

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



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: Temperatures were above normal across the state during December, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. The mild winter conditions have allowed ranchers to continue to graze livestock. As a result, ranchers were able to retain sufficient hay and forage supplies which were rated 96 percent adequate to surplus. Reporters noted that producers were busy hauling grain and livestock to market. Some grain storage problems were also reported.

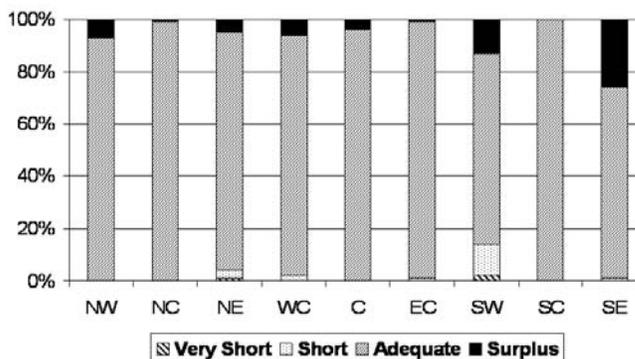
Statewide average snow cover was 5.5 inches on January 1 compared with 6.2 inches last year. The northeast and west central districts reported the most snow cover with 9.8 and 8.8 inches, respectively. The northwest district reported the least snow cover with an average of 0.7 of an inch followed by 2.9 inches in the north central district.

County and secondary roads were rated 92 percent open and 8 difficult to travel. Road conditions were 10 percent drifted, 31 icy, 4 muddy and 55 dry. Roads were reported to be 100 percent open in the northwest, west central and central districts.

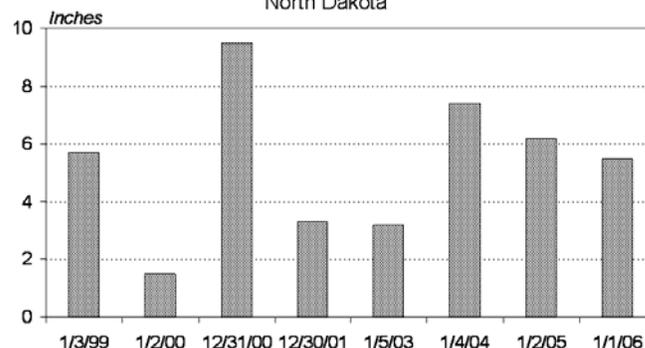
Crops: As of January 1, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 37 percent poor, 57 adequate and 6 excellent. More snow was reported as needed in the western part of the state to protect the winter wheat.

Livestock: Mild weather conditions during December provided good conditions for cattle to graze on corn stocks. Cattle conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 13 fair, 73 good and 13 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 15 fair, 71 good and 13 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 4 percent short, 87 adequate and 9 surplus.

Hay & Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, January 1, 2006



Average Snow Depth by Date
North Dakota



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Weather: December 2005 will go down as a warm month for the state. Many areas saw temperatures averaging anywhere from 4 to 6 degrees above the monthly seasonal normals. Temperatures started off cold for the first week of the month. Arctic air moved in from Canada and sent temperatures well below normal. The second week saw a moderating trend in temperatures. Another brief shot of arctic air arrived around the third week of the month. The rest of the month saw fairly mild temperatures. Many areas set records for the warmest overnight low temperature on Christmas Eve. Precipitation across the state varied for the month. Areas in the eastern and south central parts of the state saw above average precipitation. Areas in the southeast were hit especially hard with snow and ice during the middle and end of the month. Areas in the west and north central recorded below average precipitation.

Outlook, January: The outlook for January 2006 indicates a mild start to the month. Temperatures will continue to be above seasonal normals for the first week. Precipitation also looks to be below normal for the first week and a half. No major storm systems look to affect the state through the middle part of the month. Conditions may change toward the second half of the month as the jet stream shifts to a more wintry weather pattern for the northern plains. This could bring active weather to the state for the third week of the month, with increased chances for precipitation. Temperatures look to be near average or slightly below. Temperatures may warm to slightly above average again by month's end. Overall, temperatures look to be slightly above seasonal averages, while precipitation looks to be near normal for the month.

TEMPERATURE, December 1-31, 2005

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm ^{1/}
<i>Degrees F</i>				
NORTHWEST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bowbells	41	-8	17	5
Williston	43	-8	18	4
Mohall	39	-6	17	4
Minot	42	-4	19	7
NORTH CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Baker	36	-10	13	3
Bottineau	34	-8	13	5
Rugby	36	-5	16	3
NORTHEAST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cando	33	-5	14	0
Cavalier	35	-1	17	6
Forest River	34	-2	16	6
Grand Forks	35	1	18	8
Langdon	32	-5	14	5
St. Thomas	33	2	18	8
WEST CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hazen	46	-4	21	7
Turtle Lake	43	-6	19	4
Watford City	44	-5	20	3
CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Carrington	39	-6	17	6
Harvey	41	-4	19	7
Jamestown	41	-4	19	6
Robinson	42	-6	18	7
Streeter	41	-6	18	6
EAST CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dazey	36	-4	16	5
Fargo	34	-3	16	4
Hillsboro	32	-5	14	5
SOUTHWEST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Beach	46	-10	18	2
Bowman	45	-10	18	0
Dickinson	46	-7	20	3
Hettinger	46	-9	19	1
SOUTH CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mandan	48	-4	22	8
Linton	43	-5	19	4
SOUTHEAST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Edgeley	43	-1	21	8
Oakes	36	-3	17	3
Wyndmere	38	-3	18	4

^{1/} Normal is the 1971-2000 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.