

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 28, 2011
For Month Ending: March 27, 2011
ND-CW1311

General: Cold weather and spring flood potential were on the minds of growers in many areas, as the snow continued its slow melt, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. County and secondary roads on March 27 were rated as 66 percent open, 23 difficult, and 11 closed. Road conditions were 25 percent drifted, 24 icy, 13 muddy, and 38 dry. Agricultural activities during March included hauling grain to market, marketing cattle, calving and lambing, and beginning flood preparation.

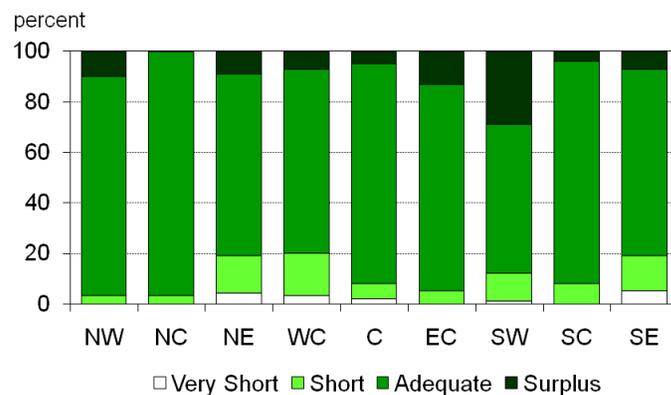
Statewide, average snow depth was 12.2 inches on March 27, compared with 0.6 inches at this time last year and 15.6 inches on February 28, 2011. The east-central district reported the highest snow depth, with over 16 inches. The southwest district reported the lowest snow depth at 9 inches.

Crops: The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 26, eight days behind last year's start date. The expected starting dates ranged from April 17 in the central district to May 3 in the southeast district. The statewide five-year (2006-2010) average starting date is April 21.

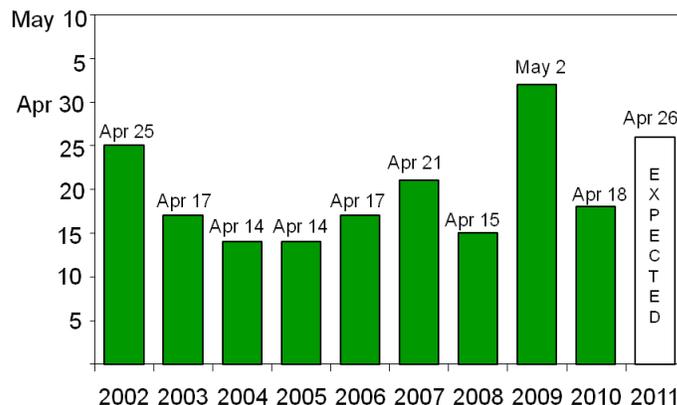
Livestock: Below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation created challenges for ranchers across the state. Calving was 33 percent complete, while lambing was 47 percent complete. Shearing was 62 percent complete. Cow conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 22 fair, 67 good, and 9 excellent. Calf conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 22 fair, 66 good, and 9 excellent.

Livestock (continued): Sheep conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 19 fair, 68 good, and 10 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 21 fair, 68 good, and 9 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 9 percent short, 80 adequate, and 9 surplus. Pastures and Ranges were rated 100 percent still dormant.

**Hay and Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota: March 27, 2011**



**Average Start Date for Fieldwork
North Dakota**



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Weather: Overall, March had below normal temperatures across much of the state. Precipitation was above normal in parts of the central and southeast and near to below normal elsewhere. Temperatures were below normal statewide for the first two weeks of the month. Above normal temperatures affected much of the area for the third week with a return to below normal temperatures for the end of the month. There were two widespread precipitation events that occurred over the state. The first one occurred on March 11 and produced widespread snowfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches over much of the central and northeastern part of the state. Heavy snowfall fell on March 22-23 producing 6 to 12 inches of snowfall in parts of the central and west to 6 to 20 inches in parts of the east central and southeast part of the state.

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

TEMPERATURE, March 1-27, 2011

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	40	-15	17	-6
Williston	44	-11	19	-8
Mohall	40	-18	16	-7
Minot	40	-17	16	-11
NORTH CENTRAL				
Baker	37	-13	14	-7
Bottineau.....	39	-19	13	-8
Rugby	38	-15	14	-10
NORTHEAST				
Cando	37	-17	12	-14
Cavalier.....	43	-15	17	-4
Forest River	41	-11	19	-5
Grand Forks	44	-8	19	-5
Langdon.....	37	-16	14	-5
St. Thomas.....	41	-11	19	-5
WEST CENTRAL				
Hazen	43	-18	18	-11
Turtle Lake.....	39	-13	17	-8
Watford City	46	-10	21	-10
CENTRAL				
Carrington	39	-18	16	-9
Harvey	40	-18	16	-11
Jamestown.....	40	-8	19	-8
Robinson.....	41	-9	18	-9
Streeter	39	-9	18	-7
EAST CENTRAL				
Dazey.....	39	-11	14	-10
Fargo	43	-8	19	-7
Hillsboro.....	40	-10	16	-8
SOUTHWEST				
Beach.....	47	-8	23	-7
Bowman.....	50	-10	23	-5
Dickinson	46	-7	22	-7
Hettinger	54	-9	24	-4
SOUTH CENTRAL				
Mandan.....	47	-6	21	-6
Linton.....	41	-6	19	-8
SOUTHEAST				
Edgeley.....	41	-6	19	-6
Oakes	41	-10	16	-10
Wyndmere.....	44	-8	18	-8

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