dry. It has taken additional bedding, which is reflected in higher prices for straw and corn stalk bales. Producers were hoping for the ground to freeze deep enough to break up soil compaction, but it hasn't happened yet. Tile lines are still running and there is open water on creeks and rivers. Producers are concerned about higher insect survival rates due to the mild weather also.

KITTSOON: Adequate supply of livestock feed available. Above average temperatures have definitely been a benefit to livestock. Good snow cover exists currently. Some producers are struggling to work positive cash flows for 2006 due to increased operating costs.

LAC QUI PARLE: Temperatures well above normal, but county has had several inches of snow cover until just past couple of days. Wildlife coming to road edges a lot. Have been a few complaints of deer problems with farmers hay stocks.

LINCOLN: Mild winter weather without wide temperature fluctuations has been good for livestock health, weight gains and feed supply. Eight inch snow and ice cover will prevent soils from blowing this winter but has made foraging more difficult for pheasants. Grain delivery on contract sales is active. Ground is only frozen about 2 inches deep.

MAHNOMEN: Good snow cover. Less feed being used, but a lot more straw. Crop budgets and marketing is happening. Less optimism this year for profitable crops. Some storage problems showing up.

MARTIN: No major snowfall events in the month of January. Above normal temperatures. Good moisture and very little freezing has occurred under the snow cover. Ample feed supply.

MORRISON: Livestock conditions are excellent with the mild weather. Very good feed availability. Eight to ten inches of snow cover is protecting the perennial legume crops. Reports of very little frost in the topsoil so far.

NORMAN: Some storage problems of corn and soybeans because of warm weather. Crops are being hauled into elevators and terminals. Good snow cover. Less feed and forages being used as planned but use of straw is high because of mild temperatures. Cash flow planning is occurring.

PIPESTONE: Snow cover is disappearing quickly over the past week, 20% cover currently, before the fresh inch or two on 1-29-06. Even in the open areas, very little sub-surface frost exists. There are people currently digging drainage tile, with few problems. Many cattle still utilizing corn stalks and other crop residues.

POLK: A mix of ice and snow cover the fields. (mild winter).

RICE: Four to six inches of snow cover. Feed supplies remain adequate. Livestock doing well. Farmers gearing up for another planting season.

STEARNS: Mild weather continues in central MN. Livestock in good shape. Feed supplies adequate.

TODD: With the recent mild weather the snow cover in the county has decreased to about 3-6 inches. There is a small amount of corn and sunflowers left in the field at this time.

TRAVERSE: Above average temperatures are reducing the snow cover. Three to five inches of snow still on the ground. Good supply of livestock feed remaining.

WADENA: The corn that has been left in the field is slowly being picked. Snow conditions have been steady as of late. Warm temperatures have helped livestock operators. Livestock are fairing well.

Thank you for your comments.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 2005:

Temperatures during December averaged from 1.0 degree below normal in the Southeast and South Central Districts to 6.5 degrees above normal in the North Central District. Temperature extremes included a low of -18 degrees at Waseca and Preston, and a high of 50 degrees at Canby. Precipitation averaged from 0.23 inch below normal in the Southeast District to 1.05 inches above normal in the Northeast District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 2.53 inches was recorded in Duluth.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for December 2005

	Temperature			Precipitation	
	High	Low	Month Ave	Month Total	Dept. for Month
<u>NW DIST 1</u>					
Crookston	36	-9	16.1	5.5	.82 .32
Moorhead	39	-13	17.2	4.7	2.34 1.77
Warroad	35	-13	16.0	8.0	.68 .05
<u>NC DIST 2</u>					
Grand Rapids	42	-6	18.9	6.8	1.00 .14
Intl. Falls	36	-14	15.0	6.5	.61 -.09
Itasca	41	-12	15.5	6.1	1.21 .46
<u>NE DIST 3</u>					
Duluth	38	-6	17.7	3.7	2.53 1.59
Grand Marais	40	1	23.6	4.2	2.36 1.57
Hibbing	39	-12	16.2	5.4	.72 -.01
<u>WC DIST 4</u>					
Alexandria	39	-12	15.8	2.1	.23 -.35
Browns Valley	46	-15	17.5	2.0	1.18 .65
Canby	50	-9	18.9	-.0	1.68 .98
Fergus Falls	39	-12	16.3	3.5	.86 .36
Montevideo	44	-11	17.4	1.9	1.03 .32
Morris	40	-12	14.8	.2	1.66 1.08
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>					
Becker	45	-10	18.4	4.0	1.44 .61
Collegeville	45	-8	19.7	3.7	1.46 .72
Hutchinson	41	-10	17.8	2.1	1.31 .56
Olivia	41	-13	15.8	.5	1.58 1.06
St. Cloud	43	-14	18.0	3.6	1.01 .32
Staples	39	-16	16.5	4.0	.72 .12
Willmar	40	-9	16.1	1.4	1.08 .42
<u>EC DIST 6</u>					
Aitkin	44	-8	20.1	7.1	.90 .08
Forest Lake	49	-11	19.2	3.2	1.31 .34
MSP Airport	43	-8	19.4	.7	.97 -.03
St. Paul - UofM	45	-7	20.2	.8	.62 -.42
<u>SW DIST 7</u>					
Lamberton	41	-14	16.6	-.6	1.17 .59
Pipestone	43	-17	15.7	-.8	1.37 .77
Redwood Falls	42	-9	17.0	-1.0	.84 .24
Worthington	42	-14	16.1	-.4	1.21 .51
<u>SC DIST 8</u>					
Faribault	44	-12	17.5	-.2	1.15 .13
Mankato	44	-13	17.4	-.5	1.54 .55
Waseca	38	-18	14.4	-2.4	1.15 -.25
Winnebago	43	-12	16.8	-.7	1.42 .41
<u>SE DIST 9</u>					
Preston	47	-18	16.7	-1.8	.74 -.55
Red Wing	42	-7	18.0	-.5	1.00 .14
Rochester	40	-12	17.2	-.1	.59 -.43
Rosemount	41	-13	17.0	1.1	1.52 .39
Winona	49	-10	19.0	-2.4	.75 -.28

m=some data missing

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