

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



**North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service**

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN) and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

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For Month Ending: February 1, 2004
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General: Arctic cold temperatures in January replaced mild December weather, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Below normal temperatures and bitter wind chills were experienced throughout the state. Above average snowfall and a statewide snow cover continued to provide adequate crop and soil protection. Reporters noted grain movement has been hampered by very cold temperatures, snow drifted roads and railcar shortages. Snow drifts made it difficult to supply sufficient feed to cattle during the cold temperatures. Cold weather was a challenge for the few producers that started calving or lambing in late January.

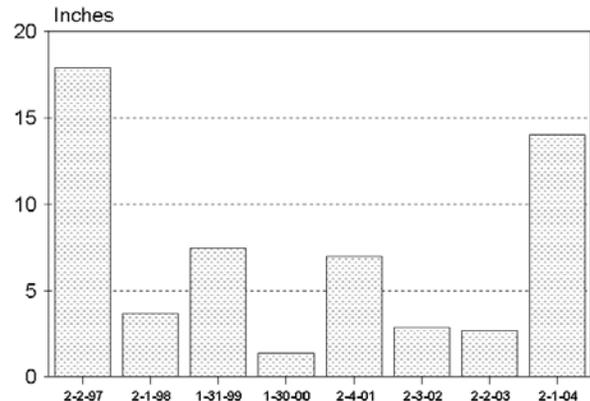
Statewide average snow cover was 14.0 inches on February 1. This compares with 2.7 inches last year and 7.4 inches last month. The north central district reported the most snow cover with an average of 23.6 inches followed by 21.2 inches in the northwest district. The southwest and southeast districts reported the least snow cover with 7.0 and 7.3 inches, respectively.

County and secondary roads were rated 70 percent open, 22 difficult and 8 closed to travel. Road conditions were rated 38 percent dry, 19 icy and 43 drifted. Reported conditions were the worst in the northwest district with 86 percent drifted and 18 percent closed.

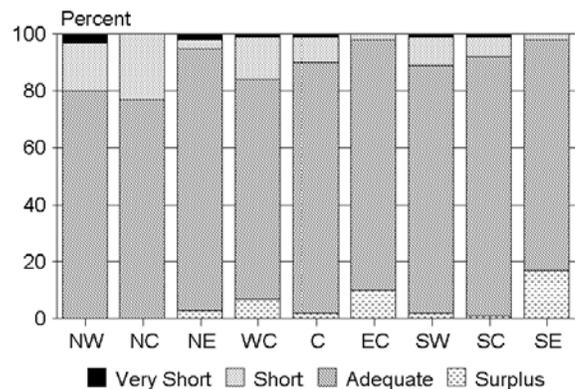
Crops: As of February 2, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 1 percent poor, 57 adequate and 42 excellent.

Livestock: A combination of snow depth and cold temperatures negatively affected cattle conditions. Statewide, cattle conditions were rated 4 percent poor, 26 fair, 61 good and 9 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 22 fair, 68 good and 7 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 10 short, 83 adequate and 6 surplus.

**Average Snow Depth by Date
North Dakota**



**Hay & Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, February 1, 2004**



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Weather: As we ushered in the New Year we also ushered in below average temperatures and above average precipitation. January had its ups and downs and we started the month on the up side of things. Mild air was in place with monthly high temperatures ranging from the 40s in the west to the 30s in the east. As the month progressed the mercury began to plummet. By the end of the month record low temperatures were being recorded in the east with everyone across the state experiencing the arctic cold. On January 30, Grand Forks International Airport recorded the all time record low recorded at that station of -43 degrees. Besides the frigid temperatures, snow was also a factor this month. Snowfall totals in excess of 20.00 inches for the month were common across the entire state

Outlook, February: It looks as if February will hold average temperatures and precipitation for the area. Average temperatures are on the slow rise once again and we can look forward to highs in the mid-to-upper 20s and lows in the single digits. Average precipitation for February is expected to be 0.50 of an inch of liquid water or about 5.00 inches of snow.

TEMPERATURE, January 1-31, 2004

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm
	(Degrees F)			
NORTHWEST	38	-33	2	-6
Bowbells	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	41	-29	6	-3
Mohall	36	-36	0	-8
Minot	37	-35	1	-6
NORTH CENTRAL	31	-39	-4	-7
Baker	32	-38	-3	-7
Bottineau	30	-41	-5	-7
Towner	NA	NA	NA	NA
NORTHEAST	29	-37	-4	-10
Cando	30	-39	-5	-15
Cavalier	28	-36	-4	-9
Forest River	31	-36	-3	-8
Grand Forks	30	-38	-4	-8
Langdon	27	-36	-5	-7
St. Thomas	27	-38	-6	-11
WEST CENTRAL	39	-30	5	-6
Hazen	41	-28	6	-3
Turtle Lake	37	-32	2	-7
Watford City	39	-29	5	-8
CENTRAL	36	-31	3	-5
Carrington	34	-32	1	-5
Harvey	35	-33	1	-6
Jamestown	37	-28	4	-4
Robinson	37	-33	2	-4
Streeter	36	-28	4	-4
EAST CENTRAL	33	-35	-1	-7
Dazey	35	-32	2	-4
Fargo	34	-32	1	-5
Hillsboro	30	-41	-5	-11
SOUTHWEST	41	-25	8	-5
Beach	41	-26	8	-6
Bowman	40	-24	8	-5
Dickinson	41	-26	8	-5
Hettinger	41	-23	9	-5
SOUTH CENTRAL	40	-36	-3	-7
Bismarck	41	-26	7	-2
Linton	39	-45	-3	-11
SOUTHEAST	39	-26	6	-1
Edgeley	40	-24	8	0
Oakes	38	-27	6	-1
Wyndmere	38	-27	5	-2

1/ Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.