

South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

Released: January 4, 2010 -- 3:00 p.m. CST
For Month of December 2009
SD-CW5852 Volume 58 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

A large Christmas snow storm across the state brought the remaining corn harvest to a halt. The remaining harvest may have to wait until spring to complete. Extreme cold temperatures have presented challenges for livestock producers as access to water has become difficult. Major farm activities include drying and hauling grain, moving snow, and caring for livestock.

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

WEATHER INFORMATION

The Christmas Blizzard dominated the weather discussion for December in South Dakota as the state averaged 15.4 inches of snow statewide in the blizzard, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Other storms impacted other parts of the state during the month. These in total produced a very significant snow cover in all but the southwestern areas of the state. This greatly slowed the harvesting of additional corn in the state. Spearfish reported the highest liquid precipitation total for the month at 2.64 inches. Onida reported the lowest at 0.42 inch.

The state experienced a very cold December with temperatures statewide averaging in the teens. These range from 2°F below average in the northeast to 8°F below average in the central and southwest. Pickstown reported the highest temperature for the month at 61 °F; McIntosh reported the lowest at -25°F.

SOIL CONDITION

The snow cover insulated the ground and allowed 4 inch-depth soil temperatures to warm slightly in some locations. Aberdeen and Cottonwood were the coolest at 29° F; four stations were the warmest at 32° F.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

With the amount of snow received in late December the remaining corn harvest came to a halt. The month finished with 7 percent of the corn crop left to be harvested. Both winter wheat and alfalfa have a good snow cover which will help with the cold temperatures throughout the state. Winter wheat condition is rated as 2 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 7 percent excellent, and winter wheat snow cover is rated at 3 percent poor, 68 percent adequate, and 29 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is rated as 65 percent adequate and 35 percent excellent.

Item	Districts									State
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	
Average Snow Depth (inches)	14.2	9.6	15.8	13.5	13.2	16.4	6.0	12.7	11.5	12.7
Corn Harvested (Percent)	90	89	88	95	97	95	95	100	97	93

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Feed supplies are rated at 92 percent adequate to surplus, slightly down from last year. Stock water supplies are also in good shape with 90 percent in the adequate to surplus categories, down 1 percentage point from last year. Livestock condition continue to remain mostly in the good to excellent range. Cattle are rated 86 percent in good to excellent condition, with fall newborn calf deaths rated 10 percent below average, 87 percent average, and 3 percent above average. Sheep are rated 79 percent in good to excellent condition, with newborn lamb deaths from fall crop rated 12 percent below average, 87 percent average, and 1 percent above average.

Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending January 3, 2010 (4-inch Depth)

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

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of January 3, 2010

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter Wheat	0	2	28	63	7
Cattle	1	2	21	64	12
Sheep	0	2	19	67	12

Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of January 3, 2010

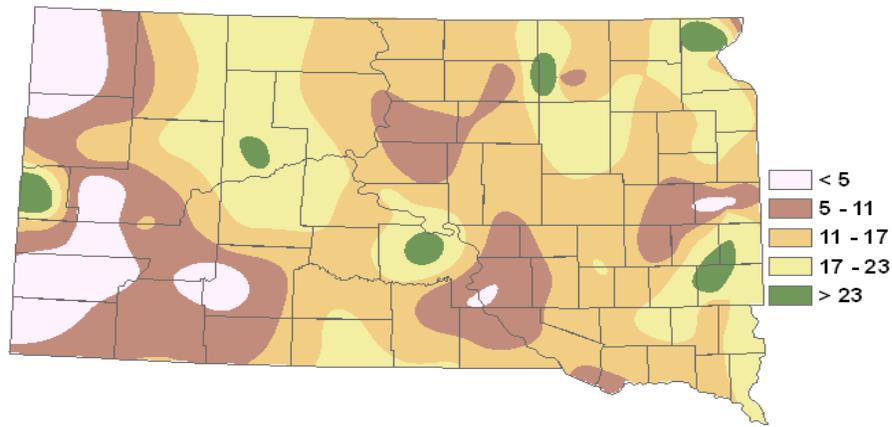
Rating	Feed Supplies			Stock Water Supplies		
	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Very Short	1	1	4	1	1	13
Short	7	5	13	9	8	17
Adequate	83	81	76	84	79	66
Surplus	9	13	7	6	12	4

Due to the large amount of unharvested corn and the extreme Christmas snow storm, the South Dakota office is providing additional District level data. The values are listed by Crop Reporting Districts. The district boundaries are shown in our annual South Dakota Agriculture book as well as on our web site at www.nass.usda.gov/sd/.

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of January and will be released February 1, 2010.

SNOW DEPTH (inches)

As of Thursday, December 31, 2009



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	11	-9	43	-19	1.37	4.71	2.18
Buffalo	13	-6	45	-22	1.15	3.03	0.58
Dupree	12	-7	41	-17	0.71	3.00	0.52
McIntosh	9	-8	41	-25	1.28	4.08	1.79
Newell	14	-7	48	-15	2.32	4.28	1.95
Timber Lake	11	-7	43	-23	1.41	4.11	1.30
North Central							
Aberdeen	10	-5	41	-20	0.96	5.51	2.75
Faulkton	11	-5	43	-19	1.22	6.09	3.18
Mobridge	12	-6	40	-16	0.76	4.13	1.66
Roscoe	11	-3	51	-17	1.41	6.04	3.20
Northeast							
Britton	10	-4	45	-17	1.81	7.06	4.27
Clear Lake	11	-2	49	-15	2.40	9.87	5.99
Sisseton	11	-5	42	-10	1.85	9.39	5.98
Watertown	12	-2	48	-16	1.37	8.00	4.78
Webster	11	-3	39	-16	1.44	6.83	3.81
West Central							
Faith	13	-8	40	-18	0.94	3.12	0.56
Milesville	12	-9	40	-19	2.58	6.41	3.66
Philip	15	-6	43	-8	0.55	4.21	1.94
Rapid City	16	-7	59	-15	0.87	3.41	1.02
Spearfish	22	-4	54	-10	2.64	6.30	2.51
Central							
Chamberlain	15	-5	44	-9	0.60	3.56	0.32
Highmore	11	-7	43	-22	1.31	4.94	2.02
Huron	13	-5	46	-15	1.67	5.64	2.77
Onida	13	-4	57	-23	0.42	4.86	1.89
Pierre	13	-8	44	-13	0.29	4.66	1.84
East Central							
Brookings	12	-3	51	-14	0.79	7.26	4.22
Forestburg	14	-5	47	-15	1.38	6.41	3.05
Madison	13	-3	49	-15	1.11	6.28	2.53
Mitchell	15	-4	49	-9	1.89	6.36	3.09
Sioux Falls	15	-3	51	-10	2.01	7.70	3.89
Southwest							
Custer	17	-8	46	-16	0.80	3.11	0.45
Hot Springs	18	-7	51	-17	0.72	4.53	2.39
Oelrichs	17	-6	53	-14	0.69	4.09	1.72
Porcupine	15	-6	55	-20	1.40	6.30	3.89
South Central							
Kennebec	14	-8	44	-14	1.39	5.08	2.66
Mission	16	-7	58	-12	2.00	4.44	1.69
Murdo	15	-6	58	-7	1.12	5.07	2.20
Winner	17	-8	43	-6	1.30	3.31	-0.10
Southeast							
Armour	15	-7	50	-9	1.25	5.49	2.02
Centerville	14	-5	50	-12	1.58	6.41	2.70
Pickstown	17	-6	61	-8	1.16	5.66	2.40
Vermillion	18	-4	57	-10	1.95	7.52	3.56
Yankton	17	-4	57	-7	2.81	8.77	5.16