



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

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NORTH DAKOTA CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

FARGO, ND April 1, 2013 – For the week ending March 31, 2013, below normal temperatures limited snowmelt, with many areas of the state still experiencing average to above-average snow depths, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Even though the additional precipitation was welcomed by producers in drought stricken areas, there is continued concern with the potential of spring flooding. Agricultural activities during the week included hauling grain to market when conditions allowed, calving and lambing, and preparing equipment for fieldwork.

With the continued snow cover in many areas, there were no days suitable for fieldwork again this week. Reports indicated that, on average, producers intended to begin fieldwork by April 23. The 2013 anticipated start date is well behind last year's early starting date of April 3. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 8 percent very short, 22 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 12 percent very short, 33 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.

Weather Report: Precipitation and temperature data are now being provided through the High Plains Regional Climate Center. See link below for the latest updates. A link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor graphic is also provided.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: As of March 31, calving was 41 percent complete, while lambing was 58 percent complete, compared to 34 percent and 51 percent, respectively on March 24, 2013. Shearing was 80 percent complete, compared to 78 percent last week. Cattle and calf conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Sheep and lamb conditions were rated 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 18 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Pastures and ranges were rated 98 percent still dormant compared to 69 percent in 2012. Stock water supplies were rated 6 percent very short, 16 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

Data for this news release were provided at the county level by USDA Farm Service Agency and NDSU Extension Service.

Access the National publication for Crop Progress and Condition tables at:

<http://usda01.library.cornell.edu/usda/nass/CropProg//2010s/2013/CropProg-04-01-2013.pdf>

Access the High Plains Region Climate Center for Temperature and Precipitation Maps at:

http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update_region&state=ND®ion=HPRCC

Access the US Drought Monitor at:

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM_state.htm?ND,HP