

# South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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For Week Ending August 31, 2008  
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Cooperating with:  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

## AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Continued lack of precipitation along with hot and windy weather has caused concern over crop and pasture conditions, while speeding along crop development. There were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork in the past week. Farm activities focused on the general care of livestock, preparing for winter wheat seeding and the silage harvest, and the cutting of hay in some areas.

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

## WEATHER INFORMATION

Warm and dry end of summer conditions continued throughout much of the week, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. A few small storms occurred over the state, but total precipitation reports were quite small. Chamberlain reported the highest precipitation total at 0.10 inch. Well over half the stations did not report any precipitation. Places in the southeast and south central are beginning to accumulate significant precipitation deficits due to lack of rainfall in the past few months. Some of the shorter term deficits do not show in the seasonal totals because of generally heavier early season precipitation totals.

Temperatures were near to above average for the week. Much of the western part of the state was 4 to 8° F above average, with individual days reaching over 100° F at several locations.

## SOIL CONDITION

Statewide soil moisture ratings continue to fall with the lack of rainfall in South Dakota. Topsoil moisture is currently 53 percent in the adequate to surplus categories, down 12 percentage points from last week. However, this rating is still 7 percentage points higher than the five-year average. Subsoil moisture ratings dropped 8 percentage points to 62 percent in the adequate to surplus categories. The amount of area rated as D0 (Abnormally Dry) by the U.S. Drought Monitor doubled over the previous week, now covering 31.7 percent of state.

## FIELD CROPS REPORT

Another week of hot and dry weather has continued to allow row crops to advance at a rapid rate. Corn is now 36 percent in the dent stage, up 24 percentage points from last week, but 27 percentage points behind the five-year average. Twelve percent of the soybean crop is now in the dropping leaves stage, only 8 percentage points behind the five-year average. Sunflowers advanced 30 points in the ray flowers dry stage, now estimated at 45 percent. Sorghum is 54 percent coloring, a 20 percentage point jump from last week. The hot and windy weather along with previously dry conditions have caused some producers to be concerned about corn and some soybean acres drying up before they have fully matured.

## LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Range and pasture conditions have remained the same as last week at 69 percent in the good to excellent category, despite some reports of pasture land drying up due to lack of moisture. Feed supplies and stock water supplies remained strong at 94 and 87 percent adequate to surplus, respectively. Livestock conditions have remained stable with cattle rated 91 percent good to excellent and sheep rated 93 percent good to excellent.

## Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of August 31, 2008

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	0	2	9	2	12	23
Short	6	8	20	11	17	25
Adequate	82	83	65	80	64	50
Surplus	12	7	6	7	7	2

## Soil Moisture Condition Comparison as of August 31, 2008

Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very Short	9	5	7	7	4	13
Short	38	30	15	31	26	25
Adequate	51	63	74	60	67	60
Surplus	2	2	4	2	3	2

## Crop and Livestock Conditions as of August 31, 2008

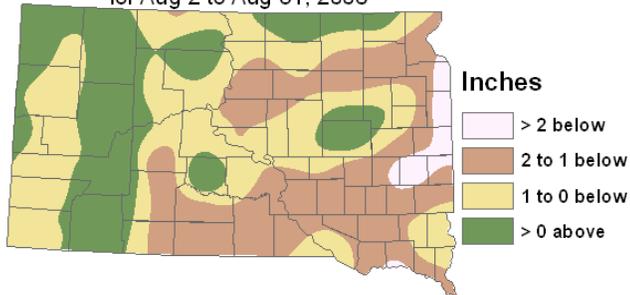
Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	4	17	52	26
Soybeans	1	2	22	52	23
Sorghum	3	6	21	53	17
Sunflower	1	2	22	58	17
Alfalfa	1	4	16	65	14
Cattle	0	1	8	72	19
Sheep	0	0	7	78	15
Range & Pasture	1	7	23	56	13

## Crop Progress as of August 31, 2008 <sup>1</sup>

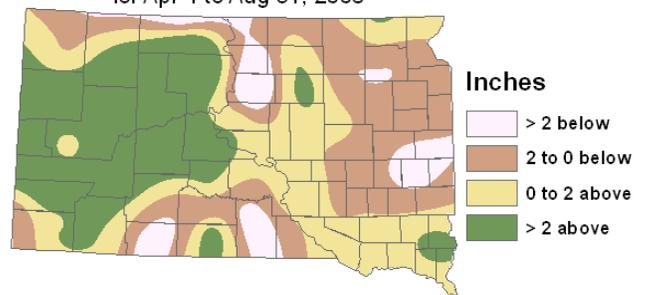
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Winter Wheat</b>				
Seeded	3	0	4	6
<b>Barley</b>				
Harvested	96	91	100	99
<b>Spring Wheat</b>				
Harvested	97	91	100	100
<b>Corn</b>				
Dough	83	62	92	88
Dent	36	12	63	51
Mature	1	0	5	4
Silage Harvested	3	1	11	22
<b>Soybeans</b>				
Setting Pods	99	95	99	99
Dropping Leaves	12	1	13	20
<b>Sorghum</b>				
Headed	93	87	100	99
Coloring	54	34	78	60
Mature	0	0	9	4
Silage Harvested	4	0	20	29
<b>Sunflower</b>				
Blooming	98	94	99	98
Ray Flowers Dry	45	15	60	48
Bracts Yellow	13	1	37	26
<b>Alfalfa</b>				
2nd Cutting	95	91	100	100
3rd Cutting	51	32	67	59

<sup>1</sup> Percents represent all acreage in or beyond each stage.

**PAST 30 DAYS**  
Accumulated Precip Deviation from Average  
for Aug 2 to Aug 31, 2008



**GROWING SEASON**  
Accumulated Precip Deviation from Average  
for Apr 1 to Aug 31, 2008



**TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, and GROWING DEGREE DAYS**  
**Week Ending Sunday, August 31, 2008**

District And Station	Temperatures Past Week				Precipitation					Growing Degree Days	
	Average	Departure From Normal	High	Low	Total			Departure From Normal		Total	Departure From Normal
					Current Week	Since Oct. 1	Since Apr. 1	Since Oct. 1	Since Apr. 1		
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>		
<b>Northwest</b>											
Bison	71	3	97	43	0.00	15.82	13.38	-0.26	1.99	2,112	-118
Buffalo	70	5	101	43	0.05	13.33	11.73	-2.11	0.24	1,916	50
Dupree	74	6	99	44	0.00	22.00	19.41	5.30	7.20	2,194	-58
McIntosh	70	2	99	44	0.00	10.62	9.12	-4.54	-2.10	1,919	-324
Newell	71	3	102	47	0.00	18.72	15.73	4.21	5.33	1,993	-236
Timber Lake	71	3	98	45	0.03	23.35	21.07	5.98	8.69	2,138	-96
<b>North Central</b>											
Aberdeen	70	3	91	45	0.01	16.13	11.66	-2.31	-1.69	2,135	-116
Faulkton	68	0	95	47	0.07	19.47	15.58	0.86	2.46	2,090	-188
Mobridge	72	3	98	46	0.09	14.46	11.68	-1.16	0.33	2,141	-166
Roscoe	65	-1	93	46	0.09	19.17	15.01	0.47	1.29	1,987	-94
<b>Northeast</b>											
Britton	70	3	89	48	0.03	18.05	15.16	-0.57	1.52	2,266	34
Clear Lake	67	1	86	49	0.07	21.07	14.78	-2.30	-1.44	1,943	-121
Sisseton	67	0	91	48	0.09	19.51	13.89	-0.65	0.07	2,069	-152
Watertown	67	2	86	49	0.05	18.03	13.16	-1.91	-1.18	1,948	-48
Webster	68	2	87	53	0.00	18.43	12.85	-1.78	-1.89	2,034	-86
<b>West Central</b>											
Faith	73	3	99	46	0.00	21.12	18.46	4.67	6.75	2,129	-232
Milesville	75	5	100	48	0.00	24.87	21.77	6.53	8.41	2,241	-163
Philip	77	7	101	51	0.00	19.41	15.48	3.44	3.76	2,321	-70
Rapid City	72	4	99	45	0.00	19.59	17.13	4.03	5.84	1,918	-210
Spearfish	75	8	98	49	0.00	28.71	22.30	8.49	8.57	2,115	-15
<b>Central</b>											
Chamberlain	76	6	96	53	0.10	23.17	15.66	2.77	1.04	2,349	-26
Highmore	72	3	96	51	0.00	20.76	14.73	1.16	0.40	2,178	-118
Huron	70	2	92	51	0.00	18.96	13.25	-0.17	-0.25	2,259	-104
Onida	71	3	96	48	0.02	18.67	12.81	0.34	0.09	2,197	-97
Pierre	72	2	99	52	0.01	22.31	15.47	3.96	2.21	2,254	-237
<b>East Central</b>											
Brookings	66	1	86	45	0.00	18.52	13.03	-1.83	-2.23	1,988	-91
Forestburg	70	0	91	46	0.00	19.09	12.95	-1.18	-1.29	2,366	-153
Madison	67	1	86	46	0.00	19.79	13.26	-2.83	-2.74	2,018	-72
Mitchell	74	5	92	50	0.00	20.34	13.75	-0.28	-0.77	2,460	19
Sioux Falls	69	2	87	48	0.00	25.02	15.46	2.88	-0.01	2,344	4
<b>Southwest</b>											
Custer	66	4	88	43	0.05	21.88	18.23	3.16	4.29	1,489	-98
Hot Springs	70	3	96	44	0.00	17.96	13.71	1.94	1.58	2,103	-123
Oelrichs	74	5	99	47	0.00	16.52	13.74	0.55	2.05	2,117	-178
Porcupine	68	0	95	40	0.00	16.79	13.88	0.60	1.99	2,145	-106
<b>South Central</b>											
Kennebec	72	0	95	39	0.02	18.10	12.56	0.79	-0.30	2,422	-179
Mission	73	4	96	52	0.00	22.44	16.27	3.93	2.49	2,222	-57
Murdo	74	4	97	54	0.00	21.29	14.91	2.74	1.94	2,297	-84
Winner	76	4	95	54	0.00	19.06	12.07	-2.60	-3.26	2,442	-202
<b>Southeast</b>											
Armour	71	0	91	50	0.01	23.21	15.20	1.70	0.22	2,396	-256
Centerville	69	0	89	49	0.00	27.05	18.89	4.47	2.64	2,294	-161
Pickstown	70	0	92	51	0.00	24.62	15.96	3.50	0.72	2,372	-168
Vermillion	72	0	89	49	0.03	26.21	16.86	3.23	0.53	2,547	-200
Yankton	70	1	90	47	0.00	26.55	16.74	3.59	0.16	2,469	-42

DATA AND MAP SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota