

# South Dakota Monthly Crop Weather Report

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Cooperating with:  
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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

## AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

While two major snowstorms in March have impacted agriculture across the state, normal March agricultural activities were able to continue in South Dakota. The average snow depth for the state is 1.4 inches. Central and western parts of the state are short of moisture. County road conditions were rated at 100 percent open. Township road conditions were rated at 98 percent open and 2 percent difficult. Farm activities focused on caring for livestock, calving and lambing activities, and preparing machinery for spring fieldwork.

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

## WEATHER INFORMATION

Two late month storms hit the northeast and central to east central parts of the state bringing up precipitation totals for the month, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. While most of the state received at least a half inch of liquid precipitation during March, most of the state received well-below average totals of precipitation. Most of the state will fall below average precipitation for the month. The only places that will have above average precipitation for the month will be along U.S. Highway 12 from Edmunds County eastward and a couple other isolated stations. Much of the southeast received less than 50% of average precipitation for the month. An area from north central to northwest South Dakota received less than 25% of average precipitation. Since October 1 the only areas above average precipitation are in the southeastern quarter of the state. Much of the rest of the state is 1 to 2 inches or more below average during the same time period.

Temperatures for the month were split down the middle of the state. Areas east of an Ipswich to Lake Andes line were below average. Some places, generally in eastern South Dakota, were more than 4°F below average for the month. Except for a couple stations, areas west of the line were above average. The northwest part of the state was the warmest compared to average at 2 to 4°F above average. The cooler temperatures have held down soil temperatures. Combined with a lack of moisture, green-up has been slow across the state. Some areas have reported initial greening of winter wheat and some grasses.

Note that this summary reflects weather data only through Sunday, March 30. Another major snow storm was in process during the issuance of this report.

## SOIL CONDITION

Mixed temperatures across the state kept soil temperatures at the end of March mostly in the low to mid 30s. The lowest four-inch soil temperature was recorded in Brookings and South Shore at 30°F, and the highest was recorded in Nisland, at 37°F. The U.S. Drought Monitor continues to classify the western third of the state in moderate to severe drought conditions.

## FIELD CROPS REPORT

With much of state still dealing with snow cover and cooler soil temperatures there have not been many opportunities for early spring field work in South Dakota. Statewide, the average date to begin spring fieldwork is estimated to be April 3, 2008, reported before Monday's snowstorm. Thirty-seven percent of the winter wheat acreage is reported to be breaking dormancy. Forty-seven percent of the winter wheat is rated good to excellent, four percent ahead of the five-year average.

## LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Livestock conditions continue to see few changes with only some concerns statewide about water and feed supplies. Range and pasture conditions are rated at 8 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. The 36 percent good to excellent rating is seven percentage points higher than the five-year average. Feed and water supplies have decreased slightly from last month. Feed supplies are rated 87 percent good to excellent, down 3 percentage points from last month and stock water supplies are rated 71 percent good to excellent, down 2 percentage points from last month. Cattle conditions are rated 84 percent good to excellent, with calf death losses since March 1 rated at 20 percent below normal, 75 percent normal, and 5 percent above normal. Sheep conditions are rated 88 percent good to excellent, with sheep and lamb death losses since March 1 rated at 24 percent below average, 75 percent average, and 1 percent above average. Spring calving is estimated at 40 percent complete and spring lambing is estimated at 63 percent complete. Only 2 percent of cattle, statewide, have been moved out to pasture.

### Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of March 30, 2008

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	1	12	11	14	17	20
Short	12	22	19	15	17	24
Adequate	80	64	66	66	61	54
Surplus	7	2	4	5	4	2

### Soil Moisture Condition Comparison as of March 30, 2008

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	7	NA	5	11	NA	16
Short	13	NA	12	19	NA	25
Adequate	77	NA	72	67	NA	52
Surplus	3	NA	11	3	NA	7

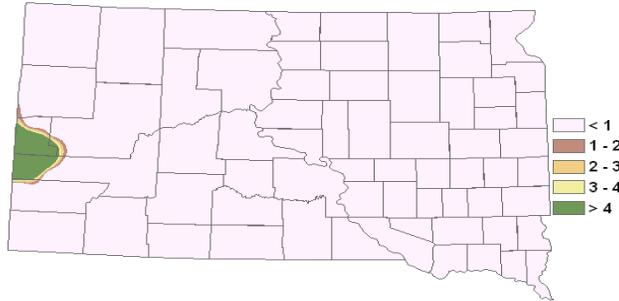
### Crop and Livestock Conditions as of March 30, 2008

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	11	38	40	7
Cattle	0	1	15	68	16
Sheep	0	1	11	66	22
Range & Pasture	8	15	41	32	4

### Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending March 30, 2008 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	31	Nisland	37
Beresford	31	Oacoma	35
Brookings	30	Parkston	32
Bowdle	32	Pierre	34
Caputa	34	Redfield	32
Cottonwood	36	South Shore	30

**SNOW DEPTH (inches)**  
As of Sunday, March 30, 2008



**TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION**  
**Month Ending March 30, 2008,**

District And Station	Temperature Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since Oct 1, 2007	Departure from Normal Since Oct 1, 2007
	<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	35	2	67	-2	0.72	2.37	-2.27
Buffalo	34	3	65	1	0.45	1.57	-2.34
Dupree	35	3	69	-3	0.61	2.54	-1.90
McIntosh	32	1	64	-5	0.45	1.48	-2.42
Newell	33	0	69	-10	0.62	2.89	-1.18
Timber Lake	33	2	63	-6	0.57	2.12	-2.82
<b>North Central</b>							
Aberdeen	29	-2	57	-12	1.57	4.28	-0.76
Faulkton	30	-1	60	-11	0.72	3.80	-1.63
Mobridge	32	1	62	-6	0.55	2.64	-1.59
Roscoe	28	0	58	-8	1.31	4.01	-0.92
<b>Northeast</b>							
Britton	27	-2	52	-16	1.00	3.55	-1.39
Clear Lake	25	-3	52	-14	0.98	5.67	-1.41
Sisseton	27	-3	53	-11	0.97	5.23	-1.05
Watertown	26	-2	52	-19	0.89	4.63	-0.91
Webster	26	-2	51	-12	1.33	5.23	-0.19
<b>West Central</b>							
Faith	35	1	69	-3	0.35	2.22	-2.47
Milesville	36	1	71	-2	0.25	2.82	-2.11
Philip	37	3	73	-3	0.56	3.63	-0.58
Rapid City	35	1	73	-2	0.31	2.31	-1.91
Spearfish	38	3	67	-2	1.08	6.41	-0.02
<b>Central</b>							
Chamberlain	35	2	68	-3	0.74	7.47	1.75
Highmore	31	-1	65	-9	0.51	3.78	-1.42
Huron	31	-1	58	-6	0.93	5.15	-0.41
Onida	33	1	66	-7	0.24	5.65	0.09
Pierre	34	0	69	-1	0.13	6.72	1.68
<b>East Central</b>							
Brookings	26	-4	54	-18	1.12	5.36	0.33
Forestburg	33	-1	59	-8	0.60	5.86	-0.10
Madison	27	-3	54	-13	0.48	6.35	-0.20
Mitchell	33	0	58	-6	0.96	6.34	0.31
Sioux Falls	29	-3	53	-11	0.93	9.15	2.56
<b>Southwest</b>							
Custer	30	-3	57	-5	1.29	3.73	-1.00
Hot Springs	38	1	69	5	0.90	3.82	-0.03
Oelrichs	36	1	70	5	0.00	2.58	-1.65
Porcupine	35	1	69	-4	0.24	2.67	-1.58
<b>South Central</b>							
Kennebec	36	0	71	-10	0.59	5.29	0.89
Mission	35	1	70	-6	0.61	5.87	1.19
Murdo	35	1	70	-1	0.36	6.00	0.49
Winner	37	0	71	-8	0.61	4.80	-1.46
<b>Southeast</b>							
Armour	33	-4	63	-6	0.55	7.76	1.30
Centerville	30	-4	57	-10	0.75	7.81	1.55
Pickstown	34	-1	67	-7	0.47	8.50	2.69
Vermillion	33	-4	59	-8	0.64	8.78	2.21
Yankton	32	-3	61	-7	0.58	9.81	3.50

DATA AND MAP SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota