**General:** Colder than normal temperatures were experienced throughout most of the state during January, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Main activities included hauling grain and tending to livestock with early calving started. County and secondary roads were rated 69 percent open, 22 difficult and 9 closed to traffic. Road conditions were 36 percent drifted, 20 icy, 1 muddy and 43 dry.

Statewide, average snow depth was 16.6 inches on February 1, compared with 3.3 inches at this time last year. This is the highest statewide total at this time since February 2, 1997 at 17.9 inches. The central and northwest districts reported the greatest snow depth with 25.2 and 20.1 inches, respectively. The southwest district reported the least snow depth with 3.8 inches followed by 13.9 inches in the southeast district.

**Crops:** As of February 1, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 3 percent poor, 46 adequate and 51 excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat was rated 2 percent poor, 44 adequate and 54 excellent.

**Livestock:** According to reporters, cold weather has led producers to increase feed rations while there is some concern about having enough feed supplies. Cattle conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 27 fair, 62 good and 5 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 25 fair, 66 good and 6 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 5 percent very short, 31 short, 62 adequate and 2 surplus.
January had below normal temperatures across most of the state with above normal temperatures in the southwest and eastern regions and above normal in the northwest and central regions. Precipitation was below normal in the southwest and eastern regions and above normal in the northwest and central regions. Most of the precipitation fell in the first couple of weeks in January. Precipitation occurred on January 2-3 and produced snow across the state. Another snowfall occurred on January 12 with areas from the northwest to the southeast receiving the most precipitation. The last two weeks of the month were much drier statewide. The second half of the month was much warmer statewide. The month of February looks to have below normal temperatures in the northwestern part of the state. Northern temperatures in the northwestern part of the state and near normal temperatures in the southwestern part of the state. Precipitation looks to be above normal across much of the state and near normal in the southwest. Overall, the month of February looks to have below normal temperatures for the first few days of the month and then transition to above normal precipitation for the remainder of the month. Below normal temperatures will move back into the region by the end of the second week along with above normal precipitation. Drought conditions are expected to improve in the southwestern portion of the state due to above normal precipitation. Outlook February: February looks to start off with below normal temperatures for the first few days of the month and then transition to above normal temperatures for the remainder of the month. Below normal temperatures will move back into the region by the end of the second week along with above normal precipitation. Drought conditions are expected to improve in the southwestern portion of the state due to above normal precipitation. Overall, the month of February looks to have below normal temperatures for the first few days of the month and then transition to above normal temperatures for the remainder of the month. Below normal temperatures will move back into the region by the end of the second week along with above normal precipitation. Drought conditions are expected to improve in the southwestern portion of the state due to above normal precipitation.