

# South Dakota Monthly Crop Weather Report



National Agricultural Statistics Service

South Dakota Field Office

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Cooperating with:

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

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## AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Frequent snow storms and cold weather presented some challenges to South Dakota producers in December. Average snow depth for the state is 5.6 inches. Farm activities focused on hauling grain to markets, snow removal, and care of livestock.

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

## WEATHER INFORMATION

December started with fairly moderate temperatures, but the state saw several arctic outbreaks and winter storms throughout the month, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Temperatures frequently dropped well below 0°F across the state with extremely cold wind chills. A few daily temperature records were tied, but no new records were set. Overall the month was one of the top 15 coldest on record because of consistently cold temperatures in the middle of the month. Individual stations ranked from approximately the 10th coldest to 20th coldest on record. The lowest temperature of these reporting stations in December was -26°F in Britton. The highest temperature was 60°F in Porcupine. Monthly average temperatures ranged from 3° to 8°F below average across the state.

Several storms dropped frequent snowfalls across the state causing travel problems and creating a significant snow pack in the northeast. Many daily precipitation/snowfall records were set across the state. For the month, total snowfall amounts were at near record amounts at many locations. Brookings and Milbank had the second snowiest Decembers on record. Total precipitation was lightest in the southwest part of the state. Porcupine reported 0.17" for the month. Britton had the highest total at 1.64" of liquid equivalent precipitation. The 1.53" reported in Yankton is the 5th wettest December on record.

Most of the state has at least some snow cover. The deepest snow pack is east of a line from northeast of Mobridge to Sioux Falls, where generally more than 6" is on the ground with over 12" in the far northeast corner.

## SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures were at or below freezing statewide. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, only 0.5 percent of the state is rated as D0 (Abnormally Dry). This is a vast difference from last year when 44.7 percent of the state was rated Abnormally Dry or drier.

## FIELD CROPS REPORT

Some producers throughout the wheat producing areas of South Dakota have been concerned about the lack of snow cover protection for the upcoming winter wheat crop; despite snow accumulation, in some areas high winds have left very little snow on the level. Conversely, other producers in Bennett County reported their winter wheat fields are covered with very thick ice, which may cause problems with the wheat coming out of dormancy. Winter wheat condition is rated as 4 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 10 percent excellent, and snow cover is rated as 37 percent poor, 54 percent adequate, and 9 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is rated as 23 percent poor, 65 percent adequate, and 12 percent excellent. Reporters stated that there is a small percent of corn and sunflowers left to be harvested in the spring.

## LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

In some areas of the state, feeding started early due to snow and cold weather. Conversely, in other areas the lack of snow cover has allowed producers to extend grazing of crops stubble. Feed supplies are rated 94 percent adequate to surplus, up slightly from last year. Stock water supplies are rated 91 percent adequate to surplus, up 19 percentage points from last year. Freezing, high winds and lack of a protective snow cover, in some areas, have presented challenges to livestock producers. Cattle conditions are rated 80 percent good to excellent, with fall newborn calf deaths rated at 14 percent below average, 84 percent average, and 2 percent above average. Sheep conditions are rated 66 percent good to excellent, with newborn lamb deaths from the fall crop rated 7 percent below average, 69 percent average, and 24 percent above average.

### Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending December 31, 2008 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	28	Nisland	30
Beresford	32	Oacoma	31
Bowdle	32	Parkston	31
Brookings	29	Pierre	31
Caputa	32	Redfield	NA
Cottonwood	28	South Shore	30

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

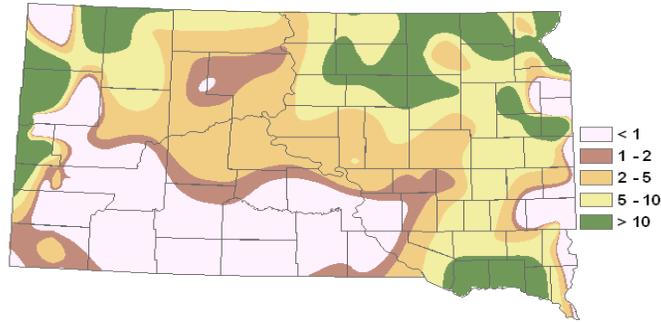
Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	0	4	34	52	10
Cattle	1	3	16	64	16
Sheep	1	6	27	54	12

### Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of December 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	1	1	6	1	14	19
Short	5	9	15	8	14	21
Adequate	81	82	74	79	68	58
Surplus	13	8	5	12	4	2

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of January and will be released February 2, 2009.

**SNOW DEPTH (inches)**  
As of Wednesday, December 31, 2008



**TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION**  
**Month Ending December 31, 2008**

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>
<b>Northwest</b>							
Bison	12	-8	43	-22	0.84	5.04	2.51
Buffalo	15	-4	47	-22	0.64	3.03	0.58
Dupree	14	-6	44	-19	0.59	3.69	1.21
McIntosh	11	-7	45	-22	0.33	3.99	1.70
Newell	18	-4	54	-18	0.60	2.93	0.60
Timber Lake	12	-6	42	-21	0.44	5.06	2.25
<b>North Central</b>							
Aberdeen	9	-7	42	-24	0.85	5.76	3.00
Faulkton	11	-6	45	-18	0.73	3.12	0.21
Mobridge	14	-5	47	-19	0.27	3.72	1.25
Roscoe	9	-6	43	-19	1.17	4.17	1.33
<b>Northeast</b>							
Britton	8	-7	38	-26	1.64	7.36	4.57
Clear Lake	9	-5	42	-18	1.33	6.92	3.04
Sisseton	10	-6	41	-22	1.20	7.39	3.98
Watertown	9	-6	42	-20	0.94	5.16	1.94
Webster	9	-6	38	-18	1.14	5.59	2.57
<b>West Central</b>							
Faith	16	-6	45	-18	0.56	3.71	1.15
Milesville	15	-7	44	-19	0.62	3.53	0.78
Philip	20	-2	52	-14	0.51	3.44	1.17
Rapid City	18	-7	54	-19	0.37	3.47	1.08
Spearfish	22	-6	50	-16	0.60	5.55	1.76
<b>Central</b>							
Chamberlain	18	-3	51	-13	0.58	4.47	1.23
Highmore	12	-7	46	-18	0.52	2.32	-0.60
Huron	13	-5	47	-15	0.86	6.73	3.86
Onida	13	-5	45	-17	0.67	3.79	0.82
Pierre	16	-6	48	-16	0.90	3.10	0.28
<b>East Central</b>							
Brookings	9	-7	44	-20	0.81	6.57	3.53
Forestburg	14	-6	47	-18	0.67	6.33	2.97
Madison	12	-5	47	-19	0.56	5.84	2.09
Mitchell	17	-3	49	-11	0.76	5.68	2.41
Sioux Falls	15	-3	49	-13	0.70	7.29	3.48
<b>Southwest</b>							
Custer	20	-6	50	-24	0.80	1.99	-0.67
Hot Springs	22	-4	56	-25	0.37	1.49	-0.65
Oelrichs	19	-5	54	-24	0.67	4.12	1.75
Porcupine	19	-4	60	-22	0.17	3.90	1.49
<b>South Central</b>							
Kennebec	18	-4	52	-15	0.50	4.05	1.63
Mission	19	-5	54	-15	0.44	3.26	0.51
Murdo	18	-4	49	-17	0.69	3.90	1.03
Winner	22	-4	55	-12	0.19	2.96	-0.45
<b>Southeast</b>							
Armour	17	-6	52	-13	0.48	5.41	1.94
Centerville	13	-7	50	-16	0.56	6.76	3.05
Pickstown	19	-5	56	-11	0.45	6.15	2.89
Vermillion	17	-6	52	-18	1.10	9.09	5.13
Yankton	16	-6	53	-16	1.53	8.97	5.36

DATA AND MAP SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota