

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

Released: March 29, 2010
For Month Ending: March 28, 2010
ND-CW1310

General: Above normal temperatures and near to below normal precipitation were reported throughout the state in March, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Reporters noted that warm temperatures have melted the majority of the snow cover. Some reports of flooding were observed in the eastern and central districts, resulting in road closures and some cropland flooding. Activities in March included marketing grain and livestock, preparing for seeding, calving and lambing. Primary and secondary roads were rated 89 percent open, 6 difficult and 5 closed. Road conditions were 1 percent drifted, 21 muddy and 78 dry.

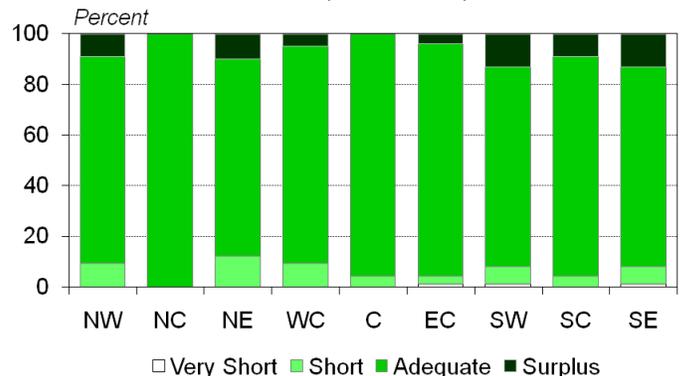
Statewide, snow cover was .6 inches on March 28, compared with 8.1 inches last year. The west central district reported the most snow cover with 2.3 inches whereas the northwest and east central districts reported no snow cover.

Crops: The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 17, two weeks ahead of last year's start date. The expected starting dates ranged from April 13 in the south central district to April 28 in the north central district. The statewide five-year (2005-2009) average starting date is April 20. Corn harvest increased 8 percentage points to 84 percent complete.

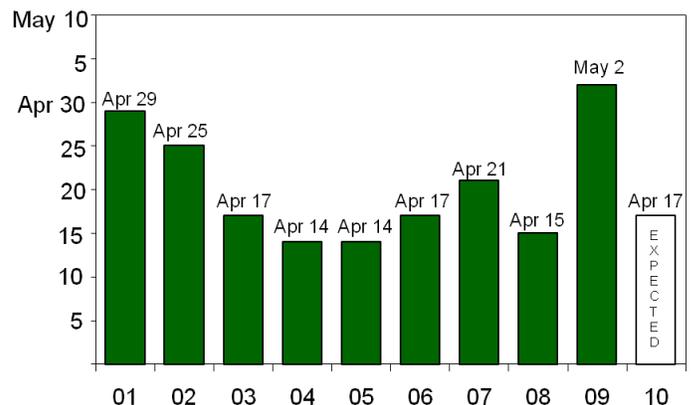
Livestock: Producers noted that calving and lambing is in full swing at 30 and 46 percent complete, respectively. Sixty-five percent of sheep shearing is complete. Cow conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 15 fair, 75 good and

8 excellent. Calf conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 78 good and 8 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 18 fair, 74 good and 5 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 20 fair, 73 good and 5 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 6 percent short, 85 adequate and 9 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were rated 4 percent short, 88 adequate and 8 surplus. Pastures and ranges remain dormant across the state.

**Hay and Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, March 28, 2010**



**Average Start Date for Fieldwork
North Dakota, 2001-2010**



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Weather: Overall, March had above normal temperatures across much of the central and eastern areas of the state with near to below normal temperatures in parts of the west. Precipitation was above normal in much of the central and southeast as well as in parts of the northeast and near to below normal elsewhere. Only one widespread significant precipitation event occurred throughout the month. Mainly rain occurred from this event in the central and east from March 9-12. Temperatures started out below normal for the first week of the month and transitioned to mainly above normal temperatures the rest of the month across much of the state. Moderate to major flooding mainly due to snowmelt occurred in the central and eastern areas of the state during the second half of the month.

Outlook, April: April looks to start off with near to above normal temperatures in the south and east and near normal temperatures elsewhere. Precipitation will be above normal for much of the state. By the second week of the month below normal temperatures can be expected in the northern and western areas with near normal temperatures elsewhere. Precipitation is expected to be above normal. Overall for the month of April, temperatures will be near normal in most areas with a slight chance of below normal temperatures in the southern areas of the state. Precipitation is expected to be near normal in most areas.

TEMPERATURE, March 1-28, 2010

| District & Stations | Temperature | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | High <i>Degrees F</i> | Low <i>Degrees F</i> | Average <i>Degrees F</i> | Depart/Norm ¹ <i>Degrees F</i> |
| NORTHWEST | | | | |
| Bowbells | 58 | 9 | 29 | 6 |
| Williston | 61 | 12 | 32 | 5 |
| Mohall | 57 | 4 | 29 | 5 |
| Minot | 53 | 8 | 29 | 2 |
| NORTH CENTRAL | | | | |
| Baker | 53 | 2 | 28 | 6 |
| Bottineau | 60 | 1 | 30 | 8 |
| Rugby | 55 | 0 | 28 | 4 |
| NORTHEAST | | | | |
| Cando | 53 | -9 | 27 | 0 |
| Cavalier | 58 | 0 | 30 | 9 |
| Forest River | 56 | -5 | 30 | 5 |
| Grand Forks | 55 | -3 | 30 | 6 |
| Langdon | 53 | 0 | 27 | 8 |
| St. Thomas | 56 | -5 | 29 | 4 |
| WEST CENTRAL | | | | |
| Hazen | 57 | 1 | 28 | -1 |
| Turtle Lake | 56 | 6 | 28 | 2 |
| Watford City | 61 | 11 | 31 | 1 |
| CENTRAL | | | | |
| Carrington | 56 | -8 | 27 | 3 |
| Harvey | 57 | -6 | 27 | 0 |
| Jamestown | 57 | 3 | 30 | 3 |
| Robinson | 60 | -1 | 29 | 2 |
| Streeter | 57 | 4 | 29 | 4 |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | |
| Dazey | 54 | -1 | 28 | 4 |
| Fargo | 53 | 0 | 31 | 5 |
| Hillsboro | 54 | -6 | 30 | 5 |
| SOUTHWEST | | | | |
| Beach | 61 | 12 | 33 | 3 |
| Bowman | 61 | 11 | 30 | 1 |
| Dickinson | 60 | 10 | 30 | 0 |
| Hettinger | 62 | 11 | 31 | 3 |
| SOUTH CENTRAL | | | | |
| Mandan | 60 | 3 | 29 | 2 |
| Linton | 59 | 10 | 31 | 3 |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | |
| Edgeley | 58 | -4 | 29 | 3 |
| Oakes | 58 | -4 | 31 | 5 |
| Wyndmere | 53 | -5 | 31 | 5 |

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