AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY
Another major winter storm affected South Dakota agriculture this past week, further delaying spring planting, adding to wet soil conditions and causing difficulties for livestock producers. There was 0.1 day suitable for fieldwork in the past week. Farm activities focused on calving and lambing, plowing snow, preparing for spring fieldwork and tending to livestock.

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

WEATHER INFORMATION
The major weather story of the week was obviously the third major winter storm of the last couple weeks, which shut down travel over most of the state Friday into Saturday, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Snow has covered much of the state again with over 10 inches of snow from this storm reported in the northwest part of the state and across much of the state again with over 10 inches of snow from this storm. Mitchell reported the highest precipitation amount for the week at 2.54 inches, while Brookings reported the lowest at 0.21 inch. Average temperatures for the week were extremely cold, ranging from 3 to 6°F below average in the northwest, where the snow pack in the northwest is well over 15 inches in most areas. While temperatures have not recovered quickly after the storm, the higher sun angle has started making quick work of the existing snow cover in thinner snow areas. Mitchell reported the highest precipitation amount for the week at 2.54 inches, while Brookings reported the lowest at 0.21 inch.

Soil moisture conditions are rated at 53 percent good to excellent, up 12 percentage points from last week, and 14 percentage points ahead of the five-year average. Lambing is estimated at 76 percent complete, also up 16 percentage points from last week, and 14 percentage points ahead of the five-year average. Snowstorms have stalled moving cattle to pasture, which remains this week at 2 percent. Calf death losses are rated at 3 percent below average, 80 percent above average, and 17 percent above average. Sheep and lamb death losses are rated at 4 percent below average, 86 percent average and 10 percent below average. Range and pasture conditions are rated at 53 percent good to excellent, up 12 percentage points from last year, and 17 percentage points higher than the five-year average.

SOIL CONDITION
Soil temperatures at 4-inch depths were at or above freezing for all stations. The highest temperature reported was 37°F in Oacoma, and the lowest was 32°F in Aberdeen, Bowdle, and South Shore. Topsoil moisture is rated at 39 percent in the surplus category, 29 percentage points over the five-year average. Subsoil moisture is only rated at 13 percent in the surplus category, 7 percentage points over the five-year average.

FIELD CROPS REPORT
Another round of snowstorms has caused further delay in the planting of spring crops. There were some concerns from producers about winter wheat that broke dormancy during previous mild weather and is now buried in snow and ice. Some reporters also believe that wet soil conditions will cause a delay in the planting of low-lying areas and possibly a shift in planting intentions to later crops such as corn and soybeans. The statewide average date to begin spring planting is estimated to be April 7, 2009, but there is a delay in winter wheat with broken dormancy is estimated at 27 percent, behind last year’s progress of 44 percent and the five-year average of 77 percent. Winter wheat conditions increased in the good to excellent categories, this week estimated at 58 percent. A small percentage, only 2 percent, of spring wheat has been planted, but there has been no progress on any other small grain seedings.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT
Late-season snowstorms have caused difficulties in calving and lambing for South Dakota livestock producers. Muddy conditions and cold temperatures have caused a slight deterioration of cattle and sheep conditions, and feed and stock water supplies. Calving has progressed to 52 percent complete, up 16 percentage points from last week, and 1 percentage point ahead of the five-year average. Lambing is estimated at 76 percent complete, also up 16 percentage points from last week, and 14 percentage points ahead of the five-year average. Snowstorms have stalled moving cattle to pasture, which remains this week at 2 percent. Calf death losses are rated at 3 percent below average, 80 percent above average, and 17 percent above average. Sheep and lamb death losses are rated at 4 percent below average, 86 percent average and 10 percent below average. Range and pasture conditions are rated at 53 percent good to excellent, up 12 percentage points from last year, and 17 percentage points higher than the five-year average.

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### TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, and GROWING DEGREE DAYS

**Week Ending Sunday, April 5, 2009**

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<thead>
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<th>District And Station</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
<th>Growing Degree Days</th>
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<td>Current Week</td>
<td>Since Oct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inches</td>
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#### Temperatures Past Week

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<td>Degrees</td>
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#### Precipitation

- **Total** (since April 1):
  - **Inches**: 0.50
  - **Total Departure Since Apr. 1**: 1.22

#### Growing Degree Days

- **Total Departure Since April 1**
  - **Inches**: 0.03
  - **Total Departure Since Apr. 1**: 0.02

**DATA AND MAP SOURCE**: State Climate Office of South Dakota