

South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

Released: February 1, 2010 -- 3:00 p.m. CST
For Week Ending January 31, 2010
SD-CW5905 Volume 59 Issue 5



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

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

A late January ice storm left some producers without electricity, which has caused problems maintaining a water supply for livestock. Average snow depth for the state on January 31, 2010 is 10.9 inches. County road conditions in the state were rated at 90 percent open and 10 percent difficult. Township road conditions were rated at 71 percent open, 21 percent difficult and 8 percent closed. Major farm activities include moving snow, hauling and marketing grain, moving hay closer to home, and tending to livestock.

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

WEATHER INFORMATION

A major ice storm was the big weather story of the month, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Early-month cold gave way to mid-month warming for the state. Temperatures which started the month quite cold, with some near-record temperatures early in the month, rebounded very warmly in the middle of the month. Overall, the month was generally 2-5° F cooler than average over much of the east. The Black Hills and the far southwest, where the snow cover was minimal actually saw above average temperatures of 2-4° F. The high temperature for the month was at Spearfish at 62° F; the low temperature was Madison at -34° F.

Precipitation was near to above average in the eastern 2/3 of the state. Areas of the Black Hills and southwest received much less precipitation during January. Precipitation that fell as rain and refroze or initially as freezing rain caused problems on the 23rd-24th leading to power outages and icy roads. The highest precipitation total was 1.57 inch at Mission; the lowest total was 0.06 inch at DuPree.

SOIL CONDITION

The solid and consistent snow pack over much of the eastern part of the state has allowed 4 inch-depth soil temperatures to warm from below. All soils are frozen at 4 inches. But the depth of the freezing is fairly shallow over most of the state. Only the more open areas of the western part of the state have soils frozen to deep levels. Cottonwood was the coolest at 27° F; five stations were the warmest at 31° F.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Despite the amount of snow on the ground producers were able to harvest some corn left in the field from last fall. The month of January finished with 5 percent of the corn crop left to be harvested. Strong winds have exposed both winter wheat and alfalfa fields to the cold temperatures causing some producers to worry about winter kill. Winter wheat condition is rated as 4 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 8 percent excellent, and snow cover is rated at 13 percent poor, 63 percent adequate, and 24 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is rated at 5 percent poor, 61 percent adequate and 34 percent excellent.

Item	Districts									State
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	
Average Snow Depth (inches)	16.2	17.9	18.5	8.8	13.9	10.6	6	5.9	9.3	10.9
Corn Harvested (Percent)	90	92	91	97	98	97	95	100	97	95

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Cold temperatures and snow across the state have caused livestock producers to feed animals more than normal, but adequate and accessible feed supplies have prevented major death losses in cattle and sheep. Feed supplies are rated at 89 percent adequate to surplus, slightly down from last year. Stock water supplies are also in good shape with 88 percent in the adequate to surplus categories, down 3 percentage point from last year. Livestock condition continue to remain mostly in the good to excellent range. Cattle are rated 79 percent in good to excellent condition, with calf deaths since beginning of the year rated 4 percent below average, 93 percent average, and 3 percent above average. Sheep are rated 85 percent in good to excellent condition, sheep and lamb deaths since beginning of the year are rated 4 percent below average, 93 percent average, and 3 percent above average.

Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending January 31, 2010 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	28	Nisland	31
Beresford	31	Oacoma	30
Bowdle	31	Parkston	30
Brookings	30	Pierre	28
Caputa	31	South Shore	31
Cottonwood	27		

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of January 31, 2010

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter Wheat	0	4	23	65	8
Cattle	0	1	20	69	10
Sheep	0	1	14	73	12

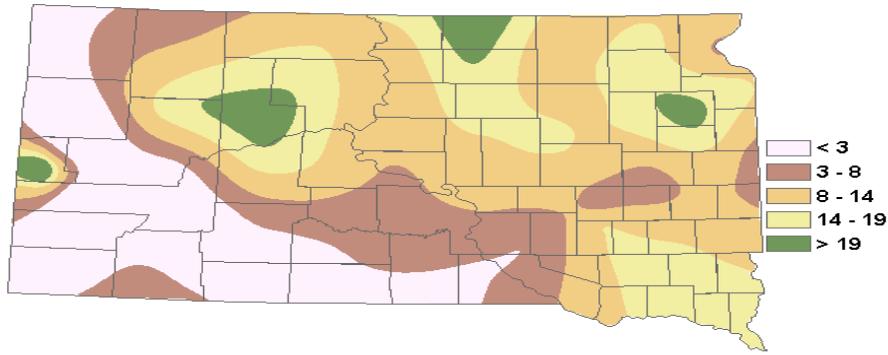
Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of January 31, 2010

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	6	2	2	14
Short	10	7	10	10	7	15
Adequate	81	85	78	79	85	68
Surplus	8	7	6	9	6	3

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

SNOW DEPTH (inches)

As of Sunday, January 31, 2010



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION Month Ending January 31, 2010,

District And Station	Temperature Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since Oct 1, 2009	Departure from Normal Since Oct 1, 2009
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Northwest							
Bison	15	-1	47	-19	0.25	4.96	1.99
Buffalo	18	2	46	-19	0.07	3.10	0.22
Dupree	14	-1	44	-25	0.06	3.06	0.24
McIntosh	11	-2	41	-25	1.44	5.52	2.87
Newell	17	-1	48	-23	0.36	6.64	3.93
Timber Lake	12	-1	38	-24	0.46	4.57	1.35
North Central							
Aberdeen	9	-1	35	-31	0.91	6.42	3.18
Faulkton	10	-2	41	-27	0.57	6.66	3.26
Mobridge	11	-1	36	-28	0.43	4.56	1.76
Roscoe	9	0	39	-26	1.35	7.39	4.08
Northeast							
Britton	10	0	35	-28	0.76	7.82	4.40
Clear Lake	9	0	35	-27	1.23	11.10	6.46
Sisseton	10	0	43	-32	1.31	10.70	6.56
Watertown	8	-1	35	-26	1.21	9.21	5.42
Webster	10	0	36	-24	1.13	7.96	4.19
West Central							
Faith	16	-1	41	-18	0.57	3.69	0.72
Milesville	15	-3	42	-26	0.55	6.96	3.80
Philip	18	0	47	-21	0.29	4.50	1.89
Rapid City	23	1	60	-15	0.13	3.54	0.78
Spearfish	28	4	62	-8	0.81	7.11	2.74
Central							
Chamberlain	16	0	41	-22	0.66	4.22	0.49
Highmore	12	-2	36	-23	0.60	5.54	2.22
Huron	11	-3	37	-24	0.77	6.41	3.05
Onida	12	-1	39	-22	0.75	5.61	2.05
Pierre	14	-3	40	-23	0.85	5.51	2.17
East Central							
Brookings	8	-2	37	-32	0.91	8.17	4.79
Forestburg	12	-2	38	-27	0.91	7.32	3.50
Madison	8	-2	39	-34	0.62	6.90	2.63
Mitchell	15	0	43	-23	0.99	7.35	3.61
Sioux Falls	10	-3	38	-30	1.25	8.95	4.63
Southwest							
Custer	27	3	53	-15	0.23	3.34	0.29
Hot Springs	25	1	56	-23	0.13	4.66	2.16
Oelrichs	22	0	49	-24	0.30	4.39	1.60
Porcupine	20	0	49	-25	0.21	6.51	3.70
South Central							
Kennebec	15	-3	42	-24	0.80	5.88	3.13
Mission	20	0	50	-19	1.57	6.01	2.93
Murdo	18	0	44	-17	0.49	5.56	2.23
Winner	21	-1	48	-15	0.31	2.47	-1.47
Southeast							
Armour	13	-5	45	-23	0.90	6.39	2.32
Centerville	11	-4	39	-29	1.02	7.43	3.29
Pickstown	17	-2	51	-18	0.96	6.62	2.93
Vermillion	13	-6	40	-30	0.78	8.30	3.97
Yankton	12	-5	48	-27	1.37	10.14	6.10