

South Dakota Monthly Crop Weather Report



National Agricultural Statistics Service

South Dakota Field Office

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Cooperating with:

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
 AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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 For Month Ending February 4, 2007
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AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Statewide, temperatures in January cooled down, but remain, on average, above normal. Average snow depth for South Dakota at the conclusion of January was rated at 3.2 inches. Newell reached the highest January temperature in the state at 63° F, meanwhile, Vermillion recorded the lowest January temperature at -25° F. Vermillion also received the most January precipitation in the state at 0.88 of an inch. County road conditions in the state were rated at 99 percent open and 1 percent difficult, meanwhile, township roads were rated at 95 percent open, 4 percent difficult and 1 percent closed. Farm activities focused on spring planting intentions, financing, caring for livestock and marketing grain.

This report is based on information from county extension educators, Farm Service Agency county directors, and other reporters across the state.

WEATHER INFORMATION ¹

January was a sharp departure from December as temperatures headed well below average on several occasions across the state. Despite these colder temperature periods, the overall January temperatures were still above average over most of the state. In some places west of the river and in the far northeast temperatures were 6 to 8° F above average for the month with Buffalo being 9° F above average. Two stretches of cold weather (during the second and last week of the month) hit the state. Temperatures went to below -20° F on both occasions. Vermillion set a record low with their low temperature of -25° F. Winter wheat in the central part of the state will have to be watched for damage because of limited snow cover during these stretches of cold.

Much of the state received little precipitation during the month of January. The only locations receiving near-average precipitation were the northern Black Hills and around the Yankton area. Otherwise precipitation was well below average with less than 25% of average precipitation over large areas of the state.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures have dropped below 30° F. Beresford recorded the lowest average soil temperature at 13° F, while Brookings and Caputa had the highest average temperature at 27° F. Due to the small amounts of precipitation in January, the soil continues to be short of moisture.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Several producers have expressed concern over the lack of snow cover for winter wheat and alfalfa. The main snow cover is present in and around Brown and McPherson counties. Winter wheat condition is rated as 7 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 30 percent good and 5 percent excellent, with snow cover rated at 64 percent poor, 35 percent adequate and 1 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is rated at 53 percent poor, 45 percent adequate and 2 percent excellent. The recent colder temperatures may prove problematic for winter wheat and alfalfa that lack snow cover.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

The extending grazing into December has helped feed supplies hold steady in January. Feed supplies were rated at 15 percent very short, 22 percent short, 61 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were rated at 19 percent very short, 25 percent short, 54 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus. Cattle conditions were rated as 1 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 62 percent good and 13 percent excellent. Sheep conditions were rated as 19 percent fair, 64 percent good and 17 percent excellent. Most farmers and ranchers have good access to their feed supplies, rated at 93 percent readily accessible, 6 percent difficult to access and 1 percent inaccessible. Most livestock also have good access to stock water supplies, rated at 86 percent readily accessible, 13 percent difficult to access and 1 percent inaccessible. Cattle death losses since January 1 were rated at 2 percent above normal, 72 percent normal and 26 percent below normal. Calf deaths since January 1 were rated similarly, at 2 percent above normal, 69 percent normal and 29 percent below normal. Sheep and lambs deaths since January 1 were rated similar to cattle, at 1 percent above normal, 68 percent normal and 31 percent below normal. Some spring calving and lambing has begun.

Soil Temperatures Week Ending Feb 4, 2007 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Beresford	13	Gettysburg	21
Brookings	27	Nisland	26
Caputa	27	Pierre	20
Oacoma	20	Redfield	18
Cottonwood	20	South Shore	18

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of February 4, 2007

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter Wheat	7	12	46	30	5
Cattle	0	1	24	62	13
Sheep	0	0	19	64	17

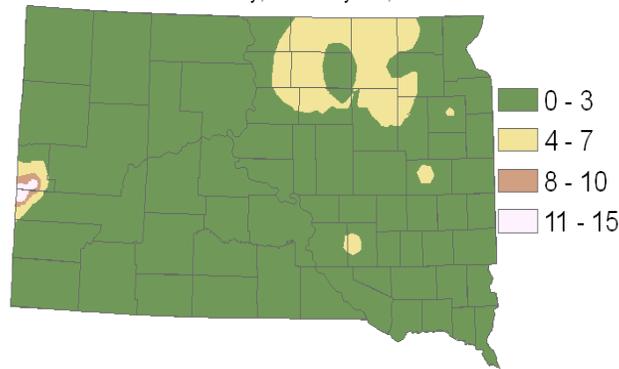
Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of February 4, 2007

Rating	Feed Supplies			Stock Water Supplies		
	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
Very Short	15	2	NA	19	13	NA
Short	22	4	NA	25	16	NA
Adequate	61	88	NA	54	70	NA
Surplus	2	6	NA	2	1	NA

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of February and will be released March 5, 2007

¹ State Climate Office of South Dakota.

SNOW DEPTH (inches)
As of Wednesday, January 31, 2007



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION
Month Ending January 31, 2007

District And Station	Temperatures Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since Oct. 1	Departure from Normal Since Oct. 1
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Northwest							
Bison	24	7	57	-11	0.00	0.80	-2.17
Buffalo	25	9	61	-7	0.08	0.82	-2.06
Dupree	24	7	59	-13	0.22	0.74	-2.08
McIntosh	20	6	59	-11	0.01	0.86	-1.79
Newell	25	6	63	-6	0.02	0.83	-1.88
Timber Lake	22	7	56	-15	0.12	0.76	-2.46
North Central							
Aberdeen	12	1	37	-24	0.09	1.28	-1.90
Faulkton	13	0	38	-17	0.00	1.22	-2.18
Mobridge	16	3	45	-18	0.00	0.67	-2.13
Roscoe	13	3	38	-21	0.23	1.30	-2.01
Northeast							
Britton	15	5	37	-15	0.30	2.34	-1.08
Clear Lake	16	6	37	-13	0.30	2.06	-2.60
Sisseton	18	6	43	-12	0.22	2.02	-2.12
Webster	14	4	36	-16	0.48	1.68	-2.09
Watertown	14	4	37	-15	0.00	1.20	-2.59
West Central							
Faith	24	6	60	-11	0.00	0.22	-2.75
Milesville	25	6	62	-10	0.16	0.88	-2.28
Philip	25	6	57	-10	0.00	1.29	-1.32
Rapid City	28	5	61	-4	0.00	0.77	-1.99
Spearfish	30	5	61	-8	0.31	1.68	-2.69
Central							
Chamberlain	19	2	47	-11	0.00	2.31	-1.42
Highmore	18	4	42	-13	0.00	1.01	-2.31
Huron	17	2	38	-13	0.19	1.83	-1.53
Onida	18	4	46	-17	0.19	1.29	-2.27
Pierre	22	4	47	-9	0.18	0.83	-2.51
East Central							
Brookings	17	6	40	-11	0.25	2.48	-0.90
Forestburg	17	2	40	-13	0.13	2.23	-1.59
Madison	17	6	42	-13	0.09	2.85	-1.42
Mitchell	18	3	46	-12	0.00	2.72	-1.02
Sioux Falls	19	5	45	-20	0.45	3.73	-0.59
Southwest							
Custer	23	-1	51	-6	0.19	1.22	-1.83
Hot Springs	27	2	59	-10	0.06	1.39	-1.11
Oelrichs	24	2	62	-13	0.05	0.99	-1.80
Porcupine	24	4	60	-16	0.05	1.52	-1.29
South Central							
Kennebec	24	6	62	-9	0.03	1.25	-1.50
Mission	24	4	56	-6	0.00	1.82	-1.26
Murdo	24	6	61	-8	0.06	1.75	-1.58
Winner	24	1	56	-8	0.00	1.80	-2.14
Southeast							
Armour	19	0	45	-14	0.27	3.81	-0.26
Centerville	18	3	47	-23	0.36	3.61	-0.53
Pickstown	21	1	50	-10	0.18	3.30	-0.39
Vermillion	21	2	53	-25	0.88	4.85	0.52
Yankton	20	2	51	-20	0.74	5.01	0.97

DATA AND MAPS SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota.