

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN) and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

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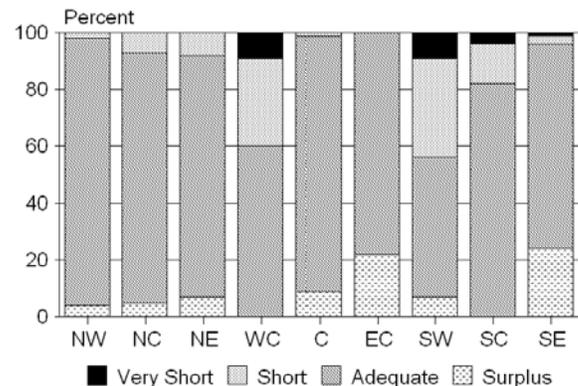
General: Mild winter conditions prevailed during the month, according to North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Good weather allowed farmers to market grain and begin preparations for spring fieldwork. Producers were busy with calving and lambing. On average, statewide, there were 0.9 inches of snow cover on March 6, compared to 10.8 inches last year on March 6, compared to 10.8 inches last year on February 29 and 2.7 inches last month. The northeast district reported the most snow cover with an average of 2.9 inches followed by 1.1 in the north central district. The south central district reported no snow cover. Several reports of wind erosion were noted due to the lack of snow cover.

County and secondary roads were rated 96 percent open and 4 difficult. Road conditions were 81 percent dry, 6 icy, 3 drifted and 10 muddy.

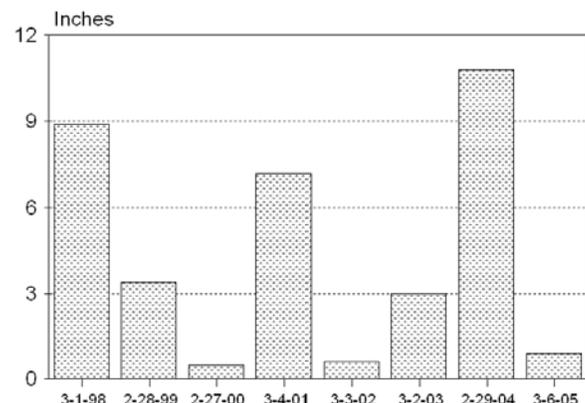
Crops: As of March 6, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 86 percent poor, 13 adequate and 1 excellent. This compares to 13 percent poor, 59 adequate and 28 percent excellent on February 29 a year ago. Alfalfa and winter wheat producers were concerned with the reduced snow cover.

Livestock: Mild weather conditions during the month helped maintain feed resources. Cattle conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 11 fair, 69 good and 17 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 2 poor, 11 fair, 66 good and 20 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 4 percent very short, 14 short, 74 adequate and 8 surplus.

Hay & Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, March 6, 2005



Average Snow Depth by Date
North Dakota



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NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT, Month Ending March 6, 2005

Weather: The month of February brought warmer than average temperatures across most of North Dakota. Many locations saw temperatures anywhere from 3-9 degrees above seasonal normals. The warmest areas were in western and central North Dakota. With a lack of snow cover and a persistent west-northwesterly flow off the Rocky Mountains, temperatures were able to warm significantly. Many western locations set or tied record high temperatures during the month. The coolest temperatures occurred in the northeastern part of the state, where average monthly temperatures were at or slightly below seasonal normals. With a deep snow pack in place, temperatures were not able to warm as much as in the west. The warmest period occurred during the first half of the month. A strong push of cold air moved through on the 15th, cooling temperatures down to below seasonal normals for the latter half of the month. Precipitation across the state averaged below normal in many areas. No major storms occurred during the month. Snowfall was also below normal for almost all areas, with the exception of some areas in east central and southeast North Dakota, where snowfall was at or slightly above seasonal normals.

Outlook, March: The warmer than average pattern looks to continue into the month of March. Colder than average temperatures, however, can be expected during the second week of the month. A fairly potent cold front will move across the state on the 6th and bring below average temperatures to most areas, especially in the east where there is still snow on the ground. Look for minor chances of precipitation through the midmonth, as a few weak disturbances move through the state in the continuous northwest flow pattern. No major storms are foreseen through the 3rd week of the month. The active storm track remains across the southern plains and into the eastern seaboard. A shift in the pattern may result in warmer and wetter conditions for the state towards the end of the month. Average precipitation for the month looks to have equal chances of being above or below seasonal normals. Spring will officially arrive on March 20 at 6:33 AM CST.

TEMPERATURE, February 1-28, 2005

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm ^{1/}
	(Degrees F)			
NORTHWEST	47	-10	21	7
Bowbells	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	52	-8	25	9
Mohall	44	-14	17	4
Minot	46	-10	21	9
NORTH CENTRAL	42	-14	14	6
Baker	42	-12	16	6
Bottineau	42	-17	13	5
Rugby	NA	NA	NA	NA
NORTHEAST	41	-16	12	1
Cando	40	-15	12	-3
Cavalier	42	-16	13	2
Forest River	40	-15	14	3
Grand Forks	42	-16	13	3
Langdon	37	-16	11	3
St. Thomas	43	-16	11	0
WEST CENTRAL	55	-7	23	6
Hazen	59	-7	23	7
Turtle Lake	52	-9	21	6
Watford City	55	-7	25	5
CENTRAL	46	-13	16	3
Carrington	47	-8	18	6
Harvey	50	-10	19	6
Jamestown	50	-6	20	5
Robinson	50	-8	19	7
Streeter	51	-7	19	4
EAST CENTRAL	44	-9	17	5
Dazey	46	-6	18	6
Fargo	44	-9	18	6
Hillsboro	41	-12	16	4
SOUTHWEST	63	-5	27	8
Beach	61	-3	28	9
Bowman	67	-1	27	8
Dickinson	60	-6	26	7
Hettinger	64	-10	27	7
SOUTH CENTRAL	59	-6	23	8
Mandan	57	-7	24	8
Linton	60	-6	23	8
SOUTHEAST	51	-6	20	6
Edgeley	53	-3	21	6
Oakes	54	-4	20	7
Wyndmere	48	-9	20	6

^{1/} Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.