

SOUTH DAKOTA MONTHLY CROP-WEATHER REPORT


 SOUTH DAKOTA
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 Cooperating with
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 AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
 and
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: While mid-March snow storms led to some issues with calving, lambing, and accessibility of supplies, concern still remains over the effect colder temperatures will have on this year's winter crops and alfalfa. The majority of producers are preparing for spring fieldwork, with mild weather in early March having allowed for an early start on fertilizing in several areas. Major farm activities for March included routine chores, tending to livestock, calving and lambing, repairing machinery, spreading fertilizer, and preparing for spring fieldwork.

This report is based on information from county extension educators, Farm Service Agency county directors, and other reporters across the state.

WEATHER INFORMATION: Average temperatures were mostly in the upper 20's and lower 30's throughout the state for the month of March. The low temperature for the month was -3 degrees, reported in Faulkton, while the high was 75 degrees, reported in Philip. Precipitation was received at all of the 43 reporting stations during March, with totals ranging from 0.08 inch in Watertown to 2.20 inches in Winner. A major snowstorm occurred the second weekend in March which affected the western two-thirds of the state. State-wide, road conditions are worse than last month, with county roads 92 percent open and township roads 84 percent open. As of March 26th, the average snow depth for the state was 3.7 inches.

SOIL CONDITION: Soil moisture levels are significantly higher than last year at this time, with topsoil rated at 85 percent adequate to surplus and subsoil rated at 70 percent adequate to surplus. Soil temperatures from reporting stations averaged approximately 32 degrees for the past week, averaging 3.7 degrees below normal. Soil temperatures in Cottonwood averaged 8.3 degrees below normal, while Britton soil temperatures averaged 1.7 degrees below normal.

FIELD CROPS REPORT: While some producers got an early start on fieldwork during the mild early-March weather, statewide producers expect fieldwork to begin on April 9th. March snowfall helped to improve both winter wheat and alfalfa snow covers. With winter wheat and alfalfa snow covers rated at 99 percent and 93 percent poor respectively at the end of February, ratings have improved to 30 percent and 47 percent poor respectively, at the end of March. Overall, however, the winter wheat crop condition is slightly worse than both last month and last year at this time, with a rating of 35 percent good to excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT: With temperatures below normal for much of the state and snowfall accumulation from 12 - 20 inches in several areas, many producers have reported issues with calving and lambing during March, as well as problems with the accessibility of livestock feed supplies. Range and pastures are in better condition than last year at this time, with ratings at 45 percent good to excellent.

Cattle and sheep remain in mostly good to excellent condition, with cattle death losses since Mar. 1st rated at 97 percent at or below normal. The progress of cattle being moved to pasture may have been slowed due to March snow fall, with 3 percent of cattle moved, compared to 6 percent at this time last year. Both calving and lambing progress are similar to last year, with calving 33 percent complete and lambing 50 percent complete. Calf deaths since Mar. 1st are rated at 96 percent at or below normal, with sheep and lamb deaths since Mar. 1st rated at 98 percent at or below normal.

FEED AND WATER SUPPLIES COMPARISON AS OF MARCH 26, 2006

RATING	FEED SUPPLIES			STOCK WATER SUPPLIES		
	This Year	Last Year	5-Yr. Ave. Percent	This Year	Last Year	5-Yr. Ave. Percent
Very Short	3	11	NA	12	22	NA
Short	4	12	NA	19	27	NA
Adeq.	88	71	NA	68	49	NA
Surplus	5	6	NA	1	2	NA

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION COMPARISON AS OF MARCH 26, 2006

RATING	TOPSOIL			SUBSOIL		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Very Short	2	NA	11	11	NA	16
Short	13	NA	32	19	NA	32
Adeq.	77	NA	54	67	NA	51
Surplus	8	NA	3	3	NA	1

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS AS OF MARCH 26, 2006

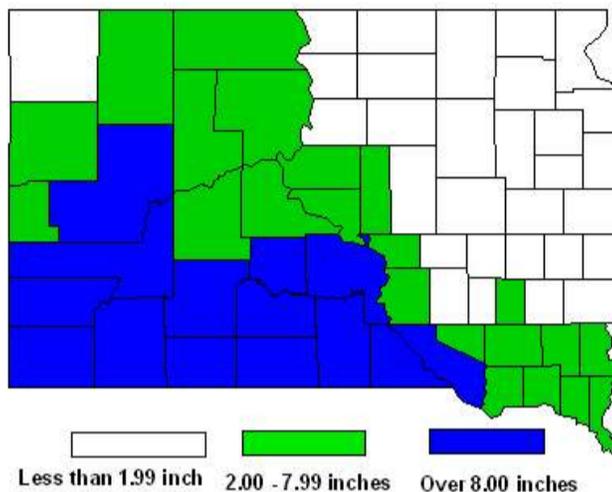
ITEM	V POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	3	17	45	33	2
Cattle	0	0	8	77	15
Sheep	0	0	7	75	18
Range & Pasture	5	14	36	42	3

SOIL TEMPERATURES WEEK ENDING MAR 26, 2006 (4-inch Depth)

LOCATION	TEMP	LOCATION	TEMP
Beresford	31	Gettysburg	32
Brookings	32	Nisland	34
Caputa	34	Pierre	34
Chamberlain	34	Redfield	30
Cottonwood	32	Watertown	30

SNOW DEPTH

As of Sunday, March 26, 2006



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION

For Month Ending March 26, 2006

Dist.	Station	Temperature past month				Precipitation			
		Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Monthly Departure from Normal	Total Since January 1	Departure from Normal Since January 1
		----- Degrees -----				----- Inches -----			
NW	Bison	29	-2	59	11	1.24	0.36	1.60	-0.10
	Buffalo	31	-1	59	8	0.23	-0.24	0.56	-0.50
	Dupree	29	-3	61	5	1.25	0.44	1.79	0.33
	McIntosh	30	1	57	0	0.39	-0.23	0.73	-0.54
	Newell	31	-1	71	9	0.96	0.31	1.40	0.05
	Timber Lake	30	1	59	10	0.68	-0.24	1.21	-0.50
NC	Aberdeen	31	4	56	9	0.43	-0.68	0.87	-1.08
	Eureka	30	4	55	0	0.22	-0.51	0.34	-1.01
	Faulkton	30	3	62	-3	0.97	-0.12	1.29	-0.58
	Mobridge	33	4	62	9	0.15	-0.79	0.50	-1.20
	Roscoe	29	1	57	8	0.35	-0.58	0.68	-1.01
NE	Britton	29	2	47	10	0.19	-0.43	0.71	-0.80
	Clear Lake	27	-2	51	6	0.59	-0.81	1.19	-1.44
	Sisseton	30	0	48	10	0.28	-0.81	0.61	-1.58
	Webster	28	0	49	11	0.40	-0.49	0.73	-1.33
	Watertown	30	2	52	8	0.08	-1.09	0.75	-1.54
WC	Faith	30	-2	61	8	0.43	-0.44	1.21	-0.41
	Milesville	30	-3	68	3	0.79	-0.13	1.52	-0.19
	Long Valley	32	-3	70	0	1.01	0.03	1.57	-0.03
	Philip	32	-3	75	2	1.33	0.48	2.00	0.52
	Rapid City	32	-2	73	10	1.17	0.32	1.51	-0.25
	Spearfish	34	2	66	14	1.13	-0.04	1.94	-0.52
C	Chamberlain	32	-3	72	6	1.84	0.86	2.52	0.95
	Highmore	32	1	63	0	0.74	-0.22	1.07	-0.71
	Huron	34	3	59	6	0.33	-1.09	0.62	-1.89
	Onida	31	0	65	0	1.07	0.04	1.77	-0.29
	Pierre	32	-2	69	4	0.71	-0.22	1.18	-0.66
EC	Brookings	29	2	55	4	0.34	-0.69	0.77	-1.00
	Madison	31	3	56	2	0.51	-1.05	0.66	-2.17
	Mitchell	31	-1	57	9	1.23	-0.10	1.80	-0.55
	Sioux Falls	33	2	57	5	1.10	-0.26	1.97	-0.54
SW	Custer	29	-4	58	9	1.70	0.90	2.58	0.86
	Hot Springs	32	-5	66	3	1.80	1.18	3.03	1.71
	Oelrichs	32	-4	71	2	1.69	0.83	2.47	0.73
	Porcupine	32	-1	74	3	1.60	0.85	2.77	1.45
SC	Murdo	32	2	73	9	2.10	0.83	2.80	0.78
	Winner	34	-3	74	11	2.20	0.85	2.88	0.40
SE	Armour	33	-2	61	0	0.83	-0.50	1.93	-0.61
	Centerville	33	2	59	11	0.82	-0.48	1.41	-1.13
	Marion	31	2	56	9	1.46	-0.02	2.03	-0.67
	Pickstown	33	-1	70	12	2.14	0.84	2.63	0.41
	Vermillion	36	1	61	8	0.91	-0.46	1.34	-0.94
	Yankton	33	0	61	8	1.93	0.52	3.33	1.06

SOURCE: National Weather Service, provided by AWIS, Inc.