

South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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For the Month of March
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Cooperating with:
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Melting snow and wet conditions, and in some cases flooding, has kept producers busy throughout the month of March. County road conditions in the state were rated at 94 percent open, 5 percent difficult, and 1 percent closed. Township road conditions were rated at 79 percent open, 16 percent difficult and 5 percent closed. Some reports mentioned the closed roads due to being under water or washed out by moving water. Farm activities focused on calving and lambing, preparing equipment for fieldwork, tending to livestock, and dealing with high water issues.

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

WEATHER INFORMATION

A marked shift in temperature occurred during March, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Temperatures were very cold at the start of the month, but moderated quickly. Average temperatures for the month were in the 30s F for the whole state. These were slightly below average in a band from Pierre to Rapid City. The rest of the state was above average with much above average temperatures around the Black Hills and in the northeast. The first 70s occurred, also. Pickstown recorded the highest temperature at 71° F. Sisseton recorded the coldest at -1° F in the first few days of the month.

Precipitation was heaviest from the south central to northeast during the month. The end of the month was quite dry helping with the flood situation and drying of soils. Porcupine recorded the highest precipitation at 2.41 inches; Rapid City had the lowest at 0.17 inch.

Snow pack is essentially gone except for a few locations in the north and in the Black Hills. Flooding was extensive along the main tributaries.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures at the 4 inch-depth have begun to rebound with the removal of snow cover, some drying and warmer temperatures. Pierre was the highest at 40° F. Pierre and Beresford had the coldest at 35° F.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Much of the states snow cover has now disappeared and some producers continue to try and complete last fall's corn harvest, wherever possible. There remains 3 percent of last year's corn crop un-harvested. Forty-Five percent of the winter wheat acreage is reported to be breaking dormancy. Winter wheat condition is rated as 7 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

Crop Progress as of March 29th, 2010

Item	Corn
Percent Harvested	97

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Feed supplies are rated at 87 percent adequate to surplus, equal to last year. Stock water supplies are also in good shape with 94 percent in the adequate to surplus categories, up 23 percentage point from last year. No winter storms throughout the month allowed livestock to remain in good condition. Cattle are rated at 72 percent in good to excellent condition, while cattle deaths rated 2 percent below normal, 92 percent normal, and 6 percent above normal. Calf death losses were rated at 3 percent below normal, 87 percent normal, and 10 percent above normal. Calving is estimated to be 38 percent complete and 3 percent of cattle have been moved to pasture. Sheep are rated 72 percent in good to excellent condition, with sheep and lamb deaths rated 4 percent below average, 92 percent average, and 4 percent above average. Lambing is estimated to be 59 percent complete. Livestock producers are facing muddy conditions, flooding, and finding a dry place for calving and lambing.

Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of March 28, 2010

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	2	1	6	2	1	13
Short	11	11	13	4	5	17
Adequate	84	83	76	75	74	64
Surplus	3	5	5	19	20	6

Soil Moisture Condition Comparison as of March 28, 2010

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	NA	0	1	NA	1
Short	1	NA	1	2	NA	7
Adequate	66	NA	62	81	NA	69
Surplus	33	NA	37	16	NA	23

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of March 28, 2010

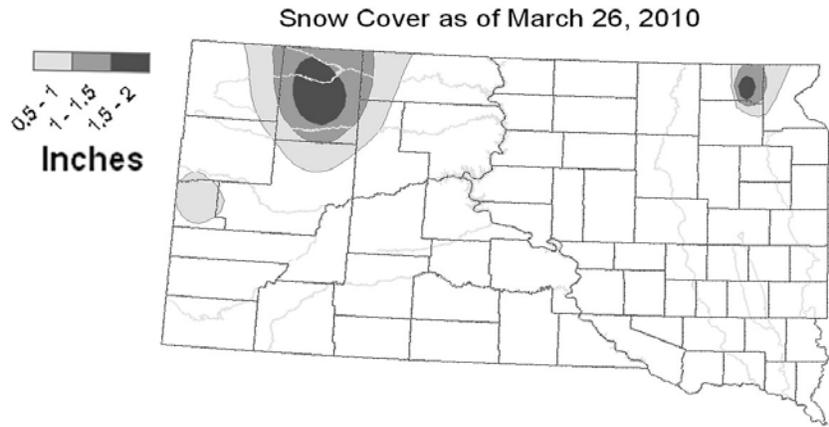
Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	0	7	25	61	7
Cattle	0	3	25	65	7
Sheep	0	1	17	70	12
Range & Pasture	6	5	31	51	7

Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending March 28, 2010 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	36	Cottonwood	39
Beresford	35	Parkston	39
Bowdle	38	Pierre	40
Brookings	37	South Shore	NA

PRSR STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
Permit No. G-38

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION
Month Ending March 28, 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	32	1	57	13	0.87	5.93	1.97
Buffalo	34	1	63	17	0.28	3.64	-0.85
Dupree	30	0	56	2	0.79	4.67	0.63
McIntosh	33	1	56	7	0.65	6.16	2.57
Newell	33	1	66	17	0.41	3.97	0.42
Timber Lake	32	1	63	8	0.81	5.10	0.64
North Central							
Aberdeen	33	3	60	0	1.24	8.47	3.96
Faulkton	33	2	61	2	1.30	8.59	4.04
Mobridge	33	2	57	6	1.28	6.32	2.07
Roscoe	31	4	60	8	1.34	9.51	5.12
Northeast							
Britton	34	5	54	0	1.22	9.89	5.68
Clear Lake	33	5	55	8	0.82	15.44	9.02
Sisseton	33	4	57	-1	1.96	14.21	8.66
Watertown	32	4	54	1	1.17	10.58	5.57
Webster	33	5	55	12	1.31	10.22	4.57
West Central							
Faith	32	-2	55	11	0.34	4.41	-0.09
Milesville	33	-1	64	13	1.73	8.77	4.20
Philip	36	2	67	18	1.02	6.01	2.94
Rapid City	37	2	70	16	0.17	3.46	-0.38
Spearfish	39	5	66	16	1.09	7.52	1.40
Central							
Chamberlain	36	2	67	13	0.84	8.49	2.74
Highmore	33	1	63	8	1.34	6.92	1.68
Huron	35	3	64	2	1.82	9.10	4.15
Onida	31	1	58	6	1.00	7.83	3.58
Pierre	34	0	64	7	1.42	8.69	4.48
East Central							
Brookings	33	3	56	3	1.06	9.75	5.28
Forestburg	36	3	69	9	2.28	9.32	3.93
Madison	34	3	58	6	0.96	10.50	3.91
Mitchell	35	2	68	7	1.35	10.10	4.03
Sioux Falls	35	3	59	5	1.02	11.28	4.89
Southwest							
Custer	35	2	61	9	0.22	3.54	-0.35
Hot Springs	40	4	70	13	0.45	5.71	1.85
Oelrichs	38	3	69	18	0.46	6.14	1.74
Porcupine	33	-1	69	8	2.41	9.76	5.49
South Central							
Kennebec	36	1	66	10	1.20	7.71	3.53
Mission	36	2	69	13	1.42	6.84	2.10
Murdo	34	0	64	18	2.26	8.56	3.80
Winner	37	-1	68	16	0.84	6.95	0.80
Southeast							
Armour	37	0	70	18	0.94	7.76	1.23
Centerville	34	2	61	6	1.44	9.37	3.23
Pickstown	38	2	71	19	0.88	8.38	3.83
Vermillion	36	-1	61	5	1.08	9.98	3.36
Yankton	37	2	69	9	1.72	12.48	6.47