

# NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



North Dakota  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Released: April 5, 2004  
For Week Ending: April 4, 2004  
ND-CW1404

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

**General:** Above normal temperatures and dry conditions led to fieldwork getting underway in several counties according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Producers in the northeast district are trying to recover from the recent flooding. Cattle and sheep generally experienced good conditions for calving and lambing with few weather related stresses. Producers continue to concentrate on getting machinery, seed and fertilizer supplies in place for spring fieldwork.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 5 percent very short, 21 short, 63 adequate and 11 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 7 percent very short, 31 short, 58 adequate and 4 surplus.

The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 14. This compares to last year's start of April 17. The record late starting date for fieldwork is May 13, set in 1979. The expected starting dates range from April 6 in the west central district to April 24 in the northeast district.

**Crops:** Field conditions across the state are improving. A few farmers have started sowing small grains, but there was no significant planting progress for any crop. Planting progress was 1 percent for other spring wheat and zero for all other crops last year. The five-year average was zero for all crops.

**Livestock:** Warm, dry conditions helped calving and lambing this week. The northeast district's wet conditions are causing some problems. Calving was 56 percent complete compared to 57 percent complete on April 6 last year. Lambing was 71 percent complete compared to 72 percent last year. Shearing was 82 percent complete compared to 79 percent last year.

Cattle conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 23 fair, 64 good and 11 excellent. Calf conditions were 1 percent poor, 19 fair, 67 good and 13 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 21 fair, 61 good and 14 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 2 poor, 20 fair, 62 good and 15 excellent.

Livestock feed and hay supplies remain mostly adequate. Current supplies of hay and forage were rated 1 percent very short, 12 short, 80 adequate and

7 surplus. This compares to a rating last year of 7 percent very short, 20 short, 72 adequate and 1 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 4 percent short, 91 adequate and 5 surplus. Pasture conditions have improved from last week and were 14 percent growing and 86 percent still dormant.

**Livestock Condition**  
Week Ending April 4, 2004

Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
(Percent)					
Cows	0	2	23	64	11
Calves	0	1	19	67	13
Sheep	1	3	21	61	14
Lambs	1	2	20	62	15

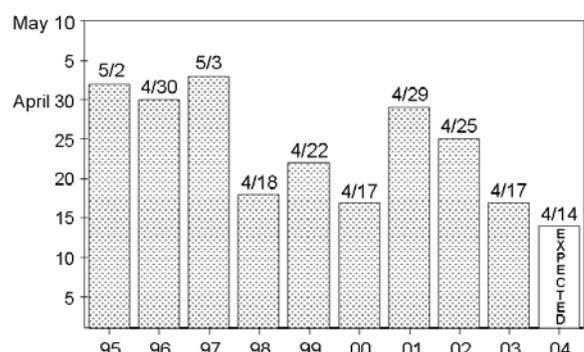
**Soil Temperatures:** Average soil temperatures on April 4 ranged from a low of 36 degrees F in Bottineau and Cavalier to a high of 48 degrees in Dickinson and Watford City. These readings reflect daily average temperatures under 4 inches of bare soil and recorded by the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN).

**AVERAGE SOIL TEMPERATURES\***, April 4, 2004

Station	Temperature	Station	Temperature
Degrees F		Degrees F	
NORTHWEST		CENTRAL	
Bowbells	39	Carrington	41
Minot	45	Robinson	38
Williston	46	Streeter	39
NORTH CENTRAL		EAST CENTRAL	
Baker	42	Dazey	38
Bottineau	36	Fargo	38
Rolla	41	SOUTHWEST	
NORTHEAST		Bowman	45
Cavalier	36	Dickinson	48
Grand Forks	42	SOUTH CENTRAL	
Langdon	37	Linton	47
WEST CENTRAL		SOUTHEAST	
Turtle Lake	41	Oakes	43
Watford City	48	Wyndmere	39

\* Thermometers located 4 inches under bare soil. Source: NDAWN, Department of Soil Science, NDSU.

**Average Starting Date For Fieldwork**  
North Dakota, 1995-2004



~ Compiled and Published by ~

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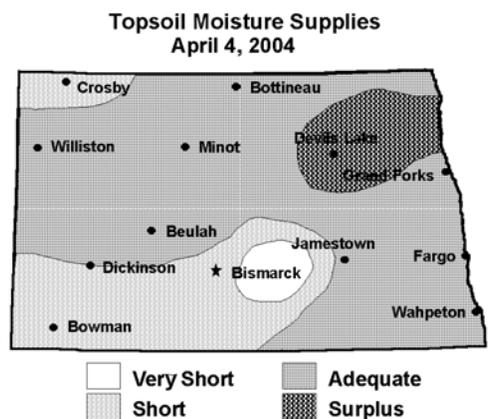
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**NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT**, Week Ending April 4, 2004

**Soil Moisture: North Dakota, April 4, 2004**

Date	V. Short	Short	Adq.	Surplus
(Percent)				
<b>TOPSOIL</b>				
This Week	5	21	63	11
Last Week	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 6, 2003	10	29	52	9
<b>SUBSOIL</b>				
This Week	7	31	58	4
Last Week	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 6, 2003	15	26	56	3



**Weather:** Mother Nature played no April Fools gags as we ushered in the new month this week. While the last few days of March were cool in areas, the first few days of April were beautiful with above average temperatures and dry weather. Temperatures soared on Sunday bringing temperatures out in the western zones in the 70s and the zones in the east near 60 degrees. As mentioned, the state was mostly rain free during the week with just a handful of sites reporting a few tenths of an inch of rain.

**Outlook, April 5-11:** The forecast for the first full week of April looks to have a cooling trend in store for the state. While Monday and Tuesday look fairly nice with temperatures in the 50s and 60s accompanied by partly cloudy skies, expect bouts with rain showers Wednesday through Friday with a dry weekend in store. Temperatures for the latter half of the week will see highs in the 40s and 50s with lows slipping back into the 20s.

**Temperature & Precipitation: Districts and Stations North Dakota, Week ending April 4, 2004**

Stations by District	Temperature Past Week		Seasonal Precipitation Beginning April 1		
	High	Low	Past Week	Total	Depart Normal <sup>1/</sup>
	(Degrees F)		(Inches)		
(1) Bowbells	72	21	0.07	0.07	-0.06
Williston	77	23	0.00	0.00	-0.13
Mohall	66	20	0.02	0.02	-0.21
Minot	67	21	0.00	0.00	-0.21
(2) Baker	59	21	0.00	0.00	-0.26
Bottineau	65	15	0.01	0.01	-0.17
Rugby	63	19	0.00	0.00	-0.23
(3) Cando	54	23	0.00	0.00	-0.20
Cavalier	54	17	0.00	0.00	-0.20
Forest River	54	25	0.00	0.00	-0.23
Grand Forks	57	25	0.00	0.00	-0.20
Langdon	52	20	0.00	0.00	-0.13
St. Thomas	53	25	0.00	0.00	-0.23
(4) Hazen	71	17	0.00	0.00	-0.15
Turtle Lake	67	19	0.00	0.00	-0.17
Waford City	73	23	0.00	0.00	-0.18
(5) Carrington	60	25	0.00	0.00	-0.25
Harvey	64	22	0.00	0.00	-0.19
Jamestown	63	21	0.00	0.00	-0.20
Robinson	62	19	0.00	0.00	-0.20
Streeter	62	18	0.00	0.00	-0.23
(6) Dazey	58	24	0.00	0.00	-0.30
Fargo	59	22	0.00	0.00	-0.34
Hillsboro	58	25	0.00	0.00	-0.28
(7) Beach	73	22	0.00	0.00	-0.18
Bowman	72	18	0.00	0.00	-0.17
Dickinson	71	21	0.00	0.00	-0.17
Hettinger	71	18	0.00	0.00	-0.17
(8) Mandan	69	20	0.00	0.00	-0.15
Linton	66	21	0.00	0.00	-0.17
(9) Edgeley	63	23	0.00	0.00	-0.23
Oakes	62	23	0.00	0.00	-0.26
Wyndmere	61	22	0.00	0.00	-0.19

**Temperature & Precipitation: Districts and Stations North Dakota, Week ending April 4, 2004**

District Averages	Average Temperature		Seasonal Precipitation Beginning April 1		
	Past Week	Depart Normal <sup>1/</sup>	Past Week	Total	Depart Normal <sup>1/</sup>
	(Degrees F)		(Inches)		
Northwest (1)	46	13	0.02	0.02	-0.16
N. Central (2)	40	8	0.00	0.00	-0.22
Northeast (3)	38	6	0.00	0.00	-0.20
W. Central (4)	45	9	0.00	0.00	-0.17
Central (5)	41	7	0.00	0.00	-0.21
E. Central (6)	41	7	0.00	0.00	-0.31
Southwest (7)	46	10	0.00	0.00	-0.17
S. Central (8)	44	8	0.00	0.00	-0.16
Southeast (9)	42	7	0.00	0.00	-0.22

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

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