

# NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK, & WEATHER REPORT



USDA, NASS  
North Dakota  
Field Office

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

Released: March 26, 2012  
For Month Ending: March 25, 2012

**General:** Reports indicated that, on average, producers intended to begin fieldwork by April 2, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. This anticipated start date was over a month ahead of the 2011 average start date of May 7. Unseasonably warm March temperatures led to an overall positive outlook for crop producers while considerable gains were achieved by livestock producers in calving, lambing, and shearing. County and secondary roads on March 25 were rated 98 percent open and 2 difficult. Road conditions were 9 percent muddy and 91 dry. Agricultural activities during March included calving and lambing, applying fertilizer, and hauling grain.

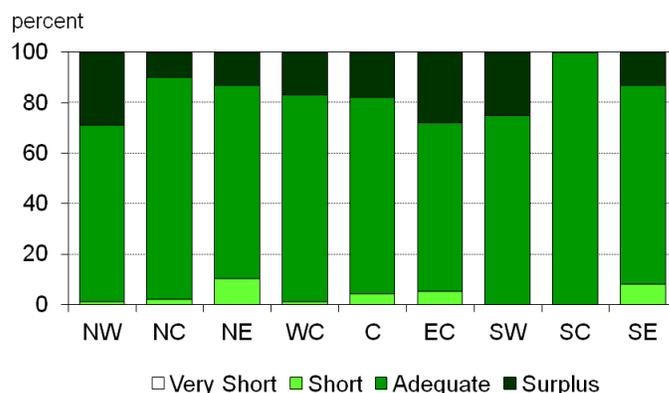
Almost no snow cover was reported on March 25, compared with 12.2 inches on March 27, 2011. The only district with reported snow cover was the central district with 0.10 inches.

**Crops:** As ideal weather conditions persisted into March, some producers had begun seeding small grains. Planting of spring wheat was rated at 1 percent complete.

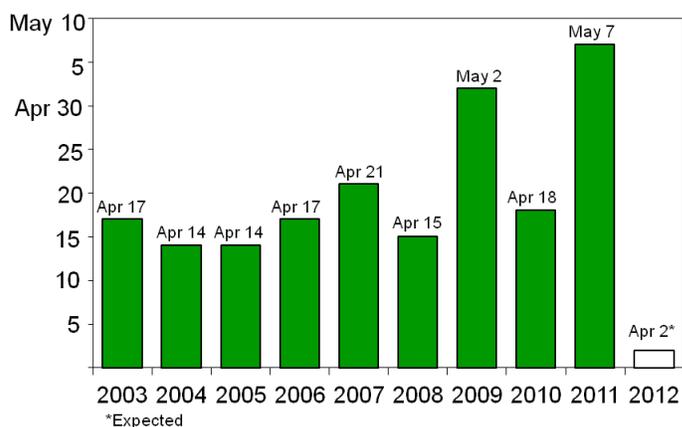
**Livestock:** Calving was 41 percent complete, while lambing was 54 percent complete. Shearing was 76 percent complete. Cow conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 6 fair, 73 good, and 20 excellent. Calf conditions were rated 7 percent fair, 74 good, and 19 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 7 percent fair, 69 good, and 24 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 7 percent fair, 70 good, and 23 excellent.

**Livestock continued:** Hay and forage supplies were rated 3 percent short, 81 adequate, and 16 surplus. The percentage of feed obtained from pasture and range was 16 percent for cattle and 8 percent for sheep. Grain and concentrate supply was rated 5 percent short, 83 adequate, and 12 surplus. Pastures and ranges were rated 82 percent still dormant.

**Hay and Forage Supplies by District  
North Dakota: March 25, 2012**



**Average Start Date for Fieldwork  
North Dakota**



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**Weather:** Overall, March had above normal temperatures. Precipitation was below normal across much of the state with near to above normal precipitation in parts of the east central and northeast. The first week of the month started out with below normal temperatures. Above normal temperatures occurred from the second week through the end of the month. A snowfall event on March 1-3 produced a band of 2 to 6 inches in the northeast part of the state. A few showers and thunderstorms produced rainfall amounts of 0.20 to 0.40 inches in parts of the east on March 19. Showers produced rainfall amounts of 0.15 to 0.50 inches in parts of the east on March 23 with the heaviest amounts in the northeast.

**Outlook, April:** April will start out with near to above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation across much of the state. Near to above normal temperatures will be possible across much of the state for the second week of the month with above normal precipitation statewide. Temperatures for the second half of the month should be near normal with near normal precipitation. Overall for the month of April, the state will see near to above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

TEMPERATURE, March 1-25, 2012

| District & Stations  | Temperature         |                    |                        |   |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
|                      | High<br>(degrees F) | Low<br>(degrees F) | Average<br>(degrees F) | Depart/norm <sup>1</sup><br>(degrees F) |
| <b>NORTHWEST</b>     |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Bowbells .....       | 72                  | -14                | 35                     | 13                                      |
| Williston .....      | 76                  | -7                 | 40                     | 13                                      |
| Mohall .....         | 71                  | -13                | 35                     | 13                                      |
| Minot .....          | 74                  | -15                | 37                     | 11                                      |
| <b>NORTH CENTRAL</b> |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Baker .....          | 71                  | -10                | 35                     | 15                                      |
| Bottineau.....       | 74                  | -12                | 34                     | 14                                      |
| Rugby .....          | 71                  | -14                | 35                     | 11                                      |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>     |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Cando .....          | 67                  | -9                 | 34                     | 8                                       |
| Cavalier.....        | 72                  | -6                 | 34                     | 14                                      |
| Forest River .....   | 73                  | -5                 | 34                     | 11                                      |
| Grand Forks .....    | 72                  | -5                 | 36                     | 12                                      |
| Langdon.....         | 70                  | -5                 | 32                     | 15                                      |
| St. Thomas.....      | 71                  | -7                 | 34                     | 10                                      |
| <b>WEST CENTRAL</b>  |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Hazen .....          | 82                  | -16                | 38                     | 10                                      |
| Turtle Lake.....     | 77                  | -9                 | 38                     | 13                                      |
| Watford City .....   | 75                  | -8                 | 40                     | 10                                      |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>       |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Carrington .....     | 76                  | -10                | 37                     | 13                                      |
| Harvey .....         | 75                  | -18                | 36                     | 9                                       |
| Jamestown.....       | 79                  | -5                 | 39                     | 13                                      |
| Robinson.....        | 78                  | -8                 | 38                     | 11                                      |
| Streeter .....       | 79                  | -8                 | 39                     | 15                                      |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b>  |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Dazey.....           | 76                  | -4                 | 37                     | 14                                      |
| Fargo .....          | 77                  | 2                  | 39                     | 14                                      |
| Hillsboro.....       | 74                  | -3                 | 36                     | 13                                      |
| <b>SOUTHWEST</b>     |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Beach.....           | 76                  | -7                 | 40                     | 10                                      |
| Bowman.....          | 76                  | -11                | 39                     | 11                                      |
| Dickinson .....      | 77                  | -8                 | 40                     | 12                                      |
| Hettinger .....      | 80                  | -8                 | 41                     | 13                                      |
| <b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b> |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Mandan.....          | 79                  | -6                 | 40                     | 14                                      |
| Linton.....          | 80                  | -2                 | 41                     | 13                                      |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>     |                     |                    |                        |   |
| Edgeley.....         | 79                  | -1                 | 40                     | 15                                      |
| Oakes .....          | 81                  | 2                  | 40                     | 15                                      |
| Wyndmere.....        | 77                  | -6                 | 35                     | 10                                      |

<sup>1</sup> Normal is the 1971-2000 average. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.