

South Dakota Monthly Crop Weather Report



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 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
 AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Statewide average temperatures in February were below normal. Average snow depth for South Dakota at the conclusion of February was rated at 10.3 inches. County road conditions in the state were rated at 92 percent open, 7 percent difficult and 1 percent closed, meanwhile, township roads were rated at 83 percent open, 13 percent difficult and 4 percent closed. Farm activities focused on spring planting intentions, financing, caring for livestock and marketing grain.

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

WEATHER INFORMATION

A double-barreled storm event hit the eastern parts of South Dakota in late February/early March bringing the first really large snowfall in some time, shutting down many schools, businesses, and highways in the eastern part of the state. The main snowfall areas were east of the river except for a few counties in the southern part of the state just west of the Missouri river. Combined snow totals were more than a foot in a wide swath from Charles Mix County toward the northeast part of the state where some places had over 20 inches on the ground.

This snowfall is on frozen ground. While it will provide good run-off for surface water sources, it will add only marginal amounts to soil moisture values. The snow missed most of the driest part of the state west of the river. Drought conditions have improved only slightly along the river and in the northern Black Hills during February. The lack of precipitation through the end of February leaves the western part of the state in continuing severe drought conditions with limited surface water. Irrigation is going to be limited or non-existent again across those locations in the western part of the state because of limited run-off. Overall, most of the state has seen less than average precipitation since October.

Extremely cold temperatures crossed the state in February with temperatures reaching -40° F in a couple locations during the month. Overall temperatures ranged from 3° F below average around the Black Hills to more than 9° F below average in scattered locations east of the river. Despite these conditions, most of the state ended up with winter temperatures above average for the December-February period.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures remain slightly below freezing. Beresford recorded the week's lowest average soil temperature at 23° F, while Brookings, Nisland, Pierre and Redfield had the highest average temperature at 31° F. Due to the frozen soil, there continues to be a shortage of subsoil moisture.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

With the recent snowfall, concerns over the lack of snow cover for winter wheat and alfalfa have shifted to the western part of the state. The heaviest snow cover is present in the eastern and northeastern parts of the state, as well as a limited part of the Black Hills. Winter wheat condition is rated as 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 37 percent good and 7 percent excellent, with snow cover rated at 57 percent poor, 40 percent adequate and 3 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is rated at 28 percent poor, 54 percent adequate and 18 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

The colder temperatures in February have required increase feed to livestock; however, feed supplies continue to hold nearly steady. Feed supplies were rated at 14 percent very short, 21 percent short, 63 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were rated at 19 percent very short, 27 percent short, 53 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Locations receiving snow should have a boost in stock water supply with the spring melt. Cattle conditions were rated as 2 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 53 percent good and 16 percent excellent. Sheep conditions were rated as 21 percent fair, 58 percent good and 21 percent excellent. The recent snow storms have made access to feed and water more difficult. Access to feed supplies was rated at 78 percent readily accessible, 19 percent difficult to access and 3 percent inaccessible. Access to stock water supplies was rated at 81 percent readily accessible, 15 percent difficult to access and 4 percent inaccessible. Cattle death losses since February 1 were rated at 3 percent above average, 82 percent average and 15 percent below average. Calf deaths since February 1 were rated similarly, at 3 percent above average, 86 percent average and 11 percent below average. Sheep and lambs deaths since February 1 were rated similar to cattle, at 3 percent above average, 83 percent average and 14 percent below average. Spring calving was rated at 14 percent complete, while lambing was 23 percent complete.

Soil Temperatures Week Ending March 4, 2007 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Beresford	23	Gettysburg	NA
Brookings	31	Nisland	31
Caputa	30	Pierre	31
Oacoma	30	Redfield	31
Cottonwood	30	South Shore	27

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of March 4, 2007

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter Wheat	3	8	45	37	7
Cattle	0	2	29	53	16
Sheep	0	0	21	58	21

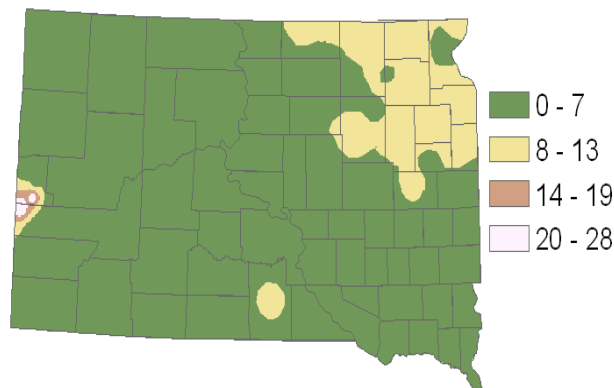
Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of March 4, 2007

Rating	Feed Supplies			Stock Water Supplies		
	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
Very Short	14	2	NA	19	16	NA
Short	21	4	NA	27	16	NA
Adequate	63	86	NA	53	66	NA
Surplus	2	8	NA	1	2	NA

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of March and will be released March 26, 2007.

SNOW DEPTH (inches)

As of Wednesday, February 28, 2007



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION Month Ending February 28, 2007

District And Station	Temperature Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since October 1, 2006	Departure from Normal Since October 1, 2006
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Northwest							
Bison	17	-6	44	-17	0.54	1.34	-2.12
Buffalo	19	-3	45	-19	0.72	1.54	-1.67
Dupree	16	-6	47	-24	0.60	1.34	-1.97
McIntosh	15	-6	48	-18	0.44	1.30	-1.80
Newell	19	-6	61	-34	0.97	1.80	-1.35
Timber Lake	14	-8	45	-23	0.80	1.56	-2.20
North Central							
Aberdeen	8	-10	40	-31	1.16	2.44	-1.22
Faulkton	7	-12	42	-25	0.00	1.22	-2.75
Mobridge	11	-10	42	-21	0.37	1.04	-2.17
Roscoe	7	-10	40	-23	0.95	2.25	-1.66
Northeast							
Britton	9	-8	42	-23	0.55	2.89	-1.04
Clear Lake	9	-8	44	-20	1.53	3.59	-1.73
Sisseton	11	-8	46	-18	0.85	2.87	-1.91
Webster	8	-9	40	-23	0.91	2.59	-1.75
Watertown	8	-9	42	-21	0.51	1.71	-2.56
West Central							
Faith	17	-8	49	-21	0.00	0.22	-3.34
Milesville	19	-6	52	-20	0.05	0.93	-2.79
Philip	18	-7	52	-23	0.18	1.47	-1.60
Rapid City	21	-6	59	-19	0.51	1.28	-1.94
Spearfish	25	-3	61	-13	0.98	2.66	-2.40
Central							
Chamberlain	16	-8	48	-23	0.96	3.27	-1.03
Highmore	13	-8	45	-22	0.85	1.86	-2.00
Huron	12	-9	44	-21	1.31	3.14	-0.79
Onida	13	-8	47	-27	0.46	1.75	-2.45
Pierre	16	-8	51	-20	0.35	1.18	-2.70
East Central							
Brookings	9	-8	45	-20	0.83	3.31	-0.47
Forestburg	14	-9	48	-18	1.96	4.19	-0.21
Madison	12	-7	48	-17	0.57	3.42	-1.49
Mitchell	15	-6	48	-18	0.00	2.72	-1.69
Sioux Falls	14	-7	46	-15	1.29	5.02	0.19
Southwest							
Custer	23	-5	48	-18	0.71	1.93	-1.75
Hot Springs	24	-5	59	-22	0.48	1.87	-1.08
Oelrichs	24	-3	62	-25	0.14	1.13	-2.15
Porcupine	20	-6	56	-32	0.10	1.62	-1.66
South Central							
Kennebec	17	-8	53	-27	0.66	1.91	-1.27
Mission	18	-7	52	-21	0.65	2.47	-1.07
Murdo	18	-7	52	-16	0.93	2.68	-1.20
Winner	18	-10	49	-22	0.32	2.12	-2.45
Southeast							
Armour	16	-10	44	-19	2.40	6.21	1.45
Centerville	14	-8	45	-17	0.84	4.45	-0.21
Pickstown	19	-7	51	-16	1.20	4.50	0.26
Vermillion	17	-9	45	-18	1.29	6.14	1.32
Yankton	15	-9	49	-16	2.35	7.36	2.79