

# NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



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

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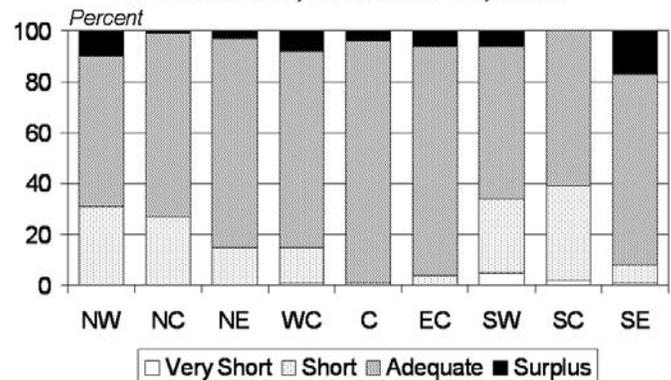
**General:** Above average temperatures during December caused it to be one of the warmest Decembers on record, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. A late snow storm the end of December brought most of the precipitation received across the state to what was a mostly dry month. The mild conditions have allowed producers to continue to graze livestock. As a result, producers were able to graze their livestock on corn stalks which helped preserve hay and forage supplies. Reporters noted that producers were busy hauling grain and livestock to market. Some grain storage problems were also reported. County and secondary roads were rated 83 percent open, 16 difficult and 1 closed to travel. Road conditions were 18 percent drifted, 30 icy, 3 muddy and 49 dry.

Statewide average snow cover was 5.4 inches on December 31, compared with 5.5 inches last year. The central and north central districts reported the most snow cover with 10.2 and 7.3 inches, respectively. The southwest reported the least snow cover with an average of 0.9 of an inch followed by 4.8 inches in the northeast district.

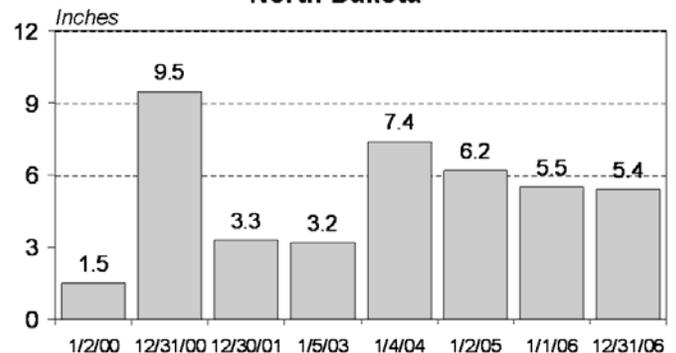
**Crops:** As of December 31, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 41 percent poor, 33 adequate and 26 excellent. It was reported that more snow is needed to cover alfalfa and winter wheat.

**Livestock:** Mild weather conditions during December provided good conditions for cattle to graze on corn stocks. Cattle conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 19 fair, 67 good and 13 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 26 fair, 62 good and 11 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 21 short, 71 adequate and 6 surplus.

Hay and Forage Supplies by District  
North Dakota, December 31, 2006



Average Snow Depth by Date  
North Dakota



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**NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT, Month Ending December 31, 2006**

Weather: December 2006 will go down as one of the warmest Decembers on record. Most of the Upper Midwest saw the beginning of El Nino like conditions with mild temperatures and relatively dry weather. The only Arctic outbreak occurred during the first week of December when temperatures dipped into the -20s in the north central. After this cold air outbreak, temperatures quickly rebounded to above average conditions for the rest of the month. December almost ended the year with very little snowfall, but a large storm system tracked just southeast of the state from December 30-31. This system brought a mix of freezing rain and snow to the southeastern part of the state while snow fell further west and north. Snowfall accumulations ranged from around an inch in the Fargo and Wahpeton area to 16 inches around Ashley in the south central part of the state. The heaviest snowfall fell on a line from just south of Jamestown/Bismarck to Devils Lake with snowfall accumulations ranging in this area from 10 to 16 inches. This system brought precipitation totals for the month to near normal levels for the eastern two-thirds of the state. Moderate to severe drought conditions are still present for the western third of the state where little significant precipitation was seen from this storm system.

Outlook, January: January looks like it will start out with near to above average temperatures and average precipitation for the first week. A persistent trough in the jet stream over the western United States will eventually shift eastward and bring below average temperatures to the entire state during the second week of January with slightly above average precipitation. A few storm systems could work their way across the state as the jet stream shifts eastward across the northern plains and sets up to become a more wintry pattern with colder temperatures. Overall, the state will see above average temperatures for the month of January as El Nino conditions persist. Precipitation looks like it will be hovering right around average for the state, but will be most dependent upon where the storm track sets up for the month.

**TEMPERATURE, December 1-31, 2006**

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm <sup>1/</sup>
	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F
NORTHWEST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bowbells	39	-20	18	6
Williston	41	-16	22	8
Mohall	42	-23	18	5
Minot	45	-17	22	10
NORTH CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Baker	40	-19	19	9
Bottineau	37	-28	15	7
Rugby	40	-20	18	5
NORTHEAST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cando	40	-18	18	4
Cavalier	46	-19	19	8
Forest River	43	-13	21	11
Grand Forks	44	-8	23	13
Langdon	38	-18	17	8
St. Thomas	43	-15	19	9
WEST CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hazen	49	-22	23	9
Turtle Lake	44	-17	21	6
Watford City	43	-17	23	6
CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Carrington	47	-16	22	11
Harvey	45	-19	21	9
Jamestown	53	-12	24	11
Robinson	44	-19	21	10
Streeter	54	-16	23	11
EAST CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dazey	54	-12	23	12
Fargo	52	-10	26	14
Hillsboro	43	-12	23	14
SOUTHWEST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Beach	50	-17	25	9
Bowman	56	-20	24	6
Dickinson	51	-13	23	6
Hettinger	59	-16	24	6
SOUTH CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mandan	54	-16	24	10
Linton	57	-14	24	9
SOUTHEAST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Edgeley	62	-8	26	13
Oakes	50	-11	24	10
Wyndmere	55	-8	25	11

<sup>1/</sup> Normal is the 1971-2000 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.