

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

Released: March 1, 2004
For Month Ending: February 29, 2004
ND-CW0904

General: Below normal temperatures dominated the first half of February, while mild weather the second half started melting the snow cover, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Ranchers were glad to see a break in the cold temperatures for the calving and lambing season. Reporters noted grain movement has been hampered by cold weather, snow drifts, and railcar shortage. Producers are busy cleaning seed, marketing grain, and getting ready for spring planting.

Statewide average snow cover was 10.8 inches on February 29. This compares with 3.0 inches last year and 14.0 inches last month. The north central district reported the most snow cover with an average of 25.6 inches followed by 22.2 inches in the northwest district. The southeast and south central districts reported the least snow cover with 3.7 and 5.3 inches, respectively.

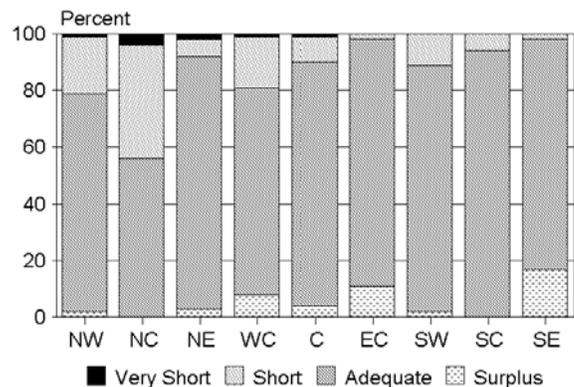
County and secondary roads were rated 67 percent open, 27 difficult and 6 closed to travel. Road conditions were rated 26 percent dry, 10 muddy, 30 icy and 34 drifted.

Crops: As of February 29, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 13 percent poor, 59 adequate and 28 excellent.

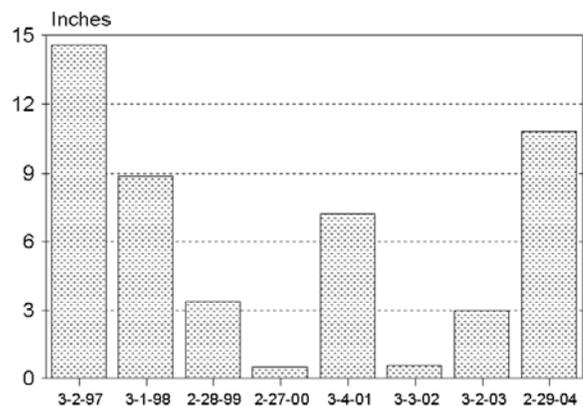
Livestock: Cattle and sheep are mostly in good condition as spring calving and lambing seasons begin. Cattle conditions were rated 3 percent poor,

25 fair, 62 good and 10 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 21 fair, 70 good and 7 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 13 short, 81 adequate and 5 surplus. Cattle, calves, sheep and lambs are receiving 5 percent of their feed from pasture and ranges. Calving was 8 percent complete, while lambing was 17 percent complete. Shearing was 38 percent complete.

**Hay & Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, February 29, 2004**



**Average Snow Depth by Date
North Dakota**



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Weather: We began to see some relief from the bitter cold temperatures during the month of February, but we still had our bouts with bitterly cold weather. On average, most of the state was anywhere between 5 and 10 degrees below normal with the exception being parts of the southwest and south central areas which experienced an average temperature close to what is expected for this time of year. Monthly low temperatures were experienced mainly during the early part of the month with most lows below -20 degrees. The cold spots this month were Bottineau, Cando, Hillsboro, Robinson, Hazen & Grand Forks. While it was very cold, we still were able to squeeze out a few nice days especially as we put the finishing touches on the month. Most monthly high temperatures were in the 40s and the warm spots were generally found in the southern zones as expected. Edgeley was the only site to hit the 50 degree mark for the month. In general, below normal amounts of precipitation were received through the month of February across the entire state. Areas in the east picked up around 0.50 of an inch while areas in the west generally picked up about 0.33 of an inch of precipitation.

Outlook, March: An old wives tale describing the weather for the month of March says, "In like a lion, out like a lamb." We have definitely ushered in March "like a lion"; hopefully, it will go out "like a lamb." March is known for its wide variety of weather conditions that it produces so be prepared for anything. Climate outlooks forecast average conditions across the state for the month. Expect high temperatures for the month to generally be in the 30s and low 40s with lows falling back into the teens. Also we can expect a bit more in the way of snow and even rain for the month with most areas picking up about 0.75 to 1.00 inch of precipitation.

TEMPERATURE, February 1-29, 2004

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm ^{1/}
	(Degrees F)			
NORTHWEST	38	-25	7	-8
Bowbells	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	40	-24	8	-9
Mohall	36	-26	5	-8
Minot	39	-24	7	-6
NORTH CENTRAL	37	-29	4	-6
Baker	37	-25	6	-4
Bottineau	37	-34	2	-7
Towner	NA	NA	NA	NA
NORTHEAST	38	-28	5	-7
Cando	36	-34	1	-14
Cavalier	41	-22	9	-3
Forest River	39	-24	7	-4
Grand Forks	38	-30	4	-7
Langdon	36	-28	4	-5
St. Thomas	38	-29	5	-6
WEST CENTRAL	43	-27	8	-9
Hazen	44	-31	7	-9
Turtle Lake	39	-26	7	-8
Watford City	44	-23	11	-9
CENTRAL	41	-27	7	-6
Carrington	39	-28	6	-6
Harvey	40	-26	7	-6
Jamestown	44	-23	11	-4
Robinson	40	-31	5	-8
Streeter	42	-25	8	-7
EAST CENTRAL	39	-29	5	-7
Dazey	38	-28	5	-8
Fargo	42	-25	8	-4
Hillsboro	38	-34	2	-10
SOUTHWEST	47	-17	15	-4
Beach	47	-10	19	0
Bowman	49	-15	17	-3
Dickinson	46	-21	13	-7
Hettinger	47	-20	13	-7
SOUTH CENTRAL	48	-23	15	-3
Bismarck	48	-28	10	-6
Linton	48	-18	15	0
SOUTHEAST	48	-23	12	-1
Edgeley	50	-18	16	1
Oakes	49	-26	12	-1
Wyndmere	46	-26	10	-4

^{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.