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MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
TWIN CITIES INT'L AIRPORT, UNIV. OF MINN. EXTENSION SERVICE, AND STATE CLIMATOLOGY, DNR

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 March

BENTON: Conditions generally normal. Continuing to see good variety of hay offered at the quality tested hay auction on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at Sauk Centre.

GRANT: Fields are 100% void of snow. No water has accumulated in low areas, so it appears to be an early spring. A nice warm rain would be welcome to bring frost out and replenish subsoil.

HUBBARD: Snow cover is slowly leaving. With a week of warmer weather we should start seeing bare ground. Feed supplies are still OK and livestock condition is good.

KITTSOON: Seventy-five percent snow cover remaining in the fields. Melt will begin this week with warmer temperatures. Farmers busy cleaning seed, preparing equipment for planting, and marketing old and new crop. Calving season progressing satisfactorily at this time. Feed supplies adequate. No major flood concerns at this time.

LINCOLN: Farmers are finalizing leases for cropland and pasture, arranging financing, marketing grain, arranging fertilizer orders and seed, preparing planters. Area had more snow this winter than the previous couple of winters, but everyone knows spring rains will be very important. Wheat seeding could begin April 1.

MCLEOD: Warmer weather has been welcome. Could use some rainfall to drive the last of the frost out and help replenish soil moisture levels. If current conditions hold, we could see small grain seeding by April 1st. Operating loan activity remains steady.

MORRISON: Little to no snow cover remains as of March 22nd. Soil moisture still is short in certain areas of the county. Some frost still remains in the soil as there is water standing in most fields. Although cattle conditions are somewhat muddy, cattle are doing well for the most part. Good numbers of pheasants, eagles, and especially deer. All wildlife have seemed to fair very well this winter. Good quality alfalfa hay in high demand.

PENNINGTON: Livestock have wintered well. Some concerns this past month about icy calving yards, although conditions have improved after the 22nd due to warmer temperatures. Winter grain & alfalfa crops appear to have fared well over the winter because of generally good snow cover.

RED LAKE: Snow is disappearing. Spring runoff should start occurring by this weekend with the warm temperatures.

RENVILLE: All crops have been harvested in Renville County. Snow cover is gone except for in the groves. Livestock conditions are good and feed seems to be adequate.

RICE: Farmers are anxiously waiting for spring to come. Could use some rain this spring to help recharge the soil. Livestock doing well. Feed availability seems to be good.

ROSEAU: As temperatures begin to rise, the snow cover is slowly disappearing. There is some concern about what effect the lack of snow cover in December had on the alfalfa, hay and winter wheat crops. Producers are steadily signing up for the 2004 DCP program before spring work.

SIBLEY: Snow is gone. Some field spreading of manure. Ground is wet with little or no runoff.

TRAVERSE: The last of the snow melted in the middle of March. The water levels in wetlands, rivers, and other waterbodies are unusually low for this time of year.

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

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2004:

Temperatures during February averaged from 0.3 degree below normal in the Southwest District to 4.3 degrees above normal in the North Central District. Temperature extremes included a low of -32 degrees at International Falls and a high of 56 degrees at Canby. Precipitation averaged from 0.30 inch below normal in the Northwest District to 0.74 inch above normal in the South Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 1.84 inches was recorded in Rosemount.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for February 2004

	Temperature				Precipitation	
	High	Low	Month Ave	Dept. for Month	Month Total	Dept. for Month
<u>NW DIST 1</u>						
Crookston	39	-27	10.8	.2	.08	-.44
Moorhead	40	-27	14.4	.8	.42	-.17
Warroad	46	-24	13.5	5.7	.23	-.30
<u>NC DIST 2</u>						
Grand Rapids	52	-23	19.2	5.7	.72	.13
Intl. Falls	45	-32	14.4	4.0	.13	-.49
Itasca	47	-26	13.0	3.2	.58	-.04
<u>NE DIST 3</u>						
Duluth	46	-15	18.6	4.3	1.00	.18
Grand Marais	44	-15	21.8	3.7	1.07	.52
Hibbing	48	-29	15.5	3.3	.08	-.50
<u>WC DIST 4</u>						
Alexandria	40	-19	16.4	1.6	.19	-.47
Browns Valley	M	M	M	M	.64m	-.04m
Canby	56	-17	20.2	.2	.66	-.10
Fergus Falls	49	-21	14.0	1.2	.44	-.14
Montevideo	46	-19	17.8	1.6	.96	.04
Morris	40	-21	14.6	-.3	.73	.04
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>						
Becker	44	-22	17.4	1.8	1.11	.43
Hutchinson	45	-22	19.4	2.6	.77	.25
Olivia	41	-16	16.8	.0	.70	.27
St. Cloud	46	-26	17.4	1.8	.67	.09
Staples	44	-25	14.2	1.2	.62	.01
Willmar	42	-20	16.1	.4	.62	.01
<u>EC DIST 6</u>						
Aitkin	47	-23	17.9	4.1	.87	.20
MSP Airport	48	-11	21.6	2.0	1.10	.31
St. Paul - UofM	50	-14	23.0	1.9	1.03	.26
<u>SW DIST 7</u>						
Lamberton	46	-14	18.2	.0	.47	-.05
Pipestone	42	-19	15.8	-1.7	.70	.19
Redwood Falls	46	-14	19.5	.2	.55	-.05
Worthington	47	-15	17.4	-.1	.62	.01
<u>SC DIST 8</u>						
Faribault	46	-19	19.6	1.9	1.70	.99
Mankato	47	-12	19.6	.7	1.19	.59
Waseca	44	-16	18.4	1.0	1.57	.61
Winnebago	47	-12	18.7	.4	1.46	.78
<u>SE DIST 9</u>						
Preston	46	-15	20.4	1.7	1.36	.51
Red Wing	47	-21	19.4	1.4	1.27	.64
Rochester	44	-14	20.1	2.2	.97	.23
Rosemount	45	-24	20.8	4.2	1.84	.98
Winona	53	-20	21.5	.1	1.11	.28

m=some data missing

Address Service Requested

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