

South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

Released: January 7, 2008 -- 3:00 p.m. CST
For Month of December 2007
SD-CW5652 Volume 56 Issue 52



National Agricultural Statistics Service
South Dakota Field Office
P.O. Box 5068
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5068
Cooperating with:
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

With below-average temperatures and scattered precipitation, the month of December has been fairly normal for South Dakota agriculture. Average snow depth for the state is 3.4 inches. The western part of the state remains short of moisture. Major farm activities included caring for livestock, marketing grain, purchasing crop inputs for the coming year and end of the year tax preparation.

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

WEATHER INFORMATION

Snowfall and temperature conditions were intricately linked during most of December, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Parts of the southwest and most of the eastern third of the state received snowfall during the month. Snow cover remained over most of these areas except for some locations along the boundary with Minnesota and some of the locations west of the river where snow cover was marginal. The areas that retained snow cover through most of the month had below average temperatures for the month. Places in west and south central South Dakota without snow cover had near to above average temperatures because of the open ground conditions. While colder than average overall, the extreme temperatures reaching the teens below zero were far from what is possible during December.

The wettest area was in the far southeast from Yankton to Sioux Falls, where several storms dropped well over an inch of liquid equivalent during December in rain, freezing rain and snow. Most of the snow fell across the state on frozen ground doing little for soil moisture conditions, also preserving the mainly frozen soil conditions across the state.

Weather conditions have had little long term effect on road conditions. County roads are rated at 100 percent open and township roads are rated at 97 percent open, 2 percent difficult and 1 percent closed.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures for December 31, 2007 have dropped to the 20s and low 30s. The lowest four-inch soil temperature was recorded in Beresford at 22° F, and the highest was recorded in Redfield, at 33° F. The U.S. Drought Monitor continues to classify the western third of the state in moderate drought conditions, with some areas being moved up to severe drought conditions.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Some producers in western South Dakota have been concerned about the lack of snow cover protection for the upcoming winter wheat crop. Winter wheat condition is rated as 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 46 percent good and 8 percent excellent, with snow cover rated at 78 percent poor, 21 percent adequate and 1 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is rated as 45 percent poor, 44 percent adequate and 11 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

In some areas of the state lack of snow cover has allowed producers to extend grazing of crops stubble. However, other areas with greater snow cover have also been reporting adequate feed and water supplies. Feed supplies are rated at 90 percent adequate to surplus, up 21 percentage points from last year. Stock water supplies are rated 72 percent adequate to surplus, up 22 percentage points from last year. Cattle conditions are rated 87 percent good to excellent, with newborn calf deaths from the fall crop rated at 15 percent below average, 82 percent average and 3 percent above average. Sheep conditions are rated 89 percent good to excellent, with newborn lamb deaths from the fall crop rated at 11 percent below average and 89 percent average.

Average Soil Temperatures for December 31, 2007 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Beresford	22	Oacoma	30
Brookings	30	Pierre	30
Caputa	32	Redfield	33
Cottonwood	26	South Shore	29
Nisland	29		

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of December 31, 2007

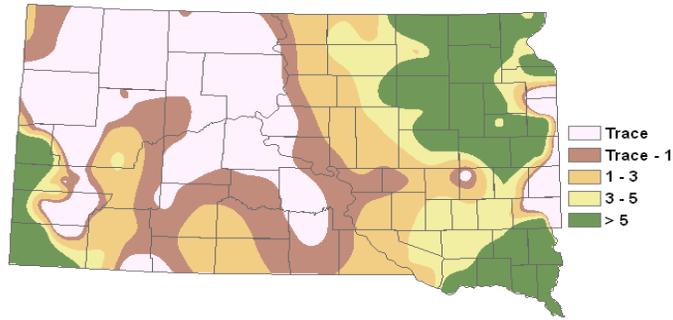
Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	2	4	40	46	8
Cattle	0	1	12	68	19
Sheep	0	1	10	71	18

Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of December 31, 2007

Rating	Feed Supplies			Stock Water Supplies		
	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very Short	1	9	10	14	19	22
Short	9	22	20	14	31	24
Adequate	82	66	66	68	49	53
Surplus	8	3	4	4	1	1

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of January and will be released February 4, 2008

SNOW DEPTH (inches)
As of Monday, December 31, 2007



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION
Month Ending December 31, 2007

District And Station	Temperatures Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since Oct. 1	Departure from Normal Since Oct. 1
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Northwest							
Bison	23	2	59	2	0.38	0.98	-1.55
Buffalo	23	4	57	-5	0.11	0.74	-1.71
Dupree	22	2	60	-2	0.18	1.39	-1.09
McIntosh	19	1	57	-5	0.14	0.81	-1.48
Newell	21	-1	60	-6	0.30	1.13	-1.20
Timber Lake	20	2	58	-4	0.18	0.97	-1.84
North Central							
Aberdeen	11	-5	34	-15	0.90	2.40	-0.36
Faulkton	17	0	49	-3	0.24	2.83	-0.08
Mobridge	20	2	50	0	0.22	1.81	-0.66
Roscoe	15	0	42	-6	0.52	2.28	-0.56
Northeast							
Britton	14	-1	39	-10	0.68	2.22	-0.57
Clear Lake	15	0	40	-7	0.61	4.43	0.55
Sisseton	14	-2	41	-9	1.02	3.81	0.40
Watertown	12	-3	34	-10	0.34	3.59	0.37
Webster	14	-2	38	-6	1.31	3.75	0.73
West Central							
Faith	24	3	59	0	0.27	1.22	-1.34
Milesville	23	1	63	1	0.25	2.10	-0.65
Philip	24	2	65	-1	0.40	2.26	-0.02
Rapid City	22	-2	66	-4	0.51	1.15	-1.24
Spearfish	26	-1	53	-6	0.99	3.84	0.50
Central							
Chamberlain	21	0	53	3	0.61	6.04	2.80
Highmore	19	1	47	1	0.15	3.15	0.23
Huron	16	-2	39	-8	0.67	3.81	0.94
Onida	20	2	50	1	0.29	5.19	2.22
Pierre	21	0	52	-1	0.40	6.12	3.30
East Central							
Brookings	13	-3	35	-9	0.58	4.11	1.07
Forestburg	18	-2	41	-7	0.63	4.75	1.39
Madison	14	-2	37	-6	0.60	5.59	1.84
Mitchell	20	0	44	-2	0.37	4.70	1.43
Sioux Falls	18	-1	38	-6	1.40	7.42	3.61
Southwest							
Custer	22	-4	51	2	0.59	1.82	-0.84
Hot Springs	25	-1	58	-3	0.69	2.27	0.13
Oelrichs	21	-3	59	-3	0.81	2.21	-0.16
Porcupine	21	-1	62	-2	0.53	2.20	-0.21
South Central							
Kennebec	23	1	56	0	0.47	4.39	1.97
Mission	24	0	61	4	0.68	4.50	1.75
Murdo	23	1	61	4	0.73	4.93	2.06
Winner	26	0	61	2	0.29	4.05	0.64
Southeast							
Armour	23	0	51	1	1.03	6.92	3.45
Centerville	16	-4	42	-7	0.98	6.29	2.58
Pickstown	25	2	57	6	0.91	6.82	3.56
Vermillion	20	-3	41	-2	1.75	6.97	3.01
Yankton	19	-2	48	-6	2.06	7.86	4.25

DATA AND MAP SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota