

## *MONTHLY CROP-WEATHER*

The following comments are from Minnesota's County Extension Educators, FSA (USDA - Farm Service Agency), and NRCS (USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service) Offices for the month of February

**BROWN:** No unharvested crops. Feed availability is not an issue. Farmers are holding out now for even better prices. Recent snow has provided 1 ½ inches of moisture to area fields. Livestock doing well. Feed and hay supplies are adequate.

**BENTON:** The 30 degree below zero weather was tough on dairy calves in the area. It's common to here about farms that lost calves.

**CHIPPEWA:** Feed supplies appear to be adequate. The start of calving is not too far away.

**CHISAGO:** Good 6-8 inches snow cover. Livestock food supplies adequate.

**FILLMORE:** No unharvested corn that I am aware of. Livestock are looking good. Feed availability is adequate at this time. Some producers concerned with new seeded alfalfa and older seeded alfalfa fields freezing off. These past weeks may have an affect on next years hay crop. Some areas where lack of rain fell last year may have some concern of a shortage of hay. Not there yet. Some concern with lack of moisture in snow and lack of moisture this past fall. Every little bit helps, but we need more to catch up in topsoil and subsoil moisture.

**HUBBARD:** The weather has moderated this past week. Good snow cover to protect alfalfa stands. Feed supply still adequate.

**KANABEC:** Crops have all been harvested. Livestock are generally in good condition. Hay supplies are short because of the poor hay crop and alfalfa die out last year.

**KITTSOON:** Good snow cover in the fields. Adequate feed supplies. Livestock producers preparing for spring calving. Grain producers have been busy hauling commodities to market. Rail car availability slowed crop getting to market. Southerly winds have been very strong off and on for the last two weeks. However, all crop land still has a good snow cover and the wind has not caused any erosion problems. Farmers are looking to spring seeding because of good yields in 2003.

**LINCOLN:** Farmers have been negotiating leases, selling grain, record keeping, and arranging spring finances. Some have contracted part of the 2004 crop. After 3 dryer summers, more people are considering non-insurable disaster assistance programs (NAP) for pastures. With spring getting closer, more farmers are starting equipment maintenance and assessing grain bin needs. Seventy percent of the farmers have enrolled their farms in the new 2004 DCP farm program.

**MAHNOMEN:** Producers are busy hauling soybeans, corn and wheat to elevators. With markets fluctuating, some producers are changing cropping intentions. All fields are covered with 6-12 inches of snow. Feed availability seems to be good.

**MARTIN:** February started out very snowy. Temperatures much more moderate later in the month, even though we've been receiving some snow. Very dry soil conditions still exist. Anyone doing digging says that the ground is not frozen. Cool enough to be frozen, but so dry it just crumbles.

**MCLEOD:** Anxiously waiting for warmer weather. Will need spring showers to help replenish soil moisture levels. Guaranteed and direct loan activity has been brisk.

**MORRISON:** Livestock conditions still good. Snowmelt causing some wet feedlots. Warmer temperatures helping cattle growth rates. About 10 inches of snowpack remaining. Hay is somewhat in short supply, especially good alfalfa. The past month has had several snow accumulations which has produced plenty of snow cover for now. There is very little unharvested corn this winter.

**PINE:** Hay supplies are low. Livestock doing well with the warmer weather. Observed some grain heating in bins.

**REDWOOD:** Soil moisture is at 4.21 inches, 5.95 inches is average, 1.75 inches behind, going into winter. Received some snow but not much. Alfalfa winter kill not a concern yet, but will know more when spring is here.

**RICE:** January and early February cold temperatures made handling livestock a bit difficult. Feed supplies are adequate at this time. Land sales show prices are increasing.

**ROSEAU:** After an extremely cold period since Christmas, with plenty of snow, the weather has started to improve. Temperatures are rising and producers are thinking spring.

Thank you for your comments. Due to space constrictions, all comments could not be included in this release.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 2004:

Temperatures during January averaged from 5.3 degrees below normal in the Northeast District to 0.2 degree above normal in the Southwest District. Temperature extremes included a low of -38 degrees at Staples and a high of 51 degrees at Canby. Precipitation averaged from 0.60 inch below normal in the South Central District to 0.35 inch above normal in the Northwest District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 1.87 inches was recorded in Warroad.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for January, 2004

	Temperature				Precipitation	
	High	Low	Month Ave	Dept. for Month	Month Total	Dept. for Month
<u>NW DIST 1</u>						
Crookston	30	-34	.5	-3.3	.36	-.18
Moorhead	33	-36	3.5	-3.3	.74	-.02
Warroad	24	-38	-4.0	-5.0	1.87	1.24
<u>NC DIST 2</u>						
Grand Rapids	32	-34	3.2	-3.2	1.22	.21
Intl. Falls	30	-36	-3.6	-6.3	.65	-.19
Itasca	35	-37	.3	-2.6	1.01	.11
<u>NE DIST 3</u>						
Duluth	31	-30	4.6	-3.8	1.84	.72
Grand Marais	37	-18	6.8	-7.1	.29	-.43
Hibbing	35	-31	.2	-5.1	.30	-.49
<u>WC DIST 4</u>						
Alexandria	38	-30	5.1	-2.8	.15	-.86
Browns Valley	M	M	M	M	M	M
Canby	51	-22	11.6	-2.1	.64	-.24
Fergus Falls	39	-31	5.0	-1.4	1.03	.04
Montevideo	46	-24	11.2	1.2	.29	-.62
Morris	40	-31	6.7	-1.7	.58	-.27
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>						
Becker	37	-29	7.8	-1.0	.58	-.28
Hutchinson	38	-24	11.4	1.4	.27	-.50
Olivia	41	-20	10.7	.7	.35	-.23
St. Cloud	35	-31	7.4	-1.4	.36	-.40
Staples	36	-38	3.4	-2.9	.39	-.56
Willmar	38	-24	9.8	.9	.50	-.32
<u>EC DIST 6</u>						
Aitkin	27	-33	2.7	-4.3	.94	-.09
MSP Airport	36	-24	11.4	-1.7	.23	-.81
St. Paul - UofM	35	-25	12.0	-2.7	.29	-.73
<u>SW DIST 7</u>						
Lamberton	47	-20	12.1	.0	.32	-.33
Pipestone	49	-23	11.7	.5	.71	.16
Redwood Falls	44	-21	11.2	-1.8	.34	-.36
Worthington	46	-17	12.8	1.4	.52	-.18
<u>SC DIST 8</u>						
Faribault	41	-22	12.7	1.1	.48	-.57
Mankato	45	-19	13.2	.7	.50	-.57
Waseca	43	-22	11.8	.8	.38	-1.00
Winnebago	47	-19	13.8	1.6	.63	-.25
<u>SE DIST 9</u>						
Preston	46	-21	13.4	.7	.44	-.57
Red Wing	37	-21	12.0	.0	.33	-.48
Rochester	43	-21	12.1	.3	.38	-.56
Rosemount	39	-24	14.1	4.0	.56	-.66
Winona	40	-20	13.5	-2.2	.31	-.63

m=some data missing

Address Service Requested

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