

South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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 south central South Dakota. 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.

Average temperatures for the week were extremely cold, ranging from 3 to 6° F below average in eastern South Dakota, to the 14 to 18° F below average in the northwest, where the snow pack was the deepest. The highest temperature of the week was at Oelrichs at 62° F. The low temperature was at Buffalo at 5° F. Colder weather has slowed the flooding problem and limited it to low-lying areas along the main rivers. Further flooding issues will depend on addition precipitation and the speed of snow melt. The other impact has been loss of livestock due to cold and wet conditions during calving. Loss reports from educators have varied from minimal to significant.

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 this is skewed due to some producers who were able to plant spring grains in March. The percent of winter wheat that has 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 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.

Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of April 5, 2009

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	3	1	6	2	13	17
Short	13	13	15	6	13	20
Adequate	78	76	73	74	66	59
Surplus	6	10	6	18	8	4

Soil Moisture Condition Comparison as of April 5, 2009

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	0	0	5	2	1	10
Short	1	1	12	8	7	19
Adequate	60	62	70	77	69	66
Surplus	39	37	13	13	23	5

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of April 5, 2009

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	1	5	36	51	7
Cattle	2	9	24	59	6
Sheep	1	4	23	65	7
Range & Pasture	5	8	34	45	8

Crop Progress as of April 5, 2009 ¹

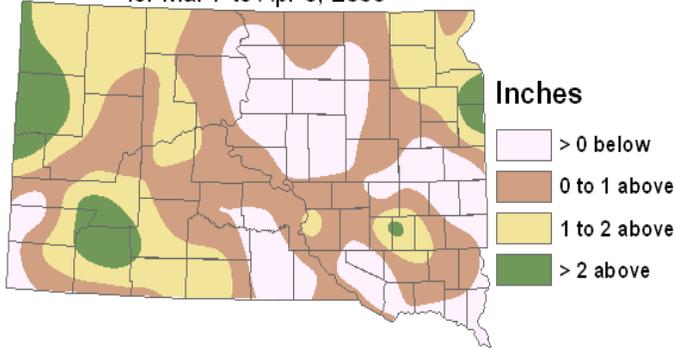
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat				
Breaking Dormancy	27	23	44	77
Barley				
Seeded	0	0	3	5
Oats				
Seeded	0	0	3	9
Spring Wheat				
Seeded	2	0	6	12

¹ Percents represent all acreage in or beyond each stage.

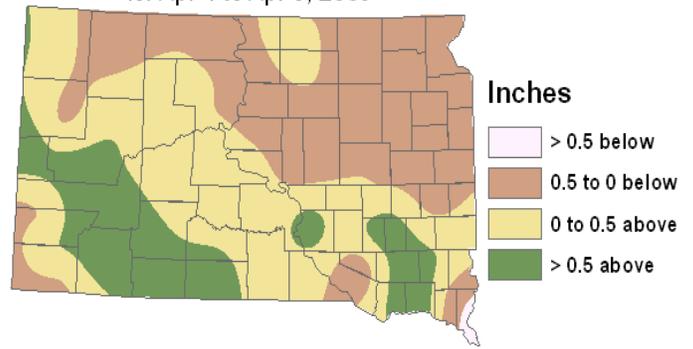
Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending April 5, 2009 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	32	Nisland	34
Beresford	36	Oacoma	37
Bowdle	32	Parkston	36
Brookings	33	Pierre	36
Caputa	33	Redfield	36
Cottonwood	35	South Shore	32

PAST 30 DAYS
Accumulated Precip Deviation from Average
for Mar 7 to Apr 5, 2009



GROWING SEASON
Accumulated Precip Deviation from Average
for Apr 1 to Apr 5, 2009



TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, and GROWING DEGREE DAYS
Week Ending Sunday, April 5, 2009

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			Since April 1
	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches			
Northwest												
Bison	22	-18	35	8	1.38	10.00	0.03	5.03	-0.27	0	-5	
Buffalo	23	-14	33	5	0.90	7.00	0.51	2.84	0.28	0	0	
Dupree	26	-13	38	8	0.87	7.90	0.50	3.19	0.25	0	-5	
McIntosh	24	-14	43	10	0.78	7.31	0.10	3.18	-0.11	0	-3	
Newell	25	-14	40	8	1.22	6.76	0.27	2.46	0.06	0	-6	
Timber Lake	27	-12	43	10	0.67	8.95	0.26	3.73	0.00	0	-3	
North Central												
Aberdeen	29	-10	37	15	0.61	8.58	0.00	3.26	-0.26	0	-2	
Faulkton	29	-10	41	17	0.56	5.30	0.21	-0.46	-0.09	0	-3	
Mobridge	28	-11	44	15	0.26	6.80	0.16	2.33	-0.06	0	-2	
Roscoe	29	-7	46	18	0.57	7.99	0.35	2.78	0.09	0	0	
Northeast												
Britton	27	-11	35	10	0.82	11.51	0.12	6.32	-0.11	0	-2	
Clear Lake	29	-7	42	18	0.64	12.06	0.24	4.60	-0.11	0	0	
Sisseton	29	-9	39	13	1.17	11.74	0.00	5.13	-0.30	0	0	
Watertown	29	-8	42	13	0.44	8.90	0.05	3.03	-0.25	0	0	
Webster	28	-9	39	16	1.60	9.63	0.00	3.94	-0.25	0	0	
West Central												
Faith	25	-16	38	7	0.84	6.48	0.69	1.52	0.44	0	-6	
Milesville	28	-13	46	8	0.87	7.40	0.30	2.20	0.05	0	-11	
Philip	30	-10	51	12	1.05	7.05	0.61	2.58	0.36	1	-12	
Rapid City	25	-15	42	8	1.48	7.21	1.08	2.71	0.83	0	-7	
Spearfish	29	-11	45	17	2.07	10.70	1.12	3.91	0.79	0	-6	
Central												
Chamberlain	30	-10	45	12	2.02	7.68	0.97	1.61	0.65	0	-8	
Highmore	26	-13	42	7	0.63	4.63	0.03	-0.96	-0.32	0	-6	
Huron	31	-10	46	15	1.29	9.79	0.31	3.84	-0.04	0	-6	
Onida	29	-11	46	15	0.50	6.45	0.15	0.59	-0.13	0	-5	
Pierre	30	-12	46	14	0.99	6.24	0.61	0.90	0.34	0	-10	
East Central												
Brookings	32	-6	46	22	0.21	8.57	0.14	3.20	-0.16	0	0	
Forestburg	34	-8	52	12	0.99	8.81	0.50	2.44	0.13	1	-11	
Madison	34	-4	53	20	0.42	7.74	0.19	0.77	-0.19	2	2	
Mitchell	33	-8	51	17	2.54	10.44	1.15	3.98	0.76	1	-6	
Sioux Falls	36	-4	56	21	0.96	10.11	0.78	3.07	0.38	3	-4	
Southwest												
Custer	25	-12	42	11	0.33	3.96	0.30	-1.04	0.05	0	-1	
Hot Springs	34	-8	61	15	0.86	4.81	0.68	0.69	0.43	2	-17	
Oelrichs	32	-9	62	14	0.79	7.28	0.34	2.77	0.09	1	-13	
Porcupine	30	-10	58	6	1.89	8.73	1.24	4.20	0.99	0	-13	
South Central												
Kennebec	30	-12	52	8	0.94	6.76	0.42	2.05	0.13	0	-17	
Mission	31	-9	58	14	1.37	7.65	0.98	2.69	0.72	0	-5	
Murdo	32	-9	54	17	0.87	7.71	0.47	1.81	0.12	0	-8	
Winner	30	-14	48	11	0.73	4.62	0.43	-2.03	0.08	0	-18	
Southeast												
Armour	34	-10	56	17	0.32	7.04	0.16	0.20	-0.19	3	-14	
Centerville	38	-3	56	19	0.34	9.52	0.24	2.87	-0.11	6	-2	
Pickstown	35	-7	61	19	0.45	8.64	0.26	2.40	-0.13	6	-6	
Vermillion	40	-5	58	23	0.56	11.39	0.15	4.37	-0.25	8	-13	
Yankton	37	-5	60	21	1.12	11.53	1.10	4.84	0.75	7	-6	

DATA AND MAP SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota