

# South Dakota Monthly Crop Weather Report



National Agricultural Statistics Service  
South Dakota Field Office  
P.O. Box 5068

Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5068

Cooperating with:

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

Released: March 26, 2007 -- 3:00 p.m. CST  
For Month Ending March 25, 2007  
SD-CW5613 Volume 56 Issue 13

## AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Statewide average temperatures in March were above normal. Average snow depth for South Dakota on March 25 was rated at 0.8 of an inch. County road conditions in the state were rated at 100 percent open; meanwhile, township roads were rated at 98 percent open and 2 percent difficult. Farm activities focused on preparing equipment for spring fieldwork, early fertilizing, calving and lambing.

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

## WEATHER INFORMATION

Warm temperatures returned to the state soon after the early March snowfalls bringing a very rapid melt-off to the new snowfall, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Much of the snow was gone within days leading to low-land flooding along rivers in the eastern part of the state, mainly the James, Vermillion and Big Sioux. For the most part little damage was done other than saturating ground that may be a little slower to drain. The ability to get these areas planted will depend heavily on the amount of spring precipitation.

All stations received some precipitation ranging from around 0.1 of an inch at stations in the northwest to the heaviest snow locations where over an inch of liquid equivalent fell in the snow. Most areas west of the river continue in severe drought conditions (according to the US Drought Monitor) having received little snow and only light precipitation amounts during the month. Field work again is dependent on soil moisture conditions from current precipitation.

Temperatures in March were above average everywhere in the state. Eastern stations, which had heavy snow cover early in the month, were only a few degrees above average while the western stations warmed very quickly with the lack of snow cover. Several stations were 13-14° F above average for the month.

## SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures are above freezing nearly everywhere in the state and very much related to precipitation levels. Soil temperatures are cooler in the eastern counties and much warmer in the west. Oacoma recorded the week's highest average soil temperature at 50° F, while South Shore had the lowest at 31° F.

## FIELD CROPS REPORT

With the snow storm to start March and showers recently, most of the state has seen precipitation this month. However, the western part of the state continues to be short of moisture, while a few areas in the eastern part report some minor flooding with the spring thaw. Mild temperatures in dry areas have some farmers beginning fieldwork, but the statewide, average start date is estimated to be March 29<sup>th</sup>, with 2.9 days suitable for fieldwork this week. Seventy-seven percent of winter wheat is reported to be breaking dormancy. Only 46 percent of winter wheat is rated good to excellent.

## LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Livestock conditions have improved with the mild temperatures, but our first range and pasture conditions of the season are mixed with 15 percent rated very poor, 26 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 29 percent good and only 3 percent excellent. Feed supplies rated similar to last month, but stock water supplies have improved slightly from 54 percent adequate to surplus last month to 63 percent now. Since March 1<sup>st</sup>, death losses of cattle, calves, sheep and lambs all rated 98 percent at or below normal. Spring calving was rated at 35 percent complete, while lambing was 47 percent complete, versus 33 and 50 percent, respectively last year.

## Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of March 25, 2007

Rating	Feed Supplies			Stock Water Supplies		
	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very Short	12	3	NA	17	12	NA
Short	24	4	NA	20	19	NA
Adequate	62	88	NA	60	68	NA
Surplus	2	5	NA	3	1	NA

## Soil Moisture Condition Comparison as of March 25, 2007

Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very Short	11	NA	2	23	NA	11
Short	17	NA	13	23	NA	19
Adequate	66	NA	77	49	NA	67
Surplus	6	NA	8	5	NA	3

## Crop and Livestock Conditions as of March 25, 2007

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	4	9	41	38	8
Cattle	0	1	16	63	20
Sheep	0	0	16	63	21
Range & Pasture	15	26	27	29	3

## Soil Temperatures Week Ending March 25, 2007 (4-inch Depth)

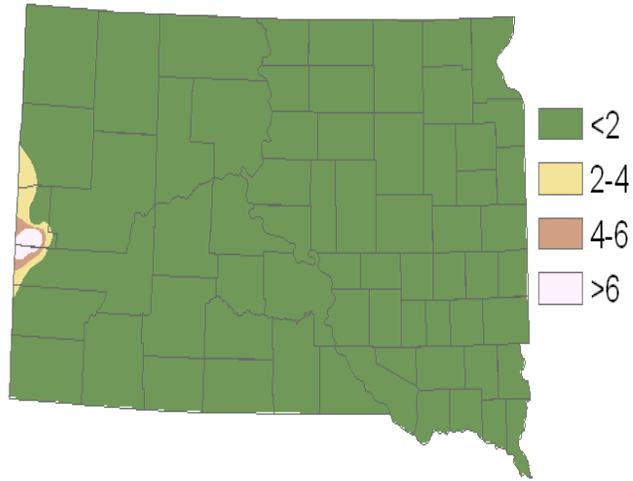
Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Beresford	40	Gettysburg	NA
Brookings	32	Nisland	45
Caputa	41	Pierre	49
Oacoma	50	Redfield	40
Cottonwood	49	South Shore	31

## WHAT PRECIPITATION SINCE OCT 1 INDICATES

Please note the precipitation since October 1, 2006, on the back. For row crop production, soil moisture is the driving value, not precipitation, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Since true soil moisture measurements are not available, precipitation is a proxy that we use to estimate soil moisture. What is in the soil for the growing season can be influenced by what happened the previous fall. We saw a great example of this during the 2006 growing season. All of the state was extremely dry May-July. Locations that had rainfall in the fall of 2005 weathered the dry conditions reasonably well because of the soil moisture recharge. Those areas that were dry the previous fall did not fare well at all. This aspect of soil moisture recharge in the fall is commonly used to determine potential and risk for crop production during the coming growing season. Therefore, beginning with the 2007 season we have switched and will now show precipitation accumulated since October 1.

# SNOW DEPTH (inches)

As of Sunday, March 25, 2007



## TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION Month Ending March 25, 2007,

District And Station	Temperature Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since Oct 1, 2006	Departure from Normal Since Oct 1, 2006
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
<b>Northwest</b>							
Bison	42	10	78	6	0.12	1.46	-2.91
Buffalo	42	12	78	7	0.13	1.67	-2.04
Dupree	41	10	81	7	0.12	1.46	-2.72
McIntosh	37	7	75	6	0.29	1.59	-2.11
Newell	43	10	83	13	0.25	2.05	-1.80
Timber Lake	40	9	78	6	0.24	1.80	-2.86
<b>North Central</b>							
Aberdeen	32	3	69	-2	0.46	2.90	-1.80
Faulkton	31	2	66	1	0.47	1.69	-3.41
Mobridge	36	6	76	6	0.55	1.59	-2.42
Roscoe	32	5	68	3	0.88	3.13	-1.55
<b>Northeast</b>							
Britton	33	5	65	-1	1.24	4.13	-0.59
Clear Lake	30	3	62	-4	1.45	5.04	-1.65
Sisseton	33	4	66	-5	1.04	3.91	-2.04
Webster	31	3	62	-1	1.78	4.37	-0.79
Watertown	30	3	63	-1	1.04	2.75	-2.50
<b>West Central</b>							
Faith	41	9	79	10	0.06	0.28	-4.16
Milesville	44	10	83	14	0.27	1.20	-3.45
Philip	43	10	80	12	0.55	2.02	-1.94
Rapid City	41	7	79	14	0.50	1.78	-2.22
Spearfish	47	13	78	12	0.39	3.05	-3.05
<b>Central</b>							
Chamberlain	39	7	78	10	0.35	3.62	-1.77
Highmore	38	7	75	8	0.22	2.08	-2.79
Huron	36	4	72	6	0.61	3.75	-1.45
Onida	39	9	78	8	0.12	1.87	-3.41
Pierre	41	7	82	11	0.13	1.31	-3.46
<b>East Central</b>							
Brookings	31	2	64	-3	1.15	4.46	-0.29
Forestburg	37	4	72	1	0.34	4.53	-1.06
Madison	33	4	67	0	1.05	4.47	-1.70
Mitchell	37	5	73	7	0.60	3.32	-2.33
Sioux Falls	36	5	70	2	1.12	6.14	-0.06
<b>Southwest</b>							
Custer	41	8	74	7	0.17	2.10	-2.39
Hot Springs	46	10	78	11	0.08	1.95	-1.68
Oelrichs	45	11	81	13	0.38	1.51	-2.50
Porcupine	43	10	80	14	0.53	2.15	-1.87
<b>South Central</b>							
Kennebec	43	9	82	9	0.52	2.43	-1.69
Mission	42	9	79	11	0.49	2.96	-1.44
Murdo	42	9	79	10	0.40	3.08	-2.08
Winner	43	7	80	13	0.26	2.38	-3.50
<b>Southeast</b>							
Armour	40	4	76	8	0.61	6.82	0.75
Centerville	35	3	73	-2	0.77	5.22	-0.68
Pickstown	40	6	79	12	0.92	5.42	-0.01
Vermillion	40	4	74	-4	0.49	6.63	0.45
Yankton	38	4	76	0	0.15	7.51	1.59